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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, February 19

9:30 LAAF—not meeting today
3:00 Zoom F & F
4:00 Mid-Week Manna
6:00 Choir Practice
Thursday, Feb. 20
Friday, Feb. 21

Office closed

Saturday, Feb. 22

Sunday, Feb. 23
8:30 Chapel Worship
8:45 Handbells
9:15 Sunday School
10:30 Sanctuary Worship

Monday, Feb. 24

Tuesday, Feb. 25

Wednesday, Feb. 26

9:30 LAAF
3:00 Zoom F & F
4:00 Mid-Week Manna
6:00 Choir Practice

Thursday, Feb. 27

10:00 United Women in Faith/ Center

Friday, Feb. 28

Office closed

Saturday, March 1

Sunday, March 2

8:30 Chapel Worship
8:45 Handbells
9:15 Sunday School
10:30 Sanctuary Worship
4:00 Trinity Village Vespers

The Lakeside Messenger

Lakeside United Methodist Church, Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601

Issue 7 February 19, 2025



It's been two years since I came on as Children's Minister at Lakeside. Let's just say that this is not my first rodeo, it's not even my second. I've been working with children in some capacity since 1996 when I moved to Pine Bluff. With two young children of my own, I was looking for something part-time and of course flexible. Being flexible is the name of the game in children's ministry. If one thing is for certain, you never know what's going to happen and if you're not flexible...well, let's just say you just might lose control of the _____ (fill in the blank. Here are some options: circus, storm, whirlwind, tornado, party, blessing) that is children's ministry.

It's always telling of a congregation if they really want a children's ministry. Is there a crying room because heaven forbid you have any sound of young people (babies) in the room during a worship service. Another way that you know that a congregation doesn't want any children around is by not having any budget or other financial means to support the ministry. We're not talking that much, kids are usually happy with markers, paper, and stickers, lots and lots of stickers. Support, I'm talking the two-legged, ready to hug, feed, drive, teach, and love kind. Lakeside is blessed to have the support that is life-changing for children which is evident in what has been accomplished over the years with the growth of Mid-Week Manna and the support of Project Transformation. Not to mention the incredible response to the Miracle Bus campaign.

Don't get me wrong, we have a long way to go toward having the "perfect" children's ministry if there even is such a thing. If you've been reading past issues of The Lakeside Messenger or the bulletin inserts, you should have seen the plea for more volunteers. We need volunteers to help in the nursery. We need more volunteers to help on Wednesdays with after-school tutoring and later during children's choir. We need more volunteers to help with Disciple time and we definitely need more volunteers to help with Project Transformation this summer. We are currently having a short-term Sunday school class for the children, and we need volunteers there with the hope that this class will continue. A safer place to play outside would be a dream come true and at some point, the need and the ability to utilize the spaces upstairs that have over the past few years, been unused.

The children that come here each week and return each summer, are coming to Lakeside because they feel welcomed and loved. Lakeside is a safe place for them and if we can continue to provide that safe, loving, and welcoming environment, then we are a congregation that wants a children's ministry.

So, back to the word, flexible. Lakeside is going into a new season of transitions. The unknown of a new pastor and continued community changes make it even more important that we keep our eye on the ball and continue to provide the best of what we have to offer for our children and this congregation. I don't know what things will look like down the road. I do know that we must be flexible in what programs we offer, and how we communicate with our families, and if one thing doesn't work, be willing to try something else. Luckily, children are forgiving.

The children are always quick to answer with "God or Jesus" when we ask them a question- especially during children's time. Perhaps they're on to something. Maybe we should be giving those answers too. "What should we do, how should we do it, and why are we doing it?" Because God wants us to, God implores us to, and God is glorified when we do all that we can to be flexible in doing His work here on earth. We can even go back to the 90's and ask, "What would Jesus do? Or WWJD?" Jesus would remind us to, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them for to such belongs the kingdom of God." Mark 10:14.

I've been blessed over the past two years in so many ways by the congregation of Lakeside. I look forward to "walking the walk and talking the talk" of children's ministry with you and in turn, the growth of all our different ministries here at Lakeside United Methodist Church.

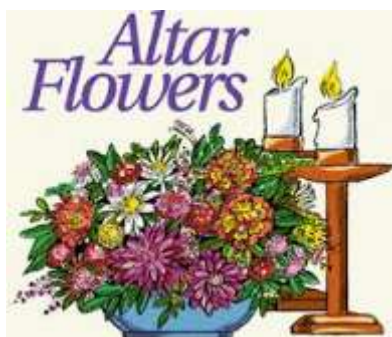
Jennifer Fox

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!

Generosity 2025 Report

A total of sixty individuals and families have made generosity commitments to Lakeside's operating budget and building fund in 2025 totaling \$353,738!

Thank you to all who have turned in their commitment cards. If you have not yet offered your 2025 commitment card, please send it to either our Treasurer, Carolyn Hamilton or place it in the offering plate at Sunday worship.



Altar Flowers

Don't forget to reserve your Sunday (s). Providing the altar flowers is a wonderful way to honor or celebrate a loved one or a special occasion. There are several Sundays in March that are available, please call the office to reserve.

Apologies to our hard working volunteers

Betty-Claire Peacock, Janelle Powell, Nancy Gieringer, Linda LaClair, Danny Tibbs and Rickey Smith were left off last week's list of food distribution volunteers due to an editing error.

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to this ministry.

SUMMARY OF February 11, 2025

LEADERSHIP BOARD MINUTES

- Pastor Judy's appointment as Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Connec-tional Ministries effective July 1, 2025 was announced to the Board. The SPRC discussed compensation packages for the senior pastor and Pastor Sam Meadors.
- The January minutes as amended and consent calendar were reviewed and ap-proved.
- An \$80,000 surplus from the 2024 budget was approved to be invested as a Pru-dent Reserve in an interest bearing account with the Methodist Foundation for Arkansas to be used as needed with the approval of the Leadership Board.
- Trustee Chair, Fred Reed reported expenses of \$781.40 + tax and \$1078.91 + tax for repair of HVAC in the choir room and library respectively.
- The Board tabled Building and Grounds guidelines until the next meeting.
- Linda LaClair was approved and authorized to make decisions for all bus re-pairs, upkeep and maintenance up to \$2500 to be paid from the bus transporta-tion fund.
- Pastor Judy presented an ICE Visit Protocol that was tabled pending further ac-tion and presentation at the upcoming Townhall meeting on March 16th .



We pray for the sick: Sandy Bobo, Jim Webb, Valerie Morgan, Sheila Mitchell, Juanita Cano, Allen Swob, Elsie Sexton (Deb Sexton) and John Newcome (S. Jones)

We grieve for the family of Gwen Newcome (S. Jones)

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 mem-bers & Mayor, Students of all ages, Teachers, and First Responders.**

Wednesday Lenten study to begin March 12th

A new book study will begin on Wednesday, March 12th.

Anyone interested in exploring the I AM statements in the gospel of John is invited to attend this 6 week study of Jesus Revealed by Matt Rawle.

Light. Bread. Shepherd. Life. The Gospel of John uses these and other symbols to paint a picture of who Jesus is. Through the I Am statements, Jesus describes himself with rich images, showing us that he is both fully human and fully divine and calling us as his followers.

Class will meet in the library on Wednesdays from 1:00-2:30pm. Books are available in the office.

St. James UMC hosting Women's Conference on March 1



St. James UMC, Little Rock is hosting a conference for women on Saturday, March 1, 2025, from 8:00 am until 12 pm. The conference entitled "Unburdened – A Time of Spiritual Renewal" will feature guest speakers, group sessions, worship, music, and private prayer time. This is a FREE event, open to 200 registrants. Childcare is available at the time of registration.

The keynote speaker for the event will be Carissa Hardage, a mental health counselor turned coach who specializes in working with individuals on spiritual and identity formation and navigating seasons of transition. She received a Bachelor's in Psychology, a Master's in Social Work, and a Master's in Biblical and Theological Studies. She is a Certified Enneagram Coach and often utilizes this tool to help clients understand identity for-mation for relational, personal, and spiritual growth through her coaching practice, Integrative Coaching.



To register– scan the QR code



Sunday, February 16, 2025

8:30 Worship - 17
Sunday School – 46
10:30 Worship - 87
Online Worship – 24

Our Weekly Service at Church February 23, 2025

Sermon: George Mitchell; **Liturgist:** De Gasnier
Director of Music: Ann Tibbs; **Children's Moments:** Jennifer Fox
Scripture: Luke 6:17-26
Sermon Title: Living the Dream - Making a Difference

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

Feb. 24 Brass Polishers: Donna and Ross Rickels
Feb. 24 Counters: Ellen Wyatt and Claire Campbell

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

Latest Sunday School News February 23, 2025 9:15am.

Discovery Class: Discussion will begin on pg.75 of Robert Schuller's The Be (Happy) Attitudes.

Wesley Class: This week's discussion– Where's Your Treasure? All are welcome to attend.

The "yet to be named" new class is studying Matt Rawle's book, The Faith of a Mockingbird. Led by Sam Meadors, this class meets in the Youth area on the 3rd floor.

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

Trinity Village: Personal hygiene items

Opportunity House: Personal hygiene items, socks, towels.

Items may be placed in the baskets by the elevator

