

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

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Lake Avenue Baptist Church

E-MAIL:

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 STAFF

Sr. Pastor
Michael Ford

Associate Pastor
Debbie Bennett Reynolds

Church Moderator
Tom Argust

Music Educator, Chancel Choir
Director and Organist
Lee Foster

Music Educator, Gospel Spirits
Director and Pianist
Isobel Davies

Refugee Coordinator
Hkadin Lee

Karen Lay Pastor
Day Chit

Burmese Lay Pastors
William Lahtaw & Simon Kui

Office Manager
Ken Setera

Custodial Services
Lloyd Cuyler

LABC SUNDAY SCHEDULE FOR JULY

Sunday, July 5: 10:00 am Worship & Communion for all & Summer Sunday School; 11:15 am: Fellowship; 12:00 noon: Karen Worship, Burmese Worship; 2:00 pm: Chin Worship and Ordination of Peter Naing.

Sunday, July 12: 10:00 am Worship for all & Summer Sunday School; 11:15 am: Fellowship; 12:00 noon: Karen Worship, Burmese Worship.

Sunday, July 19: 10:00 am Worship for all & Summer Sunday School; 11:15 am: Fellowship; 12:00 noon: Karen Worship, Burmese Worship.

Sunday, July 26: 10:00 am Worship for all & Summer Sunday School; 11:15 am: Fellowship; 12:00 pm: Karen Worship, Burmese Worship.

A NOTE FROM YOUR PASTOR

“Building Destroyed ... Church Open” That was the sign that was in front of Lake Avenue Baptist Church in the days following the fire that destroyed the great stone building that stood on the site of what is now our church home. Out of great tragedy came a church that decided to move forward with all heart and soul and to seek to witness to the community that they would rebuild.

On Sunday June 21, 2015, the people of Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina, opened the doors to their church building for worship. This was unlike any other Sunday, however, as just days before a young man took the lives of 9 people who had gathered for Bible study and prayer in that very building. No one would have criticized the church if it had chosen to stay closed that Sunday. No one would have challenged the church if it had chosen to have only members in attendance for worship as they dealt with their grief. However, they chose to open the doors as they would have any other Sunday, as they indeed did on the night of the tragic shooting, to be together in one place and to welcome all those who wanted to come in. Out of a great tragedy came a church that decided to move forward with all heart and soul to witness to the community that they would rebuild.

Tragedies do indeed happen. We wish they did not, but they do. They are unexpected and they shake us to our core. We do not have any control over when they will happen and they catch us by surprise. They are, at their very core, experiences that we wish we would not have, but break into our daily experience and leave us changed forever. What we do have, however, is the capacity to decide what to do next. We do have the ability to choose what we wish to make of the tragedies in our lives.

Too often we allow tragedy to stop us in our tracks. That is a natural response and one that happens for tragedies large and small. But eventually we will reach a point where we must decide whether we wish to stay in that state of paralysis or whether

we wish to move forward or back. In the instance of the community of LABC who were impacted by the fire in the early 1970's out of the tragedy came a renewed focus on the community, planting ourselves once again in the Edgerton neighborhood for mission and ministry. We have experienced time and time again the fruits of our labor in this community and are forever grateful that we did not simply give up in the days and months and years after this painful experience. We decided to let God move in us as we moved forward.

In Charleston, Emanuel AME church was undoubtedly stopped in their tracks by the loss in their community. I cannot possibly understand how the community must be mourning. I certainly keep them all in my prayers as I trust you do too. But in the days following the shooting the Church did two things. First, the families of those killed chose to publicly express forgiveness to the shooter. Second, they chose to gather as they would any other Sunday and to worship God. In these two things they chose not to allow evil to paralyze them with fear and pain, but to look to God for guidance and grace. They chose to move forward with heart and soul and to seek to witness to the community that they would rebuild.

May we be a community that faces tragedy, our own and those around us, with God's strength. May we turn to God for hope and peace in the midst of pain and sorrow. And may we be a people of prayer. May we pray for those impacted by this horrific act in Charleston, and for those impacted by the tragedies that fill our neighborhoods, our cities, our nation, and the world. And may we decide, in the midst of all of this pain, to move forward with heart and soul, with God, and continue to seek after God as God moves with us, as we witness and rebuild our Churches and our communities into the places where we see and serve God, together.

Michael

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS!

Moderator Tom Argust

We have a very busy and active church. Just think about it: worship, music, keeping the building clean, raising money, paying bills, making sure we have enough insurance, organizing all our social and food events, operating our education activities, visiting our shut-ins, overseeing our mission efforts.

All of this work doesn't just happen. Somebody (bodies) has to do it. And at our church, we have a highly talented and committed group of people who are taking care of our business. Each of these folks were elected by our congregation to serve as Trustees and committee chairpersons. They serve us well as our servant leaders. I can't express enough my appreciation for their dedicated efforts and their ability to work as a group... and also to have fun doing it!

So here is our Church Council: Laura Tubbs (Worship and Music), Eh Moo Paw (Education), Jane Grant (Mission), Trevor Ewell (Resource Support...budget, building, finances, etc.), HkaTom Sorrels (Nurture and Care), Julie Carter (Invitation and Welcome), Chris Hasenauer (Treasurer), John Ganz (Secretary), Rheanolte LeBarbour (Personnel) and, of course, our Pastors Debbie and Michael.

If you have any concerns, questions or comments about our church, please feel free to talk with any member of the Church Council. And also, don't forget to express

your thanks and appreciation to them for their service in taking care of our church's business.

Summer Sundays

By Debbie Bennett Reynolds

Our Summer Sunday School classes have begun! They will continue throughout the summer months. We will go back to our traditional Sunday School beginning in September. During the summer session we have 2 groups of children who will be meeting for singing, a Bible story, crafts and outdoor playtime. Karen Brokaw has committed to lead preschoolers **but needs helpers**. For youth, Lee Foster will be teaching them music and chimes but we could still use some additional arts and crafts activities. We still need volunteers to help lead and to assist with Summer Sundays, so that our regular teachers can have some time off for worship and vacation. Please sign up with Pastor Debbie when you are available and willing to help with our wonderful children and youth!



We are making plans for an evening VBS the week of July 20-23. Please let Debbie know if you are available to help any or all evenings Monday through Thursday. This is always a great time for

Bible stories, music, crafts, mission projects, and snacks. We need lead teachers for different ages, but we also need assistants, snack preparers, and volunteers to help with transportation.

We are finalizing our theme for 2015 and will be delighted to take your creative ideas for activities. Call the church office, speak to Debbie on Sunday, or send an email to revdbr@rochester.rr.com if you can help and we'll get you in the loop for planning!

DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL?

The libraries of Rochester received special equipment to help New Americans record their stories. The stories will be on a disk that you can keep and if you give permission, it will be made available through the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. for others to hear. Also, parts of your story may be on the radio. Your story can help give hope and encouragement to other new arrivals. You can share advice from your experience, tell stories from your country and help others know what it is like to learn a new language and culture while still honoring your own language and culture. You can do this with another family member or a friend. You can have one of the people from church who grew up in the U.S. interview you. If you call/contact Carolyn Argust, she can answer any questions and arrange a time for your story to be recorded. You can email her at cargust@frontiernet.net or call her at 585-967-3535

OUR CHURCH FAMILY



• **Cherry Moo and Eh Gaw Htoo** will be getting married at 10:00 am on Saturday July 18th at LABC and they wish to invite the congregation LABC to attend. A reception will follow in the social hall.

• The following letter was received in the church office from **Anna Moorman**:

"Dear Pastor Michael, Pastor Debbie, members and friends,

For many years LABC has been my church family, therefore it is with difficulty that I now want to share with you that I will be leaving the Rochester area this month.

This has been a huge decision for me and I am asking for your prayers. I will be relocating to Annapolis, Maryland, and have the full support of my children, Deborah, Michael, Diane and Rex. Many of you are aware that my oldest daughter lives in Annapolis and we will not be far from each other in the same apartment complex.

Again, please remember me in your prayers and my prayer will be that LABC continues its onward and upward ministry manifested through the loving grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Peace and Love, Anna Moorman"



• Letter from the Historic Parsells Church

"Please excuse us for this late missive of thanks. But we were flooded with a sense of prayer being answered when you gave us your beautiful gift towards the clean-up efforts in March for the new church. As you know, the Historic Parsells Church, which is now up and running, didn't get that way without you. Your generous donation goes a long way toward relieving clean-up efforts.

It has been wonderful working with you during this process and words cannot express how we feel about you and the way you blessed us with your kindness. On behalf of the leadership and partners of the Historic Parsells Church, we thank you for your gifts, but more importantly, your prayers and friendship.

In appreciation, Rev. Marlowe V. N. Washington, Pastor"

• **THANK YOU TO TEACHERS** We are so blessed to have such dedicated and capable teachers working with our children and youth. Youth Sunday and Children's Sunday highlighted the gifts of our youth and children, but they also showed us what fine teachers we have. The work they do week after week is so vital to our congregation. We are so fortunate to have so many children and youth, and the work of nurturing them in faith is so important to our life together now and for the future of the church. Thank you, teachers!

OPEN PLAYGROUND TIMES



I've been convinced that we need to do something to reach out to children in our immediate neighborhood and share our playground with them as a safe play space. It seems very unfair to ban them from using it all the time and fuss at them if they climb

the fence just to play. I want to open the playground for supervised play at least once a week. I'm hoping to recruit some adults and youth to assist in this outreach. Please let me know if you are willing to help!
-Debbie B Reynolds

MYANMAR FELLOWSHIP JULY 4 PICNIC



All are invited to attend the 4th of July Myanmar Fellowship picnic which will be taking place at Stony Brook State Park at 11:00 am. Bring your own food to cook and the Myanmar Fellowship will provide paper goods, water and charcoal for grilling. If you have any questions call Hkadin Lee or Nay Thorn. They may be reached at 314-3065 or 435-9797.



The following members of the Lake Avenue Baptist Church family graduated this year.

- **Aye Yi** graduated from MCC and will be attending RIT in the fall.
- **Aye Mon** graduated from high school and is thinking about going to college in the fall.
- **Silver Law:** Graduated Valedictorian from the Early College program and will be going to Nazareth College in the fall.
- **Eh Moo Taw:** Graduated from Job Corps and successfully completed the carpentry program. (If you need some carpentry done, you know who to call!)
- **Bethany Htoo** graduated from SUNY Brockport
- **Oran Morton,** son of Euan and Ann Morton graduated from Gananda High School and will be attending Fingerlakes Community College in the fall.
- **Erin Harrington,** daughter of Laurie and Keith Harrington graduated from SUNY Buffalo State College where she received a Master's degree in Speech Pathology.
- **Luke Reynolds** graduated from Rush Henrietta High School and will be attending MCC in the fall.

● **Gey Nay Moo Tong** graduated from Franklin High School and plans to attend MCC in the fall and enter the fire fighter program.

● **Christelle Moukoudi** graduated from high school and plans to attend college in the fall.

If you know someone else who graduated from a high school, trade school, or college and they have not yet been listed in our newsletters, please let the office know. We are proud of all our graduates and would like to acknowledge all of them!

WHAT IS WORSHIP TO ME

Rev. Susan Maybeck



Michael asked me to write a few lines about my views on worship. He seems to know that I have strong feelings about the subject!

First of all: a definition of worship that works for me. I define worship as a time when the gathered community comes together in God's presence for praise, forgiveness, sharing love, and joy. I would find it hard to worship alone. I can pray or seek guidance or express thankfulness in solitude, but I need a community to worship. It does not need to be a large group or in a specific place (for ex. The sanctuary). But worship is a deliberate time to be with God and with our community.

Remember that Jesus says "for where two or three are gathered, in my name, I am there among them" (Matt.18:29)

Even when we are only two or three in a worship setting, it is inevitable that we will have different ways and thought about how to be in the presence of God – what one needs to do to be forgiven, or how best to share love. We are each an individual person with particular personalities and needs. Some like it quiet during prayer and others like a musical background. Some like to be in the background and follow the leaders while others are exuberant and want to participate. And we each have our preferences about music!! You can imagine how difficult it is to "plan" worship for a divergent congregation. It is a challenge!

But Michael's questions for me was what speaks to me in worship. I can't always say because sometimes God sweeps in unexpectedly and I find I am joyous or sobbing. God certainly isn't predictable. But some of my preferences are movement, participation, a variety of music with sound meaningful texts.

I respond to a service that is planned and follows a pattern. If we are using the Scripture of the Good Shepherd, I like to have that theme go through the entire service. Sometimes a service

will start boisterous and calm down at the benediction. Then I want quiet reflective music as the Postlude. Or we can start quiet and grow to a triumphant ending with the Hallelujah Chorus.

I feel more a part of the community when we pass the peace or take part in readings and songs and maybe even dance. I love to hear the Scripture read and interpreted by the youth and the children. Fresh words from fresh minds. I am happy that as Baptists we don't have rote prayers and readings that are repeated every Sunday. I know for some these are

comforting, such as at a funeral or memorial service, but for a steady diet frankly I get bored! And I don't think God or Jesus intend to bore us. They want to stimulate us as we learn how to follow the path they are leading us on.

Since we are a multi-cultural, multi-lingual congregation, I am grateful for all the expressions that bring us together in worship – singing, praying, laughing and crying. This is the essence of worship. Being together seeking God.

See you at worship.

JULY 2015						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:30 am: Staff Meeting; 11:30 English Tutoring Maplewood Library; 1:00 pm: Refugee Outreach, Mary's Place; 7:00 pm: Scholarship Cmte. Conf. rm.	2 6:00 pm: Chin Christian Church worship, Sanc.	3 Chin Christian Church worship and celebration 8:00 – 8:00 pm, Sanc. & SH	4 Chin Christian Church Worship & Celebration continues at Lake Avenue Baptist Church, Sanc. & SH 11:00 Myanmar Picnic Stony Brook Park
5 10:00 am: Worship & Communion; Children's Summer Sunday School; 11:15: Fellowship 12:00: Karen Worship, Burmese Worship 2:00 pm: Chin Christian Church worship & ordination of Pastor Peter Naing	6 1:00 pm: Refugee Outreach, Mary's Place	7 11:30 am: English Tutoring, Maplewood Library; 1:00 pm: Refugee Outreach, Mary's Place; 7:00 pm: Vision AA, SH; Gospel Spirits Rehearsal, Sanc.	8 10:30 am: Staff Meeting; 11:30 English Tutoring Maplewood Library; 1:00 pm: Refugee Outreach, Mary's Place	9 11:30 English Tutoring Maplewood Library; 1:00 pm: Refugee Outreach, Mary's Place; 7:00 pm: EANA Mtg.	10	11 10:00 am: Wedding of Say Moo & La Kee. 11:00 am Reception, SH
12 10:00 am: Worship for all; Children's Summer Sunday School; 11:15: Fellowship 12:00: Karen Worship, Burmese Worship	13 1:00 pm: Refugee Outreach, Mary's Place	14 11:30 am: English Tutoring, Maplewood Library; 1:00 pm: Refugee Outreach, Mary's Place; 7:00 pm: Vision AA, SH; Gospel Spirits Rehearsal, Sanc	15 10:30 am: Staff Meeting; 11:30 English Tutoring Maplewood Library; 1:00 pm: Refugee Outreach, Mary's Place	16 11:30 English Tutoring Maplewood Library; 1:00 pm: Refugee Outreach, Mary's Place		18 10:00 am: Wedding, Cherry Moo & Eh Gaw Htoo 11:00 am: Reception, SH
19 10:00 am: Worship for all; Children's Summer Sunday School; 11:15: Fellowship 12:00: Karen Worship, Burmese Worship ABC Ordination Council in PM	20 1:00 pm: Refugee Outreach, Mary's Place	21 11:30 am: English Tutoring, Maplewood Library; 1:00 pm: Refugee Outreach, Mary's Place; 7:00 pm: Vision AA, SH; Gospel Spirits Rehearsal, Sanc	22 10:30 am: Staff Meeting; 11:30 English Tutoring Maplewood Library; 1:00 pm: Refugee Outreach, Mary's Place	23 11:30 English Tutoring Maplewood Library; 1:00 pm: Refugee Outreach, Mary's Place	24	25 9:00 am: Archive Meeting, Conf. Rm.
26 10:00 am: Worship for all; Children's Summer Sunday School; 11:15: Fellowship 12:00: Karen Worship, Burmese Worship	27 1:00 pm: Refugee Outreach, Mary's Place 7:30 pm: Invitation & Welcome	28 11:30 am: English Tutoring, Maplewood Library; 1:00 pm: Refugee Outreach, Mary's Place; 7:00 pm: Vision AA, SH; Gospel Spirits Rehearsal, Sanc	29 10:30 am: Staff Meeting; 11:30 English Tutoring Maplewood Library; 1:00 pm: Refugee Outreach, Mary's Place	30 11:30 English Tutoring Maplewood Library; 1:00 pm: Refugee Outreach, Mary's Place	31	Abbreviations SH: Social Hall Conf. Conference Room; Sanc: Sanctuary; EANA: Edgerton Area Neighborhood Association

