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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, April 24

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

Thursday, April 25

5:30 Walking the Mourner's Path- lib.

Friday, April 26

Office closed

Saturday, April 27

9:00 Southeast Dist. Board of Ordained
Ministry Meeting - F.H

Sunday, April 28

8:30 Chapel Worship
8:45 Handbells
9:15 Sunday School
10:30 Sanctuary Worship

Monday, April 29

5:30 What We Believe- Library

Tuesday, April 30

5:30 Leadership Board - library

Wednesday, May 1

9:30 LAAF
10:30 Staff Mtg.
3:00 Coffee with the Pastor
4:00 Mid-week Manna
6:00 Choir Practice

Thursday, May 2

5:30 Walking the Mourner's Path- lib.

Friday, May 3

Office closed

Saturday, May 4

Sunday, May 5

8:30 Chapel Worship
8:45 Handbells
9:15 Sunday School
10:30 Sanctuary Worship
*Potluck to follow service
4:00 Trinity Village Vespers

The Lakeside Messenger

Lakeside United Methodist Church, Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601

Volume MMXXIV, Issue 17, April 24, 2024



“Where are all the young people? Why don’t we have any young people in our church?” Too often we ask some form of this question about the absence of single people and families under the age of 50. Several younger generations rarely attend church. When they do attend, they usually attend a non-denominational church. In a recent article about this quandary, I read that younger generations are not interested in a church who reflects the divisiveness and polarization of their community. Instead, they are interested in a church who is connected and centered in its identity as followers of Jesus Christ. Dare I say it? Duh!

In John 15 Jesus said, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. . . . ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.”

As I listened to these words in my morning meditation, I thought of our recent town hall meeting on the UMC General Conference that begins today, the amazing connection that the UMC has world-wide and the recent article on the desire of young people for a church that is devoted to and centered in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Please, let me explain.

I was not surprised at our town hall meeting on Sunday that many United Methodists are unfamiliar with our connectional form of governance. Will you indulge me with a very brief and simplified primer? Each church sends a lay person to their Annual Conference for every clergy person appointed to that church. Sandy Bobo and I represent Lakeside. Additional laity serve in at-large positions to ensure an equal representation of laity and clergy. The Annual Conference delegates elect the Jurisdictional and General Conference delegates who represent the Annual Conference. Arkansas’ four lay and four clergy delegates to General Conference are joining over 800 other delegates from around the world, who represent their respective Conferences, to prayerfully discern the most faithful way forward for the future of God’s people called United Methodists. When we think of each of the churches that each of these groups of delegates represent as the branches of the vine of Jesus Christ, is it not humbling and awe-inspiring?

As vitally important as the work and discernment of the General Conference is to ensure that the United Methodist Church is prepared and equipped to share the gospel of Jesus Christ in the world and to care for our neighbors, I find my thoughts and heart being drawn back to our church – Lakeside – and the young people in our community who are yearning to be a part of church who are connected to Jesus and one another. We are one of the many branches that are connected to Jesus, who receive our sustenance, strength and grace from him, to bear fruit in our little portion of the world. We trust that God, the vinegrower, is also working through all those other branches, providing for each of them what they need to bear fruit in their particular environments and contexts. If we focus on Jesus and what he is calling us to do and be with our branch, perhaps we can be a church where young people will find the connection to Christ and to a community of faith they so desperately need and deserve. May it be so!

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!



Walking the Mourner's Path

Begins this Thursday and runs through June 13, at 5:30 in the Library.

If you've ever felt a deep sense of helplessness on learning of the death of a loved one, please, know Lakeside wants to help you see where God is in your pain. Perhaps you have never heard of the 3 C's of grief, choose, connect, and communicate. Contemplate these words as you consider being a part of a small group that will be WALKING THE MOURNER'S PATH.

If you would like to be a part of this small group, please contact the office at 534-6241 or email Jennifer at lakesidepb@arumc.org
Registration is limited to 10

A Special Thank you.....

Dear Friends at Lakeside,
It was the spring of 1974 and we had just driven across the delta to Pine Bluff. We visited a couple of churches but the minute we walked in the door of Lakeside and were greeted by Diane and W.E Ayres and Mr. Carr D. Racop, we knew that we were home!

The pastors were Ed Matthews and Tom Atkinson and we felt the presence of God in that building. All those years ago and I don't recall a time that I've walked in these doors, that I haven't felt God's presence.

The past few months, as I've gone through two surgeries, I've felt that presence more than ever and I've felt the love of our members. You have prayed for me, you have fed us and you have sent cards and flowers- you have shown us love and concern and you've blessed us beyond measure.

Thank you for that- Thank you for every act of kindness, thank you for making us feel loved. Thank you for being a Beacon of Light to my family.

Love to each of you,
Lynda Pickler

"Until We Meet Again" Potluck

May 5th will be Sara's last Sunday here at Lakeside. Following the 10:30 service, we will have a Mexican-themed potluck to honor Sara and her family, David, Paige and Will. Please bring your favorite dish to share. Sandy is providing some chicken for tacos but we will need a variety of meats as well as sides and desserts.



We pray for the sick:

Dave Richards, Andy Vaccaro, Caroline Coles, Colby Lee, Lynn Newton, Bob Castleberry, Bill Wilcox.

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.

Project Transformation Meals

One way to support Project Transformation this summer is by providing meals for the interns.

Lakeside is responsible for the following lunches and dinners:

May 29, 30, 31 and June 3 at Lakeside for lunch

May 29, 30, June 2, 3, and 6th for dinner.

Please contact Ellen Wyatt if you can provide one of these meals.

Other dates are available at www.projecttransformation.org/arkansas

* Intern Welcome Potluck Sunday June 2



Once again, we will be inviting parents to come in for coffee and doughnuts on Thursdays from 8:15-9:00am. If you'd be willing to provide doughnuts and/or serve as host, please contact Jennifer at 870-534-6241

General Conference Updates

If you'd like to keep up with what is happening at General Conference, use the links below to receive reliable, unbiased, and accurate information.

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020/live-stream>

or follow on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/arkansasumc?>

Southeast District Zoom meeting

Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 6:00pm.

<https://arumc.zoom.us/j/86981785595?pwd=Nam6QiiRfR04qwZ7cSX35bGjhS>

Project Transformation Bus Crew needs YOU!

We are still short a bus "Ride-Along" for Tuesday and Thursday mornings (8am), and Thursday afternoons (3pm) June 4 – July 26.

You can sign up for one ride, more than one or better yet, all slots!

Here are the available dates:

Tuesday mornings June: 4,11,18, 25

July: 2, 9,16, 23

Thursday mornings and afternoons

June: 6,13, 20, 27 July: 11,18

It takes about an hour to pick up the kiddos and drop them off. If you are not already Safe Gatherings Certified, we can remedy that.

Don't miss an opportunity to be a member of Lakeside's most AMAZING crew!

To sign-up or have questions,



Sunday, April 21, 2024

8:30 Chapel Worship - 22

9:15 Sunday school - 27

10:30 Worship - 88

Online Worship - 19

Our Weekly Service at Church

April 28, 2024

Senior Pastor: Reverend Judy Rudd; **Pastoral Intern:** Sara Andrews;

Liturgist: Tommy Brown; **Director of Music:** Ann Tibbs;

Children's Moments: Jennifer Fox

Scripture: Luke 24:17-32

Sermon Title: Emmaus Travelers ~ Recognizing God's Presence

Sermon Series: Resurrection Power - Transforming Lives

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

April 29 Brass Polishers: Pat Morgan and Ann Tibbs

April 29 Counters: Gerald Majors and Elaine Vaccaro

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

Volunteer Opportunity

Lakeside is in need of at least 2 more Nursery Nannies to help on Sunday mornings during the 10:30 service.

You must be Safe Gatherings certified and you would only have to volunteer once a month or just serve as a back-up for when someone is unable to be there.

If interested, please contact Jennifer in the office or Sandy Bobo at 540-7099.

Latest Sunday School News April 28, 2024 9:15am.

Discovery Class: Our class will be participating in What We Believe with Pastor Judy (9:30-10:00 am.)

Wesley Class: This week's discussion Jesus: Savior of the World. All are welcome to join.