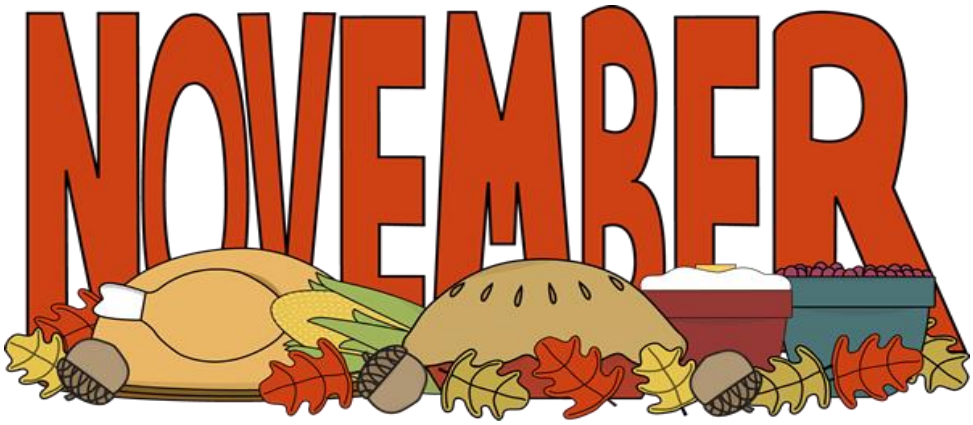
LAKE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2026, ISSUE 11, VOLUME 89

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





Mixon Muses

A note from our Interim Pastor, Rick Mixon

The turning of the leaves tells us it is autumn, though the temperature continues to fluctuate between summer and winter! In addition, this month of November marks the beginning of "the holiday season," moving from Halloween through Thanksgiving to Christmas/Hannukah/Kwanza/Diwali, et al. Though Advent begins this year on November 29th (the fifth Sunday of the month,) we'll keep our focus on gratitude for the time being.

I have shared with some of you that, as a spiritual practice, the last thing I do at night, having turned out the light and laid my head on the pillow, is to recount in my mind the things I am grateful for on a given day. I learned this practice from a Spiritual Director who believed that this intentional focusing serves us well in shaping lives with gratitude rather than critique and negative judgment. I believe she was correct. Planting that grateful seed in my consciousness as I drift off to sleep allows it to grow in my subconscious through the night and blossom the next day as I traverse its gifts and challenges.

So, what am I grateful for as 2026 draws to a close? Well, surely one thing is the opportunity to serve as your transitional or interim pastor. It has been a joy for me to get to know you as individuals and as a community. Whatever limitations and challenges we face, my observation is that you address them with an openness and eagerness to grow and change. It is rare in my experience to find a community in which no one (so far) has countered something new or different, with a negative, whiney "but we've never done it that way" or "we always do thus and so"!

I am grateful for that positive spirit that keeps you open to exploring what lies ahead. This will be important as we enter the next phase of the transitional process. Your Transition Team has been hard at work organizing a protocol that will explore in depth how you see Lake Avenue today and how that understanding might shape the future of the congregation. Through a series of small groups, both in person and on Zoom, and individual interviews, we hope to get input from all of you who are on this journey now and into the future. As I keep reminding you, it is important that we hear from everyone that cares about Lake Avenue. That information will be vital to helping a Pastoral Search Committee find the right pastoral leadership for the congregation. Soon, you will hear from the Transition Team about your involvement. Please say "yes" and show up in that same loving spirit I highlighted above that is so characteristic of you.

Also, I want to encourage you all to be prepared to live out your gratitude for Lake Avenue as we enter into this year's stewardship emphasis. Soon you will also be receiving a letter and pledge card, asking you to help underwrite the church's budget for 2027. In a way this campaign is about self-care because you are Lake Avenue Baptist Church. Yes, you have to pay for staff and maintenance and programming, but in the end it's all yours – and of course God's, as you work together to build up the Beloved Community in this place. So, there is a sense in which your giving to the church is a way to love God with your whole being and to love others as you love yourselves.

There are many other things for which I am grateful, but I'll stop here for now and be satisfied to praise God from whom all blessings flow, including the blessing of the lovely community that is Lake Avenue Baptist Church. Thanks for being you!

Blessings on the journey,

Pastor Rick

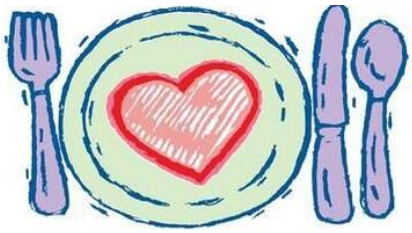
THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, IS ALL SAINTS SUNDAY. Everyone is invited to participate in creating a space for remembering in the sanctuary. If you have a photograph or a small object to remember someone who has died, please bring it to the church on Sunday October 25 or November 1 for inclusion in the space of remembrance. Place be sure to label your photo or object. We look forward to a service of grateful remembrance, hope, and love; and we hope that the faces of many of the saints we have known will be visible to us all.

Our adult education this Sunday will be led by Rick Mixon. We will continue our exploration of separation of church and state and the relationship of **religion and politics**. It is hoped that this conversation will be helpful as we go to the polls to vote in the midterm election on Tuesday, November 3rd. Several pieces that Rick has read recently have argued that voting is both a sacred privilege and responsibility. This makes sense. As discussed last Sunday, it seems impossible to give yourself to follow Jesus and not have that affect the political choices you make – and we all make them, actively or passively. We hope you will join us for this discussion.

The Aging Gracefully & Joyfully Group

Please join us at 1:00 pm on Monday, November 2, in the conference room as we discuss different subjects related to the aging process and how to make it joyful.

All are welcome to attend.



Our next Community Dinner will take place on **Wednesday, November 18, 6:00 pm** in the social hall. Currently, the menu has not been planned. (Any suggestions? Contact Ken at the church office.) A sign-up sheet, however, will be available at the Welcome Center on Sunday, November 8.



THE WELCOMING & AFFIRMING "BE YOU" MOVIE SERIES

Join us on **Saturday, November 7 at 6:00 pm for the next "Be You" movie.** As usual, it will be shown in the conference room. The movie selected is *"Anything's Possible"*. It is a delightfully modern Gen Z coming-of-age story that follows Kelsa, a confident high school girl who is trans, as she navigates through senior year. When her classmate Khal gets a crush on her, he musters up the courage to ask her out, despite the drama he knows it could cause. What transpires is a romance that showcases the joy, tenderness, and pain of young love.

Please note that some of the subject matter of these movies may not be appropriate for children.

Please enter the church at the office door and ring the doorbell. Someone will let you in.

NOVEMBER IS STEWARDSHIP MONTH AT LABC!

You will soon be receiving a letter in the mail along with a pledge card for 2027. Please fill this card out. The completed pledge cards will be collected on Stewardship (Thanksgiving) Sunday, November 22.

Lake Avenue Baptist Church

MISSION PROJECT FOR NOVEMBER 2026

by Hkadin Lee



I grew up hearing about American Missionaries back in Kutkai, Shan State in Myanmar. As a child, I learned that my parents were very close friends with the last missionaries there, the Criders. They left Myanmar in 1964 shortly after I was born. They left behind many household items and clothing which were donated to Myanmar individuals.

My parents told us how the Criders found ways to help the Myanmar Kachin people by learning their language and learning how to eat and cook Kachin food. They took the time to truly know the Kachin people & their culture. They sacrificed so much to serve these people of God in strange land.

What I am trying to say is that Mission work was woven into my DNA even before I became an adult. I came to

Rochester as a result of the mission work by LABC and over time I became a Refugee Mission worker here. For me, this wasn't a coincidence but rather God's plan to carry on the work that I was called to do.

Since I have been here at LABC, I have led or organized many small and big mission projects over the years, both personal and community efforts. But currently, it's a little bit different. I am teaching and show young people how they can be involved in mission work and become missionaries at a young age.

Three families here at LABC have been saving money since 2025 to help Orphanages in Myanmar. This is our Oversea Mission project. Our main goal is to teach our young children about the children who are less fortunate than they are and who need help. A little help can go a long way in Myanmar, especially in remote areas during this time of civil war.



We purchased 5 cash boxes with locks, labeled them, and are keeping them at home where everyone in the house can see and make donations when they want. Our Mission project was shared at one of our church gatherings, and one more member has since joined. The Mission team has also decided to adopt donating to the Myanmar orphanages as the November mission project.

Last summer, Cho Cho Aye's family and I helped church members who were moving clear out their house and to move & deliver household items that they no longer needed. That family then contributed $500 toward our mission project.

A note from Jane Grant – “It takes a village”.

- A few small actions often have a wonderful result: Sometimes in this dark era of international chaos and domestic contentiousness, it’s good to let some chinks of light come through via stories of small acts that confirm what I’ve always believed—that most people are basically good and kind.

  The story begins with Chuck Theis, who is the property manager of the Senior apartments in the former St. Bernard’s Seminary. He was given the task of cleaning out the apartment of a departing resident who left a huge 4-harness weaving loom and numerous smaller ones. He saved seven of the latter and brought them to church. One went to the art teacher at School 5, where she is determining how she might use it. The others went as donations to the Weavers’ Guild. When I took the last 3 to the home of a member of the Guild. I suggested that if people were interested in owning one of them, they might consider a donation to support an effort that I had just learned about.

  This is an effort begun by Hkadin and involves four others from the Myanmar fellowship, including two teenage girls. Everyone has a cash box, and they deposit money into them from time to time. In November, these boxes will be opened, and the money will be sent to support an orphanage in the Myanmar Karen State.

  The idea of funding the orphanage came from the girls. When I told the Guild member about the girls and their efforts, one of the women went to her wallet and gave me $40; her daughter (sister?) handed me $30, both of them wanting to support the girls in their mission project. I was stunned by their generosity, and happy to have confirmation of my belief in the goodness of people.

  I thank God for small acts that have surprising results!

We will open our cash boxes at the end of November and combine that with the LABC November Mission collection. The donations will be sent to 3 Orphanages in Myanmar – in Kachin, Karen & Shan state. We have already connected with two places and are waiting to connect with one more.

Thank you to LABC and the Mission group for making our project even more special. Together we can make a difference to these children.

We will be collecting donations at LABC for the orphanages during the whole month of November. So, please give generously to help make this Mission project successful. If you give a check, please note “Orphanage” on the memo line. Special Offering envelopes are available on the round table at the entrance of the sanctuary. If you have questions or a concern, please reach out to Karen Brokaw or Hkadin Lee.

Blessings!

Our Church Family:



●**YOU ARE INVITED!**
Hkadin and Don Lee **request the pleasure of your presence at their 25th Wedding Anniversary Celebration Service on Saturday, November 7 at 1:00 pm. A reception in the church Social Hall will follow immediately after the service.**

●***Christopher Bwee*** of the Myanmar Christian Church (MCC) will be ordained as Pastor of that church on Sunday, November 8th at 1:00 pm in the Lake Ave. Baptist Church sanctuary. All are invited to attend.

● **The Eastman Opera Theater** will be presenting Leonard Bernstein’s opera, *Candide*, in which two of our Choral Scholars (***Sofia Martinez*** and ***Alex Hartin***) will be performing. The performances will take place at 7:30 pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, November 5, 6 and 7th and at 2:30 pm on Sunday, November 8th in

Kilbourne Hall. General admission tickets are $20.00 per person and can be purchased by calling the Eastman School of Music Box Office at (585) 274-3000.

●**Graduate Recital:** Ms. Xiaoge Chan, our former soprano Choral Scholar, will be giving her graduate recital on Friday, November 27 at 8:30 PM in Kilburn Hall, the day after Thanksgiving.



●***Don Beech***, a long-time devoted member of LABC, will relocate this month to South Dakota. We want to thank him for the many years that he has served LABC in the Chancel Choir, the Scholarship Committee, and various other committees. He has had a major positive impact upon the lives of many members and participants at LABC who have come from various places around the world. He was employed at MCC, where he worked, he was recognized for his devotion to newcomers to America.

●**In Memoriam:** ***Robert Knox***, the husband of deceased member, ***Myrta Knox***, and a long-time friend of Lake Avenue Baptist Church, passed away peacefully on October 17, 2026, at the age of 95. May God bless and comfort his family.

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT THE SUNRISE: *We are currently living in dark times. But despite how dark the night becomes, God always follows it with a sunrise.*



Every sunrise is a poem written on the Earth with words of light, warmth, and love.
Debasish Mridha

We need to be reminded sometimes that a sunrise lasts but a few minutes. But its beauty can burn in our hearts eternally.
R. A. Salvatore

A sunrise is God's way of saying: Let's start again.
Todd Stocker

A sunrise is Nature telling you that it's time to cherish another day on Earth. Enjoy life.
Urbn Madl Ui

"The sun rises without asking permission… a daily reminder that no matter what darkness we've faced, the light will always return. Today is a fresh canvas… paint it with courage, gratitude, and the unapologetic belief that you can make it beautiful."

Steve Maraboli

"Rest but never quit. Even the sun has a sinking spell each evening. But it always rises the next morning. At sunrise, every soul is born again."

Muhammad Ali

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Sunday	November 1	10:00 am	Worship Service & Communion	Sanctuary
		11:15 am	Fellowship	Social Hall
		11:30 am	Adult Education Class	Conference Room
	November 8	10:00 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
		11:15 am	Fellowship	Social Hall
		11:30 am	Adult Education	Conference Room
		1:00 pm	Ordination of Christopher Bwee	Sanctuary
	November 15	10:00 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
		11:15 am	Fellowship	Social Hall
		11:30 am	Adult Education	Conference Room
	November 22	10:00 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
		11:15 am	Fellowship	Social Hall
		11:30 am	Adult Education	Conference Room
	November 29	10:00 am	First Sunday of Advent Worship Service	Sanctuary
		11:15 am	Fellowship	Social Hall
		11:30 am	Adult Education	Conference Room
Monday	November 2	1:00 pm	Aging Gracefully and Joyfully	Conference Room
	November 9	7:00 pm	Church Council Meeting	Conference Room
Wednesday	November 4	7:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	November 11	7:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	November 18	6:00 pm	Community Dinner	Social Hall
		7:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	November 25	7:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Saturday	November 7	1:00 pm	25 Anniversary Celebration Service For Hkadin and Don Lee	Sanctuary
		6:00 pm	Welcoming and Affirming Be You Movie, *"Anything's Possible"*	Conference Room



Please be sure to vote and please consider the following when you do.

●We are in a seemingly endless war with Iran that the USA and Israel initiated. This war is costing the USA approximately 1 billion dollars a day funded by our taxpayer dollars. Many innocent civilians and children have died as well as 22 (or possibly more) US troops.

●Due to this unprovoked war, the price of gasoline and diesel continues to increase due to closure of the Strait of Hormuz

●Immigrants who have not committed any crimes and are working members of our society continue to be deported or put in detention centers throughout the USA. Also, families have been broken apart and children taken from their parents as a result of the continued assault against the immigrant populations. And, without any compassion, a number of immigrants have been deported to countries that speak a different language from their language.

Gay and Transgendered individuals are being targeted as the cause of the ills in our society.