

BAKER MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
THE CARILLON

OCTOBER 2020

VOLUME 21 • NUMBER 10

IN THIS ISSUE

Pastor Mary’s Message . . . 1
 Music. 2
 Children & Family 3
 BakerYouth 4
 Missions Corner 5
 Ask the UMC 5
 Baker News. 6
 Staff 7

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

Managing our Expectations

I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. —2 Timothy 1:3 (NRSV)

Every time I see people at the church, whether for Day Guest programming, the rare meeting, or even the bat watch, I notice how much I am grateful to God for all of you. I do indeed remember you in my prayers night and day and look forward to being together for worship soon. That said, I do have a worry. I don’t want you to be disappointed that things cannot go back to “normal” right away. I want to manage some expectations as we look forward to beginning worship, hopefully on October 18 at 9am.

The last few months have taught everyone a lot about things we never thought about before. In March re-opening the building for worship seemed reasonably easy. Now we know there are complicating factors. Jeff Hunt has connected us to studies sponsored by performing arts communities regarding the spread



of aerosols produced by speaking and singing. These have been helpful in considering distancing, mask wearing, live musical performance, and air flow. The CDC, state, and our Northern Illinois Conference have also provided guidelines for how to be together safely.

After reading all of these things, we have learned some important things. First, our beautiful building relies heavily on air-recirculation vs. ventilation. What that means is that we do not have much air exchange in most of our rooms. Second, the rate of air exchange is very important for removing COVID-19 virus from the air. The music related studies suggest a minimum of three full air exchanges per hour, and then still do not recommend constant occupancy of a room. HVAC professionals recommend a substantially higher rate of exchange for constant occupancy.

Continued on page 2.

PASTOR MARY'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 1.

What all of this means is that we need to be aware that while gathering for worship will be wonderful, it won't be quite the same experience we were used to. We are blessed that the Wiley Hall actually has a ventilation and air filtration system built in, along with a sound system. Initial worship services will therefore be held in Wiley Hall instead of the sanctuary. We are also blessed that a couple of years ago a friend donated a baby grand piano for Wiley Hall that will now be put to good use. We are blessed to have a large room in Wiley where we think we can accommodate about 50 people. We are blessed with a large number of entrances and exits to the building that allow us to enter and exit from different hallways as recommended by the church re-opening teams. We are blessed in many ways. Worship will be wonderful. Just do not expect it to be quite the same as it used to be.

We will be learning as much over the coming months

as we have over the past six months. So please be patient with others as procedures are adjusted to work better over time. We are looking into alternatives for air management in the sanctuary, but as you can imagine that presents some challenges in such a large room. Please be patient as we consider the options, risks and costs. We are being creative with how to worship when everyone is wearing a mask and we cannot do simple things like pass the peace in the normal way. Please be willing to try new ways of connecting to God and one another. To sign up for in-person worship, go [here](#) or call the church office.

I look forward to greeting you without a handshake soon! Please know, there will be a big smile under my mask. For those who cannot come to worship in-person, please make sure to keep watching and participating on-line.

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Mary

Music News at Baker Memorial Church

It is estimated that over 54 million people in the United States participate in some sort of organized group singing activity. They might include school, church, community or professional choirs. This figure most likely does not include the number of people who sing from the pews each week in our church services. The number is well over 15% of the population. Since the beginning of the Global Pandemic, group singing has remained pretty much silent. This is a huge loss to a large population who have seen the joy and comfort in communal singing simply vanish.

Since March, we have provided music for our online services from our talented musicians playing and singing mostly from home and our sanctuary and we will continue to do that for the foreseeable future. We are ready to take a next step however and provide small group singing and playing by members of our congregation for recorded music during our in-person worship starting in October.

Beginning Wednesday, October 14th, we will start rehearsals for our youth ensembles; Chapel bells and Wesley/Chapel Choir which will be directed by Kathy Olivarez. We will also begin rehearsals for our adult music with Chancel Bells and Chancel Choir, both directed by myself. Music we will present for our online and in-person services will be recorded during these half hour rehearsals.

Gathering and singing as safely as possible will guide every step of our process. I have spent considerable time

attending webinars on safe singing and have tried to learn as much as I can about what we can do to gather and sing as safely as possible. Until we have a vaccine, gathering in any way will indeed carry a certain amount of risk and not everyone will feel comfortable in any sort of in-person gathering at this time. What we have put together is a set of gathering and safety protocols that will help minimize the risk in gathering for music. (Guidelines are listed on the church website)

I am excited about moving forward and would encourage you to participate if you feel comfortable. As you can see from our gathering protocols, we are limiting both the numbers involved and the time gathered. Our music for the Chancel bell choir will be mostly 2 octave music, readily available to play with 4-6 fingers. Our chancel choir music will mostly be 2-part anthems with 4 singers on a part. I have found some beautiful, meaningful and simpler music for us to enjoy together. If you have been thinking about joining either bells, choir or both, now might be a great time to join. We will be rotating those that sign up so that we will have different singers each week to lighten the load and give everyone a chance. If you would like to participate, please go to tinyurl.com/y4wb3kp9.

Jeff Hunt
Director of Music Ministry

Children & Family Ministry

FOCUS: SUNDAY MORNINGS & PRAYER BUDDIES

► **Family Bible Verse:** *I don't stop giving thanks to God for you when I remember you in my prayers.*
—Ephesians 1:16 CEB

Hi family! Fall is here, but it's not quite the same without you. I hope you got the chance to hear my poem last month about missing Sunday mornings and all of you. It's true! I'm feeling blue without you. However, when I see reminders of y'all, I stop, pray, and give thanks. I find joy in the Lord. I've been finding a deeper friendship with God these days, which has not only given me joy, but peace too. Some mornings I get reminders of pictures that pop up to remind me where I was one, two, and three years ago. Remember our Pajamas, Pancakes & Prayers for our back to school gathering? I again, stop and pray for you.

I hope you are enjoying our story time adventures with Pastor Mary and yours truly. I can't help myself, but tell you another spoiler alert about one of our upcoming books, *When I Pray for You* by Matthew Paul Turner. It's true! I do pray for my Sunday school children, their families, and my church family too. All of you! This book celebrates the dreams, hopes, and the longing the parents have for their



children. Please join us! Share us with your grandchildren, friends, & neighbors. My sister not only shares these video story books with her children first thing Thursday morning during breakfast time, but in the evenings too. She said that the boys talk back to me

in conversation. I love that I get to walk with them during their first steps of the faith journey. And again I pray for them and you.

Continue to call me, text me, email me on how I can pray for your family. Let me know when we can have coffee or lunch outside before our lovely weather leaves us. Tell me about your favorite stories that we have been reading during story time. Hint! Wink! I will need to find some good homes for these favorite books of Pastor Mary and mine. Does your family have any fun fall family traditions? I'd love to hear about them. To me story time also means



Left, Shelly's nephews enjoy the weekly Storytime video from far away Alaska. Join the fun each week!



share time, so send me a picture. At the top of the page is a picture my sister sent me of my nephews during their new morning routine of breakfast story time in Alaska.

Blessings,
Shelly Stienbarger
Director, Children & Family Ministry

PARENTING AS SPIRITUAL PILGRIMAGE GROUPS FORMING

Parents of elementary and middle school children, you are invited to participate in a small spiritual formation group designed especially for parents. After spending so much time supporting your children, it's time to focus on being spiritually healthy yourself during a very difficult season of life.

As many of you know, Pastor Mary has been working on a Doctor of Ministry degree in Spiritual Formation and Direction for several years. She will be facilitating these groups for parents as a part of her final research work. Groups start the first week of November and will meet for eight sessions, with weeks off for Thanksgiving and Christmas. You'll be receiving an invitation in the mail but please start thinking about joining now. The groups will be open to Baker Memorial UMC, Batavia UMC, and Geneva UMC parents and seats are limited. Only one parent per family is asked to participate.

Interested and want more information, contact Pastor Mary at 630-584-6680 x102.

Youth Ministry

FALL HAPPENINGS

We had around fifteen young people at our outdoor movie night in September. See pictures from the event below.

For the month of October, we plan to host a campfire and game night at Pratt's Wayne Woods Forest Preserve (Campsite 1), share our faith, some s'mores, and maybe even a short hike along the paths. If you've never been, it is amazing how expansive the site is and there are ample spots for everyone to stay safely distanced. Here is a [map](#) of the forest preserve and you can sign up at signupgenius.com/go/20F094EABA62AAAF94-gone to be at the campfire with us. We will encourage masks during our stay and distance six feet.

Youth confirmation is still going strong with mentors selected, calendars synched, and learning in full effect. The young people are asking tremendous questions that show they are engaged in their faith formation. What a blessing!

My oft reminder to parents is that their young people will inherit and enact a similar faith life to what they witness in their lived environment. Put another way, the youth will do what they see. When parents are engaged with their own faith formation and connected with others in a community

of faith, young people will see that as the norm and repeat that pattern, especially as they grow older. They will claim the faith as their own.

Throughout this pandemic, we have shared resources and tools for families to build on existing faith practices. I am sure you have had mixed results, however Pastor Mary is planning to offer an eight week small group for parents of elementary and middle school aged children and the slots for participation start this month. Parenting is a joy, but it can also be challenging and spiritually draining. This group is intended to help parents grow their faith in the midst of the busy-ness of parenting. The group will meet by Zoom and group work is a part of Pastor Mary's doctoral studies in spiritual formation so there will be a few extra things you will need to be aware of such as completing two surveys and answering some interview questions. Check the Weekly Word and 5-Point Weekend Update for sign up slots. This will be an invaluable experience for Baker Memorial parents.

In Christ,
Carl King
Director of Youth Ministry



MISSIONS CORNER

Serving here, near and far away

GIVE BLOOD AT VERSITI IF YOU ARE ABLE!

Sadly, we had to cancel our October blood drive. However, the need for blood is greater than ever! It is easy, the location is convenient and takes about an hour. Here is the information, if you can give.

- Call Versiti Blood Center of Illinois (2000 W State Street Unit 1E, Geneva) at 630-208-8105, to schedule an appointment.
- Give them our sponsor number, **100997**, on the phone. At check in, tell them you are from Baker Memorial Church.
- The center follows all COVID-19 guidelines for safety. Thank you, in advance, for giving!

AN INVITATION TO GET INVOLVED

Looking forward to resuming Baker Memorial ministries in the Fall? Reach out to the contacts listed, to get involved. We are praying that all these ministries can take place, but will continue to update. Here's what we have in store for the next few months...

- October 25 | **Stuff the Turkey** begins | Contact Loretta Wilson at redtop55@att.net

- November 1 | **Salvation Army Bell Ringing** begins | Contact Rick Carlson at carlson.rc@sbcglobal.net
- November 8 | **Angel Tree** begins | Contact Loretta Wilson at redtop55@att.net
- November 8 | **Christmas Tree Sale begins** | Contact Dave Wilson at davexpress@att.net
- December 13 | **Gift Wrapping Fundraiser** for our Cambodia missionary Clara Biswas
- TBD | **Sanctuary offering for Clara** | Contact Chris Stumpf at cstumpf0308@gmail.com

MASK MINISTRY CONTINUES

A team of three continues to make and send masks to the Midwest Distribution Center every week to be distributed in the U.S. and all over world. We could use a few more seamstresses to make 10 masks or so a week. This is an ongoing ministry until COVID is controlled. If you can sew masks it would be of great help, but store bought masks are welcome as well! Contact Chris at 630-709-7761 or cstumpf0308@gmail.com.

Ask The UMC

Why do they say “the body of Christ, broken for you”? Was His body broken?

Someone shared a question about a term heard in a communion service, that Christ's body was “broken for you.” That is not usually what is said in the United Methodist communion ritual. We do not say, “The body of Christ, *broken* for you.” We say, The body of Christ *given* for you.

However, there are reasons for both terms. As the Rev. Taylor Burton-Edwards explains, what is given has first been broken. Here's why.

First, it is what the gospels report that Jesus said about the bread he broke and gave to his disciples at his last meal with them. “This is my body, broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Thus we remember the action of Jesus breaking the bread in the Great Thanksgiving.

Second, and more deeply, perhaps, is the understanding of sacrifice implicit in these actions—both what Jesus was

about to do himself, what Jesus was doing at that moment with his disciples, and what we are doing as we offer ourselves to God in the Great Thanksgiving in union with Christ's offering for us.

Ritually, this is how sacrifices are celebrated in the Old Testament. The priest *takes* the elements to be offered (whether grain, wine, oil or animal flesh), *blesses* God and seeks God's blessing upon them, and then *breaks* and *gives* them to those who are present for the sacrifice to consume them together.

In consuming what has been offered and blessed by God, the whole assembly is nourished by God's presence among them. Thus, when Jesus *took* bread, *blessed* God, *broke* the bread, and *gave* it to his disciples, ritually, he was enacting a sacrifice of thanksgiving in which it was understood the bread was his body, and the cup was his blood. And when the disciples ate the bread and drank the cup, they were (and we still are!) nourished by the presence of Christ in his body and blood.

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

The Courtyard Receives A Makeover

The courtyard area is almost finished. Thank you to Judy Schlarb, John Stumpf, Nancy and Kent Pearson, Karl Lescelius, and Cheryl Freiberger for their hard work and contributions. Also, thanks to UMM for supplying the sand for the brick pavers.

There were many tasks involved in renewing the space. The work included the brick pavers being reset, power washed, and sanded. The metal furniture and parlor doors were painted. The bench and planter boxes were stained. The flower beds were added to and mulched. The planter boxes now have beautiful mums in them.

Stop by and enjoy the peaceful surroundings.



UMW October Leadership Meeting

The UMW Leadership Team will meet via Zoom on Wednesday, October 7 at 9am. Those unable to attend should contact Pam Stare at starep@comcast.net.

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 your continued support!

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,



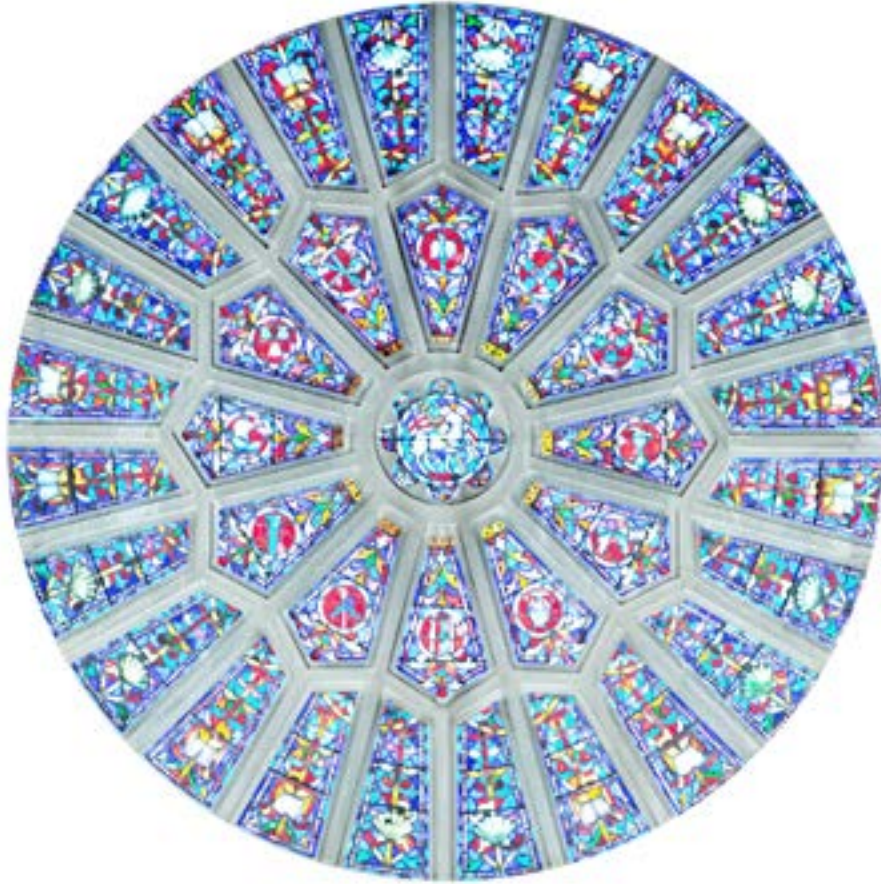
or even accelerate it so we can continue to meet our payroll and bills. We understand that some people will not be able to do this and are working to manage spending accordingly. All of you are in our prayers.

The Latest Construction Update

The refurbishment of the six church entry door sets is scheduled. The doors to be refurbished are the sets on Cedar Street, Third Street, Upper and Lower Narthex on Main Street, Narthex on Fourth Street and Sanctuary on Fourth Street. The set on Third Street has had the finish redone as a sample. Take a look at the beauty of this door. Note that the Third Street door refurbishment is not complete.

The hardware, weather stripping and threshold repair are still to be done. The schedule for door refurbishment begins with the Cedar Street doors on October 1. Each set is scheduled to take a week. A second portion of the door project is to replace some of the existing stained glass with clear art glass. This will solve the safety issue of not being able to see through the stained glass who is entering the building and when rides have arrived. We will have a sample of clear art glass installed on the Cedar Street entry doors. Next up, will be expansion and enhancement of the Cedar Street interior entrance area which will also include relocation and expansion of rest rooms. This will involve some adjustments to Baker Hall. In future stages the lift would be replaced by an elevator and some program staff offices may be moved upstairs to a newly developed area near where Pastor Mary's office is currently located. Ask a Construction Committee member for details. The Construction Committee includes Judy Schlarb (lead), Peter Wintersteen, Peter Vargulich, Heidi Hughes, Jon Sauser, Jean McCabe, Jayne Beck and Pastor Mary.





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

307 CEDAR AVENUE | ST. CHARLES, IL 60174
630-584-6680 | BAKERMEMORIALCHURCH.ORG