

**Good Soil Lutheran Ministries**  
*Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve*



**4th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**June 16th, 2024**  
**9:30 am**



20300 Hilliard Blvd  
Rocky River, OH 44116  
(440) 331-1773

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YouTube: [Good Soil Lutheran Ministries](https://www.youtube.com/GoodSoilLutheranMinistries)

### Welcome

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

### For Parents with Children

Good Soil loves kids and the "holy noise" they bring! Your children are warmly welcome in worship. Sing, pray, and respond; your children will learn by worshiping with you. There's also a "prayground" area in the back of the sanctuary and a nursery/cry room behind that on the back left side. We pray that worshiping together as a family is a meaningful experience!

### For Those Needing Hearing Assistance

Please ask an usher about our hearing assistance devices to enhance your worship experience.

### Holy Communion

Christ is truly present with us in worship and through this meal. All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion here at Good Soil. Children may commune with elements or receive a blessing depending on parent/guardian preference. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.

#### Bulletin Key

***Bold Font*** – Spoken by the Congregation  
***Regular Font*** – Spoken by the Pastor or Worship Assistant  
† – Please stand as you are able, in body or spirit.

## 4th Sunday after Pentecost

*The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not how we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross we gather around, the tree we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not seem impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with power beyond understanding.*

### Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

#### Prelude and Welcome

*Adapted with permission from <https://fatpastor.me/2009/06/21/itany-for-fathers/>*

#### † Fathers' Day Litany

For fathers everywhere, who have given us life and love, that we may show them respect & love. Holy God, **Receive this prayer for fathers.**

For fathers who have lost a child through death, that their faith may give them hope, and their family and friends support and console them. Holy God, **Receive this prayer for fathers that mourn.**

For men who may or may not have children of their own, but act like a father to someone in need of advice, support, nurturing, and love. Holy God, **Receive this prayer for father figures.**

For step-fathers who have assumed that role with love and joy, who have loved the children of another as their own and created a new family. Holy God, **Receive this prayer for step-fathers.**

For adoptive fathers, who have heard the call of God to lovingly step forward for those that need their care. Holy God, **Receive this prayer for adoptive fathers.**

For fathers who have been unable to be a source of strength, who have not responded to the needs of their children and have not sustained their families. Holy God, **Have mercy on absentee fathers.**

For fathers who struggle with temptation, violence, or addiction. For those who do harm, & for those whom they have harmed. Holy God, **Have mercy on fathers that struggle.**

For new fathers, long-time fathers, fathers yet-to-be, grandfathers, & Godfathers. Holy God, **Receive this prayer for the fathers of your Church.**

For those that have shaped our lives without claim of family or kinship. For those who have taught us, guided us, and molded us into servants of Christ our Lord. Holy God,  
**Receive this prayer for the fathers of our faith.**

God our Father, in your wisdom and love you made all things. Bless these men, that they may be strengthened as Christian fathers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Help us to honor them with a spirit of profound respect, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**† Gathering Hymn: For the Fruit of All Creation (ELW 679)**

- 1 For the fruit of all creation,  
thanks be to God.  
For these gifts to ev'ry nation,  
thanks be to God.  
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,  
silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safekeeping,  
thanks be to God.
- 2 In the just reward of labor,  
God's will is done.  
In the help we give our neighbor,  
God's will is done.  
In our worldwide task of caring  
for the hungry and despairing,  
in the harvests we are sharing,  
God's will is done.
- 3 For the harvests of the Spirit,  
thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit,  
thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us,  
for the truths that still confound us,  
most of all, that love has found us,  
thanks be to God.

Text Fred Pratt Green 1903-2000 ©1970 Hope Pub Comp IL All rights reserved Used by permission

<p><i>The assembly and presiding minister greet one another. (scriptural reference: 2 Corinthians)</i></p>	<p><b>† Greeting</b></p> <p>The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  <b>And also with you.</b></p>
	<p><b>† Hymn of Praise: Now the Feast and Celebration (ELW 167)</b></p> <p><i>Refrain:</i> Now the feast and celebration,  all of creation sings for joy  to the God of life and love and freedom;  praise and glory forevermore!</p> <p>1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,  whose blood has freed and united us  to be one great people of God. <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>2 Power and riches, wisdom and might,  all honor and glory to Christ forever. <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>3 For God has come to dwell with us,  to make us people of God;  to make all things new. <i>Refrain</i></p> <p><small>Text: Marty Haugen b. 1950 Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.</small></p>
<p><i>The Prayer of the Day highlights themes from the scripture readings we are about to hear.</i></p>	<p><b>† Prayer of the Day</b></p> <p>O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. <b>Amen.</b></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>The Word</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.</i></p> <p><b>First Reading: Ezekiel 17:22-24</b></p> <p>To put this reading into context:</p> <p><i>Tree imagery is used in a messianic prophecy to tell how the Lord will choose someone from Judah’s royal family (the cedar tree) to reign over all creation. This tree will be planted on Mount Zion, the location of the holy temple.</i></p>

<sup>22</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will take a sprig  
from the lofty top of a cedar;  
I will set it out.  
I will break off a tender one  
from the topmost of its young twigs;  
I myself will plant it  
on a high and lofty mountain.

<sup>23</sup>On the mountain height of Israel

I will plant it,  
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,  
and become a noble cedar.  
Under it every kind of bird will live;  
in the shade of its branches will nest  
winged creatures of every kind.

<sup>24</sup>All the trees of the field shall know  
that I am the LORD.

I bring low the high tree,  
I make high the low tree;  
I dry up the green tree  
and make the dry tree flourish.  
I the LORD have spoken;  
I will accomplish it.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

*We welcome the  
gospel by singing  
the Gospel  
Acclamation.  
We rise, if able,  
in anticipation of  
Christ being  
revealed to us  
through the  
Living Word of  
the Gospel.*

† Gospel Acclamation:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Repeat alleluia*



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

*Before and after the reading of the Gospel, we give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ, who is revealed to us through the Gospel reading*

**† Gospel: Mark 4:26-34**

To put this gospel reading into context:

*Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God’s kingdom.*

The holy Gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup>[Jesus] said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,<sup>27</sup>and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, they do not know how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once they go in with their sickle, because the harvest has come.”

<sup>30</sup>He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup>yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

<sup>33</sup>With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup>he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Children’s Sermon**

*Sunday School is on summer break! Young children are welcome to remain in the sanctuary during the sermon or go to the “learn & grow in faith” area (nursery room at the end of the hall on the east side of the building). Children must be supervised by an adult.*

**Sermon: The Rev. Marissa Harrison**

*Silence for Reflection.*

*Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice. You’re invited to reflect on the following question:*

*Who are the people in your life who have planted seeds of faith in you? How have you planted seeds of faith for others? Who might you nurture in faith this summer?*

*The Hymn of the Day is the assembly's proclaimed response to the sermon—making the sermon event a mutual conversation of faith.*

**† Hymn of the Day: God of the Fertile Fields**  
(to the tune of “Come Thou Almighty King, ELW 408)

- 1 God of the fertile fields,  
shaper of earth that yields our daily bread:  
forth from your bounteous hand  
come gifts your love has planned,  
that all in ev'ry land  
be clothed and fed.
- 2 We would be stewards true,  
holding in trust from you all that you give;  
help us in love to share,  
teach us like you to care  
for people ev'rywhere,  
that all may live.
- 3 As grows the hidden seed  
to fruit that serves our need, so your reign grows.  
Let all our toil be used,  
no gift of yours abused,  
no humble task refused  
your love bestows.
- 4 God of the countryside,  
dear to the Christ who died to make us one:  
we pledge our lives anew  
in faithful love to you.  
Guide all we say and do.  
Your will be done.

Text: Georgia Harkness, 1891–1974, alt. Text © 1955, ren. 1983 The Hymn Society, admin Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

*As the church,  
we pray for  
those in our  
community and  
around the*

**† Prayers of Intercession**

We pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.  
*A brief silence.*



<p><i>world. The prayers are also responsive, emphasizing our own participation.</i></p> <p><i>Each petition addresses a different topic, often in the same pattern:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>+ The Church</i></li> <li><i>+ Creation</i></li> <li><i>+ Nations and leaders</i></li> <li><i>+ Those in need</i></li> <li><i>+ This faith community</i></li> <li><i>+ The great cloud of witnesses/those now resting with God</i></li> </ul>	<p>Nourish your people through gifts of word and worship. Guide the church in listening to and interpreting your message of grace for this time and place. Lead us in expanding the reach of your love. Merciful God, <b>receive our prayer.</b></p> <p>Nature sings your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night. Sustain the holy rhythms of creation: days and seasons, hibernation and activity, phases of the moon and tides of the sea. Let these patterns assure us of your constancy. Merciful God, <b>receive our prayer.</b></p> <p>You raise the lowly and humble those on high. Raise up all who are victims of marginalization, discrimination, and hate. As we anticipate Juneteenth, banish white supremacy and bigotry from the hearts of your people and remove the inclination toward anger and violence. We pray for all impacted by war, especially in Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, Haiti, and India. Merciful God, <b>receive our prayer.</b></p> <p>Tend to all who journey by faith and who wait for the fulfillment of your promises. Grant perseverance to people doing physical therapy, people with mobility concerns, &amp; people facing chronic pain. Today, we pray especially for Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Barbins of the Northeastern Ohio Synod, Helen, Gail, Carl, Pam, Mary Lou, Tim, Frank D., Joe, Frank &amp; Vicki, mother of Marlise, Kate, Susan, Rich, Shawn, Archer, Jim P., Ruth, Steve, Dick, Mindy, Kristina, Jeanette, Khams &amp; his people &amp; family in Manipur... &amp; all those we name aloud or in our hearts. Merciful God, <b>receive our prayer.</b></p> <p>On this Father's Day, empower fathers &amp; father figures to embody the gift of love for their children. Where relationships are strained or broken, bring your comfort &amp; peace. Merciful God, <b>receive our prayer.</b></p> <p>With gratitude, we remember the saints who are now at home with you. Plant seeds of their wisdom and witness in our hearts, that we grow in faith until we join them in your heavenly dwelling. Merciful God, <b>receive our prayer.</b></p> <p>Receive our prayers, O God, through the power of your Holy Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ. <b>Amen.</b></p>
<p><i>A practice of the ancient church, we recognize</i></p>	<p><b>† Passing of the Peace</b></p> <p>The Peace of Christ be with you always</p>

*Christ's peace in each other & share it together.*

**And also with you.**

*The people greet one another saying, "Peace" or "Peace be with you" sharing the peace of Christ with one another in a no-touch or low-touch way, such as a wave, peace sign, or elbow bump.*

*God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God & support the ministry of the church.*

### The Meal

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

#### **Offering**

God's ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, & your offering makes that possible. Help Good Soil continue making an impact by giving today by using the QR code or at <https://tinyurl.com/drtvut77>

*Aim your phone camera at the QR code, but don't take a picture. A link will appear to click on that will take you to Good Soil's support page.*



*The offering is brought forward to the altar to signify our gratitude for God's blessings.*

#### **† Offering Hymn: Praise to You O God of Mercy, ELW 208 v. 1 & 2**

- 1 Praise to you, O God of mercy:  
thanks be to you forever!  
Raising high the weak and lowly:  
thanks be to you forever!
- 2 From of old you loved and sought us:  
thanks be to you forever!  
Truth and justice you have taught us:  
thanks be to you forever!

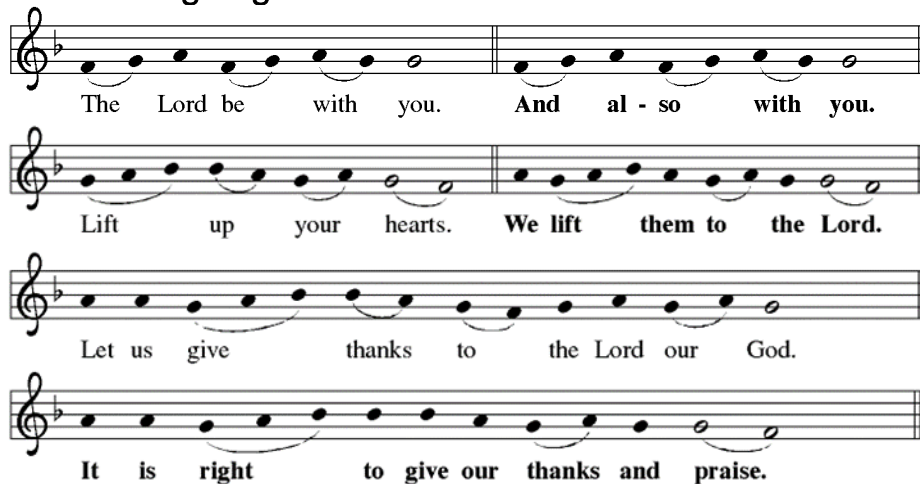
*Ending: Thanks be to you forever!*

Text: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com). 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

#### **† Offering Prayer**

Jesus, Bread of life,  
you have set this table with your very self,  
and called us to the feast of plenty.  
Gather what has been sown among us,  
and strengthen us in this meal.  
Make us to be what we receive here,  
your body for the life of the world. **Amen.**

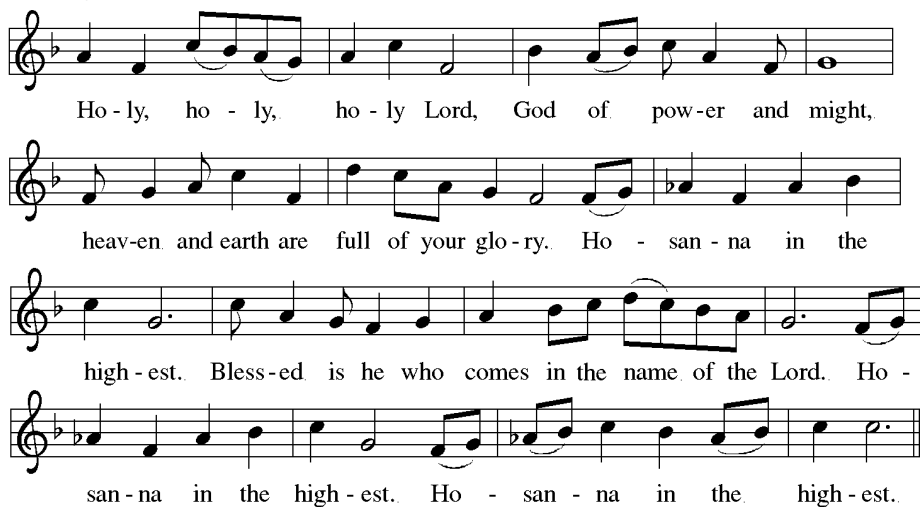
## † Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## † Preface

## † Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## † Words of Institution

*The Lord's Prayer is Jesus' response to his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray.*

## † Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus first taught us: **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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from**

evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

### † Invitation to the Table

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

### Communion

*Christ is with us in this meal. All who are hungry for the presence of Jesus are welcome to commune here at Good Soil.*

*Children are welcome to come to the Lord's table for communion or for a blessing, depending on parent/guardian's preference.*

*When you receive the elements, you are invited to respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God."*

*Please wait for the usher to release your row before proceeding up front. You are invited to stand or kneel at the altar rail.*

*Gluten-free bread is available on request. The wine (red) is in the outer rings of the tray, the grape juice (white) is in the center. Communion cups can be returned at the end tables on your way back to your seat.*

### Communion Hymn: We Know that Christ is Raised (ELW 449)

- 1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
Embraced by death, he broke its fearful hold,  
and our despair he turned to blazing joy.  
Hallelujah!
- 2 We share by water in his saving death.  
Reborn, we share with him an Easter life,  
as living members of our Savior Christ.  
Hallelujah!
- 3 The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life.  
The Spirit's fission shakes the church of God.  
Baptized, we live with God the Three in One.  
Hallelujah!
- 4 A new creation comes to life and grows  
as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.

The universe restored and whole will sing:  
Hallelujah!

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932 Text © John B. Geyer

### Communion Hymn: How Firm a Foundation (ELW 796)

- 1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!  
What more can he say than to you he has said  
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?
- 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,  
for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."
- 3 "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.  
The flames shall not hurt you; I only design  
your dross to consume and your gold to refine."
- 4 "Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove  
my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;  
and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,  
like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.

### † Post-Communion Table Blessing

Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you  
and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

### The Sending

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### † Blessing

The blessing of God,  
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,  
✠ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

*Through the  
sending hymn  
we are sent out*

### † Sending Hymn: Sent Forth by God's Blessing (ELW 547)

- 1 Sent forth by God's blessing,

*into the world to follow Jesus.*

our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The supper is ended.  
Oh, now be extended  
the fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of Christ's teaching,  
receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
Your grace shall incite us,  
your love shall unite us  
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.

2 With praise and thanksgiving  
to God ever-living,  
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—  
our faith ever sharing,  
in love ever caring,  
embracing God's children, the whole human race.  
With your feast you feed us,  
with your light now lead us;  
unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living  
with praise and thanksgiving  
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.

Text © 1964 World Library Publications, 3708 River Rd., Suite 400, Franklin Park, IL 60131. All rights reserved.

*The dismissal sends us out as Christ's Body: fed, nourished, & ready to serve. Worship has ended, & our service begins!*

## † Dismissal

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

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*You are warmly invited to gather upstairs in the lounge for a special  
Father's Day coffee fellowship!*

## Today's Worship Servants:

Livestream: Trey Harrison	Reader: Bill Fink
Ushers: Stan Zeager & Kim Wylie	Counters: Bill Fink & Stan Zeager
Online Usher: Dave Blocksom	Acolyte: Jack Johnson



## Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, June 16, 2024

**Especially in our prayers:** Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Barbins of the NEO Synod, Helen Andrews, Gail Boggs, Carl Bruns, Pam Bruns, Mary Lou Busby, Tim Chiang, Frank Dunaway, Joe Forshey, Frank & Vicki, mother of Marlise K, Kate Labuda, Susan Omerod, Shawn O'Neil, Archer Oster, Jim P., Ruth Patrick, Steve Patrick, Rich Petrusky, Dick Schluep, Mindy S., Kristina Seeley, Jeanette Weidlich, Khams Zotal & his family & people of Manipur, & the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, Haiti & India.

**For those celebrating birthdays:** Jennifer Krankowski (6/16), Cindy Beavin (6/18), & Evan Lanter (6/19).

**The flowers adorning the altar today are given to the Glory of God in memory of Mildred Mahnke.**



**Annual Congregation Meeting Today directly after worship:** We'll celebrate the ministry of the 23-24 program year & elect new council members. Please be seated after worship. Use the QR code to the left to view the Annual Report.

**Annual Meeting Reflection Questions-** To access the digital version of the Annual Meeting Reflection Questions that is included as a bulletin insert, use the QR code to the right or go to <https://forms.gle/CF8Smoj6LHPmfDM57>.



**Flower Sign-Up-** Interested in signing up to adorn Christ's altar with flowers for worship? You can sign up with the flower list on the bulletin board in the hallway or online using this QR code. Please note: The physical flower list on the bulletin board has first priority. Best efforts will be made to ensure the digital calendar reflects the physical one, but if you happen to digitally sign-up for a date that is already taken on the physical sheet, you will be contacted to reschedule.



**Lakewood Community Outreach Every 3rd Sat.-** Want to share God's love in a tangible way & help feed neighbors in our community? Our friends in Lakewood are seeking additional volunteers to assist with their summer produce distribution. Volunteers are asked to arrive at 9am to help prep food in the parking lot of Lakewood Congregational

Church (1375 W Clifton Blvd). You can also help by donating plastic bags (bin located under the coat rack in the hallway) and praying for this ministry. Thanks for your support!

**The LGBTQ+ Landscape in Ohio-** The RIC Committee invites Good Soil to attend this event, hosted by author & professor Dr. Ken Schneck at the Avon Public Library exploring the past, present, & future of the Ohio LGBTQ+ community on Sat 6/22, 4pm-5pm. Registration required. To learn more or sign up, use the QR code to the left or go to this link: <https://www.lorainpubliclibrary.org/programs?action=show&id=41548>

**Newsletter-** Want to keep up with news at Good Soil or share the e-news with a friend? Sign up or share our newsletter *Seeds* with the QR code to the right or this URL: <https://tinyurl.com/bddjk7yp> The e-news goes on summer break after 6/14.



**Meals on Wheels is looking for drivers!** West Shore Rocky River-Lakewood Meals on Wheels needs drivers to deliver meals to our recipients, especially M-W-F. Please contact Kathy Blackwell @ 440-333-6298 or [rrlwcoordinator@westshoremow.org](mailto:rrlwcoordinator@westshoremow.org) for more info.

**Suburban Cooperative Nursery School** has been successfully educating westside preschoolers since 1961. They're now enrolling for Fall with openings in the age 3 preschool program and the age 4 Pre-K program. For more info or to schedule a tour, call 440-331-9929, email [suburbancoop@gmail.com](mailto:suburbancoop@gmail.com), or visit [www.suburbancooperative.com](http://www.suburbancooperative.com)

Calendar of Events		
Date	Event	Time
Sun, Jun 16	<b>In-Person and Livestream Worship</b> Father's Day Fellowship/Coffee Hour	9:30 am 10:30 am
Sat, Jun 22	LGBTQ+ Author Event @ Avon Public Library	4:00 pm
Sun Jun 23	<b>In-Person and Livestream Worship</b> <i>Council installation during worship</i>	9:30 am
Sun, Jun 30	<b>In-Person and Livestream Worship</b>	9:30 am
Thurs, Jul 4	<i>Fourth of July, Church Office Closed</i>	
Sat, Jul 6	Ladies Breakfast @ Gene's Place to Dine	9:00 am
Sun, Jul 7	<b>In-Person and Livestream Worship</b>	9:30 am