

LAKE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2025, ISSUE 6, 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



A Note from Your Pastor

I have had the privilege of working alongside Lee foster for roughly 12 years. I recall the day that we interviewed him. The sanctuary was unbelievably warm and all of the interview team and Lee himself were sweating profusely. It was absolutely horrible - the heat, not Lee. In fact, that was one of the things that I appreciated

about Lee that day. In addition to being very talented and experienced at his art, how Lee handled the discomfort of that day indicated to me that Lee was able to roll with things. Too many people show who they are only under the best of circumstances. That was clearly not the best of circumstances, and he was able to “go with the flow.”

That may be the motto for working at LABC. Everyone needs to be prepared to do their jobs under the best and most challenging of circumstances. That has been very true for Lee over the last 12 years. When you consider the impact of COVID, I doubt that many of us have considered the impact that had on our music team, and Lee in particular. He went from playing at the organ every week to recording digital versions of hymns and anthems, working alongside musicians who were spread across the country. And shortly after we returned from that reality, we had the car accident that moved us into the fellowship hall for 18 months. “Go with the flow” indeed. Through all of this, Lee was able to maintain all aspects of his professionalism and quality leadership.

However, despite these skills I think about one aspect of his leadership that very few people see. For 12 years Lee has been creating and fostering a culture of welcome and a sense of family in the community he serves. He recruits singers in unconventional ways (he’s known to wander the halls of Eastman listening to the practice rooms and asking those whose sound he appreciates “do you want a job?”). He then incorporates those professionals with the rest of the choir members and helps them all sound great. But more than that, he makes them all feel cared for and cared about.

At its core, our LABC music program has a very profound educational element to it. It’s a chance everyone to come together, learn to sing together, worship together, and socialize together. Lee (and Dottie) helped to make that happen. They created and fostered community.

Lee fit in with the staff right from the start. Sure, we have our disagreements, but they are all because we want the best for the church and the best for worship. It has been so much fun working together, supporting one another, and worshipping each week with the LABC community.

Lee has decided to retire and I believe that it will give him more time to do what he loves: spend time with family, travel, eat good food, and create new friends and foster “foster” relationships. He will be missed at LABC, but I truly believe we are all the better for the years together and wish him all the best on the journey ahead.

"At my age, if I wanted to keep in touch with old friends, I'd need a Ouija board."
Betty White

FOR ALL PEOPLE WHO ARE AGING GRACEFULLY AND JOYFULLY

(and a few who are not!)

An Article by Our Assistant Minister, Susan Maybeck

Our next gathering will be on Monday, June 2 at 1:00 - 2:30. Since I will be moving that week, I have asked Jackie Sullivan to take the leadership. I am very grateful that Jackie is willing to do this.

We will be taking off in July and August to begin again in Sept. We usually meet on the first Monday of the month. Since Sept 1 is Labor Day, we'll meet Sept 8.

I have been thinking about some subjects we can discuss.

Sept. 8 2025

Since many of us are facing some decline in memory (probably many of us), I will invite someone knowledgeable about the different kinds of memory loss.

Oct. 6, 2025

A discussion about our place in our childhood family. Are you the youngest or oldest or an only child? How has that influenced your personality? I think it will be an interesting discussion.

Nov. 3, 2025

Thanksgiving. What memories do you have of past Thanksgivings. What are you thankful about today at Thanksgiving.

Dec. 1, 2025

PARTY!! Lunch! Presents! Games! Surprises!

"I'm at an age
when my back
goes out more
than I do."

PHYLLIS DILLER

By the way, this is an open group. Maybe you are interested in the subject or want the community. Perhaps you are feeling graceful and joyful - at any age. Come any time.

ALL ARE WELCOME

NEWS FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

Evann Hasenauer

On April 14, I participated in a rally for LGBT+ rights in Washington DC, which was organized by the Collective of Queer Christian Leaders. The CQCL is (according to its website) "A Queer Christian Collective of organizational leaders dedicated to combating white Christian Supremacy through centering Queer people and innovative collaboration." The purpose of the rally was both to remind people that there are Christians in support of LGBT+ rights, and also to serve as a reminder that Jesus's arrival in Jerusalem was an act of resistance.

The rally began with a gathering at the nearby United Methodist Building, where people were invited to make signs and connect with each other, since several people (like myself) were there alone. I had already made a sign, and even had an extra one that I was able to hand off to someone I had met at Wild Goose (a progressive Christian Festival held every summer) last year. In fact, there were several people I had met at Wild Goose and was able to reconnect with, and learn more about their stories and what brought them to the rally. One person I spoke to shared that they had been a Sunday School teacher in a Pentecostal church before coming out as Genderqueer (meaning that their gender does not fit the established binary), and that they left the church for quite some time before returning to ministry as a Baptist. A man I met said that he had been raised Methodist and had also left the church for some time after coming out before finding an affirming Methodist church. These stories, as always, reminded me of how meaningful it was to me to be raised in an affirming church.

Following the breakfast gathering, we left the United Methodist Building and marched across Capitol Hill to a small park located just across the street from the Capitol Building. There, we stood and listened to a fantastic

program in which a series of Queer Christian clergy and community leaders spoke about their relationships with God, their feelings regarding the current administration, social justice, and liberation. It was an extremely moving service that reminded all of us that we are not alone, and that we are all loved by God.

More important than that though was the sense of community that came from being with a group of other queer Christian leaders and lay people who are fighting the same fight we are. It provided a powerful sense of solidarity that is invaluable in the current sociopolitical climate, when it's so easy to feel alone.



Christ has no body now but yours.
No hands, no feet on earth but
yours. Yours are the eyes through
which he looks compassion on this
world. Yours are the feet with
which he walks to do good. Yours
are the hands through which he
blesses all the world. Yours are the
hands, yours are the feet, yours
are the eyes, you are his body.

TERESA OF AVILA

JUNE MISSION NEWS

By Your Mission Chair, Karen Brokaw

I have always loved the above poem by Theresa of Avila. For me, it is the essence of what it means to follow Jesus. By reading scripture, we know how Jesus lived his life with compassion. His love and care for the least of these, no questions asked, was the basis of his ministry. We are living in a particular season when we see an increase in suffering in various ways. It seems overwhelming to think we could make a dent in society's ills. There are ways to help whether it be prayer, volunteering, donations of goods and money. We can also advocate by writing letters or making phone calls on an issue close to your heart. Whether we welcome, feed, heal, love, house, we are following the model Jesus set for us. We

are his hands, his feet, his eyes and even his voice. Let His light shine through you.





Summer Sunday School Needs You 🌻

Do you enjoy spending time with children and have a heart to serve? We're looking for volunteers to help share God's love with our children this summer. Whether you can give one Sunday or two or even more, we would love to have you join our team! Materials and support are provided.



Say Yes To Making A Difference This Summer



Contact Val Ketchum

at Valerie.ketchum57@gmail.com



WELCOMING AND AFFIRMING "BE YOU" MOVIE SERIES

Join us this coming **Saturday, May 31 at 6:00 pm** in Classroom 1 (the Conference Room) for the 2020 movie, *Stage Mother*. When conservative, Texas church choir director Maybelline (Weaver) inherits her recently deceased son's drag club, she surprises her closed-minded husband and everyone else she knows by moving alone to San Francisco to save the club from bankruptcy. In this raucous, vibrant environment, she begins to open up and find new meaning for her life, even becoming a mother figure to the club's flamboyant performers - until a surprise visit threatens to upend her new life. This movie is for mature audiences only. If you plan to attend, please use the church office entrance and ring the doorbell.

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

An Adult Education Series Led by Tom Argust

For two Sundays in June, we will continue our interesting and informative class on some of the fascinating professions found in our congregation. During May, we learned about what it is like to be an organist at over 3000 weddings; a college professor and Dean; a Maintenance Supervisor of a large apartment building. **On June 1** we will learn from **Pete Stover** about his profession as a Petroleum Engineer and the roles he played throughout his career in this critical field. Then, on **June 8**, **Pastor Ford** will share his many stories about the various roles he has played and continues to play, not only in our church but also throughout our community. Please join us for what promises to be amazing insightful sessions.



Our next Community Dinner will take place on Wednesday, June 18th at 6:00 pm. Information about what we will be serving and a sign-up sheet will be available on Sunday, June 8th at the Welcome Center. All are welcome to attend. Even if you are unable to bring something, your presence to greet and meet our neighbors would be welcome.



On June 21, we'll be gathering at LABC with members of First Baptist Brockport, York Baptist, Immanuel Baptist, First Baptist Rochester, and other local American Baptist churches to tie-dye shirts. This is in preparation for the Pride Parade, which will take place on Saturday, July 19 and the Pride Service on Sunday, July 20th, and in order to foster community between the welcoming and affirming churches in Rochester. If you would like to be a part of this event please let Evann Hasenauer know.

Our Church Family

•After a long battle with pancreatic cancer, **Peter Jameson** passed away on Friday, May 26th. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to **Allison** (Peter's wife), **Slater, Tanner, Hawk** and **Skylar Jameson** (Peter's children). A service celebrating Peter's life will be held on Tuesday, June 3rd, 10:00 am at First Baptist Church at the corner of Allens Creek Road and Clover St. in Brighton.

- We continue to keep in our healing prayers **Carol Gardner** as she continues her recuperation at home.
- Congratulations to **Evann Hasenauer** who graduated on Saturday, May 24 with a Masters in Divinity from Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School.



- Congratulations to the **Rev. Dr. Melanie Duguid May** on her retirement from Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. Melanie was a member of LABC for many years, and was integral in helping move LABC forward both theologically and in terms of our commitment to peace-focused ministries. We wish Melanie and her wife Debs many good years of continued blessing and service to the church and world. The following is from Dr. Melanie May's retirement celebration bulletin.

HONORING A LEGACY OF WISDOM, FAITH, AND PRESENCE

The Rev. Melanie Duguid-May, Ph.D



With profound gratitude and deep admiration, we honor The Rev. Dr. Melanie Duguid-May as she prepares to retire from Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School after more than three decades of transformative service as a theologian, educator, and moral compass in our community.

Since joining the Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School faculty in 1992, Dr. Duguid-May has shaped the hearts and minds of countless students through her unwavering commitment to rigorous scholarship and morally engaged theology. Her teaching - rooted in global Christian traditions, feminist discourse, liberation theology, and earth justice - has been a call to do theology not as abstract theory, but as a sacred and communal task: one that must always confront the lived realities of injustice, empire, and exclusion with courage, compassion, and hope.

Across three decades, she has taught courses in Christian theology, gender and justice, mysticism, the social witness of the church, and eco-spirituality. Her syllabi have not just informed minds - they have awakened spirits. She has consistently invited students to grapple with the questions that matter most: *What does it mean to pay attention to the living God? Where does theology intersect with systems of power, suffering, and resistance? How might we be part of making a way where there seems to be no way?*

In her scholarship, Dr. Duguid-May has been no less bold. Her many books and publications, *Bonds of Unity*, *A Body Knows*, *Jerusalem Testament*, among others, have spanned continents and communities, giving voice to the experiences of Palestinian Christians, women theologians, and all those who engage faith as a liberating force. With her longtime colleague Dr. Mark Brummitt, she has co-led study pilgrimages to Israel/Palestine, inviting students to walk where Jesus walked and to witness the lived realities of Palestinian Christians today.

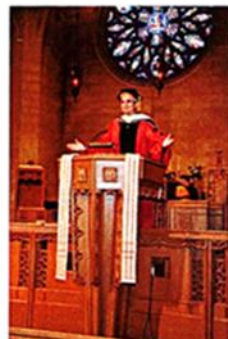
Dr. Duguid-May has also served the seminary with visionary leadership, including a decade as Vice President for Academic Life and Dean of the Faculty, and from 2004 to 2020 as the John Price Crozer Professor of Theology. Her service has always been marked by intellectual generosity, moral clarity, and a deep pastoral sensibility.

Beyond CRCDS, Melanie is passionately committed to the dignity of all persons, the ministry and mission of the church, and the care of the earth and all its creatures. A lifelong peacemaker shaped by the Church of the Brethren, she is now an ordained priest in The Episcopal Church, where she serves as Rector of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Bath, New York. Her journey into ordained ministry began in 2019, when she was ordained a transitional deacon and later a priest. In 2023, she was installed as the 24th rector of her parish by Bishop Lane, a testament to the trust and love she inspires in every community she serves.

Dr. Duguid-May holds degrees from Manchester College (now University), where she studied Religion and Peace Studies, and from Harvard University, where she earned her M.Div., A.M., and Ph.D. in the Study of Religion with a focus on Christian Theology. She also studied at the Ecumenical Institute of the World Council of Churches and the University of Geneva. In 2016, Manchester University awarded her the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters for her outstanding contributions to theological education and peacebuilding.

She and her spouse, the Rev. Deborah Duguid-May, Rector at Trinity Episcopal Church in Greece, live on 20 acres near Naples, New York, in the heart of the Bristol Hills. There, they cultivate a forest garden, steward dairy goats, ducks, guinea fowl, and find joy in the rhythms of land and life. Their home is one of rooted faith, vibrant hospitality, and wonder. Melanie is also a lover of historical murder mysteries, gardening, food preservation, movies, and swimming in their spring-fed ponds. Her passion for international engagement continues, including travel to South Africa to visit family.

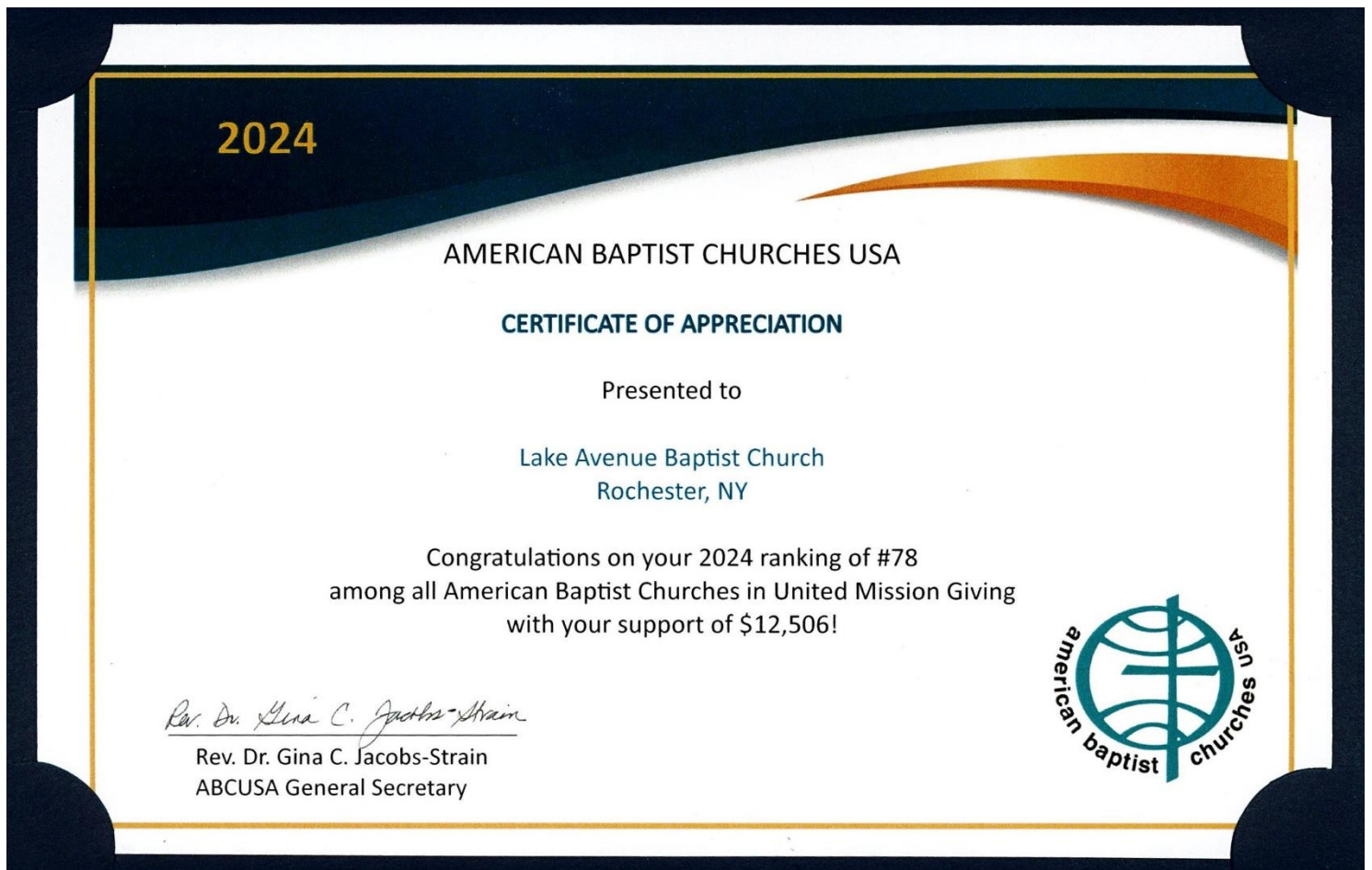
As Dr. Duguid-May steps into retirement, we give thanks for the remarkable gifts she has shared with the Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School community. Her influence lives on in the classrooms she shaped, the students she inspired, and the conversations she sparked. She has invited us all to think more deeply, live more faithfully, and love more expansively. Through her witness, she has shown us that theology is not only spoken - it is lived.





A Certificate of Appreciation from the American Baptist Churches, USA

We recently received this certificate in our office. It only confirms what we already know...that we are a congregation dedicated to mission and generous in our mission giving.



Please note, the American Baptist Churches (ABC) USA has approximately 5,000 local congregations across the United States and Puerto Rico. These churches make up a denomination with about 1.3 million members. We should all be very proud of our ranking as 78 among all ABC churches in our mission giving. Way to go, LABC!

**PHOTOS FROM THE LAKE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
OUTSIDE SPRUCE-UP DAY ON SATURDAY, MAY 10!**



Thank you to all who participated!