



Calendar of Events

Men's Group Meeting (6:30 p.m.)
– August 4th

Prayer Group (6:30 p.m.) – August 6th

United Women in Faith Meeting
(10 a.m. Library) – August 9th All ladies of Lakewood are welcome to attend!

Worship Committee (10:30 a.m.) -
August 10th

Missions Meeting (6:30 p.m.) –
August 12th

Outreach Meeting (6:30 p.m.) –
August 12th

Prayer Group (6:30 p.m. Library) –
August 13th

Party in the Park (6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.) – August 20th

Prayer Group (6:30 p.m. Library) –
August 20th

Epilogue Group (12 p.m. Zem Zem Shrine Club) – August 20th

SPRC Meeting (6:00 p.m.) –
August 21st

Prayer Group (6:30 p.m. Library) –
August 27th

Council Meeting (6:30 p.m. Sanctuary) – August 27th

Trustees NO August Meeting (see you September 10th!)

Our vision is to glorify God by helping people to discover, experience, and know the love and presence of Jesus Christ.



Rev. Kathleen Schoeneck

This article is from our [UMC.ORG](https://www.UMC.ORG) website. Many have been encouraged by it!

How many of the following symptoms have you ever personally encountered?

Depression... anxiety... inability to concentrate... mood changes... trouble relating to people... low energy... feeling hostile towards

others... excessive worry... feeling unable to cope with stress... excessive drug or alcohol consumption...

All of us have dealt with several of these symptoms at points in life. Many of us have dealt with all of the symptoms. Obviously, the symptoms of mental health disorders aren't unfamiliar to any of us. And yet, we still experience trepidation in talking about these symptoms as we're dealing with them. This is especially true in the Christian church, where we display a tendency to brush aside mental health issues through invitations to "pray on it" and "turn your cares over to God."

Such advice is a useful invitation for God's involvement in our circumstances, but it stops short of taking mental health issues as seriously as we might take other symptoms of physical ailments.

William Ames, an English theologian from the 17th century, noted "faith is the virtue by which, clinging to the faithfulness of God, we lean upon Him, so that we may obtain what He gives us." In our faith, we might lean upon all the assistance that God gives to us--including the assistance of doctors, support groups and counselors.

If you're looking for help and need someone to talk to, *Psychology Today* [offers a referral site](#). If you have suicidal thoughts call a suicide hotline number. In the U.S., call the [Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#) at 988 or use its webchat.

Scripturally speaking, we are never invited to hide our mental hurts from God or from sharing in community. In fact, the scriptures below encourage us to recognize that which ails us and to share our burdens with God and community.

Mental health issues are not sin issues

An inability to individually deal with mental health symptoms is not an indication of sin in your life. Rather, it might be an indication of illness--and may need to be treated as any

(Continued on page 2)

other illness gets treated (with a doctor's help).

In John 9, Jesus meets a blind man and he is asked if the man is blind because of the man's sin or his parents' sin. Jesus answered plainly,

"Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him."

Illness is not necessarily a sin issue. You are not sinning because you feel depressed.

"I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us." [Romans 8:18]

Our struggles are meant to be shared

Scripture does not encourage to take our battles away from God--but invites us to share our struggles with God.

God sees what you're going through

Scripture hints that God knows more about us than we know about ourselves. Even when we lack the words to communicate how we feel--when what we're feeling might simply be a big emptiness--God's Spirit communicates on our behalf:

"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." [Romans 8:38-39]

You don't need to go it alone

Scripture challenges us to be present for one another. Christians believe that God perfectly exemplified such a challenge in the person of Jesus of Nazareth--who was God on earth. God came to be with us--and so we might be present with one another.

In many ways, we are bound to one another. So when one person suffers, we all encounter suffering. 1 Corinthians reminds of our connectedness:

"If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it." [1 Corinthians 12:26]

We are to share the love Christ shows us with others:

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." [Galatians 6:2]

So often, we resist reaching out not because we don't know where to turn--but because we fear being vulnerable. Jesus met others in moments of vulnerability. In fact, he seemingly sought out the most vulnerable--associating with those in need of healing or those who had been marginalized in society. Jesus did not chastise or condemn these individuals. Instead, he took steps to make them well. He reminds us of his healing goal in Matthew:

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." [Matthew 11:28-30]

There is hope--even when you don't feel it

There is still work being done on your behalf. Good things are still possible. The story of scripture leads us to faith and hope. So, scripture offers many reminders of hope for those of us feeling disconnected and hopeless at the moment.

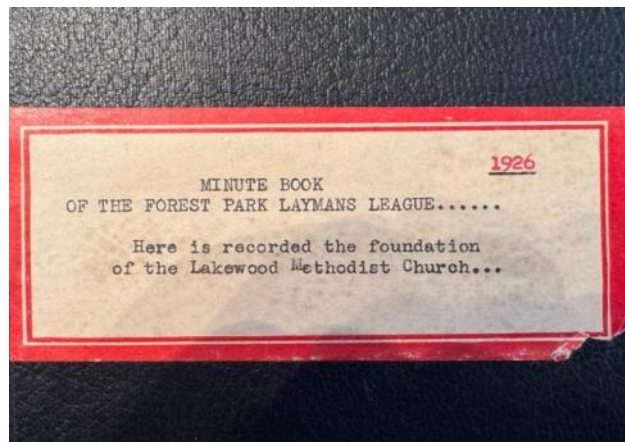
“May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” [Colossians 1:11-14]

God’s Peace,

Rev. Kathleen Schoeneck

Forest Park Laymans League The Beginnings of Lakewood Church

Submitted by Curt Spicher



Part 3

As the calendar turns to 1927 President Calvin Coolidge begins his 4th year in office and will serve until 1929. Also in 1927 work begins on Mt. Rushmore in South Dakota and Babe Ruth will hit 60 home runs for the Yankees that summer. The Forest Park Laymans League has met 3 times to date and has elected officers and established bylaws for the group who’s goal is to establish a new church in the Forest Park area of Millcreek, an area loosely bordered by Clifton Dr. to the west, West 12th to the north, Marshall Dr to the east and Lake Erie to the north. As part of the bylaws two officers have been assigned to check in on anyone who misses a monthly meeting of the group or who fall short in the payment of their monthly dues.

The first meeting of 1927 is held on January 7th. Minutes for this meeting are limited. At this meeting it was decided that the ladies would serve a tureen supper at the February 4th meeting. “It was properly moved and carried that the sum of Thirteen Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$13.50) be paid on the lot for the month of January. Half to pay interest and half to apply on the principal, leaving the net amount of One Thousand Three Hundred Forty-three Dollars and Twenty-five Cents (\$1,343.25).

On February 4th the regular meeting was opened by reading of a Scripture and a Prayer by Mr. Gilbert Lloyd. There was much discussion about holding a Tag Day. It was agreed upon to hold a Tag Day on March 26. A General Chairman of the Tag Day Committee, Mr. Martin Smith, was appointed along with 9 committee members to assist him. At first it was agreed that the Tags would

(Continued on page 4)

bear the words "Forest Park Community Church" but was later amended to read "Forest Park Community Sunday School". The tags and string were donated by "several persons present in order that proceeds of tag day would be as near as possible, net proceeds. Other business at the meeting included Mr. Gilbert Lloyd being elected Chaplain "of this organization, to serve the remainder of our fiscal year". Financially the group had a balance of \$41.03 in their account after making a \$13.50 payment to Dr. Root for the lot being purchased. Balance due: \$1,336.46. "After adjournment, the members were addressed by Mr. Arthur Durbin of the Y.M.C.A."

The March 4, 1927 meeting was opened with reading of Scripture and a Prayer by the newly elected Chaplain of the group Mr. Lloyd. "Mr. Boyd, the Am. S.S. Union Missionary of Crawford Co. gave us an informal talk on what the S.S. will do in the Community." Motion was made and carried to purchase 250 cylindrical boxes from the Erie Paper Company, at a cost of 2.5 cents each. A general committee meeting will be held "in the school house, Friday Evening, March 11, and that the ladies aid should be asked to be present at this meeting with their husbands and friends". It was moved that \$13.50 be paid to Dr. Root for interest and principal on the lot. Leaving a balance of \$1,329.78 on the lot and \$39.53 in the groups account. As we will see next time the Tag Day at the end of the month will significantly boost the groups funds.



All classrooms are now at full capacity for the 2025-2026 school year! If interested in a spot, please call or email to be added to the waiting list. Registration for the 2026-2027 school year opens up in March.

The Toddler and Me fall session will open up for registration in the next week. Please watch our [Facebook](#) page for the signup link.

All of us at Lakewood Preschool are so excited to welcome returning faces as well as meet new ones in September! It will be a great year!

Preschool is all about learning to grow, share, and play. Please consider helping us with our upcoming school year by gifting items from our [Amazon Wishlist](#), today.

As always, thank you for your continued support of Lakewood Preschool.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR PARTY IN THE PARK

Wednesday, August 20 from 6 to 8 p.m.

- ♦ Live music by Angelo and Friends
- ♦ A show by the Sonlight Puppets
- ♦ Scavenger hunt for the young (and the young at heart!)
- ♦ Free ice cream and popcorn
- ♦ And so much more!

Bring your spouse, significant other, children, grandchildren, friends, relatives, and neighbors. **ALL are welcome to join in the fun and fellowship.**

⇒ Please remember to bring a lawn chair.

AUGUST

BIRTHDAYS

Carolyn Sanford	08/01
Phyllis Komora	08/03
John Litzel	08/03
Katrina Gavriloff	08/05
Kyle Rea	08/05
Amanda Sissem	08/05
Rita Abramoski	08/07
Nathan Estes	08/10
Colin Ryan	08/10
Marty Reddinger	08/12
Eileen Ednie	08/13
Lucille Peterson	08/13
Ashlen Lawrence	08/14
Thaddeus Lowe	08/14
Brooke Shaffer	08/14
Jeff Vogt	08/14
Madison Sissem	08/15
Daniel Thompson	08/16
Laura Geer	08/17
Caelyn Frith	08/18
Amy Mook	08/18
Roberta Paul	08/18
Shonda Young	08/18
Morgan Bentley	08/20
Carl Renwick	08/20
Joseph Vern Ore	08/21
Darby Scalise	08/21
Jenna Wybiral	08/21
Margueritta Estes	08/22
Melissa Hullenbaugh	08/22
David Fresch	08/23
Paula Wettelin	08/23
Richard Wettelin	08/23
Christopher Dever	08/24
Richard Smith	08/25
Angela Lasher	08/26
Fred Garnon	08/27
William Hengelbrok	08/27
Carrie Belknap	08/28
Liam Gerarde	08/28
Howard Litz	08/28
Jeff Amon	08/29
Jimmy Xelo	08/29
David McKnight	08/30
Richard Lapadat	08/31

Red Bird Mission Trip — Volunteers Needed!



We're excited to announce a mission trip to Red Bird Mission in Kentucky! This is a wonderful opportunity to serve, grow in faith, and make a real difference. The trip is scheduled for June 14-19, 2026, and we're currently looking for volunteers to join the team. Whether you have construction skills or just a willing heart, there's a place for you!

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, or you can contact Jackie Bull at 814-323-6805 or missjackie77@hotmail.com. Join us as we put our faith into action and serve others!



It is almost time for the 50th annual Erie County CROP Hunger Walk. This event raises money for people who struggle with hunger and poverty here in Erie County and around the world. The Walk is scheduled for the afternoon of **Sunday, September 28** and will begin at the Beach 1 Runner's Pavilion on Presque Isle.

Lakewood United Methodist Church has a team registered online, so please join our team or sponsor our team. You can register and/or donate by going to the following link:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/lakewood-united-methodist-church>

If the link does not work, do an online search for Erie County CROP Hunger Walk. Donation collection envelopes and additional details will also be forthcoming later in August.

JULY 2025 ATTENDANCE:

Average attendance for weekly in-person worship: 65

Average views of weekly livestream (Youtube): 51

Average weekly combined "attendance" for July: 116

Average weekly combined "attendance" to-date for 2025: 120



Lakewood Youth News

*Helping youth to discover, experience and know the love
and presence of Jesus Christ*

Students in grades 5th—12th are welcome to join us.

Youth Group Leader Needed!

We're looking for another leader to help teach a monthly lesson for our youth group. If you have a heart for guiding teens in their faith and can commit to one week a month, we'd love to have you on the team. Please contact Jackie Bull at 814-323-6805 or missjackie77@hotmail.com if you're interested!

Contact Information
Jackie and Jeremiah Bull
Home: 814-833-4520
Call or Text: 814-323-6805
Email: missjackie77@hotmail.com

A SEGMENT FROM FINANCE

Thank you for your faithful giving to Lakewood. We will enter August with expenses exceeding contributions by about \$1,500. Your giving is a blessing to the church.

To remind, Lakewood does not participate in the Erie Gives campaign. If you had planned to celebrate Lakewood by donating through Erie Gives, please know that you are still able to give directly to the church. If you're able to give, that 'little extra' will go a long way in helping your church and community.

Please continue to follow the weekly giving figures in the bulletin. Your giving is a gift.

God loves a cheerful giver!

WEST MILLCREEK FOOD PANTRY

Our food pantry is so grateful for your support of our needs for food for our clients. We hope that you will help us collect canned fruits and vegetables these next couple of weeks. Thank you!

Mission Statement:

We will strengthen opportunities for spiritual growth that fosters genuine relationships by serving our church and community.

Church Council Update - August

Lakewood UMC Action Plan 2025-2026

Vision Statement: To glorify God by helping people to discover, experience, and know the love and presence of Jesus Christ.

Mission Statement: We will strengthen opportunities for spiritual growth that fosters genuine relationships by serving our church and community.

Pathways to Intentional and Innovative Ministries Recommendations:

- **Discipleship:** Create a discipleship pathway for Lakewood.
- **Ministry:** Evaluate ministries to determine the “why” behind it.
- **Connect with the Community:** Re-establish a relationship with Lakewood Preschool. (see Action Plan below)
- **Prayer:** Pray for the neighborhood youth to build awareness of how to connect with them. (see Action Plan below)

Connect with the Community

Definition: Being a good neighbor by listening, acknowledging, and supporting the needs of others.

Vision: To love one another by supporting the needs of our neighbors with our time, resources, and relationships so that all may grow in faith.

Goal: Build a direct line of communication with the Preschool to build connections and relationships.

Action Steps

- Identify the key needs and areas where support is most needed among the preschool families.
- Assess the current demographics of the preschool families to better understand their backgrounds and contexts.
- Develop strategies to strengthen connections and build meaningful relationships with preschool families.

Prayer

Definition: An act of partnering with God to unleash His blessings and fulfill His purposes on Earth.

Vision: To understand God’s will by strengthening our relationship with Him knowing that He hears us and responds in His way.

Goal: Explore ways to connect people with opportunities for individual and communal prayer with our congregation.

Action Steps

- Assess church members’ current understanding of prayer and their comfort level with praying.
- Identify existing opportunities within the church where prayer is practiced or encouraged.
- Explore additional ways to support and equip individuals in developing a stronger personal and communal prayer life.