

September 21st, 2025 | 10:15 am Worship Service | The Good Life | 15th Sunday after Pentecost



# LAKEVIEW

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

8639 Columbia Rd • Maineville, OH 45039

[www.lakeviewucc.com](http://www.lakeviewucc.com) • (513) 683-2073



# LAKEVIEW UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 21st, 2025

Rev. Ruth Hopkins  
Interim 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](mailto:info@lakeviewucc.com), visit our website: [lakeviewucc.com](http://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 Passing of the Peace.

### 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

*Jerusalem, My Happy Home* Melissa Toedtman  
American folk song , arr. Howard Helvey

## Welcome and Announcements

## Time of Centering

*On Eagle's Wings* Melissa Toedtman  
by Michael Joncas, arr. John Carter

## Call to Worship

One: Who are we, gathering in this place?

All: *Disciples of the Christ.*

One: Why are we here?

All: *To journey on the Way.*

One: Where does the Way take us?

All: *To the knowledge - in our heads and in our hearts - that death is not victorious. That God: Creator, Christ, and Spirit, is in all, is with all, is of all!*

One: And how do we follow this Way?

All: *By loving God. By loving our neighbor. By loving ourselves.*

One: This is our purpose.

All: *This is our Way. Thanks be to God!*

## Hymn of Gathering *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* (v.1-3)

## Opening Prayer

One: This week we have heard whispers of your grace and we have not always listened. Those whispers have come from unlikely places...

and our ears were stopped because of our heart walls. Those whispers have challenged us in ways we prefer not to think about. Those whispers call us to places that look too different, too risky, too unsafe.

All: *For selective deafness we ask your forgiveness, God.*

One: But in this last week we have also heard and noticed songs of grace that have stayed in the unexpected warmth of a friend, in the reminders of family, in the kindness of strangers.

**All:** *In random beauty...heard, seen, tasted, smelled, felt and known in the deep places.*  
**One:** And for those songs we are grateful.  
**All:** *We choose this morning to be carriers of goodness and grace. Amen.*

**Hymn** *Be Not Dismayed* (v.1-2) #460

### Passing the Peace of Christ

**One:** The Peace of Christ be with you  
**Many:** And also with you.  
**One:** Let us share Christ's peace.

**Call to Prayer** *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* (v.1) #506

### Prayers of the People

**One:** In the power and presence of God:  
**All:** *We share your prayer*

### Pastoral Prayer

### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father-Mother in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those that trespass against us.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.  
Amen.

**Hymn** *When Peace Like a River* (v.1-2) #460

**A Reading From The Hebrew Scripture:** I TIMOTHY 6:6-19 CEB

**Morning Message** *The Good Life* REV. RUTH HOPKINS

**Special Music** *Voluntary* Richard Densmore, *organ*  
W. Boyce

**Word About Giving** SHARED HARVEST / NEIGHBORS IN NEED AIM

[Unmarked gifts will be designated for our general operating fund. If you are making a gift to the mission of the month or any other option, please note that on your check or giving envelope (available in the pews).]

**Offertory** *A Clare Benediction* Melissa Toedtman  
By John Rutter

## Prayer of Dedication (unison)

For the way that stretches in front of us, we say thank you.

For the way that lies behind us, we say thank you.

For the Way that we will become, we hope with thankful hearts. Amen.

## Hymn of Sending Forth

*On Eagle's Wings*

#775

*....And God will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of God's hand.*

## Benediction and Blessing

### Postlude

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

By John Rutter

Melissa Toedtman

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Photo by Ismael Paramo on [Unsplash](#), Photo by Flavien on [Unsplash](#) ;

Prayers and worship liturgy from "Gifts in Open Hands," Maren Tirabassi and Kathy Wonson Eddy, ed.

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**"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!*

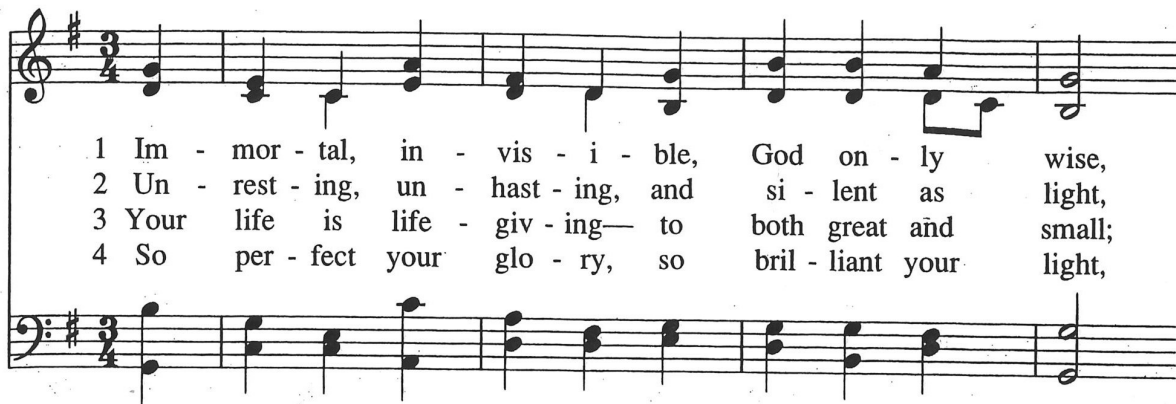
If you have found yourself excluded and alienated, spiritually homeless or questioning, you are welcome here. If you have ever felt there is no room for you within Christianity or the Church, you are welcome here. We are a community of faith that celebrates diversity and strives to fulfill our mission 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!*

# Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

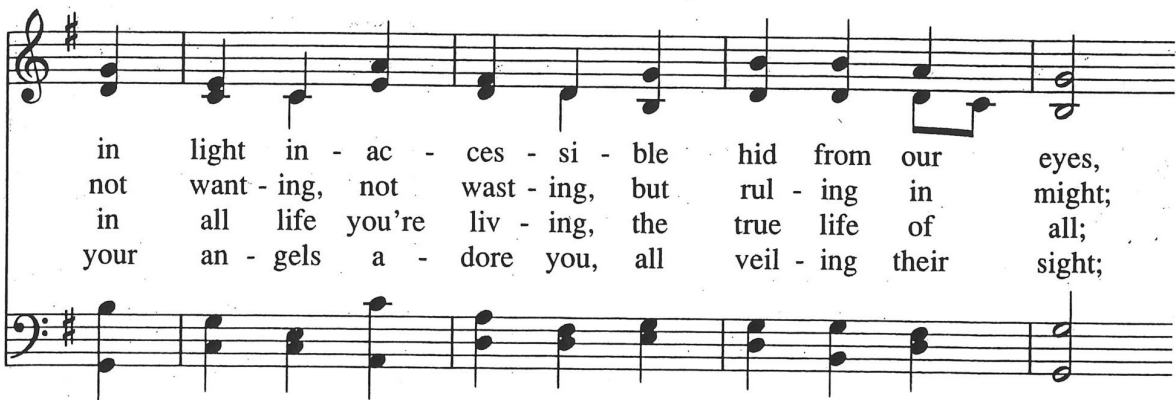
1

Walter C. Smith, 1867; alt.

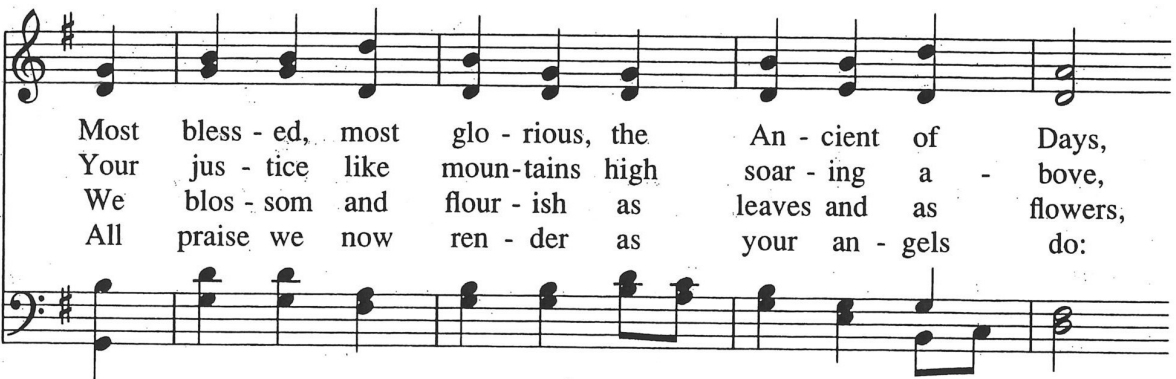
1 Tim. 1:17; Ps. 36:6



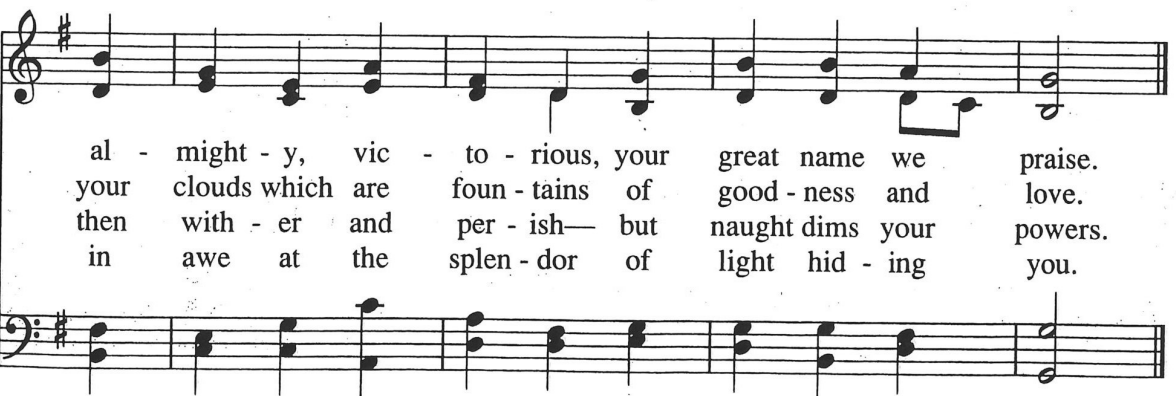
1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 Your life is life - giv - ing— to both great and small;  
 4 So per - fect your glo - ry, so bril - liant your light,



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 not want - ing, not wast - ing, but rul - ing in might;  
 in all life you're liv - ing, the true life of all;  
 your an - gels a - dore you, all veil - ing their sight;



Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 Your jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove,  
 We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves and as flowers,  
 All praise we now ren - der as your an - gels do:



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, your great name we praise.  
 your clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 then with - er and per - ish— but naught dims your powers.  
 in awe at the splen - dor of light hid - ing you.

Walter C. Smith, minister of the Free Church of Scotland and later moderator of the Assembly, wrote poetry as a retreat from

Tune: ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11.  
 Adapt. from a Welsh ballad in John Roberts'



# Be Not Dismayed

(God Will Take Care of You)

460

*Civilla D. Martin, 1904; alt.*

*Ps. 91*

1 Be not dis-mayed what-e'er be - tide, God will take care of you;  
2 Through days of toil when heart grows frail, God will take care of you;  
3 All you may need God will pro - vide, God will take care of you;  
4 No mat - ter what may be the test, God will take care of you;

Be - neath God's wings of love a - bide, God will take care of you.  
When dan - gers fierce your path as - sail, God will take care of you.  
Noth - ing you ask will be de - nied, God will take care of you.  
Lean, wea - ry one, up - on God's breast, God will take care of you.

## Refrain

God will take care of you, through ev - ery day, o'er all the way;

God will take care of you, God will take care of you.  
take care of you

*This early hymn by Civilla Martin was written in 1904 and set to music by her husband, a Baptist minister, as a contribution to a songbook he was compiling for a school. This is one of several such collaborations.*

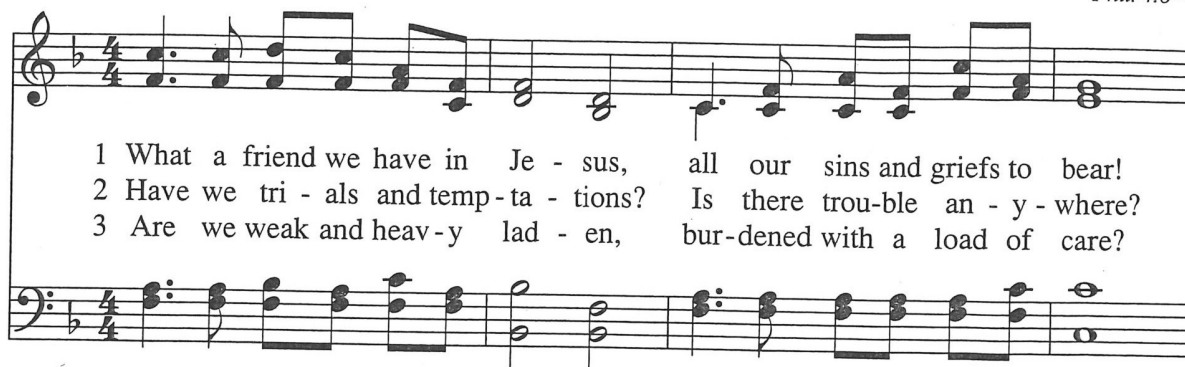
Tune: MARTIN C.M. with refrain  
W. Stillman Martin, 1905

# What a Friend We Have in Jesus

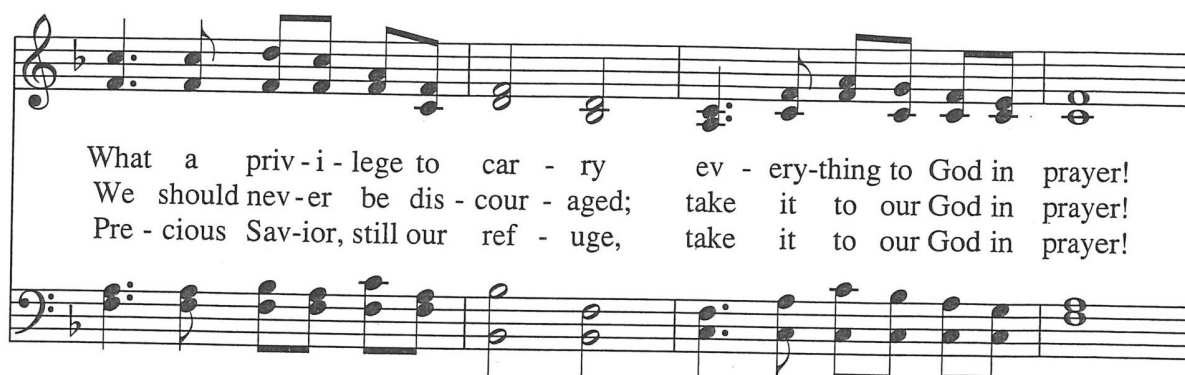
506

Joseph Scriven, 1855; alt.

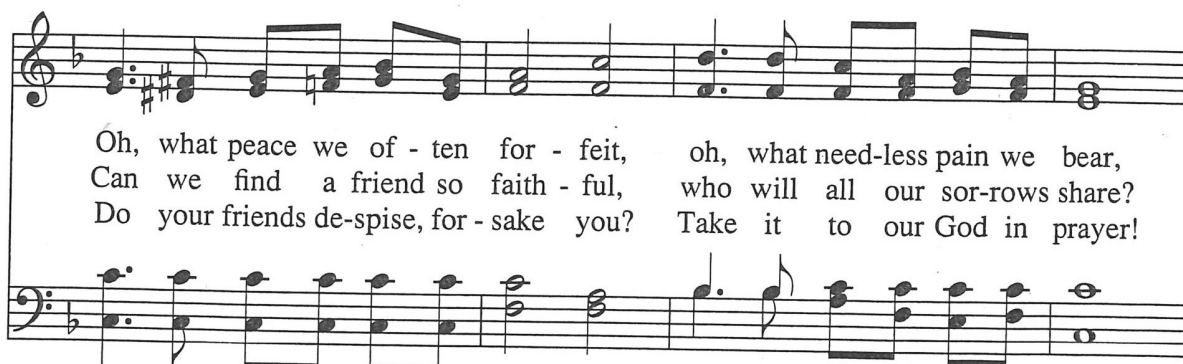
Phil. 4:6-7



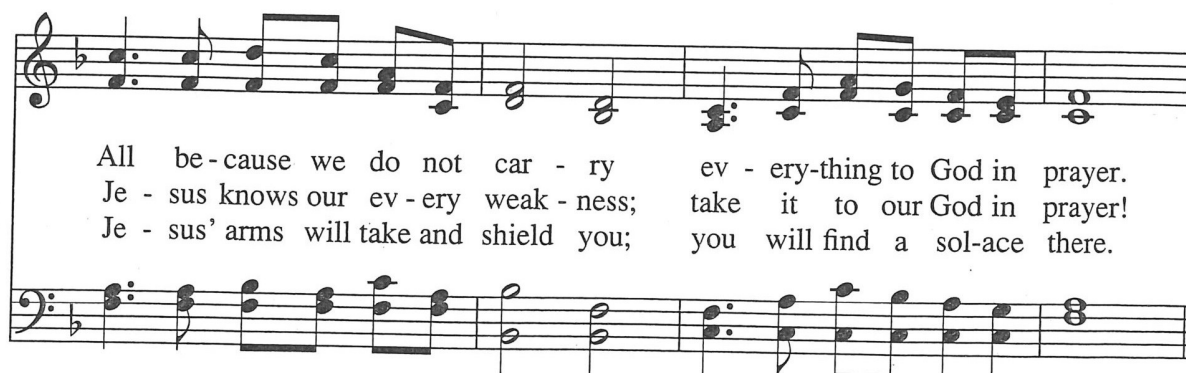
1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?  
3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, bur - dened with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!  
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to our God in prayer!  
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge, take it to our God in prayer!



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need-less pain we bear,  
Can we find a friend so faith - ful, who will all our sor - rows share?  
Do your friends de-spise, for - sake you? Take it to our God in prayer!



All be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer.  
Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to our God in prayer!  
Je - sus' arms will take and shield you; you will find a sol - ace there.

*No stranger to sorrow himself, Joseph Scriven wrote this hymn to comfort his mother in Ireland. Scriven, who moved to Canada as a young man, attempted to follow literally the teachings of the Sermon on the Mount.*

Tune: ERIE 8.7.8.7.D.  
Charles C. Converse, 1868

# When Peace, Like a River

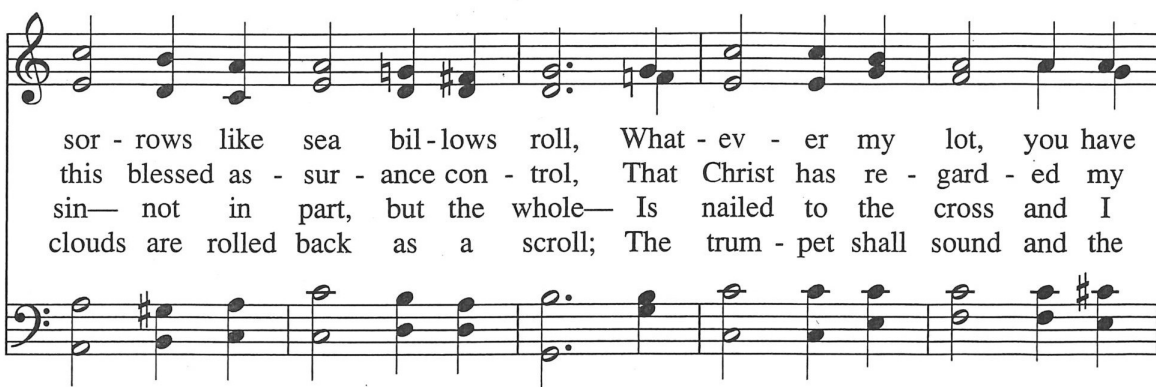
(It Is Well with My Soul)

Ps. 146; Col. 1:19-23; 2:13-14; 3 John 1:2

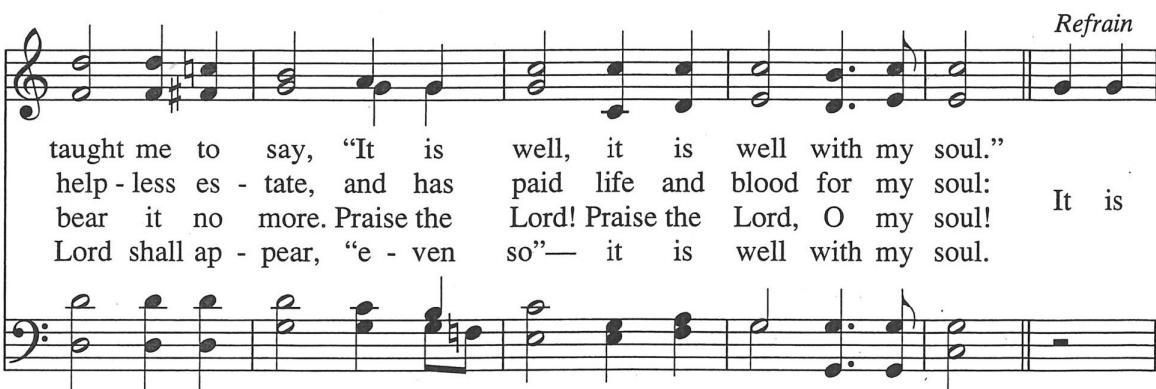
Horatio G. Spafford, 1873; alt.



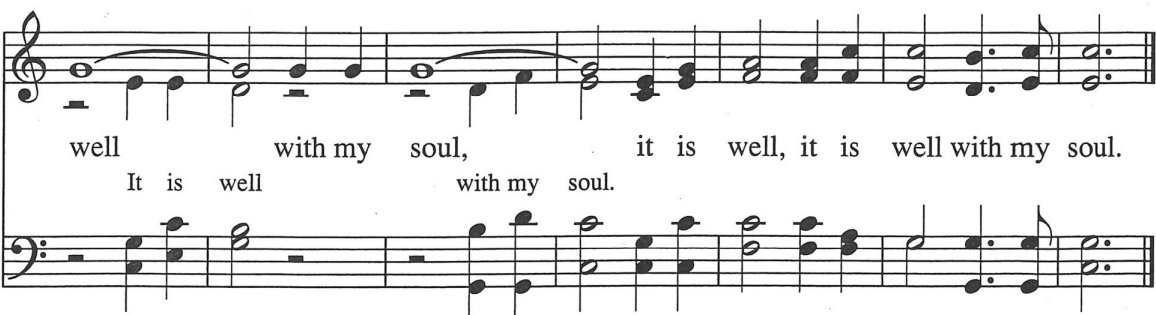
1 When peace, like a riv - er, up - holds me each day, when  
2 Though e - vil should tempt me, though tri - als should come, let  
3 My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought— my  
4 O God, speed the day that is filled with your light, when



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, What - ev - er my lot, you have  
this blessed as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ has re - gard - ed my  
sin— not in part, but the whole— Is nailed to the cross and I  
clouds are rolled back as a scroll; The trum - pet shall sound and the



Refrain  
taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."  
help - less es - tate, and has paid life and blood for my soul: It is  
bear it no more. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!  
Lord shall ap - pear, "e - ven so"— it is well with my soul.



well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
It is well with my soul.

*This hymn was written out of grief over the loss of the author's four daughters in the sinking of the SS Ville du Havre. After leaving his Chicago law practice, Horatio G. Spafford and his wife settled in Jerusalem.*

Tune: VILLE DU HAVRE 11.8.11.9. with refrain  
Philip P. Bliss, 1876



## SEPTEMBER MISSIONS: NEIGHBORS IN NEED & SHARED HARVEST

Lakeview supports two missions during the month of September.



One mission is **Neighbors in Need**, a special offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Our gifts support American Indian UCC congregations and their pastors, as well as national ministries that address poverty, economic development, global concerns, civil and human rights, peace-making, racial and economic justice, environmental concerns and public policy advocacy.

**The Second Mission is Shared Harvest Foodbank**, a local mission which collects, warehouses, transports and distributes food to over 100 food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and other non-profit agencies in a five-county area in Southwest Ohio: Warren, Butler, Darke, Miami and Preble counties. Shared Harvest warehouse and offices are located in Fairfield and has been serving the community for 42 years.

Check their website at [www.sharedharvest.org](http://www.sharedharvest.org) for detailed information. Terry Perdue, Executive Director, joined us for worship and Lunch & Learn last week, to tell us more about the current challenges and needs of Shared Harvest and the people they serve.

September Mission giving will be split 50/50 between these two funds, unless otherwise indicated on your donation.

### DONATIONS FOR KINGS FOOD PANTRY:

September Breakfast Needs:

- Pancake Mixes, syrup
- Martha White muffin mix
- Granola Bars
- Kids Cereals (the ones kids like!)



Look for the bins under the bulletin board in the church lobby. Thank you for your generosity and the positive impact you continue to make in our community for those in need.

### 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 Cincinnati Ave. in Lebanon.

**Next Date: Monday, Oct. 20, 2025**

Volunteers are needed to:

—Provide a dish for the evening meal (still need 1 volunteer).

—Host the families during evening hours (about 5 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—1 more volunteer needed. You will have your own space to sleep. There are no real duties except to make sure everyone is accounted for, turn off lights and lock up the common area, 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.

Please let Ellen Abel ([ellenabel1016@gmail.com](mailto:ellenabel1016@gmail.com); 513-967-5022) know if you can help out, or sign up in the narthex! 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!





**Adult Faith Formation** classes are being held from 9:00-9:45 am Sunday mornings in the conference room. Note- Rev. Ruth will not be here on 9/28. The Series is "Living Into"- with each week being a value we are challenged to live into. Each class stands alone - but you are invited to come from September through October. **See the September LINK for details!**

\*Note: childcare is not provided during this time.



**September Just for Lunch** will be held Monday, **September 29th** at **12:30pm** at Half Day Café in Mason/Deerfield. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office. All are welcome, but space is limited! Questions? Call Rosemary: 513-265-2579



Many thanks to Melissa Toedtman & Richard Densmore for sharing their time and talent with us today!

### THIS WEEK at Lakeview



#### Today

- 9:00 AM Adult Faith Formation- Conference Room
- 10:00 AM Harmony UU- FH
- 10:15 AM Sunday Worship

#### Monday, Sep 22

- 12:00 PM AA- FH
- 6:30 PM BSA Scouts- FH
- 7:00 PM AA - 12&12 Study -CR

#### Tuesday, Sep 23

- 5:30 PM Cub Scouts- FH, narthex CR, Rm 7-9
- 8:00 PM AA - FH/CR

#### Wednesday, Sep 24

- 10:00 AM Quilting Group- CR
- 12:00 PM AA Meeting - FH
- 6:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal
- 7:00 PM NAR-Anon - rm 7
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir

#### Thursday, Sep 25

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

#### Friday, Sep 26

#### Saturday, Sep 27

- 8:30 AM AA Meeting- rm 8

### In Our Prayers

Mac McKenzie;  
The Bierkan Family;  
Karen Baumann & Larry;  
Esther Friedhoff & family;  
Ernie and Karen (Pam's friends);  
the Paul Family;  
Tim (Pam's Brother-in-law);  
Adrienne (friend of Barrows');  
The Huber Family  
Tom & Ruthie McCormack;  
The Kievit Family; Mike Maile;  
The McEleney family;  
The Massung Family;  
the Anderson Family;  
Irina and family

### Birthdays this Week

Molly Miller (22);  
Josh Maile (25);  
Owen Friedhoff (27)



*September Office Hours: Sun afternoon,  
Tues 10a-3p; Thurs 10a-2p;  
additional rehearsal & remote work hours vary*