

Lakeside  
870-534-6241  
lakesidepb@arumc.org

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

Rev. Samantha Meadors  
Assoc. Pastor  
501-650-0565  
samantha.meadors@arumc.org

Jennifer Fox  
Administrative Assistant  
lakesidepb@arumc.org  
870-489-0790

Children & Family Minister  
jenniferfox57@yahoo.com

Ann Tibbs, Director of Music

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

Carolyn Hamilton, Church  
Treasurer  
lumcfinance@outlook.com

Vanessa Hernandez-Valdez,  
Mi Casa Hispanic Ministry  
Director  
micasa.hispanicministry@  
gmail.com  
870-850-0142

Kimberly Mercado Brown,  
Wednesday evening nursery

Edith Valdez Castro &  
Ernestina Beltran, Custodians

Humberto Solis, Security



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user, like us at [https://  
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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 4

9:30 LAAF  
10:00 Staff Mtg.  
1:00 Discipleship Class  
3:00 Zoom F & F  
4:00 Mid-Week Manna  
6:00 Choir

#### Thursday, Dec. 5

#### Friday, Dec. 6

Office closed

#### Saturday, Dec. 7

2:00 SAR- Library  
Sunday, Dec.8  
8:30 Chapel Worship  
8:45 Handbells  
9:15 Sunday School  
10:30 Sanctuary Worship

#### Monday, Dec. 9

Christmas Kid presents due at Lakeside

#### Tuesday, Dec. 10

1:00 PEO

#### Wednesday, Dec.11

9:30 LAAF  
12:00 N2N  
1:00 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

# The Lakeside Messenger

Lakeside United Methodist Church, Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601

Volume MMXXIV, Issue 49 December 4, 2024



Have you ever had a yearning – a longing – for something that you could not satisfy? I'm not talking about a new iPhone or a Mrs. Margret's cheeseburger. I'm talking about something much more personal, more intimate, closer to our hearts. I'm talking about a yearning that rises from the innermost depths of our souls – a longing to be in the presence of God.

The yearning to be with God & put on God's love like our favorite soft fleece shirt is a longing that can be satisfied for brief periods when we are intentional about setting aside time to open ourselves wholeheartedly to God. But the responsibility is ours to make and protect these moments with God. Advent is one of the specific seasons of the church calendar when we are reminded to assess and adjust the priorities in our lives. We are invited to rediscover the often obscured, insatiable desire to draw close enough to our Savior Jesus that we can feel his radiant love warming our faces and skin.

Are you aware of this deep and holy yearning within you? If you take a moment in silence, close your eyes, and imagine yourself in God's loving presence, can you begin to sense within your self an unsatisfied longing to be with the Holiest of Holies? If even for a moment, can you feel your spirit's insatiable desire to be with the One for whom you were made? Can you recognize your heart's song seeking the song of God's heart?

Jesus knew that God's children need the heart of God and that we must remain prepared and expectant to be in the presence of the Son of Man. *"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."* (Luke 21:34-36)

As we begin this Advent season of preparation, anticipation and welcome, I leave you with a poem from Kate Bowler, "A Blessing for Beginning Again in Advent"

*Pastor Judy*

I need this to be the season  
when I feel more.  
Hope for more. Reach for more.  
Expect to see a goodness coming  
like starlight from a distant time.

Make me alive to every tiny sign  
that your promises are coming.  
The promises of truth, so clear and bright  
that every shadowy lie scatters.  
The promise of compassion, so deep and strong  
that everyone is encircled in its embrace.

The promise of restoration, so complete  
and beautiful  
that there is wholeness everywhere.  
The promise of justice, so satisfying and right,  
that all will be well.

May this be the season when  
I feel my own beginning as we live  
by the light of your coming promises.  
Seeing the world through tears,  
while also noticing everything beautiful  
and sacred shining through.  
Our Truth. Our Light. Our Promise incarnate.  
Amen.

*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.



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

*We pray for the grieving:* Barry Bates and his family on the death of his niece. Alicia Frye and family on the death of her brother-in-law.

Congratulations to Molly and Grant Duensing on the birth of their son, Theodore Wesley Duensing who was born November 28, 2024. Wesley is the grandson of Dan and Ann Tibbs.

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 Michael Motes by Briana McNeill  
In memory of Arlis Minter by Briana McNeill, Barrie Hardin  
In memory of Colby Lee by Briana McNeill, Barrie Hardin  
In memory of Barbara Tracy by Barrie Hardin  
In honor of Mary Jo Tucker, Betty-Claire & Tommy Peacock by Kathryn Peacock

### 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

### Las Posadas

Wednesday December 18 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.



### Sunday, Dec. 1, 2024

8:30 Chapel Worship - 15  
9:15 Sunday school - 20  
10:30 Worship - 76  
Online Worship - 19  
Trinity Village Vespers -18

### Our Weekly Service at Church December 8, 2024

**Sermon:** Rev. Judy Rudd **Liturgist:** Rev. Sam Meadors  
**Director of Music:** Ann Tibbs; **Children's Moment:** Jennifer Fox  
**Sermon:** The Messenger of the Covenant  
**Sermon Series:** Our Family Tree— God's Love Incarnated  
**Scripture:** Malachi 3:1-4

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

**Dec. 9 Brass Polishers:** Dixie Webb and Donna Rickels  
**Dec. 9 Counters:** Shelby Stone and Laura Richards

All services are available on Facebook or Facebook Live and 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

### Latest Sunday School News December 8, 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 182.

**Wesley Class:** This week's discussion— Loving God/Loving Others. All are welcome to attend.

### Lakeside Christmas Kids

There are still envelopes on the tree to be selected. For those who do not like to shop or aren't able to get out, you may still choose an envelope and one of our "professional" shoppers will do the work.

\$75.00 max. spending limit. Gifts may be brought back to the church office by December 9th wrapped or unwrapped (we can do that for you!) Please keep packages for each child together and marked with the envelope number.

Help make Christmas a little brighter this year for a very deserving child.

**If you love to shop, please contact Jennifer.**

### Lakeside's United Women in Faith Christmas Brunch

The brunch scheduled for this Saturday has been **cancelled** due to unforeseen circumstances. If you had already purchased a ticket, please contact the person from whom you purchased the ticket for a refund.

### SUMMARY OF NOVEMBER 21, 2024 LEADERSHIP BOARD MINUTES

- The financial and endowment reports and the consent calendar were reviewed and approved.
- Gerald Majors, Trustee Chair reported that the repair of the down spout will cost \$4797 and recommended payment from the Endowment Fund. As suggested, the Board approved an increase to the church insurance deductible to \$20,000 to lower the premium. The Trustees report was approved.
- With \$123,000 received for the church bus and \$50,000 promised in the next 60 days, the selected stewards were authorized to spend up to \$150,000 for the bus, taxes and insurance with costs over \$123,000 to be borrowed from the operating budget and reimbursed upon receipt of the additional contribution.
- 2025 Budget discussions were tabled pending receipt of additional information.
- The Board approved closing the church office from December 25<sup>th</sup> through January 1<sup>st</sup>. A volunteer will have the church office open the afternoon of December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Approval was given up to \$7500 from the Ayres Fund for the purchase of new choir robes.
- Pastor Judy's evaluation was conducted, and she will be requested to be reappointed.

### Methodist Family Health Foundation Share the Light Campaign

If you would like to donate, please visit [www.methodistfamily.org](http://www.methodistfamily.org). Your donation can be the spark that provides peace, stability and hope for the children and families that Methodist Family Health supports.

### 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.