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

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# The Lakeside Messenger

Lakeside United Methodist Church, Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601

Volume MMXXI, Issue 50, December 15, 2021



One of my favorite Scripture passages that we often hear this time of year is found in the Gospel of John. It is a passage describing Jesus' arrival on Earth that most of us have heard so many times that the reverberation of the word in our hearts may have lost some of their power. A few years ago, I heard this very familiar passage read from Eugene Peterson's paraphrased Bible translation, *The Message*. This contemporary translation caught me by surprise and offered a renewed sense of Jesus' presence in his earthly kingdom.

"The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood." (John 1:14a) Wow! The thought of Jesus moving into the neighborhood has a very different feel from Jesus being born in a manger over 2000 years ago in the faraway city of Bethlehem. Jesus moving into the neighborhood – our neighborhood – is much more personal, more convicting. Jesus moving into the neighborhood causes me to ponder what would Jesus see, what would he hear, what would he know about us and our commitment to our neighborhood.

From my short 1½ years at Lakeside, I believe Jesus would see a church family who is committed to financially supporting helping ministries in our community and beyond. Jesus would also see generous church members who give food, toiletries, books, candy, Easter eggs, and more to share Christ's love with their neighbors. He would see faithful servants giving their time and energy to feed children and improve their literacy skills, supporting teachers at Broadmoor Elementary school, feeding dozens of families through regular food distributions, ensuring that children receive a joyful Christmas and people in need are met with respect and love. Jesus would see Lakeside striving to be the church that He commanded us to be.

But Jesus never leaves us where He finds us. Since His work will not be completed until His kingdom reigns on Earth as in heaven, Jesus invites us to continue growing into His likeness.

Last week the Mission Team heard a presentation about Project Transformation that is coming to Pine Bluff in the summer of 2022. Rev. Sam Meadors, who is currently serving as the Delta Project Coordinator for Arkansas' 200,000 More Reasons ministry and worked closely with Lakeside in our 2021 summer feeding and reading ministry, will be the new Director of Project Transformation. Project Transformation will not only provide literacy training for underserved children in the Pine Bluff community, but it will also be a vital opportunity for college students to serve as interns and possibly discern a call into ministry. Numerous interns in Arkansas who have served in Project Transformation, including Rev. Meadors, have discerned calls to ministry.

Lakeside is applying to be one of two host churches in the Pine Bluff area during the summer of 2022. When I think of Jesus moving into our community and looking at Lakeside, I imagine Him smiling as he sees the children and young adults nurturing and nourishing their love for Him through ministries such as Project Transformation. Will you join me in praying fervently that Lakeside can be the hands, feet, heart and voice of Jesus through this vital ministry?

*Pastor Judy*

## What's Happening @ Lakeside United Methodist Church

<b>Wednesday, December 15</b> 9:00 Trinity V. Ex. Board/The Center 10:30 Staff Meeting 1:00 Trinity V. BOD/Fellowship Hall 3:00 Coffee with the Pastor <u>Midweek Manna</u> 5:30 Pizza Party	10:30 Worship 4:00 - 6:00 Posada
<b>Thursday, December 16</b> 9:30 Unload Food Bank Truck	<b>Monday, December 20</b> 4:00 - 6:00 Posada
<b>Friday, December 17</b> <i>Office closed</i> 3:00 - 6:00 Volunteers for Food Distribution 3:30 - 6:00 Food Distribution	<b>Tuesday, December 21</b> 6:00 Blue Christmas Service in the Sanctuary
<b>Saturday, December 18</b> <b>Sunday, December 19</b> 4th Sunday of Advent Service of Lessons and Carols 8:30 Chapel Worship 9:15 Sunday School	<b>Wednesday, December 22</b> <b>Thursday, December 23</b> <b>Friday, December 24</b> 3:00 Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary 5:30 Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary
	<b>Saturday, December 25</b> <i>Christmas Day</i> <b>Sunday, December 26</b> 10:30 Worship in the Sanctuary 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!*

**NURSERY REOPENED!**



Lakeside's Nursery reopened this past Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, with a nursery worker beginning at 8:30 am. Kimberly Mercado will serve in Lakeside's nursery for the Chapel service and Sunday school. She will remain in the nursery during the 10:30 am Sanctuary service only if she receives a child by 10:45 am. If Kimberly does not have a child to care for by 10:45 am, she will depart.

Please help us get the word out to all our young families that we now have childcare for infants and children up to third grade. Let us rejoice and be glad to hear the sound of young voices and footsteps at Lakeside.



Sue & Buddy Cheshier announce the birth of a grandson! Elijah Jack (Eli) Cheshier was born Friday, December 10th in Pine Bluff weighing 6' 3". He is the son of Jack Cheshier and Cassyle Bovard. Welcome to the world, Eli!



The Pot Luck for Nathan was wonderful! It was great to see so many people there to honor him!

Thank you to Sandy Bobo and her helpers! Ya'll are Amazing! Congratulations to Nathan as well!



**All 2021 Contributions must be received in the church office no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 30, OR mailed and post marked by December 31.** This is in accordance with the IRS requirements for charitable contributions. Call Stephanie at 534-6241 if you have any questions about your pledge.

**Lakeside United Methodist Church Christmas Worship Services**

Dec. 19th ~ Lessons and Carols 8:30 & 10:30 am  
 Dec. 21st ~ Blue Christmas Service 6:00 pm  
 Christmas Eve ~ Candlelight Communion 3:00 & 5:30 pm  
 Dec. 26th ~ One Service 10:30 am



*We pray for the sick* — Alicia Frye, Sandy Bobo, Trent Biggs

*Grieving:* The Joy Bullock Family (aunt of Elaine Vaccaro)

*Sheridan Healthcare Rehab:* Don Massey

*Woodland Heights Senior Living:* Billie Doster

*Lakeside's Hispanic Ministry; Young People around the world; Families in trouble; City Council members & Mayor; Students of all ages; Teachers, First Responders*

**Gifts Have Been Received in Honor Of:**

Betty Ellis by: Bill & Cindy Wallace



UMCOR is responding to the deadly tornadoes moving through several states. As the massive storm system continues to move across the country, we ask for your immediate response in prayer and financial support. Please **be there** for survivors by supporting UMCOR US Disaster Response with a gift today.



Mi Casa's Posada is on Sunday, December 19th from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Mi Casa welcomes everyone who wishes to join us to experience and revive the Biblical journey of Mary and Joseph as they seek shelter to welcome the birth of baby Jesus. We begin with small worship, follow up by the posada, conclude with a gathering and piñata for the kids. Don't miss this great cultural experience.



In celebration of Christmas, please wear your Santa hat, wear your purple shirt, and bring your Christmas Spirit... let's make this next Food Distribution another one for the books! Please call or text Geraldin or Vanessa on which day you will be serving 870-329-5088 or 870-939-9411.



**Our Presence in Worship and Study**

Wednesday Night December 8, 2021 - 42

Sunday, December 12, 2021

8:30 Worship Service - 12

10:00 Worship Service - 80

9:00 Sunday School - 32

**Our Weekly Service at Church**

Sunday, December 19, 2021

Senior Pastor: The Reverend Judy Rudd; Liturgist: Jesse Martinez

Music: Rene Leus; Flowers: Poinsettias

Worship: A Service of Lessons and Carols

Advent Wreath Lighters: 8:30 Pete & Shelby Stone

10:30 The Martinez Family

Ushers: Steve Dobbins, Joe Coles, Rob Wyatt, Bobby Wyatt,

Roy Whitaker, Ken Kesterson

December 20 Brass Polishers: Penny Whitener & Susan Brown

December 20 Counters: Shelby Stone & 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](http://www.lakesidepb.org)

**From Rene**



Hola, mi familia. I've been thinking about the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" for a couple of days. Its haunting melody is one of my favorites—the first hymn I think of as an Advent carol, and traditionally the first hymn sung on the first Sunday of Advent and other Sundays in Advent.

This hymn has quite a sketchy past, as do many of our older hymns. Our Methodist hymnal denotes that the words were originally written in Latin in the 9<sup>th</sup> century, hence the tune name VENI EMMANUEL. The title in the words refers to the Hebrew 'Immanuel' meaning 'God's protection with us', or as we say 'God with us', and first appears in the book of Isaiah in the Old Testament. In the Gospel of Matthew in the New Testament, Emmanuel refers to the person of Jesus Christ. The melody of the hymn dates back to 15<sup>th</sup> century France, but it wasn't until the 1960's that musicologist Mary Berry uncovered the tune's 15<sup>th</sup> century manuscript that bore the building blocks of the melody we now sing. The English translation of the words was done in 1851 by John Mason Neale, a priest and scholar. (Neale also wrote the words to "Good King Wenceslas".)

So, the actual composer of the music and the words for one of the world's most popular carols is enigmatically unknown. However, the combination of the tune with Neale's translation of the Latin, has become a perennial favorite. God is with us, my friends. Take comfort in that. Good shall overcome. Shalom, shalom