

LOVE

Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:15 am Worship Service

December 22nd, 2023



LAKEVIEW

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

8639 Columbia Rd • Maineville, OH 45039
www.lakeviewucc.com • (513) 683-2073

LAKEVIEW UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 22nd, 2024

Todd Peterson
Pastor

Corey Nieman
CYF Minister

Natalie Nolte
Dir. Vocal Music

Irina Hall
Dir. Instr. Music

Ministers
All People

IMPORTANT INFO

Connecting

If you are joining us for the first time, welcome! If you'd like more information about Lakeview, you can email the office: info@lakeviewucc.com, visit our website: lakeviewucc.com, or chat before or after the service with one of our fellowship volunteers/greeters.

Childcare

Nursery Care for our youngest children will be available starting at 10am in Room 7 (in the CE Wing). Older children and teens are encouraged to enjoy the opening portion of the worship service in the sanctuary. They will be dismissed to Sunday School during the Hymn of Welcoming.

Restrooms

You're invited to use the restroom that corresponds with your gender identity or the restroom that is the safest and most comfortable for you. Gendered, multiple-occupancy restrooms are available through the North double glass doors in the Narthex, across from the conference room.

Open and Affirming

Lakeview is an O&A church and has affirmed a public covenant welcoming people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions in the full life and ministry of our congregation.

Prelude

Irina Hall

Welcome and Announcements

Call for Love

- One: In this season of Advent, as we look forward to Christmas, we take time to celebrate and to remember that Christ is coming to bring us love. For those who are forsaken and alone;
- Many: Christ is coming to show us God's love.
- One: For those who are hurt and hardened and hostile
- Many: Christ is coming to show us God's love.
- One: For those who are alone and isolated
- Many: Christ is coming to show us God's love.
- One: For those who are rejected and turned away
- Many: Christ is coming to show us God's love.

Time of Centering

Irina Hall

Lighting the Advent Wreath

- One: When we feel invisible, ineffective,
Too small to make a difference
The Holy invites us to be God-Bearers
And we shall find Love
- ALL: *We journey today in love.*

Advent Hymn

Love Waits for Us at Advent

Chancel Choir

Advent Prayer

- One: Please join in our Advent Prayer:
- ALL: *God with us, as we continue this journey of Advent, grant us the courage of love. The Love of Your presence, the Love of Your justice, and the Love of Your promise. Amen*

Hymn of Welcoming *My Soul Gives Glory to My God* (v.1 &4-5)

Prayer of Community (unison)

God, there is nothing greater than the love you give, and the coming of Jesus shows that love to the world. May we accept this love freely and become vessels to share that love with all your children. We pray in the name of love incarnate. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Call to Prayer

Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior (v.1)

#551

Prayers of the People

One: We lift them up in prayer

Many: Lord, hold them in Your love.

The Lord's Prayer

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Special Music

Christmas is Coming

Chancel Choir w/ Jason Gruzleski, Tempe Nolte, & Irina Hall

Hearing the Good News

LUKE 1:39-45

MSG

Christmas Play

The Best Christmas Story

Hymn of Rejoicing

God Bless Us, Every One

Word About Giving

Offertory

Donkey Carol

Tempe Nolte & Natalie Nolte

Prayer of Dedication (unison)

God of Enough, help us to be generous with our gifts and bless their use so that they may bring about Your good purpose in this community and throughout the world. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Hymn of Sending

Born from a Star (v.1-2)

Benediction and Blessing

Postlude

Hope Comes to us at Advent, c. 2020 Amanda Udis-Kessler, queersacredmusic.com, used with permission; *Christmas is Coming*, by Joel Raney, c. 2002 Hope Publishing Co.; *Donkey Carol*, John Rutter, Oxford University Press, 1975; *Glory to God from Messiah*, by George Frideric Handel, 1741, ed. Watkins Shaw; add'l music public domain and/or licensed under CCLI and/or OneLicense. Cover image by John Stuart, stushieart.com



Check out our App! Scan the QR code to download and use our keyword
"GIVE2LAKEVIEW"



My Soul Gives Glory to My God

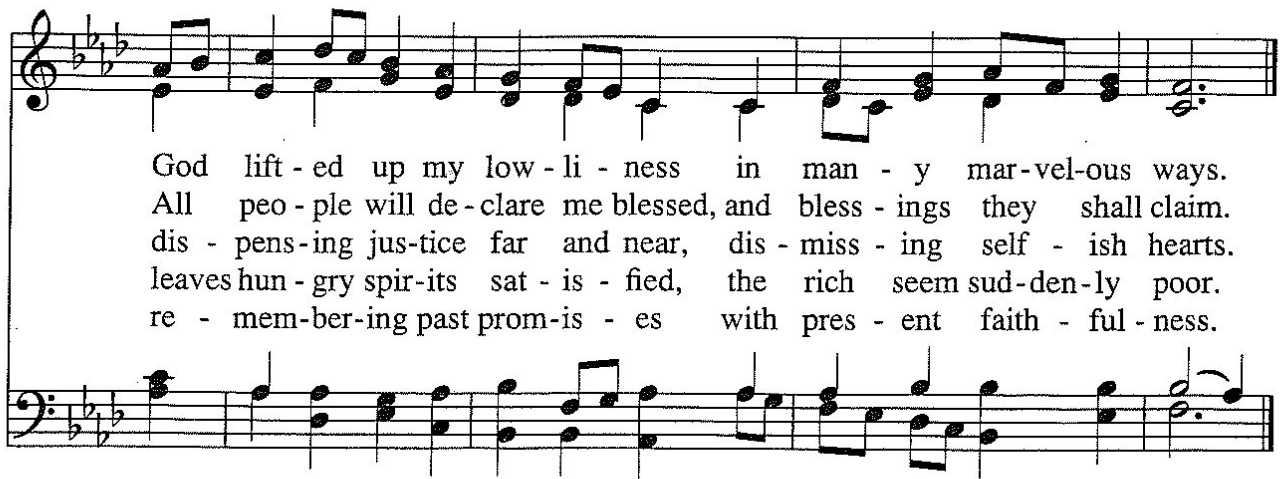
119

Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Sam. 2:1-10



1 My soul gives glo - ry to my God. My heart pours out its praise.
2 My God has done great things for me: yes, ho - ly is God's name.
3 From age to age, to all who fear, such mer - cy love im - parts,
4 Love casts the might-y from their thrones, pro-motes the in - se - cure,
5 Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant sup-ports those in dis - tress,



God lift - ed up my low - li - ness in man - y mar-vel-ous ways.
All peo - ple will de - clare me blessed, and bless - ings they shall claim.
dis - pens - ing jus - tice far and near, dis - miss - ing self - ish hearts.
leaves hun - gry spir - its sat - is - fied, the rich seem sud - den - ly poor.
re - mem - ber - ing past prom - is - es with pres - ent faith - ful - ness.

This New Testament canticle, with its mosaic of liberation motifs that proclaim the justice of God, is known as the "Magnificat," the opening word of its Latin translation.

Tune: MORNING SONG C.M.
Melody from Kentucky Harmony, 1816
Harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1940



Luke 18:35-43

Fanny Crosby (1820-1915); alt.

1 Pass me not, O gen - tle Sav - ior, hear my hum - ble cry;
 2 Let me at your throne of mer - cy find a sweet re - lief;
 3 Trust - ing on - ly in your mer - it, would I seek your face;
 4 Be the Spring of all my com - fort, more than life to me;

While on oth - ers you are call - ing, do not pass me by.
 Kneel - ing there in deep con - tri - tion, help my un - be - lief.
 Heal my wound - ed, bro - ken spir - it, save me by your grace.
 Not just here on earth be - side me, but e - ter - nal - ly.

Refrain

Sav - ior, Sav - ior, hear my hum - ble cry;

While on oth - ers you are call - ing, do not pass me by.

Fanny Crosby was already a successful writer when she became associated with gospel hymnists Sankey, Sweney, Root, and others. She directed her talent to gospel songs in her early forties, and collaborated with William Doane on many hymns.

Tune: PASS ME NOT 8.5.8.5. with refrain
 William H. Doane (1832-1915)

God Bless Us Every One

by J.R. Thomas & George Cooper,
Publ. 1868 by Wm. A. Pond and Co.;
Arr. Natalie Nolte

$\text{♩} = 86$

Oh

6

heed the les-son of the year. While all thesea-sons run; May

10

bless - ings fall on all those dear. God bless us ev - 'ry one! God's

rit. *a tempo*

14

love to those both far and near! God bless us ev - 'ry one! God

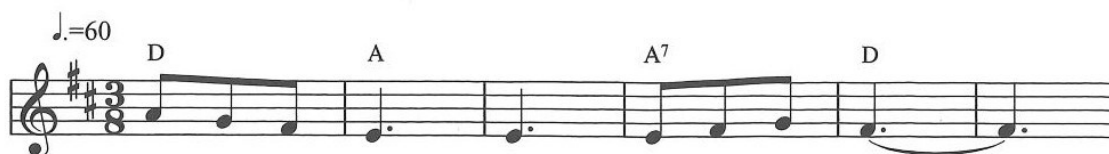
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bless us, God bless us, God bless us ev - 'ry one!

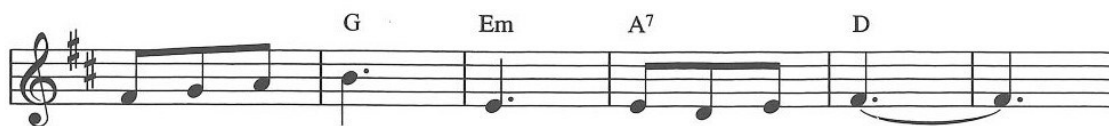
rit. *f*

Born from a Star

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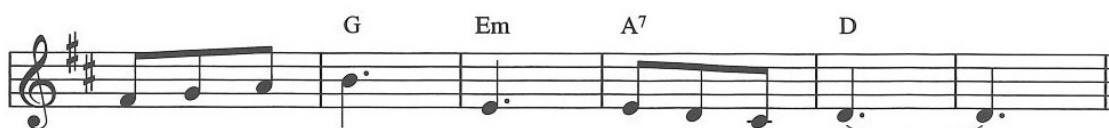
Now let them gath - er, from near and far. _____
 Cir - cle to - geth - er, no need to fear. _____



God's ho - ly chil - dren, dust of a star. _____
 Sing - ing God's prais - es, for all to hear. _____



Shine with great bright - ness, pure as the light. _____
 Re - claim God's pow - er, be who you are. _____



Join with each oth - er, dance in the night. _____
 God's own cre - a - tion, born from a star. _____

Words (verses 2 and 3) and Music: Carole Ann Camp, Copyright ©1996, All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Words (verse 1): The Praise Song Advisory Team, Copyright ©2009, Local Church Ministries,
 United Church of Christ. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

“No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!”



We make a point to say this from the pulpit most Sundays. We like saying it. We like what it means. It means that at Lakeview United Church of Christ you don't have to be sure about your understanding of God to worship here. It means that in this community of faith you are welcome to share your gifts and your needs---no matter what they are. It means that no matter your race, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identification, age, ability, or *whatever it is that makes you you, our welcome to you is extravagant!*

If you have found yourself excluded and alienated, spiritually homeless or questioning, you are welcome here. If you have ever felt there is no room for you within Christianity or the Church, you are welcome here. We are a community of faith that celebrates diversity and strives to fulfill our mission to: Reach out through God's spirit by Involving, Serving and Learning Together. *We hope you will return and even consider joining this band of fellow travelers. Let's journey together!*



OPEN AND AFFIRMING
COALITION
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



The Pastor's Discretionary Fund (PDF) is our mission for the month of December.

The PDF enables us to assist with the real-world kind of emergencies encountered by people in both the Lakeview congregation and the wider community. Throughout the year we are frequently contacted by members of the community, non-profit agencies, and other churches to request help that cannot be obtained from other sources. We have helped with those in need as they wait for new benefits to kick in; assistance with rent/utility bills and security deposits; unexpected car repairs; prescriptions and medical needs; families in need of baby formula, etc.



Through your giving, the Pastor is able to offer emergency help while also working to help find long term solutions and resources for the future. Your gifts to this mission allow us to offer direct emergency help to our friends and neighbors in our immediate community. Thanks for giving generously, so we can give generously.

DONATIONS FOR KINGS FOOD PANTRY

For December Holiday Meals

To help struggling families enjoy Holiday feasts, please consider donations of holiday favorites

- Potatoes- instant or boxed
- Stuffing Mix
- Jello & Pudding
- Cranberry Sauce
- Boxed Pie crust mix
- Canned fruits



- Canned veggies (& cream of mushroom soup for casseroles)
- Pumpkin Pie filling (& evaporated milk)
- Roll or Muffin mix
- Gravy- mixes or canned



We may have wrapped up our 2025 Stewardship Campaign, “Imagine Together”, but you can still use this link to return your pledge: <https://form.jotform.com/232774737198168> or scan the QR code here. Paper pledge cards are available in the narthex or email or call the office to request one.



The Chancel choir will hold a rehearsal after service today for those who are able to attend.



A Note from the Treasurer: Please be sure that all contributions for 2024 are received in the office by **December 29th** so they can be included on your 2024 statements. Thank you!

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! Applepay is now accepted via Pushpay.



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.

5TH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29TH: AIM CHALLENGE

Since December is financially challenging for many of us, in place of a monetary donation, the AIM committee would like to challenge the Lakeview congregation to perform an act of kindness as a family or as an individual as their 5th Sunday offering. Think of a simple, inexpensive way to spread joy. Some ideas:

- Visit a shut in
- share cookies with an elderly neighbor or busy parent
- send a note of encouragement to someone on the Lakeview prayer list or someone you know who needs a reason to smile
- pay it forward at the coffee shop
- forgive someone
- leave the postal carrier a nice surprise
- drop something brand name in the food pantry box. Donate the Smuckers and the Jif
- tip extra generously the next time you eat out
- help a neighbor finish a yard chore
- look for an organization that needs a volunteer and resolve to step forward
- thank someone by note or in person. Pick someone you don't think hears *thank you* often enough
- resolve to pray for someone every day for a month or more
- gather old towels and blankets to drop off at an animal shelter

Plan to drop a note into the offertory plate sharing about your act of kindness (anonymously if you prefer.) We can post your acts of kindness on the AIM bulletin board to inspire others.

Should you prefer to donate, any funds that are collected as a 5th Sunday offering will be donated to **Beloved Ashville**, an organization helping hurricane Helene victims.

FAMILY PROMISE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Lakeview made a commitment several years ago to assist host church St. Pat's Episcopal Church in Lebanon during their rotation week, and Lakeview handles Monday nights. This happens 4 times a year at the renovated facility on 600 Columbus Rd. in Lebanon.

Next Date: Monday, January 27, 2025

Volunteers are needed to:

- Provide a dish for the evening meal (4 volunteers).
- Host the families during evening hours (about 5:15 p.m. to about 8:45 p.m.)—2 volunteers needed. This involves helping to set out dinner and clean up, as well as hanging out with the guests and maybe doing activities with the kids (bring a craft or art project if you wish, depending on the ages of the children).
- Spend the night—2 volunteers needed. You will have your own space to sleep. There are no real duties except to make sure everyone is accounted for and be there in case any emergencies occur (you will have emergency contact numbers). In the morning you are free to leave as soon as you need to.

Following Date: Monday, March 31, 2025

We have a quick follow up date, so if you cannot help in January, please consider this March date.

Please let Ellen Abel (ellenabel1016@gmail.com; 513-967-5022) know if you can help out! Support will be provided for those who have and have not done this before. It is a great and eye opening experience, allowing you to put your faith and values into action. Thank you for your continued support of this mission!



Christmas at Lakeview

Tuesday December 24th

7:00 PM -A Service of Lessons and Carols at Lakeview-
(Pre-Service Music will begin at 6:45pm)

At 7:00 PM on Christmas Eve we will be gathering in the Sanctuary for a service of 'Lessons and Carols'. It will be a moving time of music, prayer, and candle light as we hear again the Nativity story. Come and be part of this time of worship and rejoicing!
The service will also be available for online worship later in the evening

Wednesday, December 25th - Christmas Day

A Christmas Reflection

Take a few minutes during your busy Christmas morning to center and consider the joy of the Christmas celebration. We will be offering an online time to reflect and rejoice. The link will be provided on the Lakeview App, website, and Facebook page when it becomes available.

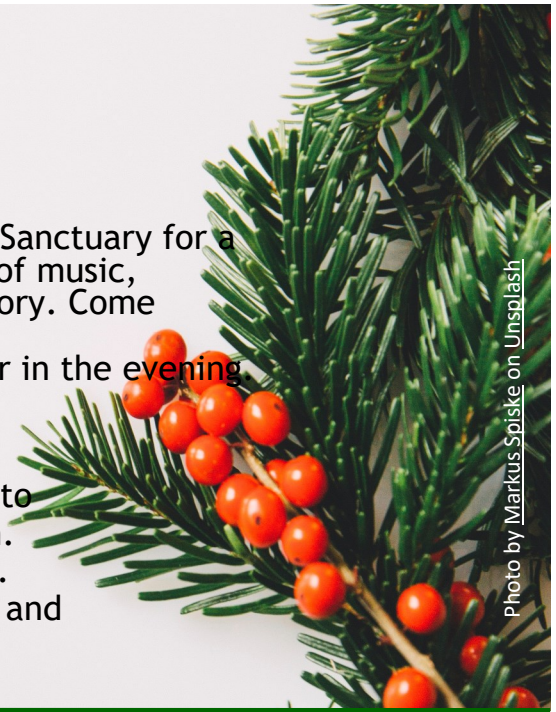


Photo by Markus Spiske on Unsplash



SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE WHO
PURCHASED FLOWERS AND/OR MADE A GIFT TO THE
LAKEVIEW FOUNDATION IN CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

Joyce Anderson	In memory of husband, Gary Anderson
Karen Baumann	A gift in memory of my parents & grandparents
Mitch & Naomi Bryson	Flowers in memory of Ed & Marie McLeod and Owen & Marianne Bryson
Chris & Rosemary Ennis	A gift in memory of Lee & Bob Burgett
Mitch Katz	Flowers for a Merry Christmas to all my friends at Lakeview
David & Sandee McAlpine	Flowers in honor of Megan
Ed & Jean McEleney	Flowers in memory of Janice Julian, Regina McEleney, Janet McEleney, & Lauraine McEleney, our sisters
Pam Massung	Flowers in memory of Tom Massung, and in honor of all the cats, here and absent
Bill & Linda Overholt	Flowers in honor of our granddaughters & their parents, and a gift in honor of the resilience of the people of Western North Carolina
Rob & Betty Schorry	Flowers & a gift in memory of our parents

In Our Prayers

Chris Bilyeu and Family; the Anderson Family; Mac McKenzie;
the Alkire Family; Louise (Pam's Mother-in-law); Ed McEleney; the Paul Family;
Ernie and Karen (Pam's friends); Leslie (Pam's friend); the Madden family;
Adrienne (daughter of Lisa Barrows' friend); Esther Friedhoff & family;
Katie & John (Overholt family); Karen Baumann & Larry ; Katha Kievit

Birthdays this Week

Jean McEleney (24); Jason Daily (28)

Today

10:15 AM Sunday Worship
11:30 AM Choir Rehearsal



Monday, Dec 23

11:00 AM AA- FH
6:00 PM Girl Scouts- rm 8
6:30 PM BSA Scouts- FH
7:00 PM AA - Conf. Room

Tuesday, Dec 24

6:30 PM Harmony UU- FH
7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols
(Pre-Service Music will begin at 6:45pm)
8:00 PM AA Meeting- rm 8/9

Wednesday, Dec 25 **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

12:00 PM AA Meeting - FH
7:00 PM NAR-Anon rm 7

Thursday, Dec 26 *Office Closed*

7:00 PM AA Meeting— FH
7:00 PM Al-Anon —rm 8

Friday, Dec 27 *Office Closed*

Saturday, Dec 28

8:30 AM AA Meeting—FH

