

# LAKE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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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



## A Note from Your Pastor

This past Easter Sunday I received a mid-service note from our Church Council Moderator, Soe Win. Occasionally notes get passed up to me to make me aware of something that I may have missed, or to offer a correction or extra prayer request. This note was a little different than what I normally see on a Sunday morning.

Soe Win wanted to see if we might be able to do a baby blessing/dedication for one of our youngest new members in the LABC family. Nah Nah Htoo delivered her baby early, and the baby has been dealing with some health issues. The baby is now, thankfully, out of the hospital and we pray will continue to heal at home under the good care of family.

Given that the baby has had some health issues, Nah Nah has not been able to be at church regularly, and Soe Win wasn't sure when she'd be here next, and so wanted to see if we could do the dedication/blessing that day. And, like we try to do at LABC, we said "yes" and adapted on the fly.

Now here is where the real surprise came. As I invited Nah Nah and the baby forward, two more mothers came with their little ones and wanted to have their babies dedicated/blessed too. What an amazing surprise. It was so fitting that we be able to celebrate in such a way, and on Easter Sunday at that. This added an extra special element to an already special service.

I have learned that one of the most important things that we can learn in ministry at LABC is to just roll with things. We can plan things out, but there are so many instances where all the best planning gets interrupted by the movement of the Spirit in ways, large and small. This is one of those amazing interruptions that brought us to a very special moment. We were able to make a commitment to these families and their babies to help support them as they raise their children in the faith. It was a blessing to be part of this moment with them and with the entire LABC family.

Are you open to the surprises of the Holy Spirit? As part of the LABC community, I suspect you already have some leanings in that direction. God can, and does, surprise us in ways large and small.

My prayer for you is that this Easter experience can be a reminder that God is moving actively in the life of our church. God is moving in the lives of our families and those in our community. The biggest thing that we need to do is be open to the movement of the Spirit and "get out of the way." You see, sometimes the best thing we can do is step out of our own planning and preparation and say (out loud or in our heart or head) "your will be done, Lord." And then we get to see what God is doing with us and through us in the life of our faith community and beyond.

# SUSAN'S MUSINGS

An Article by Our Assistant Minister, Susan Maybeck

## MOVING

I am moving to St. John's Meadows in a few weeks. Hopefully by June 1.

Many of you have moved in your life and know what a hassle it is, but also full of joy. My cottage has two bedrooms (one will be a study), a living room and a small, but complete, kitchen. Also two bathrooms. Because of various damage I am practically getting a new place - new cupboards, lights, rug, and painting.

The cottage is a middle unit, but I have a front door - to welcome you - and a back door - where we can enjoy a small pond and nature. What could be better?

The task now is sorting, packing, deciding what to take, and where to go with the books, and furniture, and knick-knacks that I don't want anymore.

My sorting and moving company include:

Steve Maybeck - general advisor and mover of heavy stuff

Irene Dombeck,- mapmaker - cutting out little furniture to fit into the floor plan

Cindy Maybeck, - historian and deciding what to keep and what to toss. We perused many pictures and scrap books, remembering our lives.

Elaine Fadden - librarian extraordinaire, sorting what to go to a library and what needs to be trashed. She separated the artistic and architecture books and several people on Next Door wanted them

Margo Maybeck - cleaner of windows, flower beds, deck, cleaner and packer of cupboards, deliverer to Bits and Pieces, and cheerleader.

Michael Ford - booklover. He has taken at least 16 boxes of books from my library.

Garth Brokaw and Hkadin Lee are helping to find homes for items that are free for the asking.

Painters, Layers of new Carpet, trash people (they have taken everything so far), eventually movers

It takes a community to clear my house and move to a new home. I am very excited!!

Thanks to all for your good wishes!

*Susan*

## A FROM OUR MUSIC EDUCATOR, LEE FOSTER

### **“The times, they are a-changin’” and the Challenge of Language That Is Ever Changing**

You may have noticed that over the past year or so, some hymns have had slightly different words. That is because we are trying to be inclusive in language, removing archaic language, and removing specific references to gender when possible. We use about 18 different hymnals in finding the most inclusive, modern language, and less gender specific, though about 5 are used more frequently.

Unfortunately, the English language is a tough language to change within a rhythmic and melodic context. After all, there are only a few words in the English language that rhyme with King or sing or bring or thing, all one syllable in English, but two in French and Spanish, and bring and thing are rarely found at the end of a phrase or sentence. Plus, the word King is often a substitute for another word in other languages, for example, French texts might use the word for Lord or God, so “King” was substituted for the two syllable French word, “Seigneur” or the Spanish “Señor” - neither of which mean “King.”

An example of eliminating archaic language was present on Easter Sunday in the hymn, “Thine is the glory”. The word “Thine” was replaced by the word “Yours.” Even as we sang it on Easter, I heard a few “Thine is” instead of “Yours is”. Habits are hard to break. While English does not gender most nouns as many languages do, gender is often implied – EX: actor/actress. Common usage today usually does not use the word actress, but instead the word actor is used for both men and women. In Spanish or French, the last letter or two of a

noun will denote gender by changing from an A for female to an O for a male. Until language evolves that comes up with a non-gender specific ending highly gendered languages will be harder to un-gender.

Likewise, we refer to flight attendants aboard an airplane rather than stewardess back when flight attendants were all women. Once in a while, the changes have a bumpy feel for us the first time we see them. And you will notice on certain hymns, the language has not been changed because you just wouldn't dare – EX: traditional Christmas carols. Those are so ingrained in people's minds that changing them would probably be largely ignored because many people are singing from memory.

A number of denominations in the protestant church have issued new hymnals over the last 40 years. They have often tried to become more modern and inclusive in language. Some of the early attempts in the 60s and 70s were abandoned in hymnals that came out in the 80s and 90s or in the 21st-century simply because, at times, the changes were clumsy and congregations protested the changes. In the time that we live where diversity, equality, and inclusivity, aka DEI, there are those who want to eliminate all such references - and opportunities. We are trying to respect the diversity, the equity, and the inclusivity that speaks of the mission and beliefs of LABC community.

## **A NOTE FROM OUR HISTORIAN, GARTH BROKAW**

You may remember that we divided our LABC history into five thirty-year blocks when we celebrated our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. When we ended our celebration we had not finished the displays and videos for all 150 years. We also divided each block into subject groups, i.e. Pastoral Leadership, Mission, etc. The fourth thirty-year block is 1961-1991. To date we have finished all subject categories in this block except one. The new display in the case in the Narthex is the first of what will likely be three displays telling the history of the LABC Women's Mission Society. WMS was an independent organization within the structure of LABC. Over the course of the years between 1961 and 1991 the society supported 5 different foreign mission fields, and 6 home mission sites along with annual participation in the AB Women's White Cross program. Additionally, they supported LABC students who were attending 6 different American Baptist educational institutions. This support was not only financial but consisted of letter writing, birthday cards and needed personal supplies. Further, the society supported, participated in, or organized 19 events/programs/ or functions which were LABC, community, state or nationally based. Many were annual or monthly undertakings. For example, LABC Bazaar, Church Women United, NYS ABW Convention, Green Lake ABW Annual Conference, Keuka House Party and ...all of this along with the Circle and Society monthly meetings. Please take a moment to peruse this new display.

## **INTRODUCTION TO OUR NURTURE AND CARE TEAM**

**By Soe Win**



Hello all! Hope you are doing well. Thanks to the Nurture and Care Team, we are enjoying our coffee and cookies during Sunday's fellowship time. The goal for having coffee hours/social times, is to make sure that we gather, chat, and catch up with each other and to meet and greet new church attendees. The Nurture and Care team makes sure that coffee and cookies are set up and ready to serve every Sunday. It may sound easy, but it requires commitment. It requires grocery shopping, cleaning the kitchen, setting up and getting ready for coffee times, and cleaning after the service. Again, it requires individual commitment and

can be time consuming. However, you may or may not know these individuals from the Nurture and Care Team. So, I am here to introduce you to them.

There are many people who help during coffee hours. However, I will be introducing you to these three individuals as they are the main team members who commit the most time. They are here almost every Sunday. On the left is **Mea Dway**. Her husband's name is **Klu Wah**. They have 4 children (3 sons, 1 daughter, and 1 beautiful grandson). In the middle, we have **Cho Cho Aye**. Her husband's name is **Plah Htoo** and they together have 3 beautiful daughters who regularly attend Sunday School. Last, but not least, we have **Zing** (nick name, **Htwe Htwe**). Her husband's name is **Soe Min** and they have one beautiful son, **David**. When you attend the Fellowship Time on Sundays be sure to thank them for their commitment in making sure that we have coffee, cold drinks, tea and cookies each Sunday.

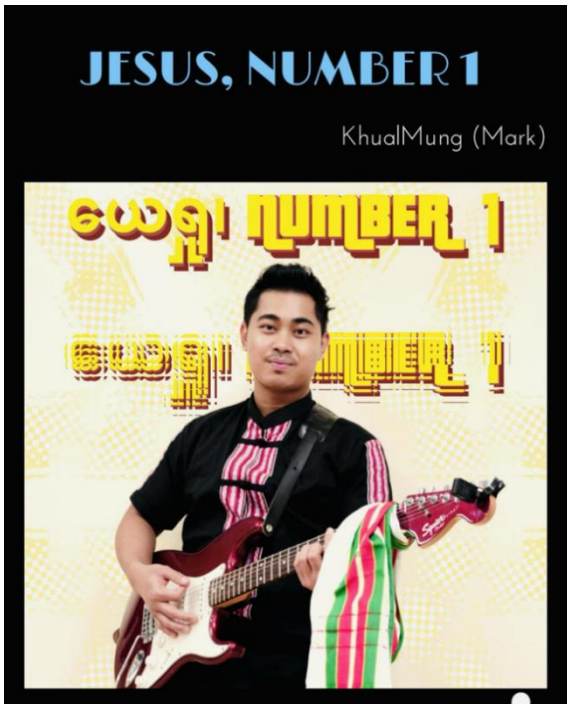


**A Note from  
Your Mission  
Committee**

**"Every flower is a soul blossoming in nature."-Gerard de Nerval**

April flowers bring May flowers!! I want to talk about flowers this month, as related to mission. The annual Teacher Recognition Day is May 6. This year your mission team will be recognizing the schools that work with our children by sharing a vase of flowers and a written thank you for staff. The schools that we take flowers to are 5, 7, 15, 34, 50, 54, and Rochester International Academy. In addition to taking flowers, our very own master gardener, Jane Grant, has worked with #5 kids to do some beautifying on their campus. There are all sorts of research about how flowers and gardening brighten our day, enrich our soul, and even give us better mental and physical health. I am not much of a gardener, but I

think everyone can find ways to cultivate community by sharing flowers.



**New Location**

Mark's (Khual Mung's) album release will take place on Friday, May 2 at 6:00 pm at LABC. We hope to see you there!

**FUNDRAISER FOR MYANMAR EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS**

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2025 at 12:50:54 PM a Myanmar time, a 7–7.9 earthquake struck the Sagaing Region of Myanmar, with an epicenter close to Mandalay, the country's second-largest city. It was the strongest earthquake to strike Myanmar since 1912. Mandalay, Myanmar's second largest city bore the brunt of the earthquake. The death toll from the powerful earthquake in Myanmar has climbed to more than 2,700 and officials say they expect that number to rise even further. The search for those buried under the rubble began as soon as the earthquake ended. Many rescuers were digging through the rubble of the apartment buildings, condos and office buildings with their hands to find survivors



**On Saturday, May 3 at LABC there will be a fundraiser and prayer event for the earthquake victims in Myanmar:** Times: 9:00am to 3:00pm, Myanmar food will be available for purchase and payments for the food will be donated to the earthquake victims. All check donations should be made out to "Lake Avenue Baptist Church" with "Myanmar Earthquake" in the memo. From 9:00 am to 3:00 pm prayer rooms will also be available. At 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm a prayer service will be held in English in the sanctuary. For more information please contact Soe Win (585-405-5900) or Hkadin Lee (585-314-3065). As always, the Myanmar community thanks you for your support.



## WELCOMING AND AFFIRMING "BE YOU" MOVIE SERIES

Join us this coming **Saturday, May 3rd at 6:00 pm** in Classroom 1 (the Conference Room) for the 2022 movie, "Bros". Bros is an American romantic comedy about two gay men in Manhattan who avoid commitment but are drawn to each other. The movie was produced under Universal Pictures on a budget of \$22 million. It is one of the first gay romantic comedies by a major studio and has an openly LGBTQ principal cast. This movie is for mature audiences only. If you plan to attend, please use the church office

entrance and ring the doorbell.

## AN ADULT EDUCATION SERIES 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 adult class this month, we will learn about a wide variety of jobs/professions found in our congregation...what they entail, what it takes to be successful, what role faith and the church played, what are the back stories that very few of us could ever imagine. Tom Argust will lead and facilitate the series. Here's the what we have lined up:

May 4 - Chuck Theis: Maintenance Supervisor, St. Bernard Park Apartments

May 11 - Mother's Day: No Class

May 18 - Laura Tubbs: Chemistry Professor and Dean, RIT

May 25 - Pete Stover: Petroleum Engineer

June 1 - Michael Ford: Pastor, Lake Avenue Baptist Church

A BEAUTIFUL FACE  
WILL AGE AND A  
PERFECT BODY WILL  
CHANGE, BUT A  
BEAUTIFUL SOUL  
WILL ALWAYS BE A  
BEAUTIFUL SOUL.

**THE AGING GRACEFULLY & JOYFULLY GROUP WILL MEET ON MONDAY MAY 5 AT 1:00 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM.** Jackie Sullivan will lead the group that day. Thanks Jackie for your leadership!

### LAKE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH OUTSIDE SPRUCE-UP DAY!



The weather is finally getting warmer! It is the time of year that most people think about tidying up outside as well as beginning to garden. The outside of LABC needs a lot of tidying up for the summer months. Therefore, we have decided to have an **LABC spruce-up day on Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00 am.** We hope that you will join Don Lee of the Resource Support Ministry on that morning. What do you need? Well, gardening clothes is important. Also, if you could bring rakes, pruners, shovels, loppers and hand trowels. The church is planning to obtain mulch from the city by that day. (If it is raining a rain date will be announced in the church bulletin).



Join us on **Sunday, May 11**, immediately following the 10:00 am worship service as we celebrate all our birthdays! If you wish to bring a cake for this celebration, please contact Soe Win at (585) 405-5900.



Did you know that on the third Wednesday of each month, we share in a Community Dinner with those in the brooder neighborhood? Each month, a number of LABC volunteers come together to prepare and share a nutritious and filling meal. It's a great time for people who are already part of the LABC community to get to know others in the neighborhood over food. This past

Holy Week, which happened to fall on the third week of the month, volunteers prepared baked potatoes with all the fixings, salad, and desserts. We had a great turnout and it was so much fun to get to know one another, to share over food, and to be part of the community. All are welcome and if you haven't been able to join us before, next month we'd love to see you. Thank you to everyone who has prepared, served, and ate with us at these wonderful events. You make our Community Dinners possible, and such a success.



## 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.
- 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 after an extended hospital stay.
- We keep in our healing prayers **Carol Gardner** who is home recuperating following a recent hospital stay.
- Also, please keep **Liz Ewell** in your prayers after a recent hospital stay. She is currently recuperating at home.
- Many thanks to **Anika Sharma** for working with our children this year. Our prayers and blessings are with you as you take your school exams and MCAT.
- Congratulations to former soprano Choral Scholar, Ali Hotz, who was married on April 26, 2025 to Andrew Hammond.



# The Kindness Matters Art Show and Activity Day

From Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday, the LABC congregation (and all others who use the church building) were treated to the artwork created for the Kindness Art Show. Children from LABC, RMCC, Cameron Community Ministries, Agape Haven of Abundance, and School #5 created works of art focused on the topic of kindness. Over 150 pieces were displayed in the fellowship hall and narthex. This was a wonderful event and a huge thank you goes out to Jane Grant who spearheaded this effort. Thanks also goes out to everyone else who volunteered to create works of art, and who helped put this event together.

On Palm Sunday, April 13, following our 10:00 am service, a Kindness Matters activity time for children was held in our social hall. Activities included making a paper hug for someone, enjoying peaceful playdough, transforming your handprint into a beautiful lily, making reminder to have a "soft" answer, not a harsh one when anger comes your way, and playing Aim for Kindness, a tabletop game. The submitted art was on display for several weeks.







## MELODIES IN BLOOM RECITAL - SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH



LABC was proud to partner with our friends from Joseph Avenue Arts and Culture Alliance, Finger Lakes Opera, and Agape Haven of Abundance to offer "Melodies in Bloom", a recital by Holden James Turner (Baritone) and Gregory Smith (Piano). Holden Turner is a senior voice major at Eastman School of Music. He performed a very challenging program with songs by Ravel, Charles Ives, Gustav Mahler and others. Thank you to all who attended, and we look forward to working with these wonderful organizations in the future to continue to bring the joy of various types of music to our church sanctuary. Also, thank you to Ken Setera for coordinating the event on behalf of LABC, and Jane Grant who assisted with the reception.

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

Please write a letter to the Chair of Pediatrics at URM 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/URM, 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!

Please direct questions to Laura Tubbs and Stephanie Bancroft.

Two of our young leaders, Aye Wathy Myat and Khual Mung (Mark) had the opportunity to be part of the Polaris Leadership Institute at Princeton Theological Seminary. I had the joy of attending with them as the nominator. It was an amazing three days of learning and fellowship. Both Aye Wathy and Khual Mung prepared their "story" and were able to share that with a number of different groups. During the time together, we also were able to hear some amazing speakers address issues of self-care, the place of the church in world, and other topics of interest. It was an amazing thing to witness these two young leaders engage with their peers and see how the leadership skills we have seen at LABC lived out in this multi denominational, diverse national gathering of young leaders. I said on a social media post, and maintain this to this day, that if the young people I saw together at this Institute are even slightly representative of the quality of young leaders who are part of the church and the world, the future of Christ followers of the present and next generation is in great hands.



*Easter, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

