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

Lakeside Messenger
Lakeside United
Methodist Church
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The Lakeside Messenger

Lakeside United Methodist Church, Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601

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Have the perky Christmas songs begun echoing in your head? Have you found yourself driving an extra block or two to check out a Christmas lights display? Have you delightfully added people to your Christmas card list or made extra Christmas goodies to share with friends, co-workers and family?

For many of us, Christmas is a time of gathering with friends and family; a time of decorations, gifts and treats; and a time of generosity that expresses the joy and love we have for the season and one another. It evokes happy memories of traditions continued and new ones adopted. It sparks the rekindling of friendships as well as welcoming new ones. Christmas can be a time of expectation, anticipation, wonder and delight!

But not everyone experiences Christmas this way. Debbie Owens' offertory prayer this past Sunday, prompted us to be mindful that not everyone is full of joy during this season. She prayed that God would call us to do and give all that we can for those who are hurting. The joy and wonder of Christmas often eludes persons who are experiencing loss, grief, loneliness and hardship. Whether these feelings of sadness and despair arise from the death of a loved one, a transitional stage of life, isolation or any number of other reasons, the felt pain and sorrow defy any hints of celebration. They shade Christmas blue rather than red, green, gold and silver.

One of the ways that God uses us to respond to Debbie's prayer is through Lakeside's Blue Christmas service. If you are not familiar with a Blue Christmas, or Longest Night service as they are sometimes called, please allow me to offer an explanation. A Blue Christmas service is a special time of worship for those who are grieving, lonely, or unable to embrace the excitement of the season. During this service, the worshippers' feelings of pain, grief, suffering, loneliness and confusion are acknowledged, and a safe space is created for each person to feel whatever emotions he or she may be experiencing. Like the Psalms of lament, the worship service moves from lamenting the current circumstances to entertaining the possibility of hope through God's presence to finally praising God. This worshipful movement includes prayer, Scripture, hymns and ritually lighting candles to remind us of the Light that comes into a world of darkness.

Lakeside's Congregational Care Ministers are assisting in planning and offering our Blue Christmas service on December 18th at 3:00 pm in the chapel. Prayer ministers will be available at the conclusion of the service for all who desire an extra time of prayer. Delectable treats, hot chocolate and an opportunity to linger and connect will be offered after the service as well.

This very special and holy time is one of my favorite services in the Christmas season because I so often witness the Holy Spirit's transformational moments and healing. This movement of the Holy Spirit even comes to those who are unaware of their need for it. Plan to attend if you need a little extra Holy Spirit boost this Christmas or bring someone whom you feel might be blessed by this special service.

Pastor Judy

What's Happening @ Lakeside United Methodist Church

Wednesday, December 7

9:30 LAAF meets in The Center
10:30 Staff Meeting
3:00 Coffee with the pastor
5:30 Mid Week Manna
6:00 Tutoring & ESL

Thursday, December 8

5:30 Young Disciples meet

Friday, December 9

Office closed

Saturday, December 10

8:00 United Methodist Men meet in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 11

Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 Chapel Worship
9:15 Sunday school
10:30 Sanctuary Worship

Monday, December 12

Last day to drop off Christmas Kids gifts

Tuesday, December 13

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 Christmas Party

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
1:30 Gift Wrap in The Center
3:00 Blue Christmas Service in the Chapel

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!



Thank You!!!

A HUGE note of thanks to Pete Stone for replacing the burned out light bulbs in the outside light of the office doors. It is nice to have some light there when we leave the office at the end of the day. In addition, Pete set up the Christmas tree in the office! Thank you, Pete!



Mike and Alicia Frye welcomed the birth of a great-grandson! Michael Blake Frye Jr, son of Blake and Shy Frye, was born November 27th in Valparaiso, Indiana. The baby weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces and measured 21 inches long. He is also Mike Frye's first great-grandbaby. Welcome to the world, Michael Blake, Jr.!

Virtual or Real Poinsettias?



It's that poinsettia time of year again! You may choose whether you want to donate a virtual or real poinsettia in honor or memory of someone.

The cost for either one is \$17.00. You may order one by calling the office and designating the number, the honoree(s) or memorial(s) and whether you want a virtual or real poinsettia, or perhaps one of each, or fill out the order form and drop it in the offering basket on Sunday. All proceeds from our virtual poinsettias will help support Lakeside's ministry to the teachers, students and families of Broadmoor Elementary School. You may mail or drop off your donation or submit it online. The deadline for ordering a real poinsettia is December 12, until 5:00 p.m. Please take your real plant home with you at the conclusion of either the 3:00 Chapel service or the 5:30 Sanctuary Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

Memory of: _____

Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

Real: _____ Virtual: _____ Number of Plants: _____



We pray for the sick:

- Grieving:** The Buddy Whiteaker Family
- 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

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

P.S. don't forget to add a few cans of tuna to your grocery list for our monthly commitment with Neighbor to Neighbor.



It's food distribution month; mark your calendars and confirm your attendance by calling or by texting to 870-939-9411.

Wednesday, Dec 14th 10-12:00 for prep day
Thursday, Dec 15th 4:30-6:00 for food distribution



Midweek Manna Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 14th from 5:30-7:00. There will be no tutoring on this day, but we do need extra hands to help us with games, and to serve food. All hands are needed for this fun celebration. See you there!



This year Lakeside responded exceptionally well to our plea to sponsor a child for Christmas through our ministry 'Christmas Kids'. A big 'Thank you' goes to all of the donors, cooks, kitchen helpers, shoppers, gift wrappers and team workers who have stepped up to make this ministry happen.

~Geraldine



Wednesday, November 30, 2022
Midweek Manna -

Sunday, December 4, 2022
8:30 Worship Service - 10
9:15 Sunday School - 21
10:30 Worship Service - 63
Online Worship - 9

Our Weekly Service at Church

Sunday, December 11, 2022

Senior Pastor: The Reverend Judy Rudd; **Liturgist:** Tommy Brown
Director of Music: Ann Tibbs; **Children's Moments:** Laura Richards

Sermon Title: JOY; **Scripture:** Isaiah 35:1-10

Sermon Series: Are We There Yet?

Advent Wreath Lighters:

8:30 ;Ann & Fred Reed; 10:30 Kimberly Mercado & A.J. Brown

Flowers: Ross Rickels

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

December 12 Brass Polishers: Sharon & Bobby Wyatt

December 12 Counters: Gerald Majors & Elaine Vaccaro

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

