

LABC NEWS

OCTOBER 26, 2018

VOLUME 81, ISSUE 10

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWS IS
NOVEMBER 21, 2018

Lake Avenue Baptist Church, 72 Ambrose Street, Rochester, NY 14608
www.lakeavebaptist.org; Phone: 585-458-5765 Fax: 585-458-5766

CHURCH CALENDAR: To see the most up-to-date calendar of church events please visit www.lakeavebaptist.org.

Lake Avenue Baptist Church

E-MAIL:

lakeavebaptistchurchoffice@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

10:00 am: Worship for all, Sunday School Children & Youth (Communion first Sunday of the month)
11:15 am: Fellowship
11:45 am: Adult Education
12:30 pm: Myanmar Worship

CHURCH MODERATOR

Laura Tubbs

CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor
Michael Ford

Music Educator, Chancel Choir Director
and Organist
Lee Foster

Refugee Coordinator
Hkadin Lee

Director of Youth and Children's Ministry
Austin Pettigrew

Myanmar Christian Fellowship
Simon Kui, Pastor

Church Accountant
Bonaventure Moulougho

Office Manager
Ken Setera

Custodial Services
Lloyd Cuyler



Don't forget to set your
clocks back one hour on
Saturday evening,
November 3

NOVEMBER WORSHIP AT A GLANCE

Sunday, November 4, 2018, All Saints Sunday - We remember the saints of our church who have passed away: 10:00 am: Worship and Communion for all; Sunday School for Children and Youth; 11:15 am: Fellowship Time, Social Hall; 11:45 am: Adult Education, Conference Room; 12:30 pm: Myanmar Worship, Downstairs Sanctuary

Sunday, November 11, 2018, World Mission Offering Collected: 10:00 am: Worship for all; Sunday School for Children and Youth; 11:15 am: Fellowship Time, Social Hall; 11:45 am: Adult Education, Conference Room; 12:30 pm: Myanmar Worship, Downstairs Sanctuary

Sunday, November 18, 2018: 10:00 am: Worship for all; Sunday School for Children and Youth; 11:15 am: Fellowship Time, Social Hall; 11:45 am: Adult Education, Conference Room; 12:30 pm: Myanmar Worship, Downstairs Sanctuary

Sunday, November 25, 2018, Stewardship Sunday 10:00 am: Worship for all; Sunday School for Children and Youth; 11:15 am: Fellowship Time, Social Hall; 11:45 am: Adult Education, Conference Room; 12:30 pm: Myanmar Worship, Downstairs Sanctuary

YOUR PASTOR'S LETTER

Many of you know that earlier in 2018 I had microvascular decompression surgery to hopefully fix the trigeminal neuralgia that I have been dealing with for approximately 8 years. The surgery did not work. I have since then been adjusting medications to try to alleviate the pain that comes with the condition. I tell you all of this only because it leads into something I wanted to write about this month.

This past Sunday (October 14, 2018) I woke up in considerable pain. I have never let my pain stop me from leading worship, but this particular Sunday I was worried that I wouldn't have any choice but to call in "sick." When I arrived at church I went to speak with our choir to see if I could pull in a few

people to read (the choir is often the first people there on a Sunday morning so when I need last minute participants I often recruit from the choir and they more often than not offer their leadership). When I asked for a couple readers I had volunteers immediately. This was greatly appreciated. However, our moderator Laura Tubbs then pulled me aside and offered to take a major role in leading worship. She started the service and led us a good portion of the way through the service. The main responsibility I had was to offer the pastoral prayer and then to preach. I am so thankful for all of the volunteers this past Sunday.

I share this story because it was, for me, a profound reminder both of the gifts of so many in our congregation, and the willingness of people to use those gifts in the service of our congregation and community. When the need arose, people were willing to step up and step in, and did a wonderful job in that situation.

We see that in different ways each and every week. From our custodian who gets the building ready for worship, to the people who come and make snacks for the kids; from the ushers who welcome people and the teachers who care so wonderfully for our children. Our church is full of people who are gifted and equipped to serve, and so often willing to do their part, large or small, in the ministry to which we have been called as the people of LABC.

This November we are going to have our Stewardship Emphasis month. However, this year we are going to do something a little different. In addition to speaking of our financial resources (which we need to do as we develop our budgets and plan for ministry in 2019), we are going to spend time thinking about our individual people resources. We are going to explore our individual gifts and callings, and discover the opportunities that we have to give to the church and community by using those resources too.

I encourage you to spend a bit of time in the next few weeks asking yourself a simple yet important question ... "what are my gifts?" In other words, "what do I do that gives me joy?" You will have opportunities to see ways in which all of your gifts will fit into the ministry that we do here at LABC.

Blessings,



A NOTE FROM YOUR DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The other night we had a youth event. We watched [He Named Me Malala](#). It was a documentary on the life of Malala Yousafzai. It was pretty powerful. We spent a little time afterwards talking about the importance of education, especially in a Christian context. The documentary hit hard on the concepts of religious extremism and how religion can be twisted and where the value of learning can be thwarted.

I have been thinking about these concepts ever since we watched the film and I am continually thinking about what can we do in the face of religious extremism here in our own country and context? What can we do?

In times of trouble I go back to Jesus. Jesus said in the Gospel of John 16:33, "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

When people look at Christianity in the US, many equate the hate and negativity with the message of Jesus and say this is what Jesus looks like. When I hear this, I am reminded to continue walking in the footsteps of Jesus. The early church looked very different from what it looks like today. They lived together, ate together, shared all things in common so that no one among them had need. What does it look like for all of us to do that for one another? What does it look like to live out heaven here on earth?

That's what I want the youth to be challenged to do and live. Am I living for me? For what I want? Or am I living for the good of all. To take care, love nurture and sacrifice for each other so that no one among us has need?

May we all continue to be challenged by the message and life of our Savior. May we love as Christ loved. May we teach our young ones to think for themselves. May our environment be a safe place for them to think, grow, be encouraged and loved.

Austin Pettigrew

NEWS FROM THE WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

We were saddened that our Gospel Spirits conductor, Isabel Davies, has resigned because of health Issues. The choir is very appreciative of her leadership and are sorry to see her go. The Committee, consulting with Michael and Lee, approved a job description and have initiated a search for a qualified replacement. We hope to announce the congregation to the new leader soon. Considering the variety of music this choir sings, we have renamed it the Good News Singers. Not only do they sing gospel, praise, and worship music, but they joyfully sing the good news that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior. Worship and music are intertwined as we enhance worship that is thoughtful, joyful and prayerful. As we look forward to November we will celebrate All Saints Day, Thanksgiving, and Stewardship. Keep tuned.

If you have any comments or suggestions about the worship or music programs, don't hesitate to talk to any member of the Committee: Susan Maybeck, Chair, John Ganze, Rheanolte LeBarbour, and Austin Pettigrew.

MEMBERSHIP AT LABC

In recent weeks a number of people have asked how to become members at Lake Avenue Baptist Church. We practice what is called "open membership" and one can become a member in any one of three ways.

- 1) Baptism – If you haven't been baptized at any point in the past, you are invited to speak to Pastor Michael about baptism. After a few conversations (or if there are enough people to warrant it, a class), you will be invited to be baptized in the baptistery at the front of the church sanctuary during a worship service.
- 2) Transfer of Membership – If you have membership that is currently held at any other church (Baptist or otherwise), you may ask our office to reach out to that church and request a letter of transfer of membership. In most instances, the other church will send a letter identifying you as a member in good standing, and then commending you to Lake Avenue Baptist Church. You will be invited to a conversation with Pastor Michael (or to a class if there are enough people to warrant it), to learn about life and ministry at LABC. You will then be welcomed into membership at Lake Avenue Baptist Church.
- 3) Christian Experience – If you have been baptized before (as an infant or at any other time in your life), and do not have a membership being held at another church (or we cannot for some reason request a transfer of that membership), you are invited to become a member based on Christian Experience. You will be invited to a conversation with Pastor Michael (or again, a class) to learn about the life and ministry of LABC. We acknowledge that you

have been on a journey of faith over the years, and welcome you into membership.

If you are considering becoming a member and would like to explore any of these three ways of becoming a member or to identify which one is right for your situation, please reach out to Pastor Michael.



UPDATE FROM THE "WHAT'S NEXT?" COMMITTEE

In the past two months your "What's Next?" committee has been hard at work. We have been listening to our church family describe what they love about our church and begin to dream about where God may be leading us in the future. We did this in worship! Yes, we even moved seats so we could be in small groups and listen to each other. We did this with many small groups meeting outside of the worship hour. We even put up a survey "on Line" for anyone who wished to add their thoughts. If you missed the online survey, go to "www.surveymonkey.com/r/labc_What's_Next"

A full report is coming. But let me give you a sneak preview. We love our church! We love that all are welcome here and many of us expressed gratitude for that unconditional welcome. We want to grow as people of faith in our personal lives, as a community and in reaching out to others. This is an exciting place to be!

It has been an honor to listen to you, read the input from others and see how God is moving in and through us. God has blessed us with love and hope. We are working on our report. But for now, I want to say THANK YOU for all you have shared.

Marian Coger, on behalf of Mike Donatucci, Pastor Michael Ford, Annie Marie LeBarbour, Billy Simba, Laura Tubbs.



The Spirit Dancers of LABC

Recently, I was blessed with the opportunity to spend five Saturday afternoons dancing with seven incredible kids. What an amazing experience this turned out to be!

I am a trained dancer. I started training at six years old and went on to study dance at the University at Buffalo. At an early age, dance became, for me, a way to express myself. It was the most powerful way for me to spread messages that I was passionate about. I have not danced in a very long time, but I know this is still true for me.

The kids I met with each week helped me be able to do this again. When I decided to try doing a dance class, I could not have imagined how it would reawaken my belief in the power of dance as an expression of faith and being a Christian. Esther, Blessed, Panling, Wah Nay, Elin, Mercy and Esther showed up every week to dance, and as they learned from me, I learned so much more from them.

The dance I choreographed was meant to emphasize our obligation as Christians to love "the least of these". During one class, we read Matthew 25: 34-40 and then the lyrics to the song we were using, "Kings and Queens" by Audio Adrenaline. We talked about what the scripture meant and why the song fit with it. I wanted them to do more than dance. I wanted them to inspire others and show what it means to be a follower of Christ. And they did! They rose high above my expectations with

astounding grace, beauty, laughter, and joy...the likes of which it is hard to find in anyone other than a child.

During worship on October 7th, they did the dance that I envisioned, choreographed and taught to them...the dance they then transformed into a testimony of loving the outcast, the unloved, the ignored, the unwanted, the rejected, overlooked and lonely. They didn't just dance. They inspired and gave hope. They gave us all a glimpse of what a beautiful world we may finally have with them as our future. They showed us Jesus, and I am so thankful to have been a guide and encouragement to bring out something they already had within themselves.

I thank each of the dancers, and their parents, for the gift they gave us all. I also thank Billy Simba and Khual Mung Mark for reading Matthew 25: 34-40 before the dance, in Swahili and Burmese, expressing another message I am passionate about...the beauty of God's diverse children and that no matter our differences, God loves us all and wants us to love each other.

When asked what the group would be called, I decided they would be The Spirit Dancers. This was such a wonderful and meaningful experience for myself, the kids, and all who were able to see what came from it that I am looking forward to continuing and extending the opportunity to be a Spirit Dancer to others. I am hoping to develop what might eventually be an actual dance program that will allow us to incorporate dance into our worship on a regular basis. I am bursting with ideas and am very excited about what seven very special children, ages 7-12, have begun. I cannot wait to see what more we can do to praise God through dance.

For now, I am planning a class for ages 4-6. Once I have the dates and song decided, I will make an announcement so we can get started. I have already had several little ones tell me they want to "dance with Miss Lara", so I am confident that whoever our Mini Spirit Dancers turn out to be they will be just as inspiring as the originals.

There has been interest expressed in me doing an adult class, so I plan on moving on to the Adult Spirit Dancers after the Minis. My ultimate goal is to create a cycle of dancers of all ages, so after the adults...back to the older kids. There are several other ideas I have sprinkled in there, including opportunities for leadership development for our youth.

I ask for your prayers and support as I try to piece this all together. We certainly had an incredible start! If you have any questions or thoughts, feel free to email me at larasford@gmail.com.

Again, thank you to Esther, Blessed, Panling, Wah Nay, Elin, Mercy and Esther...the original Spirit Dancers. Thank you for the gift you have given to me and to so many others and for paving the way for more dancers. Also, as always, to the parents of all of our children, thank you for sharing them with me and allowing me one of the greatest joys in my life...loving them.

“Miss” Lara

A MISSION MESSAGE

World Mission Offering – Nov. 11

For the next 3 Sundays, our morning worship bulletin will have information about this special offering collected by all American Baptist Churches around the nation. The “**World Mission Offering**” supports people and resources in many areas of the world to deal with a great variety of issues and problems, such as human trafficking in Thailand, refugee support in southwest Asia, medical care in Congo.

“Salt of the Earth” is the theme of this year’s offering. Your Mission Committee asks you to learn how the money collected is used by reading the bulletin inserts and to prayerfully consider your personal support of this special offering. **The offering will be received on Sunday, November 11.**



BOOK TALK

a Book Review by Karen Brokaw

One of the most recent reads is a memoir by Anthony Ray Hinton. It is the story of an African American man in the state of Alabama who spent 30 years on death row for a crime he did not commit. His case was eventually taken up by Bryan Stevenson, author of *Just Mercy* and founder of the Equal Justice initiative. Although Hinton was eventually freed, the tale of his journey through the criminal justice system and the nightmare of living on death row is riveting. It left me full of questions. Is it an effective punishment? Is it an effective deterrent? How do we as God’s people address this issue? There are almost 3000 people on death row at this time. Many of them have done horrible things. It is estimated, however, that 10 - 20% of them are actually innocent. This book opened my eyes to a place few people enter and where few are allowed to leave.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

•Our healing prayers are with **Elizabeth Whitmore** following recent surgery. (She is a member of LABC and

the mother of Ann Morton.) Cards and well wishes may be sent to Elizabeth Whitmore, c/o Euan and Ann Morton, 1215 Macedon Center Road, Macedon, NY 14502-9301.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM OUR LARGER COMMUNITY AND GRCC

•**GRCC – Faith in Action Network** together with Bishop Prince Singh is offering a retreat for the whole community on Wednesday, November 7 from 6-9 pm at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse. This “*Evening Apart*” is centered on “*Finding Our Breath in Today’s World: Goodness to Go.*”

“In a climate of raw division and mass confusion, people of faith are returning to our sources to breathe afresh the wind of the Spirit. This is not only for ourselves but also that we can be instruments of the Beloved Community in this time by word and deed.”

The title “*Goodness to Go*” is what Bishop Singh presented in his acceptance speech upon receiving GRCC’s Faith in Action Award in 2017. Inspired by his words, we invited him to help us in a time of personal and community reflection.

The evening begins with finger foods, and the cost is \$10. Please spread the word. This evening apart is GRCC’s and Bishop Singh’s gift to the community as together we are “goodness to go.”

•**A Message from Church World Service:**

"Dear Lake Avenue Memorial Baptist Church,

When a force as big as a hurricane strikes, it takes an equally powerful force of goodness to bring recovery and refuge. Your congregation has been that force.

But with back-to-back disasters around the world, people are exhausted. We’re seeing very few funds come in to support relief efforts for families who have been impacted by Hurricane Michael. Will you once again consider standing in the gap through a congregational gift? cwsglobal.org/2018hurricanes.

Where materials are concerned, congregations have really stepped up to provide enough CWS Kits for a strong response. But **your gift** means the response can go beyond kits into longer-term solutions for families who are trying to get their lives back.

Please consider joining this force of goodness so that recovery and refuge are possible:

cwsglobal.org/2018hurricanes/.