

LAKWOOD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

1375 West Clifton Boulevard, Lakewood, OH



Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 28, 2025 | 10:00 AM

Cover Photo taken by Pastor Joanna this Summer in Syracuse, IN
Liturgy Adapted from UCC Worship Ways

Announcements and Welcome

Prelude

*** Call to Worship** (Inspired Psalm 146)

One: Praise God! Praise the Holy One, O my soul!

Many: We will sing praises to God our whole lives long!

One: Praise God in whom we may trust. Praise God in whom we may hope.

Many: Happy are we whose hope is in the Maker of heaven and earth.

One: The Holy One lifts the bowed down. The Righteous One loves justice.

Many: The Holy One brings the way of the wicked to ruin. Praise God who reigns forever!

*Hymn

#66

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

***Prayer of Invocation** (in unison)

Holy God, engage our spirits with truth and compassion. Open our hearts to your vision of a world full of your love and hope. Inspire us through your word, meet us in the moment, and infuse us with joy and courage to pursue your way, as you guide us on the journey. Amen.

Anthem

Dan Forrest

Be Thou My Vision
LCC Chancel Choir

Faith Formation

After the Choir Anthem, youth (6-12th grade) and youth leaders are invited to leave for Faith Formation. We have Pre-K thru 5th grade Faith Formation for the whole service today.

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 *God, Listen to Your Children Praying*

A Time of Sharing

Global Ministries Update

David Sangree

Offertory

* 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, receive these gifts as expressions of trust and love of You and care and love of your beloved. Magnify them for your glory and bless those who give in faithfulness and hope. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Michael Greenland

Luke 16:19-31

"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades,

where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house--for I have five brothers--that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

Reflection

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino

*Closing Hymn

#561

It Is Well With My Soul

*Benediction

Postlude

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.