

Lakewood Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, August 13, 2023



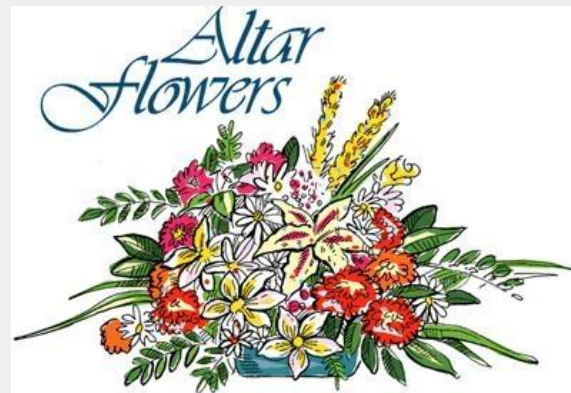
An Order of Worship to be followed in your home,
along with our Livestream Service at 10:00 am

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.



*The flowers on the altar
are dedicated
to the glory of God in
honor of
Tim and Laura Hampton's
15th wedding anniversary
by the Hampton Family*

Welcome

Michael Fleenor
Buildings and Grounds

Prelude

traditional

I'll Fly Away
Carys Crone, Amy Lardi, Evey Lardi, vocals
Ben Malkevitch, piano

Call to Worship

One: God moves among us.

Many: **We welcome your presence, Lord, no matter by what means you arrive.**

One: Reach out your hand and I shall always be with you.

Many: **We reach for you, Jesus, and trust that you are present when we fear or ache.**

One: Your presence, Oh Lord, calms the seas as it calms our hearts.

Many: **May we rest assured that you are ever present with us, assuaging our worries as you love our anxieties into softness.**

Opening Hymn

#619

My Life Flows On

Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

God of so many names, you command us to come to you, yet we are doubtful of our abilities to make the journey. We are so uncertain of our steps, yet we long to have the faith in ourselves that you have in us. Be with us and embolden us through faith to rise as we are called to walk with you and walk alongside those who need companionship. Show us how to be children of God who can set skepticism down and take up the mantle of faithful presence.

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 Binion

Searching

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)

Holy One, we thank you for revealing yourself to us in ways both big and small, in ways miraculous and mundane. Use our gifts to further your loving justice in our communities near and far.

The Reading of God's Word

Paula Deal

Matthew 14:22-33

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

Reflection

Rev. George Graham

Walking on Water

Closing Hymn

#452

Here I Am, Lord

Benediction

Postlude

Pepper Choplin, arr. Malkevitch

Walking 'Cross the Sea

Ben Malkevitch, piano

Rev. George Graham

George serves as Vice President of the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries (CHHSM), which is the association of all the UCC-related health and human service organizations across the US. He is an ordained UCC minister and serves on the Church in Ministry Committee in the Living Water Association. Twice a month George leads worship at Archwood UCC in Cleveland. He and his husband, Michael Fleenor, have been actively involved at LCC for the past five years. They live in Lakewood with their two children: Robert (20) and Ellen (16).

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