

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY, OCT. 25, 2026, 9:30 AM

SERVICE of WORD, SONG & PRAYER

BAKER MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

GREETING — The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

WELCOME TO WORSHIP — Rev. David Aslesen, Pastor

…a multigenerational congregation filled with the joy of faith, hospitality towards everyone and hope for the future. We believe God's grace is a gift to everyone; each person a beloved child of God worthy of love, respect and blessing.

PRELUDE — "Jesus Loves Me," William Bradbury/Arr. Frances Callahan, Chapel Chimes

* CALL TO WORSHIP — Chuck Freiberger, Liturgist

One: Praise God for the blessings planted and seasons of growth.
All: Praise God for the harvest of gifts brought to the Lord's house.
One: Praise God for the ways in which our lives have been blessed.
All: Praise God for the ways our lives serve the Master's purposes.
One: Holy God, accept the generosity of our praise.
All: Holy God, accept the gratitude of our worship.

* HYMN 87 "What Gift Can We Bring"

* OPENING PRAYER *inspired by Ephesians 3:20-21*

God of great gifts, we thank you for the many ways you provide more than we could ask or imagine. There is so much you have entrusted to us, even the future of your kingdom of justice and love. Give us the grace to work out with you the growth of mercy and goodness in this world, to be united with all Christians and with all who seek you with a sincere heart in bringing reconciliation and joy to humankind. May we be generous with our talents such that the harvest will come even now through the blessing of the church. In Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. **AMEN.**

* THE PEACE OF CHRIST — *Share a smile, wave or sign of peace.*

ANTHEM — "Let All God's Children Sing," Mark Patterson, Wesley Singers

BK

TIME WITH YOUNG CHRISTIANS – CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Students pre-K to 5th grade are invited to attend Sunday school on the lower level. Sunday school concludes at 10:30 AM.

ANTHEM — "Go Not Far From Me, O God," Zingarelli, Emanon Ensemble

Abundantly!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

May we know the love of Christ…**and be filled with the fullness of God.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. AMEN.

* GOSPEL READING — Matthew 25:14-30, N.T., pg. 28, pew Bible

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE — "Abundantly Generous" — Rev. David Aslesen

PASTORAL PRAYER

STEWARDSHIP: OPPORTUNITIES AND OFFERINGS FOR MINISTRY

Use the QR code or pew envelopes for your gift to the mission of Baker Memorial United Methodist Church. Your generosity is appreciated.

Offertory, "O Love," Elaine Hagenberg," Chancel Choir

* Doxology, Hymnal, pg. 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts.
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

* PRAYER OF BLESSING / STEWARDSHIP SEASON by Matthias Claudius

We thank You, our Creator, for all things bright and good:
The seedtime and the harvest, our life, our health, our food.
Accept the gifts we offer for all Your love imparts;
Accept what You most welcome: our humble, thankful hearts!

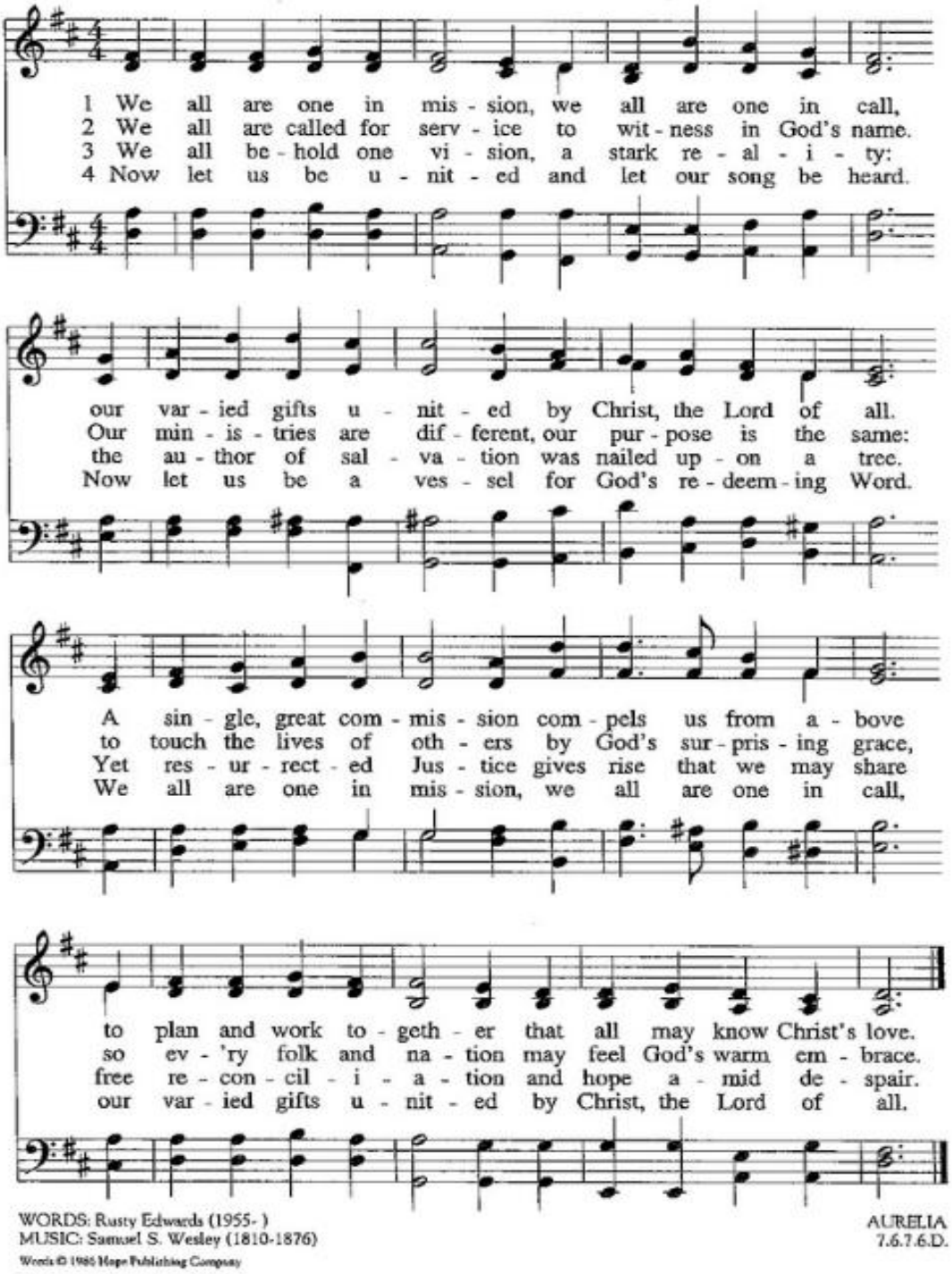
* HYMN "We All Are One in Mission" (next page)



Abundantly!

WITNESS & MISSION

552 We All Are One in Mission



WORDS: Rusty Edwards (1955-)
MUSIC: Samuel S. Wesley (1810-1876)

AURELIA
7.6.7.6.D.

Words © 1986 Hope Publishing Company

* BLESSING & SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE "A Mighty Fortress is Our God," Barbara Harbach, Stephen Uhl

Advanzi

SUNDAY, NOV. 1, ALL SAINTS & BLESSING OF STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENTS

With gratefulness and rememberance of our church and family members who have died and been raised to eternal life in the past year, we will gather to worship and commit our pledges of financial resources to the future of the church. **Please bring completed commitment cards to worship on Sunday, November 1.**



STEWARDSHIP SEASON OCTOBER 18-NOVEMBER 1, 2026

Imagine the blessings of a vibrant future at Baker Memorial United Methodist Church made possible NOW through your generous financial support: your stewardship of God's abundance. Being a faithful steward of God's blessings is the call of every Christian. What blessings of God have you received? **As God is abundantly gracious, we can respond by being abundantly grateful and generous.** With your financial resources, you can share in supporting the operations, programs, staffing, missions and outreach of Baker Memorial United Methodist Church. **Stewardship pledge information is located at either entrace and www.bakermemorialchurch.org.**

BAKER MEMORIAL CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. David P. Aslesen, Director of Music Ministries: Jeff Hunt, Director of Children & Family Ministries: Shelly Stienbarger, Director of Administration & Finance: Steven Wilhelm, Building Maintenance Manager: Karl Lescelius, Creative/Communications Director: Michele Claney, Organist: Stephen Uhl, Director of Children's Music: Kathy Olivarez, Pianist: Sam Wyatt, Livestream Tech: Rob Hale, Treasurer: Lita Jimenez, Wedding Coordinator: Judy Schlarb, Organist Emeritus: Mark Edwards.

FOR MORE NEWS AND INFORMATION

Speak with our staff or pastor. Call 630.584.6680. 10AM-3 PM Mon.-Fri.
Email: info@bakermemorialchurch.org. Go to bakermemorialchurch.org.





As God is abundantly gracious, we can respond by being abundantly grateful and generous. With your financial resources, you can share in supporting the operations, programs, staffing, missions and outreach of **BAKER MEMORIAL CHURCH**. **The ministries of the church flourish on the blessings of God as well as on the generosity of every household and every giver. Membership pledged giving to the financial need of the church composes 2/3 of the annual income; the other 1/3 comes from building usage donations, endowment support, weddings and other sources. Our anticipated 2027 operational budget is ~ $690,000.**

Programs & Growth ~ $15,000. All ages discover how to live as disciples of Christ. Worship shapes our spirit. Stellar music program: choirs, ensembles, instrumentalists, staff! Sunday, mid-week and seasonal events for children & adults provide faith formation: Sunday School, Adult Education, Faith Food & Fun, Sunday Funday and Vacation Bible School. ***Ministries of care, connection, evangelism grow community within and beyond our walls. Website, communications, publicity are major costs.***

Missions & Service ~ $60,000. To enable the transforming message of Christ, we are called to extend ourselves in missions here, near and far away. Local partners: Hesed House, Lazarus House, District 303; Regional and global organizations: Kairos Women's Ministry, Midwest Mission, Cambodia Missions. ***Apportionments support the work of the Northern Illinois Conference & UMC; ¾ of this portion of the budget.***

Personnel & Office ~ $425,000. The efficient administration and staffing for the church's many ministry needs is vital for growth and outreach. Full time pastor, office and financial administrator and maintenance manager, Part-time directors of music and children & family ministries and organist, Contract employees: music, worship & communications. ***Compensation, pension and health insurance are major costs.***

Buildings & Property ~ $190,000. A well-used building requires funds for utilities, maintenance, and improvements. It serves multiples uses: worship, concerts & recitals, weddings, funerals, meetings, activities and many community events. A parsonage provides a lovely home for our pastor, too. ***Property and liability insurance is expected to increase 21% in 2027. Utilities, lawncare, snow plowing are significant costs.***

What is Stewardship? Stewardship is a lifestyle choice that recognizes that everything is a gift from God. Our responsibility as Christian stewards is to manage all the gifts that we have received from God – including our financial gifts. **Find out more about the Stewardship Season "Abundantly!" at www.bakermemorialchurch.org.**

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY

Information about all of our events can be found on our church app and at BakerMemorialChurch.org/Whats-Happening. Don't have our app? Scan the QR code to download!

WORSHIP ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY:

Greeters: John & Heidi Hughes & Allison & Eleanor Maybray Morgan; Ushers: Paul Conterato, Jane Fanslow, John Stumpf, Steve Hunt; Liturgist: Chuck Freiberger; Livestream Tech: Rob Hale

SUNDAY SCHOOL: OCTOBER: WARM & COZY - GOD CARES FOR US

Sunday School for children pre-K to 5th grade begins immediately after the Children's Message
+Oct. 25 God Cares for Us Always & Trunk-or-Treat 12:30-2 p.m.

ABUNDANTLY! STEWARDSHIP SEASON: OCTOBER 18-NOVEMBER 1

Every Christian is called to be a faithful steward of God's blessings, responding to His abundant grace with gratitude and generosity. Stewardship brochures—including the 2027 preliminary budget, financial pledge card, and more—are available at each entrance and online at www.bakermemorialchurch.org.

WESLEY SINGERS & CHAPEL CHIMES: WEDNESDAYS IN BAKER HALL

The Wesley Singers (grades 1–8) rehearse from 4:30–5:00 p.m., to sing in worship monthly. Following at 5:00–5:30 p.m., Chapel Chimes (grades 2–8) rehearses to perform each month. No prior experience is needed. Weekly rehearsal commitment is required.

ADULT ED: "SEEING GRAY IN A WORLD OF BLACK & WHITE," SUNDAY MORNINGS

Join us Sunday mornings at 10:45 a.m. for a 4-session study authored by Rev. Adam Hamilton on modeling faithful conversations in a politically polarized country. Meets in the Wesley Room through Oct 25th.

WORK BEGINS ON 3RD AVENUE PARKING SPACES / 3RD AVE. ENTRANCE

Due to the installation of 13 new parking spaces along 3rd Avenue, the 3rd Avenue building entrance will remain inaccessible through November 20, 2026. Please use the Cedar Avenue entrance for all on-site meetings and activities, and contact the church office with any questions or concerns.

MISSIONS: STUFF THE TURKEY / SALVATION ARMY, OCT. 18-NOV. 8

It's that time of year to help support Salvation Army in providing Thanksgiving Meals to local families in need. Monetary donations can be made via cash (use the pew envelope, note: Stuff the Turkey), check (made payable to Baker Memorial UMC; memo: Stuff the Turkey) or via the QR code in the bulletin or online. Help our Mission Teams help our local community. Contact Loretta Wilson at 630.975.5455 with any questions.

ADULT ED: "WHOLEHEARTDLY BECOMING" WORKSHOP, OCT. 27 & NOV. 3, 6-7:30 PM

Led by Cheri Hunt and Christine McMinn, this two-session workshop explores living from God's abundance rather than striving through guided art, journaling, and conversation. No artistic experience needed—just a willing heart to creatively engage with God's Word. Register on our website or app.

VOTING AS UNITED METHODIST CITIZENS: OUR RESPONSIBILITY

"The strength of a political system depends upon the full and willing participation of its citizens." (United Methodist Social Principles, ¶164.B) Voting can be an act of faith.
https://www.umcjustice.org/what-we-care-about/civil-and-human-rights/free-and-fair-elections.

POLLINATOR GARDEN TAKING SHAPE

On Monday, Oct. 12, members and leaders of Girl Scout Troop 321 planted a beautiful selection of perennials for the new pollinator garden in the Holt Memorial Garden area near the Collins Chapel wall. Check it out! More work will be done very soon. Thank you to Marti and Sofia Tarmichael for coordinating the effort.

This Week
AT BAKER MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY, October 25
- 9:30am Worship
- 9:45am Sunday School
- 10:45am AdultEd: Faith in the News
- 10:45am AdultEd: Seeing Gray
- 12:30 pm Trunk or Treat

MONDAY, October 26
- 11am PGC Luncheon

TUESDAY, October 27
- 11am Staff Meeting
- 11:30am Kiwanis
- 6pm AdultEd: WholehheARTedly Workshop
- 7pm Lydia Circle
- 8pm Keep it Simple Group AA Mtg

WEDNESDAY, October 28
- 4:30pm Wesley Singers Rehearsal
- 5pm Chapel Chimes
- 6:00pm Chancel Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 7pm Keep it Simple Group AA Mtg

THURSDAY, October 29
- 9:30am First Aid/CPR

SUNDAY, November 1
- 9:30am Worship
- 9:45am Sunday School
- 10:45am AdultEd: Faith in the News
- 10:45am Social Justice Committee
- 12pm Student Piano Recital
- 5pm St Charles Singers Rehearsal

COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP HOUR PROVIDED BY SPRC

Information about all of our events can be found on our church app







PROVIDE HOSPITALITY TO COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP: SIGN UP!

Help us host Sunday hospitality and refreshment in Baker Hall at 10:30 AM after worship. Sign up here: https://tinyurl.com/umxm4spm or on the website.