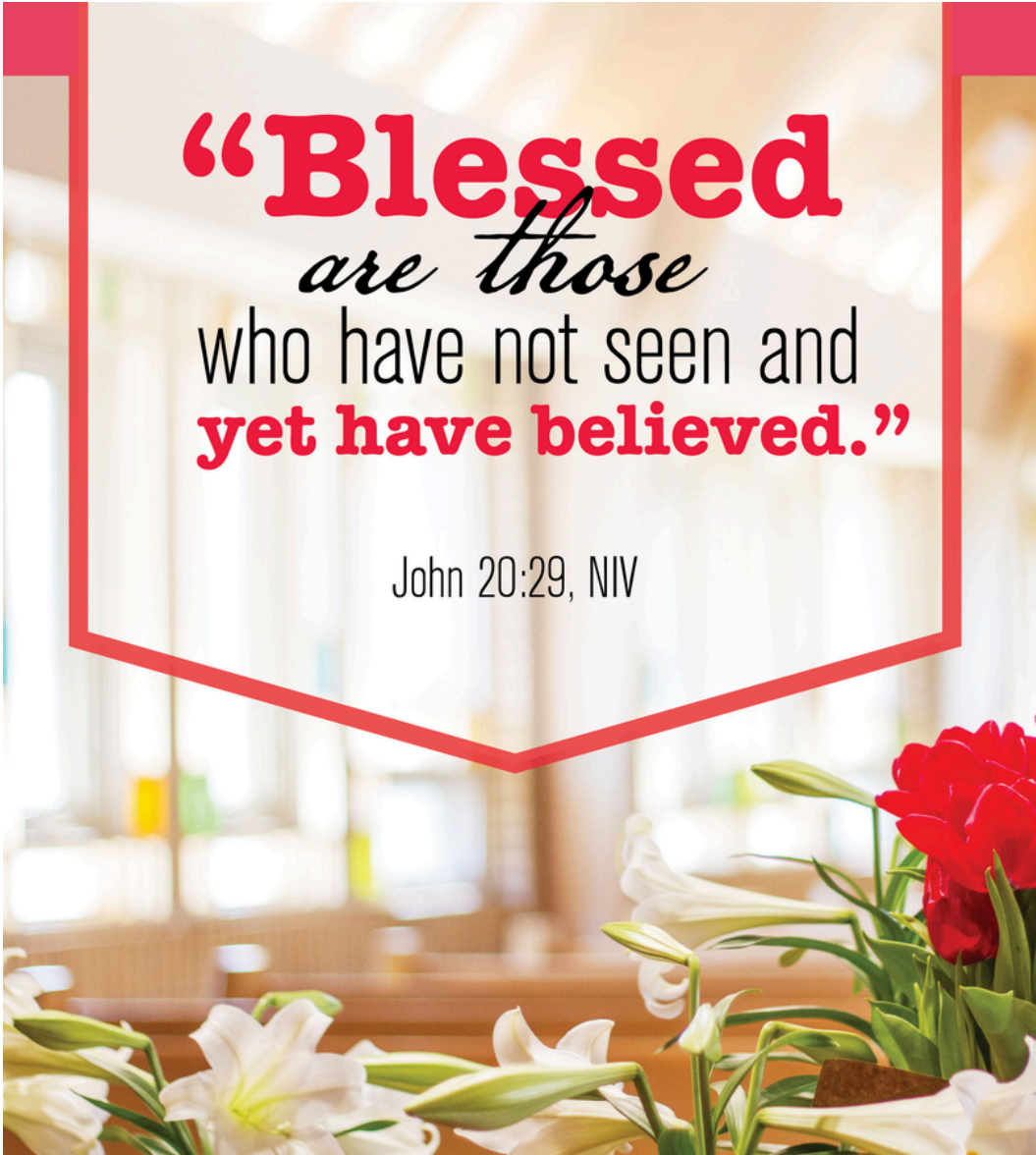


April 12th, 2026 | 10:15 am Worship Service | First Sunday after Easter: Thomas

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**“Blessed**  
*are those*  
who have not seen and  
**yet have believed.”**

John 20:29, NIV

# 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

April 12th, 2026

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

Irina Hall

## Welcome and Announcements

## Time of Centering

Irina Hall

## Call to Worship

based on Psalm 16

**One:** Take us into Your heart, O God, as we make our home in You. This is our praise: You are Source of all goodness and wisdom.

**Many:** Our hearts delight in seeking You, in waking up to You, in swimming upstream courageously to find life with You.

**One:** Once awake though, we cannot turn back to sleep.

**Many:** Once seeing, we see You everywhere.

**One:** We do not want to live in the dullness that is blindness of heart nor sleepwalk through our shortened days.

**Many:** For You, God, are our daily Bread, the Cup we drink, the bounteous Land in which we live.

## Gathering Hymn

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (v. 1-2)

## Opening Prayer (unison)

O Risen Christ, be with us this day.

We recognize your wounded hands; they tell us that you know what it is to struggle and suffer, and to prevail in the power of love.

We grasp those hands, that they may lead us together into a deeper place of peace.

Our week has brought us worries, answerless questions, blatant injustices, and unexpected disappointments. We are weary.

Come, O Risen Christ, and receive our burdens as we empty our cares into your loving hands.

Extend to us your joy. Give us imagination enough to pursue your abundant life!

Pour into us the freshness of your new life; for you are our strength and our might.

Amen! Alleluia!

## Hymn (reprise)

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (v. 3-4)

## **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**

*Alleluia* (x 1)

## **Prayers of the People**

One: In the power and presence of God:

Many: **We share your prayer**

## **Pastoral Prayer**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father-Mother, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## **Special Music**

*I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked*

Julie Peterson &

by Geoffrey O'Hara, words by Daniel Twohig

Irina Hall

## **A Reading from the Christian Gospels, John 20: 19-31**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As God has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin, one of the twelve), was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

## **Morning Message**

*You Can't Always Get What You Want*

Rev. Ruth Hopkins

**Leave Taking of Interim Pastor**

**One:** Today I thank the people of Lakeview UCC for the welcome and support I have received during this past interim period. I ask for your understanding and forgiveness for mistakes I may have made and for expectations which have been unmet. I am grateful to God that so many here have graciously accepted my leadership. With sadness I remember those things not accomplished. With deep joy I recall the many things we have been able to accomplish together in this short time. As I leave, I carry with me many good memories of you all and of this season we have shared together.

**Many:** We receive your thankfulness, and we offer our genuine forgiveness for any things left undone, and our heartfelt thanks for all accomplishments in our mission and ministry. We now acknowledge your departure from this ministry and we accept that you now leave us as our Interim Minister. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We will remember you.

**One:** Thank you! May our time together, and our parting, be pleasing to our loving God and to the Risen Christ we are called to serve.

**ALL:** Amen. Thanks be to God.

**Offertory**

Irina Hall

Our April mission is **Childhood Food Solutions**. You can read more about this mission in the announcements and in the April issue of the LINK.

[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).]

**Doxology**

[please stand as you are moved and able]

*For time to savor God's good gifts  
For space to breathe and hearts to lift  
For ways to reach out and to give  
We offer thanks and vow to live!*

**Prayer of Dedication** (unison)

We consecrate our lives, and all we have to offer, so that the Easter message may spread far and wide. May it spread through the streets and across the lands, beginning with us. May glad songs of love motivate practical ministries of care, reconciliation and justice! May all we offer express our deepest gratitude and Easter joy. Amen.

[please be seated]

**Parting Hymn***The Trees of the Field* (x2)

#645

**Benediction**

**One:** Alleluia, Christ is risen!

**Many:** Alleluia, Christ is risen indeed!

**One:** Go in peace and share the Easter joy! Amen.

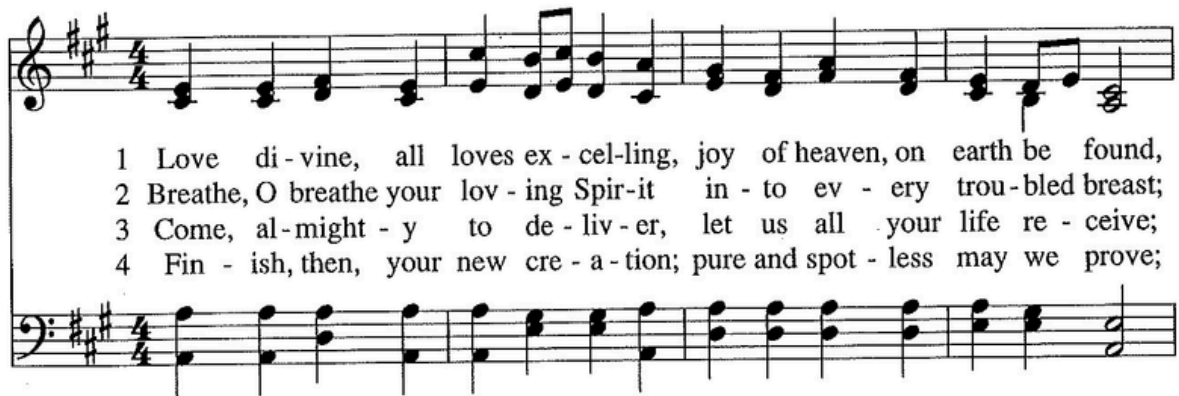
**Postlude**

Irina Hall

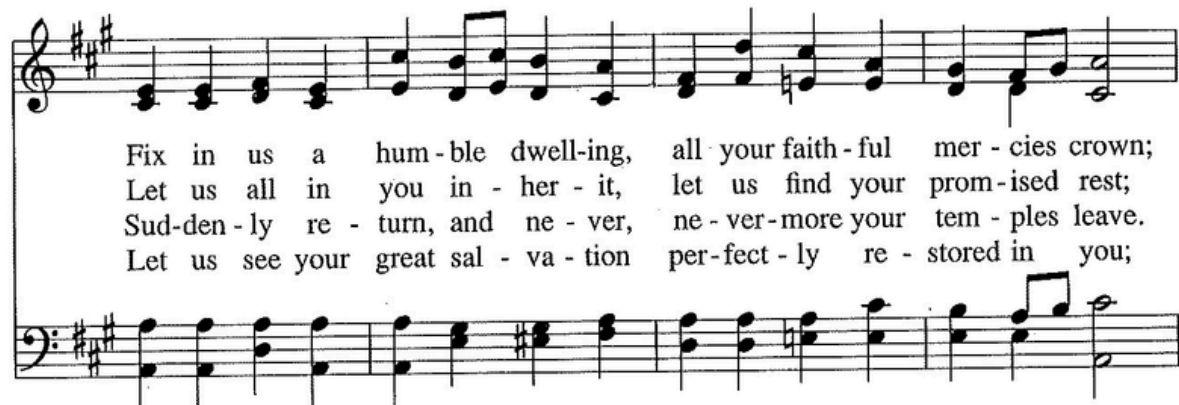
## Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Mal. 3:1; 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17; Eph. 5:27

Charles Wesley, 1747; alt.



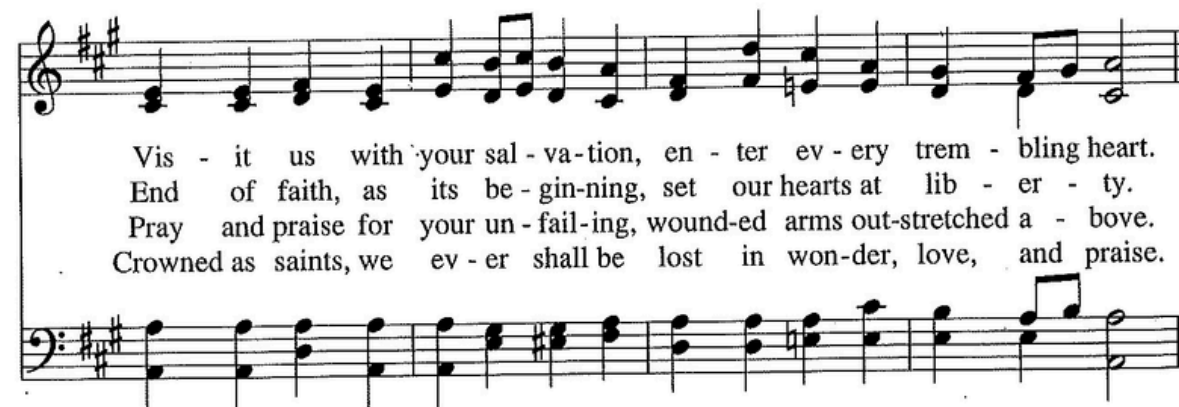
1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,  
2 Breathe, O breathe your lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;  
3 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all your life re - ceive;  
4 Fin - ish, then, your new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less may we prove;



Fix in us a hum - ble dwell - ing, all your faith - ful mer - cies crown;  
Let us all in you in - her - it, let us find your prom - ised rest;  
Sud - den - ly re - turn, and ne - ver, ne - ver - more your tem - ples leave.  
Let us see your great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in you;



Je - sus, you are all com - pas - sion; pure, un - bound - ed love im - part.  
Take a - way our love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;  
You we would be al - ways bless - ing, love you as your an - gels love,  
Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,



Vis - it us with your sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
End of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
Pray and praise for your un - fail - ing, wound - ed arms out - stretched a - bove.  
Crowned as saints, we ev - er shall be lost in won - der, love, and praise.

*This hymn is said to have been suggested by a "Song of Venus" from Dryden's King Arthur. It is one of 6,500 written by Charles Wesley, the "sweet singer of Methodism," who was skilled at*

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.  
John Zundel, 1855  
Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL

# We Live by Faith and Not by Sight

256

Henry Alford, 1844; alt.

John 20:24-29

*Unison*

1 We live by faith and not by sight;  
2 We may not touch Christ's hands and side,  
3 Help then, O Christ, our un - be - lief;  
4 That, when our life of faith is done,

no gra - cious words we hear From Christ who spoke as  
nor fol - low where Christ trod; But in con - fess - ing  
and may our faith a - bound To call on you when  
in realms of clear - er light We may be - hold you

none e'er spoke, who still we know is near.  
we re - jice: our Sav - ior and our God!  
you are near and seek where you are found:  
as you are, with full and end - less sight.

*As dean of Canterbury, Henry Alford exemplified ecumenism by working closely with non-Anglican groups. He promoted New Testament scholarship with his famous commentary on the Greek New Testament, one of fifty books he published during his lifetime.*

Tune: DUNLAP'S CREEK C.M.  
Samuel McFarland, c. 1816  
Harm. Richard Proulx, 1986

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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!



## The Trees of the Field

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace; the  
 moun-tains and the hills will break forth be-fore you; there'll be  
 shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will  
 clap, will clap their hands. And all the trees of the  
 field will clap their hands, the trees of the field will  
 clap their hands, the trees of the field will  
 clap their hands while you go out with joy.

Words: Steffi Geiser Rubin, 1950-

Music: Stuart Dauermann, 1944-

Words and Music © 1975 Lillenas Publishing Company (admin. Music Services)

U.S.A.

Isaiah 55:12

THE TREES OF THE FIELD

## ALLELUIA

Text and music: Jerry Sinclair, 1972; alt.

1 Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia,  
Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Alleluia'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system starts with a '1' indicating the beginning of the piece. The second system ends with a double bar line.

### Lakeview's Mission of the Month: APRIL

Childhood Food Solutions is Lakeview's mission for the month for April. This small local program provides food for hungry children in the Roll Hill neighborhood and surrounding neighborhoods of Cincinnati on weekends, holidays and summer breaks, when school nutrition programs are typically not available.

Lakeview's donations this month will help the program to purchase, pack and deliver food boxes and sacks to needy families identified by school personnel. In our current political climate, with major cuts in safety-net programs, your financial assistance for this private sector program is needed more than ever. You can read more about this program in the April Lakeview Link or on the AIM bulletin board in the church lobby. See Linda Overholt if you have any questions.



### DONATIONS FOR KINGS FOOD PANTRY:

- Ketchup
- Mustard
- Mayonnaise
- Salad dressing
- Pickles



### April: Condiments

- Relish
- Ranch dressing
- Soy sauce
- Barbeque sauce
- Salsa

### FAMILY PROMISE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



We are still in need of a few more volunteers for our Family Promise hosting date on Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. Please see the sign up sheet in the narthex or the LINK article for more details, or contact Ellen Abel if you have any questions. Thank you!



Join us after service TODAY for a special Second Sunday Lunch n'Learn, LAFF: Lunch & Fun & Fellowship!



Help us honor Pastor Ruth as her time as our interim pastor comes to an end. Pizza and cake will be provided. Board games are encouraged, so join in for some Fellowship and Fun!

THANK YOU!



THANK YOU!

Pastor Ruth!



Our Settled Pastor Search Team recommended Pastor Anthony Spearhart of Wapakoneta, Ohio, for the position of Settled Pastor. Anthony Spearhart will preach at the morning worship service on **April 19th**, after which the congregation will meet to consider his candidacy and vote on calling him to be our Settled Pastor.

\*NOTE: There will be NO virtual or online voting option. All votes will be cast via written ballot in person. Those who cannot attend may opt to designate a proxy. Proxy forms are available in the narthex or the link provided in this week's email, or by contacting the office or a member of the Executive Council. Forms must be returned by 6pm Saturday, April 18th.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this very special service and congregational meeting.



Come out for your chance to meet our pastoral candidate Anthony Spearhart before Sunday! On **Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>** from **2:00-4:00pm** we will be hosting an informal Open House-style Meet and Greet opportunity in the narthex area. Snacks will be provided. Stop in, say hello, ask questions, and put a face to the name before Sunday morning!

## THIS WEEK at Lakeview



### TODAY

10:15 AM Sunday Worship  
11:30 AM Lunch n' Learn  
2:30 PM 4H Crusaders- FH

### Monday, April 13

12:00 PM AA- FH  
6:00 PM Girl Scouts- rm 8  
6:30 PM BSA Scouts- FH  
7:00 PM AA - 12&12 Study -CR

### Tuesday, April 14

5:30 PM Cub Scouts Pack Mtg-  
FH/CR/Sanctuary  
8:00 PM AA - FH/CR

### Wednesday, April 15

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

### Thursday, April 16

5:00 PM Preschool Art Show  
7:00 PM AA Meeting— FH  
7:00 PM Al-Anon — CR

### Friday, April 17

### Saturday, April 18

8:30 AM AA Meeting- rm 8  
2:00 PM Meet and Greet - narthex

*Note: This Calendar does not reflect ALL facility scheduling.  
Please email or call the office to check availability and/or  
request space.*

## In Our Prayers

Mac McKenzie;  
Eric K (Joyce's friend)  
Karen Baumann & Larry;  
Harry, Ernie, Karen (Pam's friends);  
The Paul Family; Lynn Potts;  
Tim (Pam's Brother-in-law);  
Mike Maile; Fred Wood;  
Tom & Ruthie McCormack;  
Linda Crawford & family;  
Sue Anderson;  
Patsy (friend of Pam)  
Irina Hall & family



## Birthdays this Week

Alison Knowlden (12)  
Sarah Huber (13)  
Diana Watson (14)



### Office Hours this week to include:

*Tuesday 10-3; Thursday 10-2; Sunday 1-4p.  
Add'l service, remote & rehearsal hours vary.*

*Email: [info@lakeviewucc.com](mailto:info@lakeviewucc.com)*

**“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!