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.

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SUNDAY, February 2nd
“State of the Church Address”
Matthew 5: 1-12
Worship for All Ages
Holy Communion, Birthday & Hunger Sunday

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Ash Wednesday Potluck Soup Dinner/Lenten Walk
Join us on Wednesday, February 26th at 6pm for our Soup Potluck and Lenten Walk. We will start with dinner in the Social Hall and then move from station to station throughout the building until we receive ashes in the Sanctuary around 7:15pm.
This is a multi-generational gathering; we hope all age groups will come and begin our Lenten Journey together.

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ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd
ANNUAL MEETING OF LAKEWOOD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Immediately following worship, we will gather in the social hall
Childcare is provided
Do you love yourself? This is a question I often ask of people who are going through a particularly emotional time, especially such moments as relapse, divorce, incarceration, suicidal ideation, eating disorders, or serious depression, job loss or job insecurity. Do you love yourself? Because you see the thing is that if we don’t have that very foundational relationship figured out, it’s much more difficult to get through hard times. It’s a rhetorical question most of the time, because there are probably days for all of us when we know that we’re good-- made in the Image of God, fearfully and wonderfully made. We can take on the whole world with the fervor of our love for God and ourselves. And there are probably days for all of us when it just seems like everyone else has it all together while we spilled the milk and overdrafted and yelled at the dog and our seat belt is stuck... and we find it very difficult to just love ourselves as God made us, clumsy, impatient, and beautiful.

As Christians, we follow the Greatest Commandment: Love your neighbor as you love yourself. We often think the hardest part is that "love your neighbor" part. I think the hardest part is the "love yourself" part. How can we love our neighbor as we love ourselves if we don’t love ourselves? And how can we love God, in whose image we were created, if we do not see the reflection of God within our own faces?

I’m a huge fan of Valentine’s Day. Not because of the romantic part; I could take that or leave it. I just love... LOVE. I love hearts and doilies and words that lift us up. Our Christian faith calls us to this life that has at its very foundation a deep, abiding love of God, self, and neighbor. This month I invite you to focus on loving your neighbor, loving yourself, and loving God with all your heart, and all your soul, and all your mind.

A few quick notes on the happenings at LCC: Please pick up an Annual Report packet if you haven’t already. Take a look at our reflections back on 2019 and be prayerful about how God is calling you and us to participate in the world in 2020. Take a look through The Columns and make sure you’re receiving our LCC Member News emails. And if you ever, for whatever reason, need the listening ear of a pastor, please don’t hesitate to reach out. You’re so worthy of God’s, your neighbor’s love, and your own love.

With Grace and Peace, Pastor Joanna

HASO UPDATE: The running joke is that the Homeless Awareness Sleep Out always takes place on the worst night of the year. This year’s sleep out, the 16th annual, was no exception. On a wet, windy, freezing night, 31 youth with eight adult chaperones constructed outdoor shelters made out of tarps and cardboard boxes, slept on the front steps of LCC, stood on the corners of West Clifton and Detroit and asked for donations from passersby.

The experience is more than just one night. It began in the fall when the youth shared a meal with the actors from Y-Haven before their performance, Father’s Watch. A week prior to HASO three of the Y-Haven residents met with the youth and their parents to share cautionary stories of their journeys through addiction and homelessness. These men opened their hearts, and the kids carried their stories with them as they braved the elements.

While the main goal of this event was to raise money for organizations providing direct assistance to homeless families throughout Northeast Ohio, there is a deeper purpose as well. Spending a night in the shoes of a homeless person helps participants gain empathy and awareness they will take with them, long after the money is counted and the cardboard boxes are packed away. This part of the event -- the “awareness” part -- inspires our youth to continue to fight for our community’s most vulnerable residents. It’s this awareness that keeps them coming back, year after year. That sentiment was reflected by Senior Isaac Humphreys when he spoke at the church service the next morning “We were the Church last night. And the things that I learned will forever be with me.”

Statistics:
♦ 22 of the 31 were participating for the 1st time
♦ The group consisted of 22 middle school and nine high school students
♦ Five of the youth joined us from Lakewood United Methodist Church
♦ The temperature with wind chill dropped to 0 degrees through the night

Estimated Donations this year are $7,520.18.
Total donations raised since the program began are over $60,000.

The donations this year will be split among Y-Haven, Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless, Family Promise, and Trials for Hope.
Since Music Sunday (coming up on February 16th at 10:00 am) will be a so-called Festival of Psalms, I thought it’d be interesting to read up on psalms and share with you some of what I’ve learned. Hopefully, it will enhance your understanding of these varied, venerable texts.

While much of our understanding of God from the Old Testament was clarified or superseded by the New Testament and Jesus’ life and teaching, one thing that has carried over to modern-day Christianity is the Book of Psalms. Their name comes from the Greek “psalmoi,” meaning instrumental music, with the implication of the words as well. There are 150 psalms, which may be easily divided into the five categories of hymns of praise, individual thanksgiving psalms, communal laments, individual laments, and royal psalms. In a way, this is a beautiful microcosm of how we worship: on any given Sunday, we are likely to extol God’s name as worthy of praise, give thanks for God’s goodness, seek comfort in difficult times, and yes, have a dialogue about things in our lives and the world which seem unfair and which make us angry. Rev. Joanna shared, when I brought the topic to her, “I love about the psalms that some of them are very angry. Lament psalms teach people that it’s okay to express anger to God. I tell people ‘God can handle your anger.’” Take as an example Psalm 23, one of the best known texts, “God is my Shepherd; I shall not want...”. While its primary thrust is to comfort us in hard times, it also suggests that God’s strength can contain our harshest anger which comes from the unfairness of loss and masks our deepest grief.

From a Choir Director standpoint of interest, the original texts directly address the Director of Music to exhort worshippers to sing, specify instrumentation, encourage to sing in a certain octave, or note which of the ancient musical modes they should be sung in. While there is no actual musical notation, this makes abundantly clear that Psalms are not just poetry but texts meant to be sung. Psalms are referenced in the New Testament, indicating that the very first Christians sang and chanted them. Since then, they have become commonplace in all denominations of Christianity. Current-day clergy may perhaps breathe a sigh of relief that they no longer must memorize them all; in the early centuries of Christianity, any candidate for bishop would be expected to recite the entire Psalter from memory, something which they would learn in their early training as monks. (Perhaps such mnemonic feats were easier before the age of Facebook and YouTube?)

I personally find many psalms to be deeply inspirational; they are written with craft, utilizing beautifully poetic images, using stark language to lay bare our deepest wishes. They seem, as a body, to strive to capture a composite image of our God. Wallace Stevens wrote the poem Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird. Perhaps the Book of Psalms should be subtitled One Hundred Fifty Ways of Looking at God.

February is full of exciting musical events at Lakewood Congregational. On Wednesday evening, February 5, at 6:30pm, we’ll be hosting an open rehearsal of Les Délices for their upcoming program, Myths and Allegories, which is based on Homer’s Odyssey. On Saturday, Feb. 8 at 6pm, join us for our annual Talent Show and Silent Auction: the theme this year is royalty and we have delicious food, drink, and merriment on the agenda, as well as a bunch of head-turning acts. Then, a week after Music Sunday, on Feb. 23, we’ll have our Mardi Gras Sunday service, featuring David Kasper’s Dixieland band and hopefully a lot of beads and full-throated singing. I hope to see you all there for all of these events.

Thanks for reading, Ben

Hear ye! Hear ye! A royal decree has gone out to the LCC Kingdom to announce the annual Talent Show will be held on Saturday, February 8th. This year’s theme is “Royalty.”

Tickets are $20 and are on sale now after worship in the W. Clifton hallway. This price includes dinner and two drink tickets. Additional drink tickets are available for purchase. Because this event is a fund raiser for the Festival Arts Programs at church, it is greatly appreciated if you are able to provide items for the silent auction. AND, of course we need acts to provide entertainment!

If you have questions, please direct them to Jan Young for ticket information, Val Mechenbier to make a donation, and Julie Warren or Ben Malkevitch if you have an act for the show.
Children and Family Ministries

Rachel Burns

We’re part of a community.
Our strength is our diversity.
A shelter from adversity.
All are welcome here.
We will learn from each other.
Special talents we’ll uncover.
There’s a big world to discover.
All are welcome here....
You have a place here.
You have a space here.
All are welcome here.

Selections are from *All Are Welcome* by Alexandra Penfold and illustrated by Suzanne Kaufman. *This book is on the LCC book display in the West Clifton hallway.*

Dear Church Family,

Have you checked out the books on the book display in the West Clifton hallway? I know you all may be distracted by the amazing new puzzle swap shelves, but the books are amazing, too! Each month, along with books I think may be generally interesting, I try to choose books with timely relevance. Dr. Seuss books are being displayed so you can brush up on your Seuss-isms before the musical in April, but there will be other fun selections, too. For all ages! Very Hungry Caterpillar Day is in March, so expect to see Eric Carle books then. Star Wars day is in May, so don’t miss the Star Wars books that will be on display!

Recently, LCC was gifted a beautiful book from Robin Suttell. The book is *All Are Welcome* by Alexandra Penfold and illustrated by Suzanne Kaufman. It ties in perfectly with our message at LCC. I especially love how the book includes children in a classroom which makes me think of our Faith Formation classes. I hope you know you are welcome, exactly as you are, at worship and all of our many events and Faith Formation activities at LCC. Not only that, but God loves you exactly as you are. I’m so grateful to be part of this church family with you.

Many blessings,
Rachel Burns

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**Stay Up To Date:** Stay up to date with all of our happenings for children, youth, and families!

To be added to our email list, be sure you have turned in your Faith Formation registration forms. The forms are available on the church website. **Forms**

Get added to the email list by emailing your request to Rachel@lcc-church.org—Families with children and youth who are active in our church are also welcome to join our Facebook group: **Lakewood Congregational Church Children & Youth**
Children’s Faith Formation Planning Team: Monday, February 3rd, 7-8pm

All youth and adults who would like to help plan for our Youth Ministry should attend our next meeting. We will be planning for the rest of the school year and discussing fund raising. All are welcome!

Seussical the Musical

A month into rehearsals and I couldn’t be more grateful to be working with this group of kind, talented, and funny kids. The actors have been working very hard to make this musical a spectacle. I can’t wait for everyone to see it!

-Domenic Farinelli, Director

Rehearsals: Sunday afternoons (see the musical bulletin board for updates on times)
Performances: April 3rd - 5th.
Please contact Music Director, Noah Hamrick with any questions. noah@lcc-church.org

Mission Trip Updates

We had registration for the mission trip through the month of January and have a wonderful team of youth who are excited for their trip July 19-25! The youth will begin their week in Toledo, OH doing mission work and will then continue on to West Lafayette, IN for the UCC National Youth Event. (They get to stay at Purdue University!) Our Church Family can expect to see a new fundraiser popping up in March, details coming soon!

Youth Led Worship at Eliza Jennings—Sunday, February 9th, 9:45am

All 6th-12th graders are encouraged to help lead worship at Eliza Jennings Assisted Living.

This is a fun way to spend time with your friends while giving back to others.

This month, youth are invited to help with providing special music for worship for the service as part of the Next Generation Band! They will be singing/playing “All You Need is Love” by The Beatles. If you missed the rehearsal, please contact Noah if you would like to participate. In addition, Noah will be attending the worship at Eliza Jennings this month to help provide leadership for the band. Fun!

Parents, if you would like to help out by driving for this event, please contact Rachel. All youth not riding with their parent will need to turn in their Faith Formation Registration and Medical/Liability Release prior to the event (info about registration and release are found in this newsletter and at www.lcc-church.org).

CONFIRMATION EVENTS—February 23rd & 26th

In addition to worship (including Eliza Jennings) and Faith Formation, our Ketchup Confirmation students should plan to attend the following events:

- Confirmation class with Rev. Joanna on February 23rd at 11:15am in the Youth Room. (Feel free to grab snacks from coffee hour before you come to class.)
- The Lenten Walk and Potluck at 6pm on February 26th which they will help lead.
Children and Family Ministries/Ministry to Serve

Hooray! Our Coloring Contest is back! All ages are welcome to color the covers of their bulletins on February 2nd and turn them in to Rachel! The bulletins will be displayed in the church throughout February. Three covers will be chosen to be on the front bulletin on February 9th, 16th, and 23rd.

Children’s and Youth Music
Next Generation Band (grades 6th-12th) is taking a break from weekly rehearsals as our youth kick off the musical season. However, youth are invited to help provide special music at Eliza Jennings on February 9th. Please see the article about Eliza Jennings worship for more information. If youth have other ideas for special music, please contact Noah.

Our children will be singing in worship for Music Sunday on February 16th. They should arrive in the sanctuary for warm ups at 9:30am.

For more information about children’s and youth music, please contact Noah Hamrick.
noah@lcc-church.org

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 Marinika Beaver, Muriel Campbell, Pastor Joanna D’Agostino, Patti Dobro, Alicia Fortenbaugh, Nancy Gibbs, Patti Komperda, Kathy MacDougall, Chiquita Matthews, Vicki Smigelski, Ellen Tudron, Julie Warren, and Robert Wenz contact the office and we will gladly add you to our email!

OUTSIDE SUNDAYS
THANK YOU for the donations for Undie Sundays! We had three hampers of donations filled to the brim (598 pairs of socks and undies)! We will be delivering the donations to the homeless families staying at Family Promise.
Your generosity provides a little bit of dignity for families in crisis.

Outreach Update: Mozambique
Please check out the latest information on the recovery efforts in Mozambique from our Global Ministry partners: UPDATE

We also will be having an update from LCC’s own Peter Schleekman at the start of worship on February 16th. Peter has recently spent time in Mozambique with the Peace Corps and will be available for more conversation following worship.

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry got off to a great start in January and we will continue to meet the FIRST MONDAY of every month from October to May. We are making shawls for those experiencing loss, illness, stress or another life circumstance in which comfort is needed.

Feel free to join us in the church parlor from 7:30 to 9pm for fellowship, knitting and prayer.

Questions? See Debi Kasper or Lori Waddell.
A Ministry to Serve

COMMUNITY MEAL
THURSDAY, February 6th

Join us February 6th for the LCC Community Meal!

As always, we will start set-up and food preparation around 4:00pm. We’ll then plate the food and be ready for service at 5:45pm. 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 re-filling 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 February schedule is posted below.

TRINITY COMMUNITY MEALS: FEBRUARY 2020:
  Monday, February 3rd, at 6:00pm
  Saturday, February 15th, 12:00pm
  Volunteers are needed for two shifts for each meal.

TRINITY PANTRY: Our pantry distribution is Saturday, February 22, 10:00am-12:00pm and volunteers are welcome between 9:00am-9:30am to help with the pre-bagging of goods.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!
LCC donated nine bags of food in January 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

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 heads 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 (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).
A Ministry to Serve/In and Around LCC

Friends Circle

The LCC Friends Circle is open to all women in the church. Here are some activities we’ve planned for 2020:

**Thursday, February 13th** - Valentines’ Scrapbooking with the residents of Eliza Jennings at 2:00pm. Please let Patti Komperda know if you can join us for this fun event.

**Saturday, May 2nd** - “Hats Off to Mom” Tea. This special event is open to the public and features a performance by our own Julie Warren. Profits will go toward a scholarship program. Watch for more information.

**Thursday, June 4th** - We’ll volunteer for the LCC Community Meal and would love help with set up, service and clean up.

And we have more events planned, with dates to be determined:

- Summer: Scrapbooking event at Eliza Jennings
- September: Picnic at Clifton Beach
- October: Jewelry making class with Jen Murray
- November: Movie Night at the Footes’
- December: Christmas Party

LCC MEMBER NEWS:

- Healing prayers to Marty Kennedy after breaking her hip.
- Condolences to the Germaine family on the passing of Laura’s father in January.
- Condolence to the Schwelik family on the passing of Frank’s sister, Jeanette.
- Best of luck to Lakewood middle school choir students Edie Barcelona, David Burns, and Charlie Payne, directed by Lisa Blasko, at the OMEA District 4 Honors Festival in March.
- Congratulations to Lily Burns on her selection as captain of her cheer squad.
- Joey Daso will be competing with the Lakewood Academic Challenge Team in the National Academic Quiz Tournaments’ national tournament in Atlanta in late May.
- Condolences to the family and friends of Phillip Ranney, a past member of LCC and active Lakewood community member. Mr. Ranney passed on December 25th.
- Congratulations to Gabby Toms for her two Honorable Mentions (Digital Art and Photography) in the Scholastic Arts and Writing Competition. Gabby’s art can also be seen at Cleveland Hopkins Airport as part of the Youth Art presents CLE Loves Art exhibit. More than 600 student artworks were submitted and 50 were chosen. Four pieces from Gabby were selected! Exhibition through 12/31.
- Evan Suttell, who is in his third year with the Michigan State University Quiz Bowl team, recently participated with his team in a regional tournament at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. Michigan State finished first among undergraduate teams. (There were a total of 18 teams in the tournament.) Evan was the tournament’s fourth-highest individual scorer.
- Congratulations to LCC artists Anna Daso (Visual Arts) and Edie Barcelona (Dance Choreography) for having their pieces go onto to state wide judging for the PTA Reflections Art Contest.

*Be sure to send your news to the office at lccstaff@lcc-church.org by the last Monday of the month.*

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A dozen or so men attended the LCC Men’s Group meeting (hosted by Richard Foote) on January 13th to watch the National College Football Championship Game.

LCC men will gather again on **Monday, April 6th** to watch the NCAA Championship Tournament Men’s Basketball Game (at Brighton Chase, 19875 Center Ridge).

In the meantime, if anyone would like to host a meeting, please let Richard know.
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, February 11th
12:30 p.m.

Westlake Porter Library
27333 Center Ridge Rd.

Date: February 11
Book: The Pioneers

Nancy Fraunfelder will lead the review and discussion of The Pioneers (c) 2019 by David McCullough. Pulitzer Prize-winning historian David McCullough rediscovers an important and dramatic chapter in the American story - the settling of the Northwest Territory. In 1788, the first band of pioneers set out from New England for the Northwest Territory - a wilderness empire containing the future states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin. Under the leadership of Revolutionary War veteran General Rufus Putnam, they settled in what is now Marietta on the banks of the Ohio River. McCullough tells the story through five major characters. Drawn from a rare collection of diaries and letters by the key figures, The Pioneers depicts people who overcame incredible hardships to build a community based on ideals that would come to define America. Included in the Northwest Ordinance were three remarkable conditions: freedom of religion, free universal education, and most importantly, the prohibition of slavery.

Please sign up on the West Clifton bulletin board or call/email Kathy MacDougall.

Looking ahead to March: Our book for review is A Chance in the World (c) 2012 by Steve Pemberton.

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Save the Date

Our annual Progressive Dinner is on the calendar for Saturday, April 25th. Details coming soon!

Once again catered by Gatherings Kitchen, it’s a lovely evening of food and fellowship!

SECOND SATURDAY—
(OOPS, THIRD SATURDAY)

FEBRUARY 15TH

Women in our church family are invited to join together on Saturday, February 15th (moving to the third Saturday this month due to Talent Show preparations on Feb 8th) at 9:00 am in the Parlor. We spend an hour in conversation, reflection and prayer.

This is an Intergenerational group of women sharing the ups and downs of our journeys. Take some time to get to know others in our church family a little better.
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<td>6 pm Community Meal—Trinity Social Hall 7 pm Youth Planning Meeting—Library 7:30 pm Prayer Shawl—Parlor</td>
<td>10:30-1/2:30- 5:30pm Les Delices Rehearsal 7:00 pm LGBTQ Meeting-Youth Room pm Book Study-Parlor</td>
<td>2:5- Les Delices Rehearsal—Sanctuary 6:30—9:30pm Les Delices Open Rehearsal—Sanctuary</td>
<td>5:45 pm LCC Community Meal 6:30 pm Tai Chi—Parlor 6:45 pm Handbells 7:30 pm: AA 8:00 pm: Choir</td>
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<td>10:00 am Worship — Sanctuary 10:00 am Eliza Jennings 10:15 am Faith Formation 11:00 am Fellowship Hour—Parlor 12:00 pm Youth Musical Rehearsal</td>
<td>12:30 pm Adventures in Reading—Westlake Porter Library</td>
<td>7:00 pm: Trinity Council Meeting-Parlor</td>
<td>6:30 pm Tai Chi—Parlor 6:45 pm Handbells 7:30 pm: AA 8:00 pm Choir</td>
<td>9 pm AA—Social Hall</td>
<td>9:00 am: Second Saturday—Parlor</td>
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STAFF:
Senior Minister
Joanna D’Agostino
revjoanna@lcc-church.org
Pastor Emeritus (in memoriam)
Lyman G. Farrar
Director of Music
Ben Malkevitch
ben@lcc-church.org
Director of Children & Family Ministries
Rachel Burns
Rachel@lcc-church.org
Director of Children & Youth Music
Noah Hamrick
noah@lcc-church.org
Office Manager
Karen Lee
karen@lcc-church.org
Financial Manager
Patti Dobro
pattidobro@lcc-church.org
Building and Property
Liz Spahr
Childcare
Jacqueline Reasor

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

EXECUTIVE TEAM:
Chair: Greg Wereb
Vice-Chair: Liz Spahr
Moderator: Michael Komperda
Treasurer: Steve Hotchkiss
Nurture and Growth Ministries:
Sue Tamilio
Welcoming Ministries:
Scott Suttell
Outreach Ministries:
Laura Blesse-Hampton
Diaconate: Vicki Smigelski

SUNDAY WORSHIP:
NURSERY: Sunday, 9:50 am
WORSHIP: Sunday, 10:00 am
FAITH FORMATION: 10:15 am
(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

- **Sunday, February 2:** LCC Annual Meeting: 11:00am
- **Saturday, February 8:** Talent Show: 6pm
- **Sunday, February 16:**
  - Peter Schleckman Mozambique Update: worship
  - Music Sunday: Worship
  - New Member Information Dinner: 6pm
- **Wednesday, February 25:**
  - Ash Wednesday, Potluck/Lenten Walk: 6pm

New! LCC Puzzle Swap!
LCC now has our very own puzzle swap! You are invited to borrow from and/or contribute to our puzzle collection. You’ll find the puzzle swap on the bottom two shelves of the book display in the West Clifton hallway. When you complete a puzzle, be sure to sign your name inside the box and date it. You can even leave a note if you want! Enjoy!