

# The Steeple

April 2025

Dear Friends

Greetings in the name of Jesus! As I write this, many of us have begun our 28-day Dynamite Prayer experiment to invite God's resurrection power into our lives and the life of our church this Lent. We have asked God to break through our regular routines, our regular kind of thoughts, words, deeds and actions to focus on what God is trying to say to us in new ways. It's a powerful way to pray that increases our faith and transforms the world as new inspiration and hope is unleashed by God's Spirit.

We will conclude our Dynamite Prayer experiment on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. The next day is Palm Sunday when we begin to consider the events of Jesus' life that changed the world. We will journey from Christ's triumphal entry in Jerusalem to the last Supper on Maundy Thursday, to the cross on Good Friday, and then the empty tomb on Easter morning. These special services lead us to contemplate what Christ has done for us.

Our prayer experiment for Lent along with Holy Week will lead us to remember that Easter changes everything about how we view God's power. Before the death and resurrection of Jesus, God's people might have thought about the Lord's power in terms of creation, or the miracles God performed in delivering the Israelites out of Egypt. As Christians, we think about the amount of power displayed in raising Jesus from the dead. It is amazing to think about that same power being available to us today through God's Spirit.

Easter changes a lot of things. For instance, a frightened group of disciples were transformed into people used by God to change the world. All because of the resurrection power of God's Spirit! Because the resurrection of Jesus took place on the first day of the week, Christians worship on Sunday instead of the Jewish sabbath day of Saturday. All because of the resurrection power of God's Spirit!

The changes brought by the resurrection will be focus of our sermons beginning on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Easter Sunday will give us the opportunity to reflect on the story of Peter's vision in Acts 10. In the time following Christ's resurrection and the Day of Pentecost, God moved in miraculous ways through the apostles. They became powerful witnesses of the risen Lord. The way they viewed faith had changed. God had also transformed the ways they viewed others.

The changes brought by Christ's resurrection will be the focus of the sermons on the Sundays after Easter. We will look at a portion of the apostle Paul's letter to the church in Galatia, which reveal how the risen Lord changed Paul's life and can change ours as well. It is my hope that God's power will become real to each of us throughout Lent and into Easter!

Blessings,  
Pastor Keith

*Join Us for worship! ON Sundays at 8:30am and 11:00am*

*Adult small groups at 9:45am*

Nursery (available at 11:00am) Upper Education Wing **Nursery is available for infants and children up to 4 years old**

*Junior Church will be dismissed after the children's moment at 11:00am worship*

**DIGGing Deeper |Sundays | 9:45am | Wesley Room | The Case For Easter** | The Case For Easter, by Lee Strobel examines the events of Easter, particularly the resurrection of Jesus. Christianity is the only world religion that has a risen Savior. Strobel was formerly an atheist but is now an apologist. He is also an award winning legal journalist and New York Times best selling author.. Strobel uses his skills as a legal journalist to examine the evidence of a resurrection. There can be no other verdict. Jesus is a resurrected Savior.

**FOUR WEEK LENTEN STUDY** - Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study – through April 10<sup>th</sup> - **The Promise and Power of Easter by Lisa Harper and Christine Caine.**

Easter is so much more than a holiday. Easter isn't just a date on the calendar; it's the most significant event in human history. It's the celebration of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, and His victory over everything that holds us back in our earthly lives. It's the day we focus on the promise and power of Jesus and draw closer to Him. Join with us as we walk through four weeks of the Lenten season taking in the details of Jesus' life, his death, and the overwhelming joy of His resurrection.

Relive His steps with a heart full of hope. See it all with eyes of faith. You'll be ready to celebrate Easter in more ways than you ever have and be inspired to share the joy only Jesus could make possible. Workbooks are \$13.00.

**The Neighborhood Table | Thurs. Apr. 3 | Fellowship Hall**

BUMC is continuing to partner with the Fox Chapel UMC to provide meals to the Sharpsburg Community.

Volunteers are needed to help prepare the meal at BUMC starting at 2:30 PM. The meals are then transported to Sharpsburg and volunteers are needed there to help serve and clean up afterwards. This has been a very rewarding ministry so far, so please consider volunteering by calling Roger Cramer at 724-443-2847.

**Men Doing Stuff |April 7th |Fellowship Hall**

Dinner starts at 6:30 with the presentation immediately after. This is a great chance to get your thoughts set on spring time!

Please RSVP to [bakerstownumm@gmail.com](mailto:bakerstownumm@gmail.com) if you plan on attending.

**Drive Thru Dinner | Tues. Apr. 8 |Fellowship Hall**

The Mission Team has been serving a monthly meal for The Lighthouse . If the Lord is calling you to participate in this ministry either by helping with food prep in the kitchen, packing meals, delivering them to our church friends or to cars, please plan on coming to the fellowship hall at 2:30pm, or if you have any other questions, please contact Carol Skolnik at [cnikskol@gmail.com](mailto:cnikskol@gmail.com).

**Good Friday Men's Breakfast on Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am** at Bakerstown United Methodist Church, The Richland Ministerial Association invites you to our Good Friday Breakfast. Cost is \$12.00 per person, payable at the door and reservations are needed. **For Reservations:** please call Lora in the church office at 724-443-3184 or email [lstafura@bakerstownumc.org](mailto:lstafura@bakerstownumc.org). **Deadline to RSVP, Thursday, April 10th. Guest Speaker: Chris Cochran.** Chris Cochran is a motivational and inspirational speaker, as well as the author of WHAT'S GOOD About TODAY?

**Good Friday Women's Breakfast on Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am** at First Presbyterian Church of Bakerstown, 5825 Heckert Road, Bakerstown. **For Reservations:** Please call 724-443-1555, Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. by **Tuesday, April 8. Cost of breakfast: \$10.00 payable at the door. Program: The Dignity of Shopping** By Sally Power of Treasure House Fashions "Sally's mess became her message — through God's redemptive Grace"

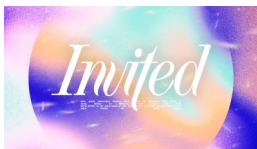
**All-U-Can-Eat Breakfast! |Saturday, Apr. 19 | 8:00-11:00am | Fellowship Hall** Breakfast will be served from 8:00 am to 11:00 am, \$7.00 for Adults, \$3.00 for ages 6-12 and under age 6 eat for free. Come and get your choice of Plain, Blueberry, Buckwheat or Chocolate Chip Pancakes and the options of eggs, bacon, sausage and/or home-fries to go with them. Wash it all down with coffee, tea or OJ.

**A Stitch and a Prayer |Saturday, Apr. 19 |10am to 2pm| Old Fellowship Hall** We sew, knit, and crochet blankets and prayer shawls for Project Linus, baptisms, and those who are ill in our church. We need help sorting, sewing, ironing, pinning, and cutting. All are welcome. Bring a lunch!!!! If you are not able to join us when we meet on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 10-2, please contact Louise Himes, Mary Pouchot or Marge Kirkpatrick if you have questions regarding how you can help.

**GriefShare |7:00pm | Wesley Room**

GriefShare is a special support group designed to offer you help and encouragement after losing a loved one. Our group is led by caring people who have experienced grief and want to help you through the difficult days ahead. We know it hurts, and we want to help. Our GriefShare program is co-led by Rev. Bill Dambach, Marcia Shipley, Tim McDermott, Judy Moore, and Marge Kirkpatrick.

Please feel free to call the church office at 724-443-3184 if you have any questions or would like more information about GriefShare. GriefShare is a drop-in anytime group and open to anyone in the church or community. All are welcome.



## Youth Group | Sunday's | 6:00-7:30pm

There's nothing like throwing a party to celebrate the people you love. Be it for a birthday, an achievement, or a

new chapter of life, parties give us a reason to gather, laugh, and create new memories together. And if we really stopped to look around, we'd find so many reasons to celebrate what's happening in our lives that the parties would never stop. In this 6-week series, we'll see what it's like when we celebrate all that God has done through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We'll celebrate that with Jesus, everyone's invited, and we'll celebrate who Jesus is. Then, we'll see how we're invited to remember what Jesus has done, let Jesus make us new, follow the Holy Spirit's lead, and how Jesus invites us to invite others.

There will be no youth group on Easter Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>.

If you want to be involved in our Youth Ministry Program, or have questions concerning a program, please contact Pastor Amanda at [amitchell@bakerstownumc.org](mailto:amitchell@bakerstownumc.org) if you have any questions.

## YOUTH CAMPING SCHOLARSHIPS

The Men's Group would like to encourage parents to consider sending their children to a faith-based camping experience this summer.

As an added incentive, the UMM are providing scholarships to cover up to \$500 of the cost of the event your child would like to attend.

Our conference affiliated camps are Camp Allegheny, Jumonville and Wesley Woods, but the scholarships may also be used for children that want to attend another faith-based summer camp experience.

There is a form to fill out, so if you are interested, please see Roger Cramer or Pastor Keith or call Lora in the church office (724-443-3184) to receive the form.



*Lighthouse Food Pantry Collection for the month of April are pasta, pasta sauce, and canned tomato products.*

## April Birthday's & Anniversaries

04/04 Gabriel Khambatta  
04/03 Jim Werkmeister  
04/05 Carl Stevens  
04/06 Mike Perriello  
04/06 Charlotte Episcopo  
04/08 Olivia Gilligan  
04/09 Matthew Walker  
04/11 Daryl Sarver  
04/14 Bill Ometz  
04/14 Jean Ferber  
04/14 Cathy Dambach  
04/15 Shawn Mankamyer

04/16 Denise Grier  
04/19 Eric Lunn  
04/17 Noah Pelusi  
04/20 Rose Gagen  
04/22 Esther Ramsden  
04/22 Kellen McGrath  
04/22 Howard Cope  
04/23 Ben DeVore  
04/24 Benjamin Brown  
04/24 Bob Conroy  
04/24 Tenley Kennah  
04/26 Diana Werkmeister

04/27 Sherry Swarmer  
04/27 Michele Rossi  
04/29 Nancy Hollinger  
04/30 John Brumberg  
  
04/30 Troy & Pam Lunn

### "Trustees Corner"

The Trustees continue their work as stewards of the physical BUMC buildings and grounds.

This month, the Board approved action to upgrade the balcony soffit lights and sanctuary/stairwell wall sconces to LED fixtures. This work will be ongoing into April, once all the materials are delivered.

The ADA handicapped accessible concrete ramp work will begin at the end of March at the New Fellowship Hall entrance sidewalk. This work also should complete by early April if the weather cooperates.

The Trustees are evaluating and coordinating some maintenance and improvements to the church grounds, which includes tree removal, tree trimming, and mulch just to name a few of these improvements. Some traffic control measures are also being considered. This work is planned for the Spring as weather conditions improve.

Other maintenance and upgrade work is planned for the Lee Road parsonage in the coming months.

We continue our regular reviews of maintenance items for all the church buildings. These items include both cleaning and safety related matters to keep our church properties safe and serviceable.

The Trustees always appreciate anyone who can volunteer their time and expertise to assist us, in completing some of the many tasks that the Trustees encounter. As always, if you have spare time and would be interested, please contact the church office.

## ALL AGES WELCOME:

Join BUMC Children's Ministry to experience the events of Holy Week, in an interactive self-guided family tour.

There will be an optional concession stand in New Fellowship Hall to benefit the 2025 Costa Rica Mission Team.

# Journey to the Cross

An Easter Experience for Families



**When: Saturday, April 5**  
**from 1-3pm**  
**Begin in New Fellowship Hall**

Please RSVP by emailing [jsmith@bakerstownumc.org](mailto:jsmith@bakerstownumc.org) with the number attending.

**\*\*If you would like to help with set-up/tear down for Journey to the Cross, please email [jsmith@bakerstownumc.org](mailto:jsmith@bakerstownumc.org).**

### **Junior Church:**

Every Sunday, children ages kindergarten-5th grade will be dismissed following Children's Moment in the 11:00 service. We will head back to our room(s) (just past the library) in either one or two groups, k-2nd and 3rd-5th, depending on the size of attendance that week. This Fall in Junior Church we are learning that God is a good God who keeps His promises! We will be exploring the Old Testament leading up to the birth of Jesus!

Please RSVP for your child here: [Junior Church](#)

### **Volunteer for Junior Church:**

We cannot make Junior Church work without help! Please consider volunteering to support BUMC's Children's Ministry. All materials and lessons will be prepped for you and any support you may need or want will be provided.

To volunteer, use this link: [Junior Church Volunteers](#)

### **Looking Ahead (with links to register):**

**Combined JUMP and Kingdom Kids Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup> 12:15-1:45pm register: [RSVP](#)**

End of School Year Celebration Potluck: Sunday, May 18th, 2025



## From the Prayer Corner—A Prayer for Easter

**What better time could we find to give thanks  
to God than Easter?  
As spring awakens in the world so also we are re-awakened  
to the joy of our Easter Salvation story.**

Heavenly Father, we are beginning to see signs of new life all around us. Thank You for the warmer temperatures, the flowering plants, the tree buds, the greening grass, and the birds singing which all point us to a new season of the year.

We thank You that Easter serves as a new season on the church calendar too. Help us to live out the plans and the dreams that You have in mind for each one of us and for Your church this year. Thank You that we are an Easter people!

We thank You for all that Easter means to us, for new life in Christ, for the hope that it brings to our lives. Even as our heart aches for all the pain and suffering and chaos in this world, we know that Jesus looked evil straight in the eye when He took upon Himself all the sin and brokenness and pain of the world as He hung on the cross. When we consider only the cross on Good Friday, we can think that evil might have won. Instead, YOU won the victory by raising Jesus from the dead. Thank You! The empty tomb is proof and vindication that You really are who You say You are; our God who sent His Son, Jesus, to be the Savior who came into the world to redeem our lives and defeat sin and death once and for all. Thank You that we are an Easter people!

Lord, help each one of us to make our homes, our church, our community and this world a better place this year. Thank You for the holy privilege it is to be part of Your church family here where we are all called to be “light bringers, hope sharers, world changers, peace makers, and bearers of Your Good News”. Thank You that we are an Easter people!

May this Easter we renew the joyful eternal celebration of Your Easter victory over sin and death, and our salvation to live with You forever.

**Thank You that we are YOUR Easter people!**

(portions taken from a Pastor’s Reflection, Robert McDowell, Athens UMC)

***"Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!"***

- I Corinthians 15:57

## **From the Prayer Corner A PERSONAL INVITATION TO YOU!!**

The Prayer Team would like to extend an invitation to be part of the BUMC Prayer Team and have the privilege of praying for our church, our community, and each other. All are welcome. Simply send your e-mail address to Lora Stafura ([lstafura@bakerstownumc.org](mailto:lstafura@bakerstownumc.org)) or Cathy Dambach ([hwdambach@consolidated.net](mailto:hwdambach@consolidated.net)) or Heather Brown ([hldrdb@hotmail.com](mailto:hldrdb@hotmail.com)) and you will begin to receive the e-mail prayer requests that go out periodically.

Thanks to all who purchased Girl Scout cookies for the Drive Thru Dinner. We had enough to give every person their very own box of cookies and had enough left for the April Neighborhood Table in Sharpsburg. The cookies helped out a local GS troop and provided a special treat for our DTD friends. In just the past two months we've had 16 new families sign up for meals. They couldn't believe that we were giving, not selling the cookies! Thank you so much for making GS cookies in March an annual tradition at the DTD.

Plans are underway for Team Costa Rica 2025. This year is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our first visit to Alajuela and Carrillos. Over the years our Tico amigos have become so dear to us. Please pray for our team as they prepare for their ministry.

Since it's April, we know that the Junque Sale must be on the horizon. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and it couldn't happen without your clean, sellable discards, your volunteer hours, and your purchases. Please consider donating items you bought last year. We call that a year-long lease, not a purchase!

**The Junque Sale Returns on Saturday, April 26th!** Junque Sale donations can be dropped off starting April 21st. **Please remember we do NOT take, TV'S, computers, printers, DVD players, or any other electronics, no encyclopedias or magazines, no clothing or shoes, or fitness equipment. All other donations are welcome. We would appreciate your donations be clean and in working order. Thank you!** If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 724-443-3184

Help is needed during the week to unload, sort, price, and display merchandise. Of course, food is needed to sustain our hungry workers as well! On the day of the sale we will need volunteers to work in the kitchen, and as cashiers, loaders, general help, and clean up. The Junque Sale is traditionally our biggest fundraiser. Please consider volunteering! Just use the link [Junque Sale Signup](#)

## Spaghetti Dinner

Tuesday, May 20th— 5:00pm—7:00pm

All-U-Can-Eat  
Adults \$8.00  
Seniors \$5.00  
Children 3-12 \$5.00  
Children Under 3 Free

Come and Support the mission team as they host a Spaghetti Dinner! The all you can eat buffet features spaghetti, bread, salad, beverages and dessert!

Proceeds to help with the mission trip to Costa Rica in July

### SPAGHETTI DINNER DONATIONS NEEDED!

1 bottle of canola oil  
48 lbs spaghetti  
25 gallons spaghetti sauce  
600 meatballs  
2 large containers of Parmesan cheese  
1 medium container of Parmesan cheese  
Italian dressing

Ranch dressing  
1 box of creamers  
1 can decaf coffee  
1 can regular coffee  
If you wish to make a food donation or a monetary donation, please contact: Sharon Platt at [sgplatt@comcast.net](mailto:sgplatt@comcast.net) or Lora Stafura 724-443-3184 or [lstafura@bakerstownumc.org](mailto:lstafura@bakerstownumc.org)



**Vacation Bible School Registration is open!** We will journey through the New Testament and learn how we can trust in Jesus in a wild world at True North VBS June 23rd-27th from 9:00am-12:00pm! To register for your child, please use the link here: [VBS Registration](#)

**Want to help with VBS?** If you would like to volunteer for VBS, please register using the link here: [Volunteer Registration](#) Paper volunteer registration forms will be available at the Children's Ministry volunteer table in the Narthex.

### **Spotlight on VBS Volunteer roles:**

#### **Games Leader:**

The energetic and organized individual is in charge of leading groups of elementary age kids in fun physical activities and discussions. You don't need to be an Olympian, you just need to be organized, energetic, and fun loving. All materials will be provided for you!

#### **Sticky Scripture Leader:**

This master of discussion shares Bible-point-reinforcing video resources with groups of elementary age kids before leading them in discussion on how they can apply the point to their own lives.

**Want to purchase items from the wishlist for VBS to help make this week a transformative experience for kids in our community?** Use this link: [VBS Wish List](#)

Would you like to donate financially to VBS but do not want to do so using the online wishlist? A bucket that looks kind of like a lantern will be labeled VBS Donations and placed on the Children's Ministry volunteer table in the Narthex.

### **Spotlight on Wishlist items:**

This year, we once again get the opportunity to send each child home with 5 Bible Buddy toys that have a memory verse printed on the bottom.



What a great way for children to spread the Gospel with their friends! Bible Buddies are sold in packs of 50, enough for 10 children and cost \$36.99 each bag. (Bulk pricing: **Buy 1 - 4** : \$36.99 each, **Buy 5 - 9** : \$35.99 each **Buy 10 or above** : \$34.99 each) A set of this year's Bible Buddies are sitting out on the Children's Ministry table in the Narthex for you to check out!

### **Items to save for VBS (additional donation items will be shared as planning continues):**

- Large pieces of cardboard (preferably flat) like what a TV or appliance comes in

### **Want to help with VBS but can't be there during the week of VBS?**

Starting the first week in April, "adopt a prop" and "adopt an activity" bags will be available in the Narthex for congregation members to take home. These bags will have directions, and all the materials needed to create a prop for decoration or an activity that may need to be prepared for VBS. You would simply sign the clipboard noting which bag you plan to take home with you, take it home, follow the provided directions, and return it to the church whenever you have completed it.

Thanks

Dear Care and Share Team,  
I just wanted to say thank you for the awesome care package! I'm really enjoying the Starbucks gift card, especially when I have to get up early for my classes. Your support means a lot and definitely makes college life a bit easier. Thank you again, Jack Brown

Bakerstown United Methodist Church  
 5760 William Flynn Highway  
 Gibsonia, PA 15044  
 724-443-3184  
[www.bakerstownumc.org](http://www.bakerstownumc.org)



*Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ  
 for the transformation of the world.*

## Staff:

Rev. Keith Dunn  
 Senior Pastor  
[kdunn@bakerstownumc.org](mailto:kdunn@bakerstownumc.org)

Rev. Amanda Mitchell  
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Joyce Gindlesperger  
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Tracy Hefner  
 Worship Leader  
[thefner@bakerstownumc.org](mailto:thefner@bakerstownumc.org)



## Holy Week Worship Schedule

**Palm Sunday Worship Services**  
 April 13th at 8:30am & 11:00am

**Maundy Thursday**  
 April 17th at 7:30pm

**Good Friday Worship Service**  
 April 18th at 7:30pm

**Easter Sunday Worship Services**  
 April 20th at 8:30 am & 11:00 am

## Financial Update



THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
**FINANCIAL  
 SUPPORT**

	February 2025	YTD February 2025	YTD Feb. 2024
Current Expense Giving	\$33,149.22	\$63,966.65	\$77,178.08
Current Fund Expenses	\$39,882.38	\$82,221.22	\$63,804.88

Hello my friends! We are enjoying some nice weather, aren't we....and then the next day we are wearing our winter coats.

Welcome to Pittsburgh weather, right? As you can see our giving is down quite a bit compared to last year...and the winter expenses are higher due to the snow and cold we have had so far this year. Hope to see you in church this Lenten season, leading up to Easter.

Kay Cramer, Financial Secretary 724-443-2847