

Lakewood Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, July 9, 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. As I stand in this sanctuary I join my heart with you and I pray that you might feel the refuge of this space.

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

Welcome

Vicki Smigelski
Welcoming Chair

Prelude

Alan Price

Amazing Grace/House of the Rising Sun
Wing and Prayer Band
Mark Thomas, drums; Julie Warren, vocals
Shawn Warren, guitar

Call to Worship

One: Faithful people of LCC, sing to God a new song!

Many: We sing to God, with grateful songs!

One: Loving people of LCC, offer your praise and bless the name of God!

Many: We will declare God's salvation from morning until night.

One: Beloved people of LCC, declare God's glory in your ministries of justice!

Many: For great is God, and with faithful hearts, we join in praise.

One: Courageous people of LCC, remain steadfast in your work for peace!

Many: We shall be of strong courage, for we are not alone in the vineyard of life, but welcome our Lord's grace to grant us strength of heart and faith.

Opening Hymn

#16

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

God of all time and spaces, we know that through your magnificent creative Spirit, our world and our lives came into being. And yet, you are not completely finished with creation. You continue to speak as you nudge our souls. Grant us renewal as we seek to carry your words of love with refreshed spirits. Give us the courage to proclaim our faith in all we do and say. Let the faithful and those filled with questions, say Amen!

Anthem

Douglas Wagner

For Where Love Is, There Is God

LCC Summer Pick-Up Choir

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

Crudup, Dylan, Secor

Wagon Wheel

Wing and Prayer Band

Chris Burns, guitar and vocals; Mark Thomas, drums;
Julie Warren, vocals; Shawn Warren, guitar

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.

The Reading of God's Word

Paula Deal

Matthew 5:14-16

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Reflection

Rev. Mark Thomas

Resurrection Power

Closing Hymn

#458

Ours the Journey

Benediction

Postlude

G.F. Handel

Presto from Organ Concerto no. 5

Ben Malkevitch, organ

I had the privilege of serving as Senior Pastor at LCC from 2004 to 2018. For those many years, I loved the worship and music on Sunday mornings, playing bells in worship, confirming so many youth in the faith, playing drums with the incomparable A Wing and a Prayer Band, being part of the “pit orchestra” for Youth Musicals, and so many other opportunities to share time and love with my LCC family

My “retirement” lasted but one week when I was asked to serve as Interim Pastor at Middleburg Heights Community Church. Following that ministry of six months, I accepted a position as Interim Pastor at Brooklyn Heights United Church of Christ, where I currently provide Sunday morning worship. I attended Boston University for my graduate degrees with emphasis on Newar Easter archaeology and languages. I also received my Masters of Divinity from Boston University. I live in Lakewood with my wife Laurie, who is a retired physical therapist. Our daughter Leah, who lives in Rocky River, after working as a School Psychologist for the Cleveland Schools, is now busy with her own company as a travel advisor. Our son, Jordan, is an advanced heart failure/heart transplant cardiologist in Carmel, Indiana. He is married to Lauren, an OB/GYN with the Indiana University Health System, and they have a 6 month old daughter named Eden.

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