

Lakeside
870-534-6241
lakesidePB@arumc.org
Mi Casa
870-850-0142

Reverend Judy Rudd
Senior Pastor
501-607-0889
judy.rudd@arumc.org

Linda Schultz, Administrative Assistant
lakesidepb@arumc.org

Rebecca Phillips, Coordinator of Congregational Ministries
rebeccalumc@gmail.com

Carolyn Hamilton, Church Treasurer
lumcfinance@outlook.com

Geraldin Alfaro Mondragon, Coordinator of Missions and Family Ministries
micasa.hispanicministry@gmail.com
870-850-0142/870-939-9411

Ann Tibbs, Director of Music
Plumeria "Plum" Harris
Nursery

Rosa Trujillo & Edith Valdez Castro, Custodians

Humberto Solis, Security



If you are a Facebook user, like us at <https://www.facebook.com/LakesidePB/>

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

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The Lakeside Messenger

Lakeside United Methodist Church, Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601

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As I was recently putting the finishing touches on the Christmas Eve service, I began to ponder what it is about the Christmas Eve service that is so special to many of us. Perhaps it is because the Christmas Eve service has the power to evoke memories and emotions that transport us to other places and times. We may recall Christmas Eve services with our families as a child, midnight services with friends in high school or college, magical services with snow falling outside, comforting services with our children and grandchildren around us, or even extraordinary services where someone's hair catches on fire!

Whatever our memories and emotions, the Christmas Eve service takes us to a unique place of awe, anticipation and comfort. Perhaps those familiar memories and feelings that we associate with the Christmas Eve service are why we want it to conform to our expectations. For heaven's sake pastor, "No Kenny G!"

And yet, on this most holy night, we celebrate an event that met no one's expectations! A young girl is pregnant with a child that is not her husband's. After reconsidering abandoning her, the young girl's betrothed escorts her to a distant city in her ninth month of pregnancy. Ready for a hot bath and some decent rest before receiving a child into the world, they find nowhere to stay except a barn. Clearly, nothing is going as planned. Nothing is as they expected. This pregnancy and now birth does not look like any other they or their families have ever known. And yet, their faith in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob empowers them to lay aside their expectations to receive God's plan for them and the world.

I can't help but consider what our lives, our churches, our communities and the world might be like if we, as followers of the child born that night, were more receptive to God's plan and less insistent on having our expectations met. What might things look like if we were more open to the unexpected movement of the Holy Spirit? Might we be awed by God's care for those on the margins of society? Might we anticipate a fresh perspective of God's love and how we are called to live it out? Might we find comfort in walking in the footsteps of Jesus, arm in arm with people of all ages, nations and races?

Perhaps living such a life would look like the vow we make from our United Methodist Hymnal each time we welcome new members, like Dan and Ann Tibbs, to Lakeside United Methodist Church. *"With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life."*

Perhaps this Christmas, we can release our demands and expectations of what Christmas "should be" so that the Holy Spirit meets us in unexpected ways with awe, holy anticipation and comfort exactly where we are. May it be so for you and yours.

Pastor Judy

What's Happening @ Lakeside United Methodist Church

Wednesday, December 14

9:30 LAAF meets in The Center
10:00-12:00 Food Prep
12:00 Neighbor to Neighbor meets
3:00 Coffee with the pastor
5:30 Mid Week Manna
6:00 ESL

Thursday, December 15

4:30 Food Distribution
5:30 Young Disciples meet

Friday, December 16

Office closed

Saturday, December 17

Sunday, December 18

Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 Chapel Worship
9:15 Sunday school
10:30 Sanctuary Worship
11:30 Gift Wrap in The Center with lunch provided
3:00 Blue Christmas Service in the Sanctuary

Monday, December 19

1st day of gift pick up

Tuesday, December 20

2nd day of gift pick up
5:30 Leadership Board meets

Wednesday, December 21

LAAF will NOT meet
3:00 Coffee with the pastor

Thursday, December 22

5:30 Young Disciples meet

Friday, December 23

Office closed

Saturday, December 24

3:00 Candlelight worship in the chapel
5:30 Candlelight worship in the sanctuary

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day

8:30 Chapel Worship will not meet
9:15 Sunday school will not meet
10:30 Sanctuary Worship only

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!



A huge THANK YOU! Goes to Matt and Penny Whitener. Matt rebuilt one of our Advent wreath stands and also built a new one! They refurbished the wreaths around the candles and made the candles more stable. Your dedication and talent are appreciated!!



A very special "Thank You" to Sharri and Bill Jones for sponsoring 20 of our Mi Casa Christmas Kids. You are appreciated!



Since the church office will be closed from December 22nd until January 2nd, all 2022 Contributions **must be received in the church office no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 22nd, OR mailed and post marked by December 31.** This is in accordance with the IRS requirements for charitable contributions.

Call Carolyn at 534-6241 if you have any questions about your pledge.



Contribution Statements were mailed last week. If you have not gotten yours, or if you have a question about it, call Carolyn at 534-6241



We pray for the sick: Mary Beth Lewis

Grieving:

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

A Gift Has Been Given In Honor of:

Etoyle Mouser and Linda Schultz by Mary Emily Calhoun

A Gift Has Been Given In Memory of:

The Lawrence Blackwell Family, Lawrence, Mai, Banks, and Alan by Jan and Larry Stone

Help us keep our Blessing Box stocked...



- Donate non perishable food items, preferably with pull tabs for easy opening
- Donate toiletries, blankets, gloves, hats, hand warmers, and socks
- Ask to be added to the blessing box schedule by calling Geraldine at 870-939-9411; Pick a day of the week, once or twice a month to stock the Blessing box.

The following dates are available to stock the Blessing Box; December 8, 13th, 22 & 27th. January 5, 10, 19, 24. Feb, 2

In this season of Advent and Christmas, sometimes we need a little comfort and a reminder of God's love and grace.



You are invited to Lakeside United Methodist Church's Blue Christmas service of comfort, light, love and hope in the sanctuary on December 18, 2022 at 3:00 pm.

A reception of hot chocolate and cookies will immediately follow the service for all who attend.

Lakeside UMC, 1500 S. Olive Street, Pine Bluff, AR



Wednesday, December 7, 2022

Midweek Manna -

Sunday, December 11, 2022

8:30 Worship Service - 10

9:15 Sunday School - 18

10:30 Worship Service - 57

Online Worship -

Our Weekly Service at Church
Sunday, December 18, 2022

Senior Pastor: The Reverend Judy Rudd; **Liturgist:** Terry Wynne

Director of Music: Ann Tibbs; **Children's Moments:** Sandy Bobo

Sermon Title: TRUST; **Scripture:** Isaiah 7:10-16

Sermon Series: Are We There Yet?

Advent Wreath Lighters

8:30:Lyn Newton, Mike & Leslie Webb

10:30:Ramona Harkins & Barrie Hardin

Flowers: Poinsettias

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

December 19 Brass Polishers: Ramona Harkins, Sandy Bobo, Susan Coles

December 19 Counters: Shelby Stone and Laura Richards

All services are available on Facebook or Facebook Live.

Join us online for worship at:

<https://www.facebook.com/LakesidePB/live/>:

Check out what is happening at Lakeside on our website

www.lakesidepb.org



Please help us make welcome Ann and Dan Tibbs who united with Lakeside last Sunday, December 11th. Ann is our very talented Organist, and is now also a full member. Welcome Ann & Dan!



The end of the year for our 2022 Flower Calendar has come. If there is a date that has meaning to you, such as a birthday or anniversary, celebrate that date by putting flowers in our worship services. The 2023 Flower Calendar is now open, call Linda at 534-6241 to reserve that special date now. Don't wait too long!

