

LAKEWOOD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

1375 West Clifton Boulevard, Lakewood, OH



Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 23, 2025 | 10:00 AM

Liturgy by Rev. Jim Cunningham
The Thanksgiving Cornucopia at church today was
arranged by Vicki Smigelski

Announcements and Welcome

Prelude

Jason W. Krug

Thanksgiving Fantasia
LCC Handbell Choir

*Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 100)

One: Rise up in spirit now. Applaud God!
Bring a gift of joy and gratitude!
In the presence of God, let us sing!

Many: The Creator is our God.

We are all God's people.

One: Enter with the password: "Thank you!"
Make yourselves at home.
Let us worship God.

Many: For God is sheer grace.

God's unconditional love is ever present.

*Opening Hymn

#56

For the Beauty of the Earth

*Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

Source of life and love, we give thanks for all of creation, for the gift of this day, for our congregation and for our community. Let not darkness overwhelm us. Hold us all in holy light that we may be mindful of our many blessings, that indeed, our life brims with blessings. Thank you! Thank you!! Thank you!!! Amen.

Anthem

Allen Pote

Come, Ye Thankful People
LCC Chancel Choir

Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come. Raise the song of
 har - vest home. All is safe - ly gath - ered in
 ere the win - ter storms be - gin. God, our Mak - er,
 doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
 Come to God's own tem - ple, come. Raise the song of har-vest home.

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 *We Thank Thee*

A Time of Sharing

Stewardship Moment

Karen Lee

Offertory

arr. by Kevin McChesney

All Things Bright and Beautiful

LCC Handbell Choir

* 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)

Giver of life and source of our many blessings, may our gifts reflect the depth of our gratitude for all your blessings, too numerous to count. May our gifts enable all to see clearly your vision for us to live in unconditional love, in hope and joy, in justice and peace. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Ryan Geiger

Matthew 6:19-23 (The Message Version)

“Don’t hoard treasure down here where it gets eaten by moths and corroded by rust or—worse!—stolen by burglars. Stockpile treasure in heaven, where it’s safe from moth and rust and burglars. It’s obvious, isn’t it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being.

“Your eyes are windows into your body. If you open your eyes wide in wonder and belief, your body fills up with light. If you live squinty-eyed in greed and distrust, your body is a musty cellar. If you pull the blinds on your windows, what a dark life you will have!”

Reflection

Rev. Jim Cunningham

Awareness, Awareness, Awareness

*Closing Hymn

Now Thank We All Our God

#715

Benediction

Postlude

Rev. Jim Cunningham

Who am I?...

I am a human being who happens to be an ordained minister in the UCC.

I am beloved child of God just like you.

I am a follower of Jesus.

I am a "mostly retired" health care chaplain, pastor and teacher.

I know joy and grief, success and failure, health and pain.

I know every day, breath, and heart beat is a gift from God.

I long for a world committed to respect and equality for all, a non-violent world of compassion, love, and forgiveness, a world where people are not afraid.

I am blessed with the unconditional love of my husband of 31 years, Charlie.

As a member of LCC, I am blessed by the love and faith of this congregation.

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.