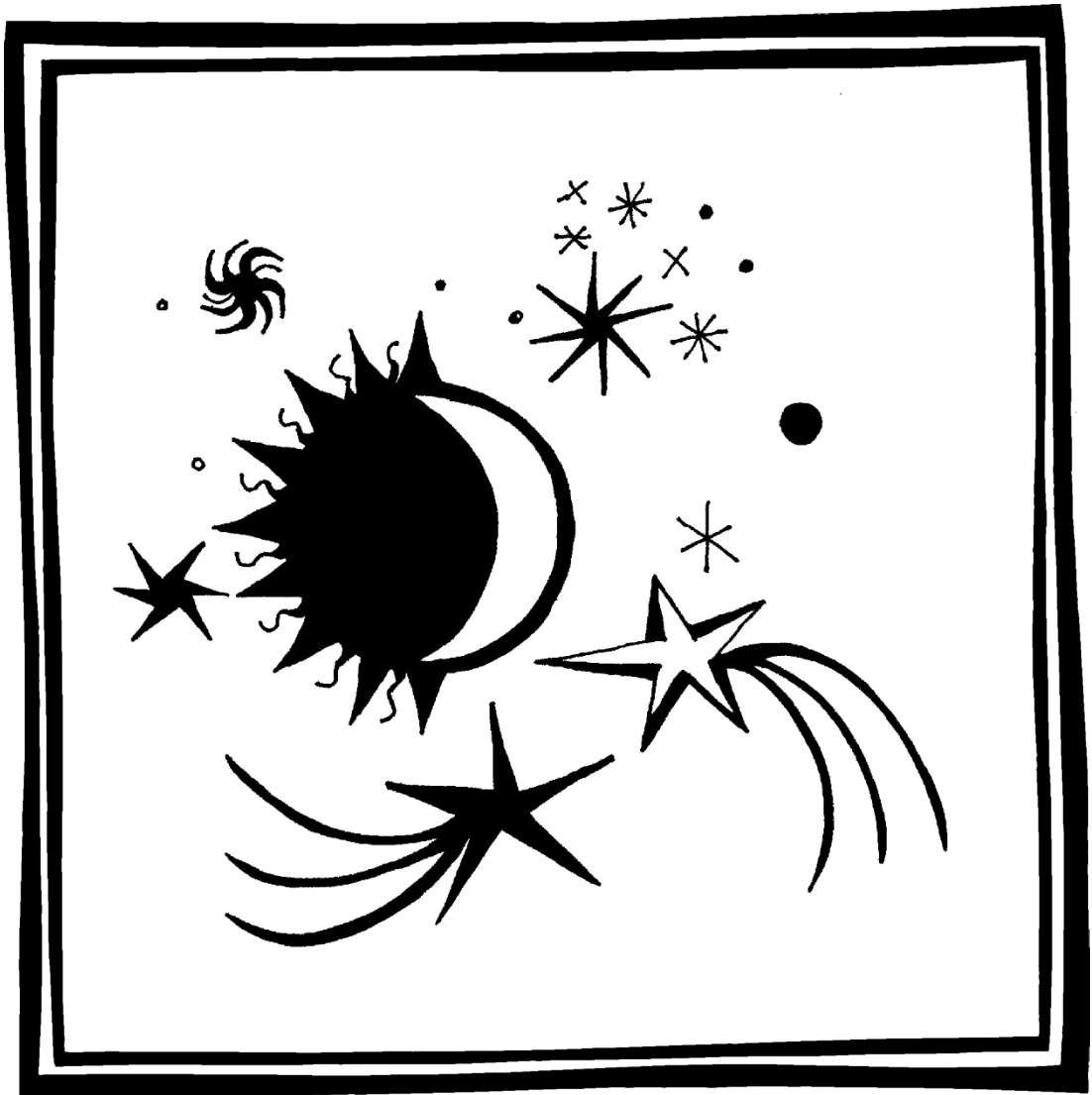


**Good Soil Lutheran Ministries**  
*Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve*



**Third Sunday in the Season of Creation: “Sky Sunday”**  
**September 15th, 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/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

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.

## Sky Sunday

*The Season of Creation continues -- 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. This Sunday is Sky Sunday! We celebrate with the clouds, the winds, the dusk, and the dawn. We listen to the sounds of the sky proclaiming God's presence. We stand in awe before the vast reaches above us, and we thank God for the fragile stardust we call Earth.*

### Gathering

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

#### Prelude and Welcome

*In the Confession and Forgiveness, we are drawn by God's mercy to prepare to assemble around the Word and Sacrament. It may be seen as a return to the gift of Baptism through repentance.*

#### † Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of God, who creates planets,  
the name of Christ, born on planet Earth,  
and the name of the Spirit, who envelopes our planet.

**Amen.**

Christ Jesus, we gather in your name to worship in this sanctuary called Earth, a planet filled with your presence:

**Quivering in the forests,  
vibrating in the land,  
pulsating in the wilderness,  
shimmering in the rivers.**

We confess that we have become alienated from Earth and have viewed this planet as disposable, a source of endless resources.

**We have polluted the atmosphere with greenhouse gases.**

**We have turned our greed into global warming.**

**We are part of society that loves progress more than the planet.**

**We are sorry.**

Christ hears our confession, forgives our sins, and teaches us to love Earth as our home and to revere it as God's sanctuary. O God, reveal yourself to us and show us your face in all creation.

**Holy! Holy! Holy! The Earth is filled with your presence. Amen.**

† Gathering Hymn: Morning Has Broken (ELW 556)

- 1 Morning has broken like the first morning;  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!
- 2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.
- 3 Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,  
born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning,  
God's recreation of the new day!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965 Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

*The assembly and  
presiding minister  
greet one another.  
(scripture reference:  
2 Corinthians)*

### † Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

### † Hymn of Praise: 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

<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>God, our Creator, as we look into the skies we celebrate the wonders of the worlds that surround us. Help us to see your presence in the sky, your spirit in the wind, and your mercy in the falling rain. Teach us to hear the good news from the sky celebrating the glory of God. In the name of Christ who unites heaven and Earth. <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: Psalm 19:1-6</b></p> <p>To put this reading into context:</p> <p><i>“Good News from the sky.” The Psalmist declares that the sky announces God’s presence on Earth and space proclaims the work of God’s hands.</i></p> <p>Hear now the reading.</p> <p><sup>1</sup>The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God’s handiwork.  <sup>2</sup>Day-to-day pours forth speech, and night-to-night declares knowledge.  <sup>3</sup>There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;  <sup>4</sup>yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.  In the heavens God has set a tent for the sun, <sup>5</sup>which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like an athlete runs its course with joy.  <sup>6</sup>Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hidden from its warmth.</p> <p>Word of God. Word of Life.  <b>Thanks be to God.</b></p>
<p><i>We welcome the gospel by singing the Gospel Acclamation.</i></p>	<p><b>† Gospel Acclamation: Hallelujah (ELW 171)*</b></p>

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

*\*This gospel acclamation tunes comes from our Muscogee (Creek) native siblings*

*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 Reading: Mark 6:45-51**

To put this gospel reading into context:

*Dawn is not quite day and not quite night. It is a liminal, in-between time of transition. Jesus comes to his disciples early in the morning and assures them that he is with them at all times, especially in times of transition and uncertainty.*

The holy Gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>45</sup>Immediately [Jesus] made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. <sup>46</sup>After saying farewell to them, he went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>47</sup>When evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. <sup>48</sup>When he saw that they were straining at the oars against an adverse wind, he came towards them early in the morning, walking on the sea. He intended to pass them by. <sup>49</sup>But when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought it was a ghost and cried out; <sup>50</sup>for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.” <sup>51</sup>Then he got into the boat with them and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Children’s Sermon**

**Sermon: The Rev. Marissa Harrison**

*Silence for Reflection.*

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

*When have you experienced the glory of God in a spectacular sunset or in the quiet hours of dawn? Describe that experience (when, where, who were you with, what was it like, etc.) with a partner or meditate on that memory/image silently.*

*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: All Creatures Worship God Most High (ELW 835)**

- 1 All creatures, worship God most high!  
Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright;  
sing, sister moon and stars of night:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 2 Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain  
you grow the gifts of fruit and grain: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Dear sister water, useful, clear,  
make music for your Lord to hear:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 Sing, brother fire, so mirthful, strong,  
drive far the shadows, join the throng: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Dear mother earth, so rich in care,  
praise God in colors bright and rare:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 4 All who for love of God forgive,  
all who in pain and sorrow grieve: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Christ bears your burdens and your fears;  
still make your song amid the tears:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226; tr. Composite Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

*As the church,  
we pray for  
those in our  
community and  
around the  
world. The  
prayers are also  
responsive,  
emphasizing our  
own  
participation.*

*Each petition  
addresses a  
different topic,  
often in the same  
pattern:*

*+ The Church  
+ Creation  
+ Nations and  
leaders  
+ Those in need  
+ This faith  
community  
+ The great  
cloud of  
witnesses/those  
now resting with  
God*

## † Prayers of the Church

With all of creation, we pray for the church, the world, & all in need.  
*A brief silence.*

God of community, we pray for the church around the world. Unite us in our love for you so we work together for your sake. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of creation, we pray for this hurting earth. Awaken in us a new desire to care for this world and empower us to support agencies, organizations, and individual efforts to heal our environment. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of cooperation, we pray for nations of the world embroiled in conflict. Inspire leaders to listen to each other and work towards peaceful solutions to disagreements. Protect the vulnerable who cannot find safety in their home or country. We especially pray for all places experiencing violence and war, including Ukraine, Russia, Palestine, Israel, Haiti, India, and places in Africa. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of comfort, we pray for all who live with mental or physical illness. Help them find appropriate care. Bring healing and wholeness when the path forward seems bleak. Today we especially pray for . . . and we also pray for those we hold up in our hearts either silently or aloud. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of consolation, we give you thanks for our loved ones who have died and pray for all who grieve today. Shine your grace on all your saints. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*A practice of the  
ancient church,  
we recognize  
Christ's peace in  
each other and  
share it together.*

## † Passing of the Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*We greet one another (and creation!) 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 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.*

### **† 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 planet Earth. Help us be caretakers of our sacred home.  
**Amen.**

### **† Great Thanksgiving Dialogue**

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 and Sanctus**

It is indeed right to give you thanks, loving Creator. Your word is the impulse for all things to be, for space, stars, and stardust to appear, and for life to be born of Earth.

Your Spirit is the life in all things, renewing the barren and healing the wounded, groaning in anticipation of a new creation. You chose to be born a human being, to become a part of Earth, to suffer, die, and rise from death—to redeem humankind, renew creation, and affirm all.

Your presence is in all things, Christ among us, filling Earth—land, sea, and air—filling every element and place, filling the grain and the grape we share with you this day.

Therefore with angels and archangels, ancient voices in the forest, high voices from the sky, deep voices from the sea, and the whole company of creation we proclaim your presence among us:

**Holy, holy, holy,  
God of all life,  
Earth and sea and sky are full of your presence  
and glorify your name.  
Amen.**

**† 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."*

*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 Hymn: Here I Am, Lord (ELW 574)

1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?"

*Refrain:* Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

## † 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: Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory (ELW 561)

- 1 Joyous light of heav'nly glory,  
loving glow of God's own face,  
you who sing creation's story,  
shine on ev'ry land and race.  
Now as evening falls around us,  
we shall raise our songs to you.  
God of daybreak, God of shadows,  
come and light our hearts anew.
- 2 In the stars that grace the darkness,  
in the blazing sun of dawn,  
in the light of peace and wisdom,  
we can hear your quiet song.  
Love that fills the night with wonder,  
love that warms the weary soul,  
love that bursts all chains asunder,  
set us free and make us whole.
- 3 You who made the heaven's splendor,  
ev'ry dancing star of night,  
make us shine with gentle justice,  
let us each reflect your light.  
Mighty God of all creation,  
gentle Christ who lights our way,  
loving Spirit of salvation,  
lead us on to endless day.

Text: Greek hymn, 3rd cent., para. Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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

† Dismissal

Go in peace, serving Christ and loving Earth!  
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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**Today's Worship Servants:**

Music: Dave Paine & William Eversole	Reader: Brenna Connor
Ushers: Chris & Larry Jacobson	Counters: Larry Jacobson & Joe Lanter
Altar Care: Ellen Young	Acolyte: Edith Young
Cantor: Kaitlyn Regan	Communion Bread: Jessica Berkshire



**Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, Sept 15, 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, family & friends of Evelyn Gorczynski, Jonathan Gray, Madeline Kelly, Kate Labuda, Ann Layman, Alis Morris, Susan Omerod, Shawn O'Neil, Archer Oster, Ruth Patrick, Steve Patrick, Rich Petrusky, Rowen, Dick Schluep, Mindy S., Kristina Seeley, Jeanette Weidlich, Scott Wylie, Khams Zotal & his family & people of Manipur, the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, Haiti, India and places in Africa, and all those affected by recent school shootings.

**The altar flowers adorning the altar today are given to the Glory of God for Grandparents.**

**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 to do so.



**September is our celebration of the glory of God's Season of Creation!** On September 22, we celebrate Mountain Sunday and the glory of God's creation He surrounds us with. We want every household to help celebrate all God's beauty before our eyes by bringing just a small, simple vase of cuttings or flowers from your own garden or yard. Grow only vegetables? Bring one of your favorites. They will be displayed and part of our service as we give all honor and glory to God for His marvelous creation. Bring your flowers (or a prized vegetable) on September 22.

**Lakewood Community Outreach Every 3rd Sat-** Want to share God's love in a tangible way and 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!

**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 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](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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>Sun, Sept 15</b>	<b>Outdoor Worship- Sky Sunday</b> <i>Bring a chair!</i>	9:30 am
<b>Sun, Sept 25</b>	<b>In-Person and Livestream Worship- Mountain Sunday</b> <i>Bring your cut flowers (or a prized vegetable)!</i>	9:30 am
<b>Sun, Sept 29</b>	<b>In-Person and Livestream Worship- Season of Creation Hymn-Sing</b>	9:30 am
<b>Sat, Oct 5</b>	Ladies' Breakfast @ Gene's Place to Dine	9:00 am
<b>Sun, Oct 6</b>	<b>In-Person &amp; Livestream Worship</b>	9:30 am

