Mission Statement
We strive to be a welcoming, worshipping community of faith, helping people discover and deepen their relationship with God, growing as disciples of Christ, and reaching out in faith and loving service.

SUNDAY, January 6th
Reverend George Graham
Matthew 2: 1-12
Worship for All Ages
Holy Communion,
Birthday & Hunger Sunday

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd
ANNUAL MEETING OF LAKEWOOD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Immediately following worship, we will gather in the social hall.
Childcare is provided.
Dear Church,

When I was interviewing to become your pastor, I told the search committee that I would not be the kind of pastor who cleans the building. Don’t get me wrong, it is a great privilege to be a steward of 1365 W. Clifton Blvd, but for me that looks more like calling the right people when needs arise than washing the floors myself.

Today I broke that rule. I cleaned the Columbarium with Murphy’s Oil Soap.

As I’m writing this, yesterday Rev. Dr. Lyman Farrar passed away (Dec. 5th). I didn’t have a chance to meet Lyman, though I did exchange a couple of letters with him. Rev. Farrar served as the Senior Pastor of Lakewood Congregational Church from 1979-1994, just as I do now into the foreseeable future. I am grateful for him because, without him, this church would not be the way it is. That is not to say that Lyman was perfect-- none of us pastors ever have been. Still, he and I share something that not many people in this world have the privilege of sharing-- we have been leaders of this beautiful congregation of people, even as it has evolved.

Just an hour or so after I found out about Lyman’s passing, a circumstance arose that required me to open one of the Columbarium niches. I had not yet learned how to do that, so I called someone else who shares that same privilege that Lyman and I share: Mark Thomas. I told him the news about Lyman, and asked for his help learning how to open the niches, so he came to help. As I stood with Rev. Mark in that sacred space, named after Rev. Farrar, I felt so aware of the sacred link between us. We carry confidential stories, unnameable feelings, visions of a future that we won’t see, stories of a bold history… we carry parishioners’ criticisms, conflicts, disappointments, and our own incomplete and broken promises. None of us have been perfect; none of us have been The Messiah; none of us have pleased every church member; but we have all had an undeniable love for Lakewood Congregational Church.

That weight upon my shoulders made me want to do something, and that “thing” became washing the facades of the Columbarium niches with Murphy’s Oil Soap. It’s an oddly sacred thing to tend to final resting places, and Murphy’s Oil Soap invokes Marcel Proust’s observations on “involuntary memory” for me. It brought back memories of prepping my childhood house for houseguests. In a way, I was prepping this house-- for Lyman, for Fern and Teddy Maugans, and for others whom God has called safely home.

In some ways, the year 2019 *will* be a year of cleaning the church. We have some aesthetic needs to address so that we can match this building to the vitality of our congregation. Namely, we are discussing a painting project for the first floor of our building, partially-funded through memorial funds. We are also looking into some basic updating of aesthetics in our entryways and sanctuary. The trick is to not enter into the domino effect of “once we fix one thing, we need to fix everything right away…” and we also must remain mindful of the building maintenance needs that can’t be seen, and the financial implications of those. I feel very confident in the wisdom and intentionality of our executive team in all of these conversations.

2019 will also be a year of discussing staffing needs, particularly as it pertains to Patti Komperda’s retirement in June. The Executive Team is working once again with Leslie Yerkes from Catalyst Consulting to discuss this topic, and I feel so blessed by the level of discernment that we are all putting into it.

I do ask that you pray for us, as I hope you always are, as we work hard to make the decisions that will magnify the ministry of this beautiful congregation. We have so much to be grateful for, and so much to live into.

Happy New Year,
Pastor Joanna
Director of Music Ben Malkevitch

One often finds in life that many different roads may lead to the same place. Take church choir directors, for instance. Some may grow up singing in a church choir and later be inspired to lead one. Some may train as a conductor or choir teacher and then discover the unique privilege of making music in a house of God. And still others may train as a pianist or organist and then look for opportunities to share their gifts. My first opportunity making music in a sacred setting was playing organ for a weekly Catholic mass while I was in college. This experience, coupled with my training as a conductor, keyboardist, and singer, helped kindle in me a consistent love for making music, on whatever scale and however humble, dedicated to God's glory. I have been consistently leading services in some capacity or other ever since.

While sacred music is a deeply meaningful part of my life, I also have done a lot of work as a freelancer for many different arts organizations, both those with a focus on performing or on teaching. My takeaways from these varied experiences have given me a specific perspective on the similarities between churches (and arts organizations) which I hope may be interesting.

Churches answer to a higher calling, yet are subject to real-world parameters.

Nothing is more vexing than having to talk money in these settings...it feels like a grave constraint which circumscribes our ability to get done what we'd like to, to create and build beautiful things and maintain those we already have, especially when we hope to serve a less mundane purpose. Likewise, a limited budget of time, expertise, emotional energy, etc. can seem insurmountable. These real-world factors may hold us back from achieving what we hope to and can often be divisive, since it's hard to decide how to overcome them. However, from my experiences, it helps a lot to think of these not as "constraints" but as "parameters." If we think of group decision-making as concrete problem-solving to get where we'd like to go communally, suddenly these parameters are not as vexing...they simply exist, and we can work around them or even harness them in our favor.

Churches should and must serve the community.

A past church I served at was a small, tight-knit congregation. They had recently built a new, intimate home and were proud of it. Unfortunately, they were reticent to open it up to others: the building often languished other than on Sunday mornings and they struggled to find a mission and sufficient opportunities to reach out to their surrounding community. This presented a challenge for the members and for the staff leading them, myself included. With some effort, we managed to ameliorate that, opening up our building for various arts projects and doing good works out in the community. This made for a beautiful symbiosis which we can all seek. LCC is continues to evolve its mission through our outreach efforts, commitment to education, and partnership/sponsorship of worthy community and arts organizations. This is a wonderful way to share our message with the community at large and promote changes we deeply care about.

Churches are families.

Everyone of us has either first- or second-hand experience with the joys and challenges of being part of a family. We may struggle with finding how we fit into the family, discerning our most comfortable niche which balances our own needs and those of the family. We may not see eye-to-eye with others and may struggle to navigate or resolve disagreements. We may feel the warmth of belonging some days and feel alone in a crowd others, through no fault of our own or others. While families can be "messy," I like to think of being part of a family as an opportunity: for change and growth, to share my love with others and receive theirs. I have often felt this love making music with others, but what better place to share our individual love and Christ's greater love than right here? The power of a church family gathered together, standing up for what we hold dear and believe in, is undeniable and transformative.

Churches (and arts organizations) need all our love.

For all the reasons I've just mentioned and many others, supporting churches and the arts in all ways we can is crucial. They are not funded or else severely underfunded by the government and businesses, yet their desire and ability to better the world for all generations current and future cannot be overstated. And lest you think this is a backdoor ask for pledges, there are so many ways in which we can give to them. Lend your time, talent, and expertise where it counts. Take a leap and learn some new skills to help your church. Or just show up for an event to support your community; there is so much power in our presence, warm words, a smile. Get involved and spread the word, because we are doing great things!

Thanks for reading, Ben
WORSHIP FOR ALL AGES

Our next Worship for All Ages, Hunger/Communion/January Birthday celebration will be Sunday, January 6, 2019.

Every Sunday during worship, childcare is provided in our Nursery for the youngest members of our church family (infants-4 year olds), and Activity Bags for other children are located in the back of the Sanctuary, if needed.

2018-2019 Faith Formation for Children/Youth: Children of all ages explored the concepts of giving and sharing throughout the month of November; they gave away one of their toys to a refugee child and collected loose change to buy mittens/gloves to donate to LCSC.

2018-2019 Faith Formation for Children/Youth:
Faith Formation groups are going well and the children continue to share their thoughts and ideas very openly regular attendance has created trust and comfort in each group. We donated 40 pairs of gloves/mittens to LCSC from the “loose change” the children collected. And we frosted 175 cookies for the Community Meal (and themselves!) at the Advent Gathering on December 6th!

Please hang gloves/mittens/hats/scarfes of all sizes on the Mitten Tree in the West Clifton hallway; they will be donated to the Refugee Center-Catholic Charities in January. BTW, we donated 6 boxes of toys to the Refugee Center from our October collection and the representative from the Center called specifically to tell me that the toys (especially the bike) brought tears of joy to the children (and their parents). Likewise, the Youth shopped at the Dollar Store and filled 15 bags with assorted items that were also donated to the Refugee Center-CC.

The Christmas Pageant, “Follow the Stars,” was presented by 27 preschool-5th graders before the Holiday Dinner audience of 145 people! Special thanks to Noah Hamrick, Earl Gottlieb, Julie Warren, Lindy Warren, Cameron Wereb, Olivia Diemert, Cathy Aldrich, and all of the others who helped make our sharing of The Good News fun and exciting! We also had two children from Trinity Lutheran Church join our production this year! It is ALWAYS a Joy and Privilege to share this experience with the young children of LCC (and TLC)! And, THANK YOU ALL for the beautiful bouquet of flowers and kind words you shared with me after the performance!

Special Thanks to our Santa and his trusty elf who once again made an appearance at the Holiday Dinner!

We hope you enjoyed having so many of our young people take part in the Christmas Eve Family Worship at 5:00pm.

REMINDER: PLEASE DON’T FORGET TO TURN IN A FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR EACH CHILD IN YOUR FAMILY (ages 0-18).

ELIZA JENNINGS WORSHIP

For 6th-12th graders and beyond...Special thanks to ??? Charlie Begy and the twelve Youth who worshipped at Eliza Jennings Nursing home on December 23rd. Our next worship will be:

Sunday, January 13th

PLEASE meet in the Youth Room no later than 10:00am on those Sundays to organize and get on our way. Adult drivers are always needed, so stop by the Youth Room before worship and see if we have enough...or not!

The Youth will be serving a TACO LUNCH before the LCC Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 3rd

Order 1, 2, 3, or even 4 tacos! Si!

All proceeds benefit the Youth Mission Trip in July 2019.
Our Middle and High School Youth Groups will have another busy month...

They have sold MANY jars of Cranberry Pear Relish...look for mare to go on sale in April, just in time for your Easter Dinner!

Once again, LCC will host another Youth Lock-In held on January 3-4, 2019! Thanks to Sarah and Mike for chaperoning!

On Sunday, January 13th at 11:30am in the LCC Youth Room:

Two of the actors from the Y-Haven performance (November) will talk with the Youth about being Homeless and/or addicted.

This will lead them into their 15th annual Homeless Awareness Sleep-Out on January 19-20, 2019.

They count on your support as they collect thousands of dollars they donate to Y-Haven, Family Promise, The NE Ohio Stand-Down for Homelessness, and other organizations that support the homeless in the greater Cleveland area.

This is also the major organization meeting for the Sleep-out led by Brad and Kristen Humphreys, Liz Maugans and John Bando, and Greg Wereb. Questions? Contact one of them.

Music and Faith Formation:

As you know, Music for our children has been integrated into our Faith Formation programming...we want our children to know that there are many ways we can praise the Lord and ask for help and guidance-through reading, art, dance, acting, and music...Noah Hamrick, our Children’s/Youth Music Director, will continue working with our young people to develop their music skills and love for music this year!

Helping others find life in water...

This church year, the Children’s Offering each Sunday will be donated to the United Church of Christ Mozambique (UCCM), a UCC organization that helps bring clean water to areas of Mozambique through the construction of cisterns for communities in need of clean/safe drinking water. The LCC Outreach Team has committed to making this happen for these communities through our support.

(When you use these envelopes, please be sure to put your child’s name on the back so that we can add this contribution to your Family’s Pledge for the year. Also, this gives your child a chance to feel good about giving, when he/she puts the envelope in the Miracle Jar each Sunday.)

The holidays are always a bit more special with young children, at least that is how we feel at Haynes! The month of December we kept busy decorating our rooms, making special gifts for our families and practicing for our 6th annual Haynes Christmas choir concert. Such a wonderful time of year.

I’ve been busy filling our classrooms with new families and students for the fall. If you know a family with small children, please refer them to me. I would love to show them our awesome school!

Crazy how time flies when you’re having fun!

Thank you for all of your support.

Alison Yonkers, Director
216-256-1578

The Haynes Nursery School Board will meet Monday, January 14, 2019 from 6:30pm-8:30pm, in the Parlor.
Our 11 Confirmands continue to meet with Pastor Joanna after church. We experienced a beautiful Mass at St. James Catholic Church on December 8th. Our next “field trip” will be the Islamic Center of Cleveland on February 10th at 12:30pm; Parents and Sponsors are welcome to attend also.

Our LCC 2018-2019 Faith Journey Scripture this year is taken from the Book of Amos, 5: 24 “But let justice roll down like the waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”

I think in January we may be covered in a blanket of snow, fresh, white, clean snow! Thinking about how it can turn into fresh, clean water if left untouched by chemicals, pesticides, and other pollutants could lead to a very interesting family discussion...What can you do at home to protect our planet’s supply of clean water for ourselves and for others. Make a pledge to be better at_________ with water...

MARTHA’S TABLE

Martha’s Table an “INreach” Team at LCC (Nurture and Growth) needs HELP* Many of you are familiar with Martha, the woman from the Bible who was all about serving Jesus and others great meals at her home! (Luke 10:38-42, John 11:1-44, 12:2). Our own Martha’s Table began a few years ago and has served our LCC family members many meals to help nourish the body, the mind, and the soul when life has become difficult to manage. Jennifer Schwelik and Lisa Smith head up the Team of chefs/bakers/deliverers.

*if you are interested in being a part of this behind-the-scenes Team, email or call Jennifer or Lisa (see Church Directory.)

And, if you are in need of a meal due to an illness, death, new baby or some other reason that prevents you from cooking a dinner, call the church office (216-221-9555).

LCC PRAYER CHAIN

Prayer Request Cards can be found on the table in the back of the Sanctuary or you can call the church office if you, or someone you love, is in need of prayer. If you would like to become a link on our LCC Prayer Chain along with Chiquita Matthews, Ellen Tudron, Kathy MacDougall, Robert Wenz, Vicki Smigelski, Muriel Campbell, Nancy Gibbs, Alicia Fortenbaugh, Marinika Beaver, J. Horner, Patti Dobro, Karen Lee, Pastor Joanna, and Patti Komperda. Let Patti K know and we will gladly add you to our email!
**A Ministry to Serve**

**COMMUNITY MEAL**  
**THURSDAY, January 3rd**

Join us January 3rd for the LCC Community Meal!

As always, we will start set-up and food preparation about 4:00pm. We'll then plate the food and be ready for service at 6:00pm. For the holiday we are having a sing-a-long with musicians! We hope to have you join us for the meal and holiday fun.

We will need people to help put up tables and chairs, set tables, make coffee, tea, lemonade and food. During dinner, we will need a few folks in the kitchen to assist with refilling dishes for second helpings and afterwards we will need assistance with clean-up of the social hall and kitchen.

We generally finish up by 7:15pm or so - we welcome you for any amount of time you can join us!

If you are unable to make our community dinner but are interested in serving, Trinity is in need of help for their community meals. Their December schedule is posted below.

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**TRINITY COMMUNITY MEALS : JANUARY 2018:**
- Monday, January 7, at 6:00pm
- Sunday, January 13, at 4:00pm
- Saturday, January 19, 12:00pm (meal)

Volunteers are needed for two shifts for each meal.

**TRINITY PANTRY:** Our pantry distribution is Saturday, January 26, 10:00am-12:00pm and volunteers are welcome between 9:00am-9:30am to help with the bagging of goods.

To volunteer, sign-up at this link [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0e48aba62ba4fa7-january](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0e48aba62ba4fa7-january) or with Pastor Sara at tlcokwd@gmail.com

Trinity is also looking for a lead cook for the third Saturday meal. If at all interested, please contact Pastor Sara.

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

LCC donated 13 bags of food in December to Lakewood Community Services Center!

The first Sunday of the month is our food collection day. Items can be dropped off in the baskets lining the West Clifton Hallway.

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**LADIES OF LCC**

We invite you to enjoy the company of other LCC Women as we meet bi-monthly to catch-up, do service projects, movie-watch, eat, and more!!!!!

Special THANKS to Judy Foote for hosting such a beautiful Christmas Party. We look forward to celebrating Chinese New Year at Pearl of the Orient (Detroit Road, Rocky River) at 6:30pm February 4th.
A Ministry to Serve

COMMUNITY CORNER

Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation Helpers: Ceil Dorsch, Peter Humphreys, and Veronica Lee all helped prepare or deliver food to the needy in Lakewood.

Have you recently volunteered? Are you part of an event that needs volunteers or fundraising? Please contact Laura Hampton at lblesseh@bw.edu to have your information included in future additions of The Columns or the weekly bulletin.

The Adult Faith Formation Team

The Adult Faith Formation Team, in keeping with the Mission Statement of our church, hopes you will take the initiative to venture out, learn more, and come back ready to discuss with your church family the questions/thoughts/worries/and suggestions you have to the all-pervasive problem of the many injustices imposed upon marginalized people-young and old- not only in the U.S., but around our world. This year, we will extend our Sacred Conversation to include two additional groups of marginalized people as we explore Gender Identity and Prison Reform. The dates of these programs will be posted on the Adult Faith Formation bulletin board in the West Clifton hallway.

Special thanks to Vicki Smigelski for organizing the “field trip” to see The Black Nativity at Karamu House. What an awesome production it was!

And, what an insightful Advent Series Pastor Joanna shared with us. Ideas from the book, The First Christmas were shared and discussed. We look forward to the Adult Faith Formation Team’s next series focusing in on Mental Illness, the first session will take place, Wednesday, January 9th at noon and 7:00pm in the Parlor.

The Adult FF Team will meet at 7:30pm on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 to plan for future programming, Lent, and Easter.

UNDIE SUNDAYS

During the month of January we will once again collect new socks and underwear to donate to the homeless families staying with Family Promise.

There will be laundry hampers in the Sanctuary and the West Clifton hallway for your donations. We will be collecting CHILDREN’s socks and underwear in all sizes and WOMEN’s socks and underwear in sizes large, extra-large and 2XL. Something as simple as clean socks and underwear provides a small bit of dignity for families in crisis. We appreciate your help!

Please contact Vicki Smigelski at vsmigelski@kksg.com or at 216-789-5020.
In and Around LCC

Adventures in Reading
CALLING ALL READERS!
Come to Adventures in Reading
(LCC book club)
the 2nd Tuesday of each month.
Tuesday, January 8th
12:30 p.m.
Westlake Porter Library
27333 Center Ridge Rd.

Book: The Story of Arthur Truluv

Judy Foote will lead the review and discussion of The Story of Arthur Truluv (copyright 2017) by Elizabeth Berg. This is an emotionally powerful novel about three people who each lose the one they love most, only to find second chances where they least expect them. Elderly Arthur Moses rides the bus to the cemetery to visit his beloved late wife for lunch. Eighteen-year-old Maddy Harris often comes to the cemetery to escape the other kids at school and a life of loss. She gives Arthur the nickname “Truluv” because of his kindness and devotion. Nosey neighbor, Lucille, is the third person in this unlikely trio who band together, helping one another to rediscover their own potential to start anew. Small acts of compassion turn friends into family and help the trio realize the possibility to achieve happiness at any age.

Looking ahead to February:
Our book for discussion will be Educated (copyright 2018) by Tara Westover.
Reminder: Signup on the West Clifton bulletin board or call Kathy MacDougall (216)228-1975.

LCC Homeless Awareness Sleep Out
Saturday, January 19th
Celebrates Fifteen Years of Youth Service
It has become a cornerstone ministry for our youth. Last year’s sleep out raised over $3,000. Beneficiaries were Y-Haven, Family Promise of Greater Cleveland and the Cleveland Hands-On (aka The Homeless Stand-down).
We accept cash, checks (made out to LCC with subject line HASO) and online donations.

SECOND SATURDAY
—
JANUARY 12 TH

Women in our church family are invited to join us for Second Saturday on Saturday, January 12th, at 9:00am in the Parlor.
We meet for an hour of conversation, reflection, and prayer. Take some time to connect with women of all ages at LCC.
Pat Bresien  January 1
Ella Babcock  January 1
Olivia Bando  January 3
Kristen Humphreys  January 4
Bruce Matthews  January 5
Joan Metzner  January 5
Lori Waddell  January 7
Danny García  January 8
Avery Spahr  January 8
Debi Kasper  January 9
Nancy Fraunfelder  January 10
Peter Kwiatkowski  January 10
Ella Touhey  January 10
Jim Werts  January 11
Jonathan Bala  January 12
Jimmy Rowland  January 13
Lisa Blackburn  January 15
Jane Brady  January 16
Tim Einhouse  January 16
Jocelyn Tommer  January 16
Muriel Campbell  January 17
John Hancock  January 17
Barbara Szucs  January 17
Paula Atfield  January 21
Sarah Banyasz  January 21
Lou Forte  January 21
Doug MacDougall  January 21
Mona Ewing Atfield  January 23
Lloyd Max Bunker  January 25
Stephen Hotchkiss  January 25
Marguerite Harkness  January 26
Aaron Hill  January 26
Ellen Kwiatkowski  January 26
Veronica Lee  January 29
Hunter Smith  January 30
Jennifer Robey  January 30
Eliza Bala  January 31

Erin & Greg Wereb  January 15
Debbie & Bill Langenhop  January 16
Ann & Joe Schleckman  January 26
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</table>
| **Senior Minister** | Joanna D'Agostino  
revjoanna@lcc-church.org |
| **Director of Music** | Ben Malkevitch  
ben@lcc-church.org |
| **Director of Children & Family Ministries** | Patti Komperda  
pjkompe@yahoo.com |
| **Director of Children & Youth Music** | Noah Hamrick  
nnoah@lcc-church.org |
| **Youth Ministry Leaders** | Sarah & Mike Banyasz |
| **Office Manager** | Karen Lee  
karen@lcc-church.org |
| **Financial Manager** | Patti Dobro  
pattidobro@lcc-church.org |
| **Pastor Emeritus (in memoriam)** | Lyman G. Farrar |
| **Childcare** | Jacqueline Reasor |
| **Building and Property** | Liz Spahr |

**HAYNES NURSERY SCHOOL**
Alison Yonkers, Director  
haynesnurseryschool@yahoo.com

**EXECUTIVE TEAM:**
Chair: Greg Wereb  
Vice-Chair: Liz Spahr  
Moderator: Michael Komperda  
Treasurer: David Mechenbier  
Nurture and Growth Ministries: Judy Foote  
Welcoming Ministries: Scott Suttell  
Outreach Ministries: Christy Gray  
Diaconate: Vicki Smigelski

**SUNDAY WORSHIP:**
NURSERY: Sunday, 9:50 a.m.  
WORSHIP: Sunday, 10:00 a.m.  
FAITH FORMATION: 10:15 a.m.  
(Children start in worship and are excused to attend classes at Faith Formation time)

**PHONE:** 216-221-9555  
**FAX:** 216-221-9088  
**WEBSITE:** www.lcc-church.org  
**E-MAIL:** lccstaff@lcc-church.org

**CIRCLE THESE DAYS ON YOUR CALENDARS:**
- Wednesday, January 9: Adult Faith Formation Presentation: 12pm & 7pm
- Monday, January 14: Blood Drive: 2p-7p
- Saturday, January 19: HASO Sleep Out
- Tuesday, January 29: Les Delices Open Rehearsal: 6:30p
- Sunday, February 3: LCC Annual Meeting: 11:00am