

LAKE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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YES, IT'S NOVEMBER AND THE HOLIDAYS ARE COMING! Thanksgiving will soon be upon us and likewise Christmas. But this year the holidays will be quite different due to the coronavirus and the limitation of large inside gatherings. This will be the first year that most will be experiencing a ZOOM Thanksgiving and Christmas (unless you live in the warmer climes where outside gatherings with social distancing can be had.) But, cheer up! This will probably be the one and only time this will happen in our lifetimes. I also won't be gathering with my family but, on the bright side, I also won't have to contend with putting away all the leftovers, pulling the remaining meat off the turkey, and making a huge pot of turkey soup. And, I won't have many dishes or pots and pans to clean. I actually might be able to rest in the afternoon as opposed to discussing and arguing about politics and the state of the nation or watching a football game that I have no interest in. See...there are some bright spots in this sort of unique Holiday Season. So, stay healthy, eat well, take a relaxing walk, or a nice nap or curl up with a good book.



Don't Forget to set your clocks back one hour this Saturday night, October 31, as we return to Eastern Standard Time on Sunday.

YOUR PASTOR'S ARTICLE



What a month! Just think about it for a moment. When you mix secular and church life together (and in particular church life at LABC), we have an election, a stewardship campaign, Thanksgiving, and the first Sunday of Advent. Sprinkle in work and family commitments (which will no doubt look unlike any before, and I think you can agree with me ... what a month!

It is easy to be overwhelmed by the business of the month. In fact, it's been easy to be overwhelmed by much of the past year. I know that there are many people who are just praying for 2020 to be over with a sense of hopefulness that 2021 will be exponentially better. However, I want to approach this November a little bit differently, and I want to invite you into that journey with me.

Here's what I am thinking. If we know that there are many things coming up in the coming days, what if we took a moment as each one approaches to think intentionally about the meaning of each event and how we choose to approach it. This may seem rather esoteric, but let me explain a little bit.

For instance, let's start with the easy one (easy because it's embedded in its very name): Thanksgiving. Rather than allow ourselves to focus on the dinners that we may not be able to have this year, or the big gatherings or travels that we typically have had in the past, what if we focused on the fact that the event, at its core, invites us to seek to give thanks. What do we have to be thankful for this year? Rather than seeing what we can't do, what if we intentionally focused on what we can do? This might change not only how we approach the event but how we engage in it. Further, it might help us through the day and set us on a different, more positive path beyond.

Let's keep going. Too often the day after Thanksgiving marks the beginning of the Christmas season. For many, this involves lining up at some ungodly hour to buy things we don't need. This year we know things will likely be different. Rather than seeing that we can't do something we've done in the past and allowing this to spark the beginning of our Christmas season, what if it let ourselves focus on the coming Sunday just a few days later? That Sunday, the first Sunday of Advent, is the Sunday of Hope. What if we allowed ourselves to let our movement into December be marked by Hope? I can't help but wonder if that focus might be a more positive way to begin our Advent season than Black Friday sales.

Ok, we're on a roll. Now onto Stewardship month. I know you might be wondering where I'm going with this one, but it's reasonably easy. Stewardship starts at looking at our own blessings and examining how we are able to give a portion of those back to God through the work of the church. What if we started the month when we'll be hearing about stewardship with an intentional look at our lives to see where God has blessed us? I know that God has blessed me in remarkable ways, and that I continue to see God at work in my life and in the life of the world around me. It really does change how I live and act when I see the many blessings in my life not just the things that have brought me sorrow. It can have a big impact on how we live and how we move in this world.

Finally, I started by mentioning that we have an election. I know this one can cause remarkable divisiveness in our world and there are many who have great anxiety around this one. What if as you who are able to vote approached the ballot box (if you haven't already) giving thanks that you have the capacity to live in a democracy where you have the right to vote. Many, including some in our community of faith, come from places where that was not a basic right. And yes, I do realize there are many issues in our nation where too many people are still fighting for a true right to vote, but for those who can, may we give thanks that by your vote you are able to speak out about the rights of those who are not able to. Rather than focus on the vitriol that we hear in our nation right now, if you focus on using your voice at the ballot box it is a shift from sitting home and joining in the chorus of the negative.

What a month! It has been a crazy year and this coming month is definitely a full one. Join me in looking beneath the events at the values each live into, and may we honor those values in how we live in this coming month and beyond as we seek to be people of Christ.

Michael



Abounding in Generosity

Hebrews 13:16

I must begin by saying thanks to all of our faithful supporters who have enabled Lake Avenue Baptist Church to go forward through these past difficult months. We have been able to accomplish much and continue to look forward to that time when we can all gather in a safe joyous environment!

Even with uncertainty and anxiety of the future, we need to continue to grow in new and unexpected ways. An important part of this journey is to have a budget that supports our efforts. This year's stewardship campaign may look different and that's OK! We are very good at being creative!

We ask that you begin to think of what you can do to support the church and its' ministries for the coming year. We do not anticipate any new major expenses and seek to meet our needs through a minimal increase in operational expenses.

Please keep in mind that we have the ability to donate our contributions through the PayPal button on our church website. Also, with a PayPal account, you can schedule donations according to any frequency you desire. This can easily keep your pledge current.

Join the **ABCRGR Creation Collaborative** for a book study. "Plastic: A Toxic Love Story," by Susan Freinkel. A history of plastic and its ubiquity in our lives. Four Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm: Nov 17 and 24, Dec 1 and 8. Zoom Meeting ID: 851 0249 4643 Passcode: 245128

Green Tip of the Week Thanksgiving is a time to celebrate the local harvest. A dinner of all local ingredients is easy this time of year. Grass-fed turkeys can be ordered from meat sellers at local farmers' markets, and carpooled in from neighboring

farms. Pumpkins or butternut squash can be boiled down to make delicious pumpkin pie. Also available locally are fresh apples, pears, grapes, potatoes, carrots, onions, tomatoes, and many green vegetables. **ALSO** Don't put your paper and cardboard out for recycling if it's raining, unless you have some sort of a rain cover for your bin. Hold it until the next week. Soggy paper and cardboard don't get recycled, they go to the land fill.

Ken's Korner: Reflections from Your Office Manager

"God made the earth, the sky and the water, the moon and the sun. He made man and bird and beast. But He didn't make the dog. He already had one."

Native American saying



I used to look at my dog and think if you were a little smarter you could tell me what you were thinking; and she'd look at me like she was saying "If you were a little smarter I wouldn't have to.

Fred Jungclaus

At 6:00 am on a rainy October 20th, I managed to coax my dog, Lilly, to go for a walk with me. I put on my rain hat and put Lilly's harness and bright yellow rain jacket on. I picked up my flashlight (still dark at that time in the morning) and left the warm dry house. Lilly picked up her pace and I did my walking and jogging behind her to keep up.

As we walked I thought "How peaceful it is." with the pitter-patter of the rain falling on the fallen leaves, the lack of car and truck noises because of the time. The only noise breaking the silence was my little dog barking at a squirrel or rabbit she detected. When she stopped barking she started sniffing the ground to pick up their tracks. Her thoughts focused on catching that squirrel or rabbit

And, what was I thinking. My thoughts flashed from the Covid-19 pandemic, and the need to use masks to protect myself and protect those around me, the upcoming Presidential election and the unwarranted and nasty rhetoric about science, scientists, and disease specialists. I also thought about Qanon

and the failed attempt to kidnap and possibly murder the governor of Michigan. Also, when I go to vote, will I experience harassment? As I was thinking these thoughts I realized that I was becoming oblivious to my current surroundings and was becoming more stressed and depressed.

These are indeed stressful times without any clear-cut answers. And then I looked down at my dog, wagging her tail and being totally content in pursuing her squirrels and rabbits while dragging me behind the leash. I was rather envious that her thoughts made her happy while mine brought me down. My dog may not be as intelligent as me but her thought process surely surpasses my own. Keep thinking your thoughts, Lilly, and God help me to think about those things that bring me joy -like a little dog chasing squirrels and the sound of raindrops on fallen leaves.

Ken

You're Invited

By
Marian Coger!

Every Sunday I go to
lakeavebaptist.org to

click on the Sunday worship bulletin cover. Before clicking on it, I briefly ponder the worship theme. Perhaps you have done the same.

Today, I want to invite you to consider another listing on that same page. It has the same picture each week: a circle of many hands, palms up. Unlike worship, this is a zoom meeting! When you click "HERE" to join, you will be able to have a conversation in real time with others from the church who have chosen to participate. Our topics for upcoming Mondays will be based on a new community initiative called "21 Day Racial Equity Challenge." To learn more and to sign up to participate in this community challenge, go to ROCequitychallenge.org This is an opportunity to learn more about our community, the impact of racism on all of us and grow in our understanding of paths to a more just and equitable community.

The 21 Day challenge began October 23 and this newsletter is coming out in November. Don't think that you have lost this opportunity! You can still sign up to participate, and can visit topics addressed on previous days. Even if you are not available on Mondays from 3 pm -4 pm I strongly urge you to take the 21 day challenge. What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God.

MISSION NEWS

Cameron Community Ministries, our partner in ministry, has suggested several ways we can help serve our neighbors in the coming days.

Check your closets!

Winter coats and other winter wear are always needed. In years past, our church served as a location for a huge and popular coat giveaway. That will not be happening this year. To help with the need, LABC is asking for coat donations through the month of November. A box will be located near the

office to receive coats of all sizes. Scarves, hats, and mittens are welcome, too.

Like to cook?? Cameron's other need is for help with their extensive meal program. Throughout the time of Covid restrictions, cold meals have been provided on a "take and go" basis. The noontime lunch program has also seen a decrease in volunteer help. To deal with both situations, the volunteer coordinator is asking for groups or individuals to prepare a hot meal to be brought to Cameron Street. CCM staff will handle the distribution. The lunchtime program has been serving 100 persons; more are expected if economic disruption continues. Please contact Jane Grant for details, including suggested menus and other ways to help.

RESOURCE & SUPPORT

By Mike Donatucci, Chair

During this season of the Covid-19 pandemic, your Resource and Support Ministry has been busy preparing for the eventual re-opening of our church facilities. In addition to working with our Reopening Committee on acquiring the necessary safety materials we will use to keep our church building clean and Covid-free, we have done two exciting projects.



First, with the help of a very generous gift, we have replaced our much used folding chairs with brand new chairs. We will use these chairs temporarily in the sanctuary because they are easier to clean than the fabric chairs. In time, they will be moved into the Fellowship hall where they will no doubt find extensive use. Thank you to the donor for this generous gift.

Second, as we continue to live into our Welcoming and Affirming values, we have converted our restrooms near the sanctuary to all gender restrooms. In addition to proper gender neutral



signage, they are now single usage and have new door latches that indicate if the restroom is occupied or available. This change expresses our Welcoming and Affirming values as well as lives into the best practices of the Covid-19 response that suggests conversion to single use (and easier to clean and keep people distanced) is

the best and safest approach.

THE AMERICAN BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

by Garth Brokaw, LABC Historian

At the Annual meeting of the American Baptist Publication Society in 1853, John Mason Peck proposed the creation of an Historical Department for the Baptist denomination. On May 5, 1853 those present approved a constitution for this "National Historical Society" to be named, the American Baptist Historical Society. The following resolution appeared in the minutes of that Annual gathering:

"Resolved, That the eminent labors of the early Baptists of this country, their self-sacrifices and their noble devotion to the cause of truth, and the important principles which have always distinguished the denomination, make it sacredly incumbent on us to associate for the preservation of all documents which can furnish to us and to posterity, the fullest possible record of their sentiments, their sufferings, and their success."

And so, it began, the following is a timeline that tells the story of the American Baptist Historical Society:

- 1880's** Samuel Colgate begins collecting reports from women's mission societies, church associations, etc.
- 1896** Fire at the American Baptist Publication Society in Philadelphia destroys the ABHS collection. Word is spread throughout the land and soon Baptists across the country have contributed more Baptist materials than were lost in the fire.
- 1892-96** Colgate collection is transferred to Colgate University (a Baptist founded school in Hamilton, NY)
- 1907** The Northern Baptist Convention is founded

- 1911** The Free Will Baptist Convention merges with the NBC
- 1912** The ABHS collections move from the Publication Society to Crozer Seminary (Baptist) in Chester, PA.
- 1948** The Colgate collection moves from Colgate University to Colgate Rochester Divinity School
- 1955** ABHS moves to CRCDS from Crozer, assumes responsibility for the Colgate collection
- 1962** The American Baptist Convention headquarters combine offices from Chicago and New York City in Valley Forge, PA.
- 1985** The Valley Forge Archives Center is dedicated to hold the core denominational records managed by ABHS.
- 2008** The collections at CRCDS and Valley Forge are moved to the campus of Mercer University (historically a Georgia Baptist college) combining the collections at one site.

Today ABHS is one of the largest protestant collections in the world taking us almost seven miles of shelving. The mission and vision of ABHS remain much the same as in 1853. The Vision states, "The American Baptist Historical Society, as a premier religious historical society, advances Baptist identity, promotes historical literacy, and thereby inspires spiritual and social transformation".

Lake Ave. Baptist Church financially supports ABHS on an annual basis for two primary reasons. ABHS is an important entity of the American Baptist Churches, USA just like the AB Home Mission Societies and AB International Missions. LABC has been affiliated with the Northern Baptist Convention/American Baptist Churches, USA since its inception and continues to accept a role in supporting the work of the denomination. Second, Helen Barrett Montgomery was a member of LABC and played a national role in denominational life in the early 1900's. ABHS holds, cares for, and makes available to a larger public the majority of LABC's Montgomery collection. LABC, therefore has an obligation to assist financially with the preservation of that important collection.

NEWS FROM OUR EXTENDED FAMILY

National Donor Sabbath is November 13-15th. The need is so severe right now (about 10,000 people are waiting for transplants in NYS) that any public acknowledgement about the need and how to

register (going to www.passlifeon.org) would be fantastic. Additional resources can also be found on our webpage about the event

(<http://www.donorrecovery.org/awareness/donor-sabbath/>)

We hope you will give this some serious thought. Remember, you will be saving lives by doing so.



That's what an organ donor is to someone waiting for a transplant—forever appreciated for giving the ultimate gift. Live life to the fullest. Help others do the same.

A PRAYER OF HOPE DURING THIS PANDEMIC

From Rabbi Naomi Levy

*We are frightened, God, Worried for our loved ones, Worried for our world.
Helpless and confused, We turn to You
Seeking comfort, faith and hope.*

*Teach us God, to turn our panic into patience, And our fear into acts of kindness and support.
Our strong must watch out for our weak, Our young must take care of our old.
Help each one of us to do our part to halt the spread of this virus*

*Send strength and courage to the doctors and nurses In the frontlines of this battle,
Fortify them with the full force of their healing powers.
Send wisdom and insight to the scientists
Working day and night across the world to discover healing treatments.
Bless their efforts, God.*

*Fill our leaders with the wisdom and the courage
To choose wisely and act quickly.
Help us, God, to see that we are one world, One people
Who will rise above this pandemic together.*

*Send us health God,
Watch over us,
Grace us with Your love,
Bless us with Your healing light.
Hear us God,
Heal us God,*

Amen.



The first Sunday of Advent falls on Sunday, November 29th and is the Advent Sunday of Hope. The Sunday's that follow are Peace, Joy, and Love. Maybe you can jot down on a piece of paper what these Advent feelings mean to you. It would also be nice to share your thoughts regarding these feelings by sending them to the office to be included in the December newsletter. May hope, peace, joy and love be with you throughout November and the Holiday Season.

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 Moulougho;
Office Manager: Kenneth Setera; Custodial Services: Lloyd Cuyler