

“We envision Lakeside
UMC to be God’s
HANDS in our
community and beyond:
*Hospitable, Always
Faithful, Nurturing,
Discipleship, Service.*”



THE MESSENGER

Monthly Newsletter of Lakeside United Methodist Church

November 2025



Mark Your Calendar

11.4

ROMEOS Breakfast

11.8

Brunswick Stew Pick up

11.15

Church Work Day

11.16

Church Conference

Family Luncheon

11.29

Hanging of the Greens

11.30

1st Sunday in Advent

Pastor's Corner

One day, I was looking at the remaining days on the calendar and thought, “Time has gone by so fast!” It feels like it was just yesterday when I was preparing for summer. Now, I see beautiful fall colors everywhere. As I get ready to enter the seasons of Stewardship, Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas, I am reminded once again to count my blessings and prepare my heart for the full joy of these upcoming seasons.

Some of you might feel the same way. The seasons change quickly, and time seems to pass in the blink of an eye. Yet let us continue to give thanks to God for his blessings, as Paul reminds us in 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18: “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

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Pastor's Corner

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This year's theme for our Stewardship Campaign is Grace in Action. Together, we can reflect on the blessings God has poured into our lives and ministries. You will soon receive your Stewardship Packet in the mail, and extra copies will be available at the Welcome Desk on Sundays.

Your contribution is vital as we continue to discern and carry out God's vision for Lakeside UMC. You are invited to prayerfully complete your pledge card and bring it with you to Commitment Sunday on November 16.

You will also find pledge forms for our Capital Campaign, Claiming the Change, in the narthex. If you have not yet filled out a pledge form, you are welcome to do so at any time. I am excited to walk with you through this season of stewardship. May God continue to bless you, and may you joyfully put your God given grace into action.

In Christ,
Jae Cho

Music Notes

At this time of year, my thoughts turn to the many hymns of thanksgiving and praise in our United Methodist hymnal.. (We sing one every Sunday, as our offering is lifted in praise and thanks to God for His many blessings). One of my favorite "thanks" hymns is "For the Beauty of the Earth" (no. 92 in our hymnal). It gives thanks for the earth and heavens, for time, for things we see and hear, for the love of family and friends, for the church, and for the "best gift divine"... God's Son. These words were written by the English poet Folliott Pierpoint one day in late spring when "violets and primroses were in full bloom, and all the earth seemed to rejoice".

As we approach Thanksgiving, this quote by American poet and philosopher Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862) comes to mind: "I am grateful for what I have. My thanksgiving is perpetual."

Please remember the date for the Christmas cantata: Dec. 14. Plan to bring a friend.

Caroline

Capital Campaign Update

Thanks to the funds raised through our "Claiming the Change" capital campaign, we are excited to announce the commencement of our top-priority project: replacing the air conditioning units on the second floor of the Education Wing.

For years, the absence of adequate air conditioning has restricted the use of this space. Now, with the installation of nine new units, known as "mini-splits," we are opening up opportunities that have not been available for quite some time.

EMC Mechanical has been awarded the contract for this project, valued at \$32,585. The contract was finalized in mid-October, and work is scheduled to begin soon. Notably, the contract amount is below the estimate initially used for the capital campaign, a result made possible by generous contributors who provided significant up-front funding. This early financial support has enabled us to move forward with the air conditioning replacement ahead of schedule.

Following the completion of the air conditioning project, the next phase will involve replacing lighting fixtures and ceiling tiles in the Education Wing. These upcoming projects are expected to be more costly and extensive than the air conditioning replacements and will encompass improvements on both the first and second floors. All of these enhancements are made possible through the continued support of the capital campaign.

Kip Robinson
Chair, Trustees

Lakeside United Methodist Church Financial Status

Over the years, many members have asked questions about the church's financial status. One of the main questions is: Why do we have struggles meeting our annual financial responsibilities when we have so much money in our asset accounts? I am going to try and explain the answer to that question in this article without getting into too much accounting detail.

Lakeside has two major sources of support: the annual budget support and gifts that have been designated for specific purposes. We are dedicated to keeping track of each gift and using it for only its designated purpose.

Your regular gifts throughout the year are specifically designated and used to support the budget. Therefore, your regular giving to support the budget pays our operating expenses such as salaries, missions, utilities, insurance and administration. As of the end of September, expenses totaled \$257,526, slightly less than the approved budget of \$258,637. So, the church is managing its budget quite carefully. However, our year-to-date income is only \$239,931 or \$18,706 less than our expenses. That is why there is a continuing need for your weekly and monthly gifts to support our ongoing expenses.

Lakeside is fortunate to have substantial additional assets given to support other specific church activities. We keep track of those gifts by setting them aside as dedicated accounts that are to be used only for the purposes established by the donor. Some support a specific activity and others, through bequests or major campaigns, are designated for larger general purposes.

We currently have endowment funds totaling \$364,563 and designated funds totaling \$953,275. There are two endowment funds. One is specifically restricted to church maintenance and repair expenses and the other is unrestricted.

Those funds and expenses are managed by the endowment committee and are invested in long-term funds through our brokerage account. The endowment funds have contributed over \$125,000 since its establishment in support of the church. The dedicated accounts are maintained in interest bearing saving accounts managed by the finance and endowment committees. All accounts are carefully recorded and managed to ensure their use is in accordance with donor's wishes. Some of the specific accounts are small. Other dedicated funds are large such as the Doris Davis bequest designated to support our music ministry (total fund balance \$39,161). The largest fund (\$791,194) was from a bequest that specifically designated the funds only be used for our youth and music programs. They are being used to pay music salaries, which end up supporting our budget. They are also being used to improve and expand our youth ministry programs.

As one can see, while we have significant assets, almost all are designated for specific purposes. The church council and finance committee work hard to manage these funds and ensure they are only used for the donor's wishes.

If you want more details, the monthly reports are available in the church office and you may ask the treasurer, Butch Kelchner; the finance chair, Hal Costley; or any member of the finance or endowment committees for further information.

Hal Costley
Chair of Finance and Endowment Committees

Announcements

Lamb's Basket

For the month of November, we are collecting the following:

- November 2: spaghetti sauce
- November 9: fruit cups
- November 16: canned pasta/ Spaghetti-Os
- November 23: canned veggies (no green beans)
- November 30: instant oatmeal

There is a continued need for bags, both paper and plastic.

Church Work Day

Volunteers are needed on Saturday morning, November 15, to wash windows, disinfect surfaces, polish, dust, wash, sweep, vacuum, etc. Lunch will be provided. If you can help, please sign up at the table in the Narthex.

Hanging of the Greens

Saturday, November 29th, 9:00 a.m.

Veterans Day

Veteran's Sunday is November 9th. If you have someone that has served in the armed forces of the United States and was not named on the Lakeside Veterans display or list last year, please contact Don Wiles (804-802-2500), or email: donwiles@gmail.com.

If you or your son or daughter is on active duty or has served in the armed forces, please provide full name, rank, and contact information.

Henrico Christmas Mother

In 2024, your donations (328 items) of gloves, hats, socks and scarves made the difference in whether a family got to select these items for their children. The knitted hats and headbands were exceptional gifts. We need your gifts again to provide warmth to the children of Henrico families that qualify for our assistance.

The Christmas tree in the Narthex will be bare and in need of your gifts of hats and gloves for children from babies to seniors in high school.

Please bring your gifts in November through December 7.

ROMEOS

Tuesday, November 4th
8:00 a.m.

Golden Corral @ W. Broad St. & Gaskins Rd.

CHRISTMAS BONUSES FOR PASTOR AND STAFF

Each year, to show our love and support for our wonderful LUMC staff members, our congregation blesses them with a monetary bonus through a special offering. If you would like to donate to this gift, you can submit your gift with your weekly offering, or you can mail your payment to the church office. Please mark your contribution for "Staff Appreciation Gift." You can also contribute through the on-line Tithely system, by selecting "Staff Appreciation Gift." To ensure that your contribution will go towards this year's gift, please submit your contribution by December 14.

Mike Magner
Chair, Staff Parish Relations Committee



**Don't forget to set
your clocks back 1 hour
Sunday, November 3rd,
2:00 a.m. (or just do it
before you go to bed on
Saturday!)**

PUMPKIN PATCH FUNDRAISER - THANK YOU!

THANK YOU to all the volunteers who helped out during our Pumpkin Patch fundraiser! From the moving of pallets, unloading, placement, and everyone working the table.

It is always so great to hear people from the community say "we come here every year", or newcomers say "this is really nice" and the young children with their ooohs and ahhhhs!

Thank you!
Dina Giese

EYEGLASSES COLLECTION

We are again collecting used prescription eyeglasses, lenses, reading glasses, sunglasses, & cases. These will be collected during November. The collection box is located in the Narthex.

Thank you for your continued generosity in helping those in Honduras who need glasses.

Jo Anne Kelchner
Health & Welfare Coordinator