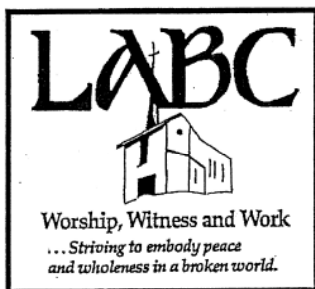




*Lakeshore Avenue
Baptist Church*

3534 Lakeshore Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610

**ONLINE
TRANSMITTER
JULY
2024**



TRANSMITTER

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

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

July, 2024

Family,

A few weeks ago, after my friend, Rabbi Allan Berkowitz came to Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church to talk about, and lead a study based on his new book **The Psalms: A Guide For the Heart and Soul**, I began the practice of reading one psalm a day and writing a short prayer in response.

This is my entry for the 38th psalm –

38:9 O Lord, all my longing is known to you; my sighing is not hidden from you.

Loving God, Thank you for being there at 2:00 a.m., in those moments when the world is quiet but our minds are not. Amen.

I am prone to having moments when the world is quiet but my mind is not. This has been exacerbated in recent days by the diagnosis that I have prostate cancer. It seems that the diagnosis has been made in a timely fashion and that the cancer is slow growing. Yet, cancer is a scary reality.

I am in the process of consulting with several doctors about a course of treatment and will soon determine what actions to take. I am grateful that I am facing what lies ahead as part of a team consisting of medical experts, a loving family, a caring congregation, wise colleagues and an ever present Creator.

Even so, I am going to limit my schedule in this time of treatment and discernment. I may miss a meeting or two, a gathering or two or Sunday or two. I do not think that isolation will be helpful but neither do I see a schedule that is full to over-flowing as conducive to getting well.

Big picture, there is work I want to do and goals to pursue; things I am not ready to lay aside. I remain very committed to seeking the peace of Oakland. My most fervent hope is that Oakland will one day be known not as a city of violence, but as a city of peace.

In the weeks ahead I am likely to return to Psalm 38, and to Psalm 46 as well –

46:2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way; and mountains fall into the heart of the sea.

Holy One, Even when the crisis before us seems to unfold in slow motion and things we have counted on seem to be slipping away inch by inch, help us to be shaped by love rather than driven by fear. Amen

The prayers of the Lakeshore community will be a source of great encouragement.

Peace,

Pastor Jim

P.S. Shortly after writing this my Beloved was diagnosed as having Parkinson's Disease. Thus, we face significant health concerns together. Our practice has always been not to speak for each other but to stand with each other. We enter a new chapter of living that practice out.

Pastor Jim

July 9 – Lakeshore’s Sanctuary Working group invites you to a film showing of *ALL WE CARRY*, a new documentary about migration and accompaniment, on Tuesday, July 9 at 6:00 at the church (and via zoom). Following the film there will be a panel discussion with the filmmaker.

ALL WE CARRY follows one family’s extraordinary journey as they flee persecution in Honduras and endure months in US detention. Upon release, they are sponsored by a synagogue in Seattle and move into a borrowed home, all while they await their asylum verdict. Over three years, the family navigates countless life-altering and every-day moments where memory, joy, and grief collide.

July 21 – RIDE FOR PALESTINE - Team Lakeshore is again riding for Palestine in support of Middle East Children’s Alliance (MECA)! Some are riding on July 21, the day of the main event, and others, like me, will ride beforehand. Team Lakeshore invites you to join us! [Register here](#) to sign up for the ride, or you can [support Team Lakeshore here](#) – all proceeds of this ride go to MECA’s emergency work in Gaza.

At the May council meeting, I was asked to provide a history of my work with Lakeshore in support of the Palestinian quest for freedom, justice and equality. Below is the history of our Public Witness:

2017 – I first travelled to Palestine and saw and heard their suffering.

2018 – I returned to Bethlehem to meet with Palestinian Christians and the international Christian community joining in solidarity.

2019 – I led a 3-part Bible Study on [A Moment of Truth: A Word of Faith, Hope and Love From the Heart of Palestinian Suffering](#). This document, written in 2009, is a Palestinian epistle to the international church. Following the Bible Study, which included a call to boycott companies profiting off of Palestinian oppression, Lakeshore voted to boycott Hewlett Packard.

2020 – I began ministry as Lakeshore’s Pastor of Public Witness, with one of my focuses being Lakeshore’s global commitment to justice in the Holy Land.

Sept 2022 – I attended a convening of North American Christians to discuss a coordinated Christian response to Israeli apartheid. This convening was in response to Palestinian pleas to take action and in recognition of the consensus of international human rights organizations (including Israeli human rights organizations) that Israel enacts apartheid.

Dec 2022 - I led a 3-part Bible Study on [A Dossier on Israeli Apartheid: A Pressing Call to Churches Around the World](#), written by Palestinian Christians and their partners. The Bible Study attendees recommended approaching the church council to take action.

Jan-April – Church council learned about Israeli apartheid and considered the Apartheid-Free pledge. Council agreed to present the pledge to the congregation for consideration.

April 2023 – I presented the Apartheid-Free pledge to the congregation and the church agreed to begin a consensus process in which the congregation would actively learn about Israeli apartheid. The church requested information sessions, including a conversation with Jewish partners, which took place over the summer.

Sept 2023 – September’s congregational meeting was a time of deep listening to people’s thoughts on the Apartheid-Free pledge and what it would mean for Lakeshore to sign.

Oct – Dec 2023* – Following the Oct. 7 attacks by Hamas, council agreed to table our decision on the pledge, worried about the timing of a decision so close to the attacks. In November, I was asked to suggest other ways the church could support Palestine in this moment. In early December, Lakeshore participated in an interfaith action in support of Palestinian rights. At December’s council meeting, I presented, and council agreed, to hang a Ceasefire banner outside the church. On Christmas Eve, following worship, Lakeshore hung a Ceasefire banner as part of an interfaith service of prayer and lament with our larger community.

Jan – Feb 2024 – Council discussed the process of decision-making regarding the Ceasefire banner and agreed to move the banner to the fence. We placed an interpretive document about our Ceasefire banner on our website.

March 2024 – LABC hosted an Interfaith Ceasefire Pilgrimage and continues to participate in public witness for an end to all violence, including structural violence.

May 2024 – Council agreed to wait 3 more months before revisiting the Apartheid-Free pledge, and to continue to engage in public witness of behalf of Gaza.

*Since October, several members of Lakeshore have participated in prayer, protest and public witness for an end to violence in Gaza, Oakland, throughout the Middle East, and around the world.

Pastor Allison

Theology of Hope

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1, NRSVUE)

On June 3 of this year, theologian, Jürgen Moltmann, passed away. His book, "Theology of Hope," was my introduction to him and his thinking and it became the reference point for my Master's thesis on the Negro Spirituals. There was some reluctance on my part when my advisor suggested Moltmann, a 20th century German theologian, as a focal point for my work. What insight, I wondered, could be garnered from his concept of hope? What I found was a theology that resonated with the message of more than a few of the spirituals.

Hope is not passive, wishful thinking as some see it. This quote from Moltmann's *Theology of Hope*, solidified my continued research into him and his writings as it pertained to my study of the spirituals: "...*faith, wherever it develops into hope, causes not rest but unrest, not patience but impatience. It does not calm the unquiet heart, but is itself this unquiet heart in man. Those who hope in Christ can no longer put up with reality as it is, but begin to suffer under it, to contradict it.*" And in another of his books he writes: "*From the black perspective, Christian hope means participating in the world and making it what it ought to be.*" Many of the spirituals reflect these ideas.

As we look at the turmoil in our communities and the world, the news of Moltmann's passing reminded me of the invigorating impetus found in hope. It sometimes seems the more we do to try to alleviate suffering the more people there are who are hungry, in need of housing, looking for refuge, and trying to protect themselves and their families from the ravages of war and oppression. Yet, rather than give in to despair, we continue to hope and do the work of ministry that God has placed in our hands to do as the body of Christ.

As we wish and pray and hope for things to be different, we actively work and seek ways to help bring change. So, we continue to meet, preach, teach, pray, encourage, grieve, rejoice, listen, and sing: "*Keep your hand on the plow, hold on,*" "*I'm gonna live so God can use me anytime and anywhere,*" "*I shall not be moved.*"

Growing Together in Christ,
Pastor Carolyn

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

- July 7 (Communion Sunday, One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, Kay Baxter Recognition)
Pastor Jim will preach
“There Are Prophets Among Us”
Ezekiel 2: 1-5, Mark 6:1-13
Human communities tend not to recognize the prophets in their midst except through the rear view mirror.
- July 14 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Pastor Jim will preach
“Very Interested In Religion”
Mark 6: 14-29
Herod is an example of a political leader who was very interested in using religion to his own advantage. We know a few of those.
- July 21 **Vacation Bible Camp Celebration**
- July 28 Pastor Allison will preach



Philippians 4:6-7— Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Church Calendar for July

Department Meetings

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

Other Meetings and Events

Sanctuary Working Group July 9, 6:00, hosting movie night, All We Carry.
[Flick Flack July 12, 6:30]
Forever Young July 13, 12:30, Family Room
[Ceasefire Walk July 12, 6-8 pm. St. Columba, 6401 San Pablo Ave.]
Church Council July 16, 7:05, Zoom
[Ceasefire Walk July 19, 6-8 pm. Williams Chapel Baptist, 1410 10th Ave.]
LCC Advisory Board July 24, 5:30, Zoom
[Ceasefire Walk July 26, 6-8 pm. St. Benedict's Church, 2245 82nd Ave.]
LABC Reads July 27, 9-10, Zoom

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
Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. - Bible Study, Zoom
Saturday at 10:00 a.m. - Time for Prayer, Zoom

July 7th LABC Outreach Offering supports One Great Hour of Sharing

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

The deadline for submitting August Transmitter content is July 11.

The August Transmitter will be available July 25.

Upcoming Department of Education Events

Vacation Bible Camp, July 15-19



Vacation Bible Camp, July 15-19

Theme: Scuba: Diving into Friendship with God!

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!"

The dates are July 15-19, 8:30 am -12 noon. The cost is \$35.

There is still time to help us prepare before camp and during the week of camp. We encourage our high school students to be crew leaders for the week. Here is the link to volunteer and/or to register children for camp:

Questions? Contact Pastor Carolyn: carolyn@labcoakland.org.

Volunteer registration: vbspro.events/p/lakeshore2024

Participant Registration: vbspro.events/p/lakeshore2024

Sign Up Today!

Vacation Bible Camp



Upcoming Department of Education Events...continued

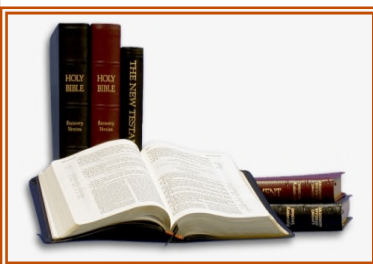


All Church Family Retreat, August 2-4, Redwood Glen

The theme for the new church year (which begins in September) is introduced at the retreat in August. The new theme will be: "Love Your Neighbor as Yourself." In ministry and caregiving do we take the time to practice self-care? It is difficult to pour from an empty vessel. In our time together at the retreat we will learn that loving and caring for ourselves is important as we learn to love and care for one another. The church retreat provides the opportunity for us to fellowship together outside of Sunday in the beautiful, nurturing environment of Redwood Glen.

The leader for the adults will be our Evergreen Associate Executive Minister of Administration and Operations, Rev. Paul Schneider. Sign up soon. Retreat sign up forms will be available each Sunday in the Narthex. Scholarships are available. Also, if you have been to and enjoyed the retreat and are able to do so, consider contributing to the retreat scholarship fund so others might share in the experience. Register TODAY - [2024 Retreat Registration Form Link](#)

Sunday Adult Bible Study



The lessons for July continue the call on us to consider how to face the challenges in life. Our lives consist of times of joy, adversity, and confronting the times when we travel the wrong path. In these situations, we can feel defeated/afraid, or we can push/pray our way through. All the while we are called to remember the Holy Spirit is with us, in us, and ready to lead and guide us on our way forward.

July 7 – GRACE: Seeing the Glass of Life as Half-full (II Corinthians 12:2-10)

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

July 21 – COMPASSION: Balancing Self-care with Care for Others (Mark 6:30-34, 53-56) (this lesson speaks to the theme for the church retreat)

July 28 - DECEPTION: The Messy Cover-up (II Samuel 11:1-5)

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

Kid and Youth Corner



July Greetings to You All:

We send congratulations again to all of our graduates and promotees. Our prayer for each of you, and all the children and youth, is that you will have a wonderful, fun, and safe summer with family and friends. And speaking of summer in a few days we will be taking a diving adventure under the sea.

Vacation Bible Camp: This year's Vacation Bible Camp theme takes us deep under the sea:



The dates and time are **July 15-19, 8:30 am - Noon**. Each of us will have the opportunity for "diving into friendship with God." On day two our bible point is: "God is a friend who loves; thanks God!" Together we will hear the story of Jonah and learn that God loves ALL people. In "Imagination Station" we will "experiment with different modes of transportation and discover how God's love empowers us." Our bible buddy for the day, Finnley, the dolphin, teaches us that we can live, work, and play together with those we love. And, of course, there will be games, songs, snacks, and fun being with one another. We hope to see you there!

[Click here](#) to register

[Click here](#) for a video about Scuba

All Church Family Retreat: The Church Retreat, **August 2-4**, gives us one more opportunity to play and learn together before the new school year begins.

Either at camp and/or the retreat, may we find the time to grow in our friendship with God (and one another)!

With Joy,
Pastor Carolyn



Hunger Task Force Corner

Greetings HTF Members, Friends, & Supporters,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you, again, for your support in making the Hunger Walk happen. What an impressive Hunger Walk we had! We had over 71 walkers who signed up for this event. We had walkers as distant as North of Canada and as South as Australia!!!! Thank you to the many supporters who showed up for the walk. We want to thank each and every one of you for your support, dedication, and participation. Special "Thank you" to the City Team Men's Group and to Rick from Insight Housing (formerly known as Berkeley Food and Housing Project) for walking with us in support of our mission to help provide food and housing for those in need.

Thank you to HTF Kitchen Staff who prepared the lunch: Jerry & Charlene Wolf (Top Chefs), Sylvia Taylor-Smith, Cynthia Taylor, Connie Hector, and Sandra Lee. Thank you to Tyrone Mack for making my life easier by setting up the tables and helping with carrying the groceries. Thank you to George Harper for your dedication as Treasurer.

Hunger Walk was a remarkable success because of you. You rose to the challenge! We are more than halfway to our goal of \$20,000. We would like to thank David Menninger for raising over \$1200 and David Gattey (\$850), Jim Hopkins, Allison Tanner, Paige Bence-Lee, and Sheila Sims for raising over \$600.

It is never too late to donate in memory or sponsor those who have walked. You may give at www.labcoakland.org/hunger-task-force/give.

For more information, please send a FB message or email us at LABCHungerTaskForce@gmail.com.

In July 2024, we're kicking off our annual back-to-school drive. We're supporting both CityTeam Ministry and Family Support Services. We will have a sign up sheet in the Narthex beginning July 7th. On **Sunday, July 28th**, please join us by helping to assemble around 150 backpacks after church. If you would like to donate supplies or make a monetary donation, please contact Sheila Sims or Lari Mussati. You can also send email to hungertaskforce@labcoakland.org.

CityTeam will need help distributing backpacks to families on **Saturday, August 3rd**. Please stay tuned for details on time and location.

From: Sheila Sims

July Flick Flack



Flick Flack - "One Life," with Anthony Hopkins is the film to be viewed and discussed at the July 12 Flick Flack. In the film, London broker Nicholas "Nicky" Winton helps rescue hundreds of predominantly Jewish children from Czechoslovakia in a race against time before the Nazi occupation closes the borders. Fifty years later, he's still haunted by the fate of those he wasn't able to bring to safety.

Hors d'oeuvres and desserts will be enjoyed at 6:30. The film will be shown at 7:00 and the discussion will begin at 9:00. Those planning to attend should contact us by Wednesday, July 10. Those who wish to join the discussion but do not plan to attend should arrange for a Zoom link to be sent to them.



LABC Reads Schedule June 2024 – October 2024

The group, LABC Reads, meets on the last Saturday of each month at 9 AM on Zoom. The following is the schedule of books to be read from June through October:

Meeting Dates	Books to Read	Author
June 29	James	Percival Everett
July 27	The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store	James McBride
Aug. 24	The Golden Calf	Helene Tursten
Sept. 28	The Contestable Church	Christopher Schelin
Oct. 26	The Left Hand of Darkness	Ursula K. LeGuin

Earth Stewardship Task Force Corner



I have found a few helpful actions that we can take to reduce the full extent of unaddressed climate changes. You've heard many of these before, but reminders can help spur action. The organization, Ocean Conservancy, lists a basic action plan: reduce (what you think you need), reuse (find other ways), recycle (where it is possible). Do not use chemical fertilizers or pesticides in your gardens since the fluids end up in the ocean downstream. When dining, try to select sustainable foods (organic). When purchasing, try reduced packaging. Packaging is a major contributor to trash. Try to always vote "green." The magazine Green America often explains why certain actions are important. A recent issue discussed the kitchen, suggesting to avoid wasting food. Wasted food is another major trash problem. Check use-by dates. Consider that dates of concern do not mean the food is bad, but is not at its freshest, so sniff before tossing. Don't put leftovers in the back of the refrigerator where they may be forgotten and spoil. Plan your meals to include leftovers. Store food properly. Try to find places that can use extra food, such as distribution sites for food insecure people (e.g., Alameda's food bank and free pantries.). Check for any toxic chemicals that you might have (e.g., non-stick cookware, paints and stains.) Read contents. Try to avoid palm oil (present in many food products.) Do not cook with plastics. When it is possible, purchase items in containers that can be recycled, such as paper, cardboard, glass or metal. Reuse bags that you already have. Sadly, the number '1' on plastic packages doesn't always mean it can be recycled. I have noticed several newspaper articles related to solving problems that suggest solutions that are like band-aids on the ocean. Completion dates are often 2050, rather than an earlier date, like 2030. Of course, the earlier date would be difficult, but some experiments are working for us sooner. Avoid unsatisfactory solutions, like plastic bags. Be aware that paper bags reduce trees, creating another problem, because trees do so many positive things for us. Look for green plastic bags made from corn or bags labeled 'compostable' and/or "EcoSafe". Harvest leftovers, such as sugar cane or corn, can be used for plastic rather than be burned. Burning is an old method of clearing spent crops. I have heard that not all "green" plastic bags are truly recyclable. We must pay attention to the contents of all options that we consider. Bags containing poop go to trash. Our job is to be more frugal about packaging, traveling, eating—etc. There are so many life-style change options that it is hard to be consistent. 'Trying' can still help us towards our goal, a sustainable future for our descendants. Like any major change in life, try focusing on a few items at first. Conquer those and then add another reforming item to your list. Paying attention to making habit changes for ecology is important.

—Mary Sue Meads



Save the Dates

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

- July:** 7 Kay Baxter retirement recognition luncheon, following worship
- July:** 9 Documentary film, *All We Carry*, 6:00 p.m.
- July:** 15-19 Vacation Bible Camp, 8:30 a.m. - 12 noon
- July:** 16 Ride for Palestine
- July:** 28 Assemble backpacks for Back to School Drive
- August:** 2-4 All Church Family Retreat, Redwood Glen



TRANSMITTER

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

CHURCH STAFF

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

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