

Lakeside
870-534-6241
lakesidePB@arumc.org
Mi Casa
870-850-0142

Reverend Judy Rudd
Senior Pastor
501-607-0889
judy.rudd@arumc.org

Linda Schultz, Administrative Assistant
lakesidepb@arumc.org

Rebecca Phillips, Coordinator of Congregational Ministries
rebeccalumc@gmail.com

Carolyn Hamilton, Church Treasurer
lumcfinance@outlook.com

Geraldin Alfaro Mondragon, Coordinator of Missions and Family Ministries
micasa.hispanicministry@gmail.com
870-850-0142/870-939-9411

Ann Tibbs, Director of Music

Rosa Trujillo & Edith Valdez Castro, Custodians

Humberto Solis, Security



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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Last week, I shared a parable that had been causing me holy irritation with the balance between mercy and justice. This week I want to share another parable about the balance between mercy and just that causes me, and I'm sure others, a holy irritation nearly every time it is read. The parable of the vineyard workers is found at Matthew 20:1-16.

"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. ² After he agreed with the workers to pay them a denarion, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ Then he went out around nine in the morning and saw others standing around the marketplace doing nothing. ⁴ He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I'll pay you whatever is right.' ⁵ And they went.

"Again around noon and then at three in the afternoon, he did the same thing. ⁶ Around five in the afternoon he went and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you just standing around here doing nothing all day long?' ⁷ "Because nobody has hired us,' they replied. "He responded, 'You also go into the vineyard.'

⁸ "When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the workers and give them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and moving on finally to the first.' ⁹ When those who were hired at five in the afternoon came, each one received a denarion. ¹⁰ Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more. But each of them also received a denarion. ¹¹ When they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² 'These who were hired last worked one hour, and they received the same pay as we did even though we had to work the whole day in the hot sun.'

¹³ "But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I did you no wrong. Didn't I agree to pay you a denarion? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go. I want to give to this one who was hired last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Don't I have the right to do what I want with what belongs to me? Or are you resentful because I'm generous?' ¹⁶ So those who are last will be first. And those who are first will be last."

In this parable, Jesus offends our sense of fairness. He teaches us that God's ways not our ways. God's economy of grace and mercy values the vineyard workers equally whether they worked twelve hours or two hours. For those of us trapped in the mindset of earning our place (and our pay), this parable offered by our Lord causes holy irritation. I can feel my gut wrenching as I am wrestling with these words!

What is it that causes us such holy irritation at God's compassion and mercy? Why do we feel slighted, or worse yet, angered when Christ's grace treats everyone the same regardless of his or her efforts? What will it take to move from holy irritation to holy celebration that our brother or sister has been blessed by Christ's gracious and abundant gifts? What must we be willing to allow God to change in us? Come Holy Spirit, come!

Pastor Judy

What's Happening @ Lakeside United Methodist Church

Wednesday, September 7

3:00 Coffee with the Pastor
6:00 Choir Practice
5:30 Midweek Manna
6:00 Tutoring

Thursday, September 8

Friday, September 9

Office Closed

Saturday, September 10

9:00 Baby Shower in The Center for Kelly Nodurft and Josh Greenwood

Sunday, September 11

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

Monday, September 12

Tuesday, September 13

1:00 PEO meets in The Center

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

Thursday, September 15

Friday, September 16

Office closed

Saturday, September 17

Sunday, September 18

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!



This Saturday, September 10 at 9:00 a.m. a shower will be held in The Center to celebrate the birth of Kelly and Josh's baby.

Kelly is the daughter of Laura Richards. Kelly and Josh live in Hong Kong which makes the transportation of gifts and gift cards difficult.

We are asking that you bring cash in a card for the shower so that Laura can transfer it into their account, and they may use this for their needs. The shower is early in the morning so that we can see and visit via Zoom with the future mom from home before she goes to bed.

Hostesses are Sandy Bobo, Ramona Harkins, Penny Whitener & Deborah Whitaker



The 2022-2023 Church Directories are now available. Pick up yours on the table as you enter the Chapel or the Sanctuary. They are also available in the church office.



Our Wednesday morning LAAF (Lakeside Activities and Fellowship) group will resume 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.



CALLING ALL MEN!

Lakeside's United Methodist Men is starting again at 8:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall on September 10th. A delicious breakfast cooked by Sandy Bobo will be provided. Please make plans to attend!

FIESTA DE COLORES



Mark your calendars for September 25th! That's the date for Fiesta de Colores 2022, celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15th - October 15th. Be watching this space for more information!



**We pray for the sick:
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

A Gift Has Been Received in Honor Of:

Sandy Bobo, Ramona Harkins, Deborah Whitaker and Penny Whitener by Laura and Dave Richards,

A Gift Has Been Received in Memory Of:

Bob & Betty Ellis by Nancy Paschal



Midweek Manna began meeting on Wednesday, September 7! We began 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.

Geraldine Mondragon



Mark your calendars, its food distribution time!

Like always, preparation will be held Wednesday, September 14th, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 (or until done) and distribution on the 15th starting at 4:30.

There are plenty of work opportunities for everyone who wants to be part of this ministry. Please call, text or email whether you will be attending either one of these dates. 870-939-9411. I'm looking

for someone to oversee the food distribution on Thursday afternoon. If you're planning on being present to help in the food distribution, please be at church by 4:15.

micasa.hispanicministry@gmail.com



Sunday, September 4, 2022
8:30 Worship Service - Did not meet
10:30 Worship Service - 48
9:15 Sunday School - 9
4:00 Trinity Village Vespers - 34
Online Worship - 6

**Our Weekly Service at Church
Sunday, September 11, 2022**

Senior Pastor: The Rev. Judy Rudd; **Guest Speaker:** George Mitchell
Liturgist: Deborah Whitaker; **Director of Music:** Ann Tibbs
Children's Moments: Laura Richards; **Flowers:** Ken & Carolyn Theis
Sermon Title: "Have You Ever Been Lost?"

Scripture: Luke 15:1-10

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

September 12 Brass Polishers:

Ramona Harkins, Sandy Bobo & Susan Coles

September 12 Counters: Ramona Harkins & Ellen Wyatt

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



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

We do have a few open dates still on the Flower Calendar for 2022. They are listed below:

September 18	October 23
November 6, 13 and 20	December 4

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



Remember that on September 18th, we will begin a new sermon series entitled The Wesleyan Way of Salvation. Please make plans to attend this 5-week series. Also watch for more information on a small group forming to study and discuss our Methodist beliefs.