

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

## SEPTEMBER WORSHIP AT A GLANCE

### Sunday, September 1, 2019

10:00 am: Worship & Communion  
11:15 am: Fellowship  
12:30 pm: Myanmar Worship Service

### Sunday, September 8, 2019

10:00 am: Worship for all, Sunday School for children & youth; Intergenerational Choir  
11:15 am: Fellowship  
12:30 pm: Myanmar Worship Service  
3:00 pm: AWAB Picnic, Seneca Park

### Sunday, September 15, 2019:

10:00 am: Worship for all; Sunday School classes for children and youth  
11:15 am: Fellowship  
12:30 pm: All Church Picnic at Hawk Shelter at Seneca Park

### Sunday, September 22, 2019

10:00 am: Worship for all, Sunday School for Children  
11:15 am: Fellowship and Sunday School for Youth  
12:30 pm: Myanmar Worship Service

### Sunday, September 29, 2019

10:00 am: Worship for all; Sunday School for Children  
11:15 am: Fellowship and Sunday School for Youth  
11:45 am: Adult Education Class  
12:30 pm: Myanmar Worship Service

## YOUR PASTOR'S ARTICLE



“Where did the summer go?” I have heard so many people say this exact phrase over the last few days. This happens every summer as we realize that it’s the end of August, the children prepare to return to school, vacations come to an end and we realize that, before too long, the chill of the autumn

air will be upon us. As mid-August arrives, when you work in the church, there is something else in the air. It’s the excitement that things are about to ramp up again. While it’s entirely true that LABC doesn’t have the summer lull that some churches experience. Things don’t really slow down that much during the summer months. However, as we prepare for the fall we do know that the church-year activities will begin again, some folks will return from vacation, choirs will start up again in earnest, and Sunday-school classes will be in full swing before too long. In short, the reality of life at LABC will be upon us.

As you read this newsletter you’ll find information about some of these activities. This year, as you read the articles that follow, I want to ask you to approach the events, opportunities, and excitement in a slightly different way than you may have in the past. Permit me to elaborate.

As you read each of the following articles, I ask you to read it and ask yourselves the following questions. First, ask “is this something that I want to be a part of this year?” Perhaps you’ve never sang in a choir but have always wanted to. Maybe this is the year that you decide to take that step. Maybe you’ve always wanted to volunteer to work with our children or help out with one of our many ministries. This may be a nudging to follow-up on that feeling and take that first step.

Second, ask yourself how you can help this ministry out. Does it require some money? Does it require your attendance? Does it need prayer (they all do!)? What can you bring to the ministry things you read about and how can you help these ministries flourish?

Third, are there needs in our church that are not being met? Churches often fall in to the routine of doing the same things over and over again, and we put on proverbial blinders and miss

opportunities that are outside of the norm. What might we be missing in terms of things that perhaps God is calling us to do? This year we'll be spending this fall looking at the results of our What's Next report and determining what on the list of your "God nudges" are we called to focus on. You'll have a chance to be part of that conversation and to express some of those areas and how you'll get involved, but are there other, perhaps smaller, things that you think are missing that we need to attend to? More eyes on our ministry are better.

There are many more questions I could ask you to ask yourselves, but my hope is that these few will help you to read this newsletter with new eyes, and hopefully will help you see all that follows as things that are exciting in our ministry.

"Where did the summer go?" Good question. Hopefully it was a time of rest, rejuvenation, and renewal so that we could return this fall to live into the excitement that God no doubt has in store for each of us who call LABC home. Welcome back!

Michael



Please join us each Sunday from 11:45-12:30 in the conference room (classroom 1) for our second hour adult education offerings. We will begin on September 29, 2019, and each week there will be something different to help expand our exposure to, and understanding of, a subject

or situation. We will look at issues related to education, mission, worship, the Bible, and contemporary topics of interest to the members of our community. Please join us for these interesting classes. Suggestions for future classes can be forwarded to Pastor Michael at [revmichaelford@gmail.com](mailto:revmichaelford@gmail.com).



Our annual church picnic which will be held on **Sunday, September 15!** This year we have decided to have our picnic in September to commemorate

the beginning of our new church year! The picnic will be held at the Hawk Shelter at Seneca Park. (Directions will be available at the Welcome Center on the Sunday before the event.)

The church will provide the hot dogs and hamburgers but we ask you to provide the other side

dishes to share. Some suggestions are potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans, dessert, and vegetable salads of all kinds. In order to be more environmentally conscious we ask that you bring your own place setting, plates, knives, forks, spoons, and cups. Of course, we will have extra of these on hand for those who forgot, but using your own is a good way to decrease what is going into our landfill.

## A NOTE FROM YOUR MODERATOR

Dear Friends,

Welcome back after the summer. It will be good to be together again! I hope all of you found some time to enjoy the beautiful weather and to renew your energies.

This summer I had the opportunity to read the book "Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom" by David Blight. It is a long book but I learned so much more about Frederick Douglass and the period before, during, and after the Civil War. One of the fascinating things in the book was the discussions of his speeches. The author showed how his speeches were coming from the biblical prophetic tradition and his understanding of his calling to speak prophetically to the nation. It made me want to go back and read the Old Testament prophets again with new eyes and to wonder who is speaking prophetically to us today. I have started to re-read the prophets and I continue to ponder the question about who is speaking prophetically in these times. Who would you identify as speaking prophetically right now? I am having a hard time answering this question for myself so I would be very interested to hear your thoughts.

This past Sunday, Michael preached on Jeremiah 1: 4-10 (Yes Michael, I was listening!) His sermon is what prompted me to share these thoughts with you. I think I will be listening for the prophets this fall both in scripture and in the world. I hope you will listen with me and that we can share what we hear.

In Christ's Love,  
Laura Tubbs

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

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Lately I have been pondering an aspect of Micah 6:8 in regards to our young people at Lake Ave, "...and **what does the Lord require** of you but to **do** justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?"

Is what I teach making an impact? With so much evil and hate in our country happening what am I to do? Time and time again I go back to this passage and think, "What is it that God wants Austin to do...to be?"

I am reminded of a story that my Mennonite mentor shared with me in regards to following Jesus:

*A young man goes up to an old Mennonite farmer and asks, "Sir are you a follower of Jesus?" The story goes on to say, the old farmer looks intently into the eyes of the young man and he thinks for a long time. The farmer then begins to speak, he says, "Young man, I don't know...go ask my neighbor."*

Any time I get frustrated or concerned about our young people and their lives I think about the passage from Micah and the lesson from the Mennonite farmer and I am reminded on what is really important and where my heart needs to be.

We are gearing up for the school year to start and there will be some changes to our upcoming year.

We are still using SHINE Curriculum and we are so very thankful to have this resource to help aid our teaching.

The youth class will no longer meet at the regular time halfway through Sunday morning worship. The youth will stay in service and their class will meet directly after fellowship time. I am looking forward to this time with them as we will be diving into some topics that we will be coming up with together. I think it is important to be learning and studying topics that they are interested in learning more about.

Again I want to thank everyone at Lake Ave for allowing me this opportunity to be a part of your Children and Youth's lives.

Blessings as we follow the Prince of Peace.



On Sunday, September 8, we will have an **Intergenerational Choir** made up of anyone who wants to sing from 7<sup>th</sup> grade to their 80s. We will rehearse at 9:15 that Sunday and will sing at the 10:00 service. Mark your calendar now so that you can join us as we sing in worship.

Also, please remember that the Chancel Choir will begin rehearsing at 7:30 pm the first Wednesday after Labor Day which is September 4th. We are always looking for new members to join our group. If you are interested just come down to church at 7:30 on September 4th. We would love to see you!



## WELCOMING & AFFIRMING NEWS

by Marian Coger

On July 13, a very hot day, six people from Lake Ave. marched in the Gay Pride Parade. We joined with other Baptists from First Baptist of Rochester, Immanuel Baptist, Greece Baptist and First Baptist of Brockport. Along the parade route there were cheers, lots of smiles, mists of water to cool us and free water bottles. We heard "thank you" and "God bless you" and "thank you for not hating us." Despite the heat, it was a blessing to affirm once again that God's love is wider than human constructs of gender identity and sexual orientation.

On July 14, Baptists from several area churches gathered for worship at Immanuel Baptist Church. This was sponsored by the area churches who have joined the Association for Welcoming and Affirming

Baptists which includes LABC! The Rev. Dr. Rachael McGuire gave the message. Thomas Warfield shared his gifts of music. We sang, prayed, connected with longtime friends and made new friends. Together we reaffirmed our commitment to justice and reconciliation for all of God's people.



**Mark your calendars!**

On September 8, at 3 pm, there will be a picnic sponsored by the local AWAB churches at Seneca Park. Come with a dish to pass, your own place setting, and a lawn chair. This is an

opportunity for folks from different churches to become better acquainted. As AWAB churches, we share a commitment to open our doors and membership to people regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. How does that look in practice? Where are we in this journey? How can we support each other?

# Ladies' Night Potluck

These potluck fellowship times for the ladies of our church are becoming very popular. The next gathering will take place at the home of Susan Maybeck on Saturday, September 28th at 5:00 pm. Please contact Susan to let her know if you are coming and what you plan to bring. Her number is 472-3713

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## COMMUNITY PICNIC AT THE COMMUNITY FARM ON LEXINGTON AVE.- SUNDAY, SEPT. 22 – 3:00-6:00 PM

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Yes, there is a farm in the heart of the Edgerton neighborhood! In the old subway bed are multiple plots of vegetables, herbs, flowers, and fruit trees. Community residents can rent a small plot for a

season. The picnic will be an opportunity to see the farm, meet the farmers and other neighbors. LABC is supporting the event with a small donation from mission funds, but we really want to support this event with our attendance. Please make an effort to come out for a garden tour, games, music and conversation. Please bring a dish to share, a chair or blanket, and your curiosity.

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## Life in Burma Difficult for Missionaries

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*August 11, 2019*

August 11, 1822. Helen Maria Griggs was baptized and joined a Baptist church in Brookline, MA. She offered herself to go to Burma, unmarried and alone, but the board had never sent a single lady to the mission field alone. After examination, the board appointed her in 1829. Before she sailed, however, she met and married Francis Mason, a student at Newton Theological Institution. Their journey to Calcutta took 122 days; they then went on to Burma. Helen became proficient in the Burmese and Sgaw Karen languages and was able to teach and write in both. On a furlough to the States, she left her children in the care of family while she went back to Burma. Although many children and even adults did not survive the conditions in the mission field, Helen was criticized for leaving her children. Her decision was defended by the editors of Christian periodicals and attitudes quickly changed although the pain of leaving children did not. Helen wrote: "We have heard of the tortures of the Inquisition; but I do not know that they could exceed this self-sacrifice." ABHS (American Baptist Historical Society) has the record of many missionaries which show the illnesses, deaths, and sacrifices they endured. Read more at: <http://abhsarchives.org/life-burma-difficult-missionaries/#ixzz5wlcYm3vD>

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## A NOTE FROM OUR NURTURE AND CARE COMMITTEE

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Hi, everyone

I am writing this short letter since I have nothing much to report. I hope everyone is enjoying the weather. I can't believe the summer is almost over.

I only have a few things to report for this month.

1. We will start coffee again on the week of September first.
2. Our church picnic day is September 15. Please make sure you sign up for food that you would like to bring. Our team will prepare meat and drinks (soda, lemonade).
3. Our next Nurture and Care meeting is on Sunday, September 22.
4. Annual kitchen cleaning day is October 5th and we could use additional help to clean the kitchen.

Other than that our team is still strong and is doing fine. We didn't do much during the summer. However, we did the Annual Strawberry Social on June 16. We also hosted the Myanmar Christian Fellowship discipleship training from July 23 to July 30. They used our kitchen and social hall every day during that time. I was there for 5 days and was able to help clean the kitchen. I am very impressed that those trainees did a great job on keeping the kitchen clean. Our team is proud that the kitchen and social hall are being used to serve God.

Thanks & Sincerely,  
Soe Win, Nurture and Care Chairwoman



## VACATION CREATION CAMP A SUCCESS!

Greece Baptist and Lake Ave. Baptist collaborated in a 6-session event to bring a sense of stewardship and appreciation of God's creation for children and teens through various presentations, music, and physical activities. The final program was Thursday evening, 8/15, which featured a living red fox (well, really a man dressed up quite convincingly!) and a bald eagle (the same man). Children and adults alike learned about these animals and hopefully gained a new appreciation for the wonder and variety in God's animal world. We also enjoyed Austin's demonstration bee hive and Dr. Jeff Wyatt's giant sturgeon. Participants experienced a tree scavenger hunt and met a family of Native Americans. Each evening began with helping to care for the large garden on GBC's grounds; watering vegetable plants was a favorite activity! Pastor Steve Gretz shared his gift of music and song. Associate Pastor Cheryl Frank coordinated

the "camp." Thanks to the LABC members who participated—Carol Gardener, Marian Coger, Pastor Michael, Austin, Carolyn Argust, and friend of LABC, Dorothy K'Por.



This September our Mission Committee has agreed to honor **Helen Barrett Montgomery** by sponsoring LABC's participation in the **Suffragist City Parade**, Saturday, September 14. We honor Mrs. Montgomery as an educator and advocate for women and children. She



chaired the committee that opened the University of Rochester to women and was the first woman elected to public office in our city. She visited Burma and Congo on a round-the-world trip to report on Baptist mission work in the world. If you would like to go on the (short) parade route, please contact Jane Grant or the church office. Last Year, we had a wonderful group of 10 from ages 5 to 82 and representing 3 continents! Please mark your calendars and join us this year.

The theme of this year's parade is "We the People...Equality for All People!" Parade line-up begins at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 14, at the parking lot at the corner of West Broad Street and Plymouth Avenue North in Downtown Rochester, across from the Rochester City School District Central Office. We will work on having transportation from LABC to the parade site and transportation back to LABC when it is finished. All ages are invited. Step-off from the staging site will be at 10:00 am sharp.

After the Parade the Fun Continues in Susan B. Anthony Square Park!

- If you march in honor of a person who inspires you because of their work for "Equality for All People," share your passion and educate others about your role model, and learn about their role models, too

- Art Force 5 will create a Community Pop-Up Art project, with everyone invited to participate
- Votercade 2020 looks ahead to 2020 and provides photo opps with a vintage car
- Rochester Museum & Science Center previews the exhibit "Celebration of Local Women Who Changed the World" which opens October 2020
- Musical performances by the Flower City Pride Band and the Tubman Singers from Auburn
- Food trucks, ice cream, and beverages available. Stay for lunch!

The event's timing is such that those who wish to head off to Seneca Falls for the National Women's Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony may do so with ease.

Jane Grant

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## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

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•We continue to keep **Dottie Yoder Foster** and **Lee Foster** in our prayers as Dottie continues with treatments for current medical problems.

•Let's not forget **Margaret "Peg" Witmer** as she continues to struggle with ongoing health problems.

•We continue to pray for **Jackie Sullivan** who is as she recuperates from recent knee surgery.

• **DO YOU HAVE A BEDROOM THAT YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO RENT?** Mildred Portela, a friend who is known to many in our church community is looking for a bedroom to rent. She is currently a full time student at the U or R majoring in Higher Education Administration and Student Affairs Administration. She will be needing the room for the school year. As she explained to me you probably won't see her

much because of her courses and studies. She will basically be using the room for someplace to sleep and a place to shower. If anyone is interested in helping her out, you can contact Mildred directly by

emailing her at "mildredportela@hotmail.com" or calling 298-0185.

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## COMMUNITY EVENTS OF INTEREST

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•**The 2020 Census is quickly approaching and they need census takers.** If you are interested in having a part-time job with great pay, flexible hours, and paid training, you may want to think about becoming a census taker. You can apply online at [2020census.gov/jobs](https://2020census.gov/jobs). For more information or help in applying, please call 1-855-JOB-2020.

•**The Maplewood Community Library is offering the following classes:** English as a New Language, Monday through Friday 11:30 am to 1 pm; ESL Classes by ESOL of Rochester, Thursdays 5 - 6:45 pm and Saturdays, 10 am to noon. The library is also offering Citizenship Test Preparation classes Mondays and Wednesdays 4-5 pm (reading and writing) and 5-6:30 pm (Civics and Interview Practice). No registration is necessary. For more information or to make an appointment, please call the New Americans Librarian at 585-428-8233.

•**PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT TOILETRY DRIVE** Project Homeless Connect is a one-day event serving people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. For more information visit [homelessconnectrochester.org](https://homelessconnectrochester.org). or contact Stephanie at 295-5625. Suggested donations include: Toothpaste & toothbrushes, soap (liquid, bar, and gel), combs and brushes, shaving cream & razors, feminine hygiene products, deodorant, socks, lotion, hand sanitizer, shampoo & conditioner. Drop off locations are YourCare Health Plan, 16 W. Main St. (street level) and Pathstone, 6 Prince St. (closed 12-1 for lunch) They will be collecting through September and the final day will be October 11th.

**Church Moderator:** Laura Tubbs

**Church Staff:** Sr. Pastor: Michael Ford; Music Educator, Chancel Choir Director, & Organist: Lee Foster  
 Refugee Coordinator: Hkadin Lee; Director of Youth and Children's Ministry: Austin Pettigrew  
 Myanmar Christian Fellowship: Pastor Simon Kui; Church Accountant: Bonaventure Moulougho  
 Office Manager: Kenneth Setera; Custodial Services: Lloyd Cuyler