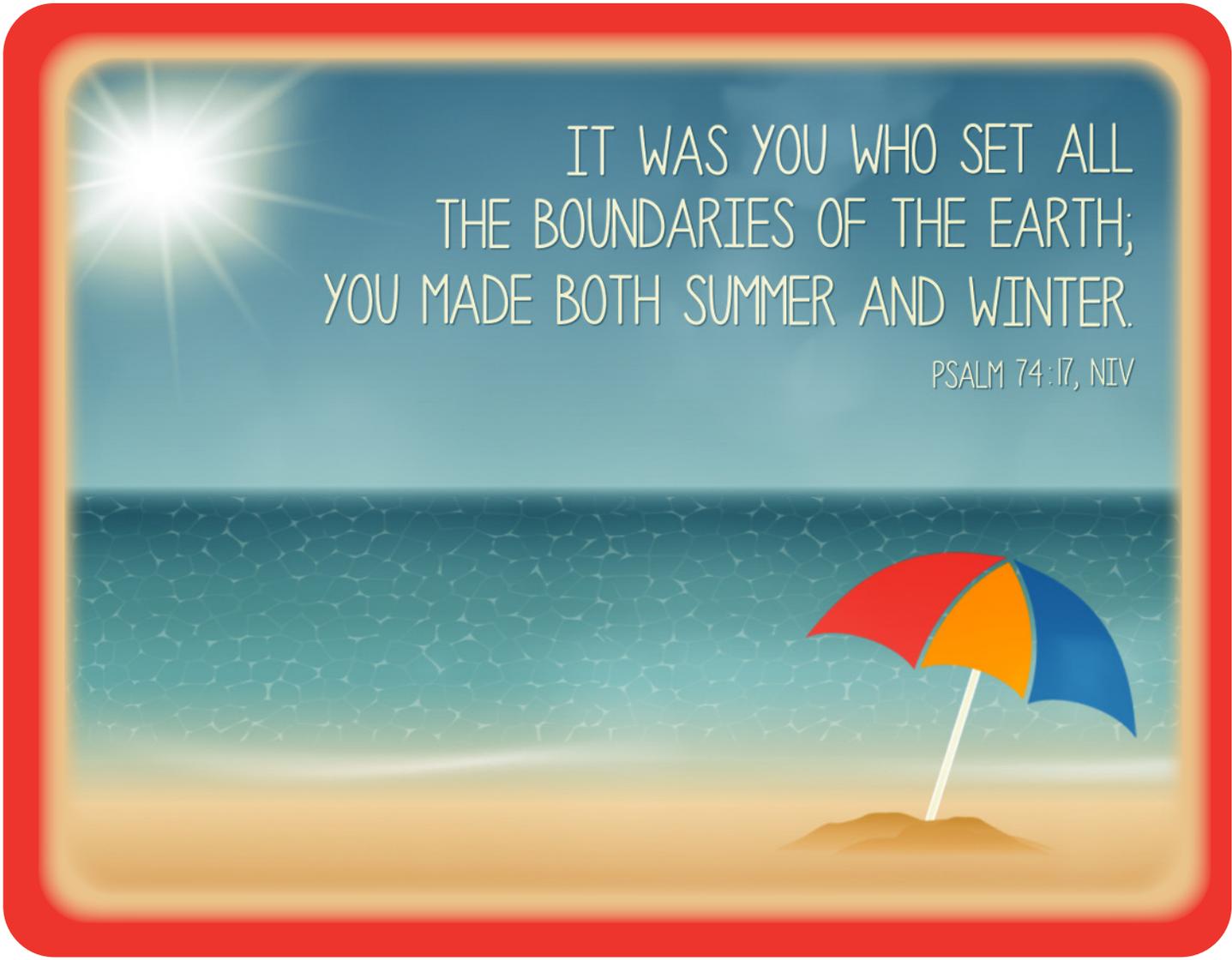


Baden United Methodist Church

GLEAM

Summer 2021



IT WAS YOU WHO SET ALL
THE BOUNDARIES OF THE EARTH;
YOU MADE BOTH SUMMER AND WINTER.

PSALM 74:17, NIV

Mark your calendar for all these events.

July

- 10 Church Work Day**
- 17 Summer Spa Day**
- 31 Mission Barn Trip**

August

- 1 Breakfast Brunch**
- 7 Church Work Day**
- 29 Church Picnic**

September

- 5 Breakfast Brunch**
- 11 Church Work Day**
- 16 Silent Prayer Vigil**
- 25 Mission Barn Trip**

Regarding Saturday Evening Services

Much discussion has taken place recently by the Administrative Board and the Staff-Parish Relations Committee on the wisdom of resuming Saturday evening services. The heart of the issue is not whether the people who attended that service are important and valued; the concern is allocation of limited resources and moving into a future that is very different from the past. After considerable prayer and conversation, the decision reached by the leaders of Baden UMC is to discontinue Saturday evening services.

The COVID pandemic has had a dramatic impact on our culture, especially in the way people interact and communicate with one another. Those who study these trends suggest that the Coronavirus pandemic has moved us about ten years into the future compared to where we would be otherwise. This is particularly true with regard to church activities and attendance.

During the year-long shut-down of most “normal” social interactions many people became accustomed to using a variety of electronic platforms to connect with others. ZOOM, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, and a host of other virtual networks became the way the majority of people stayed in-touch with one another. The use of these technologies became literal life-lines for many, especially for “younger” people. The hope of most “older” folks was that once the pandemic was over life would go back to “normal”.

Now that the pandemic has subsided we’re seeing that “normal” has changed – dramatically. Currently, Baden UMC attendance is about 70% of its pre-pandemic numbers. For better or for worse, this is what the “experts” indicate is typical and expected.

Many people are now accustomed to finding their spiritual encouragement on the internet, when it is convenient for their schedule and without the “hassle” of getting dressed up and so on. They have fallen out of the habit of regularly attending a weekly worship service, whether on Saturday evening or Sunday morning. Unfortunately, most of these folks will probably not rejoin that lost habit. Again, unfortunately, in the future this trend will become more prevalent, not less.

Consequently, there is a very real need for the church to be as visible and available on the internet as possible. To do this requires a great deal of time, energy, and resources. For example, over the past six weeks Pastor Jim has published six online episodes of the Pastor’s Ponderings. These videos are only six to eight

minutes long. They have taken the place of the written Pastor’s Ponderings he was putting in the weekly “mini-Gleams” that were published while the church was “shut down”. Once in-person worship services resumed the weekly “mini-Gleams” were discontinued. The written Pastor’s Ponderings typically required four to six hours to write; the video versions of the Ponderings require 12 to 14 hours, sometimes more, of writing, recording, editing, and posting. The upside of the video versions is that they are available for anyone to view at any time for the foreseeable future; they will be on YouTube “forever”. These videos are also easy to share with “friends”, making it possible to reach far beyond those who have access to our newsletters.

Additionally, Baden UMC continues to offer our worship services online. Typically, the online services are uploaded and available early Sunday evenings. The reason they’re not available sooner is because it takes that long to complete the editing and uploading process. Someone has to do this. Recently that someone has been Josh Ramirez.

As much as this new reality saddens, frustrates, and even angers some of us, especially “older” folks, our feelings toward the situation don’t change what it is. We must focus our energies and resources to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in this new and unfamiliar landscape, regardless of how we feel about it.

From a historical perspective the Church has always adapted to the culture with regard to its methods and processes. The early Church started in the context of the Jewish people, spreading from synagogue to synagogue throughout Judea; it was amazing news when the Samaritans accepted the Word of Christ (see Acts 8). An even more radical change occurred when Peter was told directly by God to go to the Gentiles with the Gospel (see Acts 10). When Paul was sent as a missionary to the Gentiles a great debate took place within the Church over the applicability of the Mosaic Law and other issues (see Acts 15). In the late Middle Ages, the Church wrestled with whether the Bible should be read in the language of the common people or not. The movable-type printing press was invented in 1456 for the explicit purpose of printing the Scriptures so that lay people could read it. In modern times Christians learned to use radio, then later television, to share the Good News. How many times have we heard folks grumble about TV preachers pulling people away from the church? On the other hand, how many people gave their lives to Christ through the TV preaching of Billy Graham, Charles Stanley and many others? Now the target is “that darn internet”.



Currently we are in the midst of another seismic paradigm shift. As the people of God we need to learn how to use all the tools at our disposal to spread the truth of Jesus Christ in the world. The reality is the “world” is not going to knock down the doors of the church to get in; that trend ended in the 1960s. Consequently, as followers of Jesus, we need to learn to knock on doors in the world, telling them that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. It doesn't matter whether those doors are actual physical doors or electronic virtual doors; we have a Biblical mandate to “Go, therefore, and make disciples of every nation.” (Matthew 28:19) But, to knock on virtual doors takes real time, and time is a limited resource for the Pastor, the Church Administrator, and the many volunteers it takes to make ministry happen.

Therefore, for the sake and sanity of the church staff and its volunteers, the leaders of Baden UMC have arrived at their conclusion to discontinue the Saturday evening services. This decision was made in prayer. This decision was not made lightly nor was it taken with the attitude that those who attended Saturday evening services aren't important.

If you were one of the folks that attended Saturday services, we're sorry that this decision may affect you in a negative way. Our hope is that you will consider joining your church family on Sunday mornings. Many of the Saturday evening “regulars” have already made that switch. Also, as mentioned above, there's plenty of room in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. If at some time in the future we grow to the point where our sanctuary is getting full at our 10:30 AM service, then we will revisit adding another worship service time.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Pastor Jim, the Administrative Board,
and the Staff-Parish Relations Committee*

Food Pantry



Bub Meade, Bob Muders, Tim Smith, and Jerry Ferguson sort baked goods for the We Care food distribution.

The food pantry has remained active during the pandemic by distributing food to the communities we serve using the drive-by mode. Monetary and food donations from the community always seem to come at just the right time. Each month volunteers prepack bags of groceries. The participants drive in front of Fellowship Hall and a group takes the groceries to their car. Hopefully we will be transitioning to inside before the fall. The construction of the new ramp and recommendations from GPFB (Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank) will be a part of that decision. If you would like to serve, we are always looking for volunteers. Call Esther Hallas at 724-869-4739,

Summer Food for Kids Program

We are beginning our fourth year serving the community's children with lunches throughout the summer. It is a Grab'n Go bagged program again this year. We have at least 3 volunteers each day who dedicate a couple hours to serve the children. Since we are not having the children come inside, we have time to fellowship with one another. So, if you want to serve and make new friends while serving the community, come join us. The program runs until August 20. Volunteers must have current child clearances in accordance with the Safe Sanctuary Policy of the church.



Erma Mowry, Donna Muders, Esther Hallas, and Marge Gardner are waiting to serve lunches to the children in our community.



The "In Christ" sermon series, from the 1st chapter of Ephesians, continues through summer. Join us weekly.



BUMC Presents a Summer Spa Day
July 17, 2021

Here is an idea for a fun and free afternoon:
Bring a friend and enjoy a time of relaxation and pampering.
All are invited, even the men!

Light snacks and drinks will be available for your enjoyment.

We will be taking six appointments for manicures at each of these times: 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, and 2:30 PM. Call Paula to reserve your special time @ 412-759-9830 before July 10.

Hope to See You There!

Breakfast Brunch

Aug. 1 after Service



Everyone is welcome!

Following the Worship Service
Cost: Free Will Donation
All proceeds benefit the Capital Campaign

FINANCE REPORT

An Update from Your Finance Secretary

Thank you so much for your faithful giving to our church so that we may do the things that God wants us to do for our community and beyond. This past year has been a very unusual period for our church. We have instituted quite a few new innovations in order to get the church services into your home via YouTube, Facebook, and our church's website.

Because of this, we have incurred extra expenses to create innovative sermons and Sunday school lessons for our parishioners and others through the Internet. Our newest Internet presence is a video version of Pastor Jim's ponderings that were formerly printed in the Mini-Glean. I hope you have been able to view them as they are well worth your time.

In addition to the new expenses, we still have our normal bills for electricity, gas, water, phone, payroll, mailings to members, etc. Even though we have no restrictions on the number of people attending church at this time, attendance is running about 70% of what it was before the pandemic began.

I want you to be aware that our profit and loss statement for the period January – May 2021 shows a deficit of \$10,925. I truly believe that God has plans for our church, and that he will move in a way that will make it possible to make up for this deficit. I am going to ask you to please pray for guidance in your giving.

If you still don't feel like you can safely attend church, you can either mail or bring your envelopes to the church, or you can sign up for our e-giving program through Vanco. Instructions are given on page 7. This program enables you to give your tithes and offerings in a timely, easy manner.

I continue to pray and thank God for all of you. We are the church together. Thank you for all you do.

Joanne McCarty
Finance Secretary

Altar Flower Arrangments - There has recently been an increase in the cost of flower arrangments to \$20. Thanks you for your generosity.

Salvation Army Volunteer Opportunity

July 18, August 16, September 19

Each month we go to the Salvation Army in Beaver Falls to help serve dinner. Anyone who would like to help can be involved. We will leave the church at 1:45 PM and return around 4:00 PM. You can even provide cookies for dessert, if you like.



Donations for the Homeless

Donations are needed of lightweight summer clothes (especially summer shoes and sandals), and toiletries (soap, shampoo, deodorant, razors, and shaving cream). Place your items in the bin in the entryway.

Cash donations are welcomed to purchase specific needs for the shelters.



**HOMELESS
MINISTRY**

If you have any questions or would like to help, contact our Community Liaison, Nemorio

Ramirez at 724-709-3177.



Mission Volunteers!

Next Mission Trip - Eastbrook Mission Barn

Saturday, July 31

Hello all you wonderful volunteers! Saturday, July 31 is our next mission trip to the Eastbrook Mission Barn in New Castle. *There will only be space for 12 people to go. If you are interested in participating call me at (724)843-4348 or email me at jchiocca111@gmail.com and leave your name and contact phone number. You can also sign up in the church narthex. I would like to know by July 23 who is going.*

On July 31 we will meet at the church in the upper parking lot at 8:45 and leave by 9:00 am. We will arrive back at the church around 3:00 pm.

You will need to pack a lunch, take a water bottle, work gloves, and a mask (just in case it is needed). There is a refrigerator to store cold items and a microwave to reheat. There is also water available to refill your water bottle if needed. On previous trips we have taken 3 vehicles. If you are willing to drive, please let me know when you sign up and please include a phone number where I can reach you with updates.

Christ's love and peace,

Rhonda Chiocca

Rhonda Chiocca, Missions Coordinator.

UMCOR Hygiene Kit

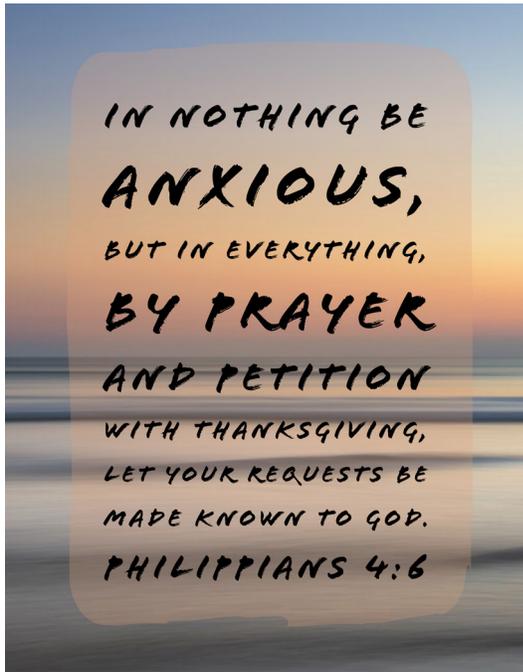
- ___ 1 Hand Towel : 15"x25" up to 17"x27" - Not kitchen or cleaning.
- ___ 1 Washcloth: Not kitchen, or cleaning, or microfiber towels.
- ___ 1 Comb - Must be sturdy with at least 6" of teeth, no pocket combs or picks.
- ___ 1 Toenail or fingernail clipper - No emery boards or metal nail files.
- ___ 1 Bath Soap, size 3 oz. or larger - No Ivory or Jergen's soap. Do not remove packaging.
- ___ 1 Adult Toothbrush: No multipacks, keep in packaging.
- ___ 10 Adhesive bandages 3/4" x 3" size.
- ___ 1 gallon size resealable plastic bag.

Important Notes:

- All items must be new.
- Do not wash any of the items
- Do not include any personal notes, money, or additional materials in the kits.
- Contents of kits or the containers of kits should not be imprinted with cartoon characters, advertisements, or have camouflage print.
- Kit Value: \$12 per kit

Please bring to the church Narthex and deposit items in the green bin by July 18.





IN NOTHING BE
ANXIOUS,
 BUT IN EVERYTHING,
BY PRAYER
AND PETITION
 WITH THANKSGIVING,
 LET YOUR REQUESTS BE
 MADE KNOWN TO GOD.
PHILIPPIANS 4:6

Silent Prayer Vigil and Fellowship (SPVF)

SPVF is coming! What is it? It's a time dedicated to prayer and mediation by all members and non-members who desire to join together regularly for this purpose in a quiet setting.

Every other month we will meet in the Chapel and the Chapel Cafe' from 3:30 to 6:30 PM.

September 16, 2021
 January 20, 2022
 May 19, 2022

November 18, 2021
 March 17, 2022
 July 21, 2022

The Chapel will provide a quiet area to communicate with God for moments or hours. It's a time set aside to share your burdens and your blessings with God. Bibles and hymnals are available for your use.

The Chapel Cafe' will also be open as a place to visit quietly before or after prayer. This provides a place for sharing your thoughts, joys, and burdens with each other.

Our prayer is that this new program might pave the way for a closer relationship with our Father and with each other.

Questions: Contact Bill or Nancy VanDeCar

PRAYER REQUESTS

Those in need of urgent prayer

Annette Smiley
 Stacey Croft
 Those with the COVID 19

Those in need of continued prayer

Nancy Dominick
 Jon Jones
 Tommy Unsworth
 Stephanie Kurch
 Aria Trbovich
 John Parkhurst
 Peter Sinegal
 Judi Davis
 Dominic Trbovich
 The Howell Family
 Donna Brynczak
 Nancy Heilig
 Ed Hallas
 Nicholas Grzegorek
 Pastor Jim and Kathy
 Jason Hazelwood
 Jim Giles
 Betty Holcomb
 JoAnn Shaner
 Sue Ramsey
 Fred Zajac
 Denise Miller

Those in college

Tommy Holcomb
 Carrie Freed
 Jesse DiCicco
 Allison Ramirez

Those who lost loved ones in the last 6 months

Families of :
 Joan Buffington
 George Cirka
 Dee Ganter
 Paul Kuniewicz
 Jack Smith
 Tim Kanouff
 Roxie Costanza
 Eutiquio Ramirez
 Mark Cunningham
 Debra Miketa
 Randy Zajac
 Michael Sovich
 Mary Jane Hartge
 Arleen Dean

Those in assisted living

Maggie Gall
 Hazel Wozniak
 Fred Ramsey
 Ruth Gatehouse
 Miriam Bennett

Special requests

Healing of our Country
 The Way Forward
 Racial Unrest
 GIFT Campaign
 Health Care Workers

Those in the military

Lt. John Toolis
 Mickey Futato
 Luke Heilig
 Kyle Mackey

Being mindful of our friends' and loved ones' privacy and personal choices, the church can only publish Prayer Requests when permission has been granted by the person. Urgent prayer requests will remain on the list for 4 weeks.

Help Us Stay Connected!

Help us keep up to date with what is happening in your family by informing us of address changes, prayer requests, or other information for the pastor and/or church office.

Email - BadenUMC@comcast.net

Phone - 724-869-2720

Facebook - [BadenUMC](https://www.facebook.com/BadenUMC)



Building and Grounds Update:

As you have noticed, the long-awaited work on the parking area at 500 State Street has made significant progress. This is part of the GIFT Capital Fund Campaign. All funds are currently on hand to complete this work. The following items will be completed in the near future:

- The gravel parking area will have fines (stone quarry dust) added and the area will be rolled.
- Bumper stops will be added to prevent vehicles from driving on the grass.
- Two light poles will be erected.
- Lighting and electric service will be installed.

Three other major projects are scheduled for later this summer:

1. A concrete ramp will be installed from the Fellowship Hall to the stage/ Sunday School hall level. This ramp will provide handicapped accessibility to all levels of the church building as well as making the movement of food for the We Care Food Pantry much safer and more convenient. This project is being funded by both the GIFT campaign and the We Care Food Pantry. The building permit for this project has been acquired and we're waiting for a start date from the contractor.
2. The street-level entryway to the sanctuary (northeast corner) will be modified with wider doors and automated door openers. New concrete sidewalk, retaining wall, drainage and handrails are part of this project. The building permit for this work is also "in-hand". This project is being funded by the Eaton Foundation as a memorial to Doliver Pierce.
3. The new roof on the "Education"/Fellowship Hall wing is under contract. The contractor has told us the work will be done in either July or August. We are currently raising funds to pay for this work. The Eaton Foundation has agreed to loan the congregation the funds to pay for the work upon completion. The project will cost roughly \$50,000. The Trustees are paying \$10,000 out of their long-term investment account and the congregation has raised an additional \$14,533 to date.

We want to thank you for your faithful giving toward these needed improvements and maintenance. Ultimately, our aim is to be an effective part of God's kingdom on earth, providing a safe, accessible and functional place for God's Word to be shared.

Sincerely in Christ,

The GIFT Committee and the Trustees

Electronic Giving

Electronic giving gives you a convenient way to keep up with your offerings. Your online giving account allows you to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history at any time that is convenient for you. Simply visit the church web site, www.badenumc.org or scan this QR code to

get started today. [Giving Envelopes](#) are available if you like a more traditional form of giving. Anyone who would like a box of envelopes should contact Joanne McCartney (724-869-2536).



YOU WILL BE ENRICHED
IN EVERY WAY TO BE GENEROUS
IN EVERY WAY, WHICH THROUGH
US WILL PRODUCE
THANKSGIVING TO GOD.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:11, ESV

Baden United Methodist Church
420 Dippold Ave.
Baden, PA 15005
Rev. James G. Young, Pastor

Badenumc@comcast.net-
www.badenumc.org

August 29

Church Picnic

You're Invited!

After Sunday Worship.
More information will be coming