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user, like us at [https://
www.facebook.com/
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 18

9:30 LAAF
Food Distribution set-up
10:00 Staff Mtg.
12:00 N2N
1:00 Discipleship Class
3:00 Zoom F & F
4:00 Mid-Week Manna
5:30 Las Posadas
6:00 Choir

Thursday, Dec. 19

Friday, Dec. 20

Office closed

Saturday, Dec. 21

Sunday, Dec. 22 One Service

8:45 Handbells- small group

10:30 Sanctuary Worship

Monday, Dec. 23

Tuesday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

12:00 Chapel Service

5:30 Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary

Wednesday, Dec. 25

Merry Christmas!

Thursday, Dec. 26

Office is closed

Friday, Dec. 27

Office closed

Saturday, Dec. 28

Sunday, Dec. 29 One Service

8:45 Handbells (small group)

10:30 Sanctuary Worship

The Lakeside Messenger

Lakeside United Methodist Church, Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601

Volume MMXXIV, Issue 51 December 18, 2024



I often think of Mary around this time of Advent. The gospel lectionary readings on the second and third Sundays of Advent are often on Gabriel's annunciation that Mary is chosen to bear the Son of God (Luke 1:26-38), Elizabeth's response to Mary's visit (Luke 1:39-45), and Mary's poetic response, which we refer to as the Magnificat (Luke 1:47-55).

I imagine Mary as a young girl of 13 or 14, who in her youthful innocence and reverence, offers herself wholeheartedly to be used by God. She says "yes" to God although her yes will render her an unwed mother subject to being stoned and risk upsetting her arranged marriage with Joseph. She must have been a young girl with great faith in God and God's redemptive possibilities for her life, her people and the world.

When Mary encounters her cousin, Elizabeth, they were like two old friends reconnecting, each bursting with good news to share with the other. Elizabeth's response to Mary, telling her of her baby leaping in her womb at the sound of Mary's voice – the mother of our Savior – finally affirms for Mary all that she had been told. Finally, Mary receives the words of assurance confirming her ethereal encounter with the angel Gabriel.

After Mary finally hears the words of affirmation she has longed for during the first weeks of her unwed pregnancy, she bursts into song. I can see her dancing as she sings. But her song is not just any song; it is a song of joy, praise and gratitude as it foretells God's redemptive acts of justice, righteousness and hope. Her heart must have been full to overflowing with wonder, delight and perhaps a hint of trepidation for the future.

As we draw closer to Christmas Eve, I think of Mary's journey with Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem. I cannot begin to imagine traveling an estimated 80 miles on the back of a donkey while over eight months pregnant. I also wonder if Joseph was a young man, only a few years older than Mary, who approached this experience with wonder and awe or if he was an older man as he is sometimes depicted, who provided Mary with the confident assurance of his faith and support. How must Mary have felt placing all her trust in God and her betrothed at such a time?

And just when Mary needed the nurture of her mother, aunts, and cousins to surround and care for her, she and Joseph were alone. In a culture in which hospitality was an expected virtue, Mary and Joseph are repeatedly denied welcome. Instead of giving birth surrounded by loving relatives and words of encouragement, Mary gives birth looking into the faces of the barn animals and hearing their moos, bleats and brays. Undoubtedly, this was not at all what Mary had imagined for her first-born baby.

I don't know about you, but I want to have faith like Mary's. I want to be willing to say "yes, let it be with me according to your word." I want to anticipate and celebrate God's justice that lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry. I want to face hardship with complete faith that God will provide all that is required even when it does not seem possible. May we know and live the faith of Mary in our lives this Advent season.

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!



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."



We pray for the sick: Jim Webb, Valerie Morgan, Betty Coles, and Janet Bolls Williams (Robin King's sister)

We pray for the grieving: Gayailia McSpadden Story family (Gina Wingo)

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.*



Sunday, Dec. 15, 2024

8:30 Chapel Worship - 16

9:15 Sunday school - 26

10:30 Worship - 109

Online Worship - 16

Our Weekly Service at Church December 22, 2024 One service only Lessons and Carols

Rev. Sam Meadors Ann Tibbs

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

Dec. 16 Brass Polishers: Ellen Wyatt and Yvonne Glien

Dec. 16 Counters: George Mitchell and Deborah Whitaker

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



Gifts given to Lakeside

In memory of Barbara Tracy by Peggy Miller
In honor of Bobby and Sharon Wyatt by Sissy Jones

Mark your calendar!

United Women in Faith will host an Epiphany Brunch, Saturday, January 4th at 11:00am in The Fellowship Hall. Tickets will be available for \$10.00.



Santa's Special Delivery

We've been so good this year that Santa is delivering our new bus next week!

Latest Sunday School News

December 15, 2024 9:15am.

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

Mid-week Manna Children's Choir

Our Mid-week Manna children sang this past Sunday. Thank you to all of our parents for bringing the kids and thank you to all of our volunteers. The choir is directed by Barry Bates and accompanied by Donna Kriner.

Mid-Week Manna will resume January 8th.

Advent/Christmas Season Services

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

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.

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.