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Lakeside Messenger  
Lakeside United  
Methodist Church  
1500 Olive Street  
Pine Bluff AR [71601](http://71601)

### *What's Happening @ Lakeside United Methodist Church*

#### **Wednesday, December 13**

9:30 LAAF  
3:00 Coffee with the Pastor  
4:00 Mid-Week Manna  
6:00 Las Posadas  
6:30 Choir Practice

#### **Thursday, Dec. 14**

#### **Friday, December 15**

*Office closed*

#### **Saturday, Dec. 16**

8:00 Men's Breakfast

#### **Sunday, Dec. 17**

10:30 Sanctuary Worship  
Spaghetti Fundraiser- take outs

#### **Monday, Dec. 18**

#### **Tuesday, Dec. 19**

5:30 Leadership Board

#### **Wednesday, Dec. 20**

9:30 LAAF  
3:00 Coffee with the Pastor  
6:00 Choir Practice

#### **Thursday, Dec. 21**

#### **Friday, December 22**

*Office closed*

#### **Saturday, Dec. 23**

#### **Sunday, Dec. 24**

10:30 Sanctuary Worship  
5:30 Candlelight Communion Service

Merry Christmas! The office will be open, the week of Christmas, Wednesday and Thursday from 9-4.

# *The Lakeside Messenger*

Lakeside United Methodist Church, Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601

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Traditionally, the second Sunday of Advent, which we just recognized, is a reminder of Advent's invitation to self-reflection and repentance. The lectionary readings on the second Sunday of Advent either quote John the Baptist's words of condemnation and call to repentance in the New Testament or they point to his prophetic voice from the Old Testament. However, his call has a little bit different meaning to me this year. It is not just to those people who wandered out into the wilderness to see this unusual prophet dressed in a camel hair tunic and surviving on locusts and honey. This year, his prophetic voice is reaching across the millennia and is beckoning us to consider our lives here and now, to repent and prepare for the return of Jesus.

When I was beginning preparations for Advent, I ran across an article that said Advent is not so much about anticipating and preparing for the birth of Jesus as it is about anticipating and preparing our hearts, minds and spirits for Christ's return. This caught me up short. For the last several years, I have said that we should prepare ourselves for Jesus' birth anew in our hearts, but I wonder if that invitation is and has been too short-sighted.

Several of my recent morning devotionals have used Scripture readings that refer to the Parousia or Jesus' second coming. Similarly, several of the recent lectionary readings have been about Jesus' return. (The lectionary is a 3-year cycle of weekly Scripture passages including the Old Testament, Psalms, Epistles and Gospels and is intended to follow the church liturgical calendar.) The Scripture passages prophesying Jesus' return are always intriguing and thought-provoking. But they are also uncomfortable. When confronted by them, we are invited to inventory our lives to ascertain whether we are ready for Jesus' return. Most of us would rather avoid this kind of self-reflection during Advent and skip on over to Baby Jesus.

I wonder what our lives as Christians might look like if we took John the Baptist's call to repentance to heart. What would our words and actions reveal if we lived each day as if we expected Jesus to return at any time? Would we lead with love and grace? Would we hold our tongues more often and offer our help more readily? Would we live and love more like Jesus?

It is easier to love and admire Baby Jesus as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. It is much more difficult to follow his teachings in the Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount. And in this day and time with all our polarization and rivalry, it is nigh impossible to love one another as Jesus loves us. Thank God for the sufficiency of God's grace.

Perhaps in this second week of Advent, each of us can assume a posture of confession. Let us look at the ways that our own attitudes, words and behavior fail to reveal the heart and mind of Christ in our own lives. Rather than pointing out others' defects and shortcomings, let us identify and take responsibility for our own as John the Baptist proclaimed, and let the love of Christ begin with each of us.

*Pastor Judy*

*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!*

Lakeside Chancel Choir will present

# Bethlehem's Child

By Victor C. Johnson and Lloyd Larson

A beautiful and meaningful choral cantata as part of the 10:30 worship service Sunday, Dec. 17.




**We pray for the sick:**  
Barbara Tracy, Jane Nixon, Ken Theis, David Andrews, and Helen Hudson-Holtzen.

**We pray for the grieving:**  
The Edwin Powell Family

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

**Gifts Given to Lakeside United Methodist Church**  
In honor of Dot Boyd, Dr. Sue Frigon, Sue Merritt, Bobby and Sharon Wyatt by Sissy Jones.



**Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023**  
8:30 Chapel Worship - 19  
9:15 Sunday school - 14  
10:30 Worship - 83  
Online Worship - 20

**Our Weekly Service at Church**  
**Sunday, December 17, 2023 (10:30 am. only this week)**

**Senior Pastor:** Rev. Judy Rudd; **Liturgist:** Alicia Frye;  
**Director of Music:** Ann Tibbs; **Children's Moments:** Jennifer Fox

Christmas Cantata Presented by Lakeside Chancel Choir  
*Bethlehem's Child*

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

**Dec. 18 Brass Polishers:** Dixie Webb and Donna Rickels  
**Dec. 18 Counters:** Gerald Majors and Elaine Vaccaro

All services are available on Facebook or Facebook Live and now You tube. Join us online for worship at:  
[www.facebook.com/lakesidepb](http://www.facebook.com/lakesidepb)  
[www.youtube.com/@lumc\\_pinebluff](http://www.youtube.com/@lumc_pinebluff)  
Check out what is happening at Lakeside on our website  
[www.lakesidepb.org](http://www.lakesidepb.org)

**Chicken Spaghetti Fundraiser**  
Chicken spaghetti dinners will be available for take-out this **Sunday**, December 17, following the 10:30 service. All proceeds will go to Mi Casa and Lakeside Christmas Kids Fund. Your meal will consist of chicken spaghetti, green beans, bread, and dessert.

**A Special Birthday Shout-out!**  
Happy Birthday to Ivan Magaña 12/15 and Emily Magaña 12/26. Emily was left off of the monthly birthday list. Happy Birthday to you both!



**Salvation Army Kettle Drive**  
A big thank you to Bill Nuckolls for coordinating our fun day of ringing! Pictured to the left are Claire & Clyde Campbell and Linda McNulty.

Others who rang were De Gasnier, Joe & Susan Coles, Gerald & Sue Majors, George Mitchell, Linda LaClair, Jennifer Fox, Yvonne Glien, Mike & Alicia Frye, Donna Kriner, Carol & Joe Luebker, Sue Cheshier, Fred Reed, Barrie Hardin, and Alex Kachowski.

**Birthdays and Anniversaries**  
If you are a new(er) member, please take a moment and send the office your dates for our files.



3 year old Janse Sofia Talavera Alfaro was introduced to the congregation and received a blessing by Pastor Judy on December 3.

**2024 Commitment Cards**  
Thank you to all who have submitted your pledges for 2024. Your generosity has been amazing! If you have not yet sent in your pledge, it will be most helpful to the Leadership Board's 2024 budgeting to receive them as soon as possible.

Help us finish 2023 strong and prepared for ministry in 2024. We need an estimated \$51,000 to cover our expenditures. If you need information on your 2023 pledge status, please call our treasurer, Carolyn Hamilton.

**2024 Altar Flowers**  
It's time to mark the new 2024 calendar. If you'd like to honor or remember someone with altar flowers, please call Jennifer at 534-6241 or email the church to reserve your Sunday. If you have a particular Sunday that you reserve year after year, please confirm as well.

**Lakeside's Christmas Kids**  
It's time to bring in your wrapped or un-wrapped gifts. Please deliver to the office by Thursday so that they can be wrapped in time for parents to pick-up next week. A wrapping station has been set-up in the parlor if you'd like to wrap at the church.



*Chris-myths*

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

Dec. 24th Worship @ 10 :30  
@ 5:30 Candlelight Communion  
Dec. 31st Worship @ 10:30



**Latest Sunday School News**  
**Due to the holidays and special events, Sunday School classes will not meet until January 7, 2024**