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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, January 3

9:30 LAAF
10:30 Staff Mtg
3:00 Coffee with the Pastor
6:00 Choir Practice

Thursday, Jan. 4

Friday, December Jan. 5

Office closed

Saturday, Jan. 6

Sunday, Jan. 7

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

Monday, Jan. 8

Tuesday, Jan. 9

5:30 United Women in Faith Mtg @
Lakeside

Wednesday, Jan. 10

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

Thursday, Jan. 11

Friday, Jan. 12

Office closed

Saturday, Jan. 13

8:00 Men's Breakfast

Sunday, Jan. 14

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

Volume MMXXIV, Issue 1 January 3, 2024



Each new year as we say farewell to one year and welcome a new year, we often find ourselves taking inventory of our lives. We reflect upon the people, practices and situations that brought us joy and fulfillment as well as those that left us sorrowful and depleted. Some of these circumstances were of our own making and others were beyond our control. Often these ponderings lead to resolutions in hopes that we might make changes in the new year to alter or improve our physical, emotional, relational, financial or spiritual well-being. As we transition from 2023 to 2024, I find myself reflecting upon the challenges to our United Methodist beliefs over this last year. How do we know what we believe as United Methodist Christians?

Growing up in the United Methodist Church, I remember some of my liturgical milestones. I vaguely remember when I first learned the Lord's Prayer and could recite it in church. I also recall desperately wanting to be able to recite the Apostle's Creed with the other members of the church. Over time, I learned the words and was able to recite them as if they were a rite of passage. I must admit that I did not fully understand what I was saying, but I felt like I officially "belonged" as I was able to join the other voices in the congregation.

In the last couple of years, what we believe as Christians, particularly United Methodist Christians, has been attacked by those who were choosing to leave the denomination. The accusations have included statements that we, as United Methodists, don't believe in the triune God, the virgin birth, or the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Although I have found myself fiercely defending what I and Lakeside United Methodist Church believe, as we enter another year, I wonder how many of us have really spent much time studying, pondering and grappling with what we say we believe in the Apostle's Creed.

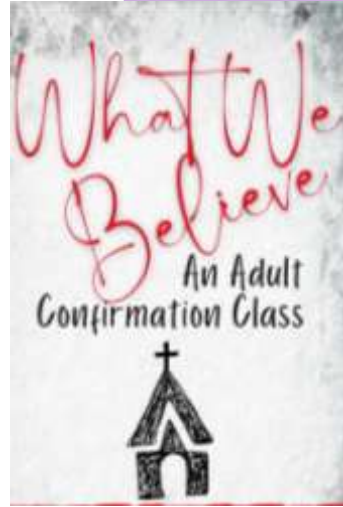
A new year seems to be the perfect time to revisit what we profess we believe as Christians and as United Methodists. You will have an opportunity to join a small group and study with others what we are saying we believe when we declare our faith as disciples of Jesus Christ. Moreover, you will have the opportunity to explore what we believe as United Methodist Christians.

If you find yourself intrigued by the possibility of exploring our declaration of faith – the Apostles' Creed – with other Christians, you are invited to attend an organizational meeting this Sunday, January 7th at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. We will take 15–30 minutes to discuss the best days and times to have small groups. If you are unable to attend the meeting this Sunday, please contact Jennifer in the office or Pastor Judy to express your interest in the groups and your availability. We will do our best to accommodate as many as possible with our groups.

Together, let us journey toward a deeper understanding of what we say we believe about God, why we believe it and discern how the Holy Spirit is inviting us to share our belief with our community and beyond.

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!



Do you ever wonder what we believe as Christians? Has anyone asked you about your beliefs as a United Methodist? Do you want to learn more about your faith and the meaning of some of our church traditions? Adult Confirmation small groups might have something for you!

On January 7th at 9:30 am, between worship services, Pastor Judy will lead a brief meeting to discuss Adult Confirmation small group opportunities.

Together, we will find the best days and times to try and accommodate everyone who wants to attend. Join us in The Center on January 7th to help us schedule a small group that meets your needs.

SUMMARY OF DECEMBER 19, 2023 LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING

- Melissa Young's opening devotional emphasized the importance of preparing for Lakeside's future rather than just waiting for things to happen.
- Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.
- Fred Reed presented the Trustee report. The recommendation to ensure our volunteer applications comply with our new insurance policy was adopted. A proposal to secure and repair the church from squirrel damage at a cost of \$9965.76 by Wildlife Command Center was approved to be paid from Endowment if available. Because of concern over the safety of the church bus, ministries utilizing the bus will be limited to 15 miles.
- A consensus was reached that any official mass communication from the church will specifically be identified as coming from lakesidepb@arumc.org.
- Pastor Judy was accepted in the Methodist Foundation's Compelling Preaching Initiative which will require additional professional leave over the next two years. The offering for the Christmas Eve evening service was approved to be donated to Neighbor to Neighbor.
- The Consent Calendar and November minutes were approved.
- The 2024 budget was extensively discussed along with provision for new church transportation. Discussion was tabled until the next meeting for additional information.



We pray for the sick:

Caroline Coles, Barbara Tracy, Joy Cross, and Helen Hudson-Holtzen.

We pray for the grieving: The Jane Nixon 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.

Lakeside, You've Done It Again!

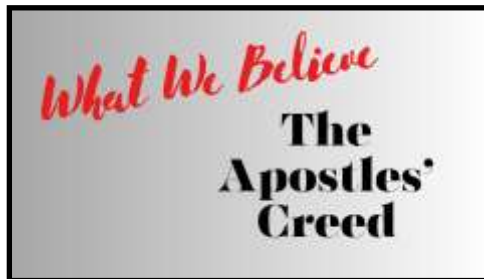
Hebrews 13:2 tells us, "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers . . ." Lakeside, your commitment to hospitality makes a difference in the lives of neighbors, friends and guests! You recently hosted the funeral of Dr. Robbie Atkinson, complete with a meal for his family of 50. Here are a couple of notes of appreciation that we received for your generous hospitality.

One daughter texted the family's "thanks for the wonderful, thoughtful and loving meal provided. It really was the best for all of our various family circles to connect . . . [It] provided so much quality time with those closest to us, many whom we hadn't seen since we were kids."

Enclosed with a generous donation to the church, another daughter wrote, "We hope that this gift will allow your church community to support other families with this gesture of nourishment for body and soul."

Well done good and faithful servants!

Pastor Judy



New Sermon Series

Pastor Judy will begin a new 6 week series delving into what we believe as Christians and United Methodists, this Sunday at both the 8:30 and 10:30 services. The Apostle's Creed will be explored this Sunday. Won't you join us either in person or online?

Chrismon Trees and Decorations

We will take down Chrismon trees and Advent decorations immediately after the 10:30 service this Sunday.



United Women in Faith

An important organizational meeting will be held at Lakeside Tuesday, January 9 at 5:30. Please make plans to attend. Call Sandy Bobo at 540-7099 if you have any questions.



Sunday, Dec. 24 and 31 2023

8:30 Chapel Worship -no service
 9:15 Sunday school - no Sunday School
 10:30 Worship - 78/87
 5:30 Candlelight - 150 18 online
 Online Worship - 26/ 21

Our Weekly Service at Church Sunday, January 7, 2024

Senior Pastor: Rev. Judy Rudd; **Liturgist:** Deborah Whitaker;
Pastoral Intern: Sara Andrews; **Director of Music:** Ann Tibbs;
Children's Moments: Jennifer Fox
Scripture: Psalm 8:1-8 and Romans 8:15-17
Sermon Title: The Apostles'
Sermon Series: What We Believe

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

Jan. 8 Brass Polishers: Linda LaClair and Linda McNulty
Jan. 8 Counters: George Mitchell 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

2024 Altar Flowers

It's time to mark the new 2024 calendar. If you'd like to honor or remember someone with altar flowers, please call Jennifer at 534-6241 or email the church to reserve your Sunday. If you have a particular Sunday that you reserve year after year, please confirm as well.

Latest Sunday School News January 7, 2024 9:15a.m.

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

Wesley Class: This week's discussion- The Wisdom of the Magi. All are welcome to join.