

Lakewood Congregational Church

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Sunday, November 12, 2023

New Member Sunday



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

*Our guest musicians are Tim Daso, organ
Peter Hampton, choir director*

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.

Announcements and Welcome

Prelude

Tim Daso

Prelude
Tim Daso

Call to Worship

One: If we will listen,

Many: God will speak to us in parables, God will tell us stories lived out by our grandparents.

One: If we will remember,

Many: we will discover all we have heard and known, all the wonders God has in store for us.

One: If we will share with others,

Many: we can tell our children and grandchildren - even those not yet born - the glorious stories of our God. Let us worship together.

Opening Hymn

#472

We Are Living, We Are Dwelling

Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

Holy Wisdom, your presence illuminates our path. Shine your light into dim spaces so that we do not stray from your teaching. Help us discern what you are calling us, your church, to do and be in this moment in time. Give us urgency to be good news in the world. Let your glory reign among us and your Spirit lead us into truth, justice, and love. For your name and in your name, we pray. Amen.

Reception of New Members

Melissa Bjorklund	Cathy Calamia-Downing
Peg Calamia-Downing	Charlie Cunningham
Jim Cunningham	Kristina Kovach
Suzy Lefelhocz	John Pangrace
Ruth Pangrace	

Invitation

Questions for the New Members

Affirmation of Faith

One: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God. Do you believe in God?

All: I believe in God.

One: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

All: I believe in Jesus Christ.

One: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

All: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

Expression of Welcome

One: Let us, the members of Lakewood Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

All: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church.

We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the

Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Anthem

Andre Thomas

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

LCC Chancel Choir

Tim Hampton, conga drums

A Time of Prayer

Invitation to Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

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

Prayer Response *Thou Wilt Keep Them In Perfect Peace*

A Time of Sharing

Call to Offering

Offertory

Taizé Song

Bless The Lord

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)

Discerning God, receive our offerings and gifts for your kingdom. Let them be a blessing to those in need of encouragement, material goods, and evidence of your presence among us. Magnify them beyond our imagining and grant us insight into the possibilities before us for ministry and witness. We are grateful to give. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Claire Stair

Matthew 25:1-13

'Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Reflection

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino

Sharing the Light

Closing Hymn

#677

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Benediction

Postlude

Tim Daso

Moonlit Calcite

Tim Daso

Good members of LCC!

If you are willing and able to share your musical talents at an upcoming service or during the holiday season, please contact one of the members of the music team or Judy Fesko. Singers, instrumentalists, teens, retirees...we encourage you to share the joy of your music with your friends at LCC.

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