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

What's Happening @ Lakeside United Methodist Church

Wednesday, December 6

9:30 LAAF
10:30 Staff Mtg.
3:00 Coffee with the Pastor
4:00 Mid-Week Manna
6:00 Choir Practice

Thursday, Dec. 7

Friday, December 8

Sal. Army bell ringing @ Walmart

Office closed

Saturday, Dec. 9

11:00 Women's Brunch
1:00 SAR in the Center
Sunday, Dec. 10
8:30 Chapel Worship
8:45 Handbells
9:15 Sunday School
10:30 Sanctuary Worship
3:00 Blue Christmas Service

Monday, Dec. 11

Tuesday, Dec. 12

12:00 PEO in the Center

*Food Distribution Dec. 13-14 (see
inside article for more information)

Wednesday, Dec. 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

9:15 Sunday School
10:30 Sanctuary Worship

Important Upcoming Dates

12/13 ~ 5:30 Las Posadas

12/16 ~ 8:00 Men's Breakfast

12/17 ~ 10:30 Cantata

(one service that day)

12/24 ~ 10:30 One morning service

5:30 Candlelight Service

12/31 ~ 10:30 One service

The Lakeside Messenger

Lakeside United Methodist Church, Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601

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I have an old and fragile Christmas tree ornament with the white frost mostly faded away. You can still read the words, "Silent Night" in deep red beside what was once a beautiful star. This was my mother's favorite Christmas tree ornament. It always had a prominent place toward the top of the Christmas tree in the middle where little hands could not disturb it. As my siblings and I got older, we cherished the opportunity to be the one who lovingly placed the ornament in its special place on the tree. Every Christmas when I unwrap that ornament, memories of my mother and Christmas gone by come flooding back. While I still miss my mother, time has healed the deeper wounds and loss I felt in the years immediately following her death.

For many of us, some of our fondest Christmas memories are of family gathering together, eating a meal, opening gifts, watching football, attending church services or participating in a cherished family holiday tradition. But when people are missing or no longer with us, when traditions change, when financial difficulties persist, when illness or declining health interferes with mobility or travel, or when relationships are strained, our memories and current circumstances can be a source of pain and loneliness. Feelings of sadness, loss and anxiety shroud the sights, smells and sounds of Christmas and the holidays. At a time when others are joyous and celebrating, those who are not feeling the anticipation and excitement of the season, can feel isolated and alone.



Grief and loss are normal parts of life. As much as we might prefer it, they do not take a break for the holidays. In fact, feelings of disappointment, despair and even anger can intensify around the holidays because friends and family are uncertain and uncomfortable with the grief and despair of their loved ones. At a time when loss can make people feel isolated and alone, it can be comforting to be around people who understand what we are going through – people who have "been there."

This Sunday, December 10th, Lakeside will offer a Blue Christmas service at 3:00 pm. It is a special and intimate service where people may gather in a safe space to acknowledge their feelings of loss, suffering and struggle with others who have similar experiences. Words and songs of peace, comfort, hope and faith will be shared as we meet Christ in our suffering.

Please bring a friend or loved one with you to the service. If you cannot make it, please share this with anyone that you know who longs for understanding and meaning in the midst of difficulty and despair. Whether the grief and loss is recent or long-standing, there is a place saved for you or someone you know this Sunday.

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!

**United Women in Faith Christmas Brunch
December 9 at 11:00am.**

The United Women of Faith are hosting a Christmas Brunch this Saturday at 11:00am. Brunch tickets are still available in the office. Sandy Bobo and her crew are preparing a delicious meal and you will be entertained by Ann Tibbs and our very own Razzle Dazzle dream team, Barry Bates and Donald Warren.

Chicken Spaghetti Fundraiser

Chicken spaghetti dinners will be available for take-out 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.

December Food Distribution

Our December food distribution is Thursday the 14th. I need volunteer help with the following:

- At least 1-2 people to help with the shopping on Tues., 12/12.
- 4-6 people are need to fill boxes on Wed. 12/13 at 9:30 am.
- Help load boxes for delivery on Thursday at 9:00am.
- Help with box pick-up from 4-6pm.

If you are able to help, please call me at 540-7099.

Thank you, Sandy Bobo

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.



We pray for the sick:

Barbara Tracy, Jane Nixon, Ken Theis, David Andrews, and Helen Hudson-Holtzen.

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.



Mid-Week Manna Kids

The kids have been learning about Esau and Jacob. Here they are wearing their "Esau" disguises.

We'll be finishing up the semester by celebrating on the 13th with Las Posadas and a Christmas party. We would love to have you join us at 6:00pm. as we take a journey, just like Mary and Joseph, to find a place to stay.

Tutoring and Disciple time will start back January 10.

Lakeside's Christmas Kids
All of the tags have been claimed! Please bring gifts, wrapped or unwrapped, to the office the 11th-17th. We need to have the tag #.

You may also wrap your gifts at the church or one of our elves will do it for you.

If you'd like to be gift-wrapping elf, please call the office.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

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



Poinsettias

If you'd like to purchase a poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one, please fill out a form found in your Sunday bulletin. You may also call or come by the office. Real or virtual plants are available for \$20.00. Proceeds will benefit our partner school, Broadmoor Elementary.

The plants will adorn the sanctuary December 17 and the 24th. You are welcome to take your plants home on the 24th.



Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023

8:30 Chapel Worship - 15
9:15 Sunday school - 29
10:30 Worship - 96
Online Worship - 18

**Our Weekly Service at Church
Sunday, December 10, 2023**

Senior Pastor: Rev. Judy Rudd; **Liturgist:** Laura Richards
Pastoral Intern: Sara Andrews; **Director of Music:** Ann Tibbs;

Children's Moments: Jennifer Fox

Scripture: Matthew 11:25-30

Sermon Title: It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year

Sermon Series: Chris-myths

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

Dec. 11 Brass Polishers: Shelby and Pete Stone

Dec. 11 Counters: Shelby Stone and Laura Richards

All services are available on Facebook or Facebook Live and now 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

A Special Thank you....

Thank you to all who arrange and deliver flowers. They really brighten my day.

- Mary Catherine Kyle

If you were wondering what happens to the altar flowers each week, our wonderful volunteers deliver arrangements to our shut-ins and others who need a little cheer.

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.

**Latest Sunday School News
December 10, 2023 at 9:15am.**

Discovery Class: Discussion on the New study, *Forgiveness*, will begin on page 120. It's never too late to join in the study.

Wesley Class: This week's discussion- For God, Nothing is Impossible. All are welcome to join.