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www.facebook.com/
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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, July 24

8:30 Project Transformation (P.T.)
9:30 LAAF
2:00-4:00 Small Group Leader Training
3:00 Zoom Faith and Fellowship (F & F)
(formerly known as Coffee w/the Pastor)
6:00 End of Summer Celebration for P.T

Thursday, July 25

Friday, July 26

Office closed

Saturday, July 27

Sunday, July 28

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

Monday, July 29

5:00-7:00 Broadmoor Meet the Teacher
School supply give away

Tuesday, July 30

5:30 Leadership Board Mtg.

Wednesday, July 31

9:30 LAAF
9:30 Food Distribution set-up
2:00-4:00 Small Group Leader Training

3:00 Zoom F & F (Coffee w/the Pastor)

Thursday, Aug. 1

8:00-10:00 Food deliveries
4:00-6:00 Food Pickup @ church

Friday, Aug. 2

Office closed

Saturday, Aug. 3

Sunday, Aug. 4

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

The Lakeside Messenger

Lakeside United Methodist Church, Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601

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Not a Goodbye...

“How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.” - Winnie the Pooh

As many of you may already know, I have decided to return to school in person to finish my degree. It was one of the hardest decisions I've ever made. It took months of contemplation, and I examined every detail of my life before accepting it. Many tears were shed, and my heart weighed heavily during the decision process. As adults, we understand that our life journey isn't always up to us. We know that God has the ultimate say, and it doesn't always align with what we want at the moment but rather with what we need. Children, on the other hand, don't fully understand. They notice your absence or may ask if you are leaving or have left, but they don't grasp why. I knew that adults would understand if I decided to leave, but my greatest hesitation was leaving the children of Lakeside. I didn't want to leave and make them feel abandoned, there was and still is so much work to be done with them.

Over the last year and a half, despite my efforts to avoid getting attached to these kids, I failed. I didn't want to feel the pain of losing them, but I quickly realized that they needed attachment more than I needed protection from it. I was more afraid of what could happen if I didn't take the risk to love them rather than how I would take the loss. Being a mom, although one of my biggest hopes, is not a priority at this moment in my life. But those kids, oh man. They pried open the door to my heart and, one by one, hopped in before I had the chance to seal it off. They quickly became my kids, and I would move heaven and earth for them. They helped me become someone who would have protected me as a child, someone I needed—the most empowering move I have ever made.

Lakeside is one of the few places where I felt free to be myself. Many knew I was in my early 20s; others didn't, but I was never treated or made to feel less than because of my age. Here, I was validated. I felt empowered. It became like what JROTC had felt like in high school and Mrs. Pollet's fifth-grade class. My potential was noticed. Someone believed in me and my abilities. Lakeside is one of the three most memorable places that taught me to value myself and not accept anything less than the respect I deserve.

When I left the first time, I quickly became disappointed. I wasn't able to get a job, beyond a small temp job with Bath & Body Works. Positions I applied for “weren't available” or were “mistaken posts”. The only availability was housekeeping or janitorial services. I would be followed in stores and, at self-checkout, be told by my shadow that they would scan and bag everything for me. In some instances, I would be asked for receipts while watching others go by with electronics, pet food, diapers, and many other unbagged items. I would walk into 5 out of my 6 classes or most establishments and feel small, and I grew tired of it. I knew I deserved better, and I was capable, so I came back. I started over and began a journey of healing and learning. In the midst of my discoveries, I got opportunities to help others in similar situations. It wasn't the journey I planned or expected, but it was the one that was necessary.

I hope to one day be able to return. It's really not up to me. Regardless, wherever I may be led, this next chapter of my life is one of preparation—that I am certain of. Lakeside has provided me with countless opportunities, and there are no words to express how truly grateful I am for them and you all. Being here and having the honor of working within Mi Casa has been the most rewarding time of my life. I cannot find the words to express just how much I will miss each and every one of you. So many memories were made in such a short time—even on my worst days, being at Lakeside made me forget and be optimistic.

This isn't a goodbye; it's simply a see you later.

In my heart always,
Vanessa

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!

The Upper Rooms are finally here!

The July/August editions of The Upper Room are now available in the office or in the back of the Sanctuary and Chapel.

They were late due to a systems error.

School Supplies for Broadmoor Elementary



We are still collecting school supplies to be given out during Broadmoor's Open House on Monday, July 29 from 5:00-7:00pm.

If you would like to help in this ministry, we will be setting our table up between 4:30-4:45. Call the office if you'd like to help or if you have any questions.

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| 24 pk crayons | Glue sticks |
| Colored pencils | Pump style hand sanitizer |
| #2 pencils | Loose leaf paper |
| Pens- blue, red, and black | Composition books |
| Child sized scissors- different ages | *Monetary donations are welcome as we will order in bulk. |

Thank yous!

Dear Lakeside Family,

Words cannot convey how deeply blessed I am to serve as your pastor another year. The Holy Spirit is moving in mighty ways through Lakeside, and I am humbled and excited to join with you in the Spirit's movement in our community. Thank you for your kind and generous gift certificate to Petit Jean Mountain State Park. Terry and I will enjoy a lovely retreat on the mountain next fall or winter. You are an amazing church, and I love you all.

Pastor Judy

From Stephen Browning's mother, Gayle Harrison,

I just want to thank Lakeside for all that you have done. Thank you for the dinner and Pastor Judy for Stephen's service. It was so so good. I appreciate all of you.

-Gayle and family



We pray for the sick: Deborah Whitaker, Alicia Frye

We pray for the grieving: The family of John Baltzell

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, First Responders and Project Transformation.

Gifts given to Lakeside

In honor of Sissy Jones by Tommy and Susan Brown

Information has been requested.

James Sterling Rice has reached out to Lakeside for information about his family members. If you are related to the Racop family or have contacts for any members of that family, please contact the office. Information on family members of Stanley Clark are also requested.

Spirit Week at Project Transformation!

This past week was Spirit Week at P.T.

Crazy hair day, rep your favorite school/team, "What I Want to Be" Day. The last day of camp for the week was Pajama day, complete with popcorn and a movie.



Sunday, July 21, 2024

- 8:30 Chapel Worship - 18
- 9:15 Sunday school - 22
- 10:30 Worship - 76
- Online Worship - 19

Our Weekly Service at Church July 28, 2024

Senior Pastor: Reverend Judy Rudd; **Liturgist:** Claire Campbell
Director of Music: Ann Tibbs; **Children's Moment:** Jennifer Fox
Sermon: God's Amazing Love
Sermon Series: Living the Love of Christ: Lessons from Ephesians
Scripture: Ephesians 3:14-21

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

July 29 Brass Polishers: Donna Kriner and De Gasnier
July 29 Counters: George Mitchell and Deborah Whitaker

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 July 28, 2024 9:15am.

Discovery Class: Our class will be participating in What We Believe with Pastor Judy (9:30-10:00am.) This will be the last Sunday for this study.

Wesley Class: This week's discussion- Jesus Gives Us Rest. All are welcome to attend.