



# *the* **Messenger**

**Monthly Newsletter of Lakeside United Methodist Church**  
*March 2026*

## **Lakeside in Worship & Fellowship March Highlights**

- ✝ **3.1** Worship & Communion
- ✝ **3.3** ROMEOS breakfast
- ✝ **3.15** Family Luncheon
- ✝ **3.26** United Methodist Men
- ✝ **3.28** Blood Drive
- ✝ **3.29** Palm Sunday, Easter Cantata

## **Gratitude in Lent**

On February 18, we gathered for our Ash Wednesday service. It was very meaningful, especially for me. Each of us received the sign of the cross on our forehead. This simple act reminded us that life is precious and short. When I received the cross, I felt my call to follow Jesus grow deeper and stronger.

Ash Wednesday also marked the beginning of the season of Lent. A couple of weeks ago, I invited you to begin a gratitude journal as a spiritual practice for this Lent season. Gratitude helps us slow down and notice the blessings God has already given us. Last Sunday, we learned about the ten lepers in the Gospel of Luke. Only one came back to thank Jesus. Like the tenth leper, we are called to pause and remember the source of our salvation and grace.

Today, I wrote a few things in my gratitude journal. I wrote the words “new day,” “new hope,” and “newness.” I felt that God had graciously given me a new day and a new chance to grow and change. Yes, I can change. When God gives us another opportunity, he also gives us the strength to take it.

*Continued on page 2...*



## Music Notes

Christmas music is still singing and ringing in my mind as we enter the somber period of Lent, which will lead us to Palm Sunday and Easter. However, what happened between those two events reveals the magnitude of each occasion. The exuberance of the Palm Sunday procession is in dramatic contrast to the events of the following Friday. Between those two events, Christ was rejected as king, even as he promised, “Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice.” This is the promise and the Passion and suffering of the Lord.

The cantata, “The Passion and the Promise” by Lloyd Larson and Mark Hayes, will be presented March 29 at the 11:00 service, and will be accompanied by our usual group of fine instrumentalists. Please heighten your enjoyment of this beautiful music and moving narrative by inviting a friend to come with you to experience “The Passion and the Promise.”

*Carolyn*

## Gratitude *(continued from p. 1)*

I also thought about the worries and burdens on my heart. Many times, Jesus reminded his disciples that God cared for them. And he reminded them that he fed the multitudes, calmed the storm, and guided them step by step. The things that worry me today are only temporary. But God offers us eternal life. As I remembered this, I felt joy rising in my heart.

It is a blessing that we are walking this Lenten journey toward Easter together. Let us share our gratitude and reflections on Facebook, in Bible study, and in Sunday school. May we all experience the power and hope of the resurrection this Easter.

In Christ,

*Pastor Jae*

## Blood Drive

The next Blood Drive is Saturday, March 28th. To make an appointment or for information, call Jo Anne Kelchner at (804) 746-9005.

It's never too late to give the gift of life and...**giving the gift of life is another way you can dispense God's grace.**

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



## It's Lent

Each year it has been a tradition for the Lakeside United Methodist Men usher in the Lenten season with a Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner; on February 16, 2026, the Men came together and provided a dinner of pancakes, sausage, and baked apples with a side of fellowship and fun; no one went home hungry!

We are United Methodists and we are connected! Through our connections at the Conference Office, D.S. Lyndsey Baynham extended an invitation to the bishop’s cabinet to join us for the traditional pre-Lenten celebration.

The response from the Conference leadership was wonderful. The entire cabinet joined us, sharing in the meal and the spirit of community that makes Lakeside special. The room was filled with conversation, laughter, and the unmistakable aroma of pancakes on the griddle.

It was a simple meal, but a meaningful one—a reminder that fellowship often begins around a table.

We are grateful for everyone who cooked, served, cleaned, and welcomed our guests with the warmth Lakeside is known for.

*Butch Kelchner*

## Now Hiring

Our Administrative Assistant, Julie Owen, will be moving on to new adventures. Her final day in the church office will be March 4th.

Please join us in expressing gratitude for the hard work and dedication Julie has shown our church family. We are grateful for her ministry among us.

As we look toward the future, the Staff-Parish Relations Committee is organizing the search for her successor.

Stay tuned to our website for the job description and more information. Above all, we ask for your prayers for wisdom and guidance as we begin the interview and discernment process.

In Christ,  
Staff-Parish Relations Committee

### Claiming the Change Capital Campaign Update

July 1, 2025—June 30, 2038

Pledge & Additional Gifts  
Received to Date:  
**\$267,080**

Cash Available: **\$76,299**

**First Project:** Replace 9 air conditioning units on the 2nd floor of the Education Wing

**Status:** Completed & paid

**Next Step:** Contractors being evaluated to submit bids to replace ceiling tiles and lighting in the Education Wing.

All this is possible due to your generosity. Thank you for your continued prayers, support, and encouragement.

*Gaye King*  
Chair, Capital Campaign

### UMCOR Hygiene Kits

The United Methodist Men of Lakeside United Methodist Church are pleased to once again host the collection of Kits for conference in the Richmond area.

Kits for conference collected in the Richmond area can be delivered to Lakeside United Methodist Church (2333 Hilliard Rd., Henrico 23228) on Saturday, June 6, 2026 between the hours of 9:00 am and 12:00 noon. This is the only allotted time for collection of kits for conference in the Richmond area. The collection point is the garage adjacent to the church parking lot; signs will show the way. (Contact person: Kip Robinson, Krobin7856@aol.com)

# Thank You!

Each year, the Finance Committee and Church Council work diligently to prepare a budget that reflects both our projected expenses and our anticipated giving. Much like our own household budgets — only on a larger scale — we face many unknowns. We ask the same questions you might ask at home:

- What will break down and absolutely must be repaired
- How will weather affect our utility costs
- Will there be enough to cover our obligations and still allow room for ministry and mission

Through it all, we have consistently witnessed God's abundant provision. Time and again, whenever a need arises, the Holy Spirit moves within this congregation, and those needs are met with generosity and grace.

This past month brought its share of challenges — ongoing improvement projects, unexpected maintenance on an aging building, and even weather that forced us to close the facility for safety. Yet God did not forget us. Faithful disciples stepped forward, and your giving provided more than enough to carry us through.

With a grateful heart, as your church treasurer and on behalf of the Finance Committee and Church Council, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you for your faithful support of our budget and for your extraordinary generosity during times of unexpected need. Your giving reminds us that God's blessings are not scarce. The glass is not half-empty — it is overflowing.

*Butch Kelchner*  
Treasurer

## Are You Thirsty?

For months, Lakeside UMC has felt a bit like a desert, with two water fountains out of commission. At long last, we have an oasis again in the education wing.

Many of you noticed that the fountain in the Sinclair Room wouldn't shut off, causing water to run continuously. The fountain near the handicap ramp had pipes so rusted that any water flowing through it went straight into the floor. Because of these issues, both units had to be taken out of service.

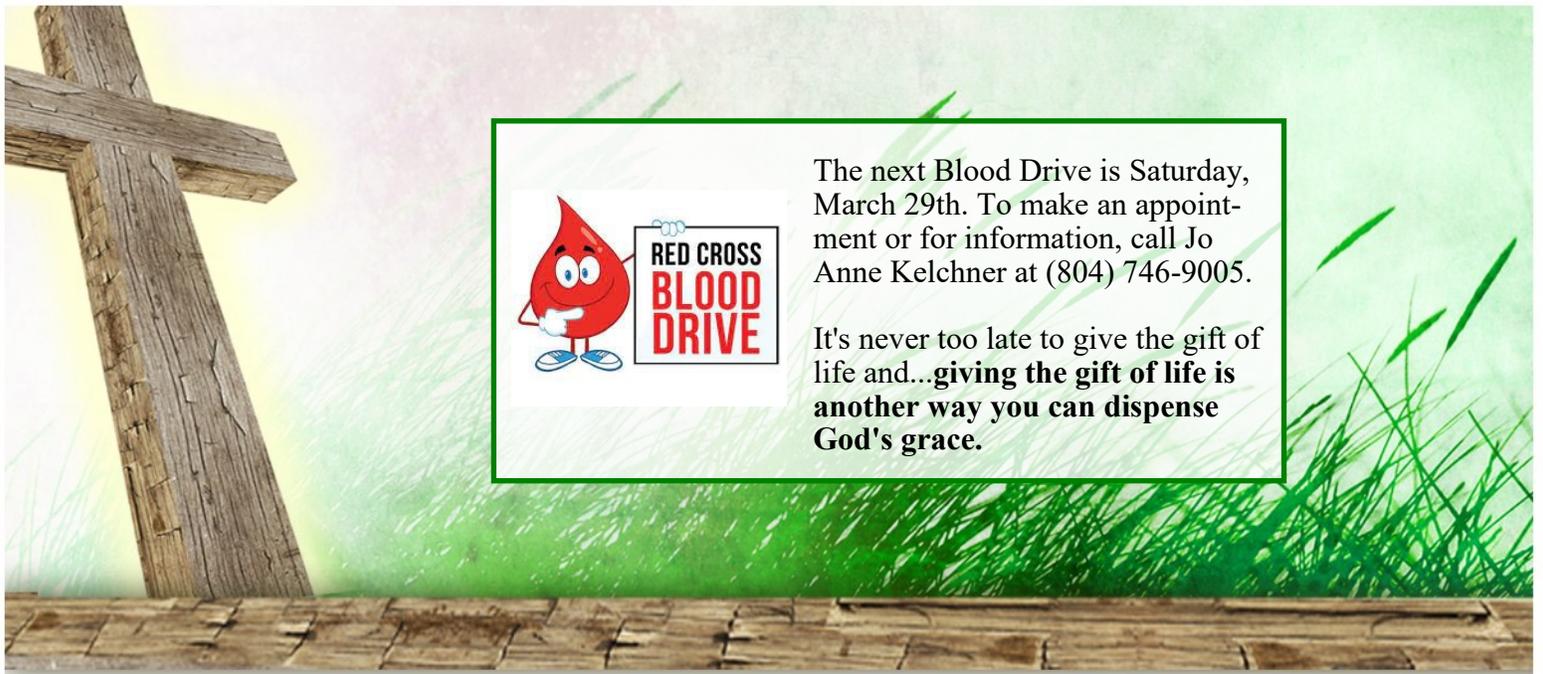
Other maintenance needs pushed the fountains down the priority list for a while. Then in January, the Methodist Men's Board discussed how to use some of the proceeds from the 2025 stew sale, and the idea of replacing the fountains quickly rose to the top.

The board brought the proposal to the full membership, which approved purchasing and installing two new units.

On Saturday, February 21, 2026, new fountains were installed, and fresh, clean water is once again available in the education wing. A small improvement, perhaps—but one that makes our shared space more welcoming and functional.

Thank you, Lakeside United Methodist Men.

*Butch Kelchner*



## LUMC Assistance Funds

As we all know, there are times when church members and others need financial assistance. Lakeside United Methodist Church has formally established two ways to handle those requests. The first is the Pastor's Discretionary Fund and the second is the Jubilee Assistance Fund (JAF).

The Pastor's Discretionary Fund (PDF) receives donations specifically dedicated to that fund. The pastor has discretionary control over those funds to assist those in need subject to limitations established by the Church Council policies for financial assistance. If the pastor believes assistance is advisable above the limitations established by the policies, he may request approval from the Request for Assistance Committee as defined in the policies. The Pastor's Discretionary Fund is funded in two ways: 1) the communion offering received on the first Sunday of each month is dedicated to the PDF and 2) individual designated donations from donors. Therefore, if one wants to support the PDF one can make a communion donation on the first Sunday or one can specifically direct a donation to the fund.

The Jubilee Assistance Fund is a way to allow church members in need to be able to obtain a loan from the United Methodist Credit Union at the lowest available rates rather than possibly higher rates dictated by a poor credit rating. The lower rates are available because the church has the JAF funds deposited as available collateral for the loan.

The church member must be approved by the pastor and one lay person, usually the treasurer. As the church member applies for the loan through normal credit union channels, the credit union uses the church funds as collateral to reduce their risk. Therefore, they can utilize a lower interest rate for the loan recipient. In the past, several church members in difficulty have used these funds for the purchase of a car to get to work or payment of utility bills.

Currently, the JAF has over \$6,000 and one can contribute additional funds to the JAF by designating JAF on the donation.

*Hal Costley*  
Finance Chair

## 2025 Health & Welfare Ministry Update

Lakeside UMC was very busy this past year.

We held 5 Red Cross blood drives that registered 168 donors with 156 units of blood collected. Those units helped 468 people that we will never meet, but know that they had a chance at life because of our generous donors. The remaining Red Cross blood drives for 2026 are as follows: March 28, June 13, August 15, & October 31.

### Mission and Ministry Outreach

One of the commitments built into Lakeside United Methodist Church's 2025 capital campaign, Claiming the Change, was to designate 5% of all funds raised for mission and ministry work beyond the walls of our church. Lakeside embraces Jesus' call in John 21:15–17 to "feed my sheep" through a dedicated team of pantry volunteers, ongoing staple-food donations, and our annual musical fundraiser, Singing for the Sheep.

When it became clear that the reach-in freezer in the LAMB'S Basket Country Store was beyond repair, Lakeside's Church Council voted to honor this mission and ministry commitment by securing a replacement freezer for the pantry.

This unit will expand LAMB'S Basket's ability to safely store generous business and community donations of perishable foods, ensuring families receive nutritious items throughout the year.

The new freezer arrived on February 24 and will soon be placed into service—another tangible expression of Lakeside's commitment to feeding our neighbors in Christ's name.

*Butch Kelchner*  
Church Treasurer

Our Lamb's Basket volunteers worked a total of 3098 hours, delivering food to the warehouse, sorting & dating food, organizing the shelves, & helping distribute food to our neighbors in need. We had a total of 19,131 pounds of food in 2025, compared to 6,102 pounds in 2024. The food was donated from the congregation, or purchased with funds designated for Lamb's Basket, including proceeds from our Singing for the Sheep fundraiser.

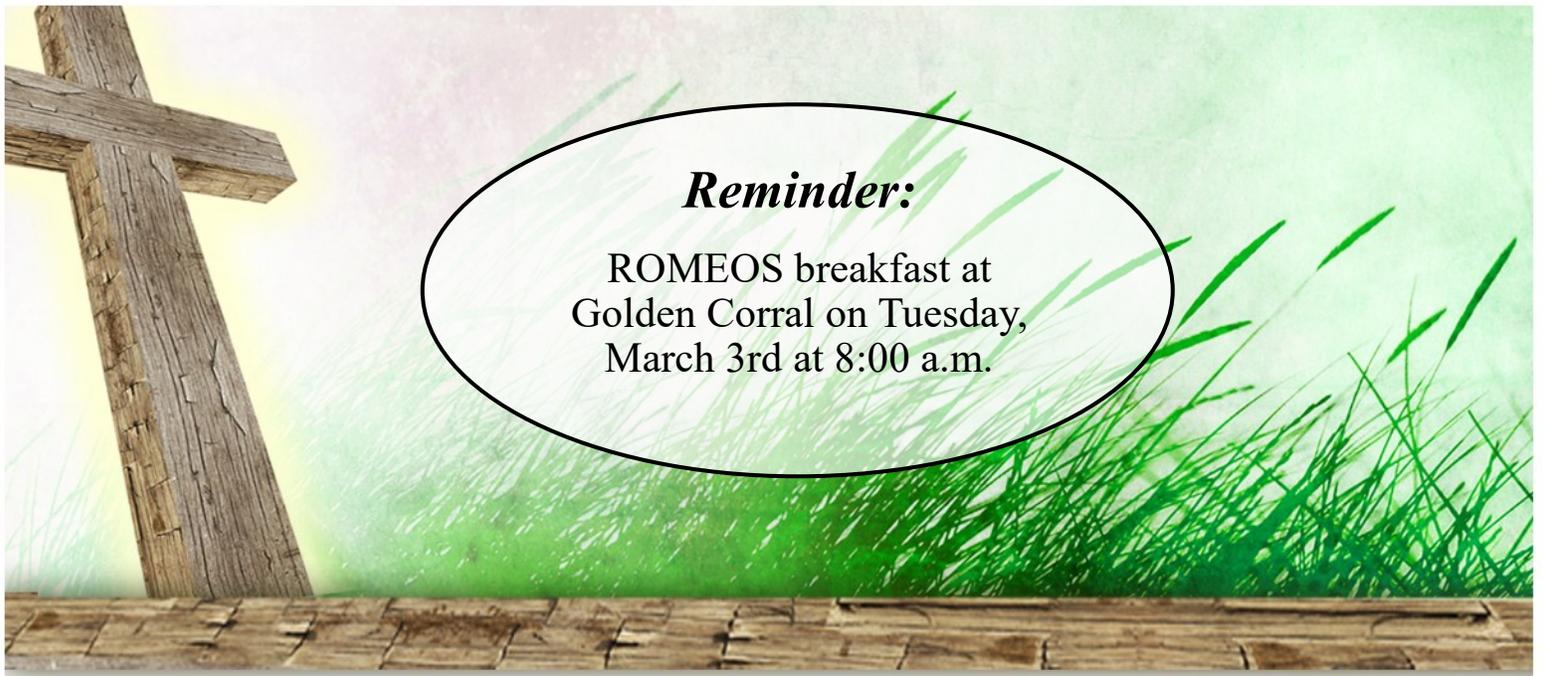
We collected a total of 142 pair of glasses that will go to The Friends of Barnabas for distribution to our neighbors in Honduras.

The Richmond Ronald McDonald House will be the recipient of the 6 pounds of aluminum tabs that were collected over the year.

None of the above ministries would have been so fruitful if it had not been for the unwavering support of each of the members of our generous congregation. We still have work to be done to help our neighbors, so let's make 2026 another bountiful year.

Thank you,

*Jo Anne Kelchner*  
Health & Welfare/Lamb's Basket Coordinator



**Reminder:**  
 ROMEOS breakfast at  
 Golden Corral on Tuesday,  
 March 3rd at 8:00 a.m.

**Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour at 2 a.m. on Sunday. Better still, before you go to bed on Saturday!**



**Lamb's Basket Needs for March**

For the month of March, we are collecting the following items for Lamb's Basket:

- ⇒ March 1: cereal
- ⇒ March 8: spaghetti/pasta
- ⇒ March 15: canned tuna
- ⇒ March 22: Pop Tarts/toaster pastries
- ⇒ March 29: Jelly



Beth Tweedie	3/4
Kristen Nuckols	3/9
Janie Willis	3/10
Jay Wade	3/11
Brenda Robinson	3/13
John Small	3/17
Ann Pitts	3/18
Jo Beth Devore	3/20
Charlie Callaway	3/23
Jim Perkins	3/24
Kate Colvin	3/30

**Easter Flowers**

If you'd like to order Easter Flowers, pick up an order form in the Narthex or call the office. You can choose tulips, hyacinth, or peace lilies. Flowers are \$15 each and the deadline to order is **Sunday, March 15th.**