



Calendar of Events

- Election Day (Fellowship Hall) – November 4th
- Women's Bible Study (9:00 a.m.) – November 5th
- Girl Scouts (6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall) – November 6th
- Choir Practice (7:00 p.m.) – November 6th
- UWIF Meeting (10:00 a.m., Library) – November 8th
- Worship Meeting (12:00 Noon) – November 9th
- Veteran's Day - November 11th
- Missions Meeting (6:30 p.m.) – November 11th
- Women's Bible Study (9:00 a.m.) – November 12th
- Trustees (6:30 p.m.) – November 12th
- Choir Practice (7:00 p.m.) – November 13th
- Women's Bible Study (9:00 a.m.) – November 19th
- Epilogue (11:30 a.m., Ricardo's 2112 East Lake Road) – November 19th
- Council Meeting (6:30 p.m.) – November 19th
- SPRC Meeting (6:00 p.m.) – November 20th
- Girl Scouts (6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall) – November 20th
- Choir Practice (7:00 p.m.) – November 20th
- Women's Bible Study (9:00 a.m.) – November 26th
- Thanksgiving – November 27th

**Wednesday Night Prayer Group will not be meeting until further notice.



Rev. Kathleen Schoeneck

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we get ready to celebrate Thanksgiving, I am reminded that our thankfulness is rooted in the Grace of God. Our founder: John Wesley; preached, wrote, and encouraged Methodist communities to remember:

Giving must be more than a response to an appeal to general humanitarianism. It must be rooted and grounded theologically and missionally.

Giving is rooted in God's very being. The ability to give itself is a gift from God. All life is grace, a free, unearned gift from a giving God who invites us to share in the divine life and mission of giving. We are stewards and a steward is one who insures that all have a place at the table of God's provisions. God has graciously invited us to share in God's own life and activity by calling us to make sure the human family has all things necessary in order to flourish.

Giving is indispensable to Christian discipleship. Giving is part of holy living. While the class meetings originated as a means of collecting money for the poor, they became communities of grace in which people were held in love and held accountable for holy living. Growth in discipleship inevitably includes growth in giving.

Giving includes more than the products of our labor. Disciplined living in response to the needs of the world is a form of giving. We give by refusing to take from others what is necessary for their abundant life. Giving in the Wesleyan tradition includes joyfully sharing the fruits of our labor and management with others, especially those who need basic necessities.

Giving moves beyond individual charity to building communities of shalom – communities of interconnectedness, justice and compassion. Charity itself can be a paternalistic means of control. Justice, however, is what God requires. Wesley, though sometimes exhibiting a paternalistic attitude toward the poor, attempted to deal with their plight holistically. He made no distinction between delivering them medical care and proclaiming the gospel. One was not social service and the other evangelism. Both were good news.

(Continued on page 2)

His outspoken resistance to the slave trade, alcohol traffic, excessive interest charged to the poor and other staples of British economic life in the 18th century expressed his stewardship. The Wesleyan tradition includes giving our voices on behalf of the voiceless, giving our insights and influence to build communities that reflect God's reign of justice, generosity and joy.

Happy Thanksgiving!

-Rev. Kathleen Schoeneck

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

LITTLE LESSONS

Updates from Lakewood Preschool

October was a busy month for the preschool. Our Trunk or treat event was a huge success! As part of Fire Safety Week, firemen visited and taught about fire safety. They gave a tour of the firetruck and let the students sit in the truck.

The PreK classes had a Field trip to Sissons Pumpkin Patch in Girard. The kids were taught a lesson on how a pumpkin grows. They were also able to go for a hayride, do the big slides, walk through the corn maze, and much more!

Exciting news: there has been so much interest in the 3s program, that we are adding another class in January! Stay tuned for further details.

Finally, someone from the school nominated us for "Best Preschool in Erie." Here is the link to vote for Lakewood Preschool: <https://best-of-erie-2025--erie-reader.contest.vote/people-and-places/best-preschool>

A SEGMENT FROM FINANCE

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

I saw a message outside of a church the other day that read, 'Giving is Investing in Life.' Whether your giving is financial or non-financial, a church, charity or individual(s) will benefit from your gift. In many cases, your donated time and energy is just as important as the money gifted. Lakewood thanks you for your financial and non-financial gifts.

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

God loves a cheerful giver. Continue to invest in life by giving.

Worship Committee

- 1) Advent Readers & Lay Leaders Needed: As we approach the Advent season which begins Sunday, November 30 volunteers are needed to help with short readings and lighting the candles on the Advent wreath. This is a wonderful way to participate in our Advent traditions. Lay leaders are also needed. Please contact Kathy Fisher at 814-434-0433.
- 2) Decorate the Sanctuary: On Saturday, November 29 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. we will decorate the church as we prepare for the Advent season. Many hands make light work, and it's always more fun together. We hope you can join us!

“I was hungry and you gave me something to eat.”
Matthew 25:35



NOVEMBER SCHEDULE TRACY AND ASBURY

DATE	PICKUP DRIVER	PACKING TEAM	DELIVERY DRIVER
NOV 05/06	R. Estes 10:30 a.m.	R.Estes 6:30 p.m.	J. Kot 10:00 a.m.
NOV 12/13	J. Kot 10:30 a.m.	C. Kot 11:30 a.m.	H. Kendall 10:00 a.m.
NOV 19/20	R. Pike 10:30 a.m.	K. Fisher 6:30 p.m.	R. Fisher 10:00 a.m.
NOV 24/25 MON/TUE	C. Spicher 10:30 a.m.	J. Goodman 10:00 a.m.	C. Spicher 10:30 a.m.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

UWF wants to thank you for your awesome generosity for our West Millcreek Pantry Foodless Food Drive! We collected \$1,014! This week we had 25 new families sign up at the pantry! Your donations will enable us to provide a Thanksgiving meal for our families. We will be collecting canned sweet potatoes and gravy through Sunday, November 16.

Tuesday, December 2 is a date you will want to mark on your calendars. Please join us for Advent By Candlelight in Fellowship Hall. Please watch your bulletins for more details.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, November 8 at 10:00 a.m. in the library. We will be discussing Advent By Candlelight.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Delaney Helsley	11/01
Jessie Vogt	11/02
Autumn Ferrante	11/04
Jennifer Sitter	11/04
Collin Olson	11/05
Sharon Swanson	11/05
Mark Kennedy	11/06
Curt Spicher	11/06
Jailyn Bull	11/09
Robert Helsley Jr	11/09
Timothy Reinke	11/09
Beverly Shrum	11/09
Patricia Wilcox	11/11
Christine Tolbert	11/12
Susan Kardos	11/14
James Kell	11/15
Anastassia Pons	11/15
Beatrice Parker	11/16
Darby Lawton	11/17
Donna Moren	11/17
Sam Hasley	11/18
Julie Kostek	11/18
Ann Randall-Dill	11/18
Sara Renshaw	11/18
Emily Killian	11/19
Rachel Marsden	11/19
Carol Overbeck	11/19
Debbie Bisbee	11/20
Bonnie Patterson	11/22
Jeffrey Vogt Jr.	11/22
Judy Lipsitz	11/23
Peter DeSantis	11/27
Rachel Dunmire	11/29
Norma Buerk	11/30
Jeanie Elwell	11/30
Madelyn Killian	11/30



Erie County CROP Hunger Walk

The Lakewood United Methodist Church team walked in the 50th annual Erie County CROP Hunger Walk on September 28, 2025, at Presque Isle. 25 people walked as part of the Lakewood team. The team set a goal of \$2,000, which would have been a modest increase from 2024. Thanks to the generosity of the Lakewood congregation and the volunteer walkers Lakewood was able to raise \$3,330! These efforts will certainly help support food insecurity and safe water initiatives around the world. 25% of proceeds stay in the Erie community for this purpose. The overall total raised by the Erie County Crop Hunger Walk will be announced before the end of the year.

MEN'S GROUP UPDATES

There will be no men's group meeting this month due to pricing baked goods and set up on Monday, November 3 at 6:30 p.m. Election Day bake sale will be held on Tuesday, November 4 starting at 7:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall until sold out.

Mission Statement:

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



OCTOBER 2025 ATTENDANCE:

Average attendance for weekly in-person worship: 73

Average views of weekly livestream (Youtube): 42

Average weekly combined "attendance" for October: 115

Average weekly combined "attendance" to-date for 2025: 119



Lakewood Youth News

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

Meeting Schedule

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

We will now be meeting every week! Come anytime!
Attendance is not mandatory.

November 2: Youth meeting at Lakewood 10:30 am – 11:45 am

November 9: Youth meeting at Lakewood 10:30 am – 11:45 am

November 16: Event TBD

November 23: Youth meeting at Lakewood 10:30 am – 11:45 am

November 30: Youth meeting at Lakewood 10:30 am – 11:45 am

December 7: Youth meeting at Lakewood 10:30 am – 11:45 am

December 14: Youth meeting at Lakewood 10:30 am – 11:45 am

December 21: Christmas Progressive Dinner

*Dates and events are subject to change as opportunities arise or change.



Erie City Mission volunteers needed. Are you looking for an opportunity to directly serve those in need? Lakewood volunteers are needed on Sunday, November 16 to help with preparing and serving a meal and providing fellowship at the Erie City Mission, 1023 French Street. There is a sign-up sheet in the church lobby. Please contact Lisa Medina or Chris Paul if you have additional questions. Volunteers meet at about 9:15 a.m. at the City Mission (entrance behind the building). Volunteers are usually done by 12:30 or 1:00 p.m. We usually need about 10-12 volunteers so please prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve.

Council Update

Discipleship Survey Highlights: Thank you to everyone who shared in our recent discipleship survey! Your responses give us a wonderful picture of how God is working in our church and how we can continue to grow together.

What's been most meaningful: Many of you shared that *learning through Scripture and Bible teaching, growing in community and relationships, and serving others* have been the most meaningful parts of your discipleship journey.

How we grow best together: When asked about the most helpful settings for discipleship, most people said they value *small groups* and *Bible study classes*, while others appreciate *retreats and special events* for deeper connection.

What we need right now: A common theme was the desire to *build stronger spiritual habits*—to grow in prayer, study, and living out faith every day.

The ideal environment for growth: Many of you described your ideal setting as a *weekly small group* that encourages *real-life discussions* and offers *flexibility* for busy schedules.

Together, these insights remind us that discipleship happens best in community—when we're learning, growing, and supporting one another as we follow Jesus.

Ministry Focus Group Highlights: Our recent focus groups gave valuable insight into the ministries that are most meaningful and the needs we see in our church family.

Meaningful Ministries: Participants shared deep appreciation for *Women in Faith, Missions, Card Ministries, Music Ministry*, and our *community connections* through *Lakewood in the Park*.

Needs Among Our Members: Several needs were identified, including *home visits, transportation to church, and handyman support* for elderly members and single families. There was also interest in forming *Men's Covenant Groups, Couples' Groups, and Singles' Groups* for deeper connection and care.

Ministries to Strengthen: Focus groups suggested strengthening the *Meal Train, Shut-In, and Prayer* ministries to better support members in times of need.

Together, these conversations reflect a strong heart for caring for one another and building community through service and relationship.

The next Council meeting will be Wednesday, November 19 at 6:30 pm.

PRAYER FOR DISCERNMENT

Pease join Council in praying for Lakewood daily. Take a moment every day to drop everything and pray for discernment, young families, fervent discipleship, and purposeful participation:

God, Our Father,

You have a plan for each one of us, you hold out to us a future full of hope. Give us the wisdom of your Spirit so that we can see the shape of your plan in the gifts you have given us, and in the circumstances of our daily lives. Give us the freedom of your Spirit, to seek you with all our hearts, and to choose your will above all else. Amen.



Our Neighbors' Place overflow shelter help needed – December 1, 2025

The Our Neighbors' Place overflow shelter will be up and running for the season at the end of November. Our Neighbors' Place (ONP) is administered by EUMA but staffing for the overflow shelter is supplemented by volunteers. The ONP overflow shelter will be housed in a single location for the season, 450 E 16th Street (between Parade and Wallace). Lakewood's help is needed.

Volunteers

Methodist churches in the Erie area have been asked to assist with providing volunteers for the overflow shelter from November 26 through December 2, 2025. EUMA will have staff present during these evenings, but 8-10 volunteers are needed each night from 6:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Volunteers may not need to stay the entire time, but people are needed to help check in guests, serve food and coffee, distribute clothing, and monitor showers.

Lakewood United Methodist Church has committed to providing volunteers for the overflow shelter during the evening of **Monday, December 1, 2025**. There will be a sign-up sheet available in the Narthex at Lakewood soon, if you are interested in signing up to help.

Meals

A bagged lunch is provided for guests each evening at the overflow shelter. The volunteers for that evening are asked to provide 60 bagged lunches. Help will be needed with this endeavor.

Clothing

Lakewood will also be collecting clothing items for distribution at the overflow shelter. Items for donation include new underwear (boxer briefs for the men), socks (moisture wicking please), emergency thermal blankets (must be able to handle below 30 degree temp), sweatpants, t-shirts, and sweatshirts. If you are interested in donating any of these items, a collection box will soon be placed in the church for donations.

Additional information about these opportunities to serve will be forthcoming but please feel free to contact Chris Paul by email at bertachris@yahoo.com or by phone at (814) 838-4767, if you have additional questions or want to help.

Honoring our deceased professing members on All Saints Sunday

Paul Johnson—November 3, 2024

Russell Robinson—February 24, 2025

Reverend Erenie Pons—November 14, 2024

Pam Anthony—March 19, 2025

Fran Lopus—January 23, 2025

Jerry Ellsworth—March 20, 2025

Reverend Jerry Gray—January 27, 2025

Nancy Lamanna—September 23, 2025