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# Annual Report 2022

## Lakewood Congregational Church

For the Annual Congregational Meeting on February 5, 2023

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# Lakewood Congregational Church

## **Our Mission Statement proclaims our common goal.**

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.

## **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.



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# Annual Meeting Agenda

Call to Order	Jan Young
Count for Quorum	Jan Young
Opening Prayer	Rev. Catherine Lawrence
Motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting	Jan Young
Motion to dispense with the reading of departmental reports	Jan Young
Reports	
Senior Pastor's Report	Rev. Joanna D'Agostino
Report from the Executive Team	Bill Fraunfelder
Endowment Fund Report	Mike Daso
2022 Financial Report	Laura Sangree
2023 Budget Proposal	Laura Sangree
Nominations for Executive Team Roles	
Capital Campaign Update Report	Kim Katzenberger
Reading of the Church Mission Statement	
Conversations for the Good of the Congregation	
Benediction	Rev. Joanna D'Agostino

## Member Statistics and Pastoral Acts

### BAPTISMS

Griffin Stephens 1/16

Caroline Trela 10/16

Bridget Sutter 10/16

### NEW MEMBERS

Dorothy Beyer

Beth Abbott

Stephen and Leah (Jennings) Brown

Caitlin Galloway

Martin and Kadryn McPherson

Regan and Tamara Reik

Audrey Barno

Kristin Kalinowski

Ella Kalinowski

Justin Duffey

Audrey Hancock

Barbara Longest

Shaun McGrath

Sharon Schuldt

Bridget Sutter

Ben Klein and Melissa Parlanti

Lance and Monica Herschberger

**Total: 22**

### MEMORIALS / FUNERALS / GRAVESIDE / REMEMBERED

Kelly Amen

Earl Gottlieb

Todd Maugans\*

Jason Cehelnik\*

Peter Kuhn

Charlene Morford\*

JoNell Frost\*

Tanner Lamb\*

Jack Rupert

Nancy Wagner\*

\*denotes non-member services officiated by LCC clergy

### ATTENDANCE and MEMBERSHIP

Average Worship Attendance All Year/All Services	115
Average Worship Attendance Sept-Dec, Sunday Services ONLY	145
Boxcast Average online worship views	24
YouTube Average online worship views	68
Official LCC Membership as of Dec. 31, 2022	327

## Senior Pastor

Dear Church,

*The thing I want you to know first of all and most of all is that I love being your pastor. Each and every one of you matters deeply to me and deeply to God, and I am convinced that I am a better Christian and a better human because I get to be in community and covenant with you. That's my whole report; the rest is extra.*



It has been nearly five years since I became the Senior Pastor of LCC. Since 2018, we have welcomed over 100 new members through Reception or Confirmation, our annual budget has grown by over 50%, we have adapted and added staff positions, added to our Executive Team, and established new teams. We experienced births, deaths, relocations, building emergencies, and celebrations. We also endured and are continuing to endure an unprecedented pandemic and all its discombobulation, polarization, grief, and trauma.

Through it all, LCC has remained deeply rooted in our grounding mission. *Like trees planted by streams of water*, we are connected to the source of life while glorifying God in new growth. While many churches are facing serious decline, LCC has energy, momentum, and a deepening of our faith and covenant.

When it comes to talking about mission, vision, and values, I'd love to stick to tree analogies forever. The beauty in organic growth is unmatched. When trees need to adapt, they reroute their roots, bend toward the sun, or entangle themselves with other plants. Trees find ways to thrive naturally as long as life is possible.

But the thing is, analogies regarding slow, organic adaptive change don't fit with the current context at LCC.

Instead, we are looking at a system of interlocking gears in need of maintenance, new parts, oil and rust removal, and a boost in performance capacity. These gears will overheat and belts will break if we don't adapt the system and learn how to operate it. It remains essential that we stay connected to our grounding mission. We cannot simply trade our old model in for a new one. We don't want a machine that is sterile, impersonal, and so well-oiled that we forget the point. It takes wisdom and understanding to build and establish this model of church which is authentic to our grounding mission. As your pastor, I find myself called to lead authentically, audaciously, and well.

Throughout 2022, we spent an enormous amount of time looking at that system of interlocking gears, and discussing what adjustments need to be made for us to live into and lead into what is possible for LCC. You will see themes of that throughout this report, and we will continue to do much of that work in 2023.

Please know that in the end *\*it's not about the numbers.\** It's not about dollars, YouTube views, or attendance, or any of that. But numbers help us make reports, and reports help us to celebrate the ministry we've done and know what ministry we are called to do next.



## Gratitude

The way in which LCC's staff coordinates time and resources to offer support never ceases to amaze me. Each member of our staff team— Karen, John, Catherine, Ben, Rachel, Phil and now Kristen— has a clear understanding that our ministry together is much broader than a job description or title. Each of these people and countless others, many of whom either wrote or are included in the following reports, do far more than anyone is aware of on the days between Sundays, and they do so with a heart for service.

## Peace and Justice Pilgrimage and CHHSM Annual Gathering

This year, I went to Alabama with 22 others from the Living Water Association and the Heartland Conference to touch the Holy Ground of the Civil Rights Movement. We referred to it as a Pilgrimage, as it was a time of learning and growing together in our faith and commitment to justice for all of God's people. It was a very meaningful experience for my husband and I, as well as church members Heather and Eric Tuck-Macalla and the others we traveled with.



Each year, I attend the Annual Gathering of the Council for Health and Human Services Ministries (CHHSM), which is an Affiliated Ministry of the United Church of Christ to which I am dedicated. In 2022, it was located in Louisville, KY. I enjoy the time spent with colleagues and leaders of non-profits and social service agencies. It is helpful for me to witness and learn from the "boots on the ground" work of our faith.

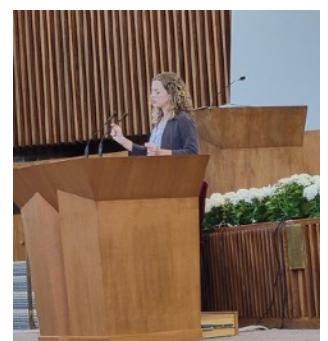
## 10th Ordination Anniversary



I still cannot find the words for the beautiful way LCC celebrated the 10-year anniversary of my ordination into Christian Ministry in August. A special Sunday worship service was designed as a surprise, with music and other powerful expressions of love. Exec Team members and Staff, driven primarily by the leadership of Lauren and Vicki Smigelski, worked to commission a stunning Baptismal Font for our church. Glass artist, Skip Streeter of Streets of Manhattan Studios and wood worker, John Scanlan of Scanlan furniture design and woodworking truly captured the beauty of the Baptismal Covenant. My gratitude abounds.

## Public Ministry

I was honored to represent LCC at a number of public events this year, including offering an invocation at the Swearing-in Ceremony of Tess Neff as Lakewood Municipal Court Judge and serving on a panel discussion at the Cleveland International Film Festival panel to discuss the film "Mama Bears" and the history of the LGBTQ+ community and the church. I was also privileged to provide a lecture on Christian Nationalism at Anshe Hesed - Fairmount Temple as a part of their observance of Yom Kippur in October, and I provided the opening sermon at the Heartland Conference Annual Gathering.



## Community Engagement

I meet monthly with a “Communities of Practice” group consisting of four other UCC Pastors in the Living Water Association. Through the Lakewood Ministerial Association, I have ongoing relationships with area clergy. I also maintain contact online with clergy throughout the UCC. I treasure these relationships and trust them for advice, encouragement, accountability, and care.



In the fall, when Rev. Sara Cogsil left her pastoral call at Trinity Lutheran Church to do ministry with Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Ohio, I celebrated with her while also feeling a sense of sadness. Sara did incredible ministry at Trinity and throughout Lakewood. There were many unseen, unheard, unnoticed, behind the scenes ways she met the spiritual needs of her church and our broader community, and I know she will continue to do so in her new role. I am so honored, blessed, privileged, humbled, to have had the chance to serve alongside her this past 4+ years.

This year my term was renewed on the Living Water Association Council and I now serve as Vice Moderator/Moderator-Elect as well, and will become Moderator in 2024. I also continued serving on the Strategy Team for Greater Cleveland Congregations alongside eight other Jewish and Christian faith leaders on the East and West sides of Cleveland.

## Conclusion

It is important to know that 2023 will include a three-month sabbatical for me, from June 1 to August 31. Some information about that is included below in the Moderator’s report, and you will hear more in the months to come. After 10 years of ministry including relocating, raising children, grieving significant losses, and other life changes and adventures, this opportunity for renewal and reconnection with God will be essential for me as we move forward together as a church.

I’ll end the way I started: I love being your pastor. LCC is not only the church for me, it is the church for my family. My oldest, Evelyn turned 11 years old this year. A few weeks ago she looked at her dad and said, “When I’m at church I feel like I’m at home.” You have given all five of us a place to thrive, and I could not ask for more.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Pastor Joanna**



## Looking Ahead... Social Hall and Kitchen Renovation



As a “PS” to my letter above, here is another important update. In worship on January 8th, I shared that 2023 is the year we are going to talk seriously and purposefully about renovating our social hall and kitchen.

As the pictures above show, the last time we renovated our social hall and kitchen was in 1954. Since then, we have had nearly 70 musicals, many talent shows, Boar’s Head festivals, pageants, and community meals, as well as AA meetings, band rehearsals, Haynes Nursery School “gym times,” and so many more joyful gatherings. Now it’s long past time to update it, but the question of energy and readiness has been a tough one. Peter Kuhn shared with me a quote from his father Richard: “The sooner we get started, the longer we’ve got.” So let’s get started. We’re ready now.

We are partnering with Arcus Group Architects to start this project. Thanks be to God, the Preliminary Concept Phase is being sponsored in its entirety by Peter and Cathy Kuhn, a decision made prior to Peter’s passing. The true gift, which I wish I could adequately convey, is how confident Pete was in this endeavor, and how joyful he was about the future of our church. I think he was more excited that I asked for the support than I was that they said yes. Peter knew he would not see the end of this project in his earthly life. His solid endorsement of the project means the world to me.

At the present time, the team we originally referred to as the “Listening Team” over a year ago is continuing as a Steering Team for the project. It consists of Michael Fleenor, Kim Katzenberger, Patti Komperda, Valerie Mechenbier, Vicki Smigelski, Scott Richardson, John Bando, Eric Tuck-Macalla, and now Cathy Kuhn. That team is currently discussing communication strategies and next steps with Dave Maddux from Arcus Group Architecture, and they will present as much information as they can at our Annual Meeting on 2/5.



Along the way, I assure you others will be invited and included in visioning and decision-making. We will do our best to involve all voices in as many ways as possible. I led my previous church through a major campaign and Sanctuary renovation in 2015-2016. My biggest takeaway from that project was that it was a time not just for “getting the job done” but of building relationships and community. When we are a church together, a major project like this one isn’t about brick and mortar. It’s about creating space to live into our mission, vision, and values and to serve our community.

I am so grateful that I get to be a part of this project with you, and can’t wait to learn what’s next together!

## Minister for Health and Wholeness

I have been blessed in my first year of ministry with LCC. I began meeting our members by visiting those who are homebound and living in long term care communities. Regular visits created opportunities to offer support, care, prayer and occasional communion. We also shared church activity updates. These visits strengthened a sense of connectedness within our community.



Throughout the year, I participated with Joanna in worship and led services as needed. My Installation on May 1st was a celebratory occasion and the first meal held in the church since March 2020. The Reverend Ken Daniel, President and CEO of United Church Homes was our guest preacher.

Joanna and I celebrated the wonder and beauty of Winter Solstice for a "Longest Night" Service on Wednesday, December 21st. Cello music and candlelight created an atmosphere of peace, honoring the stress of Covid recovery, the losses, and grief that our members have experienced. Looking forward with hope to the promise of new life in the birth of the Christ Child, we were all blessed.

## Multi-generational Faith Formation

We began preparation for the Season of Lent with a very different approach. First, thanks to the creative support of Karen Wagner, we planned Sunday morning classes through scripture and discussion of various paintings. As our classes progressed, we placed the beautiful works of art in the welcome area for all to appreciate. Although everyone appreciated the discussion, Sunday mornings at 8:30 AM is not convenient for those engaged in choir, handbells, and appreciate a quiet morning at home before worship.

We also invited our members and friends to join us as we made a difference within our community by "walking" 7,034 miles from Lakewood to Jerusalem. Our miles were tracked by steps taken, volunteer opportunities and care given to others. Church members narrated each week of the journey by sharing the history and sites of the ancient world. Thanks to amazing participation, we made it to Jerusalem in time to appreciate Holy Week. Our worship services throughout the Season were appreciated, including our special Taizé Service with Labyrinth walking opportunities.



For three Tuesday afternoon/evenings in July, we read Joan Chittister's book, *The Time Is Now, A Call To Uncommon Courage* and discussed how God is calling each one to faithfully discern how we might shape our own roles by sharing our gifts and graces with others. The afternoon sessions were well-received.

Tuesday afternoons/evenings created a convenient opportunity for folks gather for faith-filled education and support. We read and discussed Howard Thurman's 1949 book, *Jesus and the Disinherited* for three weeks in October. Examining issues from a seventy-year historical perspective sadly identified many aspects of racism that continue to flourish in today's society. Rally Day festivities in September were a success as we began another year of faith formation activities, thanks to Bill Fraunfelder, Dave Diemert, and their team. The

Opportunity Fair in October, organized by Laura Germaine and Julie Warren, was well-attended and sparked abundant interest to participate in our many church activities.

Multiple Trinity Lutheran and LCC members collaborated with the leadership skills of Karen Wagner and an editorial team she led to create our 2022 Advent Devotional, with the theme “Fling Wide the Portals” of your Heart. They were appreciated by many. An Advent study on Tuesday afternoon/evening consisted of a combination of poetry, images, devotional specific scripture and coordinating devotions that provided faith-filled discussion. They were well-received and deeply appreciated as we journeyed through the season.

## **Congregational Life (Nurture and Growth)**

Joining The Adventures in Reading book group has been a great introduction to women who have a long history of discussion and fellowship at our church. The diversity of the books and the sharing of individual perceptions has enhanced our ministry. I also participated in Second Saturday which offered access to a wonderful group of deeply spiritual women who lead busy lives. Their time together has strengthened our sense of community.

Boomer Gals- formerly Friends Circle gathered in June and September at Clifton Park for a lovely evening of fellowship. On December 5th members brought cookies to the church parlor for a cookie share, creating cookie trays that were delivered to and gratefully received by members at home.

The Prayer-shawl ministry has been busy. Collaborating with Deb Kasper, their lovely prayer shawls and blessings have been warmly shared with those in need of comfort. The past few months, the group is blossoming, embracing a number of seasoned knitters and one who is interested in learning knitting skills.

Re-convening in the late fall after Covid, Melissa Parlanti gathered a team for Martha’s Table. They have around 18 volunteers to make and deliver meals. The group has already delivered five meals to grateful members and looks forward to serving in the new year.

The Men’s fellowship group has also been active, meeting quarterly for programming, discussion and fellowship. Their Christmas Party at the Kasper’s was well-received and enjoyed by all.

Throughout the summer and fall, our staff leadership team clarified individual tasks that are included in our specific roles. The Essential Function process expanded into discussion with the members of the Executive Team clarifying their roles and specific responsibilities. For clarification, it was decided that the title of Nurture and Growth liaison to the Executive Team would be transitioned into The Congregational Life Ministries Team. This position will “oversee activities which support the education, spiritual and social development of the Congregation and will work closely with Rachel and me”. I extend my gratitude and thanksgiving for Dave as his term on Exec Team will end this month.

Our Church family has been blessed with an abundance of gifts and deep faithful sense of mission, ministry, and fellowship. I look forward to collaborating with Pastor Joanna, our leadership, Executive Team, and the new Congregational Life Liaison as we gather to faithfully guide and empower members of our church family onto new and exciting paths. Being blessed, may we continue to be a blessing to others within our family and throughout the wider community.

Grace and Peace,

**Rev. Catherine Lawrence**, Minister of Health and Wholeness

# Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

**Dear church family,**

Each of the three and half years that I've been part of the Lakewood Congregational Family have been very different. 2022 was the first full year since I've been here that did not require any virtual ministry for children, youth, and families. It has been so nice to be able to see your faces each week. Covid did continue to present obstacles, but I believe that as a church we did a wonderful job carrying on and pushing forward with optimistic persistence. LCC doesn't look exactly like it did three years ago, but I believe it looks exactly as it should for who we are today. We have grown more into who we are as individuals and as a church family.

If I were to give some human characteristics to LCC, I'd say that our church is a forward thinker with an old soul. We are treasuring the experiences and lessons of the past while we dream and plan for the future.

Thank you to everyone who helped us have an amazing year. Whether you gave of your time, your gifts, your prayers, a heartfelt smile, or a positive thought, thank you. 2022 was a wild ride and I'm grateful to have shared it with you.

Many blessings,

**Rachel Burns**, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

## Children and Youth Faith Formation

We began our second semester of Faith Formation for the 2021-2022 school year in January, continuing with curriculum from Illustrated Ministries. Our elementary and middle school aged children participated in Faith Formation classes every Sunday morning except first Sundays and Easter, which were reserved for Worship For All Ages. The high schoolers participated in Faith Formation classes on the fourth Sunday of each month. The elementary classes had 30 students participate and the middle school and high school classes had around 15 students participate. The second semester classes ran through May 22nd.



The first semester of the 2022-2023 school year of Faith Formation kicked off in October. We began using a different curriculum for our elementary and middle school classes, "Shine, Living in God's Light," which worked very well with our new theme for the 2022-2023 school year, "Arise! Shine!" based on Isaiah 60:1. High Schoolers also began a new curriculum called "Current: Seeking Justice Together." The class schedule remained the same as did the grade levels (PreK-Kindergarten, 1st-3rd grade, 4th-5th

grade, Middle School, High School). The elementary classes had 35 students participate and the middle school and high school classes had 22 students participate. Attendance continued to fluctuate due to busy family schedules, but most Sundays had very good attendance.

Our Faith Formation classes for children and youth include biblical storytelling, music, crafts, and games and are led by our Children and Youth Music Director, Tim Hampton, ten volunteers, and myself. The music Tim



teaches in faith formation was presented by the children in worship multiple times. The middle school and high school youth learned music with Tim during Next Generation Band rehearsals after church and also presented their music in worship.

Families have busy schedules, so although some students attend Faith Formation classes nearly every week, some students attend more sporadically.

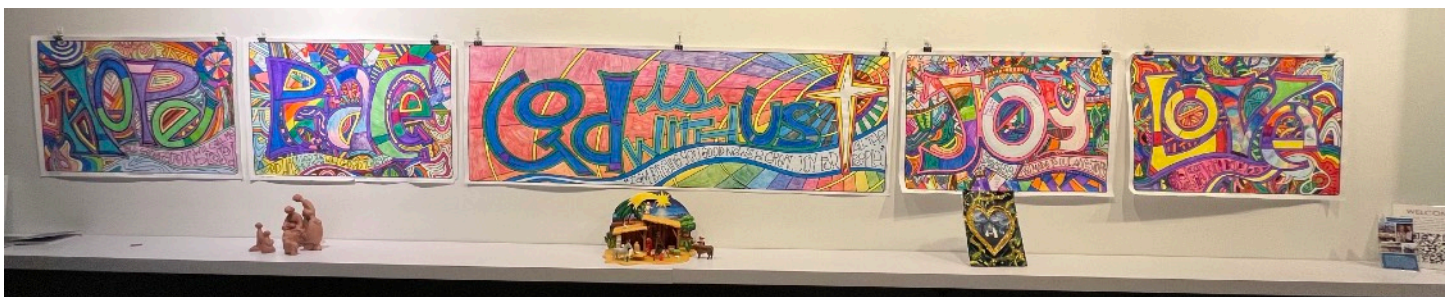
In addition to Faith Formation classes, children and youth had faith formation experiences through Vacation Bible School, the Christmas pageant, and Confirmation.

As a safety precaution due to covid, Vacation Bible School was moved from early June to July 31-August 4th. It ran Sunday through Thursday, 5-7:15pm. The theme was "Passport to Peace" from Shine Publishing.



Each day, the children learned how to follow Jesus by making peace a way of life. Through Bible stories, children were encouraged to listen to and learn from people who are different, care for people who are sick or suffering, creatively work to keep everyone safe, and refuse to respond to conflict with violence. VBS included worship and drama, Bible study, art and science projects, and active games. I assisted Karen Wagner in her direction of VBS and music was taught by Lindy Warren, assisted by Avery Spahr. Many others dedicated much time and energy to help bring VBS to life. With middle school volunteers though a wide age range of adult volunteers, VBS was a joyful multi-generational event.

The 2022 Christmas pageant, "Waking Up in Boxes," was a creative idea from Julie Marlin, inspired by the youth Homeless Awareness Sleep Out. Julie led a creative team of young people and adults to create characters, set, music and more which would tell the story of the birth of Christ in a new and meaningful way. Directed by Lindy and Julie Warren with music directed by Tim Hampton, a host of LCC young people brought the Christmas story to life on the stage of the Social Hall. Following the pageant, our church family enjoyed a holiday dinner, prepared by Bruce Waddell and his team. The night wrapped up with an exciting visit from Santa! In this busy season, many people stepped up to make this night a success. The Christmas pageant is a true representation of our church coming together to celebrate our faith in God and our bond as a church family.



In the fall, it was a joy to once again offer Confirmation classes. Traditionally, LCC offers confirmation for 7th and 8th graders (or older if they have not been confirmed) every other year. Classes kicked off in the fall and will be held throughout the school year. In the spring of 2023, participants will have the opportunity to be confirmed as official members of LCC if they choose to. Confirmation classes include education about

our church and our faith and allow young people to think deeper about their own beliefs. Confirmation is also an opportunity to grow in faith and friendship with others in our church including an adult sponsor who supports the students in their faith. The current class includes seven students and is being led by Rev. Joanna, Rev. Catherine, and myself.

## Reaching Out and Building Relationships

Throughout 2022, the young people of LCC and their families have enjoyed coming together for community building, outreach activities, and of course, fun! In the spring, youth prepared and hid Easter eggs for an Easter egg hunt for the children on Easter and we had a long-awaited lock in for youth. In the summer, the youth had a cook-out at the Bando's and we had S'More Time with God for all ages on the front patio of the church. We had our annual fall fun when the youth took their trip to the Spooky Ranch and all ages came together to carve pumpkins in the social hall. Getting in the Christmas spirit, children, youth, and adults decorated cookies together to be donated to the December Community Meal. Children and youth are always encouraged to participate in LCC's outreach activities when they can and we look forward to more outreach and service in the future.

One of the biggest projects our youth do each year is participate in the Homeless Awareness Sleep-Out (HASO). We had 15 middle schoolers and high schoolers participate in HASO in February. Through HASO, youth learn about homelessness from our partnership with Y-Haven and then they experience just a touch of what homelessness might be like by sleeping outdoors for one night in the winter. Through panhandling, online donations, and collections on Sunday morning, the youth raised \$5,008.85. The funds raised were given to Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless, Y-Haven, and Family Promise of Greater Cleveland. I was happy to work with Kristen and Brad Humphreys and John Bando and Liz Maugans who provided leadership for HASO. As it is with most events for young people, many adults were key to the execution of this important event. Traditionally, the HASO season begins in November when LCC hosts Y-Haven residents for lunch and their theater production. The Y-Haven performance in November of 2021 was influential to the 2022 sleep out. In November of this year we did not host a Y-Haven performance due to them having a schedule shift. We look forward to attending their performance at Cleveland Public Theatre in January of 2023.



The LCC tradition of youth theater carried on this year with our 51st production. Rehearsals began in January and were held almost every Sunday afternoon and every day during tech week. Our 32 cast members and 4 youth crew/pit members (along with a large supportive group of adults) presented *Shrek, the Musical* on April 1, 2, and 3. The musical used humor and wit to present the timeless lessons of friendship, love, and overcoming adversity, which reflect the teachings of our church. *Shrek, the Musical* was directed by Domenic Farinelli and Lindy Warren with music taught and directed by Tim Hampton and Noah Hamrick.

In the spring, a selection team made up of the 2022 directors, incoming 11th grade youth representative Olivia Diemert, incoming 12th grade youth

representative Evelyn Richards, and myself worked together to choose a 2023 musical that would be an opportunity for fun and growth and also share the values of our church.

With enthusiasm over LCC's youth musicals growing here in our church and also in the community, I invested time in the summer to evaluate the organizational structure of the program. With the help of those more experienced than myself, a handbook has been developed which outlines a leadership team, selection team, staff roles, volunteer roles, and a detailed budget. We are also working to offer more opportunities for our youth who do not want to be on stage to participate in the musical by helping backstage and as musicians in the pit.

The 2023 musical, *Beauty and the Beast*, was announced in October and auditions were held in November. The cast will include 58 young people from LCC and the community. Through youth musicals, our church provides a safe place for 3rd through 12th graders to express themselves through the art of theater. It's a blessing to share the love and care that God has given us through LCC with everyone who steps through our doors.



A growing area of the church that is not often seen by most of our church family is the nursery. We have two nursery employees, Morgan Flowers and Dana Schulman, who work an alternating schedule to provide loving care to infants through preschoolers on Sunday mornings. You can learn more about Morgan and Dana by reading their bios on the bulletin board outside the nursery or the bulletin board in the lobby.

Volunteers Cameron Wereb, Annaliese Hampton, and Lee Mechenbier are always appreciated when they come to help out, as are our substitute nursery teachers Lindy Warren and Jay Tamilio. The nursery is located in the Faith Formation hallway on the Sanctuary level. This new location for the nursery has made pick up and drop off more convenient for families and helps keep all of our young people in the same area, improving our security. The number of children in the nursery varies week to week and this year it has ranged from 2-10.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Rachel Burns**, *Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries*



## Music Ministries

When I wrote my submission to last year's annual report, Lakewood Congregational's choir was on hiatus due to a surge in COVID cases after a successful fall 2021. (They resumed singing together on February 13.) From the beginning of the year through then, our soloists sang solos, duets, and quartets, perhaps a good metaphor for how we had to piece so many things together from pandemic's isolation. Since then, it has been gratifying to see the church's music program gradually return to the level of passion and enthusiasm which we knew was within us pre-pandemic. Along the way, there have been many moments where music has helped in our congregation's and community's process of healing from the complicated developments in our world and feelings which the pandemic elicited in us. I feel confident in saying that, in our music program, as in our church in general, we have both retained our identity, as well as forged something even better in response.



It was wonderful to have our Mardi Gras Dixieland band back this year in person, and services throughout Lent, followed by a triumphant Easter, marked a further return to normal. Other musical highlights in the spring included the May 1 installation service for Rev. Catherine and the May 15 Music Sunday service, a mix of older and newer favorites from our Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir.

Over the summer, we continued our "new tradition" of Summer Pick-up Choir, which meets Sunday morning pre-service about every other week and sings usually a two- or three-part anthem.

It has provided us with many object lessons about the power of simplicity and how much a smaller ensemble can still speak to our hearts and souls. We also initiated an online sign-up for volunteer musicians from the congregation who wish to share their musical talents during service; it has netted some amazing music-making throughout the summer and fall.

Some riveting offerings from our choir and bells have confirmed for me that not only has LCC's music program coalesced from after pandemic, but we have even more energy to bring to it, partially infused by some valuable new members of our ensembles. In the midst of that, we bid a fond farewell to Noah Hamrick, who stepped down from his position as bass section leader in the midst of new professional and family responsibilities, as well as Shaun McGrath, whose family moved at the end of the year. Outside soloists and ensembles such as the Greater Cleveland Flute Society have greatly enhanced our services. Outside of service, the music program started having social gatherings after rehearsal or service one a month, which has deepened our community and helped newer and older members get to know each other better.



Our fine piano and organ continued to be regularly serviced by skilled technicians and we have had the opportunity to diversify our music library with more contemporary pieces, several by BIPOC and female and queer composers, living into our mission. We anticipate further such additions. Tom Leatherman, Tom Marlin, and I have continued to augment our revamped sound system with four new stellar wireless



microphones, helping to ensure smooth, clear, high-quality audio for both our in-house system and our livestream. There is maybe something to be gleaned about the longevity of our church and faith in the fusion of state-of-the-art technology to help listeners online enjoy the choir's poignant sharing of *O magnum mysterium*, a Renaissance motet, during our Christmas Eve service.

Our "ministry of space" has enabled us to support rehearsals and performances this fall from several groups which align with our values as a church:

1. CityMusic Cleveland, a long-time partner, is back in full force and had two excellent performances in the fall, both accessible free of charge to the community.
2. Windsong, Cleveland's feminist chorus, performed in December, bringing a lot of joy and passion for social justice work into our space.
3. Blazing River Freedom Band, which has just renamed itself Cleveland Pride Band, has been rehearsing in our Fellowship Hall most Wednesdays and has grown in size under able leadership. Their holiday concert, very well-attended by the queer community, was a testament to how partnering with community organizations such as this one can amplify our impact and live into our creed as a deeply open and affirming congregation.

I have high hopes for music at LCC in 2023; with the boundless talent, energy, and dedication of the many folks I am blessed to work with every week. Neither we, nor you, will be able to wait to see and hear what we cook up next!

Submitted with deep gratitude,  
**Ben Malkevitch**, *Director of Music Ministries*



## 2022 Year in Review

Twenty twenty-two (2022) began the church's 117<sup>th</sup> year! The church building was open for activities and Sunday Church services. Completion of much-needed repairs and replacements was extremely successful. Members were requested to continue wearing masks indoors until March due to the pandemic.

The Reverend Joanna D'Agostino began her fifth year at LCC. Church services continued to be shown by livestream, on YouTube, and Facebook for people who could not attend in person. Joanna had a Confirmation Class in 2022 and she initiated a new group, "Coffee With Joanna". She was busy attending workshops, conventions, writing her sermons and doing as much visitation as her schedule permitted. Our membership continues to grow since Joanna came to LCC. She continued to bring in all ages as well as the return of former members.

The Reverend Catherine Lawrence, was officially installed on May 1st as *The Minister of Health and Wholeness*. Catherine helped with pastoral care, visitation and so much more. She began a Fall Book Reflection Series, worked with Rachel Burns for a "Walk to Jerusalem" that included all church members. (Details can be found in Catherine's report.) Catherine is also active in the prayer group and Adventures in Reading book group. (Catherine's office received a fresh coat of paint, courtesy of our great Custodian, John Mullen.)

Rachel Burns, Director of Youth and Family Ministries, completed her third year at LCC. Rachel oversaw the Faith Formation activities for children grades K-12. Vacation Bible School (VBS) was held during the first week of June. The theme for the year was "Passport to Peace." Rachel also oversees the paid and volunteer staffing of the nursery during the Sunday service, and she oversees the annual musical.

Music Director, Ben Malkevitch, began his 5<sup>th</sup> full year as choral director, organist, pianist, composer, hand bell director and soloist. Ben continued writing informative articles every month for *The Columns*. Musical groups performed, including City Music, Windsong, the Cleveland Flute Society and other various soloists and instrumentalists. Sadly, the choir said goodbye to Tenor soloist, Shaun McGrath, who left at the end of December moving to Philadelphia. The new Youth Music Director, Tim Hampton, worked with the children's choirs and the renewal of the Next Generation Band in May.

Office Manager, Karen Lee, began her 5<sup>th</sup> year at LCC. Her continued technical expertise has helped to bring our church into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The monthly newsletter, *The Columns*, was sent to members online/slow mail and was also available on the Church website. *The Columns* expanded its coverage of the Living Water News/Events. Karen had several office volunteers throughout the year that included Jan Young, Kay Galloway, and Claire Stair. Karen continued to be an invaluable team member.

The Buildings and Grounds committee, under the leadership of Michael Fleenor, worked very hard to contract for repairs and installations. His committee included John Bando, Christopher Leo, Paul Pierce, David Spahr, and David Stair. The Reverend Joanna D'Agostino also kept close contact with the group. Projects included completely paving the back parking lot and handicapped back entrance. (David Stair oversaw this project from beginning to end.) Painting the outside trim of the church was begun in 2021 and completed in 2022. The leaking roof above the back hallway was repaired outside and inside. An unexpected repair was made to the Archives/Library ceiling after it collapsed in July. New lighting and a stable ceiling were installed, with the painting done by members of the committee.

Another huge job was the repair of the Sanctuary's 117-year-old pine flooring. Along with the repair was a replacement of the dated cranberry carpeting. The main sanctuary carpeting was replaced with the hopes that next year the stairways, landing, and balcony, will be re-carpeted. The color is called "Matrix" (a medium blue).



The Archive/Library committee, Claire Stair and Joanelen Hurley, continued to be very busy in 2022. This included digitizing the historical documents into the office's main server (project was begun in August 2021 with expected completion in 2023). Half of the ceiling fell in July. The restoration project was tackled by the Buildings and Grounds committee and after approximately a month we were able to return to the room. Two new filing cabinets were purchased for various files of information. The hope is that this room will also be used for meetings once we finish scanning historical documents and reorganizing the furniture.

The Haynes Nursery School marked its 56<sup>th</sup> year. Students returned to meet in the classrooms. Director, Shannon Lubas completed her second year in this position.

The Youth Ministry continued growing in 2022. The 17<sup>th</sup> Homeless Awareness Sleep-Out was held on February 19, 2022. Other activities included an egg hunt, a May Youth Lock-In, the annual youth musical, Spooky Ranch, Pumpkin carving, the annual Christmas pageant, and the list went on and on. Member, Julie Marlin, wrote the Christmas play and assisted Rachel. The annual Mission Trip was rescheduled for 2023. The successful youth musical, *Shrek, the Musical* was performed on three separate dates in April. The director for the show was Dominic Farinelli, the drama teacher from Lakewood High School. This year the performance returned to the Social Hall.



The nursery continued to provide care for children birth to age four. Classes met from pre-school through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The first Sunday of each month is known as "Worship for All Ages" where children attend worship with their parents. Rachel Burns created activity bags that provided the youth with meaningful religious activities during the service.



Local and Global Outreach programs continued to be very important at LCC. They included: Rally CLE, Common Threads (Cleveland Thrift Shop), Community Meals (Peggy and Michael Mizen), Family Promise, Haynes Nursery School, Hunger Ministry, Lakewood Alive, Lakewood Community Services Center, Supplies4Success, Project Angel Tree, Global Ministries, Greater Cleveland Congregation, participation in the Pride March, and the list goes on.

Focus Groups within the church included the Men's group, Pub Theology, Boomer Gals group, evening youth groups, Adventures in Reading, the creation of Lent and Advent Devotional booklets (Karen Wagner), a Family Resource/Harm Reduction Event with Thrive 4 Change, LCC Prayer Chain, Second Saturday, Prayer Shawl ministry, Martha's Table, Meet for Eats and Deets, S'More Time with God, and an Opportunity Fair that highlighted the role of our church teams while providing creative activities to connect with other church members.

Various outside groups met within the church. These included AA, Blazing River Freedom Band, private parties, College Club West-interest group luncheon, Sigma Alpha Iota's annual String Competition Concert, and the Girl Scouts. Trinity Lutheran Church continues to nest in our building and offer Sunday services.

"There are four needs in all people, to live, to love, to learn, and to leave a legacy." (Stephen Covey)

Respectfully submitted,  
**Claire Stair**, *Historian/Archives*



## Personnel Team Report (Moderator)

This past year was a busy one for our professional staff and Executive Team members. Happily, LCC is a growing congregation with expanding needs. Because of this, we focused on supporting the transition from a pastor-led church to a program church, where the leadership of the laity is vital to the success of the church. We documented the Essential Functions of our Ministry Teams and Officer roles, and updated staff job descriptions. This work will provide needed continuity as experienced Executive Team members leave their positions and new individuals join the group. We continue to be blessed with a wonderful staff who lead the church with dedication and enthusiasm. In 2022, we accepted the resignation of our Financial Secretary, Phil Brett, due to health reasons. We asked Kristen Humphreys to step in on a temporary basis, and her experience in non-profit accounting and computer systems is proving invaluable as we transition to a new payroll and accounting provider. We also said farewell to our dedicated volunteer Gloria Van Peeren, who has supported the church's accounting functions so ably for many years. Her knowledge and cheerful presence in the church office will be sorely missed.

The Personnel Team also began preparations for Rev. Joanna's upcoming three-month sabbatical leave. This leave is offered to LCC's minister every five years as part of the Pastoral Call Agreement. The purpose of a sabbatical is to provide physical, spiritual and intellectual enrichment and renewal. It also provides a healthy change of pace and voice for the congregation. Because significant research shows that sabbaticals encourage longer pastorates and refocused ministry and spiritual growth for both the pastor and the church, we are very pleased that Joanna will be utilizing this opportunity from June 1st to August 31st of 2023.

In the coming months, the Personnel Team will share much more information about how everything will be handled while she is away. We are currently developing plans with guest preachers from within and outside of the LCC family, plans for pastoral care with Rev. Catherine, Rachel and others within the congregation, and additional plans for pastoral administrative leadership. We are quite far along in the planning process and will share more soon. We are also aware of the timing of her Sabbatical alongside the capital campaign. We feel strongly that the Sabbatical will be a source of strength and momentum, rather than a pothole that will slow us down. In the near future, Joanna will share details about her plans for the Sabbatical period.

This is an exciting time in the life of Lakewood Congregational Church. I thank our staff and the members of our congregation for their hard work in 2022. We may be just a building on the corner of Detroit and West Clifton, but together, we can have a big impact in our local and global communities.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Jan Young**, Moderator

## Personnel Team Report (Exec Team Chair)

Greetings,

Thank you for taking time from your busy schedule to take a moment and reflect, with me, on where we have grown this year as a congregation. We have, among other things, fully-embraced the pastoral ministry of Rev. Catherine into our daily lives; we have transitioned our church accounting practices into new systems, charts of accounts, and personnel; we have grown our numbers and added new members at a robust pace. All these things happen at both the pleasure of the Almighty and the earnestness of our faith leaders and Executive Team.

Our growth and development as a congregational faith-body has moved us from a more traditional pastoral-led structural institution, into a growth-focused, laity-driven congregational model, with great pastoral leadership continuing to provide loving, caring guidance. Our Executive Team has worked very hard this year to move and transition our faith-focus back to in-person worship, faith-interaction, and interpersonal relationship-building. We worked to find accommodations in worship that proved to be effective and, often, beyond what many other faith communities were able to accomplish during the Pandemic, doing our best to remain faithful to the mission and spirit of our congregation, as well as to one another. But we have much ground to make-up, internal bonds to strengthen, and new faith/worship opportunities to embrace, however, together, we will continue to strive to make LCC an ideal spiritual home for old and new members, alike. Please join in our effort to strengthen our faith community, together. God Bless.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Bill Fraunfelder**, *Executive Team Chair*

## Buildings and Grounds Team

2022 was an extremely busy year for the Building & Grounds Team. While our facility is generally in excellent condition, there were several expensive capital repairs that were needed, as well as some unexpected issues during the year. We are so thankful that the Congregation approved a \$100,000 withdrawal from the endowment last year, so we had the funds to deal with these issues.



In the Spring, the shingled roof was completely removed and replaced by Spartan Storm Services and the cost \$71,737.93 was covered by our insurance company. The roof was damaged by one of the large storms we had in late 2021.

Volunteers came together to do weeding and mulching on the grounds in May.

In June, we had an unexpected leak in the W. Clifton stairwell at the north end of the building. This was caused by a leak in the flat roof and repairs were also covered by insurance. Also in June, our parking lot was repaved, catch basins were rebuilt, and new curbing and a ramp/sidewalk to the elevator entrance was completed. This work was done by Surface Engineering at a cost of \$42,424. Also in June, we were able to replace our sound system in the Sanctuary thanks to a generous gift in memory of Virginia Hancock.

In July, an old plaster ceiling above a suspended ceiling in the library failed, raining plaster and acoustic tile debris on the room. Because this was the result of age-plaster keys letting go of the lathe above—these repairs were not covered by insurance. While a plaster company repaired the ceiling, members of the Building & Grounds Committee repainted the room. These repairs required correction of some electrical issues in the library and presented an opportunity to improve the lighting with recessed lights.

In September, Dependable Painting completed the painting of the front of the church that had been started in late 2021.

In October, it was discovered that a dozen or so squirrels were living in the remaining soffit at the old Archives Room bump out. The squirrels were caught and the manufacture of new soffits ordered. The soffits will be installed in 2023.

In November, Bert's Tree Service trimmed all of our trees at a cost of \$3,025. This is something that had not been done in several years and was needed. Also in November, the Sanctuary floor was repaired, and new carpet was installed by D & R Commercial Flooring. As the Sanctuary was originally carpeted, the pine floor was never meant to be seen and was damaged and coming up in sections near the piano. The old runners in the aisle had also shifted and were presenting a trip hazard. Bids were solicited for covering the pine floor with oak and then installing carpet in the aisles only, but that cost was prohibitive.

Finally, I want to thank the members of the Building & Grounds Team for their hard work and commitment: John Bando, Christopher Leo, Paul Pierce, David Spahr, and David Stair. David Stair has especially earned accolades for the number of bids he has solicited and his generosity in meeting with contractors. Pastor



Joanna has been really supportive; Karen Lee is exceptional in the facilities management she provides in addition to her other responsibilities; and we are fortunate to have John Mullen as custodian, as he takes pride in the building and is always available and flexible when needed.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Michael Fleenor**, *Liaison, Buildings and Grounds*





## Diaconate (Worship Life Ministries Team)

Members of Diaconate: Lauren Smigelski, Chair, Andy Barlow, Lisa Blasko, Jeremy Borell, Paula Deal, Jose Gonzalez, Debi Kasper, Nora Katzenberger, Shannon Katzenberger, Patti Komperda, Charlotte Petrie, Evelyn Richards, and Parker Toms



Members of Diaconate are responsible for assisting the pastor in providing a meaningful worship experience. We prepare and serve the Sacrament of Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month. Communion is served two ways: at the altar by intinction and in the pews. We were very pleased to return to traditional passing in the pews this past year. And while we did return to the altar to take elements separately, we have not restarted intinction. We were all very happy to move mostly away from the “lunchable” or “creamer cup” communion packs.

Thank you to all members of Diaconate who helped prepare, serve, and clean up communion over the last year! We could not have done it without you!

Throughout the last year, members of the Executive Team have been discussing the best way to do ministry at LCC. One way we think we can do ministry better is by dividing various church activities that used to reside under the purview of Diaconate and Nurture and Growth into two new ministry teams, which will now be known as Worship Life and Congregational Life.

The Worship Life Liaison will be an elected member of the Executive Team (like the Chair of Diaconate) and oversee activities which are primarily related to worship and the arts. This includes:

- Reviewing all logistics and creative arts of worship.
- Supporting the effective use of sound and video technology during worship, which includes organizing sound and video volunteers.
- Preparing and serving the Sacrament of Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month and occasional special services, and preparing for Baptisms as needed.
- Managing the changing of paraments and ordering of worship supplies.
- Supporting sanctuary decoration and worship arts initiatives.

The Congregational Life Liaison, who will also be an elected member of the Executive Team (like the Chair of Nurture and Growth) will oversee activities which support the education, spiritual and social development of the congregation. This position will work closely with the Minister of Health and Wholeness and the Director of Children Youth and Family Ministries to address the educational and spiritual development needs of the congregation. This includes:

- Collaborating and engaging with an Adult Faith Formation team to coordinate educational and spiritual development opportunities throughout the year
- Collaborating and engaging with a Children and Youth Faith Formation team to coordinate educational and spiritual development opportunities throughout the year in collaboration with the CYF ministries staff and other ministry teams
- Collaborating with the Minister of Health and Wholeness to equip small groups of care and support.

- Supporting and engaging leaders of Martha's Table, Prayer Shawl Ministry Group, Prayer Chain, and other caring ministries within our congregation.
- Serve as a permission-giving and equipping body for church members with ideas for special interest groups and activities related to educational and spiritual development.



Ultimately, this will mean some constitutional changes down the line, but for the next year, the Executive Team would like to test this new model before making any substantial changes.

As our church continues to grow, we see this shift as crucially important to sustainable programming growth for our church. This is exciting and the Executive Team is excited to see how this works over the coming year. There will be more information distributed in the coming months about how you can get involved in these newly reorganized ministry teams.

***Lauren Smigelski, Liaison, Diaconate (Worship Life)***

## Outreach (Faith-in-Action Ministries Team)

The Community Outreach team got a new start and a new name to more closely reflect our mission of faith, service, and building God's beloved community.

### Angel Tree



THANK YOU to all volunteers who helped with Angel Tree this year! The children who hung the angels on the tree, the gift donors, those who donated funds to cover unclaimed angels, the youth who shopped for gifts, and the drivers who delivered gifts to the families, we couldn't have done this without you!! We delivered to 33 families, providing gifts to 84 children in our community. Thank you for helping make Christmas special for those children. (Nicky Wills)

### Community Meal

For 2022 we provided 48 take away meals (44 meat based-4 vegetarian) each month.

Our menus varied between a mac and cheese with meat and vegetable casserole, pork roast or chicken breast. During the summer months we provided a sandwich-based meal. We have been fortunate to keep our costs under \$125 per month.

We have between 20-30 people drive up/walk up each month. Any leftovers are available to AA which meets at LCC the same evening.

Our guests have also benefited from home cooked desserts donated on a monthly basis provided by a committee member. Distribution begins at 5:30PM and we distribute all meals by 6:30pm.

Please contact us if you would like to join this committee which continues to provide a very needed ministry to our neighborhood.

We remain very thankful to our church community for your support. (Peggi and Michael Mizen)

### Undie Sundays

We held our annual January donation drive to collect socks and underwear for those in crisis due to homelessness. This year we donated to Frontline Service, an organization that offers a wide array of services that cater to individuals and families that are experiencing homelessness in the Greater Cleveland area. We had several cartons of donations that were delivered by LCC member Olivia Bando who is on the staff at the organization. Thanks to everyone who contributed. (Vicki Smigelski)

### Global Outreach / Alternative Gift Market

We want to celebrate our fundraising effort to help the Mount Selinda Hospital in Zimbabwe! [https://www.globalministries.org/project/mt\\_selinda\\_hospital\\_uccz/](https://www.globalministries.org/project/mt_selinda_hospital_uccz/)



Between donations from the congregation and the endowment distribution from the Global Missions fund, we will be sending a check for over \$8,000 (additional donations are trickling in and it is not too late to send in yours!). Thank you to all who contributed to this important mission effort! The patients, doctors, nurses, and other staff of Mount Selinda Hospital will greatly appreciate our efforts to provide them financial support as well as to know that a congregation cares about them from the other side of the world. (David Sangree, Global Ministries Chair)

### **Greater Cleveland Congregations**



This year we looked for ways to more actively engage with the greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC). Multiple church members participated in policy research teams around criminal justice issues, participated in door-to-door canvassing and relationship building in low voter turn-out communities, and attended in

person "actions" that lifted up voices of the vulnerable to community leaders. We look forward to continuing building our relationship and getting more church members involved. (Liz Maugans and Heather Tuck-Macalla, Community Organizing Co-Chairs)

***Heather Tuck-Macalla, Liaison, Outreach / Faith-in-Action***

## Welcoming Ministries Team

LCC continued to provide an extravagant welcome to everyone who came through our doors this year and to those who worship with us online.



Scott Suttell coordinates the schedule for our greeters each Sunday morning. Our head usher, John Bando, does the same for the ushers that pass out bulletins and collect our offering. John also makes sure the candles are lit and flowers are placed along with other tasks to ensure a smooth worship experience. Thanks to both of them and their volunteers. We encouraged members to wear name tags once a month to help us get to know one another's names. We also conducted building tours several times throughout the year to help make our large facility feel a little less daunting.

We welcomed new members on three Sundays in 2022. The Sunday evening before members join, we host a dessert that we call "Meet for Eats and Deets."

These informational meetings allow potential new members to learn more about the United Church Christ and LCC and to get to know each other better before joining. We are so fortunate to continue to have so many visitors find a church home.

Our after-worship coffee hour is a chance for fellowship each week. Thanks to Laura Germaine for ensuring we have a cake for Birthday Sunday on the first Sunday of each month. Our faithful volunteers prepare, serve and clean up beverages and treats for everyone attending. Thanks to Beth Abbott, Andy Barlow, Mike, Kay and Caitlin Galloway, Jose Gonzalez, Melissa Parlanti, Charlotte Petrie and Sarah and Paul Pierce for all of their help. Many thanks to Sarah and Paul who have agreed to take over the leadership role for coffee hour moving forward.

In 2023, we hope to re-convene a Marketing Team to audit our current marketing efforts and to see what else we might be doing to share our story and the Good News. Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram if you don't already do so! Thanks to those that keep our website updated. It's a great resource for church communications.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Vicki Smigelski**, *Liaison, Welcoming Ministry*



## Adventures in Reading

Adventures in Reading is an informal book review/discussion group that has been in existence since 1962. This is our 61st year! It is the longest active group at LCC. We read books recommended by members and are chosen from a variety of genres such as bestseller, classic, fiction, non-fiction, historical fiction, mystery, biography, memoir, and others. Each month, one of our members serves as discussion leader. We review and discuss books in the months September - May (9 months/9 books). In June we go out to lunch. We currently have 19 members on our roster, and an average of 14 attend at any given meeting. We have grown by five new members this year.

In the earliest years of the book club, members would meet in their homes and gather around the dining room table for coffee, tea, dessert, nuts, and candy. In later years the group would meet in the church library or parlor for refreshments. Table decorations and sometimes the food would follow the theme of the book for that month. In 2008 we simplified our gatherings and would meet in a conference room at Porter Library in Westlake. In 2020 the Covid 19 pandemic closed many libraries, schools, churches, and businesses, and we transitioned to Zoom meetings. Starting in September 2021 we resumed with meetings in the church parlor.

All our meetings during the 2021-2022 period have continued in the church parlor. We have added an extra table to accommodate our growing group. It has been wonderful to have in person gatherings, but we appreciated the chance to connect via Zoom during the pandemic period not so long ago.

Books discussed during the months January - May were:

- *Still Life* by Louise Penny
- *White Like Her: My Family's Story of Race and Racial Passing* by Gail Lukasik
- *Sold on a Monday* by Kristina McMorris
- *Grandma Gatewood's Walk* by Ben Montgomery
- *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford

In June we celebrated the end of the reading season with a luncheon at Legacy Restaurant (Sweetbriar Golf Club) in Avon Lake. Good food was enjoyed, conversation was appreciated, members volunteered as discussion leaders, books were chosen, and the schedule for 2022-2023 was filled!

Books discussed during the months September - December were:

- *The Last Castle* by Denise Kieran
- *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro
- *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge
- *The Boston Girl* by Anita Diamant
- *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri

We will continue to meet the second Wednesday of the month in the church parlor. Lunch/snack/conversation at 12:00; book discussion begins at 12:30. All are welcome!

**Kathy MacDougall**, Chair

## The Lyman G. Farrar Columbarium

The church dedicated The Lyman G. Farrar Columbarium on September 11, 1994. It allows for the inurnment of a loved one's remains following a cremation.

The Columbarium is directly behind the Sanctuary. There are 210 niches with oak fronts for an urn or a container of ashes. A brass nameplate is placed on the front of the niche when ashes have been placed inside.

The cremated remains of Earl Gottlieb and Todd Maugans were committed to the Columbarium in 2022.

At the present time we have 76 of the niches either in use or reserved. The price of an individual niche is \$400.00. If you are interested in purchasing a niche(s) or if you have any questions regarding the Columbarium, please contact Reverend Joanna.



# Haynes Nursery School

Haynes Nursery School (HNS) operates under the authority of the LCC Executive Team, which has placed HNS under the general supervision of the Haynes School Board. The Haynes School Board members include: Rachel Burns, HNS Board Chair and Director of Children and Family ministries; David Diemert, LCC member-at-large; Shannon Lubas, HNS Director; Roseann LaDue, HNS teacher representative; Joanna D'Agostino, Lakewood Congregational Senior Minister; parent representative Abigail Eshbaugh.

The 2022-23 school year is one of building enrollment in each of our classes again. Last year ended with us being able to return to our classrooms in person and unmasked, which felt good to our families. This year we were able to return to having all of our classes operating which was a change from 2021-22 in which we did not open our 3 day 4s class. However, with people still uncertain about what decisions they should make in terms of sending unvaccinated children to school, we still have lower numbers in 3 our year old classes. However, our 4 day 4 class is at capacity and our 3 day 4 class has 12 students.

The board continues to meet. In 2022, HNS Board worked with the Executive Team to:

1. In June we said good-bye to beloved teacher Susan Frost as lead teacher, as she retired.
2. Continue our scholarship for a family who is still struggling due to the pandemic.
3. Maintain and oversee the budget for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school year,
4. Help guide and support director Shannon Lubas in making decisions on hiring new teachers
5. Give approval for Shannon Lubas to replace Susan Frost as a 2 day 3 and 3 day 3 teacher, as well as continue being director.

Some of our Haynes highlights from 2022 include:

1. An end of year celebration in May at Kaufmann Park
2. Annual February "Share the Love" fundraiser focusing on heart-felt love for Haynes children, staff, parents, graduates
3. Our permanent Haynes volunteer, Lee Mechenbier
4. A welcome party for all families at Lakewood Park with almost every family in attendance
5. Annual Halloween party in the gym!
6. A return to our Christmas concert with 4 year old classes
7. Parent involvement in the classroom again! Each welcomes parents to celebrate birthdays and be guest readers.
8. Family fun nights including a date in February, March and April in which families come in the evening to play, do a project and have fun with their family. These extra nights were added because many parents are unable to come to daytime events.
9. The start of a fundraising committee run by parents.



The HNS Staff and Church Staff Celebrated the faithful and dedicated work of Custodian John Mullen this fall with a Surprise Thank You party after 5 years of support.

The HNS fiscal year runs July 1st to June 30th to more easily manage the funds. The HNS board works closely with the LCC office staff who oversees the HNS income and expenditures. Due to decreased

numbers in students, Haynes is running in a deficit this year. I was able to get a grant of 7,000 with some of that money being able to help directly with the deficit. The Haynes student population is up from 45 in 2021-2022, to 55 students in 2022-2023. Out of twenty-four 3 year old students in 2021-22, 22 of them registered for the 2022-23 school year. We sent out parent surveys with Haynes families and families within the city of Lakewood to see what changes families would like to see in order to register. We are currently finalizing these changes in programming for the 2023-24 school year. Based on the number of families who want to return to Haynes for the 23-24 school year and the interest I have from new families, we are confident that the number of students in each classroom will continue an upward trend.

2022-23 Tuition Rates	
January 2-day 3-year old class	\$115
2-day 3-year old class	\$115
3-day 3-year old class	\$155
3-day 4-year old class	\$195
4-day 4-year old class	\$225
There is an \$85 non-refundable registration fee.	

**Shannon Lubas**, Haynes Nursery School Director

## Executive Team Nominations

This slate of candidates is presented by the Nominating Team. Below is the current list of church positions and the date the term expires. Names in **bold** represent people seeking election in a new position to serve their first term/slated to renew a position in which they are currently serving.

Executive Team (2-year terms, may serve 2 terms)				
Position	Representative	Starting Term Year	Ending Term Year	1st or 2nd Term
*Chair	Bill Fraunfelder	2022	2024	1st/only
*Chair-Elect	Laura Germaine	2022	2024	1st/only
*Moderator	Jan Young	2022	2024	2nd
Treasurer	Laura Sangree	2022	2024	1st
Welcoming	Vicki Smigelski	2022	2024	2nd
<b>Nurture and Growth (Congregational Life)</b>	<b>Andy Barlow</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>1st</b>
Outreach (Faith-in-Action)	Heather Tuck Macalla	2022	2024	1st
Diaconate (Worship Life)	Lauren Smigelski	2022	2024	2nd
Building and Grounds	Michael Fleenor	2022	2024	2nd
*denotes LCC Personnel Team Members				

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# Resourcing our Ministries | Financial Report

## Introduction

When you look at our financials this year, you might notice a lot of changes. 2022 was the year to overhaul our financial process and procedures, systems, and reporting methods. There's no better time to make sustainable changes than when things are going well. These changes allow us to be proactive, transparent, and accountable during a time of growth, health, and energized vision.

These changes will help us to develop clear and consistent communication to support faithful stewardship both on an annual basis and in preparation for our upcoming capital campaign.

The following financial reports were developed by treasurer, Laura Sangree with the support of the Finance Team and Executive Team. A church with a growing operating budget is a church with vision and purpose, so thanks be to God! This is **GOOD NEWS**.

Of course, not everyone will notice a lot of changes! The "Notes" section following the proposed budget, will clarify several specific pieces. Here are some other elements you should be looking for:

- A restructured budget and chart of accounts, tied to the organizational work done by our Exec Team
- Increased budgeting to reflect inflation rates
- An intentional decrease in rental income from Trinity Lutheran Church, based on our mutual understanding of their discernment as a congregation
- An ongoing/continued commitment to fair and just compensation, by continuing to meet Heartland Conference Clergy Compensation Guidelines and comparable pay and benefits for non-clergy staff. This is in response to Christ's commandment to love one another

Over the 2022 fiscal year, your Finance Team and LCC Staff collaborated on cleaning up the system of interlocking gears that makes up our financial processes, reviews, projections, and reporting. Some of the important elements you may not see, but should be aware of, include:

- Our General Operating Budget grew significantly in the past several years. In 2017, our bottom line was \$362,300. In 2023 we are proposing a bottom line of \$569,400. That is 57% growth in six years
- We refined written goals related to accounting, bookkeeping, and regular reporting, in addition to updating and formalizing endowment policies.
- We made an informed decision to convert to new church management software, from "Church Windows" which we have used for several decades, to "Aplos," which was recommended by other UCC Churches and the Living Water Association. Converting to a new church management software is no small feat. It involves a significant amount of time and intentionality for staff and volunteers.
- We also made an informed decision to convert to a new payroll system "Gusto," which we began using on Jan. 1, 2023 and which will result in significant cost savings.



## Words of Acknowledgement and Gratitude

The hands turning the gears throughout this report come from the PEOPLE who dedicated their time, energy, and brain power to make all of this happen. We cannot possibly overstate the dedication of John Hancock, not just in these past few months but over the course of several decades. John is an indispensable wealth of information and servant of God. Our current treasurer, Laura Sangree, faithfully responded to the call to dig deeply, analyze thoroughly, and pave a clear path forward. As an interim finance secretary, Kristen Humphreys came in with a love for LCC, the capacity for organizing, and a knowledge of accounting. She led us towards informed decisions and put in the time to do the work.

We continue our gratitude for our Finance Secretary Phil Brett, who brought humor and wisdom to LCC until this fall when he took a three-month medical leave followed by his resignation to tend to his physical health.

Our Office Manager, Karen Lee, offered significant support with the software transition but— perhaps most importantly— provided a calm, listening presence while everyone else was banging heads on walls and resisting the urge to throw it all out the window.

In worship on February 5th, we celebrate the commitment of Gloria Van Peeren, who has volunteered every week for 24 years to input the weekly offering into our Church Windows Software. She believed that the transition to new software is a good time for her to “retire” even though we all know she’s more than sharp enough to figure it out! Her dedication to volunteerism is nothing short of inspirational. To God be the Glory for Gloria!

We are also grateful, of course, to the Finance Committee, newly established by past Treasurer Steve Hotchkiss: Mike Daso, Dave Mechenbier, John Pyke, Bill Fraunfelder, Kristen Humphreys, Kim Katzenberger, Karen Wagner, Rob Barcelona, Laura Sangree and Steve Hotchkiss.

We are also grateful to our Executive Team and staff. Each person with a line in the budget met with Laura to clarify their 2022 expenses and 2023 needs in order to develop this report.

Our whole financial team and everyone impacted by it (which is our whole church!) should be grateful and excited for the road ahead. We expect that eliminating unnecessary complications and clarifying our financial reporting will allow us to be even more faithful and effective in our ministry in the coming years.

Submitted with deep gratitude,

***Pastor Joanna, with the support of Laura Sangree and the Finance Team***

# Stewardship

This year, we connected stewardship with the theme “Together for Joy,” while we looked at the way our community deepened our relationships with God and one another this past year, growing and thriving together for joy. Charlotte Petrie helped with planning and developing ideas for Stewardship.

Speakers reflected about giving and why LCC matters to them during four Sunday services: John Hancock, Paul Pierce, Cameron Wereb, and Ryan and Amelia Geiger.

A stewardship mailing (included at the end of this Annual Report) shared highlights of the year, questions for discernment, and information about how to make a pledge. Members submitted their pledges online, by mail, and over the phone.

A few helpful numbers, as of 1/22/2023:

- 112 Total Household Pledges
- Total pledge amount of \$355,634
- Average Annual Pledge: \$3,175
- Median Annual Pledge: \$1,800

This year’s numbers represent a consistent increase in pledges over the past few years, from \$206,876 (78 households) in 2019, to \$355,634 (112 households) for 2023.

Even though 2023’s Pledged Income numbers are higher than they were in 2022, there are a number of reasons we need to continue to grow our pledged income this year and in future years.

1. We do not anticipate receiving a full year of rental income from Trinity Lutheran Church in 2023 or in future years.
2. We are working to develop a Capital Reserve Fund for building maintenance.
3. Our potential and energy to do good mission and ministry is growing with our church, which is wonderful! But it also increases costs across the board.
4. Our 2023 budget includes a maximum-allowed endowment draw, which is not advised.
5. 2022 US inflation rates, of course.

Our 2023 pledge amount (\$355,634) is lower than our 2023 budgeted pledge income (\$365,000) by about \$10,000. This is an intentional and informed risk. After significant discernment, the Finance Team and Executive Team agreed that rather than cutting our budget or proposing a deficit budget, we would invite the congregation to increase pledges to meet the need.

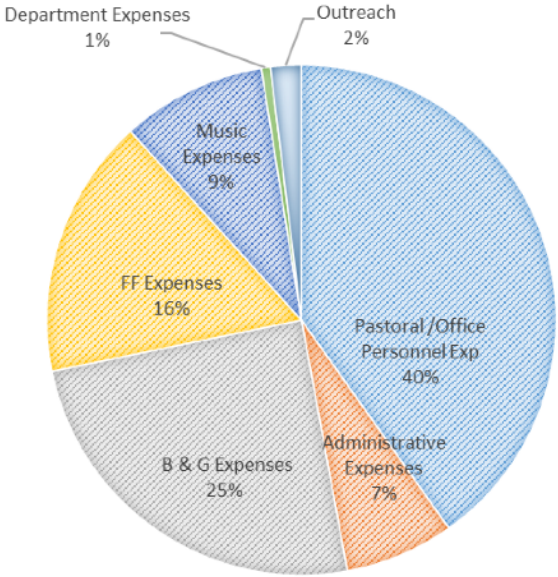
I have every ounce of confidence that our capacity for giving will continue to grow. The commitment of our church family is nothing short of marvelous, and we are confident that our resources are being used in faithful service to God.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Pastor Joanna**

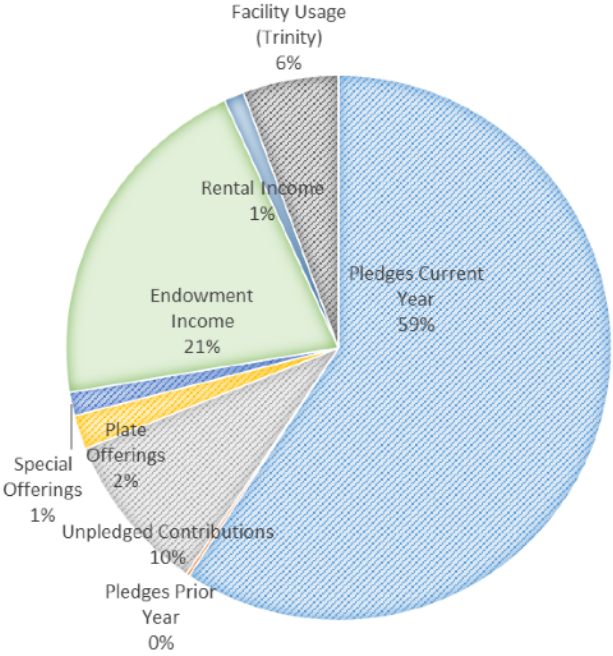
# Treasurer's Summary Report as of December 2022

	2022 Actual	2022 Budget	2023 Budget
<b>Income</b>			
Pledges and Offerings Total	371,664	358,000	416,500
Endowment Withdrawals Total	106,500	106,500	126,600
Rental Income	6,143	10,000	7,500
Facility Usage - Haynes	-	-	8,800
Facility Usage - Trinity	29,142	29,700	15,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>513,449</b>	<b>504,200</b>	<b>574,400</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Pastoral & Office Personnel Expenses	211,524	208,150	219,692
Sabbatical Staff Coverage	-	-	7,500
Administrative Expenses Total	36,546	24,900	24,150
B & G Expenses Total	129,821	123,500	127,623
Contribution to Capital Reserve Fund	-	-	10,000
FF Expenses Total	86,440	84,250	108,030
Music Expenses Total	48,419	50,000	55,800
Department Expenses Total	3,437	2,950	6,705
Worship Life	1,669	1,200	2,925
Welcoming	1,365	750	2,450
Congregational Life	403	750	1,305
Executive Team	-	250	25
Faith in Action	-	-	-
Outreach Total	10,260	8,500	9,800
Transfer Surplus/Deficit	6,635	-	-
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>519,811</b>	<b>502,250</b>	<b>569,300</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>(6,361)</b>	<b>1,950</b>	<b>5,100</b>

# 2022 EXPENSES BY AREA



# 2022 INCOME BY SOURCE





## Balance Sheet

Account Number	Account Name	Amount
<b><u>Assets</u></b>		
1110	Citizens Bank Checking	44,646.69
1210	Citizens Bank Money Market	6,073.27
1310	Note Receivable	12,000.00
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>62,719.96</b>
<b><u>Liabilities</u></b>		
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>0.00</b>
<b><u>Equity</u></b>		
2300	General Fund - Fund Balance	-6,361.14
3010	Other Events and Gifts - Fund Balance	203.67
3050	Pre-Paid Pledges - Fund Balance	3,350.00
3110	Faith in Action - Fund Balance	2,643.53
3120	Global Missions - Fund Balance	465.50
3130	Hunger - Fund Balance	3,947.47
3150	Pastoral Support - Fund Balance	379.58
3210	Youth Mission Trip - Fund Balance	4,833.88
3220	Youth Musical - Fund Balance	5,902.37
3230	Flowers - Fund Balance	183.96
3240	Festival Arts - Fund Balance	4,671.73
3310	Bequests & Memorials - Fund Balance	13,803.88
3320	Capital General- Fund Balance	20,376.42
3330	Capital - Campaign - Fund Balance	20,000.00
3370	Haynes - Fund Balance	-11,680.89
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>62,719.96</b>
<b><u>Total Liabilities + Total Equity</u></b>		<b>62,719.96</b>

## Proposed Budget 2023 (Detail)

Account	2022 Actual	2023 Request
Pledged Income	305,171	365,000
Unpledged/Plate Offerings	59,349	45,000
Holiday Offerings	7,144	6,500
Endowment Income	106,500	126,600
Rental Income	6,143	7,500
Haynes Usage Fees	-	8,800
Trinity Usage Fees	29,142	15,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>513,449</b>	<b>574,400</b>
Pastoral Salaries & Benefits	153,698	156,200
Pastoral Prof Dev & Miscellaneous	1,683	6,392
Sabbatical Staff Coverage	-	7,500
<b>Total Pastoral</b>	<b>155,381</b>	<b>170,092</b>
CYF Salaries & Benefits	76,366	97,300
C&Y Faith Formation	7,073	-
Curriculum	-	1,000
Supplies	-	1,000
C&Y Programming		
Youth Group	-	1,000
Youth Confirmation	-	1,000
Vacation Bible School	-	500
Other CYF Programming	-	1,000
Youth Musical/Mission Trip Funding	3,000	3,500
Childcare/Nursery		
Child Care / Nursery Staff	-	1,680
Child Care / Nursery Supplies	-	50
<b>Total Children, Youth, &amp; Family Ministries</b>	<b>86,440</b>	<b>108,030</b>

Music Salaries & Benefits	45,759	53,100
Music Maintenance	984	1,000
Music Supplies	1,676	1,700
<b>Total Music</b>	<b>48,419</b>	<b>55,800</b>
Worship Life	1,669	2,925
Welcoming	1,365	2,450
Congregational Life	403	1,305
Executive Team	-	25
<b>Total Ministry Teams</b>	<b>3,437</b>	<b>6,705</b>
Greater Cleveland Congregations	2,810	2,000
Our Church's Wider Mission	7,450	7,500
Miscellaneous Memberships	-	300
<b>Total Community Memberships</b>	<b>10,260</b>	<b>9,800</b>
Office Salaries and Benefits	56,142	57,100
Software and Subscriptions		
Computer / Software	-	6,500
Subscriptions / Publicity	-	200
Office Services		
Telephone/Internet	5,208	3,800
Postage	1,011	1,200
Printer/Copier	4,091	5,700
Office Supplies	23,786	2,200
General Building Supplies	-	2,850
Credit Card Fees	2,449	2,200
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>92,688</b>	<b>81,750</b>
Interior B&G		
Int Maintenance Service	21,302	12,885
Int Maintenance Supplies	1,062	1,035

Custodial Services	35,850	39,279
Exterior B&G		
Exterior Maintenance Supplies	1,745	1,700
Landscaping/Plowing Services	9,237	9,000
Utilities		
Gas	10,289	13,000
Electric	9,101	8,400
Water	6,944	3,500
Waste & Recycling	1,543	1,503
Safety & Security		
Security Services	4,538	9,084
Building Insurance	24,796	24,909
Safety Systems	3,416	3,328
Funding for Capital Reserve	-	10,000
<b>Total Building &amp; Grounds</b>	<b>129,821</b>	<b>137,623</b>
Transfer surplus/deficit	(6,635)	-
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>519,810</b>	<b>569,300</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>(6,361)</b>	<b>4,600</b>

### NOTES:

- **Haynes Usage Fees:** LCC waived Haynes' Usage Fees during the pandemic but both LCC and Haynes feel confident about re-instituting these payments.
- **Trinity Usage Fees:** We are budgeting to receive fees from Trinity for only 6 months in 2023
- **Sabbatical Staff Coverage:** Joanna is pursuing grants and other funding to offset these costs.
- **C&F Faith Formation:** Children and Youth Faith Formation did not have a detailed budget in previous years but will be trying to track by programming area in 2023.
- **Youth Musical/Mission Trip Funding:** These are transfers to the Youth Musical and Youth Mission trip restricted funds as a contribution from the church. Both events also have significant fund-raising efforts to cover their expenses.



- **Total Ministry Teams:** The structure, naming, responsibilities, and budgets for the Ministry Teams has been a big focus for Executive Team recently. These budget numbers reflect moving a lot of expenses from general admin and other accounts to a place where each ministry team liaison can take an active role in planning and evaluating activities.
- **Community Memberships:** LCC is a committed partner by supporting Greater Cleveland Congregations, the National United Church of Christ, and other local organizations.
- **Total Administration:** Note the large 2022 expense in “Office Supplies” which has now been allocated to different areas of the budget. Many of these expenses were previously part of Office Supplies but are significant enough to warrant their own accounts. Many unrelated expenses were recorded in “Office Supplies” when there was no other dedicated budget line. Our new structure will give better visibility and control over expenses in a variety of new categories.
- **Credit Card Fees:** Credit card fees are a cost of doing business and make many of our transactions easier. For ticketed events and Haynes tuition, the fees will be part of the cost and covered by the card user. Please consider selecting the option to “Cover my fees” if you choose to donate online.
- **Security Services:** Rental fees cover a large part of security services when outside guests use our building.
- **Funding for Capital Reserve:** We are committed to building a Capital Reserve fund to cover emergencies and planned routine improvements and repairs.
- **Difference:** This year’s planned budget surplus is almost enough to offset last year’s deficit.

## Fund Accounts

A significant part of LCC's ministry is made possible through restricted funds, which are designated for specific purposes.

Some of the money for these funds comes from an annual contribution from the operating budget, but the funds rely heavily on donations and fundraising efforts.

Each fund has a sponsor who is responsible for soliciting donations, organizing fundraising, managing expenses, and disbursing funds.

The balances in the funds carryover from year-to-year.

<b>Outreach &amp; Mission Funds</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Starting Balance</b>	<b>Add'l Funding</b>	<b>Current Total</b>
Faith in Action	Outreach Ministry Team	2,644	2,034	4,678
Global Missions	Outreach Ministry Team	466	2,034	2,500
Hunger	Outreach Ministry Team	3,947		3,947
HASO	CYF Director / Faith Form. Team	-		-
Pastoral Support	Sen. Pastor (Discretionary Assistance)	380	300	680
<b>Total</b>				<b>11,804</b>

The Faith-in-Action and Global Missions funds support local and global outreach respectively.

Each January they receive income from the Extra Mile Fund endowment which is invested in socially responsible funds and managed by United Church Funds. The Faith-in-Action Team also chooses a global mission project each year and actively seeks additional donations for this project.

The Hunger and HASO funds rely entirely on donations and are used for Community Meals and for supporting local organizations that alleviate hunger and homelessness.

<b>Program Funds</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Starting Balance</b>	<b>Add'l Funding</b>	<b>Current Total</b>
Youth Mission Trip	CYF Director / Faith Form. Team	4,834	500	5,334
Youth Musical	CYF Director / Youth Musical Team	5,902	3,000	8,902
Flowers	Worship Life Ministry Team	184		184
Festival Arts	Director of Music / Music Team	4,672		4,672
<b>Total</b>				<b>19,092</b>

The Youth Mission Trip and Youth Musical are two significant programs for LCC's youth. These funds get a portion of their income from the operating budget, but their teams work hard to find additional money and to carefully manage their expenses.

The Flower fund is a pass-through account that receives donations and payments for holiday and commemorative flowers for worship and then purchases flowers and altar decorations.

The Festival Arts primary source of income is our very popular Talent Show. Mark your calendars for April 22! It enables LCC to provide a wide range of musical performances beyond our typical worship.

<b>Other Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Starting Balance</b>	<b>Add'l Funding</b>	<b>Current Total</b>
Bequests & Memorials	Asst Treasurer / Senior Pastor	13,804		13,804
Capital - Reserve Fund	Buildings and Grounds Team	20,376	10,000	30,376
Capital - Campaign	Buildings and Grounds Team	20,000		20,000
Haynes Nursery School	Haynes Director	(11,681)		(11,681)
<b>Total</b>				<b>52,499</b>

Many generous members and friends of LCC have donated to our general endowment and to our Bequests & Memorials Funds. We are so very grateful for the gifts in honor of Virginia Hancock that bless us every week with our improved sound system. We continue to use gifts in this fund in accordance with families' and donors' wishes.

We are trying to build up a Capital Reserve Fund to cover emergencies and planned routine improvements and repairs such as painting and boiler repair.

The Capital Campaign Fund will be used for income and expenses related to the anticipated Capital Campaign.

Haynes Nursery School ended 2022 with a sizable deficit of \$11,681. However, they received a grant of \$7,000 in January that addresses most of it and will be reflected in 2023 reports. Haynes' 2023 budget is on track to cover expenses with a rebound in enrollment.

There are several other funds that are primarily used as accounting pass-through accounts.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Laura Sangree, Treasurer**

# Endowment Fund Activity and Analysis

The Endowment Committee meets on a regular basis outside of the regular Finance Committee meetings. Our goals that we accomplished for the 2022 calendar year were as follows:

1. Review the Extra Mile Fund objectives and establish a withdrawal policy
2. Update the Investment Policy Statement for the General Endowment
3. Meet with the Investment Advisors for the General Endowment and analyze the performance of that account

## The Extra Mile Fund

The Extra Mile Fund was established in 1994 and is separate from the General Endowment. The purpose is for "benevolences over and above the Church's budgeted benevolences". The Extra Mile Fund is managed by United Church Funds and is currently invested in their Socially Responsible Balanced Fund.

In 2022 we established a formal procedure for a distribution to be taken each January equal to 4% of the previous year-end balance. The funds will be deposited into the general church checking account. The Outreach Ministries committee will determine the allocation of those funds. As no withdrawals had been made since 2020, a withdrawal of 4% of the 1/1/2022 balance was made in 2022 (\$5,144). The investment return for 2022 was -16.88%.

**Extra Mile Fund Balance 1/1/2022: \$128,588**

2022 Withdrawal (4% of 1/1/2022 Balance): (\$5,144)

Investment Gain / (Loss): (\$21,712)

**Extra Mile Fund Balance 12/31/2022: \$101,733**

## General Endowment Fund

The General Endowment is held at Charles Schwab and is managed by MAI Capital Management. MAI Capital Management acquired Winfield Associates, the previous managers of our endowment. The people handling our account and the terms of our agreement have not changed.

Our Investment Policy Statement that provides guidance for how these funds should be managed was last updated in 2011. The Endowment Committee spent a great deal of time and held several meetings to review this statement and provide a recommended updated document to the Executive Team. An updated document was approved in 2022 by the Executive Team and a copy was provided to our advisors (MAI Capital Management). In December 2022 the Endowment Committee had a meeting with MAI Capital Management to discuss the updated document and review the investment performance of the account.



The General Endowment is funded through lifetime and planned gifts (including charitable bequests) from the members of our Church. The General Endowment is vital to the ongoing financial stability of our Church. Part of the annual operating budget includes an annual withdrawal from the General Endowment. The investment return for 2022 was -17.67%.

<b>General Endowment Balance 1/1/2022: \$2,469,038</b>
2022 Withdrawal*: (\$228,002)
Investment Gain / (Loss): (\$436,213)
<b>General Endowment Balance 12/31/2022: \$1,804,823</b>

\*The 2022 withdrawal includes a \$100,000 withdrawal for capital improvements that was approved by the membership and the annual operating budget withdrawal. The annual operating budget withdrawal is not to exceed 6% of the General Endowment 3 Year Moving Average.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Michael Daso**, *Endowment Committee Chair*

# 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes (2-13-2022)

**February 13, 2022, 2:00 pm**

**Meeting begins at 2 p.m. via Zoom**

**Quorum number needed: 27**

**Participants at the start of the meeting: 55 Zoom accounts, representing more than 75 people.**

Jan Young reviews Zoom housekeeping matters, particularly on asking questions and voting; reviews what people will see, reminds them to check the chat box and notes that polls will pop up on the screen (sends a practice poll).

Charlotte Petrie sends a link for tech assistance.

Liz Spahr sends a link for the annual meeting packet.

Quorum declared 2:14 p.m. and Joanna D'Agostino leads a prayer to start the meeting

Jan Young asks for a formal motion to conduct the meeting via Zoom. Tim Hampton makes the motion, Thom Geist seconds, and it is approved.

She also asks for a motion to dispense with the reading of the 2021 meeting minutes. Darren Toms makes the motion, Nora Katzenberger seconds, and it is approved.

Liz Spahr, executive team chair, introduces the report from the executive team.

She encourages all members to read the committee reports compiled in the annual report, saying, "There are a lot of things we did during the year that are worth celebrating." Says this has been "a unique time to be a leader in this church," or any organization. Notes that "compassion and empathy have helped people" get through the tough times of the pandemic, and the church plays a big role in lifting people up. Thanks the executive team members and LCC staff for all their efforts to "make this a productive time for the church."

This meeting marks the end of six years for Liz on executive team. She says she's "very excited" about future leadership.

Treasurer Stephen Hotchkiss makes his report.

Endowment balance on 12-31-2021: \$2,469,038

Endowment balance on 12-31-2020: \$2,222,725

Says the endowment is down at the start of 2022 due to market conditions but is in "very capable hands".

The Extra Mile Fund as of 12-31-2021 had a balance of \$128,685, up from a balance of \$117,644 on 12-31-2020. Reviews original and revised 2021 budgets, then looks at the proposed budget for 2022. Proposed endowment draw is \$106,000 in 2022.

Operating budget is just over \$511,000

On Haynes, he says, "We have a commitment to sustain Haynes" financially, and notes that in 2022 it "ought to be close to self-sustaining."

At 2:39 p.m., Jan Young thanks Stephen Hotchkiss for his work as treasurer, then asks for a motion to approve the 2022 budget.

Bill Fraunfelder makes the motion, Karen Wagner seconds, and the budget is approved unanimously.

Michael Komperda reviews the status of the church's Open and Affirming statement.

Shows the statement used from 2005 to 2021, then shows the proposed 2022 statement that includes language on "gender identity and expression." Notes that a committee of seven people worked on the revised statement. Michael makes a motion to adopt the statement with the new language, and Liz Maugans second. Motion is approved with two "no" votes

Patti Komperda makes a report for the six-member listening team (notes that Vicki Smigelski put the team together but was unable to be at the meeting due to a death in the family).

Starts by noting the need to an update of the kitchen and social hall, which were last renovated in 1954-55. The team gathered information and talked with people involved in the musicals, cooking/coordinating community meals, Haynes, the church custodian, security, and other events. Reviews results of a survey about the space, which revealed people have many "heartfelt memories" about moments in the social hall. Top three desired changes in the social hall: flooring, lighting, sound system/stage light. Top desired changes in the kitchen include flooring and appliances.

Next steps: add project managers for the renovation, interview architects, gather information about mechanical systems and gather additional congregational input.

Paula Deal asks if this will involve a capital campaign. Joanna D'Agostino says the answer is "eventually, yes," though we don't yet know the timing and scope." Want to make sure we have "the energy to do it well," rather than just "do it fast."

Melissa Diemert speaks for the nominating committee.

Refers participants to the full list of nominees in the annual report. Stephen Hotchkiss adds that Mike Daso has been asked to serve as Assistant Treasurer. Scott Richardson makes a motion to approve the slate of nominees, and Tom Leatherman seconds it. Slate is approved unanimously.

Incoming chair Bill Fraunfelder thanks outgoing and ongoing executive team members for their work and says they have made LCC "extremely resilient" during the difficult COVID era.

Conversation for the good of the congregation begins at 3:16 p.m.

Laura Hampton thanks the COVID committee, particularly Dr. Amy Daso, for their work during the pandemic.

Michael Komperda asks about the status of Trinity. Joanna notes, "They're trying to figure out how to continue" but says Trinity is "not financially viable at this time" and will review its long-term plan after Easter.

Karen Lee thanks janitor, John Mullen for his work on the building. Says he approaches the job seriously "and it shows," with improved conditions throughout the building.

Emma Barcelona asks if we're thinking about revenue generation for the kitchen and social hall. Joanna D'Agostino says there's an opportunity to evaluate needs in the community that aren't being met, and that in some cases, that might generate revenue.

Jill Richardson asks about updated mask protocols; Joanna says that will be discussed this week, as it's also on the school board agenda.

At 3:24 p.m., Joanna gives the benediction, and the meeting is adjourned

Respectfully submitted,  
**Scott Suttell**



# Special Congregational Meeting Minutes (5-22-2022)

**May 22, 2022, 2:00 pm**

**Janice Young: Opens Meeting**

**John Bando: Establishes quorum has been met**

**Pastor Joanna D'Agostino opening prayer**

Janice Young: Introduces Michael Fleenor, Chair, Building and Grounds

**Michael Fleenor: Introduces Motion**

The Executive Team puts forth a motion to earmark \$100,000 from the General Endowment Fund for the purpose of deferred maintenance, unrelated to the Social Hall and Kitchen.

**Vicki Smigelski: Seconds Motion**

**Pastor Joanna D'Agostino: Provides historical background.**

The Building & Grounds Committee lead by Michael Fleenor have been working to establish a capital building maintenance/expense plan. Through this process they discovered extensive deferred maintenance work that needed to be done and the cost would exceed allowed expenses in the general fund. Pulling a set amount from the endowment fund will aid in bidding process for needed deferred maintenance work.

The Executive Team unanimously voted to present the need to the congregation.

Kim Katzenberger, Chair, Finance Committee is working with his committee to create longer range financial/capital planning to avoid jarring expenditures in the future.

Roof being replaced by insurance providing a large cost savings to church.

Reiterated that \$100,000 is not related to Social Hall & Kitchen

**Janice Young: Opens meeting to questions**

- Peggy Mizen: Does it make sense to draw more than \$100,000 in case of inflation or other unexpected needs?
- Pastor Joanna D'Agostino: Bids will be locked in. \$100,000 should be sufficient.
- Michael Mizen: Is this a permanent line item that will be asked of the congregation again once it runs out?
- Pastor Joanna D'Agostino: We have been doing this for a long time. We hope with the new capital expenditure planned budgeting that funds will be set aside to avoid this in the future.
- Steve Hotchkiss: What is the current amount in the endowment fund and Extra Mile Fund?
- Mike Daso: In April the endowment fund was \$2,250,000. He does not know at this time what the exact amount of the Extra Mile Fund is at this moment, but it is completely separate from what they are discussing today. The withdraw from the endowment will be 5%.
- John Hancock: There is currently \$260,000 cash in the endowment. The withdrawal request would not require the selling of any stocks or equities.
- Pastor Joanna D'Agostino: With no further questions, we can move to a vote.

**Janice Young: Calls congregation to vote. Vote passes unanimously.**

**Pastor Joanna D'Agostino: Ascending Notes and closure to meeting.**

## Historical Bequests & Contributions to General Endowment Fund

DONOR	ORIGINAL VALUE	DONOR	ORIGINAL VALUE
Ruth Achor	\$1,380	Estate of Elsie Lee Green	\$1,705
C. S. Albright Family	\$997,997	Estate of Laura B. Hale	\$20,100
John Adams	\$2,645	Estate of Norma K. Hammer	\$3,282
Anne Allen	\$1,020	Camilla B. Hysell	\$500
Harold Baker	\$10,430	Ernest N. Jennison	\$5,000
Ruth Buckstaff Baker	\$9,480	Estate of Alice M. Keil	\$2,000
Virginia Baker	\$8,389	Florence B. & Henry H. Kern Living Endowment Fund	\$9,500
Merle Baker	\$2,085	Joseph Mitchell Kiss & Helen Reed Kiss Endowment Fund	\$2,000
Richard & Dorothy Braund	\$3,820	Estate of Muriel Lehr	\$1,000
Lorraine Cisar	\$1,000	Estate of Esther E. Lent	\$1,050
Robert L. Corns	\$1,000	Estate of Edna F. Longcoy	\$8,414
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Aaron Cowles	\$1,000	Charles Edward Manville (Marguerite & Margery Ann)	\$6,000
Theodore & Elizabeth Cunningham	\$1,230	Mark & Myrtle (Moncrief) Meriam Living Endowment	\$6,000
Arnold Dobay	\$3,515	Luther L. & Kate Miller	\$10,000
Etta G. Ellenberger	\$5,355	George & Grace Pleasance	\$10,000
Judy Saltz Gannon	\$1,500	Estate of Ida O. Poe	\$39,937
Ernest & Helen Goldsack	\$3,437	Estate of Marion S. Powell	\$5,000
Katherine M. Grulich	\$1,000	David Clifford Reed & Jennie Miller Reed	\$1,000
Margaret Newell & Donald L. Harbaugh	\$2,500	Mrs. Charles W. Root	\$500
Marjorie Haynes & JoAnn Wright	\$2,000	Estate of Hugh Runkle	\$1,000
Mort & Janet Hitchcock	\$1,294	Flora M. Seibig	\$1,000
Mabel Rowe	\$1,030	Paul E. Simon	\$1,000
Mr. & Mrs. J. Clifford Rumbarger	\$1,320	Estate of Sheldon R. Tibbott	\$5,000
Margaret Rupert	\$5,000	Thurman Tippy	\$3,000
Arthur B. Sansom	\$1,780	Estate of Albert T. Zillmer	\$57,201
Mr. & Mrs. Neal Scovil	\$3,000	75th Anniversary Endowment Gifts - Various Donors	\$58,052
Albert & Carolyn Shelton	\$1,000	R. V. Allen	\$2,862
Ruth Simmelink	\$1,000	Florence Peterson	\$36,558
Joan T. Sinclair	\$1,000	Kathryn Yenne	\$1,000
John Page Swing	\$1,185	Pearl M. Brazee	\$12,212
Ernestine Tedor	\$1,000	Gertrude E. Hawkins	\$61,387
Dorothy & Bernard Vixseboxse	\$1,500	Margaret E. John	\$73,221

Harriet Weddell	\$1,035	Walter Greene	\$10,000
Harold B. Wright	\$1,025	Ruth Hange	\$5,000
William A. Achele	\$4,503	Elizabeth White	\$2,000
Estate of Miss Harriet Baldwin	\$2,422	John & Norine Prim	\$1,000
Bowling League	\$954	Robert Hotchkiss	\$1,500
Estate of Bernice Bramley	\$172	Pearl Lee	\$1,050
Estate of Hattie Broie	\$1,000	Hildegard Dobay	\$3,000
Estate of William C. Burrows	\$2,500	Katherine Waltz	\$36,960
Estate of Georgia Case	\$8,628	Estate of Anna Moyer	\$76,386
Estate of Ethelyn B. Connelly	\$604,072	Estate of Bertha Hauck	\$1,754
Pauline F. DeKalb	\$1,000	Estate of Wilma Reynolds	\$34,746
Mr. & Mrs. Trafton M. Dye	\$20	Estate of Leonard Ferman	\$5,000
Edward L. Emerson	\$10,000	The Rev. Dr. Lyman G. & Betty W. Farrar Living Endowment Fund	\$1,000
Estate of Mallard E. Foster	\$1,358	William Huffman, Jr	\$1,525
Estate of Eleanor Gaiser	\$1,000	G. Allen Barth Family	\$5000
Estate of Marvin D. Girardeau	\$5,000		
Estate of Dorothy Ruth Graham	\$1,000	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,393,415</b>

*In addition to the names listed above, we are very grateful for many generous designated gifts, which were used for specific projects and ministries at LCC at the families' and donors' request, rather than going towards the General Endowment Fund. We intend to find a way to celebrate those gifts in future Annual Reports as well. Recent designated contributions include **Caroline Seelbach, Fern Maugans, Virginia Hancock, and Peter Kuhn.***

## LCC Senior Ministers

The Rev. Benjamin Williams	1906-1908	The Rev. Lyman G. Farrar, D. Min. (Pastor Emeritus)	1979-1994
The Rev. Ross W. Sanderson	1908-1909	The Rev. Alexander Campbell (Interim)	1994-1995
The Rev. George LeGrand Smith	1912-1917	The Rev. Rosemary R. Iha (Interim)	1995
The Rev. Roy E. Bowers, D.D.	1918-1939	The Rev. Dale Stohre	1995-2000
The Rev. Everett W. McNair, PhD	1939-1948	The Rev. Martha Chenault (Interim)	2000-2004
The Rev. George Drew, D.D.	1949-1970	The Rev. Dave Shackle (Interim)	2004
The Rev. Donald W. Morgan	1971-1978	The Rev. Mark Thomas	2004-2018
The Rev. Frederick A. Meyer (Interim)	1978-1979	The Rev. Joanna D'Agostino	2018-Present