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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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I'm not sure why I am finding it is so difficult to write a newsletter article this week. Perhaps it is because I can't find the words to speak of the hope and promise of a new year. Maybe it's because I'm reluctant to confess my excessive dependence on books and new practices to bring me renewed inner peace. Perhaps it's because despite a meaningful journey to Bethlehem and an enchanting Christmas Eve service, my heart is still heavy with the weight of dissension and division raging through our United Methodist Church.

I find myself lamenting with brothers and sisters in Christ who are grieving the losses of church homes, church families and historical church identities. Some are wondering where they will be married, baptize their grandchildren or bury their loved ones. The feelings of disorientation and rejection are not unlike those that Mary and Joseph must have felt as they sought a place to stay in Bethlehem and then as they took flight for their lives to Egypt when warned in a dream of Herod's plot to kill Jesus.

Times of transition, like the beginning of a new year or a new chapter in our family or spiritual lives, hold grief and loss alongside hope and promise. Even long awaited and anticipated transitions hold the loss of the familiar and comfortable. Sometimes we have difficulty recognizing the gifts of hope and promise until we have fully embraced the truth of our grief and loss. I believe I struggled with this article because I wanted to jump over the puddles of pain on the path of possibilities and hope. I wanted to escape my sadness with not one or two, but *five* daily devotional books for 2023! I wanted to deny my soul sickness by using a daily lectionary Bible study and reading the Bible in a year.

While all these practices, in and of themselves, are good, it is the deep soul work of acknowledging our losses from the changes in our lives that brings the spiritual transformation we seek. Trevor Hudson, a United Methodist pastor in South Africa, describes each of us sitting beside our own pool of tears. Although each of our pools of tears are different and were collected through different experiences, our tears hold the possibility of change and growth, transformation and resurrection. If you want to read more from Trevor Hudson, check out this blog post on "Befriending Our Tears" from The Upper Room. <https://www.upperroom.org/resources/a-spiritual-practice-befriending-our-tears>

The Lord does not promise us that we will never experience pain and suffering, but the Lord does promise to be with us every moment as we experience the ups and downs of life. One of my favorite passages that I cling to in times of sadness and times of joy comes from the weeping prophet, Jeremiah. *"I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope. ¹² When you call me and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. ¹³ When you search for me, yes, search for me with all your heart, you will find me."* (Jeremiah 29:11-13)

Will you join me in this new year praying to experience God's presence and seeking God's future filled with hope as we are transformed in Christ together?

Pastor Judy

What's Happening @ Lakeside United Methodist Church

Wednesday, January 4

9:30 LAAF
10:30 Staff meeting
3:00 Coffee with the pastor

Thursday, January 5

5:30 Young Disciples meet

Friday, January 6

Office closed

Saturday, January 7

Sunday, January 8

8:30 Chapel Worship
9:15 Sunday school
10:30 Sanctuary Worship
11:30 Taking down Chrismon Trees and Christmas decorations

Monday, January 9

Tuesday, January 10

1:00 PEO

Wednesday, January 11

9:30 LAAF
12:00 Neighbor to Neighbor meets
3:00 Coffee with the pastor
5:30 Mid Week Manna
6:00 Tutoring & ESL

Thursday, January 12

5:30 Young Disciples meet

Friday, January 13

Office closed

Saturday, January 14

Sunday, January 15

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

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!



From January 2nd, it's 52 days until Ash Wednesday.
90 days until Palm Sunday.
77 days until Easter Sunday.
132 days until Mother's Day.
167 days until Father's Day.
183 days until July 4th.
302 days until Halloween.
303 days until All Saints Day.
325 days until Thanksgiving.
335 days until the 1st Sunday of Advent.
357 days until Christmas.



We pray for the sick: Frances Smith
Martin Huber
Grieving: The Arleen Pitts Family (Dr. Joe Luebker's niece.)
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



Saturday, December 24, 2022
Candlelight Service - 110
Online Worship - 6

Sunday, December 25, 2022
10:30 Worship - 28
Online Worship - 6

Sunday, January 1, 2023
10:30 Worship - 61
Online Worship - no internet

Taking Down the Chrismon Trees.



Immediately following the 10:30 worship service this Sunday, January 8th, the Discovery class will take down the Chrismon Trees and all Advent and Christmas Decorations in the chapel and in the sanctuary. TooLoo will be here to help with this, but we would appreciate any and all help with this project. It won't take long to do if we have many willing hands to help! Looking forward to seeing you after church next Sunday.



We Need Altar Flowers! If you enjoy the beautiful flowers each week in our worship services, then please call Linda at 534-6241 and sign up for a Sunday to provide the flowers.

Welcome back Vanessa Hernandez!



Most of you already know Vanessa, but in case you don't, here is some info about her. She is a graduate of White Hall High School, has attended Arkansas Tech in Russellville and is currently attending South East Arkansas (SEARK) Community College. She is a very active and involved member of her church, Centro Cristiano (Christian Center) in Little Rock. Vanessa is a former Mi Casa Ministry Assistant and proved herself an extremely capable young woman. Gradually, she will resume responsibility for Mi Casa's ministries.

If you haven't met her yet, please stop by the Mi Casa office, greet her, and make her welcome! She will be in the office from 9:00-4:00 Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. On Wednesday she will be in the office from 9:00 - 6:00.



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 sock.

*Ask to be added to the blessing box schedule by calling the Mi Casa office at 870-850-0142; 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;
January 10, 19, 24. Feb, 2 of 2023**



Lakeside, with the help of our faithful volunteers, will pick back up with wild enthusiasm on Wednesday, January 11th, 2023. Children enjoy themselves best whenever they have someone's full attention. Please, consider becoming a tutor. Call Sandy Bobo for more information regarding this ministry.



Do you knit or crochet? Do you maybe have a friend who does? The Altar Guild has a new project, a Prayer Cross, and they need pieces of yarn. Scrap pieces of yarn in any color except white; they already have plenty of white. If you would like to donate scrap pieces of yarn, you may leave them at the office or give them to Deborah Whitaker while at church. Thanks for your help with this project!

Our Weekly Service at Church Sunday, January 8, 2023

Guest Speaker: Alicia Frye; **Liturgist:** Tommy Brown
Director of Music: Ann Tibbs; **Children's Moments:** Sandy Bobo
Sermon Title: "Epiphany of The Lord", **Scripture:** Matthew 2:1-12
Flowers: Katharine McCormick
Ushers: Steve Dobbins, Joe Coles, Rob Wyatt, Bobby Wyatt, Roy Whitaker, Ken Kesterson

January 9 Brass Polishers: Penny Whitener & Susan Brown
January 9 Counters: Shelby Stone & Laura Richards

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

January Birthdays

3 Deborah Whitaker	10 Nancy Dobbs
3 Rodrigo Gill	11 Allison Morgan
8 Owen McNulty	13 Bill Hilgefords
9 Rev. Judy Rudd	14 Michael Lee
9 Adam Gates	

January Wedding Anniversaries

4th Mary Catherine & George Kyle - 54 years
11th Kelli Wyatt & John Farnam - 9 years