

BAKER MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE CARILLON

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

Photo (left) by Debby Hudson on Unsplash



PASTOR MARY'S MESSAGE

What Are You Longing For?

As the days of this pandemic have stretched on, I have noticed a feeling deep in my soul. The word that best describes it is, “longing.” As much as I appreciate on-line worship, I long for the community of the church family and the practices of our faith that require the community to gather. There are many such things. I long to gather together to celebrate the lives of our two beloved members, Warren Kammerer and Bea Grigo who have entered eternity during this time of distancing. I long to gather and pray in one space, hearing the people all around me join in the Lord's Prayer as an audible confirmation that we are indeed one body in Jesus Christ. I long to sing hymns, shake hands, and share our lives.

However, most of all, I long to celebrate Communion.

This is a longing that been simmering for quite a while now. It's not only about being able to speak the words of the liturgy together, or distribute the bread and cup filled with grace and accompanied by prayers. It's a longing for the extraordinary experience you can't quite explain. The mysterious reality of pausing from our daily lives to dine with Christ at his table, surrounded by the disciples of the past and the present. I long for that sense of somehow being more complete, more “whole”, having received the gift of love that represents Christ's body and blood given in love and faith that would not die. My soul needs this nurture, and so I long for communion.

Longing is not a bad feeling. It helps me understand what is truly important and calls me back to community. Longing is not something that has to be satiated immediately either. Rather, for me, it is a sensation to be noticed, remembered and grateful for. For this longing reminds me of who I truly am deep in my soul.

My prayer is that we will soon be worshipping together in a way that is true to our Christian faith: welcoming the stranger, worshipping and communing together with God, and also safe from the hazard of a virus that can be easily evaded with the simple act of

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PASTOR MARY'S MESSAGE

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waiting. In the meantime, I remember the beautiful Psalm below and realize that longing for God, is a faithful kind of longing.

Psalm 42: 1-5 (Common English Bible)

Just like a deer that craves streams of water,
my whole being craves you, God.

My whole being thirsts for God, for the living God.

When will I come and see God's face?

My tears have been my food both day and night,
as people constantly questioned me,

"Where's your God now?"

But I remember these things as I bare my soul:

how I made my way to the mighty one's abode,
to God's own house, with joyous shouts
and thanksgiving songs—

a huge crowd celebrating the festival!

Why, I ask myself, are you so depressed?

Why are you so upset inside?

Hope in God!

Because I will again give him thanks,
my saving presence and my God.

Looking forward to the time we can gather together in
the presence of our Lord.

In Christ.

Pastor Mary

Ask The UMC-FAQs

Where do church terms like narthex and nave come from?

Many church architecture terms come from Latin and Greek origins.

For many centuries, one common plan of church architecture has been to build the worship space in the shape of a cross. The cruciform structure included the narthex and nave on one end, cross arms, and the sanctuary at the other end. The nave area usually extended west from the crossing, the choir and sanctuary toward the east.

The term *narthex*, Greek for "scourge," refers to a porch or gathering space outside the main worship space (or nave). Early Christians used this term to refer to the outer portico where penitents (those who had committed serious sins) and catechumens (converts preparing for baptism) gathered for worship. Penitents and catechumens were not permitted to worship with other Christians in the main worship space until they had completed their orientation or reorientation to Christian life. Today, this gathering place functions as an interface between the church and the world, a space for welcoming.

Why don't we call this space the lobby? Lobby is another term for the same kind of covered walk or portico near the entrance of a larger main space, but one that was adapted from political use, rather than Christian use. The lobby (*lobium* in Latin) is where the "lobbyists" would gather to seek to influence the votes of lawmakers and others admitted to the space where decisions were made.

The term nave comes from the Latin word, *navis*,



meaning "ship." The main worship space of many churches was intentionally built to resemble a ship, or more specifically, Noah's Ark. This points to the role of the church as an ark of salvation. From this area, the congregation can see and hear the pastor and the choir.

Sanctuary, from Latin *sanctus* for holy or sacred, refers specifically to the area around the Lord's table where the Eucharistic sacrifice is offered. Often in Western churches, the choir is also seated in the sanctuary. It is the holiest space within the worship area. In Eastern Christianity, the sanctuary is separated by a wall of icons (iconostasis). Icons are signs and reminders of the holiness encountered as Christians gather in the space. Some Western churches have a screen (rood screen) separating the sanctuary, where the clergy preside, from the nave, where the lay people worship. Many Protestant churches distinguish this space by an altar rail. Often Protestants today refer to the whole worship space as the sanctuary.

This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.

Children & Family Ministry

FOCUS: SUMMER WRAP-UP & BACK-TO-SCHOOL PRAYERS

► **Family Bible Verse:** *Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and his powerful strength.* –Ephesians 6:10 CEB

It's been a summer like we have never seen before with different types of challenges and new guidelines each day. I know we all have gained new skills and learned how to build relationships in new ways. It is a new normal. On the bright side, I love our church, our families, and now I am able to share Baker Memorial with my co-worker's kids along with my nieces and nephews in Alaska. How? Through our online Zoom. If you are like me, and know of children who might need love from Baker UMC, let's talk.

I am not sure what our upcoming year will look like for our children with Sunday school. Our Children & Family committee have come up with an amazing year of activities and events. However, our play book can change day-by-day and we can't really know what will happen. What I do know is that God loves you, God loves us, and God's got this.

We are uncertain how comfortable families will be worshipping in-person this coming year, but that is OK. This year, with all of the uncertainty, we are going to start our own Church Mouse program for our Sunday school children called *Prayer Buddy*. If you are interested in being a Prayer Buddy please text or email me. Throughout this year, you will pray over your Sunday school child through the end of the school year. You will also be given specific inserts periodically to enclose in the mail. Going forward, each month I will be asking for input on how to pray for our children in each *Carillon* article.



Over the past five months, our Baker Kids have received curriculum through the mail and delivered at their door steps. During Easter, the families received the option for an Easter Goody Bag. Since April, we have held online Bible study on Wednesday nights called BakerKids via Zoom. In June, the

children received a Christian themed Summer Busy Bag with aroma play dough, crafts, etc. In July, we partnered with the Geneva Methodist Church for a virtual VBS. We will add Sunday school via Zoom on Sunday as well.

Thank you volunteers & families for a successful VBS!

Our brave knights conquered their quest to find the armor of God last month. They went on daily journeys to a frozen, hidden land in the far off North via Zoom. The children learned how to be strong in the Lord and accept the challenge to "armor up" by sharing God's love with others. Each day these young Knights explored the Old and New Testament stories to discover their protective armor to include the Belt of Truth, the Breastplate of Justice, the Shoes of Peace, the Shield of Faith, and the Helmet of Salvation. The Knights learned how their armor will equip them on their own faith journey to serve and follow God. Please do not hesitate to contact me for more online resources, curriculum, how to get involved, or questions stienbarger@bakermemorialchurch.org.



Blessings,
Shelly Stienbarger
Director, Children & Family Ministry

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Zoom BakerKids | Wednesday 6-7pm | All ages

PRAYER REQUEST:

Back-to-school blessings and prayers for the students, families, teachers, janitors, bus drivers, volunteers, coaches, counselors and every person who has a hand or foot involved with school to protect, guide, and bless them all through this school year of uncharted scenarios.

THANK YOU!

Knights of North Castle VBS: Pastor Rich from Geneva UMC; Mandy & Rob Hale; Renee Whittenhall; Cherie Hunt; all the families and children who attended the Zoom VBS and those who prayed for us.

Youth Ministry

MAKING PLANS July served as a time of discernment for many youth and young adults, based on my conversations with parents, youth and young adults themselves. Some have shifted their immediate goals from four year universities to local colleges that allow for online education. Others are eagerly packing for a return to campus life with amended expectations. One that I've heard from just got accepted into an elite team and is so ready to get together with their new teammates. Meanwhile, our youth are navigating the local K-12 school district decisions in U-46, D303, D300, D304 and beyond. There are no easy answers, so your prayers are greatly appreciated.

CONFIRMATION Confirmation is on track to begin near the end of August as we did last year, with our first few modules online. If you have not signed up your young

person and wish to do so, or simply want more information about what we do in confirmation, email bakeryouth@bakermemorialchurch.org. The deadline for signing up is August 16.

SUNDAY SCHOOL Sunday school will recommence at the end of August, as will youth fellowship, though we cannot definitively say what they will look like and whether they will be virtual or in-person. The 2020-2021 youth calendar is coming along, though and we have great things in store for you!

Blessings to you,
Carl King
Director of Youth Ministry

Day Guest Donation Needs

Our Day Guest program continues to distribute bagged lunches on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please consider signing up to donate lunches at <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/z9dyzd>. Make it a team effort and do it with a friend or two!



In addition to the lunches, we have food in a plastic tote at the Cedar Street entrance for those in need. We can use pop-top cans of baked beans/ chicken/beef stew/pasta/

fruit, individually wrapped cheese, small bags of chips, small packages of cookies, Gatorade, small boxes of cereal and protein milk (available at Costco). Please drop off donated items between 11am and 1pm on Tuesdays or Thursdays. We appreciate the support we've gotten for this mission.

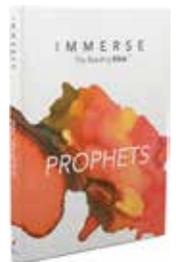
Let's Stay Connected

• **CHURCH ONLINE** To view our weekly worship videos, go to the church website. Note that we've added attendance and prayer requests. Click on the attendance button above the sermon video and fill in the short form. You also have the option of adding a prayer request. Go to bakermemorialchurch.org.

• **ZOOM FELLOWSHIP** You're invited to come to Zoom Fellowship at 10am on Sundays. Join us as we gather together and connect via video conferencing. We hope that you take the time to experience fellowship in a different way! An email with the link is sent out weekly.

The Next Immerse Book

Look for *Immerse: Prophets*, the fourth of six volumes in our Immerse journey, to kick off some time in September. The details on groups and meeting times will be announced soon. Groups meet for nine weeks at various times and locations or online. Check it out!



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.



MISSIONS CORNER

Serving here, near and far away

Plans for fall and winter are being made now! The Missions Team is in the process of planning our calendar which includes Stuff the Turkey, Angel Tree, Bell Ringing, Christmas tree sale, Christmas gift wrapping for Cambodia, an evening NIFB, blood drive and more! It may look different this year, but we will make these ministries happen! COVID-19 has made mission work at Baker more difficult to implement this summer, but we have managed as a congregation to still offer the services listed below...

MASK MINISTRY CONTINUES

The busy sewing team of three, Cheryl Freiberger, Charlene Thompson and Chris Stumpf, have sent 602 masks to Midwest Distribution Center. Mitzi Babka continues to mail the masks each week. MDC distributes them throughout the U.S. world wide. Locally, Day Guests have received over 100 masks. Additionally, the team is saving masks for our re-open day. This is an ongoing ministry, so if you can sew masks or have fabric to donate contact Chris at 630-709-7761 or cstumpf0308@gmail.com for more information.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK IN JULY

The next NIL Food Bank volunteer date for Baker Memorial is August 18 from 9am-Noon at the food bank 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....

- Disinfectant wipes and Lysol spray disinfectant
- Cases of bottled water
- Latex free/nitrile gloves (lg)
- Meal prep plastic microwavable food containers

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 items, please hold on to them awhile

longer. If you have not yet made a donation, see the list below. Ordering on line is easy! You can order on line and have sent to your home. To date we have collected over 25 backpacks and suitcases! Can you help too?

Items needed:

- Backpacks and luggage (kid and teen-sized)
- Gift cards in any amount (Target, Walmart, Aldi or fast food gift cards such as McDonald's and Subway)
- Public transportation vouchers (Pace, Ventra and Uber)
- Park district certificates (Aurora and Elgin)
- Movie passes (AMC and Goodrich)

MONTHLY LAZARUS COOKING

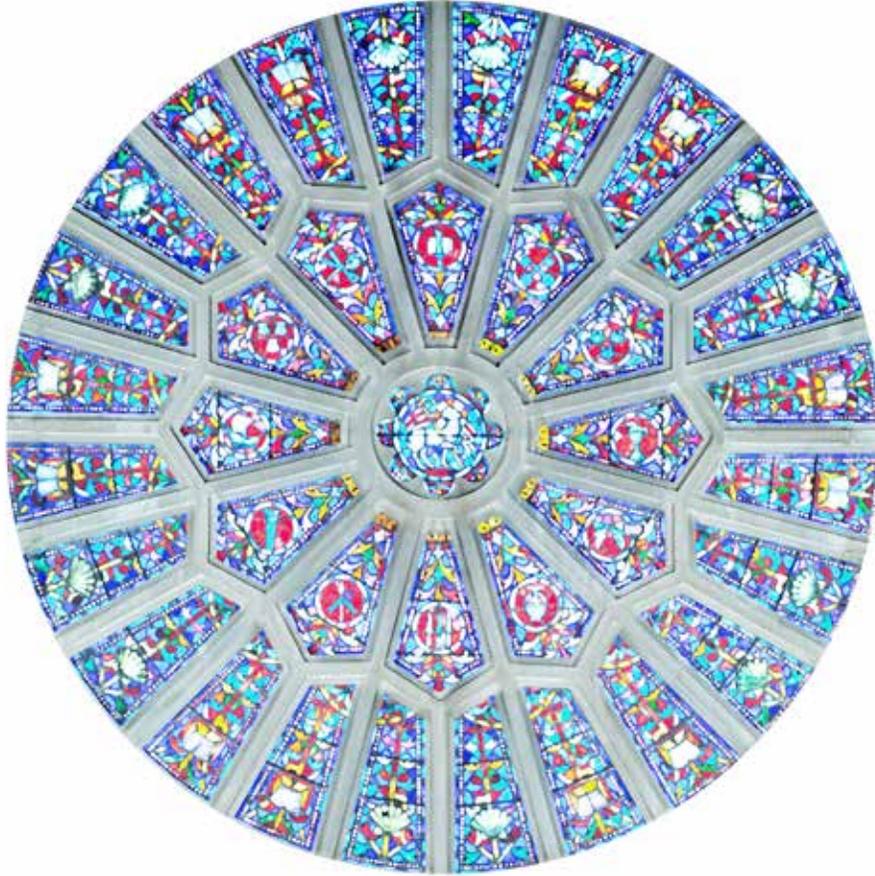
Our August 11 meal will feature grilled hot dogs and hamburgers, potato chips, watermelon, tossed salad and cookies. We also provide a few breakfast items and 50 sack lunches. If you are on Sign Up Genius for this ministry, you will receive an email. We are still not cooking at the church, so simplicity for our home kitchens is necessary. Volunteers that sign up to donate drop off items at the Stumpf home to be taken to Lazarus in one trip. 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

Volunteers continue to deliver meals to seniors. Every month a team delivers meals on third Tuesdays. There's a required short orientation. Then, volunteers are given a badge and deliver much appreciated meals! Would you consider volunteering? Substitutes are needed to deliver occasionally to sub for a regular. If you are interested, please contact Marge Meanger at marjorieme@att.net.

CAMBODIA MINISTRY

Clara Biswas, our missionary in Cambodia, is in our prayers as their concerns during this time are elevated with the poverty they face daily. Normally, have a special summer collection. You may recall the M&M's and Noisy Coin fundraisers. As we cannot meet in church, it is in our hearts to support Clara and the Street Kids of Cambodia. If you are able, the Missions Committee requests that you send a check to the church office that is marked *Cambodia Ministry*. Any amount is welcomed and will help us keep our commitment to Clara and her ministry! Thank you!



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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