

Lake Avenue Baptist Church, 72 Ambrose Street, Rochester, NY 14608  
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## Lake Avenue Baptist Church

E-MAIL:

[lakeavebaptistchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:lakeavebaptistchurchoffice@gmail.com)

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday  
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

10:00 am: Worship for all  
(Communion every first Sunday of the month.)

11:15 am: Fellowship

11:45 am: Adult Education

12:00 pm: Karen Worship  
Burmese Worship

### CHURCH MODERATOR

Tom Argust

### CHURCH STAFF

Sr. Pastor

Michael Ford

Associate Pastor

Debbie Bennett Reynolds

Music Educator, Chancel Choir

Director and Organist

Lee Foster

Gospel Spirits Director and Pianist

Isobel Davies

Refugee Coordinator

Hkadin Lee

Karen Lay Pastor

Day Chit

Burmese Lay Pastor

Simon Kui

Office Manager

Ken Setera

Custodial Services

Lloyd Cuyler

# Congregation Adopts 2016-2019 Strategic Plan

by Tom Argust, Church Moderator

Into the future we go! At our May 22 congregational meeting, we unanimously approved the proposed 2016-2019 Strategic Plan. As a result, we continue to be a church that is planning and living into our future. Our Plan will guide all that we do. And while it is “new,” it is really a continuation of and builds on other plans that go back to 2010 when we started our very intentional long range planning effort. Thank you all for your involvement, commitment and acceptance of the Plan. And thank you to the strategic planning committee and the church council for developing, guiding and directing the Plan. What a talented and dedicated group of fine people.

Now comes the hard part. Your Church Council will begin developing specific action steps for us to take. Over the next three years, look for some very exciting efforts that will advance our ministry to our neighborhood and world. And in all things, we will be faithful to the overall theme of the Plan:

**“BUILDING GOD’S COMMUNITY TOGETHER WHILE CELEBRATING OUR DIFFERENCES”**

All of us have played a key role in creating this Plan. It has taken us a year of prayer, study, discussion and thinking about what we want our future to be. In so doing, we continue being a congregation that is listening to God’s direction while focusing on creating our future rather than having the future create us. We are indeed a church that continues to be faithful, intentional and strategic.

So join us, will you, in the many ways we will be creating our future together. Let any member of your Council know how you will be willing to help. We welcome your commitment, energy, hope and excitement as we continue building our new community.

**LET’S GIVE A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR PLANNING COMMITTEE!**

The recently adopted 2016-2019 Plan didn't come out of nowhere. It

was developed by a creative and committed group of our congregation. Over the past twelve months, the strategic planning committee has worked hard on this project. They shared their talents, their time and their thinking together. What they produced for us will now guide our work over the next three years.

The Church Council joined the committee later in the process to help finish drafting the Plan. We so appreciate these exceptional people on the Committee: Marc Bigsby, Julie Carter, Day Day Stone, Michael Donatucci, Pastor Michael Ford, John Ganze, Hkadin Lee, Nay Thorn, Khatom Lamai Sorrels, Pastor Debby Bennett Reynolds. I enjoyed working as the conveyor and facilitator of the planning process with this group as well as the Church Council.

### **ONE MORE MEETING TO GO!**

Mark your calendars now for our next congregational meeting scheduled for Sunday, June 26. It is the annual session to elect our officers and trustees. If you have an interest in becoming an officer or trustee, please contact Pastor Ford or me before June 15.

**Note: Annual Reports from our staff, ministries and committees for the June meeting are due in the office no later than Wednesday, June 15 in order to compile and complete the Annual Report in a timely manner.**

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## **Our Pastor's Article**

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This past weekend I had the privilege of seeing LABC in action. You may be wondering what I mean when I say “in action.” What I mean is that I saw members and friends of LABC not just talking about things of faith, but living those things into reality. Perhaps a couple of examples will help.

First, on Saturday morning a number of people turned out to work on our church clean-up day. We pulled weeds, raked flower beds, mulched around plants, and overall made the property look pretty. The interesting thing is that there were two reasons why we did this. The first is the rather obvious one: because we are responsible for our church property and a church property clean-up is necessary each year. The other reason is a bit more subtle but all the more valuable. The neighborhood around our church can be a difficult place for people to live. There is crime and run down homes. Although there are many wonderful people, it can be a bit of a struggle living in the neighborhood. It is part of our responsibility, being located where we are on a main entrance into the neighborhood, to be part of the "welcoming committee" to the Edgerton neighborhood. Our property, when well taken care of, can welcome people into a place we love (not the church per se, but the community where the church, and so much of our ministry, lives).

It was so much fun working with so many people and a big thank you to all of you for your hard work and dedication to being part of this important ministry.

The second instance where I saw the church “in action” was on Sunday morning. We held a multi-lingual congregational vote on our strategic plan. This was a year of hard work with so many dedicated individuals who helped bring this to fruition. Further, when we voted, we actually knew what we were

voting on. This meant a lot of behind the scenes work which was so valuable (and necessary). But that's not what I am talking about when I say I saw the church in action.

On Sunday we had a number of visitors. I saw you, the people of LABC, open your arms to each of them in so many wonderful ways. I saw someone greet them at the door and direct them to the Welcome Center to get an information package. I saw someone else chatting with them to orient them to the church. I saw many of you greet them during the passing of the peace. And I saw still another person bring them to meet me after the service. You didn't overwhelm, but you were present and welcoming. You were the church "in action." I was, and am, so incredibly pleased by how you welcomed these folks because I know that these are not the only times you have provided such a welcome. And you don't do it for the purpose of membership. Rather, you provide such a greeting because you feel that is how all people deserve to be treated at LABC.

The church in action. LABC in action. Let's carry this movement through the summer, building on the great momentum of ministry that we are enjoying right now. May God bless you and may you continue to be "in action" for LABC, and "in action" for Christ.

Blessings, 

### LABC WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR JUNE

**Sunday, June 5, 2016:** 10:00 am: Worship & Communion for all, Sunday School for children and youth; 11:15 am: Fellowship; 11:45 am: Adult Education; 12:30: Karen Fellowship Worship, Myanmar Christian Fellowship Worship. We collect our Fellowship Offering.

**Sunday, June 12, 2016: Youth Sunday:** 10:00 am: Worship for all; 11:15 am: Fellowship; 11:45 am: Adult Education; 12:30 pm: Karen Fellowship and Myanmar Christian Fellowship Worship.

**Sunday, June 19, 2016: Children's Sunday, Father's Day:** 10:00 am Worship for all; 11:15 am: Annual Strawberry Social, Social Hall; 12:30 pm: Karen Fellowship and Myanmar Christian Fellowship Worship Services.

**Sunday, June 26, 2016: Summer Sundays Begin: We collect our offerings for the MEEK Food Cupboard; One Great Hour of Sharing Offering is received:** 10:00 am: Worship for all, Sunday School for children and youth; Annual Congregational Meeting and Annual Report; 10:15 am: Youth Picnic in Jones Park; 11:30 am: Fellowship; 12:30 pm: Karen Fellowship and Myanmar Christian Fellowship Worship Services.

### LABC ENGLISH ADULT EDUCATION FOR JUNE

**Sundays, June 5 and June 12: A return to the Conversation on Racism and White Privilege.** We will examine and discuss Ta-Nehisi Coates' book, [Between the World and Me](#). This book is a poignant letter from a father to his 15 year old son, reflecting on the experience of growing up and living as a black man in America. Even if you have not read this book or are not familiar with it, please plan to attend and share your own experiences or concerns regarding this subject and how we can make a better tomorrow.



## YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

● **YOUTH SUNDAY** is **Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>** This is always a great day as our youth lead us in worship!

Please plan to attend and to support our youth.

**YOUTH PICNIC:** The youth picnic is scheduled for Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 10:15 am in Jones Park. We will be cooking out, and playing volleyball, frisbee throwing, and kickball. Mark your calendars for this fun time.

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY

Children's Sunday is coming on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Children's Sunday is a celebration of our ministry with children as the children lead us in worship in various ways! We have wonderful children and a fantastic, dedicated group of teachers for all our Sunday School classes, and this Sunday highlights this part of our life together at LABC. Please plan to join us as we celebrate our children and our teachers!



## OUR ANNUAL STRAWBERRY SOCIAL

On Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, after Children's Sunday worship we will celebrate Fathers' Day and the beginning of summer with our annual Strawberry Social. We'll enjoy fresh local strawberries, ice cream, and cake during this special time of fellowship together. Please plan now to be part of this celebration!

Volunteers are needed to prepare strawberries on Saturday, June 18, at 10 a.m. Other volunteers are needed to bring angel food cakes or short cakes to share. Please sign up with Jackie Sullivan if you can contribute cake. If you'd like to help with set up, serving, or clean up, please sign up with Khatom Lamai Sorrels.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING

We are making plans for Vacation Bible School. This year's proposed theme is Baptist Trailblazers - a chance to learn more about our Baptist history. VBS

is always a great time of spiritual formation and fun with our children with singing, stories, crafts, games and snacks. We meet in the evenings to maximize participation, even if children have summer school and adults have day-time jobs. We are finalizing the dates in July – either the week of July 17 or the week of July 24<sup>th</sup>. Please let Debbie Reynolds know of your interest in participating and what week is best for you! Watch for more information coming very soon on VBS

## SUMMER SUNDAYS FOR CHILDREN June 26<sup>th</sup> through September 4<sup>th</sup>

We move into our summer format for Sunday School classes on June 26<sup>th</sup>. Our children will meet together for singing and a Bible story, followed by playground time, snacks, and simple crafts. We need volunteers to serve as lead teachers and helpers, so our regular teachers can have some time off. We hope to have enough teachers to separate the preschoolers into their own class. This is your chance to have some fun with our wonderful children! If you have not done this before, you will be paired with an experienced lead teacher. Suggestions for bible stories, songs, and activities are provided. Please, sign up with Pastor Debbie to help with Summer Sundays.

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## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

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- Please continue to keep in your prayers **Than Sein** and her family as they continue to care for her during her illness.
- Our condolences to **Annie Marie LeBarbour** and her family as they mourn the recent passing of Annie Marie's sister.

●Our prayers are with **Judy Eysvogel** who continues to recuperate and receive therapy at the Edna Tina Martin Living Center. The address there is: 700 Island Cottage Rd, Rochester, NY

●Congratulations to **Sylvie Mpiere**, mother of Hillary and Marie Mekoyo, who will be graduating from MCC on Saturday, June 4 with an Associates Degree in Lab Technology. .

●Congratulations also to **Eh Moo Paw** and **So Gay Win** who both graduated from SUNY Brockport with a bachelor's degree.

●Congratulations to **Simon Aung Kui**. Simon is our GRCC Faith In Action 2016 nominee. Simon is a leader within the Myanmar Christian Fellowship at Lake Avenue Baptist Church. In addition to his full time employment at Hillside Family of Agencies, Simon is a full time student in the Master of Divinity program at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. Within the Myanmar Christian Fellowship he provides pastoral leadership, leading worship, visiting members, and providing education and support. Among his accomplishments this past year was heading a fundraising campaign to assist in the recent flooding in Myanmar. Simon is a blessing to Lake Avenue Baptist Church and the broader Christian community in Rochester.

●**Please let the office know if you or anyone you know who attends this church is graduating from college, high school or any other educational or technical school. We want to make sure that everyone graduating is recognized for their achievement.**

MEEK is currently located within Church of the Ascension, 2 Riverside St (intersects with Lake Ave), Rochester, NY 14615. It is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00 am to 11:30 pm and on the 4th Saturdays of the month from 9:00 am to 11:00. This food cupboard serves those in need in the following zip code areas: all of 14613, part of 14608, part of 14606 and part of 14615. This food cupboard is sponsored by Church of the Ascension, Dewey Ave. Presbyterian, Grace United Methodist, the Cathedral Community, Wesley United Methodist, Redeemer Lutheran and, of course our church. It was established in 1976 and over the past 40 years it served approximately 106,800 people and gave out 75+ Christmas Baskets each year. Because of the large volume of people this cupboard serves, they are always in need of non-perishable food donations. The Sunday we designate for collection of food items for MEEK is the fourth Sunday of each month but you can always bring these items on any Sunday. In order to maintain this vital community organization, your continued generous contributions are always needed.



The Board and member congregations of the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists (AWAB) have announced the beginning of a search for a new executive director. AWAB, the National Voice for LGBTQ Baptists, is a group of churches and individuals supporting and advocating for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people (and allies!) across all Baptist faiths and traditions. Our network of more than 100 congregations spans the United States. Lake Avenue is one of the member churches of AWAB. Those interested in applying for this position, which is part-time, may find information at <http://www.awab.org/employment-opportunities.html>.

ALSO! AWAB's annual meeting this year will be Thursday, June 30, adjacent to the Baptist Peace Fellowship Summer Conference (a.k.a. Peace Camp) in Cheyney, PA. Representatives from member congregations, as well as



**THE  
MAPLEWOOD-  
EDGERTON  
FOOD  
CUPBOARD  
(MEEK)**

friends/volunteers and other interested parties are invited to attend.



## American Baptist Women of LABC

The next meeting and program of the LABC ABW will take place at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, June 21 at the home of Carol Gardner. Please plan to attend. We will be making decisions regarding next year's ABW meetings and programs.

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### NEWS AND EVENTS FROM OUR EXTENDED COMMUNITY.

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• **REGISTER NOW FOR BPFNA'S 2016 SUMMER CONFERENCE! June 27 – July 2, 2016, Cheyney University, Cheyney, PA** Our annual conference is a gathering for everyone who longs for the spirituality, inspiration, skills, knowledge and community to support a life of peace rooted in justice. Each year this conference offers excellent, challenging, and

age appropriate programming on a variety of ways to practice peacemaking in one's own context. Peacemakers of all ages come from all over North America to attend!

This year we will explore the theme of Breaking Social and Structural Injustice through worship, workshops, and activities. Workshops will include: The Power of Song, Prison Reentry and Aftercare Ministry, Crossing Borders: Cuba, Building Bridges for Japanese Americans, and more. We will also hear from individuals who attended a delegation to Ferguson, MO in August 2015 to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the murder of Michael Brown. There will also be organized group trips to tour sites of interest, including Eastern State Penitentiary, and an ongoing film series featuring titles as Act of Faith: The Rev. Emery Andrews Story and Ferguson: A Report From Occupied Territory.

Marge Forth of First Baptist Church of Rochester is organizing a group of American Baptists to travel together to this conference. If you are interested in attending you can contact Debbie Bennett Reynolds who will notify Marge Forth.

#### WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?

We have noticed that to put all the things that occur weekly at our church in the church calendar results in using a very small font size. We would like your input regarding whether you would rather maintain the status quo with the calendar as it is, or would you rather see a list with larger font similar to that which appears in the Sunday bulletin. Your feedback would be appreciated

Thanks, Ken Setera, Office Manager