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If you are a Facebook user, like us at <https://www.facebook.com/LakesidePB/>

Lakeside Messenger
Lakeside United
Methodist Church
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The Lakeside Messenger

Lakeside United Methodist Church, Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601

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Do you ever feel like something is missing in your life, but you don't quite know what it is? You run through your mental checklist of activities, interests, and responsibilities and find that everything checks out; but you still have this sense that something important is missing. It's a constant yearning that descends into the deepest part of your soul and is ever so slowly growing louder and more persistent, like the grumbling of an empty stomach.

While on vacation last week, I had the opportunity to visit Blanchard Springs Caverns. The beauty of the caverns was mesmerizing as I tried to imagine the slow continual movement of water that carved and created the natural wonders I beheld. While the cavern was well lit, many areas were beyond the reach of the lights. The dark felt ever so dark. In some strange way that perhaps only the Holy Spirit understands, the darkness beyond the lights spoke to the emptiness in my soul. It was not as if the darkness was immutable to the light, only that the light did not reach it. After 2 ½ years of the cavernous darkness of Covid, perhaps it is time to invite the light of Christ into the depths of our souls to heal and restore us.

Perhaps by now, you are thinking of a passage from the Bible, such as John 1:5. *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light."* Or perhaps Psalm 139:11-12 has come to mind. *"If I said, 'The darkness will definitely hide me; the light will become night around me,'¹² even then the darkness isn't too dark for you! Nighttime would shine bright as day, because darkness is the same as light to you!"* Each of these Scripture passages holds the comfort and promise of God's healing power of light and presence in our lives. But how does God's healing light find its way into the dark depths of our souls?

The light of God's sanctifying grace is always available to us; however, we must accept and immerse ourselves in it. I realized in my first couple of meetings with the Young Disciples that the deep yearning I was experiencing was the desire to draw closer to Jesus. With a little self-reflection, I discovered I had been in survival mode trying to first maneuver the tumultuous waters of Covid and now the division within the United Methodist Church. Like the Young Disciples, I was craving a closeness with my Savior that had slowly and silently ebbed away.

The Young Disciples are beginning a spiritual journey of study known as Companions in Christ which is rooted in the Wesleyan spiritual disciplines of Scripture study, prayer, holy conferencing, worship and service. They have committed to reading the material each week and participating in the daily journaling exercises on their journey of growing closer to Christ.

If you too, are feeling a yearning to begin a journey of spiritual transformation and grow closer to Jesus through participation in a small group, please contact me or the church office. If you think the Holy Spirit may be nudging you to facilitate a small group, let's have a conversation!

Pastor Judy

What's Happening @ Lakeside United Methodist Church

Wednesday, September 14

9:30 LAAF meet in The Center
10:00 Food Prep for Distribution
12:00 Neighbor to Neighbor meets
3:00 Coffee with the pastor
5:30 Mid Week Manna
6:00 Tutoring

Thursday, September 15

4:30 Food Distribution
5:30 Young Disciples meet

Friday, September 16

Office Closed

Saturday, September 17

Sunday, September 18

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

Monday, September 19

Tuesday, September 20

1:30 DAR meets in The Center

Wednesday, September 21

9:30 LAAF meet in The Center
3:00 Coffee with the pastor
5:30 Mid Week Manna
6:00 Tutoring

Thursday, September 22

First Day of Fall

5:30 Young Disciples meet



Friday, September 23

Office closed

Saturday, September 24

Sunday, September 25

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!



Our Wednesday morning LAAF (Lakeside Activities and Fellowship) group resumed our meeting (after our break because of Covid) on September 14th at our regular time of 9.30 till 11.30, in The Center. Come join us to knit, crochet, play canasta, or just have a cup of coffee and visit with friends. We hope to see you there. Please park on Laurel Street either at the curb or on the parking lot.



The UMM met Saturday for the first time since the COVID pandemic. We had 12 men!!! The men went in the storage closet and noted the repairs needed on the games for Trunk or Treat.

Mike Frye replaced the ceiling bulbs in two of the offices (Linda's office and the Mi Casa office) with bulbs donated by Linda's Schultz's son-in-law, Ronnie Ivy.

Mike Frye was elected the new president of the group. The next meeting will be Saturday, October 8 at 8:00.

We have received the following:



*Lakeside friends,
You made a day in our lives that is difficult, very easy. Everything was perfect. Lunch afterwards was so good
After I was full, we went back to the hotel and I took a long nap. Do you think the big piece of cake had anything to do with it?*

In cleaning out Mom's things, I found this stationary. What a great time to use it to say thank you to a very special church.

*Sincerely,
Cindy Wallace*



Have you enjoyed the beautiful flower arrangements in our worship services? Thank you to all who have had these flowers placed in Lakeside.

We only have 5 open dates left on the Flower Calendar for 2022. They are listed below:

September 18 October 23
November 6, 13 and 20

Call Linda at 534-6241 if you would like to place flowers in our worship services on any of the dates listed above.



We pray for the sick: Michael Lee, Bill Blankenship, Ralph Rouse, Marilyn Rouse, JoAnn White, Whitney Crutchfield

Grieving:

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's Midweek Manna began meeting last Wednesday, September 7! We begin with a meal at 5:30 in Fellowship Hall followed by Tutoring from 6:00 - 7:00.

We're still looking for additional drivers, tutors & kitchen helpers for this program. Drivers and Tutors must adhere to the AR Methodist Conference's Safe Sanctuaries guidelines and conduct the two forms of background checks required. There is a paper copy to complete available in the front office, outside of the elevator doors on the second floor or you can request a copy to be mailed to you. The second one has to be completed through a link sent to you via email.

Geraldin Mondragon



This year we are celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with a sale of Tamales only. When the Mi Casa office is fully staffed, we hope to return to the full meal celebration to which we are accustomed to having. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Geraldin Mondragon



Wednesday, September 7, 2022
Midweek Manna - 18

Sunday, September 11, 2022
8:30 Worship Service - 12
10:30 Worship Service -45
9:15 Sunday School - 21
Online Worship - 10

Our Weekly Service at Church
Sunday, September 18, 2022

Senior Pastor: The Rev. Judy Rudd; **Liturgist:**
Director of Music: Ann Tibbs; **Children's Moments:** Sandy Bobo
Sermon Title: Who's That in the Mirror?; **Scripture:** Genesis 1:24-31
Sermon Series: The Wesleyan Way of Salvation
Flowers: Tommy & Susan Brown
Ushers: Steve Dobbins, Joe Coles, Rob Wyatt, Bobby Wyatt, Roy Whitaker, Ken Kesterson

September 19 Brass Polishers: Shelby & Pete Stone
September 19 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

Hispanic HERITAGE MONTH
September 15, 2022 — October 15, 2022

TAMAL SALE

Place your orders by calling
870.939.9411 or 870.534.6211

Now through Thursday October 5th
Pick up on Sunday October 15th
after worship service

Chicken, Beef or Pork
\$16 per Dozen | \$9 per Half Dozen

*Please limit your order to 2 dozen per family
**Now taking orders for Thanksgiving & Christmas

LAKESIDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH * 1500 s Olive St * Pine Bluff AR, 71602