



LAKEWOOD and TRINITY United Church of Christ

Lakewood United Church of Christ and Trinity United Church of Christ have formed a cooperative ministry partnership. The two congregations worship at Lakewood on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome!



Image by rawpixel.com

This Sunday

This Sunday, the service will invite reflection on how God's love is so ready and available and how we put up obstacles to that love. The story of the healing of Naaman, a non-Jew and a military leader who has led the victory over Israel, offers wisdom and insight. Take a look at 2 Kings 5:1-27. The story is also instructive when it comes to two congregations joining together in ministry!

Children's Time is back! There will be Children's Time offered each Sunday near the beginning of the service. After Children's Time, children may go to childcare with Miss Claudia.

All are welcome. The service begins at 10:30 a.m.

Childcare is provided.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM TRINITY CHURCH

January 24, 2024

To Our Friends and Fellow Congregants of Lakewood:

Trinity UCC is excited to announce that we have voted to merge with Lakewood! We feel a sense of community with all of you and we share a like vision in matters of social justice and being an Open and Affirming congregation.

We want to thank all who participated in meetings to help us to come to this point. The shared gatherings of both congregations has lead Trinity to where we are today. We appreciate Lakewood hearing our shared joys and concerns and the open arms with which we were welcomed to bring our hopes for what will come in worshipping together.

Our hope is that Trinity's spirit will continue with Lakewood's spirit and that all of us may grow to work for God's Glory in all we do to love, respect and serve others.

There is much work to still be done to complete the process of this cooperative ministry. We ask for prayer and support as we work through this process. Rev. Wells has been so wonderful to assist in any way possible and all of Trinity is most thankful for her guidance. She has been Trinity's pastor since October and we cannot express our gratitude enough!

Again, we thank all of Lakewood for the warm welcome!

Dan Craft
Moderator

Budget Workshop Ahead

Each year the church prepares a spending plan that equips the ministry of the church for the year ahead. There will be a budget workshop following worship on Sunday January 28 in the Fellowship Hall at Lakewood. The spending plan to be created for

2024 incorporates the cooperative ministry arrangement with Trinity UCC. Please note that members and friends of Trinity as well as Lakewood are encouraged to participate in this discussion. ALL ARE WELCOME!

Ministry Opportunity

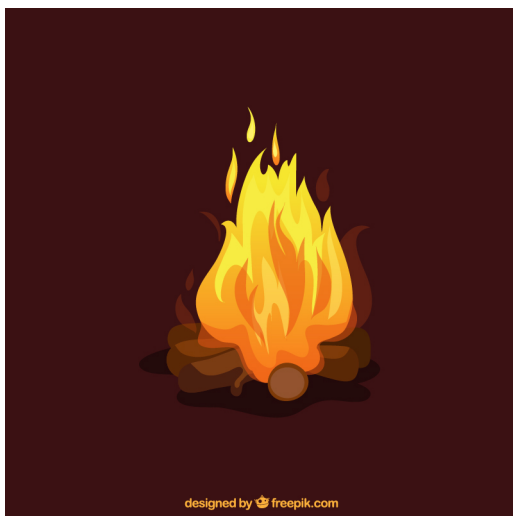
The church is always open to involving more people especially in ways that facilitate Sunday morning worship.

Maybe you have been wanting to make people feel welcome at church. Then perhaps the ushering ministry is for you.

Maybe you are wanting to offer your voice to the heartfelt expression of the gospel. You would be welcome as a liturgist.

Maybe the shared meal around the sacrament of Communion is moving to you. There is a ministry of preparation and clean up and serving involved with sharing Communion together. You are welcome to be part of that ministry.

Please let Rev. Wells know if you would like to assist in ministry on Sunday morning. All are welcome to serve!



Lent Ahead

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14. This year the Ash Wednesday service will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Bob and Emily Bell in their waterfront backyard around a fire.

The service includes the opportunity to receive the imposition of ashes and

communion. All are welcome! Please bring a chair if you have one and bring a stick to toss into the fire as part of the service.

If you would like transportation to this service, please contact the LUCC Church Office. (lakewooducc@gmail.com or 727-867-7961)



Chaplains in Public Schools?

Apparently the funding of chaplains in public schools is coming before the Florida legislature. The United Church of Christ firmly upholds the separation of church and state. The UCC does not support using tax dollars to fund religious activities in public schools. Religious education, support, and guidance, especially for young people, is properly addressed by family, home, and faith community.

To find out more and to express your perspective on this issue to Florida lawmakers, please click **[HERE](#)**.



The Lincoln Cemetery

There is a long history associated with the Lincoln Cemetery which was at one time designated for burial of Black people in St. Petersburg. The land was ceded by the city to Gulfport. Now there is an initiative for the city boundaries to be redrawn with the Lincoln Cemetery back within the boundaries of the City of St. Petersburg.

Most of the people who are buried in the Lincoln Cemetery were from the City of St. Petersburg not Gulfport. Some of the families who still live locally and have loved ones buried in the Lincoln Cemetery would like to have the Cemetery reincorporated into St. Petersburg. The reclaiming of the Lincoln Cemetery is what we as Christians would call a prophetic action. It is a symbolic action that honors the lives of those in the Cemetery and their families and redresses a past wrong.

This initiative has been led by Josette Green who is part of the weekly labyrinth walk community at Lakewood church.

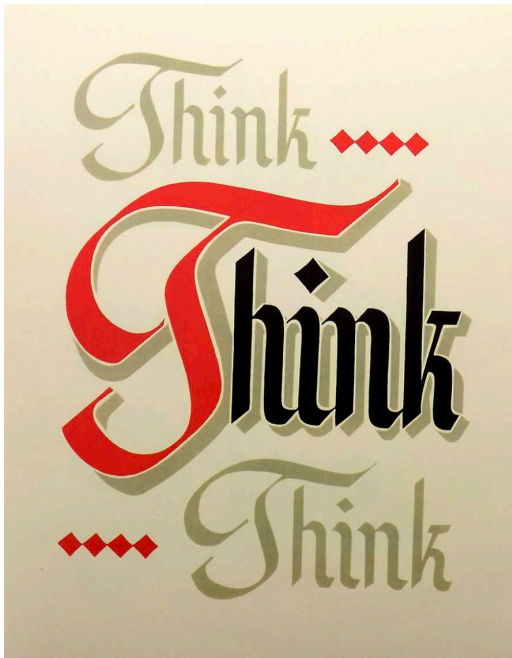
The annexation of the Lincoln Cemetery is coming before the St. Petersburg City Council. Please consider contacting your council member and expressing your support for the reclamation of the Lincoln Cemetery by the City of St. Petersburg.

[Click here for a sample letter.](#)



Venmo Coming

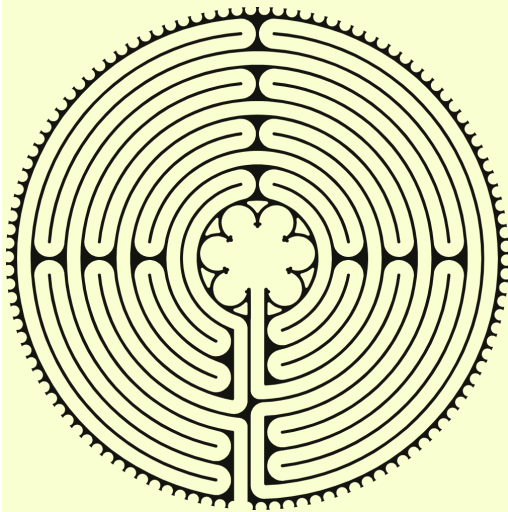
In response to several requests from the congregation, the church has set up a Venmo account so that donations may be received through that app. Thank you to all who were involved in making this happen especially Trinity treasurer Cate Colgan and LUCC treasurer Mark Gibson. Please be patient while some technical difficulties are resolved to get Venmo up and running for the church.



New Twelve Step Meeting at Lakewood

The church is now hosting a new NA twelve step meeting on Thursday nights. This is a way the church is serving the community. LUCC/Trinity is grateful for this opportunity to be of service.

There is also an AA meeting at the church on Monday nights.



Weekly Guided Labyrinth Walk

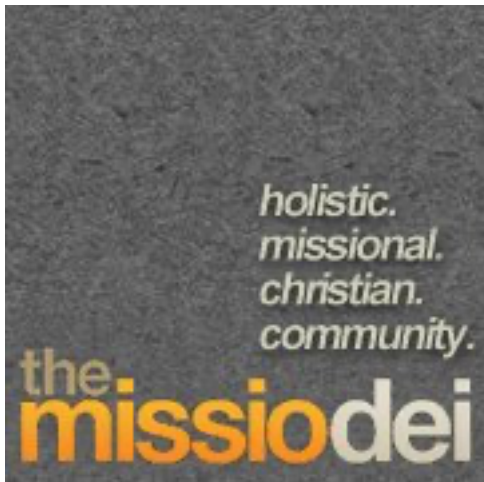
Each week there is a guided labyrinth walk providing a time for deeper spiritual exploration and the walking of the labyrinth. The gathering is on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. Bring a chair if you can. All are welcome to this time of deepening spiritual awareness.

The labyrinth is on the church grounds near the southwest corner of the church property near the Memorial Garden. The weekly labyrinth guide is put in the mailbox near the labyrinth. The labyrinth is available for use at all times.



ICYMI, check this out

Lakewood/Trinity Choir on Epiphany



Plastic Bags for Missio Dei

Missio Dei has requested that we supply them with plastic grocery bags for the homeless and needy to take food home from their kitchen. These are the bags most grocery stores use to package your purchases. Please place bags on the donation shelves in the hallway outside the sanctuary at Lakewood Church. Thanks for your help with this important project.



Toiletries for Celebrate Outreach

Celebrate Outreach is a local ministry with people who are living without shelter in St. Petersburg. An average of 135 people are served each week. The church was asked to collect toiletries to be distributed to the community at the meals that are provided on Saturday and Sundays each week.

Celebration Outreach has an ongoing need for men's and women's underwear.

- Men sizes 30, 32,34
- Women's sizes 5,6, 7,8.

Also in high demand are socks of all kinds /sizes for both men & women.

Other needed items are Deodorant & disposable razors.

Toothbrushes, toothpaste, disposable razors, bar soap, wash cloths, deodorant, feminine hygiene items, travel size creams, shampoo, body wash, individual packets of Kleenex, hand wipes, toilet tissue, and paper towels are always needed as well.

Many thanks to Janet Blair and Jim Andrews for taking the donations to Celebrate Outreach.



Inkjet Recycling

The church is continuing to collect used inkjet cartridges. They are sent to a recycler and the church receives payment for the cartridges provided. So, don't throw out your cartridges. Bring them to church. Not only do they get recycled but they provide income for the ministry of the church.



Operation Attack in Need of Volunteers

Operation Attack is an ecumenical food pantry located at Lakeview Presbyterian Church. LUCC was a founding partner in this ministry in the 1960's. Volunteers are needed and nonperishable food is always in demand. Please put contributions on the shelf in the hallway at LUCC.



January Birthdays

1/6 Holly Sorenson
1/7 Chip Cosper
1/9 Jackson Cosper
1/14 Deb Kenneda
1/17 Julie Huber
1/22 Andy Ketterer
1/23 Hilton Jones
1/28 Bob Bell



Circle of Concern

- Claudia Rodriguez
- Yeni Vasquez
- Dottie Young and family
- Sherry Santana
- Jim Gieseey
- Ann Davis
- Gary
- Eleanor Rouse Bates' friend Mary's 5 year old grandson Colton
- Holly Sorenson
- Leslee Van Ranst Sorenson
- Denise Williams
- Sandy and baby June
- Eleanor Rouse Bates and family
- Jim Larson
- Vita Uth
- Family and Loved Ones of Colleen Hafner
- Dot Thrush
- Kay Rencken and Bill Parsons' grandson, Milo
- Bill Lindsay
- Jane Diven
- Katherine Conover
- Michelle Cloutier's friend, Jeff
- Yvonne Riesen
- Barbara Donohue's friend, Kelsey
- Janet Hall
- All students, families, and staff
- Caregivers

Weekly Update

If you are involved with an activity or event that you would like to share with the LUCC and Trinity UCC family, please send the information to lakewooducc@gmail.com by Wednesday. Please provide the information in paragraph form with pertinent details and links. THANK YOU!

RECENT WEBSITE POSTS

- [Pinellas homeowners can get zero-interest loan for major repairs](#)
 - [Lakewood/Trinity Choir on Epiphany](#)
 - [Weekly Update 1.19.24](#)
 - [Lincoln Cemetery](#)
 - [Protecting Public Education from Christian Nationalism](#)
 - [Christmas Eve sermon 1.24.23 \(video\)](#)
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- [Sermon texts](#)

You can find more about Hilton's music at <https://hiltonkeanjones.com/> as well as find links to his music on streaming services on the internet.

Credits: Images of birthday cake, books, bpmfore.and printer from [Freepik.com](https://www.freepik.com); cellphone from [Clipartix](#).



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