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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 5

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

Thursday, Feb. 6

Friday, Feb. 7

Office closed

Saturday, Feb. 8

8:00 Men's Breakfast
Sunday, Feb. 9
8:30 Chapel Worship
8:45 Handbells
9:15 Sunday School
10:30 Sanctuary Worship
11:30 Souper Bowl

Monday, Feb. 10

Tuesday, Feb. 11

5:30 Leadership Board

Wednesday, Feb. 12

9:30 LAAF
10:00 Staff Mtg.
3:00 Zoom F & F

4:00 Mid-Week Manna

6:00 Choir Practice

Thursday, Feb. 13

Friday, Feb. 14

Office closed Happy Valentine's Day!

Saturday, February 15

9:00 Lay Servant Ministry Training/Lakeside

Sunday, February 16

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

Issue 5 February 5, 2025



"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." — Isaiah 43:18-19

Last week, I was in Glen Rose, Texas at a Methodist Church camp with members of Project Transformation chapters across the US. Our theme for the week was "Leaping with Trust." We were spending time strategizing and dreaming as we begin a new initiative to support young people as they seek lives of faith and service.

We are striving to do something new for a new generation, yet we often find ourselves clinging to old ways of doing things. As we wrestled with change and the future of our ministry, I kept coming back to Isaiah's words which call us to a profound truth: God is not bound by the past. Though God once parted the waters of the Reed Sea, leading the people to freedom from slavery, God declares through the prophet Isaiah that something new is springing up—this time, making rivers in the desert. The same God who made a way through the sea now provides water in the wasteland. God is not limited to business as usual or even past miracles but continues to work in fresh and unexpected ways.

How often do we long for God to move as God did before? We remember when Sundays were set aside for church, when prayers were answered, when God showed up mightily in our lives and we long for that to happen again. Yet, Isaiah challenges us: *Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.* This does not mean we should ignore God's past faithfulness, but rather, we should not be so fixated on what God has done that we miss what God is doing now.

God is always at work, bringing life to barren places and hope to weary hearts. Let's challenge ourselves to be open to the new thing God is doing. Are we willing to trust God even when God's ways look different than what we expected? The Israelites had seen God make a way through the sea, but now God promises something even more astonishing—streams in the dry places. Perhaps you feel like you're in a desert season, longing for direction or renewal. Take heart—God is already at work, making rivers where you least expect them.

This week, let's look for where God is moving and embrace the newness God is bringing forth. May we have eyes to see and hearts ready to receive.

Do you not perceive it?

Rev. Sam Meadors

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!



Opportunity to Grow in Faith, Leadership, and Service!

Time: 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Cost: \$15 per class + book

Saturday, February 15, 2025

Pine Bluff Lakeside UMC

Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course
Spiritual Gifts

Class Descriptions:

- **Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course:** Learn servant leadership and practical ways to serve using *Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course Participant's Book* by Sandy Jackson
- **Spiritual Gifts:** Discover your God-given gifts with *Each One a Minister* by William J. Carter.

To register: <https://arumc.org/our-ministries/lay-servant-ministries/>

*Books may be purchased from Amazon, Cokesbury, store.upperroom.org and as ebooks.

*If you really want to participate but can't attend on the 15th at Lakeside, there are two other dates available: March 1st at Arkadelphia FUMC and on the 8th in Smackover.

Lakeside Congregational Care Ministry

One of Lakeside's most vital ministries is our Congregational Care ministry. Have you ever received a phone call, card, visit in the hospital, or even a text to check up on you? If you have, you know the feeling of community and support from those simple acts .

Training is available for those who are feeling the call to be the extra support or line of communication that our members need whether it's a short-term hospital stay or you or a family member is homebound.

This required training will be done on-line February 21-22, 2025 from 9:00am-4:00pm.

The cost is \$250.00 and can be covered by Lakeside. If interested, please call the office and if you have any questions about the ministry itself, we can put in touch with a team member.

Ways to Serve at Lakeside

If you have been wondering how you might serve at Lakeside, we have several opportunities.

Ushering, communion servers, volunteering once a month in the children's Sunday school class or the nursery.

See Jennifer for more information.



We pray for the sick: Linda McNulty, Bobbie Bullock (Elaine Vaccaro), Jim Webb, Valerie Morgan, Betty Coles, Sheila Mitchell, Earle Phillips, Juanita Cano, Allen Swob, and Elsie Sexton (Deb Sexton)

We pray for the grieving: The families of Bill Ursery, Knox Bradford, Sissie Atkinson (Drew) and Tommy Stone (Rebecca Phillips)

Pray for the congregation of St. Paul UMC, Malvern and also for St. Mark UMC, Pine Bluff. St. Mark has had several break-ins recently and they've lost equipment.

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.**

Souper Bowl Sunday

Sunday February 9, 2025

Bring your canned soup for Neighbor to Neighbor. Following the 10:30 service, we will have our annual Souper Bowl Cook-off. Bring your favorite soup, crackers, bread etc..., as well as your dollar bills to vote for your favorite soup. Proceeds from the cook-off will benefit our Blessing Box.



SUMMARY OF JANUARY 28, 2025 LEADERSHIP BOARD MINUTES

- The financial and endowment reports, and consent calendar, including the minutes, were reviewed and approved.
- Fred Reed was elected Trustee Chair.
- Pastor Judy will facilitate the Leadership Board's study of
- Emotionally Healthy Discipleship to discern developing a discipleship program for Lakeside.
- Miriam Palmerin was approved for the remote Mi Casa position.
- All Board members were invited to attend the Basic Course for lay leadership.
- There were no objections to Pastor Judy's proposed protocol should officials come to Lakeside inquiring about residency of our Hispanic children or families.

Generosity 2025

Don't forget to turn in your Generosity Commitment Cards. If you need one, they are available in the office and by the bulletins in the Chapel and Sanctuary.



Sunday, February 2, 2025

8:30 Worship - 16

Sunday School – 49

10:30 Worship—97

Online Worship – 20

Trinity Village Vespers– 22

Our Weekly Service at Church February 9, 2025

Sermon: Tommy Brown; **Liturgist:** Rev. Sam Meadors
Director of Music: Ann Tibbs; **Children's Moments:** Jennifer Fox
Scripture: Genesis 3:7 & 21; Colossians 3:12-14
Sermon Title: A New Set of Clothes

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

Feb. 10 Brass Polishers: Ramona Harkins, Sandy Bobo, & Susan Coles
Feb. 10 Counters: Laura Richards and Shelby Stone

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 9, 2025 9:15am.

Discovery Class: Starting 2nd chapter of Robert Schuller's The Be (Happy) Attitudes.
Wesley Class: This week's discussion– Seeing The World Through God's Eyes. 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. If you've been thinking about attending Sunday School, this is a great time to start.

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

