

LAKE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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MIXON'S MUSES

A note from our Interim Pastor, Rick Mixon

We are deeply into Lent as we have now entered Holy Week. Thank you to everyone who helped with the Palm/Passion service. As I noted Sunday, it was slightly chaotic, but then so were the events of that first Holy Week. I very much appreciate the dedication of you all to the ongoing life of LABC, uphill and down. It is a journey well worth our time and effort.

And speaking of journeys, we now travel on to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter as the culmination of the season's adventure. Thursday we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a simple meal (food provided) and a service focused on Communion in remembrance of Christ's last supper with his disciples.

On Friday we will hold a service of Tenebrae or darkness in the Sanctuary with scripture, readings, and music commemorating the arrest, trial, crucifixion, and burial of Jesus. Throughout the service we will move progressively into darkness as we meditate on the painfully sad and somber events of Good Friday.

Then on Sunday, we will celebrate Easter with music, flowers, scripture and reflections on the glory of the day that we remember Christ is risen as promised. Our partners in ministry from the Burmese Christian Church will join us for all these events.

I also wanted to share with you the appointment of a Transition Team that will guide the congregation through the transition process. The members are Soe Winn, Evann Hasenauer, Karen Brokaw, Laura Tubbs, and me. We have had our first meeting and have outlined a procedure for the work of identifying and evaluating where LABC comes from, where it is now, and where it hopes to go as you consider new pastoral leadership.

Evann and Karen are working with Garth Brokaw, our church historian, on the first phase which will engage us in looking at the church's rich history for patterns and events that have shaped and continue to shape the congregation's life. The second phase will incorporate small group conversation on how you see LABC today and the third will be a creative event dreaming about the church's future.

Throughout this process we will be looking for maximum input from the members and friends of LABC, all those who care deeply about the community and its thriving. If you have questions or comments, thoughts or concerns, please share those with any one of us – and definitely keep us and the church in prayer. Ideally the transition

process will yield an accurate and useful church profile, which can then be passed onto a Pastoral Search Committee when the time comes.

Blessings on the journey,

Pastor Rick

MAYBECK'S MESSAGE

POEMS AND PRAYERS FOR GOOD FRIDAY AND EASTER SUNDAY

By Susan Maybeck, Your Assisting Minister

SHOCK ME WITH TERRIBLE GOODNESS OF THIS FRIDAY

Holy One,
shock and save me with the terrible goodness of this Friday,
and drive me deep into my longing for your kingdom
until I seek it first-
 yet not first for myself,
but for the hungry
 and the sick
 and the poor of your children,
for prisoners of conscience around the world,
for those I have wasted
 with my racism
 and sexism
 and ageism
 and nationalism
 and religionism,
for those around this mother earth and in this city
who, this Friday, know far more of terror than of goodness;
that, in my seeking first the kingdom,
 for them as well as for myself,
 all these things may be mine as well:
things like a coat and courage
 and something like comfort,
 a few lilies in the field,
 the sight of birds soaring on the wind,
 a song in the night,
 and gladness of heart,
the sense of your presence
 and the realization of your promise
 that nothing in life or death
 will be able to separate me or those I love,
 from you love
 in the crucified one who is our Lord,
 and in whose name and Spirit I pray.

by Ted Loder – *Good Friday* from *Guerrillas of Grace*

I PRAISE YOU FOR THIS RESURRECTION MADNESS

by Ted Loder

Lord of such amazing surprises
 as put a catch in my breath
 and wings on my heart.
I praise you for this joy,
 too great for words,
 but not for tears and songs and sharing,
for this mercy
 that blots out my betrayals

and bids me begin again,
 to limp on,
 to hop-skip-and-jump on.
 to mend what is broken
 in and around me
 and to forgive the breakers;

for this YES
 to life and laughter,
 to love and lovers,
 and to my unwinding self;

for this Kingdom
 unleashed in me and I in it forever.
 and no dead ends to growing,
 to choices,
 to chances,

to calls to be just.
 No dead ends to living,
 to making peace,
 to dreaming dreams,
 to being glad of heart.

For this resurrection madness
 which is wiser than I
 and in which I see
 how great you are,
 how full of grace,
 Alleluia!

THE HASENAUER REPORT

by Evann Hasenauer, our Director of Community Ministries

At the beginning of the month of March, I moderated a panel on trans healthcare locally and nationally held during lecture week at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. The panel included myself, Minister Javannah Davis (a local advocate for Black trans justice and the founder and president of WAVE Women Inc, an organization that advocates for Black LGBT+ Women here in Rochester), Patrick Pitoni (the Senior Manager for the Trans Center of Excellence at Trillium Health, where the majority of local trans people receive their gender-affirming care), and Brittan Hardgers (the founder and President of Next Generation Men of Transition, an organization that supports and advocates for trans men and trans-masc individuals across New York State).



The panel covered what issues are facing the trans community right now, and how the national issues are impacting our local trans community. One thing that was discussed at length was the personal danger that trans advocates on the front lines take on in order to do this work. The trans community is currently experiencing a genocide, and for those of us who become visible advocates take on the risk that we will be the first targeted when those in power eventually move into our area. We also discussed what keeps us fighting despite the risk to our personal safety.

In addition, we discussed the ways in which religious institutions and faith leaders have failed to fully support trans individuals, and what they can do to better welcome and affirm people of all gender identities. The point was also made that even in very affirming churches, there is often a lack of accountability for how much harm the church has done to the trans community. Many affirming

churches separate themselves from the harm being done, and struggle with accepting that they have to take accountability as well, and to take on more direct work to specifically counter the anti-trans sentiment spread by the non-affirming churches.

The full recording of the panel can be found at crcds.edu/on-demand.

In other updates, there have been updates made to our website. There is now a page dedicated to our online worship, with a link to the YouTube channel and the previous week's recording and power point available for those who can't join in person. We are now Livestreaming on Sunday mornings on our YouTube channel for those who cannot attend in person but want to watch services live. When circumstances allow (meaning when we have someone who can monitor the stream), we will have a live chat feature open for those who want to have a conversation or share prayers during worship.



Empowering Our Community: Scam Prevention and Immigration Rights

As part of our ongoing outreach efforts, I have been working tirelessly educating our Myanmar Community about scam prevention and immigration rights. In February, I was able to host "Know Your Rights" presentations at LABC led by a Just Cause immigration lawyer. This was attended by 10-15 individuals from the broader community as well as some of our own church members.



The presentation covered crucial topics, including:

- Understanding ICE agents: learning the differences between ICE agents, border patrol agents, and other law enforcement.
- Your Rights: knowing your rights, regardless of immigration status or Identity.
- Staying safe: preparing for potential encounters with ICE agents in Rochester.



Efforts were further amplified by Rochester Karen Church's discussion with Catholic Family Center's immigration lawyers on March 7th. These initiatives aim to empower our community with knowledge and resources, fostering a safer and more supportive environment for all.

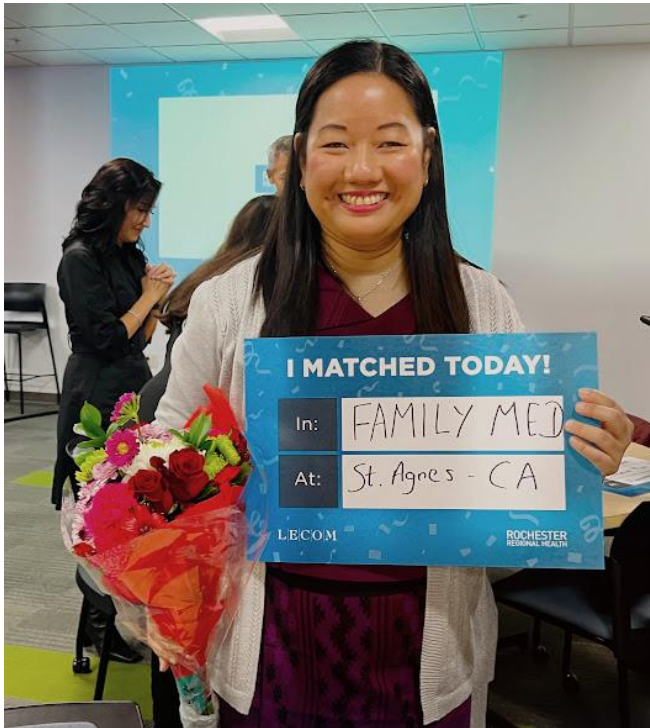
I also had the opportunity to collaborate with R-Community Bikes to distribute 39 bikes to community members and church neighbors in need. The needs of any given community may be different but a vital support system is essential at any given time.

Happy Spring,

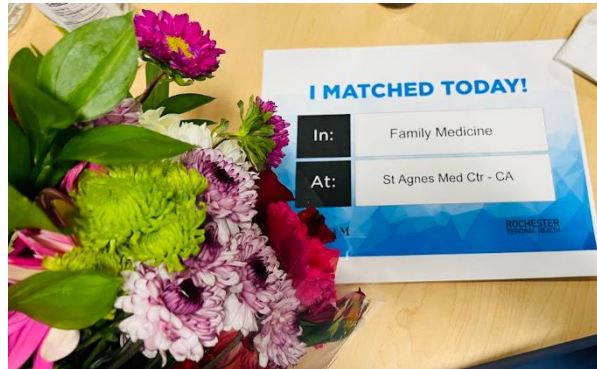
Hkadin Lee
New American Outreach Case Worker.



Our Church Family:



Kai Din, one of our Burmese congregants, has completed medical school and has now been matched with a hospital for residency. She will be graduating this May and will begin a three year residency program at St. Agnes Medical Center in California



Women's Fellowship Gathering

SpringFling Zing Thing

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

Everyone is invited for a time of conversation and activities centered on appreciation of God's creation— flowers, gardening, birds, and more! Everyone will go home with a plant, and we will sow some seeds for planting outdoors in May. Plans are being made with Fruition Seeds of nearby Naples, NY to provide attendees with free seeds. We can share our gardening stories-- successes, challenges, and fun. Some of you may want to share your advice! If you have lots of houseplants, and you'd like to share, feel free to bring one to give away. As usual, there will be a game, with prizes, or course! Refreshments will be Ice Cream Sundaes; imagine that - Sundaes on Saturday.....



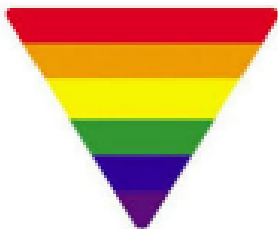
A Message from Our Mission Committee

By Karen Brokaw

We have decided to continue our collection of laundry supplies for Cameron Community Ministries due to a continued demand for these products. Please bring in your donations on Sunday morning and place them in the appropriately marked basket at the Welcome Center. Thank you for your support and generosity.

**The Aging Gracefully and Joyfully Group
will meet on Monday April 6th at 1:00 pm in the Conference Room.**

ALL ARE WELCOME!



THE WELCOMING & AFFIRMING “BE YOU” MOVIE SERIES

Join us on **Saturday, April 4 at 6:00 pm** in classroom 1 (the conference room). It has been decided to show several episodes of *AJ and the Queen*.

This series is about Robert, a down-on-his-luck drag queen who performs as Ruby Red. (Robert is played by RuPaul.) Robert prepares for a new adventure, heading out on a journey in a van across America. Joining Robert on the trip is tough-talking 10-year-old stowaway AJ. Ruby gets a chance to step back into the spotlight along the

way, and AJ comes up with a crafty plan to earn some extra cash. The tour hits a snag as the vehicle rolls into Texas, and it comes to an end when Ruby competes in the Miss Drag USA pageant. The program is free. 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.)



Our next community dinner will take place on **Wednesday, April 15 at 6:00 pm**. We are currently planning to have a ham casserole, with salad, and dessert. As always, everyone is invited.



The following is a very timely speech made by President Obama at the funeral of Rev. Jesse Jackson.

“We are living in a time when it can be hard to hope. Each day we wake up to some new assault on our democratic institutions, another setback to the idea of the rule of law, an offense to common decency. Every day you wake up to things you just didn’t think were possible. Each day, we’re told by those in high office to fear each other and to turn on each other, and that some Americans count more than others, and that some don’t even count at all. Everywhere we see greed and bigotry being celebrated and bullying and mockery masquerading as strength, we see science and expertise denigrated while ignorance and dishonesty and cruelty and corruption are reaping untold rewards. Every single day we see that, and it’s hard to hope in those moments. So, it may be tempting to get discouraged, to give into cynicism. It may be

tempting for some to compromise with power, and grab what you can, or even for good people to maybe just put your head down and wait for the storm to pass.

But Jesse Jackson’s life “inspires us to take a harder path. His voice calls on each of us to be heralds of change, to be messengers of hope.... Wherever we have a chance to make an impact, whether it’s in our school or our workplaces or our neighborhoods or our cities, not for fame, not for glory, or because success is guaranteed, but because it gives our life purpose, because it aligns with what our faith tells us God demands, and because if we don’t step up, no one else will.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM OUR EXTENDED COMMUNITY

Rochester Hymn Festival 2026

The Rochester Hymn Festival will take place on Sunday, April 26th at 4:00 pm at the Church of the Ascension located at 2 Riverside Street. (just off Lake Avenue before you get to Ridge Road.) This event is open to the public and is free of charge. Those who would like to sing in the festival choir need to speak to our Music Director, Stan Van Rompay, and also are required to attend the dress rehearsal which is planned for 2:00 pm on Saturday, April 25th. Several of LABC’s choral scholars will be participating in this event along with some of our choir members.

LABC CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS FOR APRIL 2026

(As Currently Scheduled as of March 31st)

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

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Wednesday	April 1	7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanc.
	April 8	7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanc.
	April 15	6:00 PM	Community Dinner	S.H.
		7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanc.
	April 22	7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanc.
	April 29	7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanc.
Holy Thursday	April 2	6:00 PM	Holy Thursday Service	S.H.
Good Friday	April 3	7:00 PM	Good Friday Service	Sanc.
Saturday	April 4	6:00 PM	Be You, W & A Movie	Conf. Room
Easter Sunday Sunday	April 5	10:00 AM	Worship Service	Sanc.
		11:15 AM	Fellowship	S.H.
	April 12	10:00 AM	Worship Service	Sanc.
		11:15 AM	Retirement Party for Susan Maybeck	S.H.
	April 19	10:00 AM	Worship Service	Sanc.
		11:15 AM	Adult Education	Conf. Rm.
April 27	10:00 AM	Worship Service	Sanc.	
Monday	April 6	1:00 PM	Aging Gracefully Group	Conf. Rm.
	April 13	7:00 pm	Church Council Meeting	Conf. Rm.