

LAKE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2026, ISSUE 6, VOLUME 89

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MIXON'S MUSES

A note from our Interim Pastor, Rick Mixon

Summer is coming when they say the living is easy or should be. But if this June is typical in the life of LABC, there is a lot going on. We will continue with the regular worshiping life of the church, but adult education will be on hiatus. The church choir will finish its season on the 14th. Still, we have something special going on every Sunday.

June 7 Worship Experience will host brunch for LABC after our worship service in gratitude for their time sharing our space. They will be moving to a new space in July, and we pray God's continued blessing on their ministry.

On June 14 our Mission Team will host a generic baby shower after worship. There are several women at Cameron Community Ministries who are expecting, and CCM has asked us to collect items that would be helpful to these new parents. Our Mission Team decided to collect those items from mid-May to June and then thought it might be fun to celebrate with a shower. Thanks to everyone who has contributed so far. There is still plenty of time to add your gift and everyone is invited to participate in the shower.

June 21 will be the first of our two annual meetings immediately following worship. The primary purpose is to elect leadership for the coming year. It should be a brief meeting. We need your enthusiastic support. And if you have given any thought to how you might support the ongoing life of LABC, this is a good time to consider what time and skill you have to contribute. There are multiple opportunities for service. Just let me or Evann or Soe Win know. We will be happy to point you in the right direction.

After the church meeting, we will hold our annual strawberry social, with the added joy of celebrating Steve Bancroft's 80th birthday.

On the 28th there are couple of 30th anniversaries to commemorate. The first is the 30th anniversary of LABC's membership in AWAB. LABC is an early member of AWAB and has been an important contributor to the ministry of inclusion for LGBTQ+ people in Rochester and beyond. Personally, it is also the 30th anniversary of my ordination as what we believe is the first openly LGBTQ+ Baptist to be ordained. After a 23-year struggle with the regional body, I was finally ordained by my home church, LABC West (Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church,

Oakland, CA) in a memorable service on hot July 26, 1996. So, there is a lot going on. Maybe we can take it easy in July and August!

During the summer the Transition Team (Soe Win, Laura Tubbs, Karen Brokaw, Evann Haseneauer and myself) will be finalizing plans so we can begin the formal process in September. That process includes exploring LABC's history for meaningful patterns that bring us to today. Evaluating the life of the congregation in the present in terms of what is working and what we might want to grow or change. Then, we will end with an opportunity to dream creatively and playfully about the future for LABC.

Out of this process we ought to be able to put together a useful profile of the life of LABC that a pastoral search committee can use to look for new settled pastoral leadership. Life does go on. I'm glad to be a part of it and hope you are, too.

Blessings on the journey,
Pastor Rick

Aging Gracefully and Joyfully

I will continue leading our Aging group until summer. We will decide then whether there is a group who wants to continue. During the next two months we will discuss ideas and preparation for our death, funerals, burials, and other details. I know this may sound grim, but I am aware that following our aging, gracefully and joyfully, there is the inevitable death. Let's not be afraid of talking about these things. Be brave!!

Our next meeting will be on Monday, June 1. at 1:00 pm at Church in the conference room, classroom 1.

Our Church Family:



Manita Opoku



Anika Sharma

Manita Opoku and **Anika Sharma**, two of our Sunday school teachers, have graduated from the University of Rochester. Manita pursued a double major receiving a degree in English (language, media and communications) and Linguistics (culture and society). Manita also minored in creative writing. Anika graduated with a degree in microbiology..

We have been very fortunate to have had these two energetic and dedicated ladies as teachers for our Sunday school classes as well as leading a number of Ministry for Children during our Sunday services. Although Anika will not be with us in the fall, Manita will continue teaching Sunday school this fall. Many thanks to both of them for their ministry with the children during this past church year.

Our Hard-working Gardeners!

On Monday morning, May 22, a number of individuals gathered outside the church to do some gardening. Per Hkadin's instructions the three gentlemen in the photo (**Biak Thawng**,



Win Hlaing, and **Pla Htoo**, from left to right) were asked to remove all the rocks that had been placed under the overhang in the front of the church as well as to remove the

overgrown and invasive vinca vine. That day happened to be the hottest day so far this year with the temperature hovering around 90 degrees and both tasks that were assigned to them were far from easy After approximately 3 hours they had finished. The rocks that were removed will



be used for borders around the gardens adjacent to and in front of the church building. If you see these gentlemen at church, please be sure to express your appreciation for their hard work.



THE WELCOMING & AFFIRMING "BE YOU" MOVIE SERIES

Join us on the **SECOND Saturday of June, June 13 at 6:00 pm** in classroom 1 (the conference room). Episodes 5 and 6 of *AJ and the Queen* will be shown. This series is about Robert, a down-on-his-luck drag queen who is played by RuPaul. Come to the office door and ring the doorbell. Someone will let you in. (Because many of the movies have adult themes, they may not be appropriate for children.)

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MISSION COMMITTEE



During the month of June, we will be collecting baby items for our "BABY SHOWER " on June 14th. Suggested items include diapers, lotion, shampoo, washcloths, towels, bibs, onesies, etc. These items will be distributed by Cameron to mothers in need. On June 21st, we will begin collecting snack items for Cameron's Summer Program. Please check your bulletin around mid-month for specific items to donate. It is specific because we want to avoid allergic reactions. Also, this month

we are making a donation to #5 School to help with their end of year activities. Thank you for all you do to help with mission.



Our next community dinner will take place on Wednesday, June 17 at 6:00 pm. As of this date, the dinner menu has not yet been decided. (Suggestions would be appreciated!) A sign-up sheet will be available on Sunday, June 7.

The following is shared with you from Jackie Sullivan:

A COMMUNITY

*Begins with one person
then invite another
get acquainted with each other
invite another person to join you two
talk about what you have in common
what you enjoy doing
invite others to join you
do things together
the small group of friends
becomes a community
pretty soon you are making
decisions together
you have fun together
you grieve together
you learn new things together
you build mutual bonding
if one is attacked
all are attacked
we pull together for security*

*When you lose one
either by death or a move
it leaves a gap
so pull together
fill in that space
share what that person
meant to you
no one will be able
to replace the person
who is gone
but it's ok to fill in that space
your community won't be
completely the same
but it will be enriched
by the person who comes
to fill the void
and sometimes someone
just comes and needs
A Community*

Thank you!
VERY MUCH

Worship Experience Ministries will be moving to a new location at the end of June. In appreciation for our allowing them use of our building for their worship services and ministries, they will be preparing and serving a breakfast for the entire congregation on **Sunday, June 7** during our time of Fellowship! Please mark your calendars for this very special event. We pray for their success in all their future endeavors and ministries. May God bless them in their new church home.



STRAWBERRY SOCIAL

Our Annual Yummy, Delicious, Mouth Watering Strawberry Social will take place immediately following our congregational meeting on Sunday, June 2nd. Hope you all will be able to make it!

Master Gardener Expo & Plant Sale

Saturday, June 6, 2026, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

The Master Gardener Program is excited to share that we are increasing opportunities at our annual plant sale to include local organizations/societies, workshops while providing amazing perennials below market value!

We will also be offering the sale of gently used garden treasures. Previously, our Summer Sale was a separate event, but now, one stop shopping! The sale is our largest community event and annual fundraiser! We couldn't do it without you, THANK YOU for your support!

The plant sale will be held at the Cornell Cooperative Extension-Monroe office and will have many varieties of plants for your garden. All sale proceeds go directly toward CCE-Monroe programming.

We will be offering guidance to local gardeners, as well as plants from the gardens of Master Gardeners. The sale includes a variety of annuals, perennials, herbs, vegetables, trees and shrubs. A selection of house plants is also available.

This is an outdoor event, rain or shine. We look forward to seeing you!

We're thrilled to announce the amazing "Ask the Expert" groups and societies who will be joining us at our Plant Sale! Come meet these fantastic organizations, get your gardening questions answered, and discover new inspiration for your garden adventures!

Location: CCE of Monroe County
2449 St Paul Blvd, Rochester, New York
14617





LABC CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS FOR JUNE 2026

(As Currently Scheduled as of May 29)

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Sunday	June 7	10:00 am 11:15 am	Worship Service and Communion Appreciation Breakfast for all presented by Worship Experience Ministries	Sanctuary Social Hall
	June 14	10:00 am 11:15 am	Worship Service "Baby Shower" to collect additional baby supplies for Cameron	Sanctuary Social Hall
	June 21	10:00 am 11:15 am	Worship Service Congregational Meeting Election of Officers and Annual Report	Sanctuary "
		11:45-ish	Strawberry Social and Celebration of Steve Bancroft's 80 th birthday	Social Hall
June 28	10:00 am 11:15 am	Worship Service Fellowship and celebration of 30 th anniversary of LABC joining the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists. Also, 30 th anniversary of Pastor Rick Mixon's ordination	Sanctuary Social Hall	
Monday	June 1 June 8	1:00 pm 7:00 pm	Aging Gracefully and Joyfully Church Council Meeting	Conference Room "
Wednesday	June 3 June 10	7:30 pm 7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal Final Choir Rehearsal for this Church Year	Sanctuary "