

Lakewood Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, June 11, 2023



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

Welcome and Announcements

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

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

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

Welcome

Jan Young, Moderator

Prelude

Stephen Schwartz

"Day by Day" from *Godspell*
Edie Barcelona, vocals and piano
Avery Spahr, vocals

Call to Worship

Leader: Before God spoke the first word of creation, there was love.

People: Before we entered this sanctuary this morning, love was already here.

Leader: As we gather as this beloved community to worship our God of love.

People: Our hearts overflow with your Spirit.

Leader: When our hearts become full, we go out into the world to witness, advocate, and serve.

People: We do this because we are called to serve with love.

Opening Hymn

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The God of Abraham Praise

Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

Spirit of the living God, we have come here to share a common faith and a yearning to be nourished in spirit. In your great mercy, meet us in this place and hear our prayers. We offer you our stories and seek your comforting presence. We offer you our hearts and seek your guidance. We offer you our time and attention with the hope of living into the way of Jesus more fully, courageously and joyfully. Accept our yearning as praise, O God, and be known to us in each act of hospitality, care and justice we extend and receive in your name. Amen.

Greetings from Reverend Vance Awa

A Time of Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

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

A Time of Sharing

Call to Offering

Offertory

James Fillmore

Melody

Ben Malkevitch, organ

Doxology (in unison)

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

Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

Gracious God, in the kindness of your spirit, accept and bless what we offer today: our checks, our cash, our faltering steps, our brokenness, our leftovers, and our hope. Through your blessing may these offerings become a source of hope and love in this church family, and in the community beyond us. We pray this in the name of the one who taught us to live and to love. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Patti Komperda

Matthew 8:9-13, 18-26 (*The Message* translation)

Passing along, Jesus saw a man at his work collecting taxes. His name was Matthew. Jesus said, "Come along with me." Matthew stood up and followed him.

Later when Jesus was eating supper at Matthew's house with his close followers, a lot of disreputable characters came and joined them. When the Pharisees saw him keeping this kind of company, they had a fit, and lit into Jesus' followers. "What kind of example is this from your Teacher, acting cozy with crooks and misfits?"

Jesus, overhearing, shot back, "Who needs a doctor: the healthy or the sick? Go figure out what this Scripture means: 'I'm after mercy, not religion.' I'm here to invite outsiders, not coddle insiders."

As he finished saying this, a local official appeared, bowed politely, and said, "My daughter has just now died. If you come and touch her, she will live." Jesus got up and went with him, his disciples following along. Just then a woman who had hemorrhaged for twelve years slipped in from behind and lightly touched his robe. She was thinking to herself,

“If I can just put a finger on his robe, I’ll get well.” Jesus turned—caught her at it. Then he reassured her: “Courage, daughter. You took a risk of faith, and now you’re well.” The woman was well from then on.

By now they had arrived at the house of the town official, and pushed their way through the gossips looking for a story and the neighbors bringing in casseroles. Jesus was abrupt: “Clear out! This girl isn’t dead. She’s sleeping.” They told him he didn’t know what he was talking about. But when Jesus had gotten rid of the crowd, he went in, took the girl’s hand, and pulled her to her feet—alive. The news was soon out, and traveled throughout the region.

Reflection

Rev. Kelly Burd

Closing Hymn

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My Hope Is Built

Benediction

Postlude

Rosalie Bonighton

Go Forth

Ben Malkevitch, organ

Kelly Burd is originally from Tiffin, Ohio but has lived in Greater Cleveland since 1999. She has a degree in secondary English education from Ohio University and a Master of Divinity from Yale Divinity School. Kelly’s ordination in 2000 came with her first “official” call to ministry by Dover UCC in Westlake, but she experienced several of pre-seminary jobs as forms of ministry: bartending for 5 years at Put-in-Bay, issuing food stamps as a caseworker in Sandusky County and teaching ESL as a teacher in Tokyo. She has worked in the national setting of the United Church of Christ and as pastor of Pilgrim UCC in Cleveland, and currently works as a hospice chaplain. Kelly lives in Rocky River with her spouse John Forristal, their kids, Sam (13) and Grace (11), and their dog Carley.

Our Mission Statement proclaims our common goal.

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

In keeping with the spirit of our Mission Statement,

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

Offering and Contribution Collection

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

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