

Lakeview United Methodist Church, September 2026 Newsletter

St. Albans, WV

Sara Lamb, Pastor

An Invitation to Prayer. . . I read an article on the “Religion News Service” by The Rev. Wesley Granberg-Michelson. He writes that, “The world is becoming more religious, not less.” Can you believe it? It’s not just “other,” non-Christian religions that are growing in numbers. Since 2018, over 123 million new Christians were added in Africa. There are now 754 million Christians in Africa, making it the continent with the greatest number of Christ followers.

Sometimes we think our U. S. American experience is the only truth or reality. Yes, the U.S. Christian church **is** in decline. The fastest growing “religious groups” in the United States are the “nones” (no religion at all) and the “dones” (been there, done that, and I don’t want anything else to do with the Church). But the good news is that people continue to hear and respond to the Good News of Jesus Christ, and people continue to choose to

follow Jesus. The places where people are most enthusiastically responding to the Gospel? Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

In our United Methodist family, the Korean community represents one of the fastest-growing parts of the Church and is known for effective mission and ministry. A young pastor shared that she had the opportunity to take part in a group conversation with a Korean United Methodist pastor, and someone in the group asked, “What is your (the Korean UM’s) secret? How are your churches growing when so many are declining? How are you doing such powerful ministry?” The Korean pastor responded, “There is no ‘secret.’ We pray. We seek God’s guidance and God’s will. We are a Spirit led church, not a human led church.”

Years ago, I led a Bible study by Henry Blackaby called “Experiencing God.” Blackaby points out that so often, we make our plans (we even make our plans for ministry), and after we’ve figured out what we want to happen, and what would make our ministry or event a “success,” we present it to God and ask God to make it happen. Too often we start with ourselves: our plans and what **we** want. That’s backwards. **Ministry starts with God.** Blackaby writes, “We don’t choose what we will do for God; God

invites us to join Him where He wants to involve us.”

Brothers and sisters in Christ, I invite you to join with me in praying that we will be a **Spirit led** church. Pray with me that God’s Holy Spirit will lead us in ministry and mission in our community and in our world. Let us pray for hearts, minds, and spirits that are clear about how God is calling us to live out our life together as a faith community. Let us pray that we will be faithful disciples of Jesus, growing daily in our walk with Jesus, in our love of Jesus, and in our love of one another and our neighbor. Let us pray that we will be faithful in making disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God’s Peace,
Pastor Sara



Our Fall Yard Sale is Oct. 3rd, 8:00-noon. Beginning Saturday, September 19th, the tables will be set up and ready for you to bring your donations to the Fellowship Hall. We need

lots of help setting up and pricing things. We will sell hot dogs and need everyone to bake goodies to also sell, already bagged/wrapped in 75 cent portions. Questions? See Linda Ancion. We need everyone’s support to have a successful sale!



Tea for All, Free for All

On Sunday, October 25th, at 2pm, Lakeview is hosting a Tea with a slide presentation of nature photographs by Becky Child, followed by a craft activity so we can fellowship together and enjoy spending time with friends. Make plans to come and bring a friend! For those who would love to see

Becky's slides but might want to slip out before the tea/craft fellowship part begins, we'll be presenting the slides first. The only thing you need to bring is a pair of scissors.



Chair Yoga at LUMC, Tuesday & Thursday, 9:30am. Come get fit and enjoy some fellowship.



Bible Journaling is Tuesdays, from 10:00 to 11:00.



LUMC Fall Covered Dish Dinner Sunday, Nov. 8th, 5pm. Bring your favorite fall dish to share!

STOP HUNGER

The Race Against Hunger 5K Run/Walk is Saturday, September 26th at 9:00 AM. Lakeview United Methodist Church donated \$100 to this worthy cause. All proceeds go to the SA Food Pantry. For more information, or to get a participant application, talk with Wayne Kersey.



This month is "Cereal September" at the SA Food Pantry. Please bring a box or two of cereal to church and place them in the basket in the back of the sanctuary. The SA Food Pantry thanks you in advance!

Charge Conference for LUMC will be Wednesday, October 28, at 5:30pm, at St. Paul UMC in Nitro. This year they will be conducted as a parish.



Save the date! Advent Program at LUMC will be Sunday, December 13th. More details soon!

Lakeview Administrative Council Minutes: Sept. 15, 2026

Present: Karen and Wayne Kersey, Bob Carpenter, Martha Keene, Kent Sowards, Linda Ancion, Don Griffith, Kathi McCormick, Becky Child, Pastor Sara

**Opening: Karen
The meeting was opened with prayer.**

August minutes: Motion made to approve the minutes that appeared in the last newsletter

**and unanimously approved.
(Kent, Wayne)**

Treasurer's report: Martha and Kent

Monthly update given. All bills paid. E-prayer chain contribution added to report. Kathi gave an update on the Robinette fund. Karen asked that receipts be placed in an envelope for Martha with the total circled and labeled with a name. Motion made to approve the treasurer's report and unanimously approved. (Bob, Linda)

Finance: Don

Discussion on parsonage projects and multipurpose room A/C units. Kathi's brother Wesley has offered to help. Pastor Sara will get information about the A.J. Humphreys building fund grant. A motion was made to proceed with replacement of both units taking advantage of Wesley's offer of supervision of the installation and based on grants and funding available to begin before the end of March 2027 at his projected cost. Motion approved. (Kathi, Linda)

Trustees: Kent

Too early to light the furnace. Wesley will also look at the furnace. Furnace filters need changed at the parsonage. Water fountain is fixed (put a lock on the valve, the drain is plugged up). A/C in nursery is fixed. Jeep for sale in the parking lot is approved for up to 2 months and if it is moved for the yard sale and other big events at the church.

Nurture: Linda A

Yard sale is Oct. 3 from 8 a.m. to noon with hot dogs and bake sale. Package items in 75-cent servings. Set up begins this Saturday at 9 a.m. Help when you can. Fall dinner is Nov. 8 at 5 p.m.

Family ministries: Kathi

Attended a training at St. Timothy Episcopal with Nancy Smith on Godly Play for multi-age groups. Plan to start with Advent season. Oct. 25 is Tea for All Free for All with Becky's nature slides, tea from Martha and a craft from Karen. Dec. 13 will be a birthday party for Jesus.

Worship: Becky

Banners in sanctuary will be updated in December, per the schedule. Prayer list is changing with cards to be available before church and then delivered to Pastor Sara, plus space on back of bulletin for notes.

Outreach: Wayne

Snack bags have started up again at Lakewood. No shoes needed at this time.

September's food pantry request is cereal. Sept. 26 is the Race Against Hunger. The church gave \$100, with total sponsorships up to \$6,000 so far. Christmas baskets are coming. We will do 12 again this year, following the lists provided.

SPRC: Bob

No piano player yet. Asked Pastor Sara to put something about it in the district news.

Pastor's update: Sara

District Day is Sept. 22 at 5 p.m. at Forest Burdette, RSVP is requested. Charge conference this year is by parish not charges and taking place Oct. 28 at 5:30 p.m. at St. Paul's in

Nitro. Need charge conference reports from last year.

Nominations, finance, budget, etc. need to be approved before the conference. One board model discussed. Oct. 13 is the next administrative board meeting.

Karen raised the issue of pastor salary and how we should revisit the 78/12/10 split.

Martha requested that folks make a note when the printer cartridge is changed.

Pastor Sara closed the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes submitted by Becky Child.