



Vol 23, Issue 12  
December 2023

## FROM TODD'S DESK

*"Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news  
of great joy for all the people"*  
-Luke 2:10 NRSV

Hello and seasons greetings!

As we move into the month of December, I pray that you had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day and are making headway on all your holiday plans! Here at Lakeview, December also brings with it the season of Advent and the celebration of Christmas!

While Christmas is pretty widely talked about, Advent doesn't have the same popularity. Advent hymns aren't nearly as snappy as Christmas Carols and I don't know of any cartoon Advent specials that play on TV every year, but Advent can be a powerful time for us, and it can even make Christmas more meaningful and help our Christmas celebrations be more joyful.

The word "Advent" comes from a phrase that means "until the coming," and it offers us a time of preparation, a season when we get ready for the coming of the Christ-child. This season of waiting calls on us to take time for reflection and action, both as individuals and as a community,

Each week as we approach our Christmas celebration, we will be reflecting on themes that point us as we anticipate the glory of God being revealed, but this expectation also invites us to actively participate in the kin'dom of God. As *Dr. Cheryl Lindsay* observes:

"God calls us to be liberated and liberators, recipients and givers of grace, hopeful believers and agents of hope in the world."

In this reflection and action, we find that "Hope is embodied. Joy is embodied. Peace is embodied. Love is embodied. In the birth of Jesus, Christ is embodied."

As we light the candles on the Advent wreath, as we hear once  
....Continued on page 3

## INSIDE

CYF	2
Birthdays	4
Prayer Requests	4
Announcements & Events	4-5
AIM	6
BSA Troop 617	7
Preschool	7
Lakeview Quilters	8
Advent at Lakeview	9
Capital Campaign Update	10
Stewardship Moment	10
Treasurer's Report	11
Staff / Committee Members	12
Lakeview's Mission / Vision	12
Calendar	13

### Church Office Hours:

December office hours include  
Mon. Thurs & Friday 9:30-2:00 plus  
additional hours to vary weekly.  
Please call or email.

### Sunday Worship Services

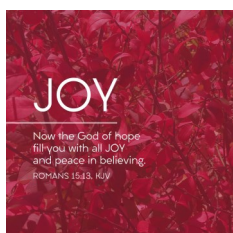
- Sanctuary Service 10:15am
- Worship service available  
online at 2:00 pm via  
Facebook & Vimeo
- Communion is held on the 1<sup>st</sup>  
Sunday of each month.

## CYF (Children, Youth and Family Ministry)

*"What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal and that every path may lead to peace."*

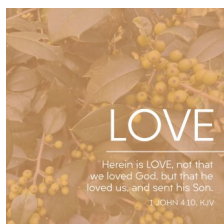
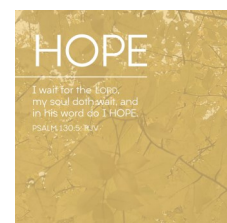
Agnes M. Pahro

I love that quote. There is such quiet bravery in the emotions it mentions... tenderness, courage, hope... and peace. That one hits even more this year, doesn't it? There is an exercise that we sometimes do in Sunday School that can be really powerful, it is just a simple question (that has no simple answer, of course)... *What does Peace feel like to you?* Start small and remember the key words in that question are FEEL and YOU. So, what does Peace feel like to you?



As we move into Advent let's take that question with us to help us in our preparations. Each week find some time to ask yourself, *What does HOPE feel like to me? What does PEACE feel like to me? What does JOY feel like to me? What does LOVE feel like to me?* The good news is there are no right or wrong answers, heck, there may not even BE answers for some of it... but Advent is a time set apart for the purpose of preparing ourselves for what is to come - the birth of a child that would teach that LOVE is the way forward. Through all the pain and suffering, in good times and in bad... just love.

This year in Sunday School we have been learning about the ideas of *Hesed* and *Agape* - dramatically simplified, they are both versions of Unconditional Love, the kind of love that God has for all of creation, the kind of love that Jesus taught about in his words and with his actions. We are looking forward to using the themes of Advent to further explore these beautiful concepts.



This year during Advent our Sunday School classes will get a chance to sing in our Children and Family choir, to learn new songs on our kid's handbells, to work on a brand new Christmas play, to do some yoga and become more familiar with the stories of Jesus's birth from the Gospels of Luke and Matthew.

Our 2nd Sunday Funday for the month of December (12/10) is one for everyone!!! Please meet in the kitchen area of the CE/Preschool wing after worship to join us as we decorate cookies, drink hot chocolate and take a moment out of our busy schedules to sit and talk with each other. Our December Sunday School schedule is below - if you have questions please reach out.

....Continued next page

**FROM TODD'S DESK.....continued**

again of 'the glory of the Lord that shone around them,' as we gather on Christmas Eve, may our eyes and hearts be open to see where our 'waiting' leads us.

It is with great thanks that we journey with you all. It means so much to us to celebrate with you all! May you have a meaningful and joyous Advent and Christmas season.

God's Peace to you,

Pastor Todd

**CYF** *(Children, Youth and Family Ministry)....continued*

Our Youth Group is only meeting once in December - so please mark your calendars for Dec. 9th for our Holiday Party. We hope to see all our teens there! Wear your ugly Christmas sweaters, your holiday pj's whatever makes you feel your most festive and join us for snacks, hot chocolate, games and music.

Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to join us in the CYF program- either as a Sunday School teacher or to help with Youth Group outings. Thank you again for all your love and support for our Children, Youth and Families here at Lakeview!

Corey McOsker-Nieman (CYF Minister)

Faith Colwell (Child Care Leader)

December 2022		
Sunday	Topic	Notes
3rd	Advent 1 - The Gift of Hope	Communion in Sanctuary
10th	Advent 2 - The Gift of Peace	2nd Sunday Funday!
17th	Advent 3 - The Gift of Joy	
24th	Advent 4 - The Gift of Unconditional Love	
31st	New Year's Eve: The Gift of New Beginnings	



1 Natasa Hogue  
 4 Denise MacFarland  
 12 Jan Gaalaas  
 13 Kay Alkire  
 14 John Baughman  
 14 Harold Hamblin



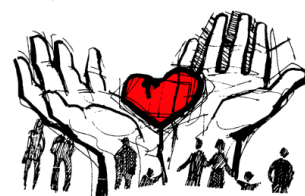
15 Ralph Abel  
 24 Jean McEleney  
 28 Jason Daily  
 29 Linda Crawford  
 30 Rob Schorry  
 31 Chuck McOsker

## PRAYER REQUESTS

H-Health Issues L-Life Decisions M-Military R-Recovering G-Grieving

Chris Bilyeu and Family (H)  
 Jason Daily (H)  
 Tom & Denise MacFarland (H)  
 Lois Westpfahl (H)  
 Heidi Maraucci (H)  
 The Anderson Family (H)  
 Melissa (Pam's friend)  
 The Alkire Family  
 The O'Brien Family  
 Louise (Pam's MIL)

Dave Schwab (H)  
 Mac McKenzie (H)  
 The Paul Family (G)  
 Chris & Family (Friends of Corey & Pat)  
 Deb Rufner  
 Ernie & Karen (friend of Pam's)  
 The Hogue Family  
 Ed McEleney  
 The Meek Family (Linda's sister & family)  
 Tessa (Pam's friend)



## ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS



A BIG THANK YOU to the BSA Scouts for help with the Fall cleanup on Nov 18th!

Many thanks to "Lumberjack" Dave Maile & his assistants, Fred Wood & Steve Friedhoff, for their hard work in removing the 3 crabapple trees in front of the church. Another thanks to the BSA Scouts for a big assist in disposing of the burnable campfire wood and branches!



A Note from the Treasurer: Please be sure that all contributions for 2023 are received in the office by **December 28th** so they can be included on your 2023 statements. Thank you!

## Missing the Minutes?

For those of you who may be missing reading the EC meeting minutes in the LINK each month, we have a new format available. You will find the monthly Council minutes uploaded on the website in the Members area after they have been approved. You will need to log into your member account, and you will see a link in the members' menu. There is a drop-down format similar to bulletin or LINK access.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

**Thank You** to those who donated materials for the mission to the ladies of DCI who sew, making many things to donate to others-- Children's Hospital, Homeless shelters, and others. It was a final gift to our Prison Ministry and I sincerely thank all who helped make this and the many letters to prisoners across the USA mission work for many years.

-Thanks, Benny & Sue Anderson



**December's Just for Lunch** will be held Monday **December 18th** at 12:30pm at deSha's, 11320 Montgomery Rd.

There's a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office, or call the office or Katha to sign up. All are welcome, but space is limited.



Check it out! The students of our amazing accompanist, Irina Hall, will be giving their student recital here at Lakeview on Friday December 22nd at 5:00pm.

## LONGFELLOW COMMONS TRIP

On November 8th, members of our Lakeview family took a field trip to visit the future site of the Longfellow Commons community as well as the Dayton Art Institute. Transportation and lunch were provided. This was a wonderful opportunity and an amazing project to witness first hand.

You can find out more about Longfellow Commons here: <https://www.unitedchurchhomes.org/the-longfellow-commons-community/> or check out the folders in the narthex.



A *very special* thank you goes to Dave Schwab for arranging and facilitating this trip!



# ACTION IN MISSION—(A.I.M.)

## The Christmas Fund



The Christmas Fund is Lakeview's December mission of the month. This UCC fund provides financial aid to retired and active ministers, as well as retired lay employees, their surviving spouses and children. This mission is one of the five all-church missions of the UCC that we support annually.

The Christmas Fund:

- Provides bonus checks at Christmas to low-income retired clergy families and widowed spouses.
- Supplements pensions of low- income retired clergy and widowed spouses.
- Provides emergency grants for financial crises in the lives of active and retired clergy.
- Pays or subsidizes some health plan and insurance costs for low-income retired and disabled clergy and lay employees of the Church.

Please consider donating to our December mission. Your contributions to this fund allow you to be a blessing for those who have served or are currently serving us in the United Church of Christ's ministry. The 2023 theme for this offering is "Grace Upon Grace: From Christ's Fullness we have received grace upon grace." John 1:16. Join with others in the United Church of Christ to return "grace upon grace" to those who have given so much to each of us and to our churches. **If you have questions about this mission, please direct them to Pastor Todd or Linda Overholt.**



December's 5th Sunday collection will be going toward our **Maundy Thursday Service of service** which will take place in March of 2024. This year's project is TBD. Previous projects have included emergency hygiene kits for Church World Service as well as hygiene kits for foster children through a partnership with Hope's Closet.

## **DECEMBER DONATIONS FOR KINGS FOOD PANTRY:**

December is for protein items:

- Peanut Butter
- Tuna
- Beans
- Canned or powdered milk
- Canned Meats
- Canned Chili/Pasta



Just look for the barrels in the church lobby. Thank you for your generosity and the positive impact you continue to make in our community for those in need.



## BSA TROOP 617



When you have a moment, be sure to stop by the patio area and take a look at these beautiful new convertible benches! These were designed and built by Scout Nick Felty as his Eagle Scout project. We are thrilled to be the benefactors of Nick's hard work. We hope these benches will provide a wonderful place to rest, relax, and reflect for many individuals for many years.

Many thanks to Nick and Troop 617!



## PRESCHOOL

LAKEVIEW



PRESCHOOL



The Preschool would like to send a big THANK YOU to all the parents and friends who made their cookie dough fundraiser such a success. They are looking forward to Christmas celebrations and parties in December!



The Preschool teachers had fun dressing up for Halloween week!

# The Lakeview Quilters

## QUILTS WITH BASKETS RAFFLE

December 3 -19, 2023, the Lakeview Quilters group will display 5 original, designed, one of a kind, hand quilted lap/children's quilts they made in 2023. Gift baskets will accompany each quilt. Tickets will be available during this time to church members and friends, and Lakeview preschool families - the drawings will be held on December 20th.

Proceeds will go to Lakeview UCC and the Preschool

**Prices :** \$2/ticket, 3 tickets for \$5, 7 tickets for \$10. Please place the ticket(s) in the bag next to the quilt you wish to bid for.

### How can you help?

We need donations of gift cards, stuffed animals (new with tags), new or gently used children's books (especially bunny/animal), DVD's, & anything else that you think would go along with the theme & fit in a gift basket (box on table in Narthex for donations)

### The Quilts :

**Wizard of Oz** - hand quilted

**Beatrix Potters "Two naughty mice"** - pictures & story, hand quilted

**Peter Rabbit**- hand quilted

**Fantasy quilt of hidden images by Tula Pink** - a famous quilt & fabric designer (appliqued and hand - quilted)

**Turquoise baby quilt** - Dresden plate pattern

Thank you!

The Lakeview Quilters (the group has been in existence here at Lakeview since 1994): Katha Kievit, Jan Gaalaas, Ann Tsui, Julie Peterson, Rosemary Ennis




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We would love to have new quilters - don't hesitate to stop by!  
Wednesday 10-12 in the Conference Room  
We take requests for lap/children's quilts for 2024.



# Christmas at Lakeview

## Thursday December 21st

Blue Christmas Service - On Line Service-available starting at 7:00 PM

During the holiday season, there are many folks who don't feel so "merry and bright." Often we find we are struggling with anxiety, depression, loneliness, or the grief faced when living with loss.

So we invite everyone to a time of peaceful worship, filled with reflective liturgy, beautiful music, and words of lament and compassion as we take moment to rest in God's love on this, the longest night.

Please see the Lakeview App, website, or Facebook page for the link.

## Sunday December 24th

This is one of those rare years when December 24th falls on a Sunday, which means the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve fall on the same day! Here at Lakeview, there are a number of opportunities to worship and celebrate, so please plan on joining us!

### **10:15 AM-Family Centered Worship Service**

We will be celebrating the last Sunday of Advent as we light the fourth candle in our Advent Wreath, sing, pray, and worship -all with a family friendly focus! There will be a Christmas Play, music from the Kid's Handbell Choir, a number from our Kids and Family Choir, and the Chancel Choir will join with the Kid's choir for a wonderful song! We hope the whole family will join us for this time of worship and rejoicing!

### **7:00 PM -A Service of Lessons and Carols at Lakeview-**

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 recorded and available for online worship later in the evening.

### **11:00 PM -A Time of Meditation -**

Our late service this Christmas Eve will be meeting via ZOOM for an intimate and casual time of guided silent prayer, meditation, and candlelight. Please join us at 11:00 PM for a time of peaceful and quiet reflection and rejoicing. The Zoom link for the service will be posted soon.

## Monday, 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.

## 2023 Lakeview Capital Campaign AS WE LIGHT THE WAY– DECEMBER 2023



Greetings from the Capital Campaign Committee! As you may be aware, we “lit the lamp” on January 16, 2022 to officially begin the Capital Campaign to pay for the second mortgage from the Cornerstone Fund. Remember, it is never too late to complete an Intention-to-Give card. Every single one counts toward our goal! **So far 15 cards have been received. If you are new to Lakeview, there is an opportunity for you to pledge on the 2024 pledge cards.**

There is good news as the actual amount of the loan now stands at **\$68,384.18** (as of November 1st) since we have been making a monthly payment of \$1,043.29 and we borrowed less than the anticipated amount. Also, Lakeview has **received \$123,421.47** in gifts to the campaign as of November 12th. **THANK YOU!!**

There was an additional balloon payment of \$20,000 paid toward the principal on May 3, 2022 through funds we receive from the Burgett Estate. Also, Executive Council authorized an additional balloon payment of \$40,000.00 which was credited to the mortgage on September 1, 2022. An additional \$20,000.00 was invested with the Cornerstone Fund. That investment matured earning \$98.74 interest and has been deposited in the checking account to make part of the balloon payment in April. **The 2023 balloon payment of \$40,000 was sent to Cornerstone Fund on April 5, 2023.**

Each month in the LINK we will be giving you an update on our progress. You can also look for the Lamp post. The small white board attached to it shows the total amount collected. The total amount pledged as of October 10th is \$145,120.18. **AWESOME!**

If you have any questions or comments, please direct them to the committee: Karen Baumann, Corey Nieman, and Pastor Todd.

Together we can do this, Lakeview friends and family. Help light the way!

## Stewardship Moment

### Electronic Stewardship Pledging Available Now

<https://form.jotform.com/232774737198168>



For everyone's convenience, this year we are offering an electronic version of our Stewardship Pledge card. You can fill out your 2024 Stewardship Pledge using either the QR code or the link above and help us save some paper (and stamps).

If you prefer, you can pick up a paper pledge card in person in the narthex on Sunday, or request one via mail by calling or emailing the church office at any time.

# TREASURER'S REPORT

## Lakeview United Church of Christ Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual January through October 2023

	<u>Jan-Oct 2023</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense Income				
Income				
40000—Operating Income	<u>242,007.30</u>	<u>244,390.06</u>	<u>-2,382.76</u>	<u>99.0%</u>
Total Income	242,007.30	244,390.06	-2,382.76	99.0%
Expense				
60000—Employee Expenses	113,759.04	112,505.04	1,234.00	101.1%
50000—Operating Expenses	56,766.56	71,501.76	-14,735.20	79.4%
72070—Cornerstone Mortgage	<u>91,390.40</u>	<u>91,390.40</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Total Expense	261,916.00	275,397.20	-13,481.20	95.1%
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-19,908.70</u>	<u>-31,007.14</u>	<u>11,098.44</u>	<u>64.2%</u>
Net Income	<b>-19,908.70</b>	<b>-31,007.14</b>	<b>11,098.44</b>	<b>64.2%</b>

Checking Account Balance as of 10/31/23: \$24,740.31\*

Savings Account Balance as of 10/31/23: \$16,115.70

Cornerstone Mortgage #1 Balance as of 11/1/2023: \$613,380.51

Cornerstone Mortgage #2 Balance as of 11/1/2023: \$68,384.18

\*Includes \$18,980.57 of Capital Campaign funds



Thank you for your generous and continued support of Lakeview and all this church means to us, the community, and our world.

Merry Christmas to all!

Karen Baumann, Treasurer



October Mission Total: Neighbors in Need	\$ 775.50
Shared Harvest	\$ 1033.00
MARCC	\$ 275.00



**DO YOU KNOW LAKEVIEW'S LEADERSHIP TEAM?**

Position	Name	Primary Contact	Secondary
Pastor	Todd Peterson	513-283-3425	pastor@lakeviewucc.com
Admin/Dir. of Music	Natalie Nolte	513-683-2073	info@lakeviewucc.com
Director of Instr. Music	Irina Hall	513-753-0377	
Children, Youth & Family Ministry	Corey Nieman	513-262-9381	cyfministry@lakeviewucc.com
Child Care	Faith Colwell	513-320-3255	

**Executive Committee**

Moderator/President	Fred Wood	484-881-2297
Vice Moderator/V.P.	Steve Mays	
Past Moderator/Past Pres	Debbie Kumararaj	309-236-2546
Treasurer	Karen Baumann	513-732-6880
Assistant Treasurer	Rosemary Ennis	513-265-2579
Recording Secretary	Deb Rufner	513-683-2137
Financial Secretary	Janet & Steve Friedhoff	513-235-5066
Facilities Coordinator	Dave Maile	513-250-0336

**Additional Elected positions**

PACT Comm. Members:	Bob Sandman	513-473-6092
	Rob Schorry	
	Sarah McOsker	

**Standing Committees (contact person) / Delegates**

Assoc/Conf. Delegate	Lisa Barrows	828-489-2726	
Alternate Delegate	Ann Tsui	513-683-8329	513-470-4507
A.I.M. (Action in Mission)	Sandee McAlpine	513-398-7107	
Fellowship	Steve Friedhoff	513-247-0933	
Membership	Linda Overholt	513-515-8870	
Music	Chris Ennis	513-459-9504	513-404-2272
Publicity	Vacant		
Worship	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

# December 2023 LUCC Calendar of Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 5P- BSA Scout Overnight-FH	2 8:30A-AA- rm 8 11A- Preschool event rm 8/9
3 10:15A-Worship Service 10A-Harmony-Rm8/9, CR, FH 11:30A- Harmony- rm 7	4 6:30P-BSA-FH 6:30P- Cub Scout Den- CR 6:30P-Girl Scouts -Rm8	5 5:30- Cub Scouts -CR/Lobby/ FH/8-9 7:30P- PACT mtg -Todd's Office 8P-AA -FH	6 10A-Quilters-CR 12:00P-AA-FH 6:15P-Daisy Scouts-rm8 6:30P- Handbells 7:00P-NARAnon-rm7 7:30P-12 Step -CR 7:30P- Chancel Choir	7 6:30P-BSA Cmmtee Mtg-rm 7 7P-AA-FH 7P-Al Anon -rm8	8	9 8:30A-AA- rm 8 1:00P -Youth Group
10 10:15A- Worship Service 11:30A- Chancel Choir Rehearsal SUNDAY FUNDAY!	11 9:30A-EIL Co-op-FH 6:00P-Girl Scouts -Rm 8 6:30P-BSA-FH	12 5:30P- Cub Scouts-Pack Mtg- Sanct/ FH/CR/Lobby/ rm 8-9 8P-AA -FH 8P-AA-CR	13 10A-Quilters-CR 12:00P-AA-FH 5:30-Cub Scouts-FH 7:00P-NAR-Anon-rm 7 7:30P-12 Step -CR No Choir Rehearsals	14 7P-AA-FH 7P-Al Anon -rm8	15	16 8:30A-AA- rm 8
17 10:15A-Worship Service 10A-Harmony-Rm8/9, CR, FH 5P- Umlang Piano Recital	18 12:30P- Just for Lunch 6:00P- Girl Scouts- rm8 6:30P- Cub Scout Den- CR 6:30P-BSA-FH	19 5:30- Cub Scouts -CR/Lobby/ FH/8-9 7:00 EC Mtg- Zoom 8P-AA-Sanctuary 8P-AA -FH	20 10A-Quilters-CR 12:00P-AA-FH 6:15P-Daisy Scouts-rm8 6:30P- Handbells 7:00P-NARAnon-rm7 7:30P-12 Step -CR 7:30P- Chancel Choir	21 7P-AA-FH 7P-Al Anon -rm8	22 5P- Irina Hall Student Piano Recital	23 8:30A-AA- rm 8
24 <b>Christmas Eve</b> 10:15A-Worship Service 7P- Christmas Eve Service 31 10:15A-Worship Service	25 <b>Christmas Day</b>  Merry Christmas	26 5:30- Cub Scouts -CR/Lobby/ FH/8-9 7:00P-EC mtg- Zoom 7:30- Cub Scout Cmm Mtg- CR 8P-AA -FH 8P-AA-CR	27 10A-Quilters-CR 12:00P-AA-FH 5:30-Cub Scouts-FH 7:00P-NAR-Anon-rm 7 7:30P-12 Step -CR No Choir Rehearsals	28 7P-AA-FH 7P-Al Anon -rm8	29	30 8:30A-AA- rm 8

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**A Monthly Newsletter of Lakeview United Church of Christ**

