LABC
Worship, Witness and Work
...Striving to embody peace and wholeness in a broken world.

TRANSMITTER

OF THE LAKESHORE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
3534 Lakeshore Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

November, 2022

On the first Monday of October, I was at the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty offices across the street from the US Supreme Court Building on Capitol Hill in Washington DC for the annual meeting of the BJC Board of Directors. While the board reviewed BJC's work of advocacy, education and litigation in support of faith and freedom for all, the court with, newly seated Associate Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson asking questions, was hearing a case pertaining to federal clean water regulations. A historic day.

Court cases pertaining to religious liberty have been much in the news recently. Unfortunately, many of those cases have involved people and businesses claiming that their religious freedom has been unfairly restricted by laws requiring that other civil rights be respected. One of the most noteworthy cases from the most recent court was *Kennedy v. Bremerton*, decided by a 6-3 majority, in which the court held that a public high school football coach had a free speech right and free exercise right to pray on the 50-yard line, holding that the facts did not violate the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment.

Of this decision BJC's General Counsel, Holly Holman, writes, "Viewed upon the facts alone, the decision may be explained as simply upholding a line between individual prayer that is protected by the First Amendment and government-sponsored prayer that is prohibited by the same amendment. It provides no support for official school-sponsored religious practices. Nor does it support religious exercises by school officials that expressly coerce student participation."

Still, there is reason for concern about the way this ruling will be understood and implemented by school districts across the country and concern for the direction

the court seems to be heading in interpreting religious liberty. The BJC insists that two religious clauses of the First Amendment, no establishment and free exercise, need to be held in healthy tension. The current court seems to be dedicated to advancing a doctrine of free exercise that undermines the equally important principle of no establishment.

This concern is represented by the question, “Would the court have ruled the same way if the coach in question was Muslim, Jewish, Sikh or Buddhist rather than a conservative white Christian?” If not, under the guise of supporting free exercise, it is actually establishing one brand of Christianity as entitled to unique protection under the law.

These are important concerns. Former Justice Sandra Day O’Connor explains it this way. “Government endorsement of religion sends a message to nonadherents that they are outsiders, not full members of the…community, and an accompanying message to adherents that they are insiders favored members of the primal community.”

There is work ahead for those of us who believe that faith is most meaningful when it is a matter of free expression rather than a matter of required behavior.

Jim Hopkins

*Published in Piedmont Post
Religion Corner
October 2022

Pastor of Public Witness — Allison J. Tanner

During November, the Sanctuary Working Group (SWG) will highlight immigrant Californians seeking pardons from Governor Newsom in order to stay with, or return to, their communities and families. We will share their stories and invite you to take action on their behalf. Each of these individuals was unjustly detained by ICE after completing their jail or prison sentence. While the SWG laments the failure of the California Senate to pass the VISION Act, legislation to end such unfair ICE transfers, we continue to advocate for those seeking healing from these harms and prevent, or undo, their deportation from their homes, families, and communities.

During November's **Public Witness Forum**, November 6 at 11:45 a.m., we will hear from Sithy Bin, whom I met on my recent Pilgrimage to End Detention. Sithy is a father, a community leader, and a person of deep faith. He will share his testimony and ways we can help prevent his deportation. You can read more about Sithy's situation at bit.ly/sithytoolkit.

November's **Public Witness Bible Study**, November 1 and 2, will explore the work and witness for a World Without Walls, as we join with this international movement for intersectional justice, freedom, and equality for all people.

Between Dixie and Zion: Southern Baptists and Palestine Before Israel, November 3 at 4 p.m. This public webinar will feature Dr. Walker Robins discussing his book of the same name and Rev. Dr. Allison Tanner providing a pastoral response and discussion. This webinar is part of the series Making Baptist History Public History. Contact Pastor Tanner for registration info.

Crisis in the Holy Land: What We Can Do, Monday, November 14, 5:30 p.m. at LABC. Rev. Dr. Don Wagner, longtime advocate of Palestinian rights and scholar of Palestinian Liberation theology and the evils of Christian Zionism will share reflections from his recent trip to Palestine, insights from his new book *Glory to God in the Lowest: Journeys to an Unholy Land*, and ideas for how we can respond to the crises our Palestinian brothers and sisters are enduring.

Pastor of Christian Education — Carolyn Matthews

Living in Community

If it seems as if my messages have been repetitious – you are not far off. In order for Lakeshore to be the ministering body of Christ, in order for our church to fulfill its ministry and mission, we need each person that God has brought to our community. Our gifts help to fulfill the work and our varied experiences help us to connect with one another. "*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort,* [4]*who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God*." (II Corinthians 1:3-4) Of all that we do, the most important is being the caring, loving, kind, family that Jesus exhorted us to be. "*A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.* [35] *By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another*." (John 13:34-35) If you find yourself wondering where you belong or have questions please connect with one of the pastors or ministry leader/department or committee chair.

That being said, life continues to go with its challenges and opportunities. There are students facing midterm exams and high school seniors (of which my twin granddaughters are included) figuring out what comes next. Yet each day brings with it ever new possibilities. *"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.* [23]*They are new every morning*; *great is your faithfulness*." (Lamentations 3:22-23) May we each persevere in the knowledge that God is always with us through the comforting presence of the Holy Spirit.

Ministering Together in Christ,
Pastor Carolyn

For those reading the *Transmitter* online, click here for link to **Time and Talent Survey.**

Church Calendar for November

Department Meetings:
Educational Ministry November 6, 8:45 Zoom;
Social Concerns November 9, 6 Zoom;
Stewardship November 13,12:30 Zoom;
Worship and Congregational Care November 22, 7:05 Zoom.

Other Meetings and Events:

Between Dixie and Zion November 3, 4 (Contact Pastor Tanner).
Public Witness Forum November 6, 11:45 Pastor Tanner's Zoom Account.
African American History Month Planning Meeting November 7, 7 Zoom.
Sanctuary Working Group November 8, 7 Pastor Tanner's Zoom Account**.**
[Flick Flack November 11, 6:30 Charlene and Jerry Wolf Residence]
Forever Young November 12, 1:30 Family Room and Zoom.
Crises in the Holy Land November 14, 5:30 Sanctuary.
Church Council November 15, 7:05 Zoom.
Congregational Business Meeting November 20, Following Worship Sanctuary.
Packing Thanksgiving Bags November 20, Following Business Meeting Narthex.
LABC Reads November 26, 9-10 Zoom.
Advent Decorating November 27, Following Worship.
LCC Advisory Board November 30, 5:30 Zoom.

Weekly Meetings
Sunday at 11:45 AM – Adult Bible Study (Zoom and in person)
Tuesday* at 6:00 PM – Adult Bible Study, Zoom
Wednesday* at 10:30 AM – Bible Study and Prayer (same as Tuesday), Zoom
Thursday at 6:00 PM – Together in Spirit Bible Study, Zoom
Saturday at 10:00 AM – Time for Prayer, Zoom

First Tuesday and Wednesday of each month, Public Witness Bible Study.

The church office is closed on Fridays, November 11 (Veteran's Day) and November 24 and 25 (Thanksgiving Holiday). Pastor Hopkins day off is Friday. ***Transmitter*** deadline is **November 21 (December 1 mailing –** la**ter date due to holidays**).

November, 2022 Preaching Schedule

November 6 (All Saints Sunday, Service of Communion) Pastor Hopkins, Preaching

"As They Did, Rather Than What They Did"

Luke 6:20-31 and Ephesians 1:11-23

The early culture and context of early Christianity is very different than our own. Thus, we honor our spiritual ancestors by doing as they did rather than what they did.

November 13 The Reverend Dr. Chris Schelin, Preaching

November 20 (Pledge Sunday, Thanksgiving Sunday, Reign of Christ Sunday, Congregational Meeting Following Worship, Packing Thanksgiving Bags) Pastor Hopkins, Preaching

"**Reign of Christ"**

Luke 23:33-43

One of the lessons of Reign of Christ Sunday is that our government is not God and our nation is not worthy of worship.

November 27 (First Sunday of Advent, Hanging of the Greens Following Worship) Pastor Hopkins, Preaching

"Cities of Faith and Fury"

Isaiah 2:1-5

Jerusalem is central to the prophet's vision of peace. It, like most cites then and now, is a city of faith and fury.

Time Change Sunday is November 6. Put your clocks back one hour on Saturday night!

CHILDREN AND YOUTH KORNER

A Time to Give Thanks

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praises to the Most High. (Psalm 92:1, NLT)

November Greetings to Each of You:

We hope that you are safe, well, and school is going well. It is November, which means we will be celebrating Thanksgiving, with Christmas not that far behind. Again this year, I want to remind you that it is a good time to take time to "say thank you."

Of course we should take time to thank God, but how about those who take care of us. Even though there are things people do for us every day because they love us, but maybe surprise them with a "thank you." It is also a good time to maybe write down each day one thing for which you are thankful until Thanksgiving Day. It will be something special to share when the family meets for the Thanksgiving dinner.

This is also a time we can think about how to help Ms. Sheila and the Hunger Task Force provide thanksgiving dinner and gifts and food for Christmas. There are ways to help make this a special time for others and appreciate those who are around us everyday.

With Joy,
Pastor Carolyn

Don't miss the Harvest Festival and Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 29, 10:00 AM, here at Lakeshore

November Youth Birthdays	
1	Matthew Glann
23	Jazmyne Wilkinson
28	Aida Hart
29	Makaylah Russell

Sunday Adult Bible Study

The final four lessons of this quarter will take us on a journey into the book of Psalms as we move toward the season of Advent. When we meet for prayer on Saturday mornings, we begin our time with the reading of one of the psalms. Over the last few months we have found a range of emotions by the writers of the psalms. Of course there is joy, but also we find distress, hurt, abandonment, and many pleas to God for intervention to bring about justice and protection. The last lesson of the month ushers in the season of Advent with the topic of joy.

November 6 – **PROTECTION**: A Holy Refuge (Psalm 17:1-9)
November 13 – **PRAISE**: A Holy Imagination (Psalm 98)
November 20 – **ASSURANCE**: God is with Us (Psalm 46)
November 27 – **JOY**: The House of the Lord (Psalm 122)

The Adult Bible Study Class meets on Sunday after worship at 11:45 a.m., in the church library and on Zoom. Please join us!

Flick Flack

November's gathering for Flick Flack will take place at the home of Charlene and Jerry Wolf on Friday, November 11 at 6:30. The address is 25837 Clausen Ct., Hayward. The film chosen is *The God Committee*, a 2021 drama film. The film focuses on organ transplant systems and the impact they have on the people involved. It is an adaptation of Mark St. Germain's play about a group of doctors tasked with deciding which of three patients should receive a heart transplant.

Each person/couple is asked to bring an appetizer of their choosing. From 6:30 to 7:00 we will share appetizers and conversation. At 7:00 we will view the film and follow with a discussion. If you want to join by Zoom, please watch the film via a streaming platform (e.g. Netflix) and join our discussion via Zoom at 9. Please let the Wolfs know by Wednesday, November 9 if you would like to attend the discussion by Zoom or join in person (kulmgirl@att.net or 510.537.1702).

Special Coffee Hour

A Coffee Hour will be hosted by Celestine Bennett's family on November 13 after worship in celebration of her 90th birthday.

Congregational Business Meeting - November 20

LABC will hold a Congregational Business Meeting immediately following Worship. The order of business will include the election of officers and 2023 budget review.

Dominican Chorale

The Dominican University Chorale will be performing a variety of pieces for a "A Festive Winter Concert!"

- Haydn - Missa Sancti Nicolai; Holst - Christmas Day; Holst - A Babe is Born;
- Holst - Peronent hodie; Sweelick - Hodie Christus natus Est;
- Kodaly - Veni, Veni Emmanuel; Victoria - O Magnum Mysterium;
- Dello Joio's - A Christmas Carol; Handel - Hallelujah Chorus

Concerts on: Friday, November 18, 7:30 p.m. at Dominican University, Angelico Hall (20 Olive Ave, San Rafael, CA) and Sunday, November 20 5:00 p.m. at San Anselmo Presbyterian Church (72 Kensington Rd, San Anselmo, CA) Tickets on sale in November

(Look for Pastor Carolyn in the First Soprano section)

Hunger Task Force Corner

Thanksgiving Opportunities

Our holiday programs are around the corner! We'll be packing Thanksgiving bags at church on **Sunday, November 20** after the Church Quarterly Business Meeting. If you're interested in helping, please join us. You can also help by donating gift cards in increments of $25 (Safeway, Sprouts, Grocery Outlet or Target) or purchasing turkeys for Berkeley Food and Housing Project and City Team. Please email LABCHungerTaskForce@gmail.com for details.

We also need help with distribution on **Tuesday, November 22**, 9:30 to 11 a.m. at church.

CBSU Drive

As winter is approaching the need for coats, blankets, sleeping bags, and **new** undergarments (boxers, underwear, and socks) is great. We're supporting City Team, St. Mary's, and Berkeley Food and Housing.

Harbor House is also asking for donations of **new** toys (under $10, e.g., simple board games, puzzles) and children's books (new or very good condition).

If you have donations, please drop them at the church, and we will coordinate a pick-up.

Sponsor A Family

If you are interested in Sponsoring A Family or purchasing gifts for an individual for Christmas Season, please email LABCHunger-Task@gmail.com or call Sheila Sims at 510.205.8185.

LABC FOUNDATION

Your donation to the LABC Foundation helps insure that the mission and vision of LABC will continue for the future as well as providing funds for current special programs. Please take time to consider a gift, and there are many types, which will not only benefit the ongoing work of our church, but may also provide some tax benefits to you as we near the end of the year. Although legacy gifts (wills/trusts) are the most commonly seen vehicle, there are other ways to make contributions. On the LABC website, in the GIVE section, you will find an excellent video from Pam Claassen which explains various financial options. In addition, foundation-designated one-time gifts in memory of or to honor a special person or occasion are always welcome in any amount. Planning for the long-term sustainability of LABC depends on all of us, and your gift to the Foundation builds the future of our ministry.

Family News

Sympathies are extended to Kevin Khoo and Chuck Johnston as they mourn the death of Kevin's father.

Our sympathy to Rita Jennings as she and her family mourn the death of her brother.

Our sympathy to Joyce and Angela Sherman as they mourn the death of their mother and grandmother.

From the Mail

Dear LABC Family,
Thank you for the scholarship award! With it being my last year, it has been very beneficial. Thank you for all the support!

—Leilah Clark

Dear LABC,
I hope you all are well! Thank you so much for the scholarship! I truly appreciate your generosity and all you do for me! I am enjoying my sophomore year and will continue to keep you all updated. Thank you so much again. I hope you all continue to stay safe.

Best Regards,
Kendall Harris

Seafarers Ministry of the Golden Gate

Upcoming Key Events

ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST—SATURDAY DECEMBER 10 – 9:30 am
Pancakes date back to Ancient Greece and all across the globe people still enjoy them today. Every country or region seems to have their own take on pancakes. Some are thin and some are fluffy. Some have fruit and some have vegetables. Some are sweet, some are savory. We enjoy them as children and as adults - at any time of day or night. No doubt about it…pancakes are a comforting food that make us feel happy! Join us at the International Maritime Center for pancakes from different countries and cultures as we celebrate the season of giving and sharing. Lively fellowship along with warm, delicious pancakes from around the world will be in full supply as we offer heartfelt acknowledgement and appreciation to our friends and supporters who have volunteered throughout the year[s].

LABC MOBILE MISSION

Mobile Mission is the communication portal to LABC. Once set up, you can easily and securely send your tithes and offerings from your phone. You also will have access to groups, send prayer requests, and access the church directory. To add Mobile Mission to your phone, you will need to access your Playstore on your Android phone or App Store from your Apple phone and search for Mobile Mission (Blackbaud). Search and select Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church. Create and sign up for access. Be sure to use your email address given to LABC. If you want to use the website, you may access Mobile Mission through the website portal at https://labcoakland.blackbaudfaith.com/. Sign up, and follow the instructions. If you are interested in Zoom instructions or a demonstration at church, please contact the church office or Sheila Sims.

Bible Reflections From Pastor Jim - The Challenging Book of Judges

Judges 2:20a Then the Lord would become furious with Israel and say...
In the theology of the ancients, God felt things deeply.

Judges 3:7a The people forgot the Lord their God...
A frequent phrase in Judges, an often-repeated story in human history.

Judges 4:4 Now Deborah, the wife of Lappidoth, was a prophet, and she was serving as a judge for the Israelites at that time.
In the world of the ancients, as well as in the theology of the ancients, women had agency.

Judges 5:1 On that day Deborah and Barak, son of Abinoam, sang this song...
In the theology of the ancients, partnerships between women and men mattered.

Judges 6:15 Gideon replied, "But Lord, how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least important member of my family."
As the kids (and adults) learned at camp this summer - God is surprising!

Judges 6:39 Then Gideon said to God, "Don't be angry with me; let me speak just once more. Please let me make one more test with the wool. This time let the wool be dry, and the ground be wet."
We are not unlike Gideon, we have a hard time believing that the Holy One can work through people like us.

Judges 7:9 That night the LORD commanded Gideon, "Get up and attack the camp; I am giving you victory over it."
The battle and conquest themes of Judges are best interpreted as metaphors for the inner battles we all face against hate, greed, selfishness, prejudice and fear. We do not win these battles on our own.

Judges 8:38 They were not grateful to the family of Gideon for all the good that he had done for Israel.
Every society faces the questions "Whom do we remember?" and "How do we remember them?" Our crafting of history shapes our future.

Earth Stewardship Task Force Corner

Awareness aside, I know I repeat myself a lot in this column—probably because so much that we need to observe and sometimes what we do does not seem to change much. I do believe that some industries are beginning to notice a definite change in important conditions by working on ways to make their products more sustainable. We should be aware of the dangers from experiencing violent weather events with ever increasing severity; war, creating pollution waste and destruction, (e.g., Ukraine and other hot spots); inflation; and sometimes indifference because merely taking care of oneself, family and friends can be overwhelming in itself sans the external worries. But many of these items are connected to our overall well being. Our goal should be to assist in minimizing carbon use and supporting circular goods recycling production—where retired items are reclaimed and finish back where they started and can be repurposed.

What can any single person do? Anything constructive we do will matter more if we encourage others to follow. I found a booklet sponsored by PG&E from 1990 full of suggestions on saving energy. "Using energy more efficiently has some impact on land, water and air, so savings soften the impact on the earth." More than 30 years later, some of these ideas are still new to many, but easy to do, even while there have been many new developments and inventions (pro and con) addressing the climate crisis. The trick is like healing: do the exercises and take the "medicine" even though the results may be slow to be noticed. The reward, though, could include lower bills and other savings like fresher air. While I've made suggestions before, the first item I saw in this booklet was news to me: installing low-flow aerators on all your faucets can save 50% of normal water use but feel as before because the water is mixed with air, also saving energy. My shower head is like that—but the sink faucets can be altered as well. The book mentions things we should have been doing already like insulating homes, using curtains to control heat, double-pane windows; reducing use of appliances, checking for air leaks, changing light bulbs, etc. Many home issues can save us energy. Reducing our rather expansive habits takes time, but is good for us as well as the earth. Things have changed dramatically in the 30 plus years and are now more serious than ever! So we must be too. Be sure to vote as best you can for your values and have a Happy Thanksgiving.

—Mary Sue Meads

November BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to all November birthday folk

3 Wally Bryen
4 Jewelle Gibbs
5 Rafael Soto
8 Cameron Wilson
9 Celestine Bennett
Camille Parker
11 Pamela Fingar
12 Yulanda Smith
21 Jim Hopkins
Virginia McClow
23 Tova Rasmussen
24 Christopher Schelin
Darshan Thaker
26 Ruben Artery
Tyrone Mack
27 Vincent Harris
29 LaRhonda Alexander
30 Margaret Alexander
Don Dresser

Save the Dates:

The following are some important upcoming events that we hope you won't miss:

December

18 Blue Christmas
24 Christmas Eve Service (TBD)

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3534 Lakeshore Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610

CHURCH STAFF

H. James Hopkins, Senior Pastor
Kay Baxter, Business Manager
Mikki Boyd, Minister of Music
Stan Fong, Organist
Sandra Lee, Ministry Associate
Tyrone Mack, Sexton
Carolyn Matthews, Pastor of Christian Education
Allison J. Tanner, Pastor of Public Witness
Rae Rita F. Thompson, Lakeshore Children's Center Director
Charlene Wolf, Staff Assistant

Church Office: 510.893.2484
Church Website www.labcoakland.org
jim@labcoakland.org
kay@labcoakland.org
allison@labcoakland.org
carolyn@labcoakland.org
assistant@labcoakland.org
lakeshorechildrenscenter@gmail.com