

LAKE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2024, ISSUE 8, VOLUME 8

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

This August I had the privilege of serving as the Fall Convocation Preacher at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. For those of you who have been playing along at home, I just completed my 9 years (3 3-year terms) on the Board of Trustees (including 5 years at Chair of the Board). I have a real affinity for CRCDS. I know that we have a long history with the seminary (and have provided Presidents, faculty, staff, and, of course, students). We currently have three people associated with LABC as students at CRCDS (Maman, Mark, and Aye Wathy). When I was invited to offer the Convocation sermon I jumped at the opportunity.

A Fall Convocation at a Seminary is essentially the start of the academic year. It is when students return, classes begin, and all other seminary associated activities kick off. It's an exciting time for everyone involved. When I was invited to speak I had to determine the text that I wanted to us. I chose Romans 12:1-2

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what the will of God— what is good and acceptable and perfect.

The sermon title was “The Big Questions.” The premise of my sermon (which is available online if you’d like to listen) is that we (people in general and students in particular) spend a lot of time trying to figure out “what we want to be when we grow up.” The question is raised when we’re very young (that’s when kids often want to be firefighters or police officers or, invariably, marine biologists). Seminary students have the same questions in mind. Do they want to be congregational pastors, chaplains, professors, Christian educators? The list goes on. I suggested that there were two more important questions to consider at the start of the academic years (and at any time for that matter).

First, we need to consider “whose we are.” We need to start from the basis that we are God’s children, created with value and worth. From there, we need to consider “who we are.” This is where we claim our role as people who are called to ministry, in whatever form that may be, who are, as Romans says “transformed by the renewing of our minds.” This means making the commitment to live into who we are called to be and growing in our faith, learning, being challenged, and challenging ourselves and others as we discover more and more what it means to follow Jesus.

That’s a very short summary, of course. The reason I asked those questions (whose we are and who we are) is because they are the basis for our identity as people of faith. Further, they provide the basis upon which the students will approach their time in seminary. They help to offer a good starting point for our life as a church. It’s a good time to reorient ourselves in our ministry together and get back to basics.

As we begin a new church year together I invite you to spend a few moments thinking about these two important questions: whose you are and who you are as a person of faith. It’s very easy to start off a new year and jump quickly into the things we do, but underneath that is the important question about identity. Whose are you (God’s children), and who are you (a person growing in faith and learning each day to follow Jesus).

Let’s spend some time with those questions and may they be things we return to throughout the year. And may your identity in Christ serve as the basis for the things we do as a church and who we are as a church community this year.

Michael



Building community. Inspiring readers. Expanding book access.

Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization based in St. Paul, Minnesota. Their mission is to be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers, and expanding book access for all through a global network of volunteer-led Little Free Library book-exchange boxes.

Their vision is a Little Free Library in every community and a book for every reader. They believe all people are empowered when the opportunity to discover a personally relevant book to read is not limited by time, space, or privilege.

LABC is joining this movement. Under Austin's leadership a Little Free Library was acquired and under Becka's leadership the Library was painted and made ready for installation. Placed just outside the church office on Ambrose Street, our Little Free Library will house a rotating selection of books for children and adults. Have a couple extra books at home? Bring them in and put them in the Little Free Library for others to enjoy. Looking for something to read or share with others? See what

the Little Free Library has to offer!

From time to time, as needs arise, we may shift the Library into a "Blessing Box" which will contain some canned goods etc. for those in need. We'll let you know if and when we make that shift.

Special thanks to Austin and Becka for their leadership, and to Don Lee for helping to get the library up!

A NEW BEGINNING

At long last, with a world-wide pandemic and the a car driving into the wall of the church, we will do a soft launch in the sanctuary of LABC beginning September 1 and have a combined service to inaugurate the new season on September 8. We Zoomed, we met in the Social Hall, we faced the challenges. It was a long ride, but the answer to "Are we there yet?" is finally "Yes."

The Chancel Choir will sing in worship on September 8, rehearsing at 9:15 before the service at 10:00 am. Our first rehearsal will be Wednesday, September 11 at 7:30 pm.

If you are in 8th grade or above, past the point of counting grades in school, give the church and choir your talents of singing. Come on Sunday, September 8 as we join together to celebrate our return to the sanctuary. You probably have already sung the choir's anthem as a member of the congregation for it involves the congregation as a whole.

Lee Foster



THE LABC SCHOLARSHIP FUND: We are currently accepting donations for our Scholarship Fund in order to provide some monetary help to members of our congregation who will be pursuing higher education. If you would like to make a donation to this very worthwhile cause, please see Bill Gibbs or mail a check to the office with "Scholarship" in the memo of the check.

THE LABC COMMUNITY AID FUND

Did you know that LABC has a "Community Aid Fund?" If you've been around LABC for any amount of time, you may remember that on the first Sunday of each month (Communion Sunday) we used to receive a special offering for what was formerly called the "Fellowship Fund." This fund has been renamed to more appropriately reflect how those monies are used ... to offer aid for the community.

You may have heard me say that the ministry of LABC that happens during the week can often look quite different than what we see on Sunday mornings. Quite often the door bell is chiming and the phone is ringing with people who are facing real and significant challenges and they turn to the church for support. The Community Aid Fund provides some money to be used at the Pastor's discretion to help meet some of the needs of those in our community (within the church and beyond).

The challenge that we are facing is that while the needs are great, the funds need to be replenished. In recent years we have simply not made the collection of funds for this purpose a priority. There are some people who have donated here and there, and we absolutely appreciate their contributions. We, however, need to work to make this a more regular practice.

On the first Sunday of each month (Communion Sunday) we will now be encouraging people to make a contribution (large or small), if they are able, to the Community Aid Fund. You are absolutely welcome to make contributions at any time you wish, but we are going to work to help regularize bringing the needs of this ministry to the congregation. You'll start to hear more about it. Please give some thought to whether you can offer some financial support to the Community Aid Fund, and you are encouraged to put it in an enveloped marked "Community Aid Fund" and place it in the offering plate. On behalf of those we help, thank you.

Michael

p.s. If you're wondering, we do not ever provide cash assistance. If someone has a bill they need help with, and they are within our zip code (we have to place some parameters around those we help so it doesn't get overwhelming), they bring the bill and we can help pay it that way ...we can't do everything but we try to help when we're able. Thank you again.

Also, mark your calendars for another movie to be shown on **Saturday, August 3 at 6:00 pm**. The movie has not yet been decided upon but once it is there will be an announcement in the late July bulletin.

Missions Ministry

John 13:34-35, Jesus tells his disciples that he is giving them a new commandment. Jesus directs them to love one another as He has loved them. The New Testament is full of Jesus requiring his disciples to love even their enemies. This love will be the way that everyone knows that they are disciples of Jesus. What does this love look like? Is it hugs and kisses? Is it dying on a cross? Jesus love looks like compassion, justice and kindness. So how does this apply to the ways Mission tries to show love? There are many ways but maybe we could start with these. LOVE LOOKS LIKE...food, shelter, healthcare, a bus token, a cup of coffee, hygiene supplies, and a smile!! This month at LABC we will be focusing on school supplies. Yes. LOVE LOOKS LIKE SCHOOL SUPPLIES!! Children need school supplies as they return to school this month. Education is so important for our children. It is the key to their future and our future, it is the way society progresses, it helps our children succeed financially and it helps make the world a more civilized place. What an incredible gift of love. During the month of September LABC will be collecting school supplies which will go to Cameron Community Ministries to be distributed as needed. Some suggestions for donations are 2 pocket folders, spiral bound notebooks, pencils, crayons, glue sticks, highlighters, markers, and index cards.



The next LABC Community Dinner will take place on **Wednesday, September 18th** 6:00 pm. These dinners have been quite successful and we have made a number of new acquaintances from our neighborhood. Once again, we haven't yet decided what we will be having for dinner. Once a decision is made a sign-up sheet will be available on Sunday, September 8th. We encourage all of you who can do so to help with these fun dinners and also encourage you to make suggestions on what we should prepare. We would like to keep the dinners as simple as possible to make so that it will not take hours to prepare. Hope to see you at this dinner.



Hi Friends!

Our Sunday school team is excited to welcome all Pre-Kindergarten- 12th graders to our fall session starting on September 15th. We are organizing a few fun activities to meet new friends and reconnect with each other. We are looking forward to begin a new year of learning, exploring and growing in our faith.

If you are older than a 12th grader, be sure to check the weekly bulletin for information for our adult Sunday school classes.



Getting to Know You...Better: A New 2024 Series

Our adult education for the new church school year will kick-off with the ever popular class "Getting to Know

You.... Better.” Tom Argust will again guide the sessions and has lined up some very interesting LABC folks for us to get to know much better.

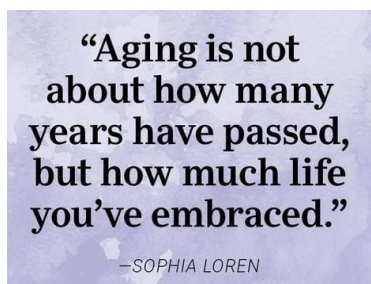
The sessions will be held on five consecutive Sundays starting September 15 at 11:30am. Here is the list of those we will be learning more about as they recount their life story with Tom and with all of us.

- * September 15 -Pastor Michael. The theme of this session will be: “Everything you wanted to know about Michael but were afraid to ask.”
- * September 22 - Susan Maybeck, our Assisting Minister.
- * September 29 - Khatom Lamai Sorrels, long time member of LABC
- * October 6 - Evann Hasenauer, LABC life-long member and now a Colgate Rochester Crozier Divinity School Student
- * October 13 - New Alto and Bass Choral Scholars

Please plan on joining us for what promises to be a very interesting and insightful time together.

LIST OF ADULT EDUCATION SUBJECTS FROM SEPTEMBER 8 THROUGH DECEMBER 22 2024

September 8, 2024	Church Picnic (No Adult Education)
September 15, 2024	Getting to Know You Better, Michael Ford – Tom Argust
September 22, 2024	Getting to Know You Better, Susan Maybeck - Tom Argust
September 29, 2024	Getting to know you better, Khatom Sorrels - Tom Argust
October 6, 2024	Getting to Know You Better, Evann Hasenauer - Tom Argust
October 13, 2024	Getting to Know You Better, New Alto and Bass Choras Scholars - Tom Argust
October 20, 2024	Bible Stories for Grownups - Noah;s Ark
October 27, 2024	Bible Stories for Grownups, Jonah and the Whale
November 3, 2024	Bible Stories for Grownups
November 10, 2024	Bible Stories for Grownups
November 17, 2024	Stewardship Month Topic
November 24, 2024	Giving Thanks
December 1, 2024	Advent Study, HOPE+ - Michael Ford
December 8, 2024	Advent Study, PEACE - Michael Ford
December 15, 2024	Advent Study, JOY - Michael Ford
December 22, 2024	Advent Study, LOVE - Michael Ford
December 29, 2024	No Adult Education



Come One, Come All to Aging Gracefully & Joyfully

This is a reminder for all seniors who want to be joyful and graceful. Our senior group will resume on Monday, Sept. 9 at 1:00 at church. We will meet once a month on the first Monday.

I know, I know, this is an exception in September because of the Labor Day holiday.

This is also an invitation to all seniors who wish to be part of this lively group. You do not have to be joyful or graceful, but eager to share ups and downs with other seniors. We have laughed a lot, cried a bit, and appreciated other people’s perspectives.

See you on Monday, Sept. 9 at 1:00 pm


Susan Maybeck

Our Church Family

- We keep in our prayers **Liz Ewell** who broke her hip and is continuing therapy at the Latta Road Nursing Home West. If you wish to send a get well card please send it to 14 Jonathan Drive, Rochester, NY 14612-3624
- We were pleased to see **Jean Moyce** at our recent community dinner. She is doing well following her recuperation from broken ribs. Jean also celebrated her **104th birthday** in August. Happy Belated Birthday wishes to you, Jean, from the staff and congregation of Lake Ave Baptist church!



THE "BE YOU" MOVIE SERIES



Join us for our September movie entitled Soft Lad on Saturday, September 7 in Classroom one (The Conference Room) at 6:00 pm. The movie is about a young man David who is involved in a love affair that will change his life forever, while his lover, Jules, wrestles with his demons that will force him to come to terms with his sexuality, leaving lives destroyed in the wake

JOIN THE RAINBOW CIRCLE AND HELP SOMEONE COME HOME TO LOVE AND ACCEPTANCE TODAY.

Looking for a way to support AWAB's welcoming and affirming work? Consider becoming a Rainbow Circle member. For as low as \$10 a month, you can become an RC Member to support our work and access exclusive content and communications produced exclusively for the Rainbow Circle.

Join the Rainbow Circle of monthly donors as an individual today in order to help sustain compassion rather than rejection from our faith communities. Your support of AWAB will help us to increase our mission of advancing the Radical Welcome and Love of God in Jesus Christ and will enable us to reach more churches and more individuals seeking the Love of God that has been denied by many for far too long.

By joining for \$10.00 a month you will receive: free and discounted fees to AWAB events, personal communications from AWAB annually, annual public recognition for your support, and a super cool rainbow circle support pin.

To support and join the Rainbow Circle please send a check to, AWAB, PO Box 7834, Louisville, KY 40257 and designate in the memo line "Rainbow Circle." You may also join on line at <https://awab.org/rainbow-circle/>

VBS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

For the past few years, LABC has partnered with our friends at Greece Baptist Church to offer a Vacation Bible School for the community. This year, we were joined by friends from other Greece Churches (Messiah Lutheran Church and Greece United Methodist Church). We met every Thursday night from July 11th -August 8th and sang together, heard Bible stories, helped care for a community garden, played outside games, and did crafts related to the Scripture of the day. We had a great time. Thank you to all of the volunteers from all the churches for helping make this a great opportunity to minister with our children and the community. A special thank you to Jane Grant who took the lead in helping to organize the VBS, and for preparing and offering excellent crafts each week. You'll see some of those crafts and activities in the pictures from VBS.



Join us for our annual **Church Picnic** this coming **Sunday, September 8** following our church service (about 12:30 pm). It will be held at **Brighton Town Park, 777 Westfall Road in the Carman Clark Lodge**. Please bring a dish to pass (i.e. baked beans, coleslaw, potato salad, macaroni salad, or a dessert). We hope to see you there!

APAPA ROCHESTER CHAPTER PRESENTS

INSPIRE | ENGAGE | EMPOWER

HARVEST MOON FEST

Sat, Sep 21, 2024
10 AM to 6 PM

CELEBRATE AAPI
CULTURE AND HERITAGE
FOOD & PERFORMANCES
FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT

Pittsford Grain Tower Parking Lot
11 Schoen Place Pittsford, NY 14534

Free Online Ticket

Rochester Alliance
of
Communities Transforming Society

ROCHESTER ALLIANCE OF COMMUNITIES TRANSFORMING SOCIETY PRESENTS

10TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BANQUET

WHEN THE PEOPLE
RISE UP, THE GAME
CHANGES
VOTE YOUR VOICE FOR JUSTICE

GUEST SPEAKERS: Assemblyman Tommy Spina, Assemblyman...

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12TH

STARDUST BALLROOM AT EDGERTON
41 BACKUS STREET, ROCHESTER NY 14608

4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

DOORS OPEN AT 3:30PM



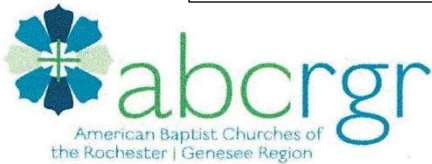
Help AWAB Raise 1 Million Dollars!



Scan to
learn more

Our 1-Million Dollar 'Here We Grow' Campaign is a significant step towards strengthening and empowering AWAB. Success allows us to build a robust and collaborative staff and an engaged board of directors, enabling us to provide high-quality LGBTQ+ resources to Baptists worldwide. We aim to become a model of inclusive love for all and demonstrate good stewardship of a ministry with agility and financial stability.

KBCUSA Youth Training and Fellowship July 12-14th.



July 16, 2024

Rev. Dr. Michael Ford
Lake Avenue Baptist Church
72 Ambrose St.
Rochester, NY 14608

Dear Michael,

I write to convey my deepest thanks to you and the congregation of Lake Avenue Baptist Church for opening your building and your hearts to the Rochester Karen Baptist Church and the Karen Baptist Churches USA for the hosting of the 2024 Global Karen Youth Conference. You will soon be receiving a check with a financial gift from KBCUSA in thanks (coming via ABCRGR). Even the generosity of that gift, however, is only a token of the appreciation that all involved felt and expressed about LABC and you and your role in making the event possible.

Please share with the congregation that the relationship they have built over the years with the Karen Baptists, as well as members of all the ethnic groups of Burma, shows a vibrant heritage of mission and how love spread to others never fails to bear fruit. Having over 450 Karen (from infant to elders) gathered from literally all over the globe in the sanctuary at LABC speaks to the outreach LABC has had throughout its history. The fact that your pastor and volunteers of the church and, notably, even the contractors themselves, scrambled to ensure the sanctuary was guest-ready at the last minute speaks to an openness to adventure (!) and a flexibility that's not often found in today's congregation. That openness and flexibility is a significant and necessary component of discipleship and shows deeply ingrained hospitality.

And so another moment in LABC's life goes down in history to be celebrated at the next significant anniversary. Well done, good and faithful servants.

Thank you again, and may God continue to bless LABC with amazing opportunities to serve!

In Christ's peace,

Rev. Dr. Sandra DeMott Hasenauer
Executive Minister
American Baptist Churches of the Rochester/Genesee Region

Some pictures from the KBCUSA Youth Training on July 12-14



A special thank you to Hamilton Stern Construction who cleared out in order to make the (still under construction) space available for our Karen friends. It was a joy to have them visit us at LABC and to be part of such a wonderful event.

A Certificate of Recognition from the City of Rochester.




In Recognition
**Lake Avenue Memorial
Baptist Church**

On behalf of the citizens of Rochester, we recognize and thank you for your service to our LGBTQIA+ Neighbors. Rochester has a long and proud history of advocacy and activism in the area of Civil Rights - particularly within the LGBTQIA+ Community.

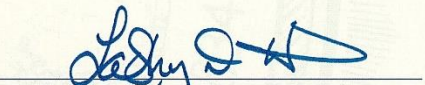
Rochester's LGBTQIA+ residents and families continue to see our City as a safe space where all individuals can flourish by promoting an environment for advocacy, outreach, inclusion, and equity regardless of gender-identity, sexual-orientation, race, religion, ethnicity, gender or birthplace.

In our City, we are proud to stand with you no matter who you are. Therefore, we are grateful for all of the work you have done to stand with our vibrant LGBTQIA+ community, whether as a member or an ally. Happy Pride!


July 23, 2024


Miguel A. Meléndez Jr., City Council President




LaShay Harris, City Council Vice President

The United Church of Pittsford invites you to our 2nd Annual Fall Festival on September 28th from 10am - 4 pm. The Festival will feature local artisans, crafters, and food trucks. Our address is 123 S. Main Street, Pittsford, NY 14534. For more information, visit our website at ucpittsford.org or visit us on Facebook at facebook.com/ucpittsford/



Prayers for Peace and Unity
Unity Rochester Spiritual Center
55 Prince Street 14607

8/21: *We Are the Light We Wish to See in the World*
9/18: *The Power of Love*
10/16: *Let There be Peace on Earth*
11/4: *Imagine!*

All services: 7:00-7:45 pm

Love Donations Appreciated



awab Presents:

Annual Lecture 2024

&

Regional Gathering



An Evening with
Dr. Brandon Crowley
 Lecturing: "Black Queer Homiletics & Hermeneutics"

9.16.24
6pm
\$20

Memorial Church - Harvard - Cambridge, Massachusetts

Meet, Greet, and Walk

9.16.24 1pm - 3pm Free
 Boston Commons Visitor Center

Regional Breakfast

9.17.24 8:30 am - 10 am \$5
 Old Cambridge Baptist Church



Faithful in the Fire: The Role of Prophetic Leadership in Polarized Times. This free webinar with Rev. Dr. Willard Ashley is a workshop centered on the importance of compassionate, courageous, and prophetic voices in a deeply divided society. It provides practical tools for clergy to navigate polarized environments and avoid potential challenges within their congregations while maintaining prophetic integrity. The participants will explore prophetic leadership's biblical and historical roots and discuss how to lead communities through

polarized times while embodying a steadfast commitment to justice, reconciliation, and hope. The session aims to equip clergy with the practical tools and spiritual insight to lead their communities effectively.

**The Wall,
 A Visual Timeline**

February 13, 2023 – following a police chase, a Cadillac Escalade ended up breaking through the Jones side wall into the sanctuary.



The damage was quite extensive, though we wouldn't realize how extensive for a few weeks.



After removal of the car and the damage, the insurance company was able to come in and do their first assessment of the repairs. It was then we learned about the presence of vermiculite (which requires cleanup like asbestos).



Following the safe abatement, it was time to rebuild ... or so we thought. Turns out that the impact of the car made a much larger section of the wall unstable. Also, there was one steel post that held up part of the roof that was damaged.

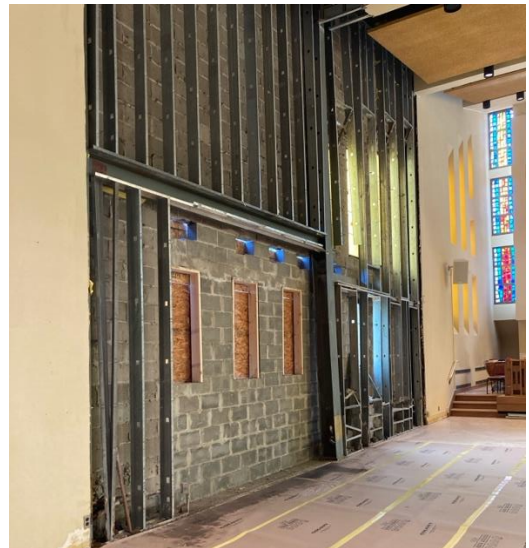


In order to deal with the bigger issues, it required opening up a much larger section of the wall

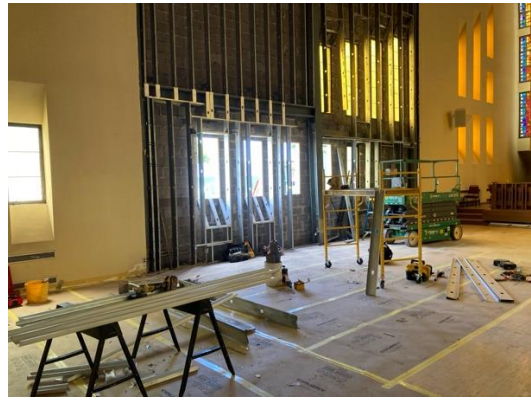
Once the entire wall was opened up, it was time to do more abatement (which of course required stabilizing the upper part of the wall)



Once the wall was deconstructed, it was time to reconstruct.



After the reconstruction came the finishing
(inside and out)



After almost 18 months the project was
wrapped up!



What began as a roughly \$20,000 job spiraled into a project that cost insurance just under \$300,000. With abatement, structural work, engineering drawings, new chairs (old ones had to be thrown out because of asbestos abatement) etc. and a whole lot of different sub-contractors, the job is done! Thank you for your incredible patience and to our General Contractors (Hamilton Stern Contractors) for a job well done!!!