

LAKE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026, ISSUE 5, VOLUME 89

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MIXON'S MUSES

A note from our Interim Pastor, Rick Mixon

It appears that spring has sprung. At least that's the testimony of the trees as they leaf green and flower and the daffodils, tulips and crocuses that have broken through to grace lawns that are beginning to come alive. Spring is indeed a time for hope in the promise of life renewed, as we look around and as we reminded ourselves on Easter Sunday when we sang

*Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.*

What does this promise hold for a congregation in transition? What are your hopes and dreams for the future of Lake Avenue Baptist Church? This is a community with a rich and storied history. Its witness to the wider community has been rich and deep. As we face the challenges of being church in this time, what are the gifts and strengths of the current congregation to build for the future?

These are the sorts of questions with which we will be wrestling as we move into a time of formal transitional work. Our transition team, which is made up of Soe Win, Laura Tubbs, Karen Brokaw, Evann Hasenauer and me, have met twice now as we work on a plan to explore the past, present, and future of LABC. Who you have been is a rich resource for understanding who you are now and a studied understanding of who you are now will hopefully lead into the future that God holds for LABC.

We will try to keep you well informed as we move this process forward. Please feel free to contact any of us with your questions and concerns. In the end this is work for all of us and the more involved the entire community is the clearer the outcome will be. The objective is to come up with an accurate church profile that will assist a pastoral search committee in looking for new pastoral leadership for the congregation. Keep this vital work in your thoughts and prayers as we move ahead. In the end this is your work as people who love and care for this community. It is also a process important enough to do well that we don't want to rush it.

As I mentioned Sunday, I had a wonderful week attending Space for the Grace, the biennial gathering of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies in Cleveland. The focus on storytelling was both inspiring and instructive and it is always significant to touch base with friends and colleagues from all over the American Baptist

family. This coming weekend both Evann and I will be away attending the board retreat for the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists in San Juan, Puerto Rico. I assure you we will not be spending our time on the beach or in the casino. This is a working retreat which is being hosted by our new Puerto Rican board member and congregation. In our absence, Wendy Fambro will be our guest preacher and Laura Tubbs will lead worship. The text is 1 Corinthians 13, and the theme is "What Love Does." Please support Wendy and Laura with your presence.

Blessings on the journey,

Pastor Rick

A REPORT FROM YOUR ASSISTANT PASTOR & DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY MINISTRIES, EVANN HASENAUER



April has been a busy month! I'm continuing to work on improving our technology, with more plans for the upcoming few months. I'll be testing a couple of possible new systems in the coming weeks so that our livestreams can have better sound, and I'll be meeting with an outside consulting firm to look at other ways that we can grow and develop our technology (the consultation is free through an early career preachers program I'm in).

Speaking of the early career preachers' program, I went on a retreat for the program this past weekend. We gathered at Richmond Hill Retreat Center in Richmond, VA so that we could develop relationships with others in the program, as well as having intensive workshops focused on preaching about social issues and engaging our congregations in social reform. The cohort is made up of preachers from a variety of denominational and career backgrounds, which made it an invaluable chance to discuss and talk through things with people with different perspectives and understandings. Our preacher/teacher for the weekend was a theologian named Leah Schade, who has done extensive studies into preaching on social issues, as well as developed multiple guides for what she calls "preaching in the purple zone," or preaching in churches with divided congregations. The main goal of the weekend, in addition to learning from our speaker, was for us as a cohort to form bonds and connections that we can draw on as we grow in our work. So, in addition to worship services and workshops, we also had times when we were able to gather as colleagues and get to know each other.

As the year progresses, we will continue to meet via zoom to have more workshops, and in smaller groups to discuss our individual preaching and sermons to help us grow into better preachers. My time to present will be some time in the Fall.

While I was in the South, I also went to visit a friend in Durham, NC, where we were able to visit the Pauli Murray Center. Pauli Murray was the writer and lawyer credited for Civil Rights victories such as Brown V the Board of Education. Pauli was also a powerful LGBT+ figure, who openly lived as a lesbian and openly questioned her gender many times throughout her life (she famously presented as a man on a cross-country train trek with her girlfriend of the time). Recently, her childhood home has been turned into a small museum, where people can connect with and learn from her powerful legacy. The picture on the left features a sign which reads "As an American, I inherit the magnificent tradition of an endless march toward freedom and toward the dignity of all mankind."



As a last note, if you are interested in helping out with the tech on Sunday mornings, let me know. I'm trying to build a small team/committee that I can train to run the slides and livestream during service. As I become more involved in service itself, it's becoming difficult to run tech by myself. This is especially an issue when I'm not able to be here on Sunday mornings. As I've been able to get it down to a fairly streamlined process, you don't need a lot of tech experience to do it; you just need to be comfortable enough with a computer to learn. If you're interested, you can reach me at evann.hasenauer@gmail.com

Some Notes from Susan Maybeck

■ **Thank you so much for the wonderful party you gave for my final retirement.** I was blessed by your kind words and the picture of the church with many of your signatures. The cake was beautiful, and delicious. The luncheon spread was bountiful as usual. The gifts were precious. I was well feted!

Thanks especially for Hkadin, who oversaw the party since Soe Win was traveling. I appreciate all the work that many people have done!

After 47 years of ministering, I am ending my career. It's been a joy being your Assisting Minister after I retired as Pastor of the United Church of Pittsford. I have preached, prayed, and studied with you over the years. I will continue to be a faithful member of Lake Avenue Memorial Church, but I may occasionally sleep in or visit another church.

You are a wonderful congregation and I continually bless you.

Rev. Susan Maybeck

■Aging Gracefully and Joyfully

I will continue leading our Aging group until summer. We will decide then whether there is a group who wants to continue. During the next two months we will discuss ideas and preparation for our death, funerals, burials, and other details. I know this may sound grim, but I am aware that following our aging, gracefully and joyfully, there is the inevitable death. Let's not be afraid of talking about these things. Be brave!!

Our next meeting will be on Monday, May 4 at 1:30 - 3:00 at Church.

The June date is Mon. June 8.

Our Church Family:

●**Dorothy Reed Roat (Dottie)** passed away in the early hours of April 15, 2026, at the age of 97. Dottie came to LABC around 1956, drawn by the wonderful faith community (the handsome man she met at work who already attended there was an added draw). She married him, Edward Roat, the love of her life, in 1956 at LABC, joining him as an active member of this faith community.

At LABC, she served as a Sunday school teacher, as the first treasurer of the Edgerton Day Care Center (started by the church in the late 1960s), and as a recurring member of the Diaconate along with her husband and later her children. Dottie worked as a secretary at Kodak in the 1950s and as a housewife throughout the 1960s and '70s, raising her children with Ed and, after he passed in 1974, as a single mom. Dottie returned to Kodak in 1980 as an executive secretary, happily keeping the Auditing Department on its toes until her retirement. With Ed, and later as a single mom, she raised and supported two children through college, and also "raised" an international son, helping him flee an oppressive regime in Libya in the late 1970s. Over the next 30 years, she was mentor and 'mother' to numerous international graduate students and refugees.

In 2011, Dottie moved to Shoreline, just north of Seattle, WA, to be closer to her children. For the next 14½ years, Dottie lived at Cristwood Park, an independent senior living community, where she led the hospitality and birthday committees, spear-headed a long-running weekly clothing collection and distribution drive for homeless camps and shelters in the Seattle area, and served as instructor of a water exercise class.

She is survived by brother Bill Reed, daughter Cindy Roat, son Bob Roat, international son Gaith Zayed, as well as by grandchildren Jessica Salas, Abby Roat, Najia Zayed, Rheeme Zayed and Yusuf Zayed.

Condolences may be sent by email to cindy.roat@alumni.williams.edu and bobroat@gmail.com, gozayed@gmail.com, or by USPS to:

Cindy Roat
350 NW 189th St
Shoreline, WA 98177

Bob Roat
3815 Brighton Ave
Oakland, CA 94602

Gaith Zayed
149 Berg Road
Ontario, NY 14519

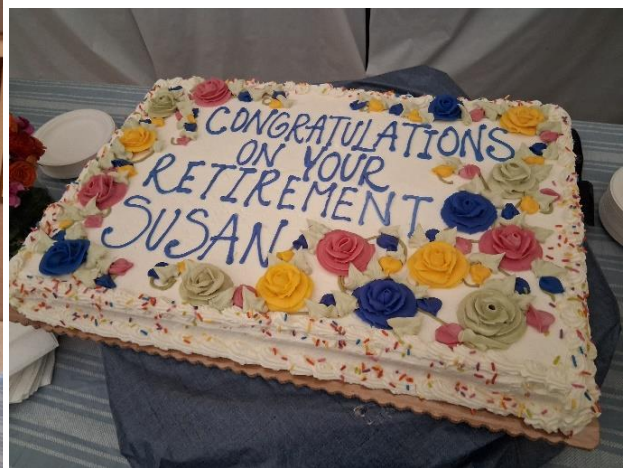
Services of remembrance are pending, first in Shoreline, WA and later in Rochester, NY. In lieu of flowers, donations to one of three charities in Dottie's name are requested:

Crista Good Samaritan Fund - helps Crista residents who outlive their financial resources. Checks may be made out and sent to "Crista Ministries" 19303 Fremont Ave. N, Seattle, WA, 98133 and in the memo line "Good Sam Fund in Memory of Dottie Roat."

Mary's Place - provides shelter, clothing and services to families and women with children who are experiencing homelessness P.O. Box 1711, Seattle WA, 98111, <https://www.marysplaceseattle.org>.

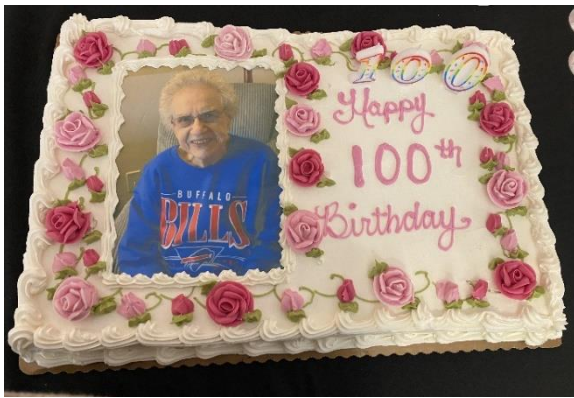
Cameron Community - community center providing services to families and youth Cameron St., Rochester, NY 14608, <https://cameroncommunity.org/donat>

●**SUSAN MAYBECK'S RETIREMENT PARTY:** On Sunday, April 12, 2026 we celebrated the retirement of Susan Maybeck as the Assisting Minister of our church. Although she will no longer be our Assisting Minister, she will still be active in our church community and attending worship on Sundays. We wish her a relaxing but still active retirement with many happy times.



●**PICTURES FROM JANET ENGDAHL'S 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION:** Janet Engdahl, a long time active member of Lake Avenue Baptist Church celebrated her 100 th birthday on March 21st, 2026. Several

members of our church community attended including Interim Pastor Randle (Rick) Mixon. In case you would like to send her belated birthday wishes, her address is Wegman's Family Cottage, 400, 1555, 1477 Long Pond Road, Rochester, NY 14626-4164.



● **In Memoriam:** Halbrooks Cuyler passed away on Monday, April 27th. He was the younger brother of our long-time custodial manager, Lloyd Cuyler. Lloyd has 7 remaining siblings in his family and Halbrooks was the first to pass away. If you see Lloyd, please offer him your condolences.



Fellowship Event

Saturday, May 2 from
1:00 to 3:00 pm



We will celebrate fellowship, friendship, and God's Creation. Everyone will go home with a plant, and we will sow some seeds for planting. If you have lots of plants, and you'd like to share, feel free to bring one to give away. There will be a game, with prizes, of course! Our Refreshments will be Ice Cream Sundaes and....you will learn about a SECRET MISSION!



THE WELCOMING & AFFIRMING "BE YOU" MOVIE SERIES

Join us on Saturday, May 2 at 6:00 pm in classroom 1 (the conference room). Several additional episodes of *AJ and the Queen* will be shown. This series is about Robert, a down-on-his-luck drag queen who is played by RuPaul. Come to the office door and ring the doorbell. Someone will let you in. (Because many of the movies have adult themes, they may not be appropriate for children.)

A Message from Our Mission Committee

Baby Supplies



The Mission Team's Project for May will be to collect supplies for babies. This will begin on Sunday, May 3.

Supplies that are needed are: onesies (size 3 months to 24 months), bibs, burp cloths, diapers, blankets, lotion, shampoo, towels, and washcloths. These will be given to Cameron Ministries for distribution to mothers in need.

If you have any questions, please see Karen Brokaw.

•The America for Christ Offering will be taken on Sunday, May 17th. A letter with an offering envelope will be mailed out shortly.

**The Aging Gracefully and Joyfully Group
will meet on Monday May 4 at 1:00 pm in the Conference Room.**

ALL ARE WELCOME!

**CHURCH
OUTDOOR
WORK DAY**

Join us on **Saturday, May 9th** for an Outdoor Workday. We will meet at 9:00 am at the church office. Please come prepared wearing your garden clothes and shoes and please bring some garden tools with you. (shovels, pruners, loppers, spades, saws, etc.) We will be doing some weeding, edging, and mulching and will end about 12:00 pm. (If you need to leave earlier, feel free to do so.) In case of inclement weather, we will reschedule this for the following Saturday, May 16th at the same time.



Our next community dinner will take place on Wednesday, May 20 at 6:00 pm. As of this date, the dinner menu has not been decided. A sign-up sheet will be available on Sunday, May 10th.

**Thank You
So Much**

*If you see **Don Lee**, please thank him for the work he has been doing at the church during his VACATION TIME! Don has been busy installing new security locks on all the Office Doors, insulating pipes above the ceilings near the classrooms so they won't sweat and drip water onto the ceiling tiles, and painting and refurbishing water-stained ceiling tiles from classroom 2 and reinstalling them. Thank you, Don, for your commitment as Resource Chair for freely giving of your time toward improving the security of and repairing the church we occupy.*



VOCAL JURYS

Sofia Martinez, our alto choral scholar, and **Alex Hartin**, our soprano choral scholar will be having their vocal juries on Monday, May 4. Sofia's jury will take place at 10:50 am and Alex's jury will take place at 2:30 pm. Both juries will be performed in Kilbourn Hall and are open to the public. Your support in attending would be appreciated.



Notes from Worship and Music

by Laura Tubbs, Worship and Music Chair



This Sunday is the last Sunday that our three Eastman School of Music undergraduate choral scholars will be with us. Alex, Sofia, and John have been so helpful to all of us in the choir who are less skilled musicians. We wish them a restful summer and look forward to seeing them when they return in the fall.

Several of you have asked me why these choral scholars don't join us for coffee hour. The reason is that the Eastman School of Music uses Sunday afternoons for mandatory rehearsals! Our scholars have to get back to school, eat lunch and get to their rehearsals on time. I'm sure they would love to join us if they could.

I also want to thank Evann Hasenauer for all of her hard work getting us started with live streaming of our worship services. You will still be able to find the services posted on Youtube and on the church website for you to observe.



Our annual **All Church Birthday Party Celebration** will take place on Sunday, May 17th immediately following our worship service. As is our tradition, we will have twelve tables set up representing the twelve months of the year. We are requesting cakes for each of the tables. If you would be willing to make a cake and bring it to church for this event, please let Soe Win or Hkadin Lee know. Hope to see you at this fun and "sweet" celebration!

SPECIAL ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES:

Sunday, May 3: Steve Bancroft and Laura Tubbs will share an educational video on living with mild cognitive impairment in which they are featured. The video provides a look at living with mild cognitive impairment interspersed with commentary from Steve's neurologist who discusses the latest information on diagnosis and treatment. It was quite an adventure making the film and we look forward to sharing it with you.

Sunday, May 31: Tom Argust will once again put on his interviewer cap. This time he will be interviewing our Interim Pastor Randle (Rick) Mixon.



Manita Opoku, our Sunday School Coordinator, would like to invite you to her last show on campus! The title of the show is "The Christians" and Manita is in charge of the costumes, make-up, and hair. This is the last week and there are shows on Friday and Saturday, May 1 & 2 at 8pm, and at 2 pm on Sunday, May 3. Tickets for the show can be found on the UR website.

LABC CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS FOR MAY 2026

(As Currently Scheduled as of April 30th)

Abbreviations: Conf. Rm.-Conference Room, S.H.-Social Hall; Sanc. -Sanctuary

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Saturday	May 2	1:00 PM	Spring Fellowship Event	S.H.
		6:00 PM	W & A Be You Movie	Conf. Rm.
Sunday	May 3	10:00 AM 11:15 AM 11:30 AM	Communion Worship Service Fellowship Adult Education Laura Tubbs and Steve Bancroft	Sanc. S.H. Classroom 2
	May 10 Mother's Day	10:00 AM 11:15 AM 11:30 AM	Worship Service Fellowship Adult Education	Sanc. S. H. Classroom 2

Sunday (Continued)	May 17	10:00 AM 11:15 AM	Worship Service All Church Birthday Party	Sanc. S. H.
	May 24 Memorial Day Weekend.	10:00 AM 11:15 AM	Worship Service Fellowship	Sanc. S. H.
	May 31	10:00 AM 11:15 AM 11:30 AM	Worship Service Fellowship Adult Education Tom Argust will interview Pastor Rick	Sanc. S. H. Classroom 2
Monday	May 4	1:00 PM	Aging Gracefully Group	Conf. Rm.
	May 11	7:00 pm	Church Council Meeting	Conf. Rm.
	May 25 Memorial Day		Church Office Closed	
Wednesday	May 6	7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanc.
	May 13	7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanc.
	May 20	6:00 PM	Community Dinner	S. H.
		7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanc.
May 27	7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanc.	