

“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

December 2025



Schedule of Advent/Christmas Activities

- 11/29 Hanging of the Greens
- 11/30 1st Sunday of Advent
- 12/7 2nd Sunday of Advent & Communion
- 12/14 3rd Sunday of Advent & Christmas Cantata
- 12/21 4th Sunday of Advent & Family Celebration after worship
- 12/24 **Office Closed**
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
7:00 p.m.
- 12/25 **Office Closed—Merry Christmas!**
- 1/1/26 **Office Closed—Happy New Year!**

Pastor's Corner

Dear Lakeside Family,

We are excited to enter the Advent and Christmas season together—a holy time when we prepare our hearts to celebrate Christ’s first coming while also anticipating his promised return.

I love every element of this season: lighting the Advent wreath, hearing the Scripture readings, and embracing the spirit of Christmas that fills our worship and our lives. The word Advent comes from the Latin “adventus” meaning “coming.” It marks the beginning of the liturgical year and invites us into a season of spiritual readiness, reflection, and joyful anticipation. This is not a time of passive waiting, but of active preparation. I invite each of you to enter this season with open hearts, ready to participate in the life and ministry of Lakeside Church.

Whether you join our Advent Bible study, volunteer with the Lamb’s Basket ministry, or simply find ways to practice kindness and generosity in your daily life, may this season be one in which you fully engage with the hope God offers us.

continued on page 2

Pastor's Corner

continued from page 1

We also have several special opportunities for worship and fellowship this month:

- **December 14, Sunday – Christmas Cantata Service**
- **December 21, Sunday – Christmas Celebration Lunch**
- **December 24, Wednesday (7PM) – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

Each of these gatherings offers a chance to experience the beauty, wonder, and community of this sacred season.

As we journey through Advent, may you discover anew the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love that Christ brings. May His presence fill your home, your heart, and our church with light.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Jae



Music Notes

This is a reminder and an invitation to attend our Christmas cantata, which will be presented December 14 at the 11:00 service. The theme centers around Light...the bright host of angels proclaimed the news to the shepherds, the three wise men were guided to the stable by the light of a bright star, and Isaiah 9:2 tells us that “the people walking in darkness have seen a great light.”

This is a beautiful cantata by one of our favorite composers, Lloyd Larson, and will be accompanied by our usual group of fine instrumentalists. Just for this hour, put aside thoughts of decorating, gift buying, etc., and be inspired by the true meaning of Christmas. (And bring a guest to share this experience with you).

Caroline

December Birthdays

Sylvia Arbogast	12/2
Larry Brayton	12/2
Teresa Temple	12/5
Helene Hannan	12/6
Norma Pitts	12/8
Peyton Brown	12/9
Florence Janson	12/9
Rick Walker	12/12
Sandy Rabuck	12/22
Caroline Fergusson	12/25
TaShaun Brown, Jr.	12/27
Ray Robinson	12/27
Dale Creery	12/30
Ken Willis	12/31

Stewardship Update

Below is the initial report for this year's Stewardship Campaign:

Total Pledging Units: 34

Total Pledged for 2026: \$162,506

For comparison, last year we had 47 pledging units with a total of \$200,887.

UMC Bishops finish Canvassing of Amendments; All Four are Ratified

Amendments



	Yes Votes	No Votes	Percentage
Amendment I	34,148	3,124	91.60%
Amendment II	33,895	2,920	92.00%
Amendment III	33,875	2,989	91.90%
Amendment IV	33,952	2,792	92.40%

(Source: Church & Society, The United Methodist Church — umcjustice.org)

Lakeside Family,

I want to take a moment to explain some important structural changes in The United Methodist Church: four constitutional amendments that were approved by General Conference and have now been ratified by the annual conferences.

The Four Amendments

1. Regionalization A set of amendments to create new regional conferences that will each have equal power to adapt portions of the BOD within their respective regions.

2. Inclusiveness of the Church An amendment to add the words “gender” and “ability” to Paragraph 4, Article 4 of The UMC Constitution to categories that cannot be used to exclude membership in The United Methodist Church.

3. Racial Justice An amendment to strengthen Article V of The UMC Constitution by explicitly recognizing the church’s role in combating racism, racial inequity, colonialism, white privilege, and white supremacy.

4. Educational Requirements for Clergy General Conference voted to amend Section VI, Article IV of The United Methodist Church Constitution, which establishes the educational requirements for clergy members of annual or provisional conferences who are eligible to vote for clergy delegates to the General Conference.

What does it mean for us?

There will be no immediate changes to our worship, ministries, or local church governance. The key takeaway is that these amendments shape the framework in which our church operates, rather than altering our local ministries directly. The goal is a more flexible, equitable, and clear denominational structure. I will keep you informed as I learn more.

In Christ,
Pastor Jae

Claiming the New Changes

Our Capital Campaign, *Claiming the Change*, has already enabled significant improvements in our Education Wing. Thanks to early giving, we were able to install new, quieter air conditioning units on the second floor—each with individual controls—to prevent mildew and better support future activities. The installation cost about \$32,000 and was completed November 14.

On November 15, nearly 20 volunteers participated in a major cleanup of the Education Wing's second floor, coordinated by Helene Hannan. Activities included cleaning windows, floors, walls, and furniture, culminating in pizza for all. Look for Church Cleanup Days to take place twice a year.

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 online Tithe.ly 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

Christmas Family Luncheon

Join us Sunday, December 21, 2025, following worship for our annual Christmas Family Luncheon.

Bring your favorite finger food, appetizer and/or Christmas cookies.

Together, let’s enjoy fellowship with our church family as we anticipate the coming of Christ!

Office Closed

The office will be closed Wednesday, December 24th and Thursday, December 25th in observance of the Christmas holiday.

Merry Christmas!

Christmas Card Basket

Our annual Christmas Card exchange basket will be at the welcome center starting Sunday, November 30th. Please be sure to check and see if you've received any cards.

2025 Brunswick Stew

The Lakeside United Methodist Men's 2025 Brunswick Stew is officially in the books!

After weeks of uncertainty surrounding ingredient costs—driven by tariff fluctuations and persistently high chicken prices—costs finally dipped just in time for stew week. Still, the team faced a few logistical hurdles.

With over 800 quarts pre-sold, we discovered on Wednesday that one of the essential stew pots was unavailable—just days before the Saturday event. A frantic phone call to Rev. Bill James, connected us with Skipwith United Methodist Church and, ultimately, Saint Andrew's UMC in Henrico's West End. After several conversations with their chair of trustees, two pots were secured, and we were back on track!

We extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who made this annual fundraiser a success. Whether you helped pick up pots on Thursday, chopped vegetables on Friday, stirred, packaged, cleaned up on Saturday, returned pots to Shady Grove and Saint Andrew's on Sunday, or purchased stew—your support made it all possible.

We made well over 900 quarts with the profits going to enable the United Methodist Men to assist with projects and needs around the church and throughout the Lakeside community.

Butch Kelchner



ROMEOS Breakfast

Gentlemen, you are invited to join the ROMEOS for breakfast on Tuesday, December 2nd 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

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

- 12/7: spaghetti & spaghetti sauce
- 12/14: fruit cups & toaster pastries/Pop Tarts
- 12/21: boxed drinks/juices
- 12/28: jelly & ramen noodles

Henrico Christmas Mother

All hats and gloves will be collected from the tree December 10th. Thank you for helping your Henrico neighbors in need this Christmas season.

Switching from VANCO to Tithely

On January 1, 2026 we are officially moving from VANCO to Tithely Giving.

Tithely Giving is an easy-to-use platform that will allow you to give online and on your phone. You can make both one-time and recurring gifts, give with a credit/debit card or ACH transaction, and even Cover the Fees (which will help your gift go even farther!)

Here's how to get started with Tithely. **Note: If you've got recurring gifts set up with VANCO, make sure to cancel any recurring payments before moving forward with Tithely!**

Option 1: Give on the Tithely Giving App

Download the Tithely App from [the App Store](#) (iPhone) or [Google Play Store](#) (Android). Once you've downloaded the app, select your church and follow the steps listed below (for using a Giving Form).

- Since this is your first time giving with Tithely, you will be prompted to create an account that you can use for all future gifts.
- The first time, you will also need to add your credit/debit card or ACH/banking info.
- Once your account has been created, you won't need to enter your personal or payment information. Just enter your PIN and give!

To make this process even easier, you can also set up a recurring gift that will automate your regular giving.

Option 2: Give on Our Website.

Go to www.lakesideum.org and click on "Give." You'll be given the option to give online, through text, or download the app.

Just like with VANCO you can also set up a recurring gift that makes your regular giving automatic.

Do You Give With Cash or Check?

If you regularly make donations in cash or with a check, we strongly encourage you to switch to digital giving!

Online giving with Tithely makes it fast and simple to donate, and also reduces the amount of administrative labor we need to process gifts in cash or with a check.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call the office—we'd be happy to assist you further.

Thank you for your generosity. Your financial partnership helps to build the Kingdom of God in our community—and world.

