

The Messenger

September 2026

Monthly Newsletter of Lakeside United Methodist Church

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Sharing our memories

—

Claiming the Change Update

We are close to our Goal,
keep pledging &
contributing

The Shepherd's Center of Richmond

Look into signing up for
Fall Classes

It feels as if a new season has finally arrived. There is a cool breeze in the morning, children have started a new school year, and it certainly feels great to embrace this new season.

As we are making a transition to a new season, I am reminded of God's announcement to the Israelites about a new beginning and getting prepared for God's new work among them:

"See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you." (Isaiah 42:9)

As I reflect on this Bible verse, I think about some of the possible new work God may be doing in my life. Currently, I am still recovering from surgery. I have a choice here—to stay worried and anxious or to pray about God's new work. God may have a new plan for this season, such as renewed health and better breathing through my nose.

Maybe this is a time to think about how God may work through my concerns and hopes, and to let God take control.

How about you? Do you expect to see any changes in your life or ministry? What would that be? Do you ask God for a new change or a new work? God is working in us, and I think God wants us to be prepared for a new work.

Lakeside UMC is also preparing for a new season, including the discernment process, Advent worship planning, our 85th Anniversary service, and other things. The Isaiah reading reminds us to expect God's new work. God may bring new energy, strength, and excitement through this new season—things that we have not even thought about yet.

Let's pray together for a new season and for the bearing of new fruits of the Spirit in our lives and ministry. We are moving forward with hope and expectation.

"Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal..." (Philippians 3:12-14)





"First Worship Service"

Yes, it did rain the day before the first service. The sanctuary was full of "helping hands" in preparation for this memorable celebration. I remember Doris Davis, Mrs. Pfeiffer, Mr. and Mrs. Sinclair, the entire Robinson family, and so many other devoted church members and their children. We each had instructions and chores to fulfil to greet our congregations the next morning.

My responsibility, given to me by my mother, Helen, was to make sure that the pulpit was dusted and polished to a high sheen. I was thrilled to think that I would be given such significant responsibility. I remember getting on my hands and knees to make sure there were no "dust bunnies" in any of the corners. And the inside and outside of the beautiful wood was polished into remarkable gloss.

The pulpit is significant to me because each time I see my brother, Kip, preaching from that essential section of our sanctuary, it makes me proud. I am sure neither of us, at the time of our "cleaning duties" ever gave that possibility any thought.

By Kay Robinson Robertson

85th Anniversary Stories

First Worship Service and Davy Crockett

The first worship service in the "new" sanctuary was a much-anticipated event (this is the sanctuary in which we now worship). It was so anticipated that it was held when there was no roof on it, just SRO. Not only that, but it rained that day, too. Not only that, but it was held on a Sunday afternoon...at the exact same time as *Disney on Parade*, and not only that but it was the next episode of *Davy Crockett*. I opted for *Davy Crockett* and missed that first worship service.

Years later, while on several mission trips to Zimbabwe Nancy and I attended multiple worship services in churches with no roofs, often for decades. Our mission teams put roofs on five of them and at each one I reminisced about Lakeside's first worship service and the importance (at the time) of *Davy Crockett, King of the Wild Frontier*. Sometimes it takes years to realize first is only once and you shouldn't pass it up.

By Kip Robinson



Keep giving, keep saving lives! We had 45 donors registered with 44 units collected in August. Our Lakeside donors combined with community donors surpassed our goal. The next Blood Drive is October 31st.



**American
Red Cross**

**Our 85th Anniversary Celebration
will be celebrated on October 18;
sign up in the Narthex or call the
office 804-266-7016**

The Annual Christmas Plays

My mother, Helen Pickering Robinson, directed most of the Christmas plays during the 1960's. She loved having that responsibility because it gave her the opportunity to work with the young people in the church. We were a close-knit group of teenagers, and many of us have continued to maintain those friendships now that we are in our 70s. That speaks volumes about the strong foundation and lasting relationships our church upbringing provided.

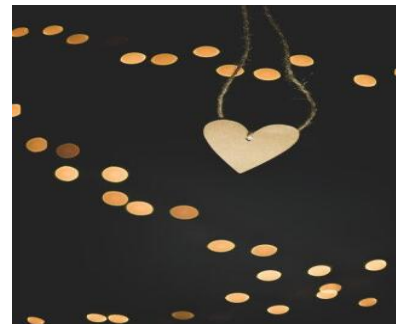
She took the responsibility of being the "director" seriously. But, during the rehearsals, she took liberties with the directions within the "play" book. You could see the wheels in motion as she reorganized the stage. I remember one year where she moved the "Inn" so many times that we really did not know where it would end up until "opening night."

Her directing abilities, her desire to work with the young people, and her dedication to the work of the church were admirable.

By Kay Robinson Robertson

I came to Lakeside about ten years ago. Although I was new to this church, I was not new to Methodism having grown up in the Methodist church in Hampton, VA. At Lakeside I experienced a sincere **love** and **caring** from everyone that I met. Shortly after coming to Lakeside I found I had lung cancer and had to have surgery and be hospitalized for a few weeks. I received many cards from many people that I had briefly met but didn't really know and some from folks I hadn't met yet. That touched my **heart** and meant the world to me and to my family. What a tremendous blessing this congregation of believers is!!!

By Gaye King



Romeos:

First Tuesday of each month
at 8:00am, Golden Corral-
4050 Gaskins Rd.

The Shepherd's Center of Richmond Open University Fall 2026 Classes

Vision, Mission, Values

VISION: Older adults helping one another stay active, independent, and engaged.

MISSION: The Shepherd's Center of Richmond encourages older adults to remain active and engaged through enrichment programs and volunteer service to their peers.

VALUES: We believe in the potential of older adults to teach, learn, grow and give back to our community. We recognize the significant health benefits of remaining active and avoiding social isolation. We serve the aging community with respect and compassion. We value the bonds we form with others through classes, travel and volunteering. We manage our resources efficiently and effectively. We seek to be welcoming, inclusive, and diverse.



The Shepherd's Center of Richmond (TSCOR) has published its fall 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, Italian and Japanese will be on Tuesdays at The Shepherd's Center offices.

The entire schedule is at the Shepherd's Center's website at www.tscor.org and is available on the welcome table in the narthex. Tuition, that covers all the programs, is very reasonable for the fall 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 an additional 32 classes on a variety of interesting topics.

Classes available at Lakeside include the history of Royal France, the Birth of the Blues, review of an autobiography of Jane Eyre, and many and others. It is an eclectic and diverse offering with something of interest to almost everyone.

Details for registration are now available on the TSCOR website and brochures with the schedule are in the church narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Hal Costley or go to the TSCOR website.

To Pastor Jae and my Lakeside UMC Family,

Thank you so much for your blessings on my 91st Birthday. Even though I am unable to attend services you have made me feel connected to LUMC as a member. Thank you for my birthday cards on my 91st birthday and all the cards throughout the past year. I appreciated them so much.

I wish you all grace and God's Blessings,

Barbara King



Our prayer warriors at work in the community; showering the students and staff of Lakeside Elementary with prayers of love and grace for the new school year. Well done, good and faithful servants!

SAVE THE DATE November 7th Brunswick Stew

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, November 7, 2026!** Our famous Brunswick stew will be ready for pickup starting at **12:00 PM**, and each quart is just **\$10.00**.

All orders must be picked up on the day of the sale. Orders can be placed online by emailing stew@lakesideum.org



Musical Notes

It seems like a long time since I wrote an article for our newsletter, and I want to thank those who provided service music with solos, duets, and trios during August. Thanks also to the choir members who faithfully sat in the choir loft during that time. Music is such an important part of the Christian worship experience---from the early Levitical musicians who held an honored place in their worship service, to the music of the masters (Bach, Handel, Haydn, Mozart, etc.) to the contemporary praise music of today--both singing and the playing of instruments added an element of joyful praise to the worship experience.

In speaking of his renowned theory of relativity, Einstein said "It occurred to me by intuition, and music was the driving force behind that intuition. My discovery was the result of musical perception." This is not to say that joining the choir will turn you into an Einstein, but if you are interested in playing bells, or singing, see Jeanne for more information.

Caroline 

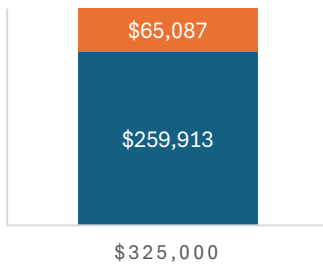
September Birthday & Prayer Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Debbie Switzer	2 College Students Away from home for the first time	3 Those learning to forgive like Jesus	4 Give thanks to Beth & Stony for leading Sunday School for our kids	5 Mickey Barlow Pat Emory Teresa Temple
6 High school marching band participants	7 Charlotte Ewbank	8 Those mourning the loss of a loved one	9 Iva Mullins	10 Zack Hedrick	11 Jimmy Hedrick, Jr.	12 High School Football Participants
13 Brenda Baynham	14 Barbara Nelson	15 Joan Brooks	16 Safety for Kids at bus stops	17 VA State Fair participants	18 Mary Long	19 Continued Prayers for recent earthquake areas+
20 Car Drivers be focused on the road	21 Donna Hunt	22 Pastor Jae & his family	23 Heather Kelchner	24 Those battling gambling addictions	25 Sherri Hedrick	26 Military Veterans
27 Brandon Robinson	28 Ginger Reiter	29 Kieran Magner	30 Those with health insurance woes			

Capital Campaign Update

CLAIMING THE CHANGE

■ Current Pledges ■ Still to Go



What Then Must We Do?

1. We must consider this program as our one chance in a lifetime to make a lasting contribution to the strengthening of the Kingdom.
2. We must pray for strength and guidance to carry out our program of expansion and to meet the responsibilities which it entails.
3. We must contribute all the time and work necessary to accomplish our objective.
4. We must give sacrificially to the program, thus demonstrating our gratitude for the blessing which God has bestowed upon us. These things we owe to Christ as His followers.

Fall Fun is Coming!

Join us for a fun-filled fall season at our church!



Pumpkin Sales

Pumpkins will be delivered October 3rd. Sign up to volunteer. Pick out the perfect pumpkin for your home, porch or family carving night.

Candy Collection Starting September 27th

Help us fill our candy supply! We are collecting bags of individually wrapped candy for our Trunk or Treat. Every donation helps make the event extra sweet. A basket will be in the Narthex for the candy collection.

Trunk or Treat October 24th 4:00-6:00pm

Bring your family and friends for an evening of decorated trunks, costumes, candy, laughter and fellowship! Come enjoy the fun, support our church, and help us make this fall season special for our community!