

BAKER MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE CARILLON

FEBRUARY 2021

VOLUME 22 • NUMBER 21

IN THIS ISSUE

Pastor Mary's Message . . . 1
Pastor Kim's Message . . . 2, 3
Children & Family 4
BakerYouth 5
Ask the UMC 5
Missions Corner 6
Baker News 7
Staff 8

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

Finding Jesus In All the Wrong Places

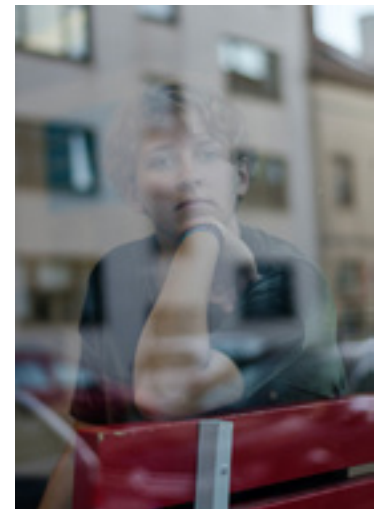
And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.

Matthew 9:10-12 NRSV

I remember visiting Baker Memorial UMC before I was appointed. We followed the typical process of the District Superintendent arranging an interview with the Staff Parish Relations Committee on an evening when the church was quiet. We had a nice conversation in the upstairs conference room and then I was asked to leave while the committee and District Superintendent had a conversation. I did not know the layout of the church building but I knew where to go. I found the sanctuary (but not the light switches) and took a seat in the dark to pray. I have done this same thing prior to all of my appointments. It provides a chance to sit where the congregation worships and get a spiritual sense of things. After all, if you cannot find Jesus in a church sanctuary, something is amiss!

We need to be able to find Jesus in the sanctuary, and the chapel, and the whole church building. However, we also need to be careful not to confine Jesus to these spaces. Our ancestors thought God dwelled in the Temple of Jerusalem and that holy people should only be found in "holy places" with other "holy people." This little passage from Matthew reminds us that Jesus went wherever he felt sent to go. It teaches us that the Spirit of God in Christ goes pretty much wherever the Spirit wants to go, with special emphasis on the places with the most need.

As we grow in faith, we grow in our ability to recognize the presence of Christ in all the other places he is likely to be found. If you stop and prayerfully look around, you'll



Continued on page 2.

PASTOR MARY'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 1.

find Christ in places where comfort is needed, like the emergency room, the cancer infusion center, and pre-surgical waiting areas. You can also find Christ in places of need like homeless shelters, back alley neighborhoods, and prisons. Christ is there in the halls of government if anyone cares to look and listen. We do not need to bring Christ to these places because Christ is already there. What we need to do is notice Christ, make his presence known, and be ready to answer the question, "why is Jesus here?"

The Pharisees asked the question because they didn't know Jesus. We, however, can answer it. Christ is here because the love of God is big enough to include this place. Christ is here people here (and everywhere) need his guidance. Christ is here, because he brings healing,

forgiveness, and strength to anyone who will receive it. Christ is here, because God is creating a new community, and everyone is invited to find their place.

We have been away from our sanctuary for more months than anyone could have imagined! However, have no fear, we will still find Christ there when we return to worship. This time of separation allows us to find Christ in additional places. Where will you seek the presence of Christ today?

When you see a place of ongoing need for love, justice, or assistance please pay attention.

Peace –
Pastor Mary



MEET & GREET WITH PASTOR KIM

I am so excited to be part of the Baker Memorial Community and even more excited get to meet you! By signing up for a 45 min-1 hour time slot, it gives us the opportunity to get to know one another. Each time slot will have space for 2-3 households to join. Sign up at tinyurl.com/meetpastorkim

Also, I would love for you to send me a selfie of you and those living with you and the names of the people in the picture. This will help me put names with faces. I am putting together a little book:) My email is pastorkim@bakermemorialchurch.org. —Pastor Kim

Music Ministry News

Though we miss very much singing and playing in a live setting in worship, all our wonderful musicians at Baker Memorial UMC have been blessed to be able to provide music each week in our Online Worship Services. Since last March we have provided music each week presented primarily by Mark Edwards, Sam Wyatt, Jeanne Fornari, Carl King, Mary LeCuyer, Jeff Hunt and Erin Freund. In October and November, when virus infections were at a lower level, we were able to have small ensembles from our Chancel Choir and Bell Choir offer music. In December brass players from our church including Mark Armstrong, Chuck Frieberger and Erik Swenson played for the Salvation Army bell ringing and at the Christmas Story Caravan event on December 6th.

We look forward to being able to gather again in person with small ensembles and eventually returning to full music participation in Worship. It will be a joyous occasion when



we do. In the meantime, we will continue to offer a variety of music for our online services and pray the music is a source of comfort, joy and peace to all.

Jeff Hunt
Director of Music Ministry

Each of Us Has Been Called

Thank you for the warm welcome with the beautiful pictures, emails and my favorite, the Zoom Meet and Greet. I know the Pandemic has put a hardship on us meeting in person. Yet, I am thankful for technology and the ability to still meet via zoom, phone and email.

For those whom I have not met yet, my name is Pastor Kim Neace. I am married to my best friend, Glen, and we have been married for 27 years.

We have a daughter, Alyssa, who is 25 years old and she is married to her husband, Jacob. We also have a son, Austin, who is 23 years old.

I was commissioned as a Deacon in 2011 and ordained in 2013. I have many years' experience in various areas of ministry such as Children's, Youth, Adult, Hospitality, Outreach/Connections, Evangelism/Missions, Congregational Care, Weddings/Funerals, Leadership Trainings/Development, and Chaplaincy at both Edward Hospital and Good Sam Hospital.

I am very thankful to be part of the Baker Family. As I prayed and discerned during the process, I would get excited thinking about how gifted, unique and talented each person is and how I have the honor to come alongside you in this journey. I look forward to our future together as we create new stories and serve Christ here, near and far.

As Pastor Mary had mentioned in the November issue of *The Carillon*, Deacons and Elders have similar lifelong commitments and training. However, their focus in serving God is somewhat different. Elders are ordained to the ministry of Word, Service, Order and Sacrament. Deacons are ordained to Word, Service, Compassion and Justice. The key thing is that the ministry of Elders and Deacons is complementary. We have a wider reach and a deeper skill set when we work together. This allows us to reach out to the community and build up the congregation.

This is where Ephesians 4 and Romans 12 kept coming to my mind. Each of us have an integral role in the body of Christ. We can make a huge difference when we all work together. Ephesians 4 starts with ***"live a life worthy of the calling you have received."*** Each of us have been called,



those callings just look different for each of us because we were each created unique with a variety of gifts.

Ephesians 4:11 says, *"So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors, and teachers, to equip people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."*

Each and every one of you is part of the body. My encouragement to you, is to use that gift for the building up of the Kingdom. Romans 12: 4-8 says it best, *"For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ, though many, form one body, each member belongs to the all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance to your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encouraging, then encourage; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy; do it cheerfully."*

This makes me think about my own body. My arm does not do the same thing as my leg. My stomach does not do the same thing as my eyes. I cannot hear with my mouth. My hands and nose don't have the same function. Yet, they are all part of my one body. Together they make a whole and work together to function.

Each of us have been called, those callings just look different for each of us because we were each created unique with a variety of gifts.

The same is true with one body of Christ which you are part of at Baker Memorial, in the UMC, and in the world. The idea I am trying to get at is that we all have different functions that make a rich and whole body of Christ.

You may or may not have discovered that yet. Over these next few months, I am hoping to discover those with you and encourage you to utilize those to the fullest. I have witnessed so much already and anticipate new and exciting things happening in the future as we work together.

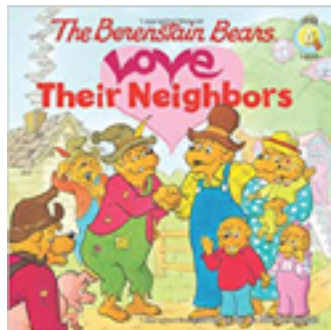
Blessings,
Pastor Kim

Children & Family Ministry

FOCUS: LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

► **Family Bible Verse:** *He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all you mind; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”* Luke 10:27, NIV

The Berenstain Bears *Love Their Neighbors* is one of the highlighted books that will be read during the BakerKid’s videos this month. The Berenstain family learns that being a good neighbor is more than having a nice home the hard way. They thought they were being a good neighbor by keeping their yards tidy and their garden beautiful. Even their neighbors were proud of their larger mansion grounds to the clean chicken coops on the farm. Yes, on the outside everything looks pretty, perfect, and clean. Until, you meet the Bogg brothers.



These neighbors are the complete opposite with a messy yard, run-down shack, and pigs rolling in mud. The bear family were not proud of their neighbors. In fact, they were embarrassed to call them their neighbor. Have you had a similar thought about a neighbor? I recall a neighbor of mine had a goat in their front lawn and a collection of broken down cars in their pasture outside of town too. The point is that we are all different. Remember the phrase

about the most important thing is what’s on the inside. They are not asking about your heart, but referring to love. It’s the greatest thing you can do. In fact, it is the second greatest commandment, after “love God.”

The Berenstain family does learn humility in the end after struggling with unexpected car issues. This book demonstrates how to live everyday life by treating everyone with love, compassion, and joyfully helping others. There are times some neighbors are not easy to like, but remember our bible verse. Do you pray for them? It is always important to pray for our neighbors, community, and country too. Life is more joyful when we are all one big happy family. In fact, we are all God’s family, in His church family, and a household family too. God lives in us and as we love others, we are sharing God’s love.

With February emphasizing the importance of love, try acts of kindness for your neighbors, family, and friends. Be on the lookout for my weekly emails for free printable activities with ways to discover God’s love. Always remember how much God loves you. Tell a neighbor, stranger, or your friend the same, “God loves you!”

As always, you are welcome to join our BakerKid’s weekly email list to watch our weekly video story time. Each Thursday starts a new book for the week. Send me an email at [sstienbarger@bakermemorialchurch.org](mailto:ssstienbarger@bakermemorialchurch.org), to be added to the list.

Blessing & Love,
Shelly Stienbarger
Director of Children & Family Ministry

WHO? ZOOM SUNDAY SCHOOL
KIDS! SUNDAYS AT 9AM



tinyurl.com/bakersundayschool

Youth & Young Adult Ministry

CONFIRMATION Pastor Mary and Pastor Kim have had great conversations with the Confirmation students and their moms. (pictured on the right) We plan to start Confirmation up again on February 7.



MEET & GREET Many of the leaders have gotten together with Pastor Kim and more meetings and phone calls are planned to develop ways to engage the youth for the Winter/Spring. Be on the look-out in the Youth weekly emails for updates. We would like your input and feedback, therefore, Pastor Kim would like to have some Meet and Greets with the students and their families. So, grab a couple friends and set up a Zoom time to meet her at tinyurl.com/meetpastorkim

MAKE YOUR OWN PIZZA! We are excited to get together with the BakerYouth. Come on out to Wiley Hall with your mask on and your hands ready to put together a special pizza for yourself to bring home to the family. We will meet

on Sunday, February 28 from noon-1pm. This is a great time for us to see each other in person, socialize, and for Pastor Kim to be able to meet you!!

We do need registrations—space is limited to the first 25 students for social distancing. Please sign up at tinyurl.com/makegr8pizza. Questions? Contact Pastor Kim at pastorkim@bakermemorialchurch.org or 630.701.1029.

If you're an adult who would like to volunteer to help with the event, see the info on page 7.

COLLEGE CHURCH MICE

The new semester has begun for college students and the Church mice are ready to send out their cards and stay connected with each of their students. Thank you Nancy Pearson for organizing this amazing ministry.



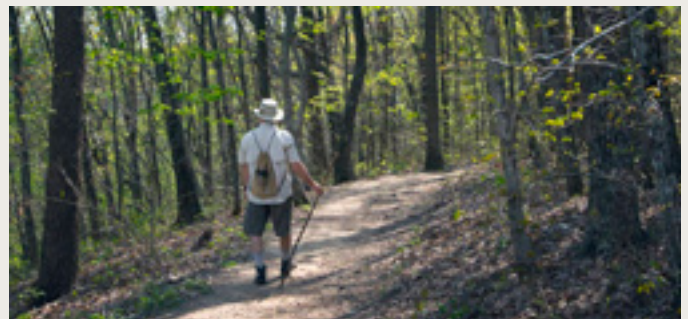
Ask The UMC

What is Lent and why does it last forty days? Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, meaning “lengthen” and refers to the lengthening days of spring. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Today, Christians focus on relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a “mini-Easter.” This is why you will see the designation “Sunday in Lent” rather than “Sunday of Lent” in the naming of these Sundays. On each Lord’s Day in Lent, while Lenten fasts continue, the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

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



MISSIONS CORNER

Serving here, near and far away

IN CASE YOU MISSED THE GOOD NEWS...

The Cambodia Ministry, the Salvation Army Angel Tree Collection and Bell Ringing, and the Christmas Tree Sale (that benefit Clara Biswas and her Cambodia Ministry) were all supported in a big way! Thanks to all the congregation, these ministries met or exceeded numbers from 2019!

OUR BEST BLOOD DRIVE YET!

The Blood Drive on January 20 was accomplished by using all the space in Wiley Hall allowing for safe distances between donors. We are pleased to announce that 32 pints of blood were donated. Thank you to all of you that made a difference and to Pete Holmes and Marge Meanger for their organization. If you were unable to make it January 20 and want to donate, call Versiti and make an appointment in Geneva. Give them Baker's sponsor number, 100997, on the phone and at check in. Tell them you are from Baker Memorial UMC. Versiti is located at 2000 W State Street Unit 1E in Geneva (next to Walgreen's). The next church blood drive will be October 21!

MASK MINISTRY CONTINUES IN 2021

As long as there is a need for masks worldwide, this team will continue to donate fabric and sew. The masks are sent to Midwest Mission Distribution Center. They send them all over the country as well as worldwide. Thanks go to Emily Parson for making some masks and donating fabric! If you want to donate or sew contact Chris at 630-709-7761 or cstumpf0308@gmail.com

What is Midwest mission? Since opening for ministry in 2000, Midwest Mission has been showing God's Love in practical ways through the distribution of education, health, micro-business, and disaster relief supplies meeting basic human needs around the world and around the corner. A "hands-on" mission experience is provided to those who serve at MM which brings hope to those receiving supplies. midwestmission.org.

LAZARUS HOUSE MEALS

January 12th the residents of Lazarus House were served Muffaletta Panini Sandwiches, chips, salad and cookies for dessert. The sandwich loaves are filled with ham, salami, olives, provolone cheese and roasted red peppers and baked in foil. Once again, 50 lunches and breakfast items were

also provided. Thanks to all for supporting this needed community ministry. Sign up to be volunteer by contacting Chris at cstumpf0308@gmail.com. Volunteers receive a monthly email to sign up if they are able.

NIL FOOD BANK

A team of four led by Jennifer Cerven volunteered to pack food for a night session on January 26. Our assembly line packed 350 COVID 19 boxes (7pallets). Overall that evening, 5425 pounds of food were packed which amounts to 4521 meals. Way to go Jennifer, Gary Steele and John and Chris Stumpf!

The next monthly third Monday morning opportunity to volunteer at the food bank will be February 15th. Contact Betty Erickson for more details at N9YFC@aol.com.



A group of volunteers worked at a January 26 night session at NIL Food Bank. A total of 4521 meals were packed. Great Job!

Church Conference on February 2

Save the date for Church Conference on February 2 at 7pm. The meeting will be held via Zoom. For the meeting link: [click here](#). The link will be sent via email Tuesday as well.

Immerse Updates & Thank-yous

A big thank you to the Immerse: Prophets leaders and participants. Your leadership and participation is important to continuing the work of Baker Memorial. Even if we couldn't interact in the tradition sense, you've done an excellent job of keeping the groups together and moving forward.



The next Immerse study will begin in February after Ash Wednesday. We will begin *Immerse: Poets* and use the 16-week schedule. *Poets* is the fifth of six volumes in Immerse: The Bible Reading Experience. *Poets* presents the poetical books of the First Testament in two groupings, dividing the books between songbooks (Psalms, Lamentations, Song

of Songs) and wisdom writings (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job). These writings all reflect the daily, down-to-earth faith of God's people as they live out their covenant relationship with him in worship and wise living.

New to Immerse? It's not a Bible study, it's more like a book club. The reader journeys through the Bible without chapter or verse breaks. The result is a Bible developed for the purpose of being read and understood, not referred to. The goal is simple; to talk about your reactions to the week's reading.

If you haven't been involved in an Immerse study, we welcome and encourage you to join us! There are a variety of group locations and times, to make it convenient to participate. At this time, most groups will continue meet via Zoom online. If you would like to start a group, we welcome that as well.

Copies of *Immerse: Poets* will be available from the host with a suggested \$10 donation. A Kindle version is available from Amazon.

Most existing groups are expected to return. Sign up through Sign Up Genius, your current group leader, or contact/text Alan McCurdy at amccurdy54@aol.com or 847-309-6904.

As a bridge to the start of *Poets*, Baker is subscribing to *The Wired Word*, an online study. It provides a choice of two contemporary topics, relevant Bible verses and discussion questions. More on that TBD.

United Methodist Women News

- **Portillo's Night:** Thanks to all who supported the UMW fundraiser at Portillo's on January 13. All proceeds support women, children and youth.
- **UMW Leadership Meeting:** Leadership team members, please join us for our monthly Zoom meeting on Wednesday, February 3 at 9am. Circle chairs should send updates to Pam Stare, if unable to attend.
- **UMW Reading Program: Book 2: *The Unstoppable*** Garrett Morgan: *Inventor, Entrepreneur, Hero* by Joan DiCico (Suitable for youth and adults) Garrett was a prolific African American inventor and entrepreneur. Among other inventions, he invented the red and green stop and go lights. He also saved lives at the Cleveland Water Works disaster. This book is a very good read. Available on Kindle, E-book Google, and book stores.

Day Guest Lunch Donations Needed

Our Day Guest program continues to distribute bagged lunches on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Twelve hearty lunches with a substantial sandwich are needed. Please consider signing up to donate at tinyurl.com/dayguestlunch. Make it a team effort and do it with a friend!

Youth Serving Opportunity

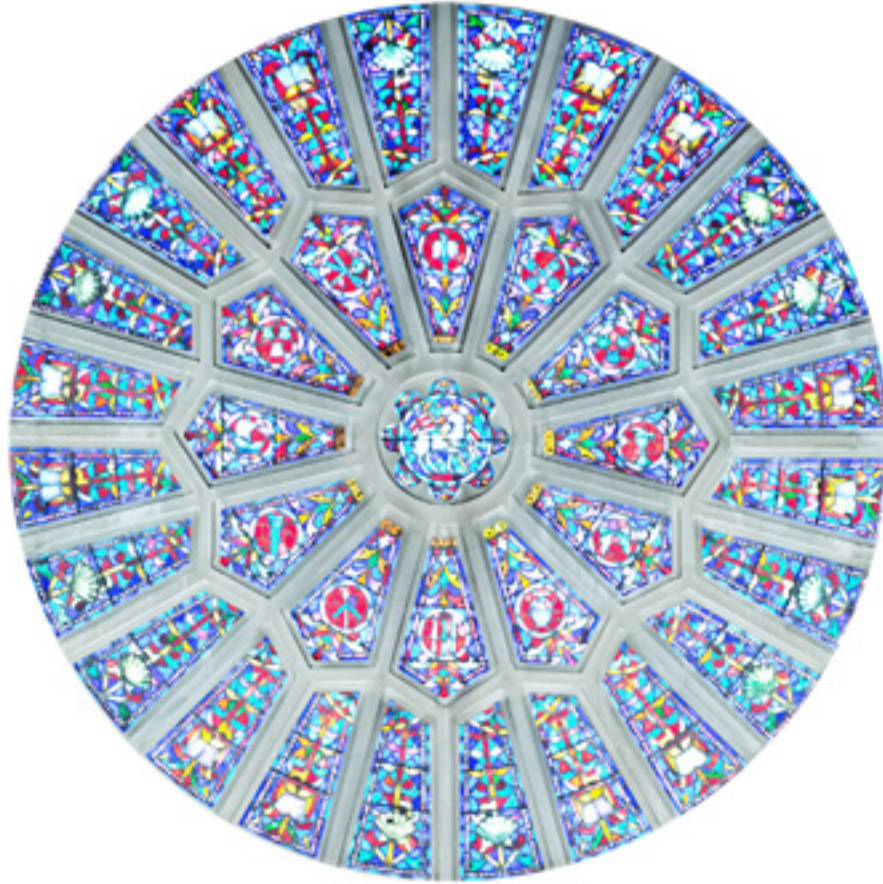
We are excited to get the Baker Youth together in a safe, social distanced way and we would love your help. We're having a pizza making party on Sunday, February 28 from noon to 1pm. Come on out to Wiley Hall with your mask on and your hands ready to help make this get together a success. To sign up to help, [click here](#).

This is a great opportunity to see the youth, serve, socialize, and for Pastor Kim to be able to meet you in person! Questions? Contact Pastor Kim at pastorkim@bakermemorialchurch.org or 630.701.1029

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 continuing 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.





STAFF

Pastor Mary Zajac | *Elder*

Pastor Kim Neace | *Deacon*

Jeffery Hunt | *Director of Music Ministry*

Mark Edwards | *Organist*

Shelly Stienbarger | *Director, Children & Family Ministry*

Kurt Heinz | *Director of Administration*

Judy Schlarb | *Finance Manager*

Lita Jimenez | *Church Accountant*

Karl Lescelius | *Building Maintenance Manager*

Michele Claney | *Creative Director*

**BAKER MEMORIAL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

A traditional church for a modern world

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