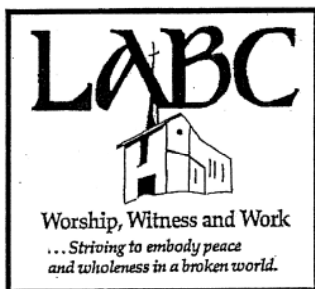




*Lakeshore Avenue
Baptist Church*

3534 Lakeshore Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610

**ONLINE
TRANSMITTER
APRIL
2024**



TRANSMITTER

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

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

April, 2024

A Reflection on My Daughter's Spiritual Journey

In November of 2023, shortly before the beginning of Advent, my daughter called to say that she had decided to seek confirmation in the Catholic Church and that she needed a letter to the priest of the church she was joining certifying that she had been baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I responded as follows:

December 2, 2023

This letter is written to confirm that Kristen Anne Phillips (Hopkins) was baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit by me on Easter Sunday (April 3) 1994 in a service of public worship at Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church.

I am happy that Kristen (my beloved daughter) is continuing her spiritual journey by becoming part of the Roman Catholic tradition. It is truly the mother church to which she is turning. I commend her to your care.

May the Peace of Advent guide us all this season.

The Reverend Dr. H. James Hopkins

Now, as Easter approaches, she will be confirmed on Holy Saturday, March 30, 2024. Last week we were talking about this and I told her I wanted to write about her decision and asked her to summarize the main reasons for her decision. Her answers are important. At least to me, they represent not a repudiation of religious tradition in which she was raised, but rather a testimony to the human longing for a spiritual home, a community, a tradition, a place, in which our souls can thrive.

With the understanding that that there is no single church that is right for everyone, I share her responses.

- 1) *I really needed a spiritual connection. Whenever I would get on my knees and pray, the images that filled my mind were of candles, crucifixes and statues of Mary. They were kind of like a vision of what I wanted as well as what I needed. These are all much more a part of the Catholic tradition than they are of the Protestant. They are images that give me peace.*
- 2) *When I went to worship at the Catholic Church it felt sacred. I got a sense of reverence. When I come back to Oakland and go to church at Lakeshore. I get that same sense but I didn't in the other churches I visited up here except in the Catholic Church. (She lives in the Northwest.) If Jesus is the Savior of the World, it should feel like it is the most important thing there is.*
- 3) *Ever since I started attending the Catholic Church, I feel like I am part of something big, like I really am a part of the story of the Bible.*

I am glad for the insights Kristen is learning and the community she is experiencing. I don't think that her reasons are the exclusive property of the Catholic tradition and that they may be found, and are found, in other churches. Yet, she is finding what she needs there and I believe it is more important to affirm her lived experience than to engage in a theoretical argument about whether she could find what she needs elsewhere. It is far more rewarding to celebrate the fact she has found a spiritual home.

That being said, we will need to agree to disagree on some teachings such as the real presence of the Body of Christ in the Eucharist. She finds this to be an important teaching. I find it to be one that is more a source of confusion than a source of comfort. As of this writing, neither of us is moving much on the topic. We love alike but do not think alike.

I look forward to worshipping with her when I next visit her family. She will always be welcomed with open arms when she comes to Lakeshore. The spiritual journey has many time tested paths. It is not a single track. I urge us all to find a path that connects us to the rich and diverse story of God.

The first two weeks of April I will be traveling. April 2-3, I will be at my alma mater, Eastern University (just outside Philadelphia), speaking to students and seminarians, as well as preaching at their chapel service. (My father was a long-time board member of Eastern, and my time at Eastern will honor his love for the school.)

April 8-10, I will be in Washington D.C. with *Christians for a Free Palestine* (<https://christiansforafreepalestine.com/>). Our presence at the capital will mobilize our Christian voice and collective power to advocate for peace with justice in Palestine/Israel, challenge Christian Zionism and demand an immediate and lasting ceasefire. While there, I will also participate in Churches for Middle East Peace's Advocacy Days.

April 11-13, I will be in Charlotte, North Carolina, representing Lakeshore at the Alliance of Baptist's Annual Gathering. Their theme is "Decolonizing the Great Commission: Reimagining Partnership in Ministry." I will be facilitating a workshop on "Partnering with Palestine to End Apartheid." I anticipate this gathering will provide rich content for future Bible Studies and sermons!

Although I won't be present, there will be a Public Witness Forum on April 7, featuring LeAnn Flesher (Dean of Berkeley School of Theology), Alice Kabaganwa (LABC's ministry intern) and additional BST students who traveled to Rwanda in January. Lakeshore was able to contribute to Alice's ministry of providing health care to many in the area.

Additional highlights of April include a visit from Angela (Sherman) Arias and her husband Jesse on April 28, and a Public Witness Bible Study April 30.

After Easter – What Now?

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:7-11)

Easter came early this year so there was a big crunch on working on various projects on the church calendar. March has been a busy month but (hopefully, prayerfully) we made it through. Now what?

In reading the gospels, we find several variations of what the disciples did after the crucifixion and before the women came and told them that the tomb was empty. They were in hiding, not knowing who might be coming for them. After Jesus’ ascension, we have the words from the book of Acts that are at the beginning of this article. They went back to Jerusalem and the final preparation for the work ahead of them began.

So we too look ahead and begin. Ministry continues and the church calendar is full of opportunities to serve. Is there a specific calling of your heart? What brings you joy? Fulfilling our calling need not be burdensome. Being a part of a church community, we provide support for one another and we, as a community, are called to help and equip one another for the work of service.

March proved to be a busy time in our church community. We prepared for the events at hand but we were also looking forward to the “now what” time in the church calendar. We urge you to prayerfully consider where you are called to serve/help as we continue our journey individually and as a part of the body known as Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church. It takes all of us working together to carry out our calling to one another and the wider community.



Growing Together in Christ,
Pastor Carolyn



Upcoming Events

Vacation Bible Camp



The dates for **Vacation Bible Camp**, are **July 15-19**. The theme is: Scuba: Diving into Friendship with God. This year we will be taking our bible adventures under the sea. We will learn about undersea creatures through the bible buddies:

 - Tad -a frogfish;  Finnley – a dolphin;  Fisher – a seal;

 Waylon – a whale; and  Octavia – an octopus. The bible points: “God is a friend who’s real; thanks God!” “God is a friend who loves; thanks God!” “God is a friend we can trust; thanks God!” “God is a friend forever; thanks God!” “God is a friend for everyone; thanks God!”

All Church Retreat



The dates for the all church retreat are **August 2-4**, at Redwood Glen. The leader for adults will be Rev. Paul Schneider, Executive Associate Minister of Operations and Administration. Some of us had an opportunity to meet Rev. Paul last year and recently, as he continued our training in consensus decision making.

April 2024 Worship/Preaching Schedule
Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church
Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.

- April 7 (30th Anniversary of Rwandan Genocide, Communion Sunday, Second Sunday of Easter, LABC Outreach Offering supports LABC Scholarship Fund)
Pastor Jim will preach
“Needed: A Fierce Devotion To Each Other”
Psalm 133
From April to June in 1994 – 30 years ago – more than 800,000 Rwandans were brutally murdered by fellow citizens in a state-led assault targeting the Tutsi ethnic group. There are lessons to be learned. Tragedies like this are not like the weather. They don’t just happen.
- April 14 (Hunger Task Force Fair, Third Sunday of Easter)
Pastor Jim will preach
“Sleep In Heavenly Peace”
Psalm 4
The psalm leads us to the prayer – “Good night, God, and thank You!”
- April 21 (Earth Sunday, Fourth Sunday of Easter)
Pastor Jim will preach
“The Gift of Green Pastures”
Psalm 23
Green pastures are not just a pleasant experience, they are an imperative for human life.
- April 28 (Fifth Sunday of Easter)
Pastor Jim will preach
“Don’t Stop Thinking About Tomorrow”
Psalm 22: 25-31
A commitment to the well-being of future generations makes a difference today.

Church Calendar for April

Department Meetings

Educational Ministry April 7, 8:45 Zoom
Social Concerns April 10, 6:30 Zoom
Stewardship April 14, 12:30 Library
Worship and Congregational Care April 23, 7:05 Zoom

Other Meetings and Events

Public Witness Bible Study April 2, 6:00; April 3, 10:30, Zoom
[**Ceasefire Walk** April 5. Not yet confirmed. April walk schedule to be announced.]
Public Witness Forum, April 7, featuring LeAnn Flesher (Dean of BST)
[**Flick Flack** April 12, 6:30]
Sanctuary Working Group April 9, 7:05, Pastor Tanner's Zoom
[**Ceasefire Walk** April 12. Not yet confirmed. April walk schedule to be announced.]
Forever Young April 13, 12:30, Family Room
Church Council April 16, 7:05, Zoom
LCC Advisory Board April 24, 5:30, Zoom
[**Ceasefire Walk** April 19. Not yet confirmed. April walk schedule to be announced.]
LABC Reads April 20, 9-10, Zoom
Realm Training for LABC Leaders April 21, 12:30, Family Room
[**Ceasefire Walk** April 26. Not yet confirmed. April walk schedule to be announced.]
Cole Stanford Concert April 27, 6:30, classical and traditional musical favorites.

Weekly Meetings

Sunday at 10:00 a.m. - Worship Service, Sanctuary, YouTube, Zoom
Sunday at 11:45 a.m. - Adult Bible Study, Church Library, Zoom
Second Sunday at 11:45 a.m. - Grief and Loss Ministry, Church Library, Zoom
Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting, Zoom
Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. - Bible Study, Zoom
Tuesday, April 30 at 6:00 p.m. - Public Witness Bible Study, Zoom
Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. - Bible Study, Zoom
Thursday at 6:00 p.m. - Handbell Ensemble Rehearsal
Thursday at 7:00 p.m. - Voices of Lakeshore Choir Rehearsal
Saturday at 10:00 a.m. - Time for Prayer, Zoom

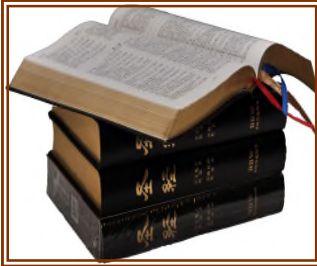
April 7 LABC Outreach Offering supports **LABC Scholarship Fund**

The church office is closed on Fridays. Pastor Hopkins' day off is Friday.

The deadline for May *Transmitter* input is April 11.

The May *Transmitter* will be mailed April 25.

Sunday Adult Bible Study



Post Easter the Sunday School lessons point out the importance of community. The lesson for April 14 is “Authenticity: ghost stories” from Luke 24:36-48. Jesus proved who it really was him and not a ghost when he met and ate with the disciples. The remaining lessons will talk about how to live in community, working together, and making sure we include everyone into the fellowship of believers.

April 7 – **FELLOWSHIP**: making community (Psalm 133)

April 14 – ***Grief and Loss Group Meets***

April 21 – **PEACEMAKING**: care above conflict (1 John 3:16-24)

April 28 – **INCLUSION**: the gospel is for everyone (Acts 8:26-40)

We encourage you to join us each Sunday at 11:45 am in the church library or via ZOOM. You are invited to join in our lively and timely conversations and studies.

Tuesday Night and Wednesday Morning Bible Study in April

The Psalms will be the theme of both Tuesday Night and Wednesday morning Bible Study in April. On Tuesday evening, April 9, we will meet in person at 6:00 in the Family Room. Our special guest will be Rabbi Allan Berkowitz of Faith In Action East Bay. Rabbi Allan will be talking about the Psalms and his new book, **The Psalms: A Guide for the Heart and Soul**. He will both sign books have copies of the book available for purchase. Rabbi Allen is a delightful person and a faith leader of great wisdom so ease make plans to attend. A light supper will be served.



LABC Reads – April 2024

We are reading “*Miracle Creek*,” by Angie Kim. We will meet to discuss on Saturday, April 20, 9 -10 on Zoom.



Children and Youth Corner

You Can Help Others!

¹² *Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity. (I Timothy 4:12, NLT)*

In another bible passage people were bringing children to Jesus, but the disciples turned them away. Jesus told them to let the children come to Him so He could bless them. All of us, no matter our age, are important to God. And God gives us the ability to help others. Here is a letter that two of the children of the children's Sunday School class wrote with their teacher, Ms. Yvonne, to a young person who was praying for someone but did not see any changes in the person they were praying for.

Dear _____

We want you to know that God is listening to your prayers.

We are the kids at Ms. Yvonne's Sunday School. We wanted to tell you that God is always listening, sometimes it just takes time to see the change happening.

*Ms. Yvonne told us how you pray about this troubled boy (first of all, that's AWESOME). But God will be with you till the end. If you have any more questions, write to Ms. Yvonne and you'll get our response in a few days.
(Sunday School)*

No action is too small. A kind word goes a long way, especially when someone is hurting. You too, can let God's love shine through you!

With Joy,
Pastor Carolyn

Join us for Vacation Bible Camp, July 15-19. We will be taking an adventure under the sea: "Scuba: Diving into Friendship with God."

Hunger Task Force Corner

Save the dates! The Hunger Task Force's Spring Business Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, April 14th at 12:30**. The Hunger Task Force Faire featuring the agencies we support will be held during Coffee Hour. HTF agencies will also participate in the Forum that day. And the 42nd Annual Hunger Walk is scheduled for **Sunday, June 2**.

Designate your gift to the Hunger Task Force at www.labcoakland.org/give.



April Flick Flack



“The Holdovers” is the film Flick Flack has chosen for April. Viewers are invited to Dale Edmondson’s home on Friday, the 12th, at 6:30pm. “The Holdovers” is a 2023 American comedy-drama film. Set in the winter of 1970–71, it stars Paul Giamatti as a strict classics teacher at a New England boarding school who is forced to chaperone a handful of students with nowhere to go on the Christmas break. The film was named one of the top 10 films of 2023 by the National Board of Review and the American Film Institute.

Those attending are asked to bring hors d'oeuvres or desserts to share. The film will be shown at 7:00 and the discussion will begin at 9:00pm. Those planning to attend should call Dale by Wednesday before the viewing. Those who wish to view the film at home (\$6 on Prime Video, Apple TV and Peacock for subscribers) may participate in the discussion by securing Zoom information from Dale, also by Wednesday before.

Earth Stewardship Task Force Corner



April is Earth Month. Earth week surrounds Earth Day, Monday the 22nd. I checked out some information on events happening over the weekend, Sat. (20) and Sun. (21). The East Bay parks have coastal cleanups in several places along the MLK regional shoreline, and also offer hikes in various parks with a focus on nature. Listings of events can be found on-line under Earth Day. The original Earth Day began in 1970,. Since then, it has become a global event with fairs and related educational programs, (at least pre-pandemic) reminding us of how important it is to pay attention to Earth's continually increasing needs for sustainability. Encouragement on how we are doing to keep our planet safe for generations to come has finally become so important more people are paying attention and some are trying to figure out the best ways to adapt our habits, skills, and interests to maintain the safety that will fit our current ways of life. These behavioral changes may take a while, but we haven't much time to make some adjustments. We use and waste far more than most people on the rest of the planet. Unfortunately, a major problem blocking sufficient action is that commercial organizations anticipate that our behavioral changes will result in a loss of income for them. This concern motivates them to support distracting advertising, enticing us to continue making useless purchases that often are a waste of money. On the other hand, buying less may reduce jobs, impacting worker income. Because history shows us that job categories and services always change, I believe this issue can be conquered. President Biden has encouraged some businesses that were sent to Asia (particularly China, but other places as well) to return to the U.S. We can make our own products in many areas, as we have done in the past. We still have wealthy companies and billionaires that bribe politicians to slow down any climate action, dismiss urgency, and avoid public discussions about the problems caused by fossil fuels, electronics, plastics, and other things sold to maintain a profit while delayed correction costs increase. They want to get as rich as possible as soon as possible, without considering that the negligent avoidance of more than half a century is causing more disasters every year. We could hope that every day could be Earth Day. We are reminded annually that all is not quite well, and sustainable action is essential. We can learn about climate history, what disasters are blamed on human activities, new things we can do that are healthful and sustainable, and we can discover what others are already doing. We can find videos or movies on the subject. We can join or support ecology-strong groups. There is much to be done on the behalf of our planet that is very important for our descendants.

—Mary Sue Meads



Save the Dates

The following are important upcoming events that we hope you will not miss:

- April:** 7 Public Witness Forum featuring LeAnn Flesher (Dean of BST)
 14 Hunger Task Force Spring Business Meeting
 30 Public Witness Bible Study
- June:** 2 42nd Annual Hunger Walk
- July:** 15-19 Vacation Bible Camp
- August:** 2- 4 All Church Retreat

Dominican Chorale Spring Concerts

The Dominican Chorale Spring concerts will include the following works:

Mozart - Ave Verum Corpus and Laudate Dominum

Vivaldi - Credo

Bach - Cantata No. 4 (Christ lag in Todesbanden)

April 25, 7:30 pm

Dominican University

Angelico Hall

20 Olive Ave

San Rafael, CA

April 28, 4:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church San Anselmo

72 Kensington Rd

San Anselmo, CA

Mozart - Ave Verum Corpus and Laudate Dominum

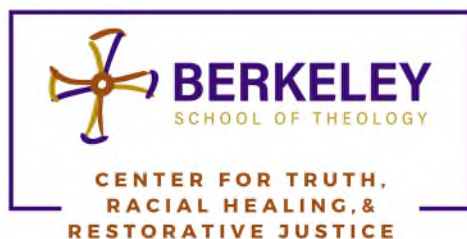
Vivaldi - Credo

Bach - Cantata No. 4 (Christ lag in Todesbanden)

Tickets available through Dominican University website (Dominican.edu/chorale)

Save the Dates, cont.

Center for Truth, Racial Healing, and Restorative Justice presents “From Here to Equality” book signing with Dr. William Darity Jr. and Kirsten Mullen. **Wednesday, April 17, 6 - 7:30 pm at Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church.** Light refreshments will be served. Read more [here](#).



Wednesday, April 17, 2024

From Here to Equality BOOK SIGNING with Dr. William Darity Jr. and A. Kirsten Mullen

6:00-7:30pm

Lakeshore Ave Baptist Church, Oakland

Limited copies for purchase, or bring your own.

Light refreshments will be served.

Thursday, April 18, 2024

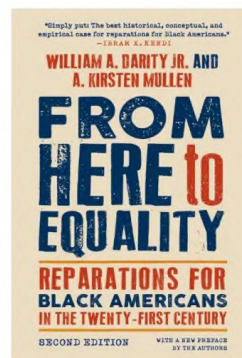
RECEPTION ON THE PATIO

6:00-6:45pm

LECTURE: Dr. William Darity Jr. and A. Kirsten Mullen

7:00pm

BST Campus: Karpe Hall



TRANSMITTER

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

CHURCH STAFF

H. James Hopkins, Senior Pastor
Kay Baxter, Business Manager
Mikki Boyd, Minister of Music
Sandra Lee, Ministry Associate
Tyrone Mack, Sexton
Carolyn Matthews, Pastor of Christian Education
Allison J. Tanner, Pastor of Public Witness
Teresita Aricaga, Lakeshore Children's Center Interim Director
Barbara Hunt, 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