

BAKER MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
THE CARILLON

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IN THIS ISSUE

Pastor Mary's Message . . . 1
 Missionary News 2
 Children & Family 3
 BakerYouth 4-5
 Missions Corner 6
 Baker News 7-8
 Staff 9

The *Carillon* is a monthly publication available in print, on-line and e-mail editions. To sign up, visit our website or contact the church office. bakermemorialchurch.org

The deadline for submitting items to the *The Carillon* is the 20th of the month.



PASTOR MARY'S MESSAGE

Committed to Justice

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? —Micah 6:8 (NRSV)

I took a few days off over Memorial Day weekend and during that time I had the privilege of disconnecting from the daily news. It felt great, however it didn't last. On Tuesday morning I turned on the news just in time to see the video of a woman in Central Park speaking loudly to a 911 operator. She was yelling that an African American man was threatening her, however the video showed her standing alone wrestling to hold on to her dog. The man she referred to was birdwatcher Christian Cooper who can be heard speaking calmly as he records the video. If there had been no video, it seems to me that Mr. Cooper could easily have been arrested for alleged assault or worse. The police could have easily assumed her accusation was true because it sounded very urgent.

That was Tuesday morning. I caught some of the news on Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning, yet somehow I never heard about George Floyd who died while being arrested for allegedly using counterfeit currency in Minneapolis on Monday. I went looking for the story after a clergy colleague lamented that Mr. Floyd's case already seemed forgotten even though there was a video of him clearly stating that he could not breathe while he was being restrained. By Wednesday evening his story was back on the news as fires burned, stores were looted, and loud protests had broken out. It made me wonder if we would have heard anything more about his death if there had been no violence. Reflecting on what could have happened in Central Park, I wondered where the injustice began for Mr. Floyd. Perhaps he too was falsely accused? Perhaps the policeman who knelt on his neck did so based on unjust accusations?

There is much that is unknown about each of these incidents. However debating the



Continued on page 2.

PASTOR MARY'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 1.

details of what happened or trying to justify the actions and reactions is not what we have committed to do. Christians answer three important questions when we are joined into the Body of Christ at our baptism. They are:

1. *Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin? I do.*
2. *Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves? I do.*
3. *Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races? I do.*

We have committed as Christians to recognize and reject wickedness and evil; repent of our own sin; resist evil, injustice, and oppression; and serve Christ together as a diverse people. We are committed to God's justice for all people.

This is a big commitment, and speaking for myself, the last week of May has made me understand that I need to take my own commitment to justice in the name and body of Christ more seriously. I don't know exactly where that insight will lead, but I do know that Mr. Cooper's and Mr. Floyd's situations are two of too many. I do know that I need to work to remember their stories rather than let the situations be noted as newsworthy then forgotten. I do know that I need to do whatever I can to build up trust between people who are different from each other. I do know that my soul weeps for those who have lost loved ones, and those who live in fear. I do know that I need to be

A PRAYER FOR THESE TIMES

Lord, in your mercy hear our prayers. We have not done as your prophet Micah called the people of God to do—we have not done justice, loved kindness, and walked humbly with our God. Grant your followers the humbleness, courage, faith, love, and perseverance to repent of our sin and cast out injustice. Guide us in the hard and long work of reconciliation, sharing of power, and deep building of respect and care. Open our ears to hear and our eyes to see clearly. We do not want to live in the spirit of racism and prejudice any longer. In Christ—Amen.

very careful of letting my own fears direct my assumptions and actions. I also know that I need to repent, because I haven't lived as fully into this commitment to justice as God would have me do.

Christians are committed to justice. We are committed to resist evil, injustice and oppression not only when they

We are committed to resist evil, injustice and oppression not only when they impact us directly but in whatever forms they present themselves.

impact us directly but in whatever forms they present themselves. This is a big commitment.

There will always be more to do and room to improve. I invite you to remember the questions you answered at your

baptism as you watch the news each day, and then to seek to live into doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with God more fully every day. I don't know where it will lead any of us individually, or all of us together. I only know, that this is the commitment we have made for our lives and to our Lord. It is certainly one of the most important things we have ever said.

In Christ.

Pastor Mary

NEWS FROM CAMBODIA

Clara Biswas, our missionary in Cambodia sent the following words recently concerning the pandemic...

The world is going through a very difficult time with Corona virus (Covid-19), and each day gets worse than the prior day. As we follow the Government of Cambodia's health prevention protocol, we cancelled the Easter pageant and Khmer New Year program for the time being.

We pray to God that soon we will overcome the turmoil from Covid-19 and in the near future children will be able to celebrate our wonderful Easter.

We really need your prayer and support.

Please pray for our children and community as we pray for all of you.

May this letter find you in the best of health and well-being. We love you.

*Very truly yours,
Clara Biswas*

Children & Family Ministries

FOCUS: BEING A FRIEND

► **Family Bible Verse:** *Conduct yourselves with all humility, gentleness, and patience. Accept each other with love, and make an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit with the peace that ties you together.* —Ephesians 4:2-3, Deep Blue Kid's Bible (CEB)

Trying new things, being uncomfortable, and mastering new skills. These are examples of a new normal of life for me and maybe for you too. You know the saying, try walking in someone else's shoes? That has been me the last few months. I am still not the expert in a few areas, but I have not given up either. I will be honest. I've cried, pulled my hair in frustration, put myself in time out to pray, and asked a lot of questions and for help too. I keep reminding myself the hardest skills to master, are the most rewarding in the end. Believe me, it can be frustrating. It has be tough too. However, I have seen God with me through my journey of being an essential worker, running Zoom classes, and even through E-learning.

God has gotten me through this with the gift of friends. I see this more now than ever. During this time of social distancing, I have made new friends along with a deeper connections with older friends. Being the friend is seeing the best in them, giving lots of grace, listening, and

especially saying hello through all types of media. I know this is true because this is also the gift they have given me. These days we can't be side-by-side with our friends or give hugs. What we can do is remember to breathe. Remember God's got you. God's got this. Remember to pray. Remember the 9 *Fruit of the Spirits* to be your best. When I remember to be love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control my friends will experience God's love through me. Most importantly, remember God loves you! Amen!

Blessings & Health,
Shelly Stienbarger
Director, Children & Family Ministry

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- 3-7 Years | **Zoom BakerKids** | 6-6:25pm Wednesday
- 8-12 Years | **Zoom BakerKids** | 6:30-7pm Wednesday
- **VBS Online** | *Knights of the North Castle* | June 22-26

REMINDERS!

- Continue to find God's beauty through photos, creative cooking, musical composition, or artistic ability. Be sure to capture it on paper, canvas, or photo. Send me your artwork or keep it for our Art Gallery during Fellowship Coffee Hour when we are able to worship in person.



The graphic features a blue background with a central illustration of a castle and a dragon. A blue circle on the left contains the text 'JOIN THE FUN ON ZOOM'. The main text is in large, bold, purple and orange letters. Below the main text, it says 'REGISTRATION IS OPEN! \$5 PER CHILD'. At the bottom, there is a short story snippet and the website URL 'bakermemorialchurch.org'.

JOIN THE FUN ON ZOOM

VBS ONLINE

June 22-26 | 9-10am

REGISTRATION IS OPEN! \$5 PER CHILD

North Castle is hidden in a frozen land. The King's valiant Knights are on a quest in search of the King's Armor. But the armor isn't what they think it is... Join us and see what happens!

bakermemorialchurch.org

Youth Ministry

New Plans And Changed Plans

As you have read in the Children & Family article, VBS will be completely different this year. In addition, our annual Work Trip has been canceled for safety reasons. We are both thankful for the wonderful staff at Motown Mission, placing safety over their immediate plans, and disappointed for the youth and young adults who had signed up. This trip provides a rare opportunity to work together as a group on an outsized objective, reconnect with our faith in introspective moments, and be somewhat independent. But to fill the void, we are finding projects around town where we can invest our time, energy and money.

During the end of May and the beginning of June, we are teaming up with the church to build community gardens, under the direction of congregation member, Mandy Hale. This has already been a great experience and we anticipate a great harvest that will bless many people. We have also reached out to local nonprofits, small businesses and families to learn about projects we can take on to make an impact. If you know of any small or large, email bakeryouth@bakermemorialchurch.org with the details. Include name, time frame of desired work, and pertinent information so we can evaluate if it is a good match for the volunteers we have on hand. Of course, we will continue to observe social distancing rules and use caution.

Finally, just like everyone else, we are finding new and exciting ways of doing the work of discipleship that is so very important. A new young adult study group is forming for the *5 Cups of Coffee* study, to meet on Wednesday evenings at 7pm. Our confirmation class will also not meet in-person for quite some time, but over the past two months they went through their final assignments and interviews with Pastor Mary.

Around the middle of June, Pastor Mary and I will be driving to each home to go confirm each student, welcome them into the church congregation and challenge them with a mission to get involved with over the coming months. This will be done with masks, distance and a lot of prayer, but will be so much better if you will partner with us. How? Thank you for asking! We are requesting that congregation members who feel led, turn on their computer camera, their phone camera or use the old camcorder and record a short message of welcome to our confirmands. Once you have recorded the video, upload, link, or send it



Work on the new Giving Garden project began last weekend. See more about the community garden project and how to get involved or donate on page 7.

by carrier pigeon to bakeryouth@bakermemorialchurch.org. We will take all of these messages and splice them into a video of welcome for our confirmands and their families. Can you help us out? Time is of the essence, so take a moment now, while you're reading to record the video.

Done?

Great! The email address is above. Send it over and we can get to work on the editing.

Finally, we appreciate every word of support, every card sent to our youth and young adults, every visit to the house of a senior (we dropped off care baskets in May), every email and every prayer offered up during this time. May God bless our young people and their families now and in the coming months.

In Christ,
Carl King
Director of Youth Ministry

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2019-2020 CONFIRMANDS!

You have seen the photos of some of our 2019-2020 confirmation class in the announcements, on social media or other places online, but here they are with stoles and smiles:



Valerie Barrett



Tyler John



Olivia Konopacki



Madelyn Torio



Lucas Konopacki



Lauren Frey



Daniella King



Brooke Hall



Alyson Sebahar

MISSIONS CORNER

COVID-19 Has Not Stopped Ministry at Baker Memorial

MASK MINISTRY FOR MIDWEST MISSION DISTRIBUTION CENTER

We may not be able to serve in person at the center in Pawnee, Illinois, but a mask ministry has been up and running for a month! Cheryl Freiberger, Charlene Thomas and Chris Stumpf have made over 300 masks that Mitzi Babka has mailed to MMDC! Many thanks to Pete Holmes for the large amount of colorful sample fabrics that he donated to the cause! Thanks goes out also to those that have searched their closets for fabric, t-shirts (for ties) and elastic... Jean Hed, Sheila McCurdy, Holly Coon, Mitzi Babka, Cary Coutts, Deb Norris, Claire Replogle and Cathie Ruth. This is an ongoing ministry. If you can sew masks, Chris will give you fabric and you can drop off completed masks to be mailed. If you have fabric or t-shirts, we can use those as well!!

Contact Chris at (630) 709-7761 or cstumpf0308@gmail.com for more information.



MASKS FOR BAKER

Yes, if *you* need a mask please call Chris at the number above as we also have several put aside for locals that need them. Some of you have already reached out and are wearing your masks! Day guests have been given a good supply of masks as well!

LAZARUS COOKING THIS MONTH

Lazarus cooking in June will feature Cheesy Baked Potatoes with Chili and Broccoli, Tossed Salad, Fruit Salad and cookies for dessert. We also provide a few breakfast items and lunches for 50 (up from 20 during COVID-19). If you are on Sign Up Genius for this ministry, you will receive an email. This time, since we are still not cooking in the church kitchen, a few of you will be asked to bake in your home kitchen and take to Lazarus on June 9. Email Chris Stumpf at cstumpf0308@gmail.com to be added to the list of volunteers on Sign up Genius! We could use your help!

MEALS ON WHEELS KEEPS DELIVERING

Meals On Wheels volunteers continue to deliver meals to seniors. Every month a team of volunteers delivers meals to seniors on third Tuesdays. A short orientation is required and then volunteers are given a badge and deliver meals that are needed and appreciated! Would you consider

being a volunteer? Substitutes are also needed and would only deliver occasionally to sub for a regular that cannot deliver that week!

If this is something you could do please contact Marge Meanger at marjorieme@att.net.

NIL FOOD BANK SCHEDULED FOR JUNE

Northern Illinois Food Bank cancelled the last day our volunteers were scheduled to work due to deep cleaning. The next NIL Food Bank volunteer date for Baker, as far as we know, is June 15 from 9am-Noon at 273 Dearborn Ct. in Geneva. If you would like to join the team or get more information, contact Betty Erickson at N9FYC@aol.com

LAZARUS HOUSE URGENT NEEDS LIST

The urgent needs list from Lazarus House provides another way you can give. If you have extra and can donate, just call Lazarus at (630) 587-2144 and ask when you can drop off any of these items....

- Lysol spray disinfectant
- Cases of Bottled Water
- Latex Free/Nitrile Gloves (large)
- Ground Coffee
- Disinfectant Wipes
- Face masks

CASA KANE COUNTY COLLECTIONS

When we are able to gather again in our church building, we will resume our collection for the CASA Kids that are affected every day by uncertainty in their lives. If you have already purchased gift cards, suitcases or backpacks, please hold on to them awhile longer! You can bring your donations in when we announce a new collection date in a month or two.



Introducing... Zoom Fellowship

You're invited to come to Zoom Fellowship at 10am on Sundays. Grab a cup of coffee and join us as we gather together and connect via video conferencing. In these days of social distancing, we need to try new things. We hope that you take the time to experience fellowship in a different way! A link is sent out Sunday mornings.

Construction Committee Update

The Phase 1 Construction Committee recently resumed Zoom meetings regarding refurbishment or replacement of the Church doors which are in poor condition. Currently, the doors do not seal, are difficult to operate and very challenging to secure and lock. The thresholds are severely deteriorated. You may remember that the committee presented options to the congregation in February and sought input. The Committee greatly appreciates the thoughtful and knowledgeable discussions that occurred at the Congregation's input sessions. With the votes tallied, those who voted were fairly split on refurbishment versus replacement with aluminum frame doors. The costs are substantial (\$70K to \$160K) depending on the chosen combination of options. The Committee decided to refurbish the two main street facing doors and the Fourth Avenue Narthex door. These doors are considered very important to maintaining the architectural beauty of our church building. This will also allow us the opportunity to examine the results of refurbishment before deciding on the remaining three main entrance doors. Our Architect (Martin Serena) is gathering final quotes for us at this time. The Church staff is also working on a specification for Church security. We'll have more on that in the near future. If you wish to discuss these topics, please reach out to a Committee Member.

Construction Committee: Judy Schlarb (chair), Jean McCabe, Pastor Mary, Peter Wintersteen, Heidi Hughes, Peter Vargulich, Jon Saucer, Jayne Beck (Liaison to Trustees)

Want To Be A Garden Angel?

If you like being outside and working with your hands in the dirt, I have an opportunity for you. You could be part of helping beautify the outside of the church by taking care of a section of the landscaping. If you are interested, contact Cheryl Freiberger at: cherylfreiberger@gmail.com or via cell phone at (630) 476-8237.

Growing Our Giving Garden Ministry

Please join us in a new ministry! Baker Memorial UMC is planning a community garden to address some of the needs of our community. With the staggering level of unemployment and an uncertain economic future we have seen an increase in people experiencing severe financial strain and homelessness. Fresh produce is expensive, and as we've seen in the stores lately, not always available. See pictures on page 4 of the raised beds the youth started!

There are many ways you can help! Ways to donate:

- Time—volunteer to tend the garden by watering, weeding or harvesting
- Funds to cover materials, plants, and dirt we need to purchase
- Seedlings/transplants and potting soil/good dirt
- Hand-held gardening tools
- Plant a row. If you cannot come out regularly to our garden but garden at home, consider planting a row for our neighbors. Contact Mandy Hale at (630) 306-9090 for contactless porch pick-up of harvested veggies

Contact Mandy Hale at aghale73@gmail.com to learn more or volunteer!

Don't Miss Church Online

To view our weekly worship videos, go to the church website. If you missed a video or want to watch it again, they are all there. Go to bakermemorialchurch.org.

A Gentle Word About Giving

The work of God continues at and through Baker Memorial UMC in these difficult times. Our staff is hard at work seeking to check-in with the whole congregation on a regular basis. Our work with our Day Guests continues. We are learning how to do worship on-line. As you are able, please seek to keep up with your giving during this time, or even accelerate it so we can continue to meet our payroll and bills. We understand that some people will not be able to do this and are working to manage spending accordingly. All of you are in our prayers.



Peacemaking, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding

The gospel is a message of redemption but also of peace and freedom. As Christians, we are called to spread peace, do good and stand for justice.

Take a look at the scriptures:

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” (Matthew 5:9)

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:21)

“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8)

Not much has changed when it comes to peace and justice from the culture and context of those Scriptures to today. We still need to work to encourage peace and seek justice. As United Methodists, Peace with **Justice Sunday** is one way we are working together to seek justice.

While we recognize that no nation or culture is absolutely just, we believe that we are called to love our enemies, seek justice, and serve as peacemakers. It is necessary to work together to resolve conflict peacefully because it is in that resolution where work such as eliminating poverty, caring for orphans, and kickstarting health initiatives can be successful.

So what does being a peacemaker, peacekeeper or peacebuilder look like?

Peacemaking is defined as the process of creating a

settlement between differing parties. If you have children, we are sure that you have played the role of peacemaker many, many, many times. Even if you don't have children, perhaps this is a role that has been played by you or a friend to help settle a dispute.

Peacekeeping is keeping people from attacking one another by creating a buffer of neutrality between them. On a global scale, we've seen the UN or neutral nations act as peacekeepers. At a local level, this could mean involving a mediator to help.

Peacebuilding is a process that establishes peace through resolution, institution building or at the political level with the goal of preventing recurring violence.

Like any good lesson, it is never enough just to learn it. We must now act on what we know.

Peace with Justice Sunday is based on these ideas that the way to stand for justice is to simultaneously create pathways for peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. It is a day to take action by funding peace with justice programs in our communities.

One such program we want to highlight is the Peace with Justice Network. This network provides resources and legislative actions to support peacemaking and peacebuilding.

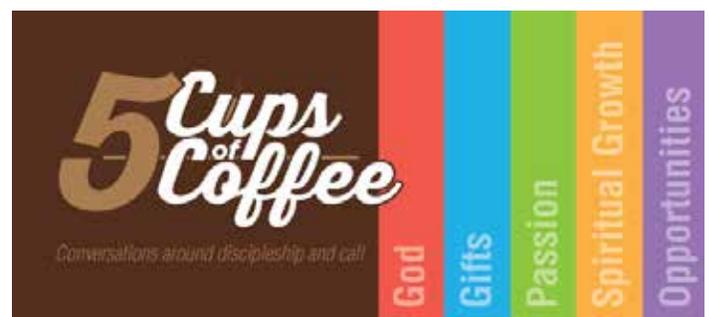
Learn more by visiting their website: <https://www.umcjustice.org/what-we-care-about/peace-with-justice>.

Adult Spiritual Formation Education Ministry Update

All the Immerse groups finished *Immerse: Kingdoms* in May. When the stay-at-home order closed the church building, the groups moved to a virtual mode to complete the study. Zoom and Telecon formats were used successfully. There were 11 groups with a range of 4-15 participants. Groups stayed in touch during this time of isolation, continued their fellowship, ministry, and spirit. The next Immerse session will begin in the fall.

Join us this summer for a 5 week small group at Baker Memorial UMC! There are 9 groups to choose from at different times during the week. Most will meet by Zoom. The 11am Sunday morning group will meet by phone. This is a 5 week open conversation centered around a new topic each week. No expectation of prior knowledge or specific beliefs, just a willingness to listen to others and share your understanding. Bring your own cup of coffee (or something else) to each session!

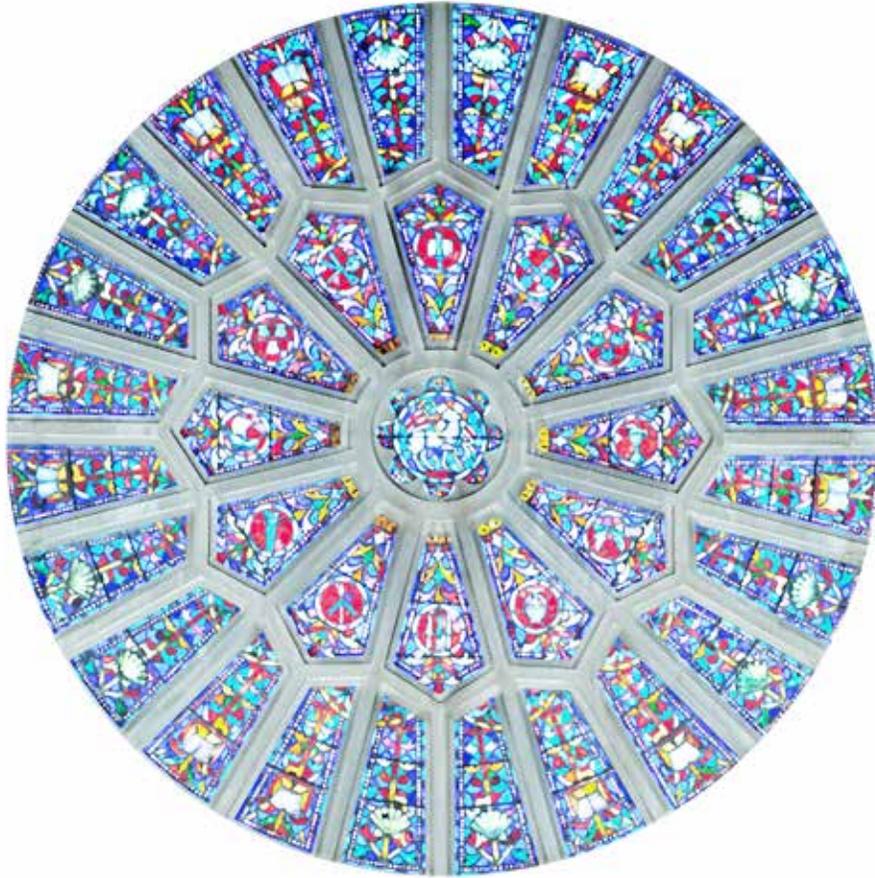
To sign up, click on the link provided on the cover email



for this issue. The materials and Zoom link/phone number will be emailed to you by your facilitator.

Another group will be studying *Fruits of the Spirit* in which each member will lead a session on the nine fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Sign up information to be out soon.

We hope you'll choose to sign-up! All are welcome here!



STAFF

Rev. Mary Zajac | *Senior Pastor*

Jeffery Hunt | *Director, Music Ministry*

Mark Edwards | *Organist*

Shelly Stienbarger | *Director, Children & Family Ministry*

Kurt Heinz | *Director of Administration*

Carl E. King | *Director, Youth & Young Adult Ministries*

Michele Claney | *Creative Director*

Judy Schlarb | *Finance Manager*

Lita Jimenez | *Church Accountant*

Karl Lescelius | *Building Maintenance Manager*

BAKER MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A traditional church for a modern world

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