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Edith Valdez Castro &
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LakesidePB/](https://www.facebook.com/LakesidePB/)

Lakeside Messenger
Lakeside United
Methodist Church
1500 Olive Street
Pine Bluff AR 71601

What's Happening @ Lakeside United Methodist Church

Wednesday, December 11

9:30 LAAF
12:00 N2N
12:30 Discipleship Class
3:00 Zoom F & F
4:00 Mid-Week Manna
6:00 Choir

Thursday, Dec. 12

Friday, Dec. 13

Office closed

Saturday, Dec. 14

8:00 Men's Breakfast

Sunday, Dec. 15

8:30 Chapel Worship
8:45 Handbells
9:15 Sunday School
10:30 Sanctuary Worship

Monday, Dec. 16

Tuesday, Dec. 17

1:30 DAR
5:30 Leadership Board Mtg.

Wednesday, Dec. 18

9:30 LAAF
Food Distribution set-up
10:00 Staff Mtg.
1:00 Discipleship Class
3:00 Zoom F & F
4:00 Mid-Week Manna
5:30 Las Posadas
6:00 Choir

Thursday, Dec. 19

8:00 Food deliveries
4:00 Food pick-ups

Friday, Dec. 20

Office closed

Saturday, Dec. 21

Sunday, Dec. 22 One Service
8:45 Handbells (small group)
10:30 Sanctuary Worship

The Lakeside Messenger

Lakeside United Methodist Church, Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601

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Has it happened to you yet? Have you become caught up in the busyness of Christmas? Are you decorating every nook and cranny, shopping 'til you drop, socializing at parties, and of course, watching all your favorite Christmas shows? The season of Advent, where we wait in anticipation and prepare our hearts for Jesus' return, too often becomes a mad rush to get the next thing done without any thought of Jesus or our neighbors.

Not everyone is filled with hopeful anticipation during the holidays. Did you know that we have lost 11 saints of the church since Christmas last year: Jane Nixon, Dot Boyd, Joy and Clay Cross, Bob Blackford, Stephen Browning, Michael Motes, Barbara Tracy, Bill Foster, Arlis Minter, Colby Lee? Several church members have lost parents and siblings and other close family members. Still others have struggled with life-threatening illnesses. While Christmas is a time of joy and celebration in the birth of our Savior, it is also a time of deep sadness and pain for many who face the holiday for the first time without the presence of their loved ones. For others, the grief emanates from changed life circumstances.

Who do you know that has lost a loved one over the last year or two? Who do you know that has had a change in life circumstances because of a decline in health. Will you pause and say a prayer for them right now? Will you either grab a card or pick up the phone and let them know that you are thinking of them and praying for them? You can help lessen the loneliness and despair of Christmas for someone who is grieving the loss of a loved one this season. You can reflect the light of Christ that helps healing and new growth happen.

I find these words from the prophet Isaiah in The Voice translation most helpful and hopeful. *"But on this humbled ground, a tiny shoot, hopeful and promising, will sprout from Jesse's stump; A branch will emerge from his roots to bear fruit. ² And on this child from David's line, the Spirit of the Eternal One will alight and rest."* (Isaiah 11:1-2a) Have you ever noticed a young shoot growing out of a dead stump? It seems miraculous to see such thriving life emerge from decay. When we lose someone we love or experience a life-altering change in our living circumstances, it can feel stark and lonely. We often need a reminder that Christ's light and love is ever present to restore us and bring forth new life.

Friends, you can be the light of Christ that someone needs this Advent and Christmas season. A phone call, card, text, email or visit may make all the difference for someone who is unable to rejoice in the festivities of the season because of his or her grief. Will you be Christ's light for someone in need? Will you be the words of comfort and reassurance that someone needs to be reminded that the light of Christ shines in the darkness?

Pastor Judy

Christmas Eve Services

We hope that you will join us to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior on December 24th. Holy Communion will be served at noon in the Chapel and at 5:30 during our traditional Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary.

Lakesiders, having promised to be loyal to Jesus Christ through The United Methodist Church and to do all in our power to strengthen its ministries, live out our promise by God's grace together— participating faithfully in the ministries of Lakeside United Methodist Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

Christmas Poinsettias

Poinsettia orders are still being taken to adorn the Sanctuary for the Dec. 22nd Lesson in Carols service as well as the noon and 5:30p.m Christmas Eve services on Dec. 24th.

Deadline to order is Monday, Dec. 16th by 3:00pm.



2025 Altar Flowers

The 2025 calendar is here. If you would like to provide the altar flowers on any particular Sunday, please contact Jennifer. This is a great way to honor and remember our loved ones or special occasions.

Las Posadas

Wednesday, December 18th from 5:30-7:00pm.

Come along with Mary and Joseph as they travel, searching for a place to stay. This is an evening full of Christmas fun. A light supper will be served, the Mid-Week Manna Children's choir will perform, and crafts will be available in addition to the "journey."

If you'd like to help in any way such as providing a craft or supervising a table, helping to serve the meal or take part in the journey, please let Jennifer know.

Advent/Christmas Season Services

During this Advent season, come and experience the joy and wonder by attending the upcoming worship services.

Sunday Dec. 15th: Special music will be provided by the Mid-Week Manna Children's Choir and the Chancel Handbells at 10:30am.

Dec. 22: Lessons and Carols. Hear and sing scriptures that tell of the Savior's coming. There will be one service at 10:30am.

Dec. 24th Christmas Eve: Noon Holy Communion Service in the Chapel and Traditional Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary at 5:30pm.

Dec. 29: One service at 10:30am. in the Sanctuary.



We pray for the sick: Jim Webb, Valerie Morgan, Kim Bridgforth, Sandy Bobo, and Betty Coles,

Congratulations to Catherine and John Sjobek on the birth of their daughter, Mia Grace. Proud great-grandmother is Pat Morgan.

Pray for the congregation of St. Paul UMC, Malvern

Woodland Heights Senior Living: Billie Doster; **Woodland Heights Memory Care:** Wannie Pope. **Stonebridge Senior Living:** Bob Castleberry **Lakeside's Hispanic Ministry, Young People around the world, Families in trouble, City Council members & Mayor, Students of all ages, Teachers, and First Responders.**

Gifts given to Lakeside

In memory of Clyde and Barbara Tracy, Arlis Minter, and Michael Motes by Claire and Clyde Campbell.

Lakeside Christmas Kids

Help Wanted!

We need volunteers to be last minute shoppers and to wrap gifts. Gifts are to be picked up by the parents next week.

Please contact Jennifer at 534-6241 if you are able to help.

LUMC Altar Guild Members

It is time to look toward 2025 for the Altar Guild! Are you willing to polish brass and change paraments or prepare communion for Lakeside? We could use a few more faithful servants. Thank you to all who have served this past year. You are appreciated.

I am preparing the new schedule to begin in March. If you are currently serving but wish to step down, please let me know ASAP.

If you have any questions and are considering serving in 2025, please call me to discuss the duties. We would love to have your help. I need to be notified by December 20, 2024.

Faithfully,
Deborah Whitaker— 870-540-9051

Items requested for the area animal shelters

If you are cleaning out cupboards before your holiday guests arrive, we will take newspapers, old towels and blankets off of your hands.

The area animal shelters are always in need of these things, especially now that it's cold.



Sunday, Dec. 8, 2024

8:30 Chapel Worship - 14

9:15 Sunday school - 31

10:30 Worship - 69

Online Worship - 20

Our Weekly Service at Church

December 15, 2024

Sermon: Rev. Judy Rudd **Liturgist:** De Gasnier

Director of Music: Ann Tibbs; **Children's Moment:** Jennifer Fox

Sermon: He Will Renew You in His Love

Sermon Series: Our Family Tree— God's Love Incarnated

Scripture: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Ushers: Steve Dobbins, Joe Coles, Rob Wyatt, Bobby Wyatt, Roy Whitaker, Ken Kesterson

Dec. 16 Brass Polishers: Ann Tibbs and Pat Morgan

Dec. 16 Counters: Gerald Majors and Elaine Vaccaro

All services are available on Facebook or Facebook Live and You tube. Join us online for worship at:

www.facebook.com/lakesidepb

www.youtube.com/@lumc_pinebluff

Check out what is happening at Lakeside on our website

www.lakesidepb.org

Latest Sunday School News

December 15, 2024 9:15am.

Discovery Class: Adam Hamilton's Words of Life— Jesus and the Promise of the 10 Commandments. Sunday's discussion will be begin with page 206.

Wesley Class: This week's discussion— Joy in the Midst of Darkness..

All are welcome to attend.

Sunday School classes will not meet Dec. 22nd or 29th.

Missions News

Items needed for ongoing ministries

Broadmoor Backpack Ministry: cans of ravioli, spaghetti-os, boxes of Mac & Cheese.

Neighbor to Neighbor: tuna

Blessing Box: non-perishable items

December Food Distribution will be Wednesday 12/18 at 9:30 am for set-up and 12/19 from 8:00-10:00am for deliveries and 4:00-6:00 church pick-ups.