

BAKER MEMORIAL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SERVICE of WORD, SONG and PRAYER
ASCENSION OF THE LORD SUNDAY
MAY 17, 2026, 9:30 AM



Cover Illustration: "Blast Off" by Alma Thomas, 1970, Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum



...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 & blessing.

GREETING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you!**

WELCOME

Rev. David Aslesen, Pastor

PRELUDE

"Holy, Holy, Holy," Robert Buck Farlee, Stephen Uhl, organ

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Cathie Ruth, Liturgist

One: Why are we looking up to Heaven?

All: Christ calls us to be his witnesses on Earth!

One: Why are we looking back to the past and the gone?

All: The Spirit of Christ is among us here and now!

One: Why are we looking beyond when the Holy is all around?

All: God in Christ rules space and time! Let us worship!

* HYMN 152 "I Sing the Almighty Power of God"



* PRAYER FOR ASCENSION SUNDAY

Almighty God, Universal Creator, Eternal & Everlasting, as we faithfully worship today, we ask that you would stretch our imaginations to sense the mystery and reality of Jesus' ascension. Help all of us on this side of the river to understand how Christ's wondrous presence in Heaven can give us on Earth a cosmic-sized confidence in you.

May our prayers for the future of all creation find their location in your good will. Through Christ, our Lord, we pray. AMEN.

* THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Share a smile, wave or sign of peace.



TIME WITH YOUNG CHRISTIANS – CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Students pre-K-5th grade are invited to attend Sunday school with our teachers in the Children's Center on the lower level.

PSALTER READING

Psalm 8, Old Testament, pg. 492, pew Bible

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

for the people of this congregation...

for those who are sick, those who suffer and those in trouble...

for our health and wellness, minds, bodies and spirits...

for the concerns of this local community...

for the world, its peoples, and its leaders...

for the earth you have given to our care...

for the Church universal: leaders, members and mission...

for the communion of the saints....

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Jesus, as you pray for us at the right hand of God, so now we pray for a new world breaking into ours – a world in which justice does come for the poor, freedom comes for the prisoners, and healing for the sick; for a new community to be formed — a community that loves and cares for all members, a family that welcomes all who are abandoned and rejected, a place where all find a place of belonging; for the new creation beginning – all that is distorted being restored, all that is corrupted is being renewed, all that was broken is being made whole, saying...

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.

HYMN 184 “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

SCRIPTURE READING Acts 1:6-11, New Testament, pg. 118, pew Bible

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

“An Awesome Ascension”

Rev. David Aslesen

INVITATION TO STEWARDSHIP: ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING

Offertory, “At The River,” Aaron Copland, Carrie Molloy, soloist

* Doxology, Sung response, 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 Dedication
- * HYMN 157 “Jesus Shall Reign”
- * BLESSING & SENDING FORTH
- * POSTLUDE “Look, the Sight is Glorious!” William Haller, Stephen Uhl, organ

The Peace of Christ be yours! God bless you!



SEASON OF HOPE BEGINS JUNE 7

Throughout the month of June, we will honor God's gift of hope for every season. I Peter 1:3-9: "God has given us a new birth into a living hope!" Worship will explore living hope, practicing hope and lifesaving hope. On Sunday, June 28, we will celebrate with our **CAMP HOPE** VBS kids!

WORSHIP LITURGISTS JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2026

Sign up to serve as a liturgist for summer worship services June through September! Liturgy with scripture readings is sent via email by Tuesday of each week of your scheduled Sunday. Youth 6th grade and above and all adults are invited to serve. Contact Pastor David (630.584.6680) with any questions. Use the QR code to sign up via SIGNUP Genius.



BAKER MEMORIAL CHURCH STAFF:

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

FOR MORE NEWS AND INFORMATION:

Speak with our pastor or staff. Call 630.584.6680.
 Info@bakermemorialchurch.org. Go to www.bakermemorialchurch.org.
 Check us out on YouTube, Facebook & Instagram. Traveling? Worship Online!



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: Allan & Jayne Scales; Ushers: Debbie & Paul Conterato, Gary Johnson, Geoff Hardwick;
Liturgist: Cathie Ruth; Livestream Tech: Rob Hale

SUNDAY FUNDAY SUNDAY, TODAY, 10:30AM

All You Knead is Love, Hope, and Fellowship! For all Sunday School families! Celebrate parents and grandparents through fun activities including making veggie pizzas, singing, and crafts.

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NIL FOOD BANK GANG, MONDAY, MAY 18, 9AM

Join the Illinois Food Bank gang! A team of volunteers' heads to the NIL Food Bank every month. Our shift runs from 9 a.m. until Noon. Want more information? Contact Betty Erickson at n9yfc@aol.com.

JOINT MEETING S&A & SF&D, MONDAY, MAY 18, 7 PM

The Strategy & Administration and Spiritual Formation & Discipleship Team will meet in Wiley Hall for our bi-annual meeting of all leaders, ministry teams and committee members, and lay representatives. Please send regrets to the church office: info@bakermemorialchurch.org.

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL DAY COMMUNITY BREAKFAST, MAY 25, 7:30-10 AM

St. Charles VFW Post 5036 Fundraising Breakfast at Baker Memorial Church. \$5/person (pancakes, eggs, biscuits & gravy, sausage); free for fire, police, scouts, emergency services, military/veterans.

WOMEN'S MOVIE NIGHT, FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 6PM

Join us for dinner and a movie! Enjoy a night out with pizza and salad meal, fellowship, watch Eleanor the Great, and have a short discussion about the movie. Please sign up on app

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR REV. PHIL DRIPPS, JUNE 6, 10:30am

Our former associate pastor passed away on April 15. Phil was 91. A memorial service will be held at 10:30 AM, Saturday, June 6 in the sanctuary.

BLOOD DRIVE, JUNE 11, 2:30PM

Save a life and donate blood at our next Blood Drive! Versiti Blood Center will be on site taking your donations from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/34nvd4ys>. Walk-ins are welcome.

ST. CHARLES SINGERS: SACRED SPACES, FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 7:30PM

St. Charles Singers tour program to Italy, featuring "In the Beginning" by Aaron Copland and works by Palestrina, Rutter, Hogan, Mendelssohn, Boyd, Stanford and more. Find more info at stcharlessingers.com

SAVE THE DATE: VBS @ BAKER MEMORIAL, JUNE 22-25.

Children and youth in pre-K through 8th grade are invited to **CAMP HOPE** Vacation Bible School, Monday, Music, art, science and other fun activities will be part of the camp!

SUMMER MISSION TRIP: JULY 27-30, 2026

Save the date as we again head to Midwest Mission in Pawnee, IL (near Springfield). This is a great opportunity for members(youth 12 & above w/adult) to participate in service and fellowship. More info on our website.

GRADUATION CONGRATULATIONS

Send your graduate's information to the church office by email or phone call. We'd love to acknowledge their accomplishments and future plans in an upcoming edition of the Weekly Word.



This Week

AT BAKER MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY, May 17

- 9:30am Worship
- 9:45am Sunday School
- 10:30am Sunday Funday – Parents Celebration
- 10:45am AdultEd: *Faith in the News*
- 5pm St. Charles Singers Rehearsal

MONDAY, May 18

- 9am Food Bank Gang
- 11:30am PGC General Membership
- 6:15pm Finance Review
- 7pm S&A and SF&D Meeting

TUESDAY, May 19

- 11am Staff Meeting
- 11am Women's Emmaus
- 11:30am Kiwanis
- 5pm Stiltz & Hibben Senior Recital
- 8pm Keep it Simple Group AA Mtg

WEDNESDAY, May 20

- 9:30am Phoebe Circle
- 7pm Endowment Meeting
- 7pm Keep it Simple Group AA Mtg

THURSDAY, May 21

- 9:30am First Aid/CPR

FRIDAY, May 22

- 9am Farmers Market

SUNDAY, May 24

- 9:30am Worship
- 10:45am AdultEd: *Faith in the News*

MONDAY, May 25

- CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
- 7am VFW Memorial Day Breakfast



**Women's
MOVIE
Night**

FRIDAY, JUNE 5
AT 6PM IN WILEY HALL

Come for fellowship,
pizza & salad dinner,
watch the movie
Eleanor the Great,
and discuss the movie.

SIGN UP ON THE CHURCH APP
OR THE WEBSITE
bakermemorialchurch.org
Sponsored by United Women in Faith



PETE HOLMES
**BLOOD
DRIVE**

**THURSDAY
JUNE 11
2:30-6:30 PM**

SIGN UP TO
DONATE TODAY
& SAVE A LIFE!

Make an appointment
on the church app or website
bakermemorialchurch.org



**BAKERKIDS
CAMP
HOPE
SUMMER VBS**

**JUNE 22-25
9-11 AM**

music • art • science
fun activities

Come to learn about
the seed of hope growing
in our hearts to share
with the world!

For children & youth
in pre-K through 8th

Sign up on app or website
bakermemorialchurch.org

Save the date!

Summer Mission Trip

Join the trip to Midwest Mission July 27-30

Lodging and volunteering for 20 participants
will be on the Midwest's grounds in Pawnee, IL

This is a great opportunity for all ages
to participate in service and fellowship!

Look for more info to come out late spring



SUNDAY FUNDAY

LOVE IS ALL YOU KNEAD!

**Parent
Celebration**

**SUNDAY, MAY 17
10:30-11:30 AM**

make veggie pizza • singing • crafts



**ST. CHARLES
FARMERS'
MARKET**

FRIDAYS 8 AM-1 PM

RIVERSIDE AVE & STATE

JUST WEST OF STC FIRE DEPT
RUNS JUNE THRU OCTOBER