

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



Fifth Sunday in the Season of Creation
September 29th, 2024
9:30 am



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

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Instagram: [goodsoilchurch](https://www.instagram.com/goodsoilchurch)
YouTube: [Good Soil Lutheran Ministries](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

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

Ask an usher about 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.

Fifth Sunday in the Season of Creation

Today is our final Sunday in the "Season of Creation" -- a time when the global church unites for 5 weeks of prayer and worship as we intentionally reflect on God's presence in creation and our calling to care for it. We give thanks, we pray, we lament, we hope, and we recommit ourselves to the work of caretaking and healing. On this final Sunday, we give thanks to God for God's glorious creation with a creation-inspired hymn sing.

Gathering

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

Prelude and Welcome

† Call to Worship (based on Psalm 98)

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
Break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.

Let the rivers clap their hands;
Let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the Lord

For the Lord is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness, & the peoples with equity.

† Gathering Hymn: Beautiful Savior ELW 838 v. 1-3

1 Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee,
truly I'd serve thee,
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

2 Fair are the meadows,
fair are the woodlands,
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

3 Fair is the sunshine,
fair is the moonlight,

bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
than all the angels in the sky.

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904

The Creation Story: The Rev. Jim Kulma

† Creation Hymn: This Is My Father's World (ELW 824) v. 1 & 2

- 1 This is my Father's world,
and to my list'ning ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
his hand the wonders wrought.
- 2 This is my Father's world;
the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their maker's praise.
This is my Father's world;
he shines in all that's fair.
In the rustling grass I hear him pass;
he speaks to me ev'rywhere.

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858-1901

Creation-inspired Story Invitation

Tell about your favorite place outdoors.

The Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Psalm 104: 10-25, 33-34, 35c (The Creation Psalm)

You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills,
giving drink to every wild animal; the wild donkeys quench their
thirst.

By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches.

From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.

You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the human heart, oil to make the face shine, and bread to strengthen the human heart.

The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon that the Lord planted. In them the birds build their nests; the stork has its home in the fir trees.

The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the badgers.

You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting.

You make darkness, and it is night, when all the animals of the forest come creeping out.

The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God. When the sun rises, they withdraw and lie down in their dens. People go out to their work and to their labor until the evening.

O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great.

I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD.

Praise the LORD!

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon

† **Creation Hymn: God of the Sparrow ELW 740 v. 1, 2, 3, 6**

- 1 God of the sparrow God of the whale
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise
- 2 God of the earthquake God of the storm
God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature say Woe
How does the creature say Save
- 3 God of the rainbow God of the cross
God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks
- 6 God of the ages God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919 Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Psalm 139:1-14, 17-18

- ¹O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
- ²You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
- ³You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- ⁴Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.
- ⁵You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
- ⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.
- ⁷Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
- ⁸If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
- ⁹If I take the wings of the morning

and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
¹⁰even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.
¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night,"
¹²even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.
¹³For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
¹⁴I praise you, for I am remarkably and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.
¹⁷How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
¹⁸I try to count them — they are more than the sand;
I come to the end — I am still with you.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm Reflection: The Rev. Marissa Harrison

Silence for Reflection.

Creation-inspired Story Invitation

Tell about a time when you were in a place that was totally dark;
the absence of any light.

† Creation Hymn: Oh God Beyond All Praising (ELW 880)

1 O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder at ev'ry gift you send,
at blessings without number and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

2 The flow'r of earthly splendor in time must surely die,
its fragile bloom surrender to you, the Lord most high;
but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown—

though small in mortal stature, to heaven's garden grown:
for Christ, your gift from heaven, from death has set us free,
and we through him are given the final victory.

- 3 Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favor may serve you as our King;
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

Text: Michael Perry, 1942-1996 Text © 1982, 1987 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

† Ionian Creed

Let us pray:

**We believe in God above us,
maker and sustainer of all life, of sun and moon,
of water and earth, of all of creation.**

**We believe in God beside us,
Jesus Christ, the word made flesh,
born of a woman, servant of the poor,
tortured and nailed to a tree.**

**A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief,
he died alone and forsaken.**

He descended into the earth to the place of death.

On the third day he rose from the tomb.

**He ascended into heaven,
to be everywhere present throughout all ages,
and His kingdom will come on earth.**

**We believe in God within us,
the Holy Spirit burning with Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the Church,
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of all resurrection and of eternal life.**

Amen.

Ionian Creed, also known as the “Celtic Creed.” The Iona Community was founded in Glasgow and Iona in 1938 by George MacLeod, minister, visionary and prophetic witness for peace, in the context of the poverty and despair of the Depression. More here: <https://iona.org.uk> Creed accessed from: <https://modernliturgist.org/project/a-celtic-creed-2/>

<p><i>As the church, we pray for those in our community and around the 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> <p><i>+ The Church + Creation + Nations and leaders + Those in need + This faith community + The great cloud of witnesses/those now resting with God</i></p>	<p>† Prayers of Intercession</p> <p>With all of creation, we pray for the church, the world, & all in need. <i>A brief silence.</i></p> <p>We pray for the church and its ministry. Sustain all members of the body of Christ in lives of prayer, worship, and service toward one another and the Earth. We also pray for Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton & Bishop Laura Barbins. Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.</p> <p>We pray for natural wonders and our created home. Restore damaged habitats and lead us to be good stewards of your glorious creation. Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.</p> <p>We pray for those in authority. Help them to protect the vulnerable and care for those in need. We pray for all impacted by war and violence, especially in Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Haiti, India, and places in Africa. Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.</p> <p>We pray for those in need, especially Helen, Gail, Carl, Pam, Mary Lou, Tim, Brenna, Bruce, Frank, Jonathan, Sara, Donna, Madeline, Kate, Ann, Alis, Susan, Shawn, Archer, Ruth, Steve, Sally, Rich, Dick, Mindy, Kristina, Jeanette, Scott, Khams and his community in Manipur... and all those we name aloud or in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.</p> <p>We give thanks for all your saints from every time and place. Unite us together again in your eternal promise. Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.</p> <p>Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.</p>
<p><i>A practice of the ancient church, we recognize Christ's peace in each other and share it together.</i></p>	<p>† Passing of the Peace</p> <p>The Peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>

God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and 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, and 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: Light Dawns on a Weary World (ELW 726) v. 1

1 Light dawns on a weary world
when eyes begin to see
all people's dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world:
the promised day of justice comes.

Refrain: The trees shall clap their hands;
the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy,
and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953 Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

† Offering Prayer

God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep thanks and as signs of our concern for those in need, including our fellow creatures on Earth. Help us be caretakers of our sacred home. **Amen.**

† Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also 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

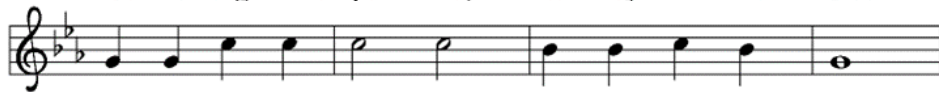
† Sanctus



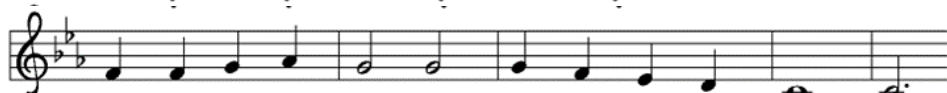
San - to, san - to, san - to, es el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God,



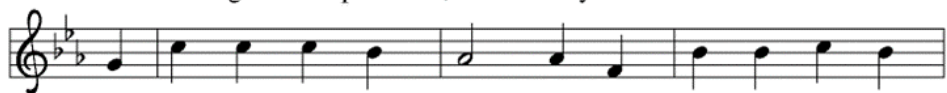
Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to, es el Se - ñor.
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.



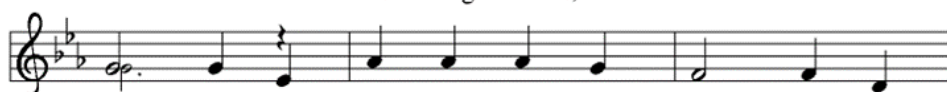
San - to, san - to, san - to, san - to, es el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord . . . God,



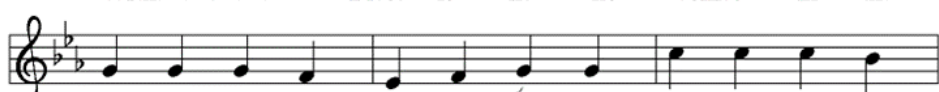
Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to, es el Se - ñor.
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.



Ho - san - na en el cie - lo, ho - san - na en la
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na here on



tie - rra. Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en el
earth. Blest is he who comes in the



nom - bre del Se - ñor. Ho - san - na en el
name . . . of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the



cie - lo, ho - san - na en la tie - rra. Ben -
high - est, ho - san - na here on earth.



di - to el que vie - ne en el nom - bre del Se - ñor.
Blest is he who comes in the name . . . of the Lord.

† 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

Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

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: Will You Let Me Be Your Servant (ELW 659)

- 1 Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.
- 2 We are pilgrims on a journey,
we are trav'lers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

- 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.
- 4 I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.
- 5 Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.

Communion Hymn: All Earth is Hopeful (ELW 266)

- 1 All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:
this, the labor of people who struggle to see
how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.
- 2 People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";
she conceived him, "God with us,"
our brother, whose birth
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.
- 3 Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;
new highways opened, new protocols declared.
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!
All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!
- 4 We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live
in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see
our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

1 Text: Richard Gillard, b. 1953 Text © 1977 Scripture In Song (c/o Integrity's Hosanna Music) /ASCAP, c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695. 2 Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946 Spanish text © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Liturgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

† 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

May the Spirit of God, who is above all and in all and through all, fill you with the knowledge of God's presence in Earth and all around us, through whom all things are reconciled and renewed. **Amen.**

Through the sending hymn we are sent out into the world to follow Jesus.

† Sending Hymn: Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee (ELW 836)

- 1 Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.
- 2 All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird, and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.
- 3 Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1922

<i>The dismissal sends us out as Christ's Body: fed, nourished, & ready to serve. Worship has ended, and our service begins!</i>	<p>† Dismissal</p> <p>Go in peace, serving Christ and loving Earth! Thanks be to God.</p>
	<p>Postlude</p>

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Today's Worship Servants:

Livestream: Isaac Krankowski	Reader: Paula Maeder Connor
Ushers: Sharon Hollowell & Bill Fink	Counters: Kim Wylie & David Connor
Online Usher: Karen Sperli	Communion Bread: Paula Maeder Connor
Altar Care: Sharon Hollowell	Acolyte: Edward & Alexandra Inman



Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, September 29, 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, Brenna Connor, Bruce Crosby, Frank Dunaway, Jonathan Gray, Sara Gresh, Donna Handy, Madeline Kelly, Kate Labuda, Ann Layman, Alis Morris, Susan Omerod, Shawn O'Neil, Archer Oster, Sally Pate, Ruth Patrick, Steve Patrick, Rich Petrusky, Dick Schluep, Mindy S., Kristina Seeley, Jeanette Weidlich, Scott Wylie, Khams Zotal & his community in Manipur, and the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Haiti, India and places in Africa.

The flowers adorning the altar today are given to the Glory of God by the Williamson family to celebrate Ryan & Luke's 10th birthday.

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. Each vase costs \$20. You may also bring your own flowers instead of buying them through Good Soil, but please do still sign up.



Lakewood Community Outreach Every 3rd Sat & New Covenant Outreach every 4th Sat - Want to share God's love in a tangible way & help feed neighbors in our community? Our

friends in Lakewood are seeking volunteers to assist with their produce distribution. Volunteers are asked to arrive at 9 am to help prep food in the parking lot of Lakewood Congregational (1375 W Clifton Blvd). You can also help by donating plastic bags (bin located under the coat rack in the hallway) & praying for this ministry. Thanks for your support!

Coffee Hour Fellowship- Volunteer hosts are needed to set-up, brew, and clean-up the coffee/tea service and/or provide snacks or baked goods. The Coffee Hour volunteer sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board outside the first-floor lounge. **Coffee Hour Set Up/Using the Bunn Coffee-Maker 101 RESCHEDULED to October.**

Time to "Learn & Grow"- "Learn & Grow" time for kids during the Sunday Service will return in October and it will be expanding to include preschoolers through 4th graders. Look for more information on the new Sunday School year coming soon. Adults and teens are invited to join in. You, too, will learn and grow from interacting with Good Soil's kids! Please contact JoAnne Wancata or Chris Jacobson for more information on joining the rotation of teachers who each lead the 15-to-20-minute sessions approximately once every 4 to 6 weeks.

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 is currently on summer break.



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 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, or visit www.suburbancooperative.com

Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Time
Sat, Oct 5	Ladies' Breakfast @ Gene's Place to Dine	9:00 am
Sun, Oct 6	In-Person & Livestream Worship: Generosity Emphasis Begins!	9:30 am
Sun, Oct 6	Community Pet Blessing @ Bethesda on the Bay	2:00 pm
Sun, Oct 13	In-Person & Livestream Worship	9:30 am
Sat, Oct 19	Lakewood Community Outreach Produce Distribution (1375 W Clifton Blvd)	9:00 am
Sun, Oct 20	In-Person & Livestream Worship	9:30 am