

# *the Messenger*

Monthly Newsletter of Lakeside United Methodist Church

## *the Pastor's Corner*



During this Lenten season, we have been deeply engaged in our faith journey, reflecting on the wilderness experience in our sermon series. Together, we have explored profound and challenging topics such as temptation, solitude, and even the reality of death. These are not easy conversations to have, yet I am so grateful for our Lakeside family's willingness to embrace them with open hearts. Your commitment to seeking and wrestling with your faith during this sacred season is inspiring.

At our last Sunday Family Luncheon, we took part in "FaithTalk," a time of meaningful discussion. I was encouraged to see one group dive into reflection questions about solitude even before their meal arrived! What a beautiful testament to the ways God is stirring in our community.

This past Sunday, several people shared with me how our lesson on the reality of death prompted deep reflection. So often, we long for clear answers—whether in life or ministry—because having certainty feels more comfortable than sitting with questions or searching for meaning.

This Lenten season, we are intentionally stepping into uncomfortable spaces, surrendering our own will and control. And that's okay. It's okay to feel lost sometimes. We don't always need to have the answers, nor do we need to fix everything to make it perfect. Before we strive to figure it all out, what if we simply let God find us, renew us, and fill us with his grace? Ultimately, it is Christ who leads and guides us.

*continued on pg. 2*

### *Lakeside Worship & Fellowship Highlights*

- **April 6th: Family Luncheon & New Member Celebration**
- **April 12th: Children's Easter Celebration**
- **April 13th: Palm Sunday, Easter Cantata during worship**
- **April 17th: Maundy Thursday at LUMC, 7pm**
- **April 18th: Good Friday at CLC, 7pm**
- **April 20th: Easter Sunday (see Holy Week schedule)**
- **April 21st: OFFICE CLOSED**

# Music Notes

On Sunday, April 13, the Easter cantata “Whispers of the Passion” will be presented at the 11:00 service by the chancel choir and our usual group of fine instrumentalists. Several members of our congregation will assist in this powerful and moving work, presenting visual elements which, in the words of composer Joseph Martin, “remind us of the cost of redemption and of the Savior’s matchless love.”

The music and spoken text are beautiful and moving, and the composer asks us to pause in silent wonder at the miracle of mercy, and surround our spirits with the deep abundance of God’s love: “Come to the silence and solitude of the shadows and listen for the whispers of the passion. Lay aside the clamor of the world, and for a season, lose yourself in the music of grace.” I hope all of our members can attend, and share this experience with a friend.

*Caroline*

*continued from pg. 1*

As we move toward April, we will journey through Holy Week and celebrate the joy of Easter together. Until then, let us continue walking this path of letting go and letting God.

*Pastor Jae*

## Combined Services During Holy Week

We are once again collaborating with our friends at Christ Lutheran Church, this time for combined Holy Week services.

The Maundy Thursday service will take place at Lakeside UMC. Then, on Good Friday, we’ll head over to Christ Lutheran Church as they graciously host the Good Friday service.

Christ Lutheran Church is located at 7809 Woodman Rd.



|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Sunday, April 13   | Palm Sunday<br>Easter Cantata   |
| Thursday, April 17 | Maundy Thursday Svc.<br>(Combined with Christ Lutheran)<br>at LUMC, 7:00 PM |
| Friday, April 18   | Good Friday Svc. (Combined<br>with Christ Lutheran) at CLC,<br>7:00 PM      |
| Sunday, April 20   | Easter Sunday   |
| 8:00 AM            | SonRise Service   |
| 9:00 AM            | Easter Morning Breakfast<br>hosted by Lakeside UMM                          |
| 11:00 AM           | Easter Morning<br>Worship   |

# *Singing for the Sheep...Again!*

Musical Revue

Save the Date: May 3, 2025

Our musicians are joining with those of Christ Lutheran to offer our second fund-raiser for LAMB's Basket. The meal will be prepared and served by the UMM. Our goal is to exceed last year's amount of 422 pounds of collected food and a cash donation of \$1724.31. Even if you are unable to attend, you can help us reach the goal by bringing food throughout April.

We are collecting specific items during that time to help with shortages. The schedule is as follows:

- ◆ April 6 Spaghetti Sauce
- ◆ April 13 Canned fruit
- ◆ April 20 Spaghetti/Pasta
- ◆ April 27 Tuna

The dinner and show will be May 3, 2025 at 6:00. The cost is \$15 for adults and \$8 for children. All proceeds other than actual expenses go to LAMB's Basket. Reservation forms will be available soon!

## *Kroger Cares*

Do you shop at Kroger? Do you have a Kroger Valued Customer Card? Are you enrolled in the Kroger Community Rewards program?

Recently, while volunteering at Lamb's Basket, I was conversing with a fellow volunteer about Kroger's Community Rewards program, Kroger Cares. Since she had never heard of the program, I thought maybe others within the congregation might be unaware of the quarterly Kroger contributions to qualified organizations; Lakeside UMC is a registered participant.

If you have a Kroger loyalty card, you can designate a community organization to receive a portion of the \$500,000 Kroger donates each quarter;

the amount LUMC receives depends on the number of people who have designated LUMC as their enrolled organization.

Here is how you enroll your loyalty card to support Lakeside United Methodist Church:

- ◆ Login to your Kroger online account
- ◆ Using the drop-down menu under login
- ◆ Click MY ACCOUNT
- ◆ On the dropdown menu on the left, under MY ACCOUNT, you will see PREFERENCES
- ◆ CLICK on this tab
- ◆ The screen will change and you will then see COMMUNITY REWARDS, click on this tab

- ◆ It will tell you if you are enrolled, if not, you will see a SEARCH option
- ◆ Enter Lakeside United Methodist Church and select Faith-Based under the CATEGORY
- ◆ Click SEARCH
- ◆ You should see Lakeside UMC, SC193 in the results box
- ◆ Complete the process by clicking on ENROLL

That is all there is to the process. If you have any questions, contact me and we can walk through the process together.

*Butch Kelchner*

## *Children's Easter Festival*

The Children's Ministry will have an Easter celebration on April 12 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. for toddlers through fifth grade children. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt, games, food, and fun! We would love to have your children, grandchildren, and your neighbors join us.

We are also looking for volunteers to help us for one or two hours during the festivities. Please see Dina Giese or Bob Friend if you have questions.

## *Church Office Closure*

The church office will close on Easter Monday, April 21st. Regular office hour will resume on Tuesday, April 22nd.

## *Hygiene Kit Update*

We have gotten off to a good start with the hygiene kits supplies; so far, we have been able to purchase enough supplies to assemble nearly 100 kits. However, we have a long way to go. I just wanted to remind everyone that we need your participation in this project to make it a success.

The Lakeside United Methodist Men have committed to providing funds to the Conference to underwrite the shipping and toothpaste costs for the kits.

With the flooding and wildfires, and tornados that have plagued the Southeast through late Winter and Spring, these kits are invaluable to UMCOR in their relief efforts in providing the very basics to those affected by natural disasters.

A small monetary donation on your part will go a long way in helping those who have lost everything but their faith in rebuilding their lives.

We will be accepting donations through the end of April.

Thank you  
Butch Kelchner

## *Easter Offering*

Our Easter Offering this year has been designated to help support our local United Methodist Family Services(UMFS). Some of the areas they specialize in are: Foster Care, Adoption, Family Therapy, Charter House Day School.

Please prayerfully consider this giving opportunity.

## *Red Cross Blood Drive Honor*

The Red Cross notified me that the Lakeside UMC blood drive held on Nov. 2 was selected as an American Red Cross Blood Drive of the Week. This honor recognizes a group that exemplifies outstanding dedication to the community blood program. Overall, this drive collected 30 units on a goal of 23 and had five Power Red donations.

Todd Cahill, Regional Donor Services Executive, thanked Lakeside for its contribution to the community blood supply and acknowledged that such successes would not be possible without the support of all of our blood donors. Thank you to each of you that take the time to share this gift of life.

Jo Anne Kelchner  
Blood Drive Coordinator

## *TSCOR: Open University Spring 2025 Classes*

The Shepherd's Center of Richmond (TSCOR) has published its spring schedule of classes that will be offered in person and some via Zoom. The classes will cover a large variety of topics in literature, history, music, language, religion and more.

Classes will be on Monday at St. Luke's Lutheran Church and Thursday mornings at Lakeside UMC from 9:30 to 10:30 and from 11:00 to 12:00. In addition, there will be lunch speakers from 12:30 to 1:30 PM each Monday and Thursday and four Wednesdays. All lunch speakers are available via Zoom. Language classes in German, and Japanese will be on Tuesdays.

The entire schedule is at the Shepherd's Center's website at [www.tscor.org](http://www.tscor.org) and is available on the welcome table in the narthex. Tuition, that covers all the programs, is very reasonable for the winter session at \$50 for members and \$80 for non-members. Membership in TSCOR supports its programs and is \$25/year. Members can attend all the lunch speaker programs as a benefit of membership. So for a \$25 membership one can hear 20 fascinating lunch speakers and for the \$50 tuition one can attend 32 classes on a variety of interesting topics.

Classes available at Lakeside include a history of music, a survey of the deaths and funerals of our first four presidents, education in the middle ages, a tour of the French-speaking world, and others. It is an eclectic and diverse offering with something of interest to everyone.

Details for registration are now available on the TSCOR website and brochures with the schedule are in the church lobby.

## *Kits for Conference*

Lakeside will again be the collection point for Kits for Conference for the Richmond area churches of the Three Notch'd District. Cleaning kits (a.k.a., flood buckets, UMCOR Cleaning Kit - Global Ministries), hygiene kits (UMCOR Hygiene Kit - Global Ministries) and menstrual hygiene kits (UMCOR Menstrual Hygiene Kit - Global Ministries) will be collected and stored until pickup for delivery to Mission Central in Mechanicsburg, PA.

The collection day is Saturday, June 7, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon.

This is the only time available for collection of kits.

Kits for Conference is a major ministry of our United Methodist Men. Each kit is a response to the United Methodist Committee on Relief which distributes kits free of charge to disaster-affected areas of greatest need in the US.

In 2024, Lakeside UMC responded with the highest number of kits collected in the Richmond area with 370 kits. Overall, 1764 kits were collected from throughout the Richmond area.



|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| Jenny Callaway   | 4/2  |
| Robin Dodson     | 4/6  |
| Lori Harris      | 4/8  |
| Maxine Harwood   | 4/9  |
| Kim Moncure      | 4/11 |
| Zachary DeVore   | 4/15 |
| Deven Giles      | 4/18 |
| Robin Smith      | 4/18 |
| Joyce Spiller    | 4/20 |
| Doris Costley    | 4/21 |
| Frances Mauzy    | 4/23 |
| Ta Shaun Brown   | 4/25 |
| Angela Hedrick   | 4/27 |
| Jo Anne Kelchner | 4/30 |

## *ROMEOS Breakfast*

Gentlemen, you are invited to join the ROMEOS for breakfast on Tuesday, April 1st at Golden Corral off of Gaskins Rd.

Romeos is an acronym for Retired Old Men Eating Out Sometimes. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 8:00 AM for good food and fellowship. You need not be retired, nor old, possessing a good appetite is required. Please contact Bob Friend if you have questions.

## *Lamb's Basket Donations*

Be sure to bring food for Lamb's Basket in April. We need the following items for each week:

- ◆ April 6 Spaghetti Sauce
- ◆ April 13 Canned fruit
- ◆ April 20 Spaghetti/Pasta
- ◆ April 27 Tuna