

72 Ambrose Street, Rochester, NY 14608; Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm  
www.lakeavebaptist.org; Phone: 585-458-5765; Fax: 585-458-5766; Email: lakeavebaptistchurchoffice@gmail.com

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:00 am: Worship for all, Sunday School for Children (Communion first Sunday of every month)  
11:15 am: Fellowship  
11:30 am: Youth Sunday School  
11:45 am: Adult Education  
12:30 pm: Myanmar Worship Service

## NOVEMBER WORSHIP AT A GLANCE

### Sunday, November 3, 2019

10:00 am: Worship & Communion for all, Sunday School for children  
11:15 am: Fellowship  
11:30 am: Youth Sunday School  
11:45 am: Adult Education  
12:30 pm: Myanmar Worship Service

### Sunday, November 10, 2019

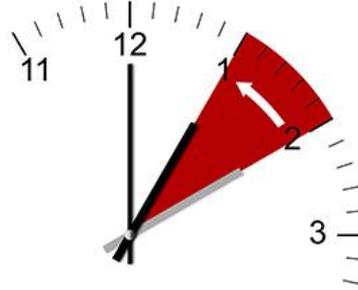
10:00 am: Worship for all, Sunday School for children  
11:15 am: Fellowship  
11:30 am: Youth Sunday School  
11:45 am: Adult Education  
12:30 pm: Myanmar Worship Service

### Sunday, November 17, 2019

10:00 am: Worship for all, Sunday School for children  
11:15 am: Fellowship  
11:30 am: Youth Sunday School  
11:45 am: Adult Education  
12:30 pm: Myanmar Worship Service

### Sunday, November 24, 2019

10:00 am: Worship for all, Sunday School for children  
11:15 am: Fellowship  
11:30 am: Youth Sunday School  
11:45 am: Adult Education  
12:30 pm: Myanmar Worship Service



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS  
TIME ENDS AT 2:00  
AM SUNDAY,  
NOVEMBER 3.  
DON'T FORGET TO  
SET YOUR CLOCKS  
BACK ONE HOUR!**

## YOUR PASTOR'S ARTICLE



Sometimes things happen at our church that make me take pause. This past week I have had another such instance and I wanted to share that with you, because it will help explain why you may have noticed some new furniture around the church building, but I'm getting ahead of myself.

Recently I got a phone call from the father of one of our church members. He has a landlord who was "cleaning out a place" and wanted to know if we were interested in some furniture. He gave me the landlord's number and I gave the gentleman a call. The normal challenge when we are offered furniture is to gauge over the phone whether the furniture is useful to someone in our community. We have had a history of having people want to donate furniture that is of less than desirable quality. I have a belief that I will not pass on to anyone furniture that I wouldn't want for myself. I think we owe that to people. That said, this donation, I learned, was for the church. This is an even more sticky situation because again, sometimes such donations are of less than desirable quality, and we don't want our church to become the place where old furniture goes to die. After talking with the gentleman and hearing that he was willing to deliver "some long tables and chairs" I thought to myself "what do we have to lose?" He said they were in good condition so we agreed for a delivery date.

Fast forward to the church council meeting. During the course of the meeting, Chuck Theis (our trustee for Invitation and Welcome) mentioned that it might be nice for us to have another

Christmas tree this season in the narthex where we could decorate it as a community, sharing our own ornaments etc. In other words, add a tree and use it as a community building endeavor. People liked the idea and it was agreed that someone would look into that for the Christmas season.

The next day, I arrived at church and Ken (office manager) informed me that the furniture had been delivered (as an aside, a big thank you goes to Ken who, at 70 years of age, once again participated in the unloading of large pieces of furniture from a delivery truck ... you never know what "other duties as assigned" might mean in a job description). I held my breath as I went to see what awaited. I was beyond pleasantly surprised to see a collection of beautiful classroom tables for our conference room, some incredibly good quality and virtually new chairs for the conference room, some hard back chairs for the choir room and a new table that will find a home eventually. Also, there were three new file cabinets, a table top lectern and ... two new artificial Christmas trees and a collection of new ornaments.

There was no way the gentleman who donated these products could have known about our conversation. There was no way he could have gotten tipped off that we wanted to get a Christmas tree or two for the narthex. In addition to getting some incredible furniture we were also the blessed recipients of some new decorations to help us celebrate the Christmas season.

It's a simple Christmas tree, but this experience reminded me of two things. First, things are not always explainable. God? Coincidence? Choose your own explanation. I like to think that when we are doing the work we are called to do there are things that happen that are blessings that are incredible surprises. This experience brought joy to my heart. It has been wonderful to share this story with people the past weekend and I looked forward to sharing it with you.

How is God surprising you in unexpected ways? How are you able to share the love of God with others in equally unexpected and surprising ways? How can you be generous with what God has given to you? Buy a coffee for the person behind you in line? Wish a good morning to the person you meet on the street? This story began with someone thinking about LABC and wanting to share with them. It ended not only with some wonderful new furniture but also with what has been called a "God wink." How is God winking to you and how can you pass that on to others this fall season?

Blessings,

Michael



## *We Give Thanks*

*Sharing Our Gratitude and Thanksgiving*

*Thankful*

***Give thanks to the LORD, for the Lord is good; the Lord's love endures forever.***

***1 Chronicles 16:34***

*We at LABC believe that everything that we have is a gift from God. We also believe that one of the ways that we worship God in community is by giving a portion of what we have received from God back to God through our time, our talents, and our treasures.*

*During the month of November, we pay particular attention to the giving of our treasures, our financial resources, as a way of giving thanks to God for all that we have and for the ministry at we share at LABC.*

*This year, our stewardship theme is "We Give Thanks: Sharing our Gratitude and Thanksgiving." Our stewardship text is from 1 Chronicles 16:34 and reads: Give thanks to the LORD, for the Lord is good; the Lord's love endures forever.*

*Over the course of the month you will hear members of our church community share ways in which God has blessed them through the ministry of LABC and why they support our church financially as an expression of thanksgiving. It is a chance for us all to reflect on the ministry we are part of as together we consider what financial resources we are able to contribute for the 2020 year.*

*As we embark on this month of giving, we invite you to spend some time reflecting on the many things for which you are thankful, and prepare to join us in this month of generosity and celebration of the many ways God has blessed each of us through the life and ministry of LABC.*

## **Gratitude and Thanksgiving Sunday (Stewardship Sunday)** **Sunday November 24, 2019**

\*You will receive a Stewardship Letter mid-November, and enclosed in this letter is a Stewardship/Pledge Card which you are invited to complete and bring with you on Sunday November 24, 2019 and we will present our cards forward during worship that day (or to mail them into the church office).



### **NOVEMBER MODERATOR'S LETTER**

Dear Friends,

This month I want to share an update on how your Church Council has been and will be using the results of the "What's Next?" report. Much research shows that if organizations have multiple "priorities" that they are working on there is a lack of focus on any of them. This leads to not achieving any of them! However, if an organization focuses on one priority at a time they are able to achieve their goal and then move to the next priority. The organizations that use this approach are much more successful in reaching their goals. We want to achieve all of the goals that have emerged from the "What's Next?" report so we will be approaching them one at a time.

The Church Council and Staff spent much time during our September meeting coming to agreement about what goal that emerged from your input to the "What's Next?" report we as a church should focus on first. It was an interesting exercise and we were able to come to agreement about which goal needs

to be our priority for this church year. The Council concluded that our priority should be building and enhancing relationships with each other through worship, fellowship, and education. At first, this priority seemed to be an odd choice for LABC with our rich mission focused history. As we considered it more, we realized that by focusing on deepening and strengthening our relationships with each other we would be strengthening all of us to better carry out the mission focus and involvement of the church both as individuals and as a community.

Sue McMeekin-Davis shared the following summary of this idea after the Church Council had further discussions in our October board meeting.

#### **Gathering in Community**

**To**

#### **Grow as Community**

**To**

#### **Go Out To the Community**

All of us on the Church Council and the church staff are eager to ‘Gather, Grow and Go’ in partnership with all of you.

With excitement and hope,

*Laura Tubbs*

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## Worship and Music Committee Announcements

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Our worship service has many components and I want to talk about two. One which is certainly familiar to you regarding our worship service and the other which may not be so obvious.

First, **MUSIC**. Many people commented on the variety and quality of our music program. Music expresses the feelings and heart of the words we speak. We are blessed with a multitude of styles of music. Of course the Chancel Choir is the first I think of because I’m singing in it. I have so enjoyed being part of this ensemble. Lee Foster selects appropriate and varied music and teaches us as we rehearse. It’s fun and meaningful.

The Good News Singers and their director, Julia Fedor, are reinvigorated and have sung several times this fall. We also hear from the Myanmar Singers and the African Singers, both of whom add so much heart and energy to their music.

With occasional soloists and instrumentalists we have a variety of talents in our midst.

And don’t forget the wonderful music brought to us this summer by the quartet from the Gateways Music Festival.

The second thing I want to talk about is the **VISUAL** Aspect of the sanctuary.

Between Rheanolte LeBarbour, a member of the Worship and Music Committee, and Lee Foster our worship space has been beautified. The latest example is the fall display at the front of the church, designed by Rheanolte. I’m sure we will see more of his handiwork reflecting the seasons of the church. Lee has provided us with amazing banners which also reflect the seasons. I can’t wait for the Advent and Christmas enhancements to our worship space!

Thanks to all who participate in our worship experiences.



Come to learn about Susan B. Anthony, Frederick Douglass, and two members of LABC!

After several church members walked in the Suffrage City parade in September, some marchers mentioned that it would be good to have another “field trip” to the Susan B. Anthony Museum and House. It has been arranged! There will be a docent-guided tour on **Saturday, Nov. 9**. Meet at the Susan B. Anthony visitor center at 17 Madison St. promptly at 10:45. If you need a ride, please contact Jane Grant. All are invited with the admission fee covered by the Mission Committee if needed. If visitors are able to pay, admission fees are \$15/adult, \$10/Senior, and \$5/student. There are discounts for AAA members. **Reservations are requested and should be made with Jane Grant by Wednesday, Nov. 6**

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## *A Message and Thank You from Lee Foster our Music Educator, Organist and Chancel Choir Director*

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A little more than six years ago, I started at LABC as Interim Music Educator, Organist, and Chancel Choir Director. In September 2013, I was offered positions in three other churches but I turned each of them down because I knew, with the help of Dottie, that LABC was the right place for me. Dottie reminded me that LABC had the best organ of the four churches, a beautiful piano, and that this might well be my final church position. The only catch was that I had not yet been offered the position at LABC.

Dottie was right, and so was I, in waiting for news from LABC. Whether God’s will, chance, serendipity, or fate, LABC became my home – with family in the choir, in the congregation, and in the myriad times I am reminded that LABC is a church who cares about others and acts upon those cares. You have allowed me to soar.

You have been present in good times and less good times, in sickness and health, in a marriage and for a memorial service, but the most telling part of being family is your demonstration of your empathy, your care. Thank you for all the cards, your phone calls, your hospital and home visits to Dottie. I will forever be grateful for your love and will try to pay it forward in the ways that I can. I offer a poem that I found a

couple of days after Dottie's memorial service. It embodies her spirit, her belief. In soul-felt gratitude,

Lee

## *Epitaph*

*By Merrit Malloy*

*When I die  
Give what's left of me away  
To children  
And old me that wait to die.*

*And if you need to cry,  
Cry for your brother  
Walking the street beside you.  
And when you need me,  
Put your arms  
Around anyone  
And give them  
What you need to give to me.*

*I want to leave you something,  
Something better  
Than words  
Or sounds.*

*Look for me  
In the people I've known  
Or loved,  
And if you cannot give me away,  
At least let me live on in your eyes  
And not your mind.*

*You can love me most  
By letting  
Hands touch hands,  
By letting bodies touch bodies,  
And by letting go  
Of children  
That need to be free.*

*Love doesn't die,  
People do.  
So, when all that's left of me  
Is love,  
Give me away.*



## November 2019 Adult Education Offerings

**November 3, 2019** – Garth Brokaw (Historian) – Baptist Roots

**November 10, 2019** – Jane Grant (Trustee – Mission) – The True Cost (video and discussion)

**November 17, 2019** – Michael Ford (Resource and Support) – A Spirituality of Fundraising – Shifting the Stewardship Conversation

**November 24, 2019** – Thanksgiving – No Adult Education

**December 1, 2019** – Advent Bible Study – Hope

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### **A MESSAGE FROM YOUR DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MINISTRY**

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#### ***Fall is upon us.***

I've been processing what it looks like or what it means to be a peacemaker. I try to be a person who values not only anti-violence but active peacemaking.

What does active peacemaking look like in our lives? What does living with the knowledge that Christ's peace is active and alive in our lives feel like?

I hope you are moved to action this fall season as we ponder the dynamic and understand that Christ not only calls us to be anti-violent but to actively seek and pursue peace in every aspect of our being.

This fall the youth and I have started meeting during the adult education time after service. The young people of our church expressed a desire to have a more active role in our corporate worship so we have changed our meeting time. We have talked about a number of interesting topics, we spent a session talking about vocation from the perspective of lay Brother Lawrence from the Discalced Carmelite

Priory in Paris. We spent a session on the importance of relationships. We talked about why we come to church and aspects of why it is important to gather.

This Sunday is our yearly Halloween Party. It is a fun Sunday for the young people to dress up and eat fun snacks and gather for fun activities.

If you didn't already know, we have some amazing teachers and volunteers that spend so much of their time preparing and implementing such high quality Christian education and activities for our young people, If you get a chance, remind them how thankful we are for what they do and who they are.

Blessings as we follow the Prince of Peace.

*Austin Pettigrew*

## A MISSION MOMENT

We are so thankful for the work that Cameron Community Ministries does in our church community. This Thanksgiving, we will collect paper products to support this wonderful ministry. The items on their wish list include 39 gallon black plastic garbage bags, white garbage bags, non-latex food prep gloves, toilet paper, paper towels, bulk hand soap, and sponges. Please place items in the basket marked Cameron Paper Products. Thank you for your generosity in supporting this vital ministry.



Once again the Myanmar Christian Fellowship will be having their annual Thanksgiving Worship and dinner. This will take place on the Friday after Thanksgiving on November 29th beginning at 10:00 am. Everyone is invited to attend this special celebration. So, mark your calendars!

## LGBT AND CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE HONOR

At the recent LGBT and Christian Experience lecture held at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School (of which LABC is a long-time sponsor), Dr. Darrell Lance received a significant recognition. Darrell was

one of the pioneers responsible for beginning this lectureship series that invites a variety of local and national/international speakers to the Divinity School to share on topics pertinent to the LGBT Christian Experience. At this recent lecture, Darrell was presented with a tabletop plaque that will be placed in the library at the school's new location at 320 North Goodman Street in a special area of the library named in recognition of Darrell and his significant contributions to this lectureship series. Students, faculty, and community alike will be able to read in the Darrell Lance Reading Corner. Congratulations to Darrell and may God continue to bless you and the lectureship series at our partner in ministry, CRCDs.



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## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

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- Please keep in your healing prayers **Michael Donatucci** who continues to recuperate at home following recent knee replacement surgery.
- We keep **Karen (Coke) Stewart** in our healing prayers following recent surgery. She is currently at home recuperating.

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## COMMUNITY EVENTS OF INTEREST

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•**Lake Avenue Baptist Church will be hosting the Fifth Annual Coat Give-Away on Monday, November 18th** which is sponsored by Julian Cleaners and WROC TV. If you have any new or gently used coats that you would like to donate for this event, they may be dropped off at any Julian Cleaners in the Rochester area. The deadline for drop-off is November 8th. If you know anyone in need of a warm winter coat, please let them know about this event!

**REMINDER: We are quickly approaching a very busy time in our church year. Therefore, if you have or plan to have an event at the church, please mark it on the church calendar in the church office as soon as possible to avoid conflicts with other events and meetings!**

**Church Moderator:** Laura Tubbs

**Church Staff:** Sr. Pastor: Michael Ford; Music Educator, Chancel Choir Director, & Organist: Lee Foster,  
Good News Singers Director and Accompanist: Julia Fedor, Refugee Coordinator: Hkadin Lee;  
Director of Youth and Children's Ministry: Austin Pettigrew, Myanmar Christian Fellowship: Pastor Simon Kui;  
Assisting Minister - Susan Maybeck, Church Accountant: Bonaventure Moulougo;  
Office Manager: Kenneth Setera; Custodial Services: Lloyd Cuyler