

I don't know where prayers go,
or what they do.

Do cats pray, while they sleep
half-asleep in the sun?

Does the opossum pray as it
crosses the street?

The sunflowers? The old black oak
growing older every year?

I know I can walk through the world,
along the shore or under the trees,
with my mind filled with things
of little importance, in full
self-attendance. A condition I can't
really call being alive.

Is a prayer a gift, or a petition,
or does it matter?

The sunflowers blaze, maybe that's their way.
Maybe the cats are sound asleep. Maybe not.

While I was thinking this, I happened to be standing
just outside my door, with my notebook pen,
which is the way I begin every morning.

Then a wren in the privet began to sing.

He was positively drenched in enthusiasm,

I don't know why. And yet, why not.

I wouldn't persuade you from whatever you believe
or whatever you don't. That's your business.

But I thought, of the wren's singing, what
could this be

if it isn't a prayer?

So I just listened, my pen in the air. Mary Oliver



Clifton United Methodist Church

October 25, 2026

Laity Sunday and Blessing of the Animals

"We Stand for Love!"

www.cliftonumc.com 513-961-2998 3416 Clifton Ave. Cincinnati OH 45220

GATHER

Children are welcome to worship with their families
and use the children's bulletins or paper and crayons that are available on the back table.

Listening devices are available.

The Hospitality Team is available throughout the service to assist you.

Restrooms (single stalls, accessible, all gender) are available in the community room downstairs
(turn right after the stairs, right side wall past the kitchen).

A women's restroom is on the second floor (turn right, left wall)
and a men's restroom is downstairs (turn left, follow turn, left wall)

Wi-Fi password: clifton2998

Worship begins with the first notes of music.

**Rise in body or rise in spirit!*

VIDEO OF THE CLIFTON UM COMMUNITY — MEDITATION WHILE WAITING

Nick Federinko, Communications Coordinator

PRELUDE

Prelude on Royal Oak ("All Things Bright and Beautiful" UMH 147)
17th-century English melody
Mary Beth Bennett (US, b. 1953)
Luke Wiseman, organ

GREETING AND WELCOME

Leah Kottyan, Lay Leader
Olivia English, 9:15 am Acolyte
Clara Mecoli, 11:00 am Acolyte

(9:15 am) Please let others know you are worshipping with the Clifton United Methodist Church online community. Make a comment on Facebook or send an email to office@cliftonumc.com. Please include your location and the first names of those worshipping with you.

(11:00 am) Please complete the information slip included in the pew pad when it is passed through the pew. Use the right-hand column to share questions, interests, or prayer concerns privately with the pastoral staff.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Becky Coning, 9:15 am Worship Leader
Bobbi Ruddock, 11:00 am Worship Leader

Prepare for the Inbreaking of Divine Compassion

for Revolutionary Love comes at an unexpected hour.

Awaken to the Kingdom of God Already at Hand

for Holy Mischief and Good Trouble are already being made.

Ready your hearts for the work of Solidarity

for women and workers were the first to recognize God-With-Us.

Come, let us gather expectantly—

the Living Christ is wise and wild.

***OPENING HYMN OF THE INBREAKING REIGN OF GOD**

All Creatures of Our God and King (Lasst Uns Erfreuen)
The Red/Blue Hymnbook, *The United Methodist Hymnal*, 62, vv. 1, 4, 5, 7

***All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing,
O praise ye! Alleluia! O brother sun with golden beam,
O sister moon with silver gleam! O praise ye!
O praise ye! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

***Dear mother earth, who day by day unfoldest blessings on our way,
Alleluia! Alleluia! The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
let them God's glory also show! O praise ye!
O praise ye! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

***All ye who are of tender heart, forgiving others, take your part,
O praise ye! Alleluia! Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
praise God and on him cast your care! O praise ye!
O praise ye! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

***Let all things their Creator bless, and worship God in humbleness,
O praise ye! Alleluia! Praise, praise the Maker, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One! O praise ye!
O praise ye! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

OPENING PRAYER

Becky Coning, 9:15 am
Bobbi Ruddock, 11:00 am

Holy God, whose love subverts the ways of empire, give voice to the voiceless, uplift those forced to their knees, make your reign break in here and now by the power of your Spirit, overturning death-dealing systems. We are ready. Our hands and hearts are willing. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT: THE EXODUS

Annie Burton
Youth & Children's Discipleship Coordinator

Welcome the children to the front of the sanctuary with *Where Children Belong* (Ritchie)
The Black Songbook, *The Faith We Sing*, 2233

***This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshiping throng. Water,
God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song: This is where children belong.***

The children will be escorted by the ministry aides to their classrooms following Godly Play. After the worship service, please come to the classroom to reconnect with your child. Thank you.

THE PEACE

Leah Kottyan & Sharon Hill

Please share signs and words of God's peace:

Shalom, Assalamu Alaykum, Namaste, Paz, Kapayapaan.

*Peace be with you. **And also with you.***

After sharing signs of peace, use the comment section of the Facebook Live Stream video or the information slip in your pew pad to indicate interest in receiving Clift Notes (church's newsletter) or a nametag for Sunday mornings. You may also communicate directly with the church office by email to office@cliftonumc.com or phone (513-961-2998).

ENGAGING IN THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Becky Coning, 9:15 am

Bobbi Ruddock, 11:00 am

Holy One, speak your word of love which undoes the lies of empire. Fill us with your truth. Amen.

READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Matthew 22:34-46

Becky Coning, 9:15 am

Bobbi Ruddock, 11:00 am

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees speechless, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, an expert on the Law, attempted to trick Jesus with this question: ³⁶ "Teacher, which commandment of the Law is the greatest?"

³⁷ Jesus answered: " 'You must love the Most High God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸ That is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ The second is like it: 'You must love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ On these two commandments the whole Law is based—and the Prophets as well."

⁴¹ While the Pharisees were gathered around him, Jesus asked them this question:

⁴² "What do you think about the Messiah? Whose descendant is the Messiah?" They said, "David's."

⁴³ Then Jesus asked, "Then how is it that David, inspired by the Spirit, calls the Messiah 'Sovereign'? For he says, ⁴⁴ 'The Most High said to my Sovereign, "Sit at my right hand until I place your enemies under your foot.'"

⁴⁵ "If David calls the Messiah 'Sovereign,' how can the Messiah be a descendant of David?"

⁴⁶ No one could reply, and from that day on no one dared ask him any more questions.

(The Inclusive Bible)

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

AN ANTHEM OF GOD'S GLORY AND OUR COMPANION SPECIES (11:00 am)

Rejoice in the Lamb, Op. 30 (1943) [Excerpt]
Words by Christopher Smart (English, 1722-1771)
Music by Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)
Bill Beer, Music Director
Clifton United Methodist Church Choir
Ailsa Lipscombe and Amy Waldfogle, Solo Vocals
Samantha Searls, Clarinet
Aubrey Sarna, Flute
Luke Wiseman, Organ

*Rejoice in God, O ye Tongues; give the glory to the Lord and the Lamb.
Nations and languages, **and every Creature**, in which is the breath of Life.*

Let man and beast appear before him and magnify his name together.

*Let Nimrod, the mighty hunter, bind a Leopard to the altar,
and consecrate his spear to the Lord.*

*Let Ishmael dedicate a Tyger, and give praise for the liberty
in which the Lord has let him at large.*

*Let Balaam appear with an Ass, and bless the Lord his people
and his creatures for a reward eternal.*

*Let Daniel come forth with a Lion, and praise God
with all his might through faith in Christ Jesus.*

Let Ithamar minister with a Chamois, and bless the name of Him, that clothed the naked.

Let Jakim with the Satyr bless God in the dance.

*Let David bless with the Bear—The beginning of victory to the Lord—to the Lord the
perfection of excellence—Hallelujah from the heart of God, and from the hand of the artist
inimitable, and from the echo of the heavenly harp in sweetness magnificent and mighty.*

For I will consider my Cat Jeffry.

For he is a servant of the living God, duly and daily serving him.

For at the first glance of the glory of God in the East he worships in his way.

For this is done by wreathing his body seven times round with elegant quickness.

For he knows that God is his Saviour.

For God has blessed him in the variety of his movements.

For there is nothing sweeter than his peace when at rest.

*For I am possessed of a cat, surpassing in beauty,
from whom I take occasion to bless Almighty God.*

For the mouse is a creature of great personal valour.

*For—this is a true case—Cat takes female mouse—male mouse will not depart but stands
threat'ning and daring.*

...If you will let her go, I will engage you, as prodigious a creature as you are.

For the mouse is a creature of great personal valour.

For the mouse is of an hospital disposition.

*For the flowers are great blessings.
For the flowers have their angels even the words of God's Creation.
For the flower glorifies God and the root parries the adversary.
For there is a language of flowers.
For flowers are peculiarly the poetry of Christ....*

Hallelujah from the heart of God, and from the hand of the artist inimitable, and from the echo of the heavenly harp in sweetness magnifical and mighty.

***See the Note from Bill Beer about the Special Music after Postlude.**

LOVING GOD DISMANTLES EMPIRE

Kyle Rife

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (Beecher)
The Red/Blue Hymnbook, The United Methodist Hymnal, 384, v. 4*

***Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.***

LOVING OTHERS DISMANTLES EMPIRE

Cindy Depoe

*Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service (Beach Spring)
The Red/Blue Hymnbook, The United Methodist Hymnal, 581, v. 1*

***Lord, whose love through humble service bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken, offered mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone,
but heart, consecrating to your purpose every gift that you impart.***

WORKING FOR JUSTICE DISMANTLES EMPIRE

Samantha Searls

*God Has Work for Us to Do
Words: Carl Daw
Music: Mark Miller*

***'Til all the jails are empty and all the bellies filled;
'til no one hurts or steals or lies, and no more blood is spilled:
God has work for us to do, 'til God's will is done and
all things are made new,
God has work for us to do!***

REFORMING THE CHURCH DISMANTLES EMPIRE

Bobbi Ruddock

For Everyone Born

Words: Shirley Erena Murray

Music: Brian Mann

*For gay, bi, and straight, a place at the table,
Invited to wed, to baptize, and preach,
a rainbow of race and gender and color,
for queer, trans, and ace, God's justice in reach.
And God will delight when we are creators of justice,
joy, compassion and peace,
God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy.*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Leah Kottyan

THE PRAYER OF JESUS (A contemporary adaptation of *The Lord's Prayer* from *The New Zealand Prayer Book*)

Eternal Spirit, Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name shall echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed
by the peoples of the earth!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.

GIVING GIFTS, TITHES, AND OFFERINGS

Leah Kottyan

Generosity dismantles empire. It subverts the greed of late-stage capitalism, and it witnesses to God's preferred economy of grace. May we give to subvert and undo death-dealing systems.

ELECTRONIC GIVING OPTIONS FOR MAKING OFFERINGS

- Mail a check to the church.
- Authorize your bank to pay the church, via the bank's Bill Pay feature.
- Give to Clifton United Methodist Church through Realm:
<https://onrealm.org/CliftonUnitedMe/Give> or use the QR code or text **CLIFTON to 73256** on your mobile phone, followed by your gift amount.
(Standard text message and data rates may apply.)
- On our website, **cliftonumc.com**, click the Online Giving donation (piggy bank) button. Your donation will be processed through Realm.org.



QR code for Clifton UMC
Realm Online Giving

OFFERTORY

All Creatures of Our God and King (Lasst uns erfreuen, UMH 62)
Andy Muskrat (b. 1983)
Luke Wiseman, piano

*MUSICAL RESPONSE

God of Love and God of Power (Unser Herrscher)
The Red/Blue Hymnbook, *The United Methodist Hymnal*, 578, vs. 4

***God of love and God of power, make us worthy of this hour;
offering lives if it's thy will, keeping free our spirits still.
God of love and God of power, thou hast called us for this hour.***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Becky Coning, 9:15 am
Bobbi Ruddock, 11:00 am

We dedicate our offering to your work of liberation, Almighty God! Liberation for those who live under the weight of heteronormative patriarchy and white supremacy. Bless these gifts to that work, the work of your Begotten One, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Becky Coning, 9:15 am
Bobbi Ruddock, 11:00 am

SENDING FORTH

AN ANTHEM OF THE GLORY OF GOD AND COMPANION SPECIES (9:15 am)

Rejoice in the Lamb, Op. 30 (1943) [Excerpt]
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Nations and languages, **and every Creature**, in which is the breath of Life.*

*Let man and beast appear before him and magnify his name together.
Let Nimrod, the mighty hunter, bind a Leopard to the altar,
and consecrate his spear to the Lord.
Let Ishmael dedicate a Tyger, and give praise for the liberty
in which the Lord has let him at large.
Let Balaam appear with an Ass, and bless the Lord his people
and his creatures for a reward eternal.
Let Daniel come forth with a Lion, and praise God
with all his might through faith in Christ Jesus.
Let Ithamar minister with a Chamois, and bless the name of Him, that clothed the naked.
Let Jakim with the Satyr bless God in the dance.
Let David bless with the Bear—The beginning of victory to the Lord—to the Lord the
perfection of excellence—Hallelujah from the heart of God, and from the hand of the artist
inimitable, and from the echo of the heavenly harp in sweetness magnifical and mighty.*

*For I will consider my Cat Jeoffry.
For he is a servant of the living God, duly and daily serving him.
For at the first glance of the glory of God in the East he worships in his way.
For this is done by wreathing his body seven times round with elegant quickness.
For he knows that God is his Saviour.
For God has blessed him in the variety of his movements.
For there is nothing sweeter than his peace when at rest.
For I am possessed of a cat, surpassing in beauty,
from whom I take occasion to bless Almighty God.*

*For the mouse is a creature of great personal valour.
For—this is a true case—Cat takes female mouse—male mouse will not depart but stands
threat'ning and daring.
...If you will let her go, I will engage you, as prodigious a creature as you are.
For the mouse is a creature of great personal valour.
For the mouse is of an hospital disposition.*

*For the flowers are great blessings.
For the flowers have their angels even the words of God's Creation.
For the flower glorifies God and the root parries the adversary.
For there is a language of flowers.
For flowers are peculiarly the poetry of Christ....*

Hallelujah from the heart of God, and from the hand of the artist inimitable, and from the echo of the heavenly harp in sweetness magnificent and mighty.

***HYMN FOR MONDAY (11:00 am)**

We Are the Church (Port Jervis)

The Red/Blue Hymnbook, The United Methodist Hymnal, 558

Refrain: *I am the church! You are the church!
We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world!
Yes, we're the church together!*

*The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple,
the church is not a resting place; the church is a people. [Refrain]*

*We're many kinds of people, with many kinds of faces,
all colors and all ages, too, from all times and places. [Refrain]*

*Sometimes the church is marching, sometimes it's bravely burning,
sometimes it's riding, sometimes hiding, always it's learning. [Refrain]*

*And when the people gather, there's singing and there's praying,
there's laughing and there's crying sometimes, all of it saying: [Refrain]*

*At Pentecost some people received the Holy Spirit
and told the Good News through the world to all who would hear it.
I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together.*

***BLESSING**

Leah Kottyan

POSTLUDE

*Postlude in G minor
Martin Ellis (b. 1967)
Luke Wiseman, organ*

***Note from Bill Beer about the Special Music:**

For the occasion of our annual pet blessing, in conjunction with the 800th jubilee of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the "Patron Saint of the Animals," the choir presents an excerpt of this special work.

Benjamin Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb* is one of the most distinctive works in the twentieth-century English choral repertoire. The festival cantata was composed and premiered in 1943 for the fiftieth anniversary of St. Matthew's Church, Northampton—just one year after Clifton UMC had itself celebrated fifty years of ministry. The work draws its text from *Jubilate Agno*, a remarkable and unconventional poem by the eighteenth-century English writer Christopher Smart.

Smart was a well-educated and well-known literary figure in his own day, admired for his wit, classical learning, and contributions to London's vibrant literary culture. He enjoyed early success as a poet, translator, and journalist. Yet his reputation became overshadowed by the mental health crisis that led to his confinement in a private asylum and later a debtor's prison. For many of his contemporaries, Smart was remembered more for his perceived eccentricity than for the originality of his poetry.

It was during his confinement in the 1750s and 1760s that Smart began writing his ecstatic, free-form religious masterwork *Jubilate Agno* ("Rejoice in the Lamb"). This vast unfinished work he called his "Magnificat" remained unknown and unpublished until the twentieth century. Defying many of the literary conventions of its age, Smart created a text that is intensely personal and exuberantly imaginative. The apparent spontaneity belies a poem steeped in the Classical traditions. Smart was particularly drawn to the aphoristic style of ancient literature, using short, memorable, and often witty statements that express a general truth, moral principle, or observation about life.

Concurrent with his penning of *Jubilate Agno*, Smart rendered the *Odes*, *Epistles*, and *Ars Poetica* of the Roman lyric poet Horace into English verse and published them in 1756. The *Ars Poetica* tradition emphasized the power of words, naming, and structure apparent in *Jubilate Agno*. But where the classical tradition emphasized human-sized scale, order, restraint, and balance, Smart deliberately subverted these metrics, utilizing an antiphonal, liturgical structure, alternating over twelve hundred statements in sections beginning "Let" and "For," modeled on Hebrew psalmody. In some ways, *Jubilate Agno* is an antidote to the structures of the Classics in which he was contemporaneously immersed. His praises to God could not be confined by the strictures of poetry's conventions. Expanding far beyond the human realm, the poem gives voice to both people and mute nature – animals, insects, objects, letters, musical sounds, and elements – so that all of creation can participate in glorifying God.

Perhaps the most famous section celebrates Smart's cat, Jeoffry, whose ordinary feline actions described in seventy-four dedicated lines are transformed into acts of divine worship. Elsewhere, the poem ranges from biblical reflection to linguistic play, catalogues of names from the Old Testament, mystical symbolism, and flashes of humor.

With the discovery and publication of *Jubilate Agno* in 1939, the work and its author were enjoying a period of renewed fascination. Britten was drawn to both the spiritual fervor and the musical qualities of Smart's language for this 1943 commission. Selecting a series of passages from throughout the poem, he fashioned a cantata that mirrors its contrasting moods. Jubilant choruses alternate with intimate solos and chamber-like instrumental textures. The famous setting of "For I will consider my Cat Jeoffry" captures both affection and wonder, while other movements convey ecstatic praise, contemplative devotion, bitterness and despair, and moments of grandeur. Britten's score preserves the individuality and unpredictability of Smart's text, allowing its unique voice to emerge with clarity and vitality.

Today, *Rejoice in the Lamb* stands not only as one of Britten's most beloved choral works, but also as a testament to the enduring artistic legacy of Christopher Smart, whose once-neglected masterpiece has come to be recognized as one of the most original achievements in English literature.

THIS WEEK AT CLIFTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

8:15 am	Prayer and Preparation	Sanctuary
9:15 am	WORSHIP SERVICE: Hybrid Service	Sanctuary
9:30 am	Godly Play Wondering Circle	Classroom 2
10:15 - 11:00 am	C.C.C	Multipurpose Room
11:00 am-12:00 pm	Tween/Youth Music	Multipurpose Room
11:15 am - 12:00 pm	Godly Play (age 3-3rd grade)	Classroom 2
11:25 am - 12:00 pm	Faith Explorers (Grades 4th-6th)	Classroom 1
5:00 - 6:15 pm	chapters: Intersect, Halloween @ the Happen. (4201 Hamilton Ave, 45223)	
	<i>Parking: nearby street parking, or paid lot on Chase across from UDF</i>	

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

12:00 - 1:00 pm	Sermon Shapers in person meeting with communion	Library
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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

6:00 - 7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
7:30 - 8:30 pm	Bell Choir	Sanctuary

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 1	8:15 am	Prayer and Preparation	Sanctuary
	9:15 am	WORSHIP SERVICE: Hybrid Service	Sanctuary
	9:30 am	Godly Play Wondering Circle	Classroom 2
	10:15 - 11:00 am	C.C.C	Multipurpose Room
	11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Kids' Choir	Multipurpose Room
	11:15 am - 12:00 pm	Godly Play (age 3-3rd grade)	Classroom 2
	11:25 am - 12:00 pm	Faith Explorers (Grades 4th-6th)	Classroom 1
	4:00 - 6:00 pm	Youth Group Meeting	Classroom 3
	5:00 - 6:15 pm	chapters: Altar of Remembrance @ Fergus Park (Fergus & Chase)	

We Gather
Together



THANKSGIVING DINNER 2026 on Sunday, November 22,
following the 11 am service. Please use QR code to sign up to bring a
dish to share or contact Chris Dougherty at legalsec50@aol.com or
513-236-9196.



Thanksgiving



THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS, TODAY, 10:20-10:55 AM

Sunday, October 25th, you are invited to bring your pet, or a picture of your pet, to church for the Blessing of the Animals. The service will be between worship services on the front lawn. Your pet is welcome to join you for Sunday service too, which will feature a St. Francis-inspired musical anthem from the Clifton United Methodist Choir. God's created us in this interconnected web of life and love. Our sacred relationship with our companion animals is a sign of this grace.



ALL SAINTS NOV 1

Sunday, November 1, will be All Saints Sunday, when we will remember those who have died this last year and joined the great cloud of witnesses. If a beloved person in your life died this last year, please submit their name to Lorri Phile at the church office - [513-961-2998](tel:513-961-2998) or office@cliftonumc.com by October 25th.

CLIFTON 101 MONDAYS IN NOVEMBER

Clifton 101 is an opportunity to learn more about Clifton United Methodist Church's progressive Wesleyan theological values, our shared vision and strategic plan, what it means to belong (membership) and our church building and sanctuary. If you are new or have been around a while and want to hear more about Clifton UMC, you are most welcome. We will also talk about membership and our membership practices. This is a chance to explore in a small-group setting and learn more. We will receive new members on Sunday, November 22nd as the culmination of the Clifton 101 experience. Clifton 101 is offered a few times throughout the year, so if this does not work in your schedule, please know there will be other opportunities. [Contact Pastor Robert with interest or questions.](#)

Monday, November 2, 6:30pm-7:30pm, Zoom, Wesleyan Faith

Monday, November 9, 6:30pm-7:30pm, Zoom, Strategic Plan and Vision

Sunday, November 15, 10:20am-10:55am, Church Tour

Monday, November 16, 6:30pm-7:30pm, Zoom, Membership Practices and Leadership Structure



CHURCH CONFERENCE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Clifton United Methodist Church will be holding its ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE in the sanctuary from 10:15 am—10:45 am (between services) on November 8, at which time officers will be elected, pastors' compensation will be defined, and the state of the church will be discussed. Rev. Seth Lindemann will serve as our presiding Elder. Annual Reports will be distributed as well! All elected officers of Clifton UMC are asked to attend; all members of Clifton UMC will have a voice and vote and are encouraged to attend.

If you would like to request a Zoom option, please contact [Nick Federinko](#) before November 1st, and Clifton UMC will work to arrange a virtual option.



SUNDAY CONCERT- NOV 8 at 4 PM
at CLIFTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FREE! DONATIONS ENCOURAGED

a freewill offering will be collected
for Clifton UMC's Deacon's Fund/bus pass ministry

3416 Clifton Avenue, 45220

NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN WITNESS AND SERVICE



Use the QR code to volunteer for both Laundry Love locations:

Norwood—the 1st Wednesday of each month from 5:30 - 8:30 pm at City Limits Laundry, 4295 Montgomery Avenue, Cincinnati OH 45212.

Mt. Airy—the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 5:30 - 8:30 pm at City Limits Laundry, 2650 Kipling Avenue, Cincinnati OH 45239.



**Laundry Love
Volunteer Tab**



THE 4TH ANNUAL CAIN COAT DRIVE is officially underway! From October 1 through December 1, we're collecting:

- Kids' Coats
- Gloves and mittens
- Scarves and hats
- New socks only

SPIRITUAL FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES



Sermon Shapers

SERMON SHAPERS BIBLE STUDY Every **Wednesday from 12:00 –1:00 pm via Zoom**. The focus scriptures will be the preaching text for the coming Sunday (see the schedule). Join us during your lunch break via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84373675406>. Register by QR Code. On the 3rd Wednesday of each month, the group will meet in-person at the church for community study and the sacrament of communion. **Next in-person meeting: November 18.**



THE YOUNG ADULT SMALL GROUP is up and running for all those in their 20s or 30s. The group is meeting for dinner on the second Wednesday and lunch on the fourth Saturday. If you would like to be on the text thread, please reach out to Pastor Becky: revschoie@gmail.com

PRAYER WALL The prayer wall is in the Clifton Avenue entrance. It provides an opportunity for you to write a prayer and place it in one of the cracks. These prayers will be prayed over at the wall each week.

CLIFTON UMC ADVENT CONTEMPLATIVE RETREAT

And Isaiah, too, says,

"The root of Jesse is coming and will arise to rule over the nations, and they will place their trust in the Coming One." May the God of hope fill you with such peace and joy in your faith, that you may be filled with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. — Romans 15:12-13 (Advent 2 lectionary reading)

The Sign-Up Genius is open for the Clifton UMC Advent Contemplative Retreat on Saturday, Dec. 12, 9:00 a.m. -3:30 p.m. at Clifton United Methodist Church. Contemplative means we will engage in quiet reflection and prayer, but we will not just be sitting. We will experience walking in the labyrinth and creative expression. There will be some activities like last year, but new ones as well. We'll have plenty of personal time, but also one-on-one and group sharing so we are open to the movement of the Spirit in different ways. Our focus will be on Advent hope that is stirred up in us with the coming anew of Christ. A light breakfast and lunch will be included. Cost: \$35 (scholarships are available if cost is prohibitive).



Advent Retreat

CHILDREN AND YOUTH SPIRITUAL FORMATION

YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR

Youth group meets from 4:00-6:00 pm on the first and third Sundays of the month.

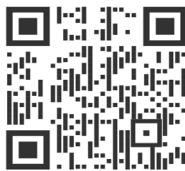
Grades 7-12.

What to expect:

Service projects, games, faith exploration, music, opportunities for leadership, snacks, and fun!

Please email Children & Youth Ministry Coordinator Annie Burton at annieburton@gmail.com with any questions.

CAMPUS MINISTRY NOTES



**Wesley
Newsletter**



Wesley/Edge Dinner

MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES



Clifton's Chancel Choir rehearses from 6:00 to 7:15 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room on the lower level.

Clifton's Handbell Choir rehearses in the same room from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

If you're interested in joining either choir, contact Bill Beer, Music Director
(bill.b@cliftonumc.com)



The C.C.C.

Grades 2-6

Every Sunday 10:15-11:00AM

Come join us for a variety of music fun, playing hand chimes, singing, playing musical games, and much more!

Kids' Choir

Ages 3 through 1 Grade.

1st & 3rd Sundays—11:00 service after Special Music

Music for our youngest children, where we learn how to use our voices and bodies as we learn the basics of music.



Tween/ Youth Music - Jr. Handbells & More

Grades 5 and Up

2nd & 4th Sundays - During 11:00 service after Godly Play

Our newest group to learn about how music can transform worship at Clifton. We are starting a new Jr. Handbell Choir, as well as helping them lead worship through song and more.

Sign up in church, or Sign up Here:

<https://form.jotform.com/262286285287065>

or scan the QR code to sign up!



Music

As a community of members and friends, we commit to God and to each other that we will support Clifton United Methodist Church through our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

OUR PRAYERS: prayers for the peace of the whole world; the passing of JoAnn Smith; prayers for Gerry Ahrens, with advanced-stage pancreatic cancer; prayers for Lynn Ahrens and family during this time; Nick and the Federinko family in the death of Carol Balshaw, Nick’s grandmother; Joan Peters, Jenee Clark’s birth mother, recovering from a broken hip;

ATTENDANCE: WORSHIP 10/18 9:15 am: 62 11:00 am: 100 Livestream: 63 households
Chapters: 18

MONTH OF SEPTEMBER GIVING: Giving: \$ 25,607.03
For Everyone Born Campaign: \$51,167.28

WORSHIP SERVICE VOLUNTEERS:

	10/25	11/1	11/8
Worship Leaders:			
9:15 am	Becky Coning	Sandy Vogeles	Robbin Luck
11:00 am	Bobbi Ruddock	Mark Waldfogle	Izzy Kottyan
Acolyte:			
9:15 am	Olivia English		Spencer Mecoli
11:00 am	Clara Mecoli	Ash Fleming	Lenny Saldaña
Speakers:	Kyle Rife Cindy Depoe Samantha Searls Bobbie Ruddock		
Hymn Leader	Bill Beer	Bill Beer	Bill Beer
Hospitality Team:			
9:15 am	Darrell Miller Bob Welker	Bob Welker Jeannie Long	Darrell Miller Bob Welker
11:00 am	Natalie Black Susan Allen Susan Gerke	Lynn Ahrens Chris Dougherty Dennis Dougherty Mary Leech	Natalie Black David Rogers
Coffee Minute:	Jan Platt		
Counters:	Month of October:	Cindy Depoe & Joe Gardner	
	Month of November:	Valerie Johnson & Don Deems	



FEB Capital Campaign

FOR EVERYONE BORN CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

We're off to a great start with pledge collection for the 'For Everyone Born' Capital Campaign to redesign our sanctuary! Thank you for your generous commitment, enabling us to co-create a more accessible and refreshed sanctuary.

We have received pledged commitments of **\$356,993.28** toward the 3-year campaign. We are moving toward our named goal of \$400,000. If you have not had a chance to pledge, there is still time, and every act of giving is sacred. Thank you again for being part of our shared vision of justice and joy!

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are donated by Valerie & Craig Johnson, in memory of JoAnn Smith. If you would like to order altar flowers, go to <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b4dafae22a0ff2-altar> or use the QR code.



COFFEE MINUTE – BUILDING COMMUNITY ONE BITE AT A TIME Food and friends naturally belong together. Can you help make Clifton's Coffee Minute a time of sharing?

- The first Sunday of the month is Communion Sunday. Also, it will be our community Coffee Minute. We ask for individuals from both services to bring one item, if they would like. Hopefully, we can have one member from each service to sign up to help in the back of the sanctuary to set up and clean up.
- The second Sunday is Soup and Sides Potluck; therefore, a minimal snack will be provided between the services only.
- Sign-ups for the remaining two or three Sundays are available here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B4DAFAE22A0FF2-howcan#/> or use the QR code or contact office@cliftonumc.com



Coffee Minute

WHEN YOU HAVE EMPTY PLASTIC PILL BOTTLES, BRING THEM TO CHURCH.

Orange, green, or blue prescription drug bottles can be re-used or recycled if you bring them to church. Cincinnati Recycling & Reuse Hub, which passes cleaned bottles to Matthew 25 for their medical supply shipments. Bottles that cannot be cleaned by volunteers are recycled. **No syringes, lancets, diabetic test strips, liquids or other medical waste will be accepted.**



DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FOR MATTHEW 25 MINISTRIES. Besides pill bottles, Matthew 25 Ministries also sends durable medical equipment and first aid supplies to those in need. They are always on the lookout for gently used wheelchairs, walkers, canes and braces, even catheters, ace bandages, support hose and hospital gowns. Before you bring the items to church, notify Susan Gerke (513-314-3190 or L_S_gerke@yahoo.com) she may be able to pick up the donation. Check their website m25m.org for details.



CLIFTON UMC COLLECTS PULL TABS. Bring tabs to church in any non-breakable container to be placed in the container at the back of the sanctuary. We take them to Cincinnati Recycling & Reuse Hub which passes on the recycling profits to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Cincinnati. Your support of this program will benefit the families of critically ill children and the environment.

ENROLL IN THE KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM.

Visit the website at www.krogercommunityrewards.com or if you do not have access to a computer and would like to participate, please contact the church office and Lorri can assist you.

- Sign in to your Kroger account with your email address/password. If you have forgotten, click on "forgot password" and a link will be sent to your email to change your password.
- Click into the "Community Rewards" in your account summary.
- Enter **80273** or the first three letters of the organization's name, click search.
- Select Clifton United Methodist Church by clicking the circle to the left of the organization's name.
- Save changes.

CAIN MINISTRIES For the month of October, we will continue to collect toilet paper. This essential item is unable to be purchased with SNAP benefits and so it is a valued commodity. Your neighbors in Northside thank you.



ROBERTS ACADEMY: SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTER The Roberts Academy School-Based Health Center is essentially a health care clinic located inside of a pre-K-8th grade elementary school in East Price Hill. The clinic provides both acute and well visits, preventive care, vaccines, prescriptions and health education to the students, teachers and families of Roberts Academy and underserved children and families in the surrounding community.

List of requested items:

- small prizes (can be fidgets, small toys, small stuffed animals, etc.)
- Travel-sized toiletries (especially deodorant, NO dental stuff)
- Lip balm
- children's chewable multivitamins with iron (like Flintstones)
- Vitamin D capsules/tablets (ideally 2000 units)
- rice
- beans
- diapers/pull-ups size 5 and up

PASTOR ROBERT'S SCHEDULE

Sunday	8:00 am - 8:00 pm	Worship, Chapters
Monday	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Office, Visits
Tuesday	9:00 am - 8:00 pm	Office, Study Group
Wednesday	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Office
Thursday	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Office
Friday		Time Apart
Saturday		Study Day
Pastor Robert's office #: 513-961-2998 Email: English_r@cliftonumc.com		

CHURCH COUNCIL 2026 (Bold denotes a new officer)

Church Council & Administrative Team Chair
Lay Leader & Congregational Life Chair
Lay Members to Annual Conference

Jim Bodle (2026)
 Leah Kottyan (2027)
 Landon Balmos-Ruddock (2026)
 Clark Sayre (2026)
 Susan Allen (2026)
 Melissa Mitiska (2027)
 Sharon Hill (2027)
 Mary Leech (2027)
Emily Howdysshell (2028)
 Karla Perry (2026)

Alternate Lay Member to Annual Conference
Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair
Finance Chair
Treasurer
Trustees Chair
Alternative Expressions of Church

Administrative Team Classes

2026

Jim Bodle
 Karla Perry

2027

Sharon Hill
 Leah Kottyan
 Mary Leech
 Melissa Mitiska

2028

Emily Howdysshell
Steve Howes

Congregational Life Team Chairs

CELEBRATE

Kyle Rife (2027)

GROW

Amy Waldfogle (2028)

RECONCILING

Christy Balmos (2026)

SERVE

Joe & Alaina Tran (2028)

WELCOME

Darrell Miller (2026)

WITNESS

Jenn Daum (2026)

*Clifton United Methodist Church welcomes, cares for, and affirms all people in God's Beloved community.
 We work toward making real the expansive, just, transformative, inclusive love of Jesus
 within ourselves, our communities, and our world.*

Our staff and related clergy:

Rev. Robert English, Pastor	
Rev. Becky Schofield Motter, Associate Pastor for Service & Justice & Ex. Dir. of the Wesley Foundation of Cincinnati	
Aaron Fleming, Fresh Expression Intern	Lorri Phile, Church Administrator
Nick Federinko, Communications Coordinator	Bill Beer, Music Director
Jennifer Melms, Children's Music Director	Luke Wiseman, Organist
Annie Burton, Coordinator of Children & Youth Discipleship	EJ Busby, Children's Ministry Aide
Leif Benner, Children's Ministry Aide	

Office Hours: 9:30 am– 2:00 pm Tuesday - Friday
 3416 Clifton Ave., Cincinnati OH 45220-1717

Phone: 513-961-2998 Email: office@cliftonumc.com Website: www.cliftonumc.com
 Facebook page: www.facebook.com/cliftonumc Audio Page: www.soundcloud.com/cliftonumcohio
 Signup Genius link to volunteer opportunities: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b4dafae22a0ff2-altar>
 Wi-Fi Info: ID: Sanctuary Password: clifton2998