

Lakeview United Methodist Church

St. Albans, WV

Sheila Radochio, Pastor



Shrove Tuesday Community
Pancake Supper
Lakeview UMC
February 17th, 5-7pm

Mark your calendars for this all-you-can-eat special event. Sponsored by the Nurture Committee. See Linda Ancion if you're interested in helping.



Lakeview UMC will have our Spring Yard Sale on the same day as the SA Citywide Yard Sale, Saturday, May 2nd. Let's start downsizing, cleaning out and organizing what we will be able to donate.

January 2026 Newsletter

A message from Pastor Sheila.....

During the Christmas Eve service, you heard me mention that a gentleman who was part of my home church growing up had passed away and this past Sunday, Baptism of the Lord Sunday, I again mentioned West Milford UMC as I spoke of my baptism and how seriously they took the vows they made to help guide me in my faith.

As I was thinking about what to write in this month's newsletter, I kept going back to the words "Church family"!! I know that you do not have to attend a church to be a Christian, however, you are missing out on an important part of the Christian life and that is what you get from a church family.

Ephesians 2:19 says "*Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household.*" Even 2000 odd years ago, Paul was telling people the importance of a "Church family"!! Today's culture has what I have heard called "bunny believers", people who hop from church to

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church, not knowing what they are looking for, so they are never able to find that church home that is so important. They don't realize that need to be looking for accountability, commitment and the love of Christ, so they just keep on looking, till there is nowhere else to look.

I on the other hand think a church family is an important part of a Christian's life. If you follow Christ, it's important to be committed to a specific community of believers. Being part of a church family is one way to show you're a genuine believer. Jesus said, "*By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another*" (John 13:35).

Your commitment to Lakeview is a visible sign that you follow Jesus, but it also strengthens you as a believer. When you meet with your church family, you receive motivation and encouragement from others, and you provide motivation and encouragement to them.

Maybe you've had a great week and feel like you don't need to go to church. But if you don't show up at church, someone will miss out on the encouragement you could provide.

And if they're on the edge of hopelessness, your warm smile or kind words might make all the difference. That's what it means to be the church.

Here's the truth: Christians need each other to grow. Many people think spiritual growth is a private matter, but God calls believers to live out their faith in community. You can't develop a deep faith in isolation.

When people from different backgrounds, races, and social statuses come together in love as a church family, it becomes a powerful witness to the world. As Galatians 3:28 says, "*You are all one in Christ Jesus*"!

I am blessed to be part of the Lakeview UMC family!

In Christ,
Pastor Sheila



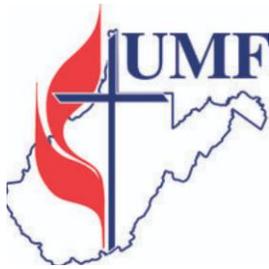
Remember to pick up a key in the back of the sanctuary from our

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“Keys to Building Your Faith” board. Each key has a suggested Bible verse, prayer, or way of serving others you can do during the week that will challenge and build your faith. Take a key, return a key, build a closer relationship with God.



Lakeview United Methodist Church is so blessed to receive a yearly financial gift from the United Methodist Foundation in memory of Ron and Nancy Gooding, faithful members of our church for many years.

Thank you to all the families who provided Christmas baskets to 12 needy families.

Our church bulletin boards are absolutely beautiful. Special thanks to Kathi McCormick and art director, Bob White.



Family Ministries is sponsoring a “Share the Love” event on Sunday, February 8th, from 1:00 – 3:00pm, for all ages. Cookie decorating, games, special art activities making cards, snacks, etc., are all being organized so we can prepare tins to be gifted to Braley Care Homes, a care home specializing in Alzheimer’s and dementia care. Lakeview UMC, looking for ways to share God’s love in the community.



The Outreach Committee is sponsoring a canned food drive for the St. Albans Food Pantry. Donations can be given January 25th, February 1st, and February 8th. Cans

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of soup or any type of canned food would be greatly appreciated.



The Administrative Board had a brainstorming session to set some overarching goals for the year.

- Increase faith for members, friends of Lakeview, and the community
- Share love through support of others in the congregation and community
- Build an increase in our social media presence, Website, and music program
- Increase revenue for the church and giving to others
- Purge, declutter, and organize our facility
- Establish meaningful small groups

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January 2026 Administrative Board Meeting – 1/13/26

Present: John Humphreys, Don Griffith, Sheila Radochio, Kathi McCormick, Kent Sowards, Martha Keene, Janet Painter, Linda Ancion, Karen & Wayne Kersey

The meeting opened with prayer by Karen. The December 2025 minutes were approved (Martha, Linda).

Treasurer's Report: Martha reported all bills are paid and W-2's for 2025 have been handed out. The Thompson loan forgiveness of \$4,000 is now designated in Parsonage Management. Funds in the Wedding Account will be moved to the General Fund. (Don/Kathi)

Finance: Don reported 14 pledges have been received for \$51,040. Regular unpledged givers approximately add another \$7,880. Voted to keep apportionment payment to \$600/mo. (a little over 50% requested) and District

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Promotion to \$46.50 (100%).

(Don/Linda) Additional money can be designated depending on funds available.

Nurture: Linda Ancion reported that Christmas cards were sent to several older parishioners who have moved. Tuesday, February 17th, 5:00-7:00pm is a Shrove Tuesday Community Pancake Dinner at Lakeview. Our Spring Yard Sale will be May 2nd, in conjunction with the City Yard Sale.

Trustees: John Humphreys will organize a Spring Clean-Up list on a tear-off sheet for people to sign up to help. He has called the city about the deep hole dug in our parking lot because of a water issue.

Appreciation was shared for the effort and hard work Chris Davis contributes to our church. After a discussion on the need to charge more for sharing our parsonage, it was suggested that John/Don present a financial recommendation to the Board at our next meeting.

Family Ministries: Kathi McCormick reported the “Keys to Building Your Faith” program will continue and be promoted. An awareness of members who are hesitant to drive after dark and the necessity for child care at events was discussed. “Share the Love” will be a family event on February 8th, 1:00-3:00pm with cookie decorating, games, snacks, a variety of activities for everyone. We will put together Valentine boxes for Braley Care Homes, sharing the love with Alheimers and dementia diagnosed adults.

Outreach: Wayne reported snack bags will continue at Lakewood Elem., mitten tree for Sojourners, Undie Sunday, canned food for Souper Bowl Sunday, a shoe ministry at Lakewood and Anne Bailey, Christmas baskets, and support for the Gabriel Project for new mothers with needs. We will create a Lenten Calendar again with tabs you pull off to determine what

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money should be donated (the more “stuff” you have, the more you will be asked to give) to a local charity need.

PPRC: Karen reported for Bob that he continues to seek ways to secure a music director/organist for our church.

Pastor Sheila: She discussed the need for some support for the Worship responsibilities, interest in a “Passing of the Peace” addition to the service, information on services regarding 5th Sunday community gatherings and Lenten services. A discussion was held with a variety of viewpoints, several indicating they would prefer to conduct the Lenten services separately from the other churches, not always wanting to have so many “whole city” services. Sheila will share and discuss with the other two pastors. A friend of one of the Koontz family offered to donate a plaque for the church as a memorial for Dave Koontz creating our beautiful stained-glass

windows. The group was supportive and following up now with the details regarding contacting the family and appropriate wording.

Pastor Sheila closed with prayer.

**Minutes taken as substitute for
Becky Child (W Kersey)**