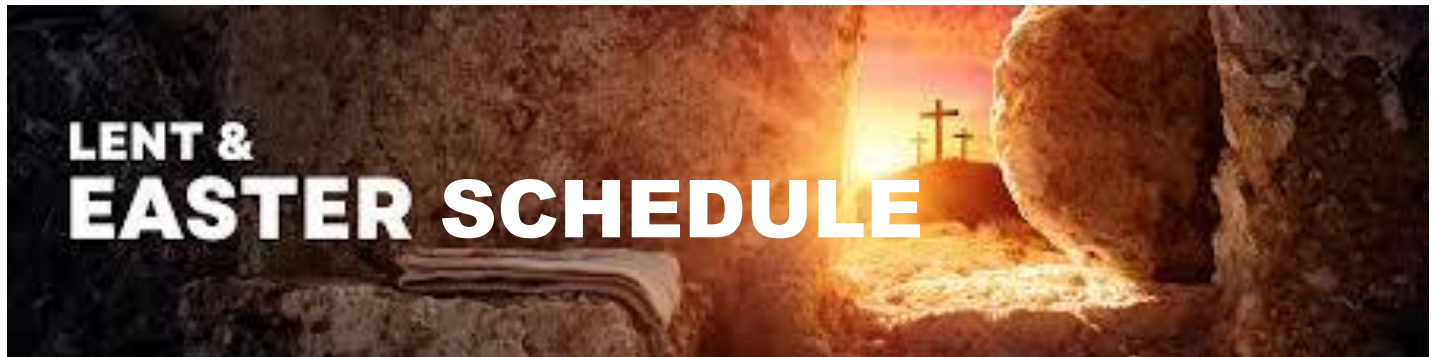


# LAKE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025, ISSUE 4, VOLUME 88

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



During the season of Lent, we offer a Lenten Soup Supper series with good food, good fellowship and, we hope, good discussion. This year we've had all three. Given all of the realities of the world around us (politically, I mean), many have been longing for a place to consider some of the most pressing issues from a Biblical or Theological vantage point. We thought that the Lenten Soup Supper series would be a good chance to have those types of intentional conversations. Pastor Susan Maybeck kicked us off with a conversation about caring for the elderly (or the aging) in light of the current political issues of funding for those in their later years. The second week,

we had a chance to serve alongside others and our friends from the Protestant Chapel Community at the U of R with our monthly community dinner. Evann Hasenauer, our Director of Community Ministries, lead our next conversation exploring Transgender issues (and LGBTQi+ issues in general) in light of some of the political rhetoric around gender and sexuality. The presentations and conversations have been great. We have two more sessions left this Lenten season. The Lenten Soup Suppers will continue at 6:00 pm on the following Wednesdays: April 2 and April 9. in the social hall. We hope you will join us.



**On Sunday, April 13** we will celebrate **Palm Sunday** and Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The **Art Show for Kindness**, an event celebrating creativity and compassion, will take place in the Narthex following Palm Sunday service. The following art show information is shared by Jane Grant.

*I am looking forward to April 13, Palm Sunday, for a host of reasons one of which is a display of art for the "Kindness Art Show." Some of our children have contributed art which shows their ideas related to being kind.*



*We also have a large amount of artwork from students at School #5, our nearby neighbor on Plymouth Avenue. Ms. Pakusch, art teacher, encouraged her afterschool art club to think about the concept of kindness; you will see the colorful outcomes! Additionally, Ms. Lee, Principal and Mr. Lombardo, Asst. Principal, led children in an activity that produced 2 banners which will also be on display.*

School 5 administrators and staff are always emphasizing respect and kindness! We at LABC are grateful for the connection with this city school. Two of our members regularly volunteer there, and we would be happy to strengthen our connection to #5. You may speak with Karen Brokaw or myself to learn more!

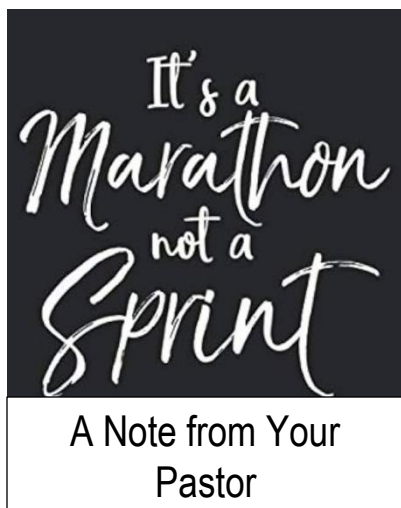
Please plan on the fellowship time on **April 13, 11:00am-1:00 pm.** to see the art and enjoy some hands-on activities—(some fun things for all ages!!) This would be a great Sunday to welcome friends and family, especially those with children and youth.

**Wednesday, April 16:** As we usually do on the third Wednesday of the month we will be having our community dinner in the fellowship hall. A sign-up sheet will be available on the Welcome desk in the Narthex on Sunday, April 6.

**Holy Thursday, April 17:** Join us at 7:00 pm as we remember Jesus last supper with his disciples and the initiation of the ordinance of communion.

**Good Friday, April 18:** We will meet at 7:00 pm to commemorate the Passion of Christ with scripture readings and the lighting of and extinguishing of candles.

**Easter Sunday, April 20:** We will gather in the sanctuary at 10:00 am to prayerfully rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. As is our common practice we will end the service with the singing of Handel's Hallelujah Chorus.



"It's a marathon, not a sprint." When our Sunday School Coordinator, Anika Sharma, used this saying on a recent Sunday morning, it struck me as both simple and profound. While I have heard it used before in a variety of different settings, I have to admit that I have never really given it a whole lot of thought. That was, until recently.

The saying recognizes the differences between running a marathon (a long distance race) as opposed to running a sprint (a short race). How one approaches these two types of races is very different. At its core, the phrase highlights the importance of pacing oneself and maintaining consistency over time, as opposed to trying to achieve everything quickly and potentially failing to reach the finish line.

In our Western culture, we like sprints. We like to make decisions and have immediate (or at least quick) results. We don't like having to wait for things. Or perhaps that's just me. I like to have a decision before me, weigh the pros and

cons of the decision at hand, make that decision and see the immediate results of my action. That's possible in some instances, however, too often things take more time.

In church life, it often takes a longer time to see things come to fruition. As people of faith learning to live together and following Jesus, we make decisions and put them into action. However, the results of those decisions and actions take much longer to see than we would like. Living a life of faith is often like running a marathon, not a sprint.

This same Sunday that Anika spoke these words, I invited Jane Grant to come forward and share an experience that she had the past weekend. Jane was invited to a Women's Event put on by our friends at Agape Haven of Abundance. As people were introducing themselves and giving a bit of background, Jane mentioned that she served on staff at LABC for several years. Upon hearing her name, someone nearby spoke up excitedly. You see, this person had a child who was part of the Girl's Group that Jane and others offered many years ago. This woman shared that her daughter was profoundly impacted by Jane's ministry and the Girl's Group those years before, and in fact her daughter went on to college and into a professional career. It was so exciting to hear about the journey this young woman was on that began those many years ago at Girl's Group.

When we engage in ministry opportunities, we don't always see the immediate outcomes that we so often hope for or expect. In this particular case, the story illustrates that ministry is often a marathon, not a sprint. Jane

waited 20 years or more to hear this wonderful story of a ministry impact but it put a smile on her face. There are no doubt others, many of which will never be spoken but nonetheless are profound.

Ministry is a marathon, not a sprint. What is true, however, is that just as a marathon race a participant does not run alone. There are others who make up the mass that runs together. In the case of the church, there are others in our community who move forward together. And no matter how long that race may be (marathon or sprint), God is one of those participants who moves with us by the power of the Holy Spirit. We are never alone.

I encourage each of you to spend some time thinking about that marathon of faith that you have run over all these years, and try to identify some of those places where you see your efforts (alongside God of course) coming to fulfillment and where you're seeing the amazing faithfulness of God moving in this place. And when you see these things, may you give thanks and be reminded that we are together in this race with one another and with God who remains with us in all the races, short and long, in this life we lead as people of faith.

Blessings,

*Michael*

## *A Woman of Excellence*

Each year, the Rochester Business Journal accepts nominations for their Women of Excellence Awards. In the late spring, 2024, our former Director of Next Generation Ministries, Rebeka Fergusson-Lutz, nominated our very own Hkadin Lee for this award. A few short weeks ago, Hkadin popped into my office and asked if I knew of anything that she might have been nominated for recently. You see, while Becka nominated her, and I knew full well about the nomination, we both failed to let Hkadin in on the whole thing. According to Becka, she hoped it would be a pleasant surprise for Hkadin if she were to be selected.

Fast forward to this spring and Hkadin received a call from someone involved in the Women of Excellence Awards who was reaching out to see if she'd accept the award (along with a group of incredibly deserving individuals from throughout the Rochester area). Not knowing anything about this, Hkadin respectfully declined the award. It wasn't until a few days later that she told me about the phone call and I was able to tell her that yes, I was aware of this, and that yes, it was Becka who nominated her for the award.

I share this story because when the list of the Women of Excellence Awards came out, Hkadin was not listed there (because she had declined it), but I want the congregation to know that had Becka and I notified her what had been done and what this was all about, she would have been listed and would have received the award this year.

Hkadin was nominated by Becka because of her incredible contributions to the church and the community. We all are aware that Hkadin works tirelessly for the whole community and gives all of her time and talents to make a difference in the community. You will see that on display with her current efforts with the Love and Respond project for Catholic Family Services. She is an incredible person, a fantastic leader, and most certainly a Woman of Excellence both in LABC and beyond.

While she will not formally receive the award from the Rochester Business Journal this year (Becka and I have learned our lessons), she is worthy of this recognition and so much more.

Congratulations Hkadin on being one of our Women of Excellence at LABC and in the community!

## **A FROM OUR MUSIC EDUCATOR, LEE FOSTER**

Lee wanted to share the following email he received from our former alto Choral Scholar Ashley King.

*Dear Lee,*

*I hope you and everyone at Lake Ave Baptist are doing well!*

*It's hard to believe so much time has already passed since I left Rochester, but Ryan and I are doing very well in Knoxville. As you know, Ryan and I were married in October of 2024, and we recently received the pictures back from our photographer, which I wanted to share some with you and the music ministry.*

*Most recently, Ryan has passed his thesis proposal, which means he will continue writing his thesis to defend this fall. I am continuing to sing with my church at home here in Knoxville, which we just had a very merry Christmas (that I was unfortunately sick for all week!) and a lovely snow that reminded me of driving snowy mornings to Lake Ave on Sundays.*

*As we approach tax season, I wanted to confirm that my address is 727 Front Ave, Apt 10, Knoxville, TN 37922 and that my legal name is still Ashlee King. I haven't changed it yet due to expected travel in our future soon.*

*Please let me know how everyone is doing when you get the chance, and I hope this New Year brings you all many blessings and much happiness.*

*Much love,  
Ashlee King*



Ashley and husband Ryan



The Wedding Party



Former Baritone Choral Scholar,  
Elizabeth Healey and Ashley

# The Results of the Love & Respond Refugee Outreach Project

It has been an amazing, rewarding and humbling feeling taking the lead on “Love & Respond Project” as a part of what I do as Outreach Worker at LABC. Starting from planning, organizing and reaching out to Myanmar churches, multi ethnic Myanmar communities and LABC have been a joy and giving me a great motivation to do what is needed in our society, country and beyond. It’s to remind everyone that all we need is LOVE.

Participations from LABC, Myanmar Churches, Karen, Karenni, Kachin, Shan communities have shown once more that when there is a need, we are not hesitant to lend a hand or to help strangers under any circumstances to show LOVE and support, knowing that we were all strangers once to others who had helped us before. Myanmar People who have come to the United States in the last two decades willingly acknowledge the Love & Respond Project as an opportunity to give back to the society as well as to help 250 new refugees who have resettled in Rochester since November, 2024 from around the world. Willingness, understanding & consideration during this difficult time for new comers have brought all of the Myanmar ethnic communities, churches, individuals, and the LABC community together to be a part of this project. It has demonstrated what a true circle of love can be.

The response has been 3-4 times greater than originally imagined. I received monetary donations in the amount of \$ 2391.00 and donated items with an estimated value of \$ 2200.00. The total number of items purchased are valued at \$ 4591.00 and have been given to Catholic Family Center to distribute to the newly settled refugees in Rochester from around the world. Isn’t it amazing how God works so generously in our lives when we least expect it? Glory be to GOD.

While working on this project, it brought me back to when I first came to Rochester as a student under LABC’s sponsorship. I remembered, I was a stranger to many of you at that time but now we are friends and a family of God at LABC. There must have been many people involved to take on the different tasks to help settle 5 Kachin students in Rochester. Who would have known and thought that I would still be here with you and serving LABC in a missional capacity. I can tell you one thing for sure that because of LABC’s mission work, I am who I am today and I do what I do to follow God’s will.

It has been an honor to lead this project and I am so blessed to know God has used me as a part of his will.

Lysa Terkeurst said; *“The experiences I have affect the perceptions I form. The perceptions I form eventually become the beliefs I carry. The beliefs I carry determine what I see”*. I see every opportunity as a blessing.

LOVE to you all .  
Hkadin Lee

Below are some pictures of the items collected and purchased with the monetary donations.







**THE WELCOMING AND AFFIRMING "BE YOU" MOVIE SERIES:** Join us this coming **Saturday, March 1 at 6:00 pm** in Classroom 1 (the Conference Room) for the movie "*Moonlight*". *Moonlight* is a 2016 American coming-of-age drama film written and directed by Barry Jenkins, based on Tarell Alvin McCraney's unpublished semi-autobiographical play *In Moonlight Black Boys Look Blue*. The film presents three stages in the life of the main character: his childhood, adolescence, and early adult life. It explores the difficulties he faces with his homosexuality and identity as a black

homosexual man, including the physical and emotional abuse he endures growing up. This movie is for mature audiences only. If you plan to attend, please use the church office entrance.

## Our Church Family

•We continue to keep in our healing prayers **Peter Jameson**, as well as the **Jameson family**, as Peter continues treatment for a medical condition.



•The picture to the left is that of **Debbie Bennett Reynold's** and **Bill Reynold's** baby grandson. We wish to congratulate both of them and also their daughter **Anna** and her husband. Debbie and Bill will be travelling shortly to the Netherlands to meet Anna and her husband and their new grandson.

•We also would like to congratulate **Nan Nan Htoo** and her husband following the birth of their new baby son. Both mother and baby are doing well and are at home following an extended hospital stay.



## UKULELE GROUP SCHEDULE

Join us for joyful music and fellowship at our upcoming ukulele sessions! Whether you're a beginner or an experienced player, all are welcome. We meet in classroom #3 immediately following the church service. Come strum along and lift your spirits with music! Contact Annika or Valerie for more details.

"By the time  
you're 80 years old  
you've learned  
everything.  
You only have  
to remember it."

—GEORGE BURNS

**THE AGING GRACEFULLY &  
JOYFULLY GROUP WILL  
MEET ON MONDAY MARCH 3  
AT 1:00 PM IN THE  
CONFERENCE ROOM. Hope  
to see you there.**



**A Note from  
Your Mission  
Committee**

The mission committee is honoring a charity this month for women. The charity itself is the Coffee Connection located at 681 South Avenue and also at Marketplace Mall Food Court. The Coffee Connection works with women who are in recovery from trauma, addiction and incarceration. These women learn work skills in a supportive environment that helps them become more self-sufficient and independent. Since 2011, this endeavor has been led by **Joy Bergfalk** who is retiring on April 30, 2025. Our monetary donation honors Joy and her service to this wonderful community of women. We wish Joy and her husband, Jimmy Reader, much happiness as they embark on this next chapter of their lives.

The following pictures are from the Myanmar Fellowship New Year Lunch on March 2. March 2nd was also membership Sunday. A picture with the new members is also included.



OUR NEW MEMBERS (In Bold), MARCH 2, 2025  
Beginning at the left: **Michelle Albee (Christian Experience)**, **Brian Folon (Christian Experience)**, Michael Ford, Pastor; **Nathan Bancroft (Baptism)** **Ken Setera (Christian Experience)** **Louella Vargas (Baptism)** Evann Hasenauer, Director of Community Ministries; **Jeczny Htoo (Baptism)** **Peter J. B Carman (Letter of transfer)**



# A NEW ADULT EDUCATION SERIES STARTING APRIL 27 AND LED BY TOM ARGUST

## *Oh, The Stories We Could (Can) Tell!* 🤔

Ever wonder why a person chose a certain job or profession? Have you ever thought about what it's like to work in a particular job and what it's like behind the scenes? During our time together in this class, we will learn about a wide variety of jobs/professions found in our congregation; what they entail, what it takes to be successful, what are the challenges and the back stories that very few of us could ever imagine.

For five Sundays, starting April 27, (skipping Mother's Day) the adult church class will focus on certain jobs held by some of our members. We will hear the back stories (the good, the challenging and the funny), about being a college professor, a wedding organist, a petroleum engineer, a pastor and an apartment building maintenance supervisor. We will also hear about what role faith and the church played in their work life. Come join us for some very interesting, insightful, fascinating and fun conversations.

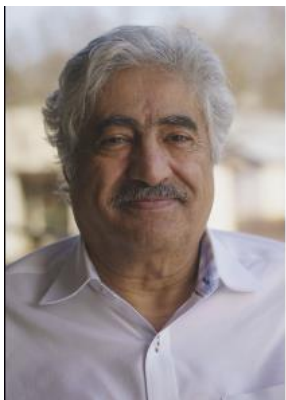


### Holden Turner

Holden James Turner, a Baritone from Rochester, NY is currently a senior at the Eastman School of Music, studying with Nicole Cabell. Mr. Turner was most recently seen as a Vocal Fellow at the Tanglewood Music Festival during the summer of 2024. He has been seen in numerous productions with the Eastman Opera Theatre and has also been seen as a featured soloist with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. He's been honored to perform as a Baritone Soloist for the Finger Lakes Opera on several occasions, The Rochester Oratorio Society, the Eastman Wind ensemble, the Eastman Philharmonia, the Eastman Rochester Choral, SUNY Geneseo Symphony Orchestra, Ithaca College Symphony Orchestra and other musical groups in and out of Rochester. Mr. Turner has worked with a number of artists ranging from Jon Batiste to Dawn Upshaw and

Andris Nelsons. He is the current recipient of both the Rochester Links Organization's "Young Black & Gifted" Scholarship and the William Warfield Scholarship at Eastman.

Mr. Turner will be performing here at Lake Avenue Baptist Church on Saturday, April 26th. The musical program will begin at 2:30 pm with Prelude Performances featuring performances from the Agape Haven of Abundance. Holden Turner and his accompanist Greg Smith will begin their concert at 3:00 pm. At 4:00 pm there will be a reception provided by the Agape Haven of Abundance in the church social hall where you will be able to meet and greet the artists.



## JONATHAN KUTTAB IN ROC



You are invited to hear Jonathan Kuttab on his visit to Rochester April 6-7.

Jonathan Kuttab is a Christian Palestinian pacifist, human rights lawyer, and knowledgeable advocate for Palestinian rights. He is the director of Friends of Sabeel North America, "a Christian Voice for Palestine," and is a frequent speaker in

many places. He is author of *Beyond the Two State Solution* and *The Truth Shall Set You Free*.

His visit has several components. He will preach at Third Presbyterian Church on Sunday, April 6 from 10:30 to 11:30 am. That evening there is a free dinner at the Islamic Center of Rochester at 727 Westfall Road at 5:30 pm followed by a presentation (registration required; or use the QR code above). On Monday, April 7, he will speak at the Rush Rhees Library at the University of Rochester from 5:00 to 6:30 pm with a question and answer period following. The event is free and open to the public.

## **Important Opportunity to Support the Gender Affirming Care Provided by Golisano Children's Hospital**

Please write a letter to the Chair of Pediatrics at URMIC stating how important it is to preserve gender affirming care at Golisano's Children's Hospital. The trustees are wavering on retaining this care. Letters from conservative Christian groups and issues with continued private funding are part of the driving factors. It is important that they hear from Christians and others like us who support the availability of this care so that families can make these personal decisions without interference. Any anecdotes that you have seen about the positive effect or wish for gender affirming care that you are aware of would be most helpful to include. It is important that the chair be able to demonstrate that the community supports this care for young people.

Please address your letters to:

Dr. Jill Halterman, Chair of Pediatrics, Golisano Children's Hospital/URMC, 601 Elmwood Avenue, Box 777, Rochester, NY 14642

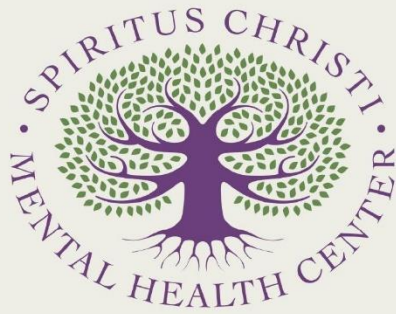
Thank you for helping with this important effort and please ask anyone else that you know who would be willing to help to write a letter also. The more letters the better!

Laura Tubbs and Stephanie Bancroft

**JESUS, NUMBER 1**  
KhualMung (Mark)

**ALBUM RELEASE**  
**IN**  
**LOCALIST COFFEE**

715 PAUL RD, ROCHESTER, NY 14624  
**MAY 2, 6 PM**



## Finding Solid Ground

We are offering a 7-week therapy group for adult survivors of childhood sexual trauma (prior to age 18). This group is a safe place to learn about how you've been impacted by what happened to you, to learn ways to cope with the effects, and to gain solid footing for healing and growth.

The group is offered from 4:30 - 6:00pm from April 24 through June 5.

Participants must commit to all 7 (90-minute) sessions, as consistent attendance is important to creating a safe group.

Group co-led by Lynn Acquafondata, LMHC & Jennifer Bateman, MHC-LP.

*"Group Therapy for sexual trauma helped me to heal from this journey and led me to a new and enriched life."*

*"Being with others really helped. I don't feel so alone anymore."*  
- Past participants

**Screening will be conducted to ensure safety and appropriateness of group members.**

**As with all our offerings, there is no cost to participants.**

**For more information contact Amy at 585-325-1186, ext. 114  
or at [contactmentalhealth@spirituschristi.org](mailto:contactmentalhealth@spirituschristi.org)**

Spiritus Christi Mental Health Center  
121 N. Fitzhugh St Rochester, NY 14614

585.325.1186  
[scmentalhealth.org](http://scmentalhealth.org)