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

Lakeside Messenger
Lakeside United
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The Lakeside Messenger

Lakeside United Methodist Church, Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601

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Someone recently asked me if I enjoy roller coasters, and the question invited me to reflect on the roller coasters of my youth at Six Flags Over Texas and Silver Dollar City. Those roller coasters, mild by current standards, seemed to reach for the sky as we slowly, jerkily crept up the hill and anticipated the thrilling plunge down the other side. Although I often entered the roller coaster car with great trepidation, I usually found myself eager to make multiple excursions after the first ride. However, my bravery and the iron fortitude of my stomach met its limits when the corkscrew roller coasters were introduced! One of those was enough!

Often Advent can feel like a roller coaster ride. We settle into the car after Thanksgiving or sometimes a week or two before our feast day. The roller coaster eases out of home base and slowly gains speed as it maneuvers the hills and valleys, twists and turns, and even corkscrews that lead to Christmas. Much like a roller coaster ride, we may desire to slow down. But too often our holiday commitments commandeer our lives, and we find ourselves being drug along through the most joyous time of the year.

Others of us may have a very different experience of Advent and Christmas. For those who have suffered the death of a loved one, experienced divorce or a fractured relationship, struggled with illness or unwanted diagnoses, been crushed by financial difficulties, or generally lost hope of a brighter future, the holidays can be a time of sadness and despair. Memories of grief and loss from previous years may resurface during the holiday festivities. While many in our community are madly holding onto the lap bar of the roller coaster car, others are sinking deeper into their favorite chair or sofa, wishing to disappear until after the holidays.

This year, Lakeside is holding a Blue Christmas worship service on December 21st at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary. It is called a Blue Christmas service because we are acknowledging and embracing people in our congregation and community who may be blue or experiencing grief during this season. We are holding it on December 21st because it is the shortest day of the year followed by the longest night.

Our Blue Christmas service is an opportunity for all who are grieving, mourning, or just not feeling the Christmas spirit to gather as the body of Christ. We will acknowledge our grief, comfort one another and look ahead to the hope the light of Christ provides as the days begin to lengthen. If you or someone you know needs a worship service of comfort, hope and light this year after a season of hardship, you are invited to attend the Blue Christmas service on December 21st at 6:00 pm. This service is open to everyone. People you may know in the community are encouraged to attend. The service will be followed by a brief reception.

Pastor Judy

What's Happening @ Lakeside United Methodist Church

Wednesday, December 8

3:00 Coffee with the Pastor

Midweek Manna

5:30 Meal

6:00 Tutoring

6:00 ESL

6:00 Mom's Group

6:00 Choir practice

6:00 - 7:00 Youth

(Nursery available ages 0-4)

Thursday, December 9

6:30 Lakeside Charge Conference

Friday, December 10

Office closed

6:00 Lakeside Staff Christmas Party

Saturday, December 11

8:00 United Methodist Men

Sunday, December 12

3rd Sunday of Advent

New Worship Times

8:30 Chapel Worship

9:15 Sunday School

10:30 Worship

11:00 Nathan's Retirement Potluck

2:00 Sarah Enoch's Baby Shower

Monday, December 13

10:30 Broadmoor Gift Bag Assembly

Tuesday, December 14

PEO meets in The Center

Wednesday, December 15

10:30 Staff Meeting

10:30 Trinity V. Ex. Board/The Center

1:00 Trinity V. BOD/Fellowship Hall

3:00 Coffee with the Pastor

Midweek Manna

5:30 Pizza Party

Thursday, December 16

9:30 Volunteers needed to unload Food Truck

Friday, December 17

3:00 - 6:00 Volunteers needed to help

with Food Distribution

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!



Ladies and gentlemen, you are invited to a Baby Shower honoring Sarah Enoch (and Patrick).

The Baby Shower will be held in The Center at Lakeside UMC on Sunday, December 12th at 2:00 p.m. Hint: it's a girl!



Come by the office and see the Christmas tree Linda Schultz has brought for all to enjoy. Also, one of her beautiful Nativity scenes is out for us to see and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas!

Thank you, Linda, and to those who helped her bring the tree inside and to decorate it. The tree is a true collaboration of several Lakesiders including Deborah Whitaker, Stephanie Hayslip, Geraldine Mondragon and Dr. David Nixon.

Rebecca



Remember that Monday the 13th is the deadline for ordering poinsettias, real or virtual. Call Linda at 870-534-6241 to place an order if you haven't done so already.



Thank You!!! Thanks to Terry Wynne for providing lunch for the Lakeside Staff on Monday the 6th! We all enjoyed it!



Lakeside Friends and Family You have done it again! Your generous hearts have provided over \$3800 to help ensure that children who are connected to Lakeside will have a blessed Christmas this year. Thank you for continuing to heartily support our ministries to children and families!

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 —

Grieving: The Charlotte Smith Family (Steve Dobbins's aunt)

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 Memory Of:

Rev. Ed Matthews by: Earle & Rebecca Phillips, Ann & Fred Reed and Suzanne Hulse

Hazel Wheeler by: Suzanne Hulse

Barbara Owen by: Lynda Pickler

Helen Pennington, Don Spharler, Amy Buckholtz, Trisha Bates, Barbara Owen, and Hazel Wheeler by: Ann & Fred Reed.



Join us after the 10:30 worship service on December 12th for Nathan Baltzell's Retirement Potluck! We will send Nathan off to retirement with a Lakeside World Famous Potluck. Bring your favorite dish and wish Nathan well in his retirement.



Can you stuff candy in a bag? Can you tie a ribbon? Lakeside has adopted Broadmoor School and I need volunteers to help assemble 52 "gift bags" for the Elementary School Staff. Please come to Fellowship Hall on Monday, December 13 at 10:30. Questions? Call Laura Richards at 870-540-6526.

NURSERY REOPENING!



It does a pastor's heart good to see and hear children in the sanctuary. Last Sunday we were blessed with seven children in worship. It was a glorious day! Children are a blessing to our church and will always be welcome in worship; however, parents of infants, toddlers and young children often want to worship without the added responsibility of caring for their children.

Beginning this Sunday, December 12th, we will have 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.



Our Presence in Worship and Study

Wednesday Night December 1, 2021 - 46

Sunday, December 5, 2021

8:30 Worship Service - 14

10:00 Worship Service - 70

9:00 Sunday School - 23

4:00 Trinity Village Vespers - 29

Our Weekly Service at Church

Sunday, December 12, 2021

Senior Pastor: The Reverend Judy Rudd; Liturgist: Nancy Paschal

Music: Rene Leus; Flowers: Ross Rickels

Sermon Title: Here Is Your Sign; Scripture: Isaiah 7:10-16

Sermon Series: Prophets' Promises and Hymns of Hope

Children's Moments: Hazel McCauley

Advent Wreath Lighters: 8:30 Terry Wynne and Stephen Browning

10:30 Children and Youth

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

Roy Whitaker, Ken Kesterson

December 13 Brass Polishers: Dixie Webb and Dr. Donna Rickels

December 13 Counters: Ramona Harkins and Ellen Wyatt

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

From Rene



Hola, familia. I'm getting back around to telling you about the oldest hymn in our UMH, "Of the Father's Love Begotten" (#184), which is our anthem for this Sunday. It was written by Aurelius Prudentius (348-413) a Spanish lawyer, judge and poet.

At the time of Prudentius, one of the most prominent heresies within the church was that God the Father and the Son did not co-exist—that Jesus was a divine creature, but not equal to the Father. Prudentius applied his legal skills to make a case for what has become the orthodox understanding of the Trinity. To seal the argument he set forth, and confirm the true position of the church Prudentius wrote his last stanzas to include "heights of heaven" and "angel hosts" adore the Son, and "powers and dominions bow before him"...giving witness to the co-eternal and co-equal nature of Jesus with God. It became a tough argument to speak against. By the time this hymn comes to us in our hymnal, it has traveled through seventeen centuries, and at least four countries: a Latin poem from a Spanish poet in the fourth century, a tune from Italy in the eleventh century, a translation from an Anglican in nineteenth century England and a harmonization in the twentieth century by an American Episcopal musician.

This hymn is perhaps the oldest hymn that congregations anywhere still sing. It remains a hymn for all times and all ages, "evermore and evermore".

Shalom