

LAKESIDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
LAKESIDE LANTERN
SHARING THE GRACE OF GOD IN OUR 62ND YEAR

MARCH

**When We Think of our Church
and the Church of the Future
Are We An Attractional or Missional Church?**

**What Kind of Church Will They Inherit?
From Bishop Ken Carter's Blog**

September 09, 2015



Second in a series of reflections on Fresh Expressions, the Florida Conference and United Methodism and our mission with the "Nones" and "Dones."

An important distinction in recent reflection about the church has centered around the words "attractional" and "missional." An attractional church sees itself as the center toward which people and resources flow. A missional church sees itself as a gathering from which people and resources flow toward the world. Attractional absorbs people into community. Missional sends them out. And of course most healthy and vital congregations are both attractional and missional.

The categories of "nones" and "dones" (Pew Research Center, U.S.), "non-churched" and "de-churched" (Church Army Research, U.K.) make it clear that the renewal of the church will not occur as we add new and different worship services or develop clever advertising campaigns (the British call them "schemes"!) to attract the outsiders to come in. Indeed, the conversation about "attractional" and "missional" church is at the heart of the Fresh Expressions movement, although a missional church is not a Fresh Expression, and vice versa.

Fresh Expressions are not attractional. United Methodists will remember an advertising campaign with the words "*our hearts, our minds, our doors are always open.*" The flaw of this campaign, at least for the U.S. context, was that it assumed an attractional church model, in which outsiders would find the insiders to be nice, tolerant and open-minded people. Upon making this discovery, the outsiders would then join us on the inside. And when this happened, praise God!

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But the reality is that a significant number of men and women in the U.S. (and in the U.K.) will never cross the threshold of a church door. This may be due to the actual harm people have experienced from the church through judgment or neglect. It is also the result of conceptions of church in the popular media, where we are portrayed in a consistently negative and irrelevant light. Some of our wounds are self-inflicted, and some of the challenge is what George Hunter calls “*the end of the home field advantage.*”

The self-inflicted wounds would be experiences of clergy misconduct and boundary violation, exclusion of persons from participation in local churches for reasons that appear hypocritical and judgmental, and acceptance of mediocrity in the teaching and preaching office that renders the gospel as boring and irrelevant. The “end of the home field advantage” signifies that we no longer live in Christendom. In the U.S., slightly more than one-half of the population lives in 144 counties, while slightly less than one-half live in almost 3000 counties (see the research of the economist Richard Florida). In these urban areas, the church is certainly no longer on any kind of “home field,” to use an athletic metaphor.

We find ourselves in the present moment struggling with tectonic shifts in church participation, and there are numerous reasons. One term employed in the Fresh Expressions movement helps to explain how we arrived here: the fragile nature of “inherited church.” Inherited church speaks of the orderly process by which a generation passes the faith, wedded to participation in a particular local church, to the next generation or two. And thus in some churches there are multi-generations: grandparents, parents, children and grandchildren. This is increasingly not the reality in the Church of England, where in 48% of the churches there are less than 5 persons under the age of 16. It is true in many of our United Methodist churches, where in a given year there are no professions or reaffirmations of faith; in 2014 in the Florida Conference, 141 local churches (or 22% of our congregations) did not have a new faith commitment. Lovett Weems has noted that the difference in the rural church of today in the U.S., as opposed to 30 years ago, is that the rural church is often not multi-generational. And as Bishop Graham Cray writes in the introduction to Mission-Shaped Church, “the nature of community has so changed that no one strategy will be adequate to fulfill the Anglican incarnational principle in Britain today” (x); this certainly seems accurate in the context of the U.S. and Florida today.

The inherited church model also assumed that we were passing our faith along to the next generations in our church in credible ways. The excellent work of theologian Kenda Creasy Dean is sobering in her identification of “moral therapeutic deism” as the default theology of today’s youth (and their parents!). The following is her definition of the faith we have in fact passed on:

1. A god exists who created and orders the world and watches over life on earth.
2. God wants people to be good, nice and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.
3. The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.
4. God is not involved in my life except when I need God to resolve a problem.
5. Good people go to heaven when they die.

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If the next generations have not inherited our church (because of mobility and limitations of the parish system), and if they have inherited a faith that is less robust than a generously orthodox, trinitarian and biblical one, where are we? Confining our missionary strategy to the traditional parish is clearly not bearing fruit, in either the UK or the US, and among denominations and traditions across a spectrum. The strategic genius of Fresh Expressions lies in its willingness to reclaim the content of faith, to re-center on the movement of the Holy Spirit, and to reimagine church outside the walls of our buildings and outside the hours of our scheduled services.

As the authors of Mission Shaped Church note, *“Perhaps our greatest need is of a baptism of imagination about forms of church.”* God does indeed go before us, in space and in time, and is not confined by our categories of either/or. For the people called Methodist, this is as simple as rediscovering the power of God’s prevenient grace and the call to see the world as our parish. As Bob and Mary Hopkins of Anglican Church Planting Initiatives reminded our study/immersion team this summer, these are indeed some of the most positive characteristics of inheritance, which at times we have neglected, like treasure hidden in a field (Matthew 13).

Questions: So, in your own local church, how is the strategy of attractional church working? And do you assume that the next generation will inherit today’s church?



LAKESIDE SERVICE TO FL UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME AND UMCOR



HOW LAKESIDE HAS BEEN A MISSIONAL CHURCH OVER THE YEARS



UMW SERVICE TO CHILDREN IN THE COMMUNITY-FREE LIBRARY TO ENCOURAGE READING



VBS CHILDREN FILLING BAGS OF SNACKS FOR HOMELESS



COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT



KEENAGERS GIVING TO GRANDMA'S PLACE TO HELP BABIES



PUMPKIN PATCH FOR COMMUNITY AND MISSIONS



MATTHEW MEALS FEEDING THE COMMUNITY



BOY SCOUT TROOP 204 SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

**Lenten Season starts on Wednesday, March 2nd
this year with Ash Wednesday.
Ash Wednesday Service will be in person at 7 pm.**

United Methodists often take the Lenten season to grow and strengthen their faith, spending time reflecting on what it means to be a follower of Christ. Our Lenten Bible Study will be on Wednesday, March 9th at 6pm.

"The Lord's Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer"

"The Lord's Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer," a new book by United Methodist pastor and popular author Adam Hamilton, guides the reader to better understand prayer that Jesus taught us to pray. By exploring the lines and their meanings, we take a look at what we ask of God and what we ask of ourselves while learning how to use the Lord's Prayer as a pattern for our own prayer life.

Matthew Meals

Matthew Meals will be on Saturday, March 26th this month from 4 - 6 PM.

We will follow the most recent CDC regulations for the preparing of the food and providing the food to the public. Due to the new social distancing concept, if people are interested in helping, please reach out to Bob Going 561-951-4533 or Robynne Ryals 561-719-5464.

Good Meals



and Good
Helpers



IMPORTANT!

Our kitchen renovation plans will be starting soon. We regret that we will be discontinuing the Matthew Meals Program after March until the kitchen is finished. We will announce when it will start up again after everything is complete and inspected.

Lakeside Family and Friends,

We hope you all are safe and well.

As you know there are several variants of the COVID-19 virus presenting themselves all over the country. Even though some of them are not as harmful to us, they do spread more easily. Those who have been vaccinated/boosted are able to catch these viruses just as easy as those who are not vaccinated. Please follow the guidelines that we have been asked to follow from the beginning of all of this. Wash your hands frequently, wear a mask in crowded areas, social distance yourself whenever possible, not just for your health & safety, but for the health & safety of those around you.

We are having in person worship on Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

We are observing facial covering and sanitizing guidelines from the CDC and the UM Conference. We want to see smiling faces in worship even if it is behind a mask. We love you all and want us to be safe and together again in God's House.

On Sunday morning we will be live streaming the service on our website.

www.lakesideumchurch.org and on youtube for those of you who do not feel comfortable meeting in person.

We will take prayer requests and special needs through the office via phone (561-585-7519) or email lumc_lw@bellsouth.net.

We encourage you to continue with your giving through your tithes and offerings. Keeping our campus functional and the mission and ministry that we currently support to be maintained; We hope you prayerfully consider supporting the amazing ministry Lakeside UMC is known for. As this situation continues it will have a lasting effect on our community and we want to be the refuge so many will seek.

God is firmly in control and we are confident we will weather this storm together and be stronger in our faith for it.

Book Club 2022 Selections

January Book Club will be on Zoom again. We hope YOU will be ready to join us on MARCH 21ST at Noon.

Here we go again ... COVID-19 concerns.

We thought it would be safe to meet together at Lakeside in the library. Some are having reservations about that and want to Zoom again this month.

Please watch your emails for our final decision. If you do not have email then call the church office if you are not sure where we are meeting as we get closer to the date.

Book Club List for 2022.

MARCH 21: Greater Journey: Americans in Paris by David McCullough. Helen Gilmore, leader

APRIL 18: Defending Jacob by William Landay. Joyce Gooding, leader

MAY 16: That Summer by Jennifer Weiner. Cecilia Broadwater, leader.

JUNE 20: A Psalm for the Wild-Built by Becky Chambers. Clare Shore, leader.

JULY 18: On the Rez by Ian Frazier. Janet Lane, leader.

AUGUST 15: Eternal by Lisa Scottoline. Betty McMurchy, leader.

SEPTEMBER 19: Title not chosen yet. D'ette Mathews, leader.

OCTOBER 17: Hornet Flight by Ken Follett. Anne McCartney, leader.

NOVEMBER 21: selection of books for 2023

DECEMBER 19(?): Christmas Luncheon. Location to be determined closer to the event.

LENTEN AND EASTER OFFERINGS

The following are the Lenten and Easter offering recipients.

Please pray for God's direction as you give generously.

Holy Thursday- Annual Conference Offering

Lenten Offering – C.R.O.S. Ministries

Easter Service- General Fund

United Methodist Women News

There have been so many changes in our lives during the past few months that sometimes fear, frustration and anxiety can creep in on us. We need to remember Philippians 4:6-7: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Find a quiet place to pause and listen for God's voice (from the Upper Room).

The Bookworms Circle and Susanna Wesley Circles won't meet until whenever we can resume meeting at the church. Members will be notified of the next meeting and the meeting schedule will be discussed at that time. The book club that meets at Lakeside has had several zoom meeting for their book reviews. We do not plan to issue a new yearbook now so please use the current one for phone numbers.

Barbara, our Treasurer, has sent our pledge money to the district. Payment of our district pledge is one of the requirements for the Mission Today award. Our pledges also support many local and national projects. Even though the district payment has been made please consider completing your pledge for this year if you haven't done so. You might also consider giving an amount equal to the cost of a ticket to our luncheon that we were unable to hold this year. Make checks payable to United Methodist Women. They can be sent to the church (1901 12 Ave. South, Lake Worth FL 33461) attention Barbara Russum/UMW.

When we do meet to make plans for a new year, we need to consider the following: What can we do to make a difference? How can we improve what we do? Your suggestions and comments would be appreciated.

Nancy Gettys, President
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Nancygettys13@hotmail.com



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Church and Mission giving– Our giving has to be modified to accommodate the reality that not all of us are comfortable gathering in person to worship right now. Electronic giving through PayPal is the best way of giving from home. Many of you are already on our giving platform. If you are not giving electronically, this would be a good time to think about it. You can click on the giving option on our website at lakesideumchurch.org under the GIVING banner

If you prefer to make your gifts by check, you can mail it to:

Lakeside UMC
1901 12th Avenue S.
Lake Worth, FL 33461

2022 Non-Lilies for Easter

In lieu of purchasing a lily plant to decorate the Sanctuary, please consider making a donation to one of the three ministries listed. Simply fill out the form below by choosing "in honor of" OR "in memory of", write the name(s) of the individual(s), designate your choice of fund, and attach your donation. You may use more than one form, if needed. The names of the donors and the honorees will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

DONOR NAME _____

IN HONOR OF _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

AMOUNT (will not be printed in the bulletin) \$ _____

TO BE USED FOR: (circle one)

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)

FL UM Children's Home

Lakeside Pastor's Fund

Lakeside United
Methodist Church

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www.lakesideumchurch.org

David Branson, Pastor

Newsletter Editor:

Carolyn Ludwig

**We have a Place for
You!**

Don't see your
March birthday
listed?
Please let us
know.
Happy Birthday!



March Birthdays

- 2 Bea Ball
- 4 Jane Hamilton
Carole Fields
- 5 Bob Going
- 6 Christina Harden
- 8 David Andrews,
Bill Taylor
- 10 Christopher Morphesis
Heather Willis
- 11 Catriona Chennell
- 12 Marilynne Tilley
- 14 Wendy Hartman
Carolyn Ludwig
- 15 Betty McMurphy
Ena Ruffy
- 25 Shirley Turner
- 27 Dick Fralick
- 28 Michael Garrett

Lakeside United Methodist Mission Statement

Sharing the grace of God through: Worship,
Sacraments, Fellowship, Prayer, Study,
Service, Witness, and Love.

Vision Statement

Be a welcoming church reaching people with
God's love within our community
and beyond.

FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY

**THE CROS FOOD PANTRY IS ON THE 1ST, AND 3RD THURSDAY
OF EACH MONTH IN THE AFTERNOON.**

Remember all you need to bring is a picture ID and something with your current address on it. The next Food Pantries will be on Thursdays, March 3rd and 17th from 4 – 6 PM. We will be partnering with CROS Ministries, who will be bringing the food to pass out from their truck.

At this writing they will still be coming to give out already bagged food to people. Because the Pantry is held outside on the porch if it is raining they do not come.