

LAKE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2022, ISSUE 8, VOLUME 85

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

SEPTEMBER

HIGHLIGHTS

Monday, September 5	LABOR DAY
Wednesdays, September 7, 14, 21, 28	7:30 pm: Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, September 17	6:00 pm: Be You, W & A Movie "The Children's Hour"
Sunday, September 18	Children's Sunday School Begins
Saturday, September 24 (Rain date: October 1, 2022)	Garden Clean-Up Day
Friday & Saturday, September 30 & October 1	2022 ABCRGR Biennial Gathering "Finding Our Way Back Home"



Notes from Your Pastor's Desk

Here we are again. On the precipice of a new year. That time of so much possibility. I can't help but get excited each year as we move into this season in the life of the church.

Over the past months, we have been taking a journey through the history of LABC. We have focused on the mission and ministry that have made this church a significant means by which God has touched the lives of so many people, both in Rochester and throughout the United States and the World. It has been wonderful to hear the stories and see the pictures.

This year, we shift our focus from the past to the present and into the future. It will be a time when we intentionally turn our gaze to how we can build upon the past as we seek to be a church for the community as it stands at the present. With all of its strengths and all of its struggles, we want to share the love of God with the world around us.

If you recall, just before the world was stricken with Covid, we engaged in an intentional process called "What's Next?" This was a time when we tried to determine what God was placing on the hearts of the people who call

LABC home. What came out of it was the desire to get to know one another better for the purpose of serving together. I want you to pay close attention to what that statement says. To get to know one another “for the purpose of serving together.”

It's so easy for churches to stay inward focused. If we have learned anything about LABC's history, it has spent so much of its years looking outward. Through mission and ministry, LABC has impacted the community near and far. This year we will be focused on shifting our eyes, and ministry outward ... together. I hope you're all able to join me in this intentional focus and action. There will be opportunities for you to become part of this journey.

For our 2022-2023 program year we will be using a text from Isaiah 42:6-7. In this text God claims the people will be a people covenant, united together. However, they are not united for themselves. Rather, they are called to be “light to the nations.” This year, we will focus on how we can be that light to the nations in all that we do as a church. Will it all go smoothly? No. However, if we are faithful to this purpose we will continue to learn how to be a church for our community and a church for the world.

I look forward to sharing this journey with you all this year. And off we go!

Michael

NEXT GENERATION MINISTRIES

On behalf of the staff and Education Committee, we are excited to welcome Rebeka Fergusson-Lutz as our new *Director of Next Generation Ministries*.

The Director of Next Generations Ministries needs to be a champion for the children, youth, young adults, and their families as a part of the whole of our church. This person will be responsible for ministries of children and youth from birth to Grade 12 and their families. We are excited to say that we believe that we found the right person for this position in Rebeka.

Rebeka has worked with young people in a variety of settings. She has taught Kosovar teenagers living in Boston as refugees from the war in the former Yugoslavia, middle and high schoolers in the high-needs public schools in the District of Columbia, and Brazilian and Saudi university students at an intensive English for Academic Purposes program at a public university in Upstate New York. She has taught students with severe learning disabilities as well as those at the top of the achievement scale.

For the last two years she has served as the Assistant Director at Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake (a Presbyterian owned and operated summer camp). She has written curriculum and offered faith formation opportunities for children and youth and young adults.

In addition to all of this, Rebeka is currently taking classes at CRCDS and serves as the chairperson of their Student council.

We are excited to have Rebeka as part of the LABC team and have no doubt that she will find opportunities to use her existing gifts as well as to develop new gifts in the LABC community. We pray that our children,

youth, young adults and families will be blessed by her presence here at LABC.

Please welcome Rebeka to LABC!

Michael



Friends, I am thrilled to join the staff at Lake Avenue Memorial Baptist Church as the new Director of **Next Generation Ministries**. I feel blessed that God has led me to LABC at this time in my own life and in the life of your church!

I am a proud Rochester native, although I spent my formative years in rural Livingston County. After living and working overseas for much of my adult life, I returned home to Rochester four years ago when I felt that God was calling me to something new. Still, and once again, God is doing a new thing, just as the prophet Isaiah recounted.

A few months ago I got a package in the mail from the administrators at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, where I have completed approximately 75 percent of the Master's of Divinity program. This shirt has become one of my favorites, which is no small feat considering the number of great t-shirts in my possession! Some might dismiss this shirt as

inexpensive marketing for the seminary, or perhaps some form of progressive "virtue signaling," but I wear this t-shirt with great pride. The seminary's goal of inspiring peace, service, and justice resonates deeply with me because so much of my own life has been built around these three pillars. For example:

PEACE.

- I served in the Peace Corps in Romania between 2001 and 2003.
- I earned two master's degrees from American University, one in teaching and the other in international peace and conflict resolution.
- In the earlier days of the Internet I had a blog titled "Peace and Justice Maven" in which I opined about the machinations of foreign affairs.

SERVICE.

- Over the past twenty-plus years I have worked extensively with young people, both in and out of the traditional classroom setting, in the U.S. and overseas. I have taught Kosovar teenagers living in Boston as refugees from the war in the former Yugoslavia; middle- and high-schoolers in the high-needs public schools of the District of Columbia; and Brazilian and Saudi university students at an intensive English for Academic Purposes (EAP) program at SUNY Brockport — among many, many others. I have graded literally tens of thousands of essays and quizzes!
- More recently, God has led me to the role of Assistant Director at Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake, a Presbyterian-owned summer camp. Nothing teaches you servant-leadership like working at summer camp, where even the upper management washes dishes and mops floors!

JUSTICE.

- I volunteer as a Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) to a young woman in our county's child protective system. My responsibility is to make noise (diplomatically, of course) to the people in decision-making roles to ensure that the system works as it should for her and her family.

These are just a few examples of the ways in which *peace*, *service*, and *justice* have been through-lines in my life, and I have no doubt that God has opened a door for me to continue this work with the next generations at Lake Avenue Baptist Church. I look forward to getting to know you better and to walking with you!

The LABC
SCHOLARSHIP

AWARDS

The LABC Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that the following five individuals from LABC have been awarded scholarships toward their advanced studies. We are proud of these young people and glad to support their educational goals. Also, we want to thank those who made these scholarships possible this year through their financial support.



●**Prosper Likoke**

Prosper will be attending Rochester Institute of Technology and plans to obtain his Bachelor's Degree in Engineering. "College will assist me in learning various subjects and gain experience needed for the future when I complete my studies at RIT."



●**Cinq Huai Man (Ma Man)** Ma Man will be attending the State University of NY at Brockport and plans to become a mathematics teacher. " My education is paramount to me, my family, and church because I will use my education for the glory of God to support and teach children and youth and helping others with my education and knowledge."



●**Khual Mung (Mark)** Mark will be attending Roberts Wesleyan College in the fall in order to obtain his bachelor's degree in Ministry. "This degree is important for me and others because this is for the glory of God. I will be able to spread the word of God and educate others in the word of God. With my education now and in the future I will share the good news of God to the people."



●**Benjamin Sorrels** Benjamin will be attending the State University of Oswego to obtain a bachelor's degree in computer science. "I plan to use the degree and knowledge and connections I make at college to further understand software engineering and to acquire a job as a software developer."



●**Thaw Htoo** Thaw Htoo will be attending an accelerated associates/bachelor's degree in nursing at the University of Rochester. "After graduating from RIT in 2020 and working at Quatela Center for plastic surgery for 2 years, I realize now that I want to pursue a degree in nursing. This is important to me because it is a way of giving back to the community and help to advance my knowledge in the medical field."



WE ARE LIGHTS IN THE DARKNESS

Lee Foster

I think; I feel. I think and I feel that the world is so full of information, misinformation, and disinformation that it is difficult to quiet either my thinking or my feeling.

So many concerns exist - politics, wars in places around the world that could erupt into catastrophe with just one poorly aimed weapon, hunger, homelessness, gun violence, and the list goes on.

We are glimmers of light, the needed spark to give ourselves and others courage and resolve to say, "We can do this!" We are called to be light in the darkness.

GOOD NEWS! For the first time in nearly three years we are able to begin a church year with less concern about the COVID pandemic. We can gather together; we can sing. We can get together to celebrate life's milestones.

As we send Gabriel and Julia, two of our Choral Scholars, into the next chapters of their lives, we welcome Elizabeth (Liz) Healy as our new bass/baritone Choral Scholar. Elizabeth hails from the beautiful state of Colorado and will be studying for her Masters Degree in Voice with Professor Anthony Dean Griffey at the Eastman School of Music. We are still seeking an alto Choral Scholar.

Our former alto Choral Scholar, Migle Zaliukaite-Limantas and her husband, Martynas, welcome their second child, Vilius, baby brother to Augustas. With the invasion of Ukraine so close to their home country of Lithuania, they are back in the US - Boston area - for safety.

MORE GOOD NEWS!

The Chancel Choir will sing three premieres this season: 1: "What Greater Thing," with music by Cary Ratcliff on a poem by George Eliot. The anthem was commissioned to celebrate the 40th wedding anniversary of Laura Ellen Tubbs and Stephen A. Bancroft and to honor the marriage of their friends Rose Allison and Paul Verduin; 2: "Do Not Be Daunted," by Lee Foster on a fourth century text by Rabbi Tor found in the Talmud, a series of 2nd-5th Century Rabbinical debates that serves to clarify the teachings of the Torah. Both of these works will be world premieres; 3: "Come, O Come, Emmanuel," by Taylor Scott Davis. The renowned choral group VOCES8 has recorded the work, but it has not yet been published. I communicated with Mr. Davis and the LABC Chancel Choir will be singing the American premiere during Advent.

EVEN MORE GOOD NEWS (and LIGHT)!

We welcome back Choral Scholars Ali Rose Hotz and Ken Setera as well as each of the volunteers who fill out the Chancel Choir - Susan Maybeck, Laura Tubbs, Marie Gibbs, Don Beech, John Ganze, Garth Brokaw, Steve Bancroft, and Rheanolte LeBarbour.

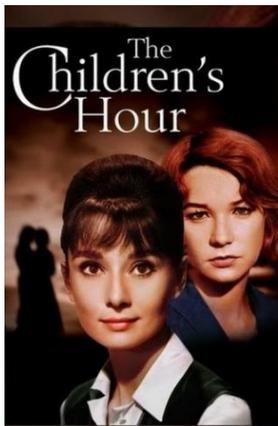
Ali will be working with the choir early in the choir year regarding the ins and outs of Vocal Production. [Come learn with us.](#)

YOU can make even more GOOD NEWS!

We have some empty seats in the choir loft waiting eagerly for YOUR voice. Please join us Wednesday, September 14 in the sanctuary at 7:30 pm. REFRESHMENTS FOLLOWING!



Lee



The "Be You" Movie Series

On Saturday, September 17 at 6:00 pm the "Be You" movie series will present **The Children's Hour.** The movie is based on Lillian Hellman's play about the effect of a student's malicious lie at an exclusive boarding school. It stars Audrey Hepburn and Shirley MacLaine and directed by William Wyler.

It is very well acted and depicts the cruelty and hatefulness that can result from homophobia.



We've had so much fun at summer Sunday school and at Vacation Bible School, now our Sunday school teachers are looking forward to seeing you and learning together during our Fall Sunday school program.

We have new Story Bibles, new snacks, and new activities (maybe even a puppet show)!

**Sunday school starts on Sunday
September 18th**

<p>CLASSROOM 2</p> <p>PRE-K KINDERGARTEN</p>	<p>MISS JANE</p> 	 <p>MISS MARIE</p>
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<p>CLASSROOM 4</p> <p>GRADES 1 - 4</p>	<p>MISS VAL</p> 	<p>CLASSROOM 3</p> <p>5TH AND 8TH GRADERS</p>
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WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

A Mission Moment
 By Karen Brokaw, Mission Chair

The "Beloved Community" is a concept popularized by Martin Luther King, Jr., although it seems very New Testament to me. King longed for and believed in the possibility of a community in which everyone is cared for, there is no hate, no

hunger, no homelessness. And he believed that it should be worldwide, local, national, and global. He knew that to make a community whole, there would need to be healthcare, education, housing, access to food, jobs, a judicial system that is fair. As our lookback through history has shown, LABC has worked for decades toward ideal community. With role models like Helen Barrett Montgomery, Ruth Makeham, Charity and Naomi Carman to name a few, who light our way, we continue the mission. Our core team at this time is Jane Grant, Nancy Donatucci, Michal Ford and myself. However, I have really great news!! All of you have been nominated and accepted as part of the mission team!! How awesome is that?? Each of you has the opportunity to share in this calling in multiple ways. We each can choose how we can best serve according to our talents and resources. Monetary donations, sharing of goods, our gifts of time are all ways to contribute. We also can be advocates for issues that promote education, healthcare, justice, etc. Finally, there is the act of prayer. In the future, we will be sharing a variety of ways for you to serve. So, stay tuned! The journey continues...

The Lilly Chronicles



"And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth" Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark.

One evening while I was walking my dog Lilly (actually while my dog Lilly was walking me), she found a beautifully formed bird's nest that had fallen from a bush. For some reason, she couldn't stop going to it and sniffing it. Maybe she was smelling the remnant of the eggs that had hatched? Or, maybe she smelled the scent of a cat that took the chicks. Anyway, she would not leave it alone. So, I carefully picked it up and decided to carry it home. Lilly didn't take her eyes off of it for a second. When I arrived at my patio I put it on the bricks

and Lilly pounced on it. She sniffed it, then tore part of it off, then sniffed it again, and tore another portion off. By the time she was done there was only a pile of straw. The nest was gone.

As she was destroying the well-constructed nest, I thought of all the things that God destroyed in the Old Testament of the Bible, laying cities and the earth to waste. He destroyed the earth with water and saved only Noah's family and the animals on the earth. Then, of course, we can't forget what he did to Sodom and Gomorrah. Poof. Gone in an instant with all its inhabitants except of course Lot and his wife with his poor wife becoming a pillar of salt. Now, mind you, I take many of these stories with a grain of "salt". But, it did show that God could be really angry and take it out on the earth, on evil cities, on rulers of great empires, or on large armies. In the present time, God doesn't have to destroy things...mankind is doing a great job of it today. Changing the climate by the constant emission of carbon and methane and warming the planet. The destruction of acres and acres of rainforest in order to obtain more grazing land for cattle. The fast extinction of many of God's creatures because their environments have been destroyed by man. Lilly only destroyed a bird's nest which, maybe, could have been reused again next spring. But mankind is slowly destroying our earth because of greed, the unwillingness to make changes that could improve our environment, the tossing out of plastic and plastic containers wherever they may be without the thought of even putting them in a garbage can. We now have islands of plastic floating in our oceans, whale and porpoises drowning because of breathing in plastic bags, coral reefs and fishes being destroyed by the chemicals being released into the oceans. I could have prevented Lilly from destroying the bird's nest...but I have no control over what governments allow to happen to our planet or what the millions of people do without thinking about the consequences. I wonder often what my granddaughters will be left with when they get older. What a scary thought. Let's pray that God doesn't smite us, or turn us into pillars of salt, or tear us apart like birds' nests for inflicting continual injuries on this beautiful but fragile planet.

By Ken Setera



●Please continue to keep *Eric Shoen* in your thoughts and prayers as he continues his treatment for cancer.

NEWS AND EVENTS OF INTEREST FROM OUR EXTENDED COMMUNITY

●**A Performance by the Urban Bush Women at SUNY Brockport.** There will be two performances on Friday and Saturday September 16 and 17, 2022, 7:30 pm at the Hartwell Dance Theater at Hartwell Hall, Kenyon Street, Brockport. Friday evening's performances will be followed by a short question and answer session. Tickets are \$17 (General), \$12 (Senior), \$9 (Students) Tickets are available in person or online at <http://fineartstix.brockport.edu>. Tickets may also be purchased by phone at (585) 395-2787. (Covid 19 prevention guidelines can be found on our ticketing website. This performance celebrates the power of Women in an evening of classic works by founder Jawole Willa Jo Zollar and a new dance theater work by co-artistic directors Chanon Judson and Mame Diarra Speis. The works give multiple dimension of life that resonate in this time of reflection around equity and justice, and lift up Black lives in inspiring ways. In this dynamic evening audiences are offered Urban Bush Women's great sense of musicality and reflection inside of empathy and joy, and a gracious invitation to respond to what they're experiencing and to leave the theater energized and inspired. The UBW celebrates its 38th anniversary year and the company continues to use dance as both the message and medium to bring together diverse audiences through innovative choreography, community collaboration, and artistic leadership development.

●**FINDING OUR WAY BACK HOME:** Join us for our 2022 ABCRGR Biennial Gathering for our first in-person gathering since 2018. This will take place on Friday, September 30 to Saturday, October 1. A clergy retreat will take place on Thursday, September 29. There will be learning, recreational opportunities, worship, celebration and more. The guest speaker is Rev. Dr. Patricia Murphy, Ecclesiastical Endorser for ABCUSA. You can register for the biennial by going to our website, ABCRGR.org and choosing the events tab.



Revive Us *Again*



THE CHRISTIAN FAITH & LGBTQ+ EXPERIENCE LECTURE

SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

5:30 PM, EASTERN

ONLINE EVENT
REGISTER:

WWW.CRCDS.EDU/LECTURES

Lecturer: Annabeth (AB) Roeschley
Executive Director, Brethren Mennonite Council, For Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Interests

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At CRCDS, this lecture is housed in our Gender, Sexual, and Racial Justice (GSRJ) program. The GSRJ program exists to promote justice in gendered, sexual, and racial terms within communities of faith, communities of academic scholarship, the community of learners that calls CRCDS home, and CRCDS's local geographic community of Rochester, NY.

PARTNER CONGREGATIONS:

- ✓ Lake Avenue Baptist Church
- ✓ Third Presbyterian Church
- ✓ Downtown Presbyterian Church



**Colgate
Rochester
Crozer**
DIVINITY SCHOOL

The purpose of the Christian Faith and LGBTQ+ Experience (CFLE) lectureship is two-fold. First, to present a Christian word in a safe space to the LGBTQ+ community that represents Good News instead of condemnation, exclusion, and spiritual violence. Second, to educate students and the wider community about authentic LGBTQ+ perspectives on Bible, theology, pastoral care, and Christian Faith. At its inauguration in 1998, the lectureship was organized collaboratively by a collection of area congregations. In keeping with that history and with CRCDS's mission to be a seminary of and for the community, leadership for the lectureship is now offered by a Collective that includes representatives from both CRCDS and Community Partners.



Revive Us *Again* FALL 2022 LECTURES

NOTE: ALL LECTURES WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY

SEPTEMBER
19
4:15PM
 EASTERN

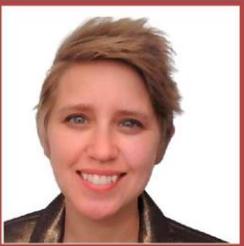


FALL LECTURE WEEK CHAPEL

The virtual worship service will bring together CRCDS alumni/ae, students and friends for a time of reflective worship in Word and song.

Our speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Clarence E. Wright, CRCDS '20, and Senior Pastor at Love Zion Baptist Church in Philadelphia, PA

SEPTEMBER
20
5:30PM
 EASTERN



THE CHRISTIAN FAITH & LGBTQ+ EXPERIENCE LECTURE

Lecturer: Annabeth (AB) Roeschley, Executive Director, Brethren Mennonite Council, For Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Interests

Partner congregations include: Lake Avenue Baptist Church, Downtown Presbyterian Church, Third Presbyterian Church

SEPTEMBER
21
12:00 - 1:30PM
 EASTERN



JANICE LYNN COHEN SYMPOSIUM

The Role of Faith and Medicine in Violence Prevention & Peace: Creating a Healthy Community for Our Young People

The Symposium is sponsored by CRCDS and the Department of Pediatrics of the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry and serves as an avenue of dialogue focused on bringing together medical professionals, clergy, pastoral leaders, policymakers, social workers, and members of the general community to discuss issues related to the medical and spiritual care of children and adolescents.

SEPTEMBER
22
5:30PM
 EASTERN



AFRICAN AMERICAN LEGACY LECTURE

Lecturer: Dr. Kyle Brooks, Assistant Professor of Homiletics, Worship, and Black Church and African Diasporic Studies at Methodist Theological School in Ohio.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER:
WWW.CRCDS.EDU/LECTURES



Colgate
Rochester
Crozer
DIVINITY SCHOOL



SAVE THE DATE:

Spring 2023 Lectures will be held March 6 - 10



Jonathan Allentoff,
Music Director

Eloise Fadial,
Concertmaster

*In loving memory of
Dr. Bill Hullfish*

Tubman 

*The Community of Monroe County
Celebrates the Harriet Tubman Bicentennial*



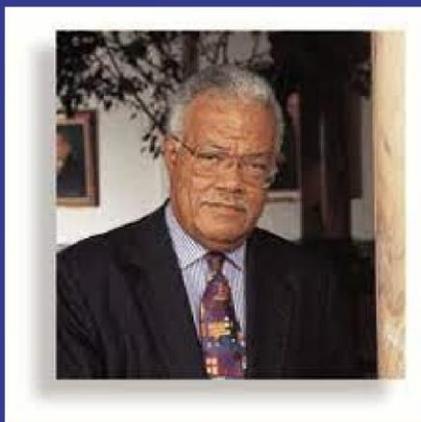
*Let Freedom Ring!
A Tribute to the
Harriet Tubman Bicentennial*

Sunday, October 2, 2022, 3:00PM

Lake Avenue Baptist Church

72 Ambrose Street, Rochester, NY 14608

Free Admission - Parking Available (Look for Parking Signs)



Featuring

Bill Johnson, Narrator

Rachel Roessel, Clarinet Soloist

and the

Harriet Tubman Chorus



This project is made possible with support from the Village of Brockport and funds from the Statewide Community Re-grants Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and administered by Genesee Valley Council on the Arts.