

Lakewood Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, May 8, 2022



An Order of Worship to be followed in your home,
along with our Livestream Service at 10:00 am

Welcome and Announcements

If you are new among us, welcome. Please know we are glad you're here; you're welcome in our remote community and you're welcome in our physical community when the time is right.

At Lakewood Congregational Church, we strive to be people of extravagant welcome. Whether you are young or old, gay or straight, single or partnered, happy or sad, confused or inspired, street smart or college-educated, whether you can't pay your bills or you have more than enough to share—no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here in this place, to worship a loving God who welcomes us all. As I stand in this sanctuary I join my heart with you and I pray that you might feel the refuge of this space.

May the Peace of Christ be with you. Let us worship God.

Prelude

Ben Malkevitch

Psalm 23

Gwendolyn DeLaney, mezzo-soprano

Call to Worship

One: God, our Shepherd, urges us, "Come, be restored!"¹¹ As we come where God leads us, our lives are made whole.

All: **God leads us in right paths. When we follow as God guides, we shall not want. When we lie down with God in green pastures and beside still waters, our souls are refreshed.**

One: "Come be restored!" God, our Shepherd, urges all who journey through the valley of shadows, God guides us to a table of abundant goodness for all and is ready to anoint us with the oil of overflowing mercy.

All: **When we journey as God leads us, we need not fear any evil for God is with us, guiding, strengthening, and comforting us. Therefore, we come to dwell in the house of the Lord today and lifelong.**

One: Come, be restored!

All: **Let us worship God!**

Opening Hymn

#80

My Shepherd, You Supply My Need

Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

O God, our Shepherd and Guide, thank you for your open invitation to journey with you through all seasons of our lives. As we worship you in this holy space today, you invite us to know your joy, to hear your voice, and to follow right paths. You invite us to trust in your guidance and accept risk and struggle that lead to new life. Amen.

Anthem

Walter Pelz

Lord Jesus, Gentle Savior

LCC Chancel Choir

Faith Formation

All youth (preK-8th grade) are welcome to join in today's Faith Formation classes. Rachel and the leaders will guide them to their classrooms. Children can be picked up there after worship.

A Time of Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Prayer Response

O Blessed Savior

James Smith

A Time of Sharing

Call to Offering

Offertory

Doxology (in unison)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

Thank you, O God, for showing us the ways to strengthen and support the ministry you have called us to do. Thank you that as we say yes to your call, guided and trusting in your Spirit, we can share your love with a multitude—greater than we can imagine—in the church and beyond, near and far. O God, increase the blessings that come from these offerings. In the name of Jesus, we pray, Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Paula Deal

Acts 9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.' So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Reflection

Reverend Joanna D'Agostino

Closing Hymn

#73

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Benediction

Postlude

Brian Munro

Beside Still Waters
Ben Malkevitch, organ

Our Mission Statement proclaims our common goal.

*We strive to be a welcoming,
worshiping 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.*

In keeping with the spirit of our Mission Statement,

Lakewood Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, is an Open and Affirming congregation. Wherever you are on life's journey, we welcome you and all people of every sexual orientation, age, ability, gender identity and expression, and ethnic, economic, and racial background into the full life and ministry of our church. We declare this in the everlasting grace of the Still-Speaking God.

Offering and Contribution Collection

Financial gifts are always welcome, and our church feels the call to respond to the needs around us as they arise. Financial stability allows us to do so more effectively. So, let us give generously of our time, talent, and treasure to further the work of God in our community. You can do so in the following ways:

- Writing and mailing a check to Lakewood Congregational Church, 1375 W. Clifton Blvd., Lakewood, OH 44107
- Texting STEWARD to 44-321
- Sending a gift through your bank's online bill pay
- By using the donate button on the church's website www.lcc-church.org
- Call the church office at (216) 221-9555 to discuss other options

