

# Lakeview United Methodist Church

## December 2025 Newsletter

### A Message from Pastor Sheila:

Dear Lakeview,

We are now in the middle of the Advent season, and this past Sunday Becky and Doug Child lit the candle of “Peace” during our worship service; I have not been able to get the word out of my head since. That is where my thoughts come from for this month’s newsletter...

If you could snap your fingers and have peace in one area of your life right now, where would that be? Maybe it’s a relationship(s), your finances, your health, or even your own inner thoughts. We all long for peace, but so often we chase it in places that can’t sustain it, success, security or even control.

The Bible shows over and over again, that true peace isn’t something we can manufacture- it doesn’t come from circumstances, but from God’s presence. He delivered the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. He raised up judges like Gideon and Deborah to restore peace to His people. He freed a man possessed by demons and forgave a woman caught in sin. **Every time chaos showed up, God’s presence brought peace.**

That’s why the prophets called the Messiah “Immanuel” (God with us) and the “Prince of Peace.” God’s presence and peace are connected. Peace isn’t something apart from Himself. He is our peace. Wherever He is, peace reigns.

This Christmas season, you may find yourself in the middle of stress, conflict, or uncertainty. **Don’t wait until things settle down to look for God. Invite Him into the middle of your storm.** His peace isn’t fragile; it doesn’t depend on everything being perfect. It’s strong enough to quiet your heart even when life around you is loud.

So, when the chaos presses in, remember: Peace isn’t found in the absence of trouble, rather in the presence of Jesus.

I leave you with this scripture.

*“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid” John 14:27*

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Sheila



# Nativity Sunday

Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm is the day of our special Christmas program. It's focused on the Christmas story and lets the entire congregation share one of their favorite manger scenes with the rest of the church. While the children are listening to the story of Jesus's birth and doing a craft, adults can go around the fellowship hall and view the different nativity scenes shared by various church families. (The church will be open on Saturday, from 1:00-3:00 so people can set up their nativity and have it ready.) Light snacks will be available, and everyone will have a chance to visit and tour the nativity scenes. Following a provided dinner of a variety of sliders and pasta salad, everyone will journey to the sanctuary to watch the children reenact the Christmas story and sing Christmas carols. The evening will end with a birthday party for Jesus with cake and ice cream. You won't want to miss this special event!



**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

**December 24<sup>th</sup>, 7pm**

**New Years Eve Open  
Communion 6:30-7:30**

**Lakeview United  
Methodist Church**



Lakeview is saddened by the loss of two well-loved members of our church, Dick Thompson and Dave Koontz. We have so many great memories of the giving servants both were at this church. Dick always had a friendly greeting, a teasing joke, and a special talent for organizing the Trustees to find ways to help save money keeping our church up and running. He was an awesome cook known for his delicious biscuits and smoked meat. He was a wonderful guide and friend of Richard Paxton. Driving around in his van, offering to "pick up the elderly" still brings a smile to so many faces. Dave's insight on so many issues and willingness to help in whatever way he was needed continues to be inspiring. He served in so many capacities at the church. He and Barbara led MYF for a while and sang in the choir for many years. Dave was the talented artist who

made our stained-glass windows. The beauty they add to our church is indescribable. He often puttered around the yard weeding, planting, and doing the little things that often go unnoticed. He was a member who put the church first.



Are you still working on one of the “Keys to Building Your Faith?” Remember to bring it back to church and exchange it for a new one. We’ve heard several reports of members noticing their meditation and prayer life have grown with this new focus on these keys.



Lakeview is once again sponsoring Christmas Baskets for needy families at Christmas time. We still have several families that need adopted. A list of what should be provided is also available at the table in the back of the narthex. If you prefer to donate money and need an

Outreach Committee member to shop for you, see Wayne Kersey.



Bible Journaling, Thursdays, 10:00 – 11:00am

## **Lakeview Administrative Council Minutes: Dec. 9, 2025**

**Present:** Karen and Wayne Kersey, Janet Painter, Bob Carpenter, John Humphreys, Kathi McCormick, Pastor Sheila, Becky Child

**Opening:** The meeting was called to order by Karen with prayer.

**November minutes:** Motion was made to accept the minutes from the last meeting and was unanimously approved.

(Bob/Janet)

## Treasurer's report: Janet

Monthly update given. All bills are paid. Insurance was paid this month. Parsonage water bill is down from September. Kent has been helpful with the report.

Linda Thompson has decided to forgive the loan in a donation to the church for the full amount. A list of gifts given in memorial of Dick Thompson was given to Linda and thank you notes were sent.

Benefits for pastor/pension amount amended. Janet plans to lay out salary sheet for Jan. and send it to Robinson. Kathi said she's using the Robinette fund to buy gifts for the shelter and will give the receipt to Janet. Motion made to accept the report was approved. (John/Kathi)

Memorial for Dave Koontz is set for Dec. 19 at the church. Visitation is at noon, service is at 1 p.m. with food to be served afterward. The family is asking for donations to the church in lieu of flowers.

#### **Finance: Karen for Don**

No updates.

#### **Nurture: Kathi for Linda A.**

Thanksgiving cards were sent. Thanks to all who helped with Dick Thompson's service. Christmas cards are going out soon. Memorial reception for Dave Koontz is in the works.

#### **Family ministries: Kathi**

Dec. 14 is the Christmas program from 4 to 6 p.m. with family Nativity displays, children's program with Nancy, songs and birthday cake for Jesus. Kent will play the music. Setup for the Nativity displays is Saturday. Keys to Faith initiative is ongoing.

#### **Worship: Sheila and Karen**

Christmas Eve there will be a traditional candlelight service at 7 p.m. Amy Iddings plans to sing O Holy Night. On New Year's Eve, there will be Communion and an open altar available from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. to let everything go before 2026 begins.

For Fifth Sunday services next year, the church would like congregation representatives to work with the pastors, so all perspectives and input are considered. There also needs to be a discussion about childcare availability.

#### **Trustees: John H.**

New washer installed in parsonage. Daniel the custodian reported a water leak in the hall, but none was found. Discussion about the flooring installation and options. A leak in the heater by the water fountain was previously valved off.

**Music:** Bob says the hunt for a piano player continues. Reaching out to more schools in the area. Position to be posted on the church's Facebook page as well.

#### **Outreach: Wayne**

Church is doing 12 food baskets for Christmas this year. Lists are available, and six baskets remain. Delivery should take place by the Monday before Christmas at the latest. Holding off on the shoe ministry until about Feb.

**Staff gifts:** Bob discussed the way gifts are divided, following donors' requests.

**Pastor Sheila**

Charge conference was a success. Report from the administrative board called in-depth and thoughtful. Current paperwork is in the filing cabinet. After the first of the year, the rest of the paperwork and storage needs to be organized.

**Other business:**

Karen announced the board planning session will be Jan. 13 at 6 p.m. with dinner provided. Committees should meet before then to have items ready to add to the 2026 calendar.

Pastor Sheila closed the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes submitted by Becky Child.