



Vol 26, Issue 8
August 2026

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Stories are how we come to know one another.

A name in a directory can tell us who belongs to a church, but it cannot tell us how they found their way there. It cannot tell us who welcomed them, what memories they treasure, what experiences shaped their faith, or what hopes they carry for the future.

For that, we need stories.

Throughout the summer, our worship has been shaped by The Pastor's Playbook, a series exploring some of the values, language, and ideas that guide my ministry. The series will culminate on Sunday, September 13, with a message about the importance of story.

That feels like a fitting place to end because, as we continue learning who we are together and where God may be leading us next, our stories will help us find the way.

Over these first weeks, I have already enjoyed so many opportunities to listen, share, and begin building relationships. "Common Grounds" has created wonderful conversations around cups of coffee and tea. I have enjoyed gathering around the table with the Just for Lunch group, peeking in on our quilters as they create and share life together, and joining the monthly Men's Group. In each of these spaces, I have heard stories about families, faith, Lakeview's history, the changing life of the church, and the experiences that have shaped us. These moments have been a meaningful beginning to the deeper listening and relationship-building I hoped would mark our first season together.

Beginning in August, I will be starting a new effort called "Porch-lights & Perspectives".

I will begin reaching out to the families and households of Lakeview to arrange informal visits. I would love to sit down with

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Church Office Hours:

See Sunday bulletin for weekly office schedule.

For quickest response, email:

info@lakeviewucc.com

Sunday Worship Services

- Sanctuary Service 10:15am
- Worship service available online at 2:00 pm via emailed Vimeo link
- Communion is held on the 1st Sunday of each month.

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK.....continued

you, get to know you more fully, and hear your story.

I want to know how you came to Lakeview. I want to hear about the people and moments that have mattered to you. I want to learn what you love about this church, where you have found belonging, how you have experienced Lakeview's evolving mission, and what hopes you carry for the chapters still to be written.

These visits are not formal interviews, evaluations, or meetings with a hidden agenda. There is nothing you need to prepare. They are simply an opportunity for us to sit together, listen to one another, and build the relationships that will help us move forward together.

We can meet in your home, at the church, over coffee, or wherever feels most comfortable. There is no expectation that you provide a meal or prepare anything special. All I am asking for is a little time, an honest conversation, and the gift of your perspective.

I will begin making my way through the directory one household at a time, but you do not have to wait for me to call. You are always welcome to reach out and schedule a visit.

As I look forward to being welcomed into your homes, Tyler and I are also preparing to open the door to our own new home. Tyler's final day at his current job near our Wapakoneta home will be August 27, and we are scheduled to close on our new house on August 28.

This is an exciting and meaningful step for us as we continue making our home here and becoming more deeply rooted in the Lakeview community. Once we are moved in and settled, an invitation will be coming for you to join us for a house blessing and a chance to celebrate this new chapter with us.

Lakeview has a rich history, a growing progressive witness, and a future still being written. To understand where we may be going, we must listen deeply to the stories of the people who have brought us this far—and continue making room for the new stories being written among us.

So, when your porchlight is on, I hope you will invite me in.

Grace and peace, Pastor Anthony



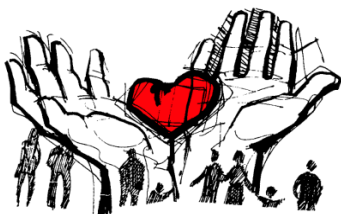
9 Dayne Friedhoff
 13 Peggy Crews-Hamblin
 14 Mike Maile
 21 Marshall Cange



23 Emily Kronenberger
 26 Karen Baumann
 29 Lynn Potts
 29 Laura Maile

PRAYER REQUESTS

Mac McKenzie
 Eric K (Joyce's friend)
 Karen Baumann & Larry
 The Paul Family
 Lynn Potts
 Mike Maile
 Tom & Ruthie McCormack



Harry, Ernie & Karen (friend of Pam's)
 Trinity UCC in Dorseyville, PA
 Linda Crawford and Family
 Patsy (friend of Pam)
 Kathy & John Baughman
 Jean McEleney
 Diane E. (Linda O's sister)

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS



Beginning in July the Fellowship "goodies" (cookies/snacks/other food items) after service are now available every other Sunday. There are beverages every Sunday just not food every Sunday. We will see how this goes till end of year then review again. There is a "revised" sign up sheet in Narthex to help setup/bring items on certain Sunday's/make coffee & tea & lemonade then clean up after.

Please think about when you can help with after church fellowship & if any questions, call or text Janet Friedhoff (513) 706-9446.



Sign Up to Help With Worship and Fellowship—WE NEED YOU!

In case you have missed it, there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the lobby where you are encouraged to volunteer for Sundays. We are in need of greeters, scripture readers, help with Communion preparation/serving, and providing and/or serving refreshments/doing cleanup after worship. You do not need to be a member to help with most tasks- everyone is welcome to lend a hand!

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS.....continued

Where the Story Finds Us is a weekly sermon podcast from Rev. Anthony Spearhart. Rooted in Sunday worship, these messages are shaped by scripture, story, Spirit, and everyday life — offering a sacred word of hope, grace, justice, and belonging. No matter who you are, who you love, how you identify, what you carry, or where you find yourself on life's journey, this is a place to listen, wonder, and find our way together.



Where the Story Finds Us

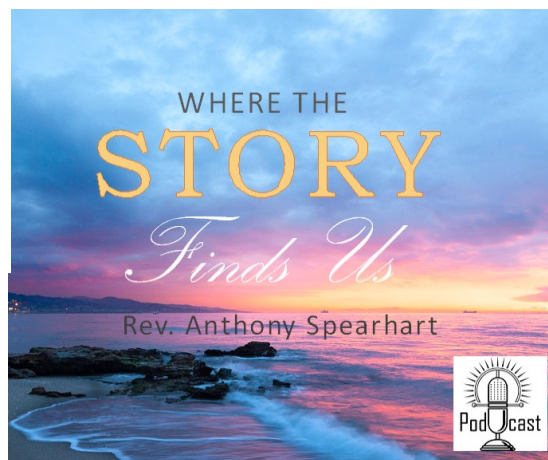


Photo by [Quino Al](#) on [Unsplash](#)

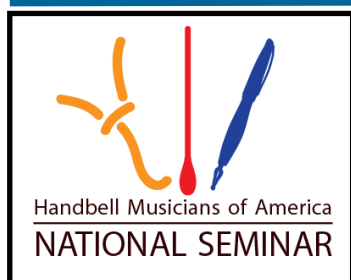


Have you ever wanted to learn about handbells? Maybe you just wanted the chance to ring one? Ever wondered if *you* could join the choir, or just want to learn about how handbells work?

You're invited to HANDBELL 101 Sunday, September 6th, after worship service! There's no obligation to join the choir, this is just for fun, but it's a good place to start if you've ever thought about it.

Anyone ages 13 and up are welcome!

(Current handbell choir members are welcome, but this will be mostly review for you)



Thank you so much to the Lakeview Congregation for your support in allowing me to attend the 2026 HMA National Seminar, which was held in Sharonville, Ohio in July. The seminar covered 5 full days of classes, concerts and more. I was fortunate to work with and learn from so many gifted musicians, directors and composers in subjects ranging from handbell maintenance, techniques, weaving, ensembles, handbell science, conducting and more! In addition, each day provided the opportunity to experience expertly programmed concerts from Handbell choirs and ensembles from around the country, including Chicago Bronze, Ring Sarasota, and more.

In addition, Nore attended the seminar's "Distinctly Teen" seminar track, with teen handbell ringers from across the country. They held rehearsals and attended classes for four days, wrapping up the week with a concert on Saturday. They were under the direction of Dr. Lynn Gary Atkins, Jr. and were able to work directly with a few of the composers of the pieces they prepared, including Jason Krug and Michael Glasgow.

Once again, my thanks to Lakeview for this opportunity. I'm looking forward to implementing some new information and skills in the upcoming choir season!

-Natalie

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS.....continued

The August Just For Lunch will be held on Monday August 31st at 12:30pm at The Rusty Bucket in Mason-Deerfield. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office. All are welcome, but space is limited!

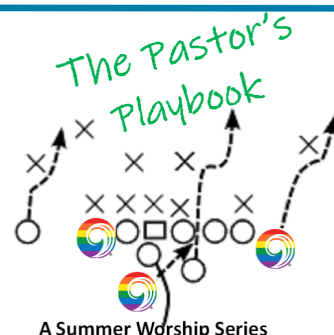


Common Grounds is a weekly opportunity to gather with Pastor Anthony for coffee or tea, conversation, scripture, laughter, and connection. Come with a question, a story, something on your heart, or simply a desire to spend time together.

No appointment. No agenda. Just come!

The coffee shop location changes each week, so check the Sunday bulletin and the Church App for the latest details.

In August, **The Pastor's Playbook** continues as we explore five more "plays" that shape our life together: **Communion, Kingdom, Mission, Gifts of the Spirit, and Legacy & Attitude**. Each week, we will consider how these ideas influence the way we worship, serve, recognize our gifts, honor our story, and move forward together as a community of faith.



Many thanks to Mary Densmore and Molly Miller for hosting Family Promise families with me on 6/15. Also thanks to Sarah and Will Huber and Natalie Brown for spending the night. And finally, thanks to Elyse Paul, Joyce Anderson, Janet Friedhoff, Barb Hobe, and Lisa Barrows for providing a delicious dinner to six hungry families. It's truly a team effort to support these families, so cheers to everyone who contributed!
-Ellen Abel

A huge thank you to those who have stepped up to transport donations to Kings Food Pantry: Bob Sandman, Lisa and Bob Barrow, Ben and Molly Miller, Julie Peterson and Kristin. You're terrific!



The AIM committee thanks Sarah Huber for taking charge of this year's diaper drive for Sweet Cheeks.

Lakeview gathered 1,107 diapers, 303 pullups and 192 wipes, plus \$260 to donate to Sweet Cheeks.

ACTION IN MISSION—(A.I.M.)

August Mission of the Month **IGNITE PEACE**

In August last year Lakeview UCC generously supported our immigrant Venezuelan Family: Cesar, Maryory, Cesar Arturo, and Marcella. With the family now successfully settled for over a year and a half, AIM thought we should expand our reach to the many other immigrants in our area.



It turns out that the Cincinnati Area has one of the most active immigrant support programs in the state called the “Immigrant Dignity Coalition”, that operates under the lead organization “Ignite Peace”. Ignite Peace coordinates the Immigrant Dignity Coalition, a network of 40+ organizations dedicated to informing, connecting, and mobilizing the Southwest Ohio / Northern Kentucky community to defend and protect the dignity of the immigrant and refugee community by working in partnership with one another. Samantha Searls, the Program Director of IDC will be joining us at Lakeview UCC on August 23 during the service and at the Lunch and Learn to widen our knowledge of the inspired work being done in our community and how we can personally plug in and support.

To get more detailed information please visit ignitepeace.org and click on **Our Work** then **Immigration Justice**. The Immigrant Dignity Coalition meets monthly, and has active volunteers from across the city that do a multitude of tasks: filling transportation needs for immigrants, ICE alert teams, write letters to detainees in the Butler County Jail, to many opportunities for training and public witness. In a time when we are told to fear this community of people, our faith sees the faces of those that are in dire need of a new start in life. Our mission this month will help support them through the good work of the Immigrant Dignity Coalition.

DONATIONS FOR KINGS FOOD PANTRY:

AUGUST URGENT NEEDS!

The Pantry has an urgent need for Personal Care Items. These items cannot be purchased with SNAP benefits, so the pantry must use cash donations to stock them. Our assistance will be greatly appreciated.



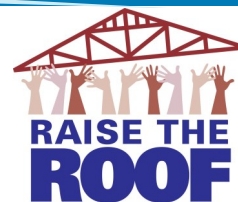
PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS:

- Toothpaste
- Shampoo
- Body Wash
- Laundry Detergent
- Hand Soap

Please remember the pantry can't accept outdated or perishable items. Even though we provide a list of most needed items, any other items are welcome at all times. Families struggle especially during the summer months when their children are home, not able to get lunch at school.

Lakeview Capital Campaign

PAVING THE WAY—AUGUST 2026



On Sunday, March 16th, 2025, at the congregational meeting of Lakeview UCC, a vote was taken to extend the 2022 Capital Campaign. Now that the second mortgage has been paid off (February 24, 2025), extending the campaign will enable the church to gather funds for much needed property projects.

In a few years, the church will need the roof shingles replaced and that will also be a major expense. Due to the water damage from the ice dams in February, we may need to absorb some of this expense that will not be covered by insurance (deductible, etc.).

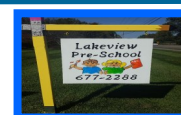
So, prayerfully consider extending your commitment to the capital campaign. **As of July 12th, we have \$36,724.33 already.** Any gift is gratefully appreciated. Please remember to mark your gift "Capital Campaign" so the Financial Secretary, Julie Peterson, can place it in the proper designation.

Also, as you consider your 2026 commitment to Lakeview, if you are giving a new gift to the Capital Campaign remember to indicate that on your pledge. Thank you!

I will keep you informed about the progress each month in The Link.

Karen Baumann, Treasurer

PRESCHOOL



Lakeview Preschool is accepting registrations for the upcoming school year. Your child must be between the ages of 3 and 5. We will have an open house on September 2 and 3 to meet the teachers. School officially starts September 8. Come join us for learning and fun!

Contributions to the Lakeview Operating fund can be made during offering, by using the giving envelopes in the main aisle, via automatic bill pay at your bank, online using the Pushpay app or the QR code here. Your generosity is deeply appreciated!



SUMMER PHOTO ALBUM

Welcome to Lakeview, Pastor Anthony & Tyler!



Rev. Spearhart's Ordination Service at St. Paul UCC, Wapakoneta



Celebrating a few of our Summer Musicians (more photos coming soon)



TREASURER'S REPORT

Lakeview United Church of Christ Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual January 1 through June, 2026

	<u>Jan-Jun 26</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense Income				
Income				
42033 - Insurance Reimbursement	118,917.52			
41011 - Pledged Envelope Income	0.00	90,000.00	-90,000.00	0.00%
40000—Operating Income	<u>215,636.02</u>	<u>55,494.88</u>	<u>160,141.14</u>	<u>388.6%</u>
Total Income	334,553.54	145,494.88	189,058.66	229.9%
Expense				
60000—Employee Expenses	61,894.38	84,980.70	-23,086.32	72.8%
50000—Operating Expenses	185,781.26	46,144.43	139,636.83	402.6%
72070—Cornerstone Mortgage	<u>24,574.50</u>	<u>24,574.50</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Total Expense	272,250.14	155,699.63	116,550.51	174.9%
Net Ordinary Income	<u>62,303.40</u>	<u>-10,204.75</u>	<u>72,508.15</u>	<u>-610.5%</u>
Net Income	62,303.40	-10,204.75	72,508.15	-610.5%

Checking Account Balance as of 6/30/26 \$91,482.85*

Savings Account Balance as of 6/30/26 \$16,119.90

*Contains Capital Campaign funds \$34,898.51

Cornerstone Mortgage Balance as of 7/1/26 \$546,168.36



Thank you for your continuous and generous support of Lakeview UCC.

Karen Baumann, Treasurer



May Mission Total- *Strengthen the Church:* \$938.00
United Church Homes: \$958.00
 May 5th Sunday- *Sweet Cheeks:* \$260.00



June Mission Total- *Family Promise:* \$1779.00

DO YOU KNOW LAKEVIEW'S LEADERSHIP TEAM?

Position	Name	Primary Contact	Secondary
Pastor	Anthony Spearhart	513-683-2073	pastor@lakeviewucc.com
Admin/Dir. of Music	Natalie Nolte	513-683-2073	info@lakeviewucc.com
CYF Ministry	Corey Nieman	513-262-9381	cyfministry@lakeviewucc.com
Director of Instr. Music	Irina Hall	513-753-0377	
Child Care	Faith Colwell	513-320-3255	

Executive Committee

Moderator/President	Rob Schorry	rschorry@gmail.com
Vice Moderator/V.P.	Bob Barrows	rokbarrows@gmail.com
Past Moderator/Past Pres	Adam Paul	adampaul.ap@gmail.com
Treasurer	Karen Baumann	513-732-6880
Assistant Treasurer	Rosemary Ennis	513-265-2579
Recording Secretary	Kathy Baughman	kathybaug@aol.com
Financial Secretary	Julie Peterson	julie.kay258@gmail.com
Facilities Coordinator	Vacant	

PACT Comm. Members: PACT is currently on hiatus

Standing Committees (contact person) / Delegates

Assoc/Conf. Delegate	Lisa Barrows	828-489-2726
Alternate Delegate	Ann Tsui	513-683-8329
A.I.M. (Action in Mission)	Sandee McAlpine	513-608-0597
Membership/Welcoming	Linda Overholt	513-515-8870
Publicity/Social Media	Vacant	

**OPEN AND AFFIRMING
COALITION**
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



The Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ advocates for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community in the UCC, and equips UCC congregations to become effective witnesses to Christ's extravagant welcome.

<https://openandaffirming.org/about/>

Lakeview's Mission: We are a people called by God to intentionally welcome, nurture and send, so that we can grow God's church.

Lakeview's Vision: Reaching Out Through God's Spirit by Involving, Serving, and Learning



LUCC Calendar of Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 10A-Harmony- Rm8/9, CR, FH 10:15A-Worship Srv- Communion 11:30 Harmony Mtg	3 12p- AA- FH 6:30p-BSA-FH 7P- AA- CR	4 8A- Common Grounds 8P-AA -FH 8P-AA-CR	5 10A-Quilters- CR 12:00P-AA-FH 7:00P-NAR- Anon- rm 8	6 8A- Common Grounds 7P-AA-FH 7P-Al Anon - CR	7	8 8:30a-AA- rm 8
9 10:15A-Worship Srv 11:30A- spcl music rehearsal	10 12P- AA- FH 6:30P-BSA-FH 7P- AA- CR	11 8P-AA -FH 8P-AA-CR	12 10A-Quilters- CR 12:00P-AA-FH 7:00P-NAR- Anon- rm 8	13 7P-AA-FH 7P-Al Anon - CR	14	15 8:30A-AA- rm 8
16 10A-Harmony- Rm8/9, CR, FH 10:15A-Worship Service 11:30- spcl music rehearsal	17 12P- AA- FH 6:30P-BSA-FH 7P- AA- CR	18 8P-AA -FH 8P-AA-CR	19 10A-Quilters- CR 12:00P-AA-FH 7:00P-NAR- Anon- rm 7	20 7P-AA-FH 7P-Al Anon- CR	21	22 8:30A-AA- rm 8
23 10:15A- Worship Service- 11:30A- Lunch & Learn	24 12P- AA- FH 6:30P-BSA-FH 7P- AA- CR	25 8P-AA -FH 8P-AA-CR	26 10A-Quilters- CR 12:00P-AA-FH 7:00P-NAR- Anon- rm 7	27 5:30- Irina Student Recital 7P-AA-FH 7P-Al Anon - rm8	28	29 8:30A-AA- rm 8
30 10:15A- Worship Service 11:30A- CONGREGATIONAL MEETING	31 12P- AA- FH 12:30 P- Just for Lunch 6:30P-BSA-FH 7P- AA- CR					



When you shop Kroger for your groceries you can contribute to LUCC at the same time. It really **does** make a difference!

Step-by-step instructions found here:

<https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>

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A Monthly Newsletter of Lakeview United Church of Christ