

Saints Alive!

Volume 15, Issue 6
November 2017
"Friends in Christ, Serving
Together with Love"



Mini-Mission Trip—Nov. 4, 2017 9am-5pm
Lorain, Ohio

All Saints' Sunday—November 5
Send in a picture of a loved one
Mission Committee requests Thanksgiving side dishes

Jonathan Birmingham baptized—November 12
Mission Committee requests Thanksgiving side dishes

Stewardship Sunday—November 19
Mission Committee requests Thanksgiving side dishes

Church office closed—November 23 & 24
Happy Thanksgiving!

Christ the King Sunday—November 26
Get ready to see the church decorated for Christmas!

Presbyterian Women's Horizons Bible Study, Who Is Jesus
Order books in December

Avon Lake Presbyterian Church *Mission Statement*

In awe, we Receive God's Grace and Gospel.
In gratitude, we Respond with Worship and Servanthood.
In love, we Represent Jesus Christ
as we minister to transform lives
in family, community, and the world.



FROM THE PASTOR/ Charlie Swartz

Dear Friends,

While I am not one who scans the horizon for a "sign of the times" or am surprised when misery unfolds, I think that we have undergone an unusually hard period of catastrophes, bloodlettings and chaos. Review them with me: Nazis and the Klan in Charlottesville, Hurricane Harvey in Houston, Hurricane Irma in Puerto Rico, the Las Vegas massacre, and the deadly wildfires in California. I cringe to think what will have happened between when I write this (October 17), and when you receive it. Some say these things mean God is bringing judgment, others say that it shows God does not exist or does not care about us. What do you think? While there are different voices in the Bible concerning whether or not the Lord uses dire weather today to get our attention, I think of the text in I Kings 19. If you remember, Elijah was running away from enemies. He hid out in the mountains. We are told that a mighty wind came up, but God was not in the wind. Then we are told that a fire broke out, but God was not in the fire. Then there was sheer silence, and God was in the silence. I think that is still true. The fires, floods and murders in this last month were not God's voice speaking judgment to those victims. God's voice spoke through the silence to people saying, **"Go, help those in trouble."**

God is speaking through every church his words of divine love and truth. The church is needed as much as ever to push the message of Christ's awesome love into the valleys scorched by wild fires. Wherever there is destruction, Christ is sending in hope. Wherever there is murder, God judges the act and actor, causing people to recoil in disgust as they know in their bones that God's will is for all is to live in respect and mutual care. Wherever there is hatred masquerading as self-love, God is present in the silence saying, "Love your neighbor as yourself."

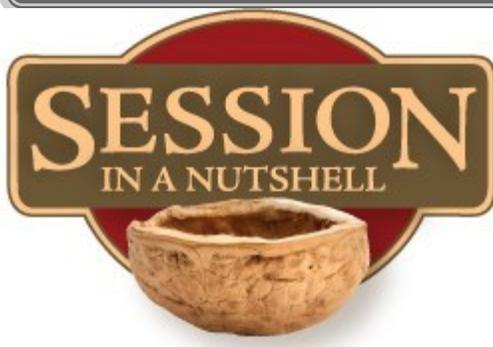
Charlie
"Friends in Christ,
Serving Together With Love"

*Bear one another's burdens
and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

Galatians 6:2



Session Highlights



At the Session Meeting on Monday, October 16:

- * The final design for the front sign was approved and installation is anticipated before Christmas.
- * The budget process is on schedule including the narrative budget.
- * Stewardship Sunday will be November 19.
- * Staff reviews are being completed by the Human Resources committee.

Submitted by,
Kathy Navarro, Clerk of Session

Finance Committee

Finances through September 30, 2017

	Year to Date	Budget to Date	Variance	2017 Budget
Grand Total Operating Income	331,715.18	278,946.50	41,358.68	370,262.00
Grand Total Operating Expenditures	268,706.14	283,150.75	-15,684.83	368,463.00
Excess Receipts (Expenditures)	63,009.04	-4,204.25	57,043.51	1,799.00
Special Encumbered Funds	40,127.17			
VANGUARD WELLESLEY FUND	6,528.45			
CHECK BOOK BALANCE	32,518.48			
T.D. AMERITRADE BALANCE	100.12			
SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE	63,713.33			
	<u>96,331.93</u>			

As you can see from the above, our current financial position is positive compared to what we expected at the beginning of the year. Here are some factors that have helped our finances:

- Unexpected gift of approximately \$25,000 in stock
- Savings of payroll for the Contemporary Worship Leader
- New insurance policy cost savings of approximately \$5,000
- Mild weather resulting in about \$2,500 less in utility costs
- Better than expected fund-raising income of about \$4,500

While we are doing better than expected, many expenses are incurred during the last few months of the year since that is the beginning of the program year. Please continue to support this church by keeping current with your pledges so we can end the year in this positive position.

Cheryl Dean, Finance Chair

Christian Education

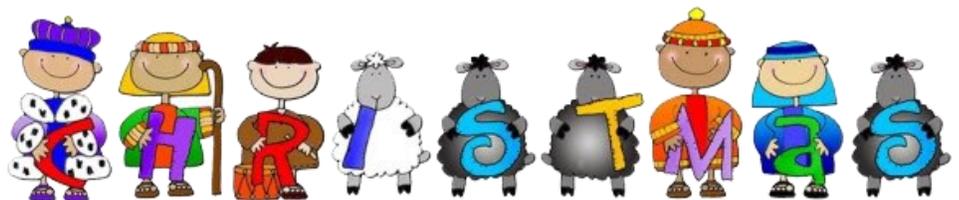


Our Sunday school classes are off to a good start! We have begun a class for preschool children. For the past few years, the preschoolers would stay in the crib room with the infants and toddlers. It was time to have a separate space for them and to help them begin their faith development. The children hear a simple Bible story, do a simple activity to help them remember the story, and then play to help them form relationships with the other children.

Plans are in the works for a Christmas pageant by the children and youth. More information will be sent to parents.

Also in the works are plans for holiday babysitting. On Saturday, December 2nd, parents will be able to drop off their children at the church at 1:00 pm where youth and adults will watch the children until 4:00 pm. This will give parents the opportunity to go shopping or just relax. Further details will be forthcoming.

Lee Lohr, Director of Christian



New Sign

After many years of discussion, Avon Lake Presbyterian Church will be updating the church sign. A modern LED with a classic ID top will be installed that will allow us many advertising features using today's technology. We are hopeful to have the new sign prior to the Christmas season but that will be a very tight timeline.

Sign \$ 24,995

Electrical 500

Masonry 500

Total \$ 25,995



How can we afford this new sign at this time?

We have had a sign fund for a few years and it contains approximately \$12,000. If you would like to help defray the balance of the cost, please place an envelope with your check in the offering and be sure to mark 'Sign' on the memo line and on the envelope. After contributions from the congregation, the balance will be paid from the stock gift we received earlier this year.

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women Fall Rummage Sale

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Fall Rummage Sale and/or donated items! Our profit was nearly \$1,800. Thank you especially to Jackie Day and her team who organized and oversaw the event. You might have heard in church that we will not have a rummage sale in the spring. We are returning to the practice of an annual rummage sale. For the past two sales, we haven't had as many items donated as in previous sales and these sales are a lot of work. Thank you also to everyone who baked for the bake sale. We appreciate everyone who has supported the rummage sale/bake sale.

Lee Lohr, PW Moderator



Next Summer's Mission Trip to Houston

Summer 2018 Youth Mission Trip—June 10-16

As many of you know the city of Houston, Texas was severely devastated this past August as Hurricane Harvey ripped through there. Many people were left without power and a home to go back to. Summer of 2018, we have decided to partner with Next Step Ministries again and head down to Houston! The trip will be June 10th-16th. Youth 7th grade through 12th grade are welcome to join us! A sign up will be placed on the youth bulletin board outside of the CE and Youth Office. Be on the lookout for ways you can support us as we fundraise and prepare for this trip!

Please email **Lauren Vann** with any questions at lvann@avonlakepc.org

Stewardship

Stewardship Sunday is November 19

Leading up to this Sunday, is a time to prayerfully consider your pledge for 2018. Or is it? Is the advice of God sought as we determine our giving for the year?

At times in my life, the giving amount and commitment was incredibly easy. For a four-year period of time, I tithed 20% of my income. Ten cents of my fifty cent allowance went in the offertory plate from ages seven to ten. It was a big sacrifice, since that dime could have bought either two candy bars, two packs of Topps baseball cards or a Batman comic book. At that time, my giving amount was dictated by the recommendation of my mother. God was not consulted.

At other times in my life, I used the “bumping up” approach to giving. I looked at what I gave in a calendar year and bumped it up by the amount of my salary increase or some other irrelevant factor. Again, God was not consulted and the Bible was not sought for guidance. The needs of the church were not considered.

Then there was a time I wrote down my take home pay and started deducting expenses to see what was left for charitable giving. I never thought to deduct church contributions before deducting other expenses.

The point in sharing my past giving activities with you is to show how many different motives and approaches come into play in determining our giving commitments. Worldly factors such as financial security, “prudent” planning, pride, fear and doubt may obscure our true role as stewards and overshadow biblical directives.

If we truly believe that our money is, in fact, God’s money and we are merely the stewards and if we believe exactly what God commands us to give as stated in the Bible, our giving choice is clear.

Dan Maloney, Stewardship Chair



Congregational Care Ministry

What is the Congregational Care Ministry?

The Congregational Care Ministry was created to assist Pastor Charlie so that all members are remembered and loved not only in moments or seasons of distress, but in ordinary times, and days of celebration. It is our goal to have each member assigned a congregational care friend or, as we refer to them, a CCF. A CCF is a friend who has a trusting relationship with its member. Members can call on their CCF in crisis knowing they will be responded to with care and confidentiality. The CCF is equipped to both befriend that person and to connect them with the resources of the church.

Through various forms of contact, the CCF regularly offers support and friendship to their people. Our tools are: listening, empathy, encouragement and prayer. These are powerful tools that are given to us by Jesus to bring his love to each other.

Is this something that you are interested in or moved by? I ask that you pray and reflect upon this request as we are still in need of members who are good listeners, who are compassionate and enjoy visiting people (sickness or just checking in) to become a CCF. Please contact Bernadette Barnes at bbarnes03@icloud.com or 440-320-4337.



On behalf of the Deacons, help us “to provide Christly care as we minister to one another”.

Mission Matters

It's not too late to be a part of the 11/4 Mini mission trip to Lorain to build a ramp for a recent amputee. Contact Beth Janis 440-522-1771 or Lauren Vann 919-809-2155.

Help us put Thanksgiving dinner on the table! We are collecting non-perishable ingredients for the side dishes to serve at Thanksgiving dinner. The donations will be delivered to CRS for families in Avon and Avon Lake. We will be accepting donations beginning 11/4 through 11/20. Questions may be directed to Beth Janis 440-522-1771 or any mission committee member.



Suggestions:

Canned : green beans, (creamed soups) corn, sweet potatoes, yams, carrots, potatoes, pumpkin, applesauce, pickles, olives, gravy, evaporated milk or sweetened condensed milk (for pie), assorted fruit including cranberries and pie filling.

Packaged: stuffing mix, dried bread cubes, pie crust mix, corn bread mixes, other bread mixes, instant potatoes (mashed or au gratin etc.) Mac n cheese, Jell-O and pudding mixes.

Dessert items-non perishable: cookies, pudding cups, chocolates.

Speaking of Thanksgiving...our special offering this year will again be earmarked for ALPC Lunch Bunch Lunches. For the past few years we have designated funds to provide lunch to well over 100 guests monthly. We see familiar faces and new guests each season. (Snow birds/sun birds) And to top it off, we almost always have the chance to serve lunch to the "senior" group from Murray Ridge. Our donations will cover food costs, condiments, beverages and paper products that are not covered by our ALPC benefactors, LCM, or Second Harvest. If you would like to support this mission, please make a note on your check or envelope "Lunch Bunch" . The Kiosk is available as well.

Have you ever seen 100,000 meals in one place? Have you ever helped package that many meals for shipment to Nairobi, Kenya, Africa? Have you helped children Not become orphans? Well you have the opportunity to do just that on Saturday, November 18th at Bay High School. **600 volunteers** are needed, so how about signing up your neighbors and friends, too. There are 2 shifts for volunteers. 12-1:30 and 1:30-3:00. **All ages are welcome.** What a great community service project for kids! Please see the flyers and postcards in the foyer for all the details for registration and CARE FOR AIDS the group co-coordinating the mission. Carolyn Rose is our ALPC contact for this event.



Don't forget– **Our Thanksgiving Lunch Bunch lunch is Thursday, November 16th 11:30-1:00.** Please feel free to come and help, have some delicious lunch and spend time with new and old friends. Beth Janis 440-522-1771.

Operation Christmas Child

For most people, Christmas is a season of celebration. It is a time to celebrate the birth of our Savior, and celebrate our friends and family. For some, it is merely another day on the calendar. Samaritan's Purse decided to take action to change this and created an event called Operation Christmas Child. This event exists as an opportunity to share the Gospel in places over seas where the name of Jesus has never been heard. During the months of October and November many churches and organizations partner with Operation Christmas Child and create shoeboxes filled with hygiene products, toys, activities, candy, etc.. All packed together on a mission to share the Gospel. This year, we have decided to join the mission and put together shoeboxes as well.



We will be collecting items to be placed in shoeboxes from October 15th-November 19th. You can choose to donate items to be placed in the shoeboxes and drop them off in the CE and Youth Office, or you can pick up shoeboxes in the Narthex and fill them yourself. Packed shoe boxes can be dropped off in the CE and Youth Office as well, along with a donation of \$9 per box to cover shipping costs.

Please email **Lauren Vann** with any questions at lvann@avonlakepc.org

Worship & Spiritual Life News



Happy fall! Finally a reprieve from the intense heat and just in time to start planning our Advent and Christmas worship services! We have lots of opportunities for you to be involved and would love to hear from you...

And, speaking of Advent and Christmas...we will again be lighting the candles on the advent wreath as part of our preparation for Jesus' birth. This is an excellent way for individuals, families or other groups to participate in worship. If you would like to read and light the candles, please contact a member of the WSL committee! Did you know that Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year? We have decided to have three services that day. At 10 AM, we will celebrate with the Christmas story, and at 7:30 PM and 11:00 PM, we will celebrate

with our traditional candle-lighting service. We'll let you know more details as they develop, including ways that you can be involved!

It is a tradition at ALPC to honor all saints that have passed away during the past 12 months on the closest Sunday to All Saints' Day, which is November 5th this year. Please contact Cindi in the church office (933-6240) with the names and pictures of your loved ones so that we can remember them in worship on All Saints' Sunday.

The mission of the Worship & Spiritual Life committee is to help our congregation worship and grow together with God. One way we do this is by making sure our environment helps us connect with God, and with each other.

We have been blessed for many years to have Janet Hukill decorate our sanctuary every Sunday with banners, flowers, and candles. Janet has decided to step down from this role, but will continue on as a member of our committee. We are thankful for Lynn Campsey-Clutter and Barb Lehmkuhl, who have volunteered to take on this important task. If you are interested in being part of their team, please contact them, or any WSL committee member. Procedures are available!



Another way our committee helps in our spiritual growth is to prepare the communion elements for the 1st Sunday of each month. Again, after years of serving in this role, Kathy Navarro has decided to step down, as she had agreed to an even bigger role in the life of our church, Clerk of Session. Dave Brunner has graciously agreed to coordinate this group going forward, and even act as substitute communion preparer. Currently, our communion preparation group consists of 2 teams, the Linsons and, new recruits, the Uhls. We would love to add at least 1 or 2 additional individuals, couples, families or other church groups to this task so that each will be responsible for communion prep only 3-4 times per year (or less). Would you like to be a part of sharing the spirit and helping us to remember how Christ died for us? Feel free to discuss any questions you might have with Dave Brunner, Kathy Navarro, Wayne or Sue Linson, or any WSL committee member. Procedures and hands on training are available!

Have you ever assisted in worship, ushered, greeted or served coffee and lemonade on Sunday morning? If so, you were "scheduled" by a team, led by Ruth Weeks, including Nancy Albrecht, Lynn Morway and JoAnn Wainscott. After many years leading this team, Ruth has decided to step down from her leadership role, though she will remain a key member of the team, and JoAnn Wainscott will rotate in as leader.

If you have an interest in contemporary worship, please let Margre Lind Mills, or any WSL committee member know. We are planning an assessment session in preparation for understanding how to relaunch this ministry with a new worship leader. We have a year of great experience and significant learning to draw from, and would also love to hear your thoughts and ideas.

Last, we are constantly striving to make our worship experience even better, so please do not hesitate to give us your thoughts, concerns, ideas and suggestions. We'd love to hear from you!

The Worship and Spiritual Life Committee,

Margre Lind Mills, Dave Brunner, Chris Chase, Muriel Homer, Janet Hukill, Beth Shoemaker,
Pastor Charlie, Marcy Uhl and Ruth Weeks.



Avon Lake Presbyterian Church's **CORNERSTONE PRESCHOOL**

October Newsletter

A few things we are learning in preschool!



Culinary Arts



Mathematics



Abstract Art



It's hard to believe that Fall is here. We have been so fortunate to have great weather for lots of outside play. It seems like our preschoolers can't get enough of the playground: swinging, running... climbing, and sliding. As faculty, it's amazing for us to see how they've already grown so much in the past two months. Thank you for sharing your children with us!



Rocket Science



Social Development



Anatomy

The beginning of a school year is such a busy time: the children are getting used to a new routine, meeting new friends, and separating from home. All the children have been doing awesome. Sometimes there are a few tears, but once they realize it's going to be a lot of fun, those tears dry right up!



Customer Service



Forest Research



Engineering

Coach Craig is back at Cornerstone starting November 3rd with Sports Camp. You can sign up online at www.preschoolsports.org.

Please feel free to stop in with any questions, concerns, or feedback: my door is open.

*Warm Regards,
Julie Erker, Preschool Director*



Hallelujahween
 October **30th** 6:30pm-7:30pm
 Avon Lake Presbyterian Church & Cornerstone Preschool
 Ages Thru 6th Grade Welcome!
 Indoor Trick-Or-Treating, Snacks, Drinks, & Fun!

There's No Place Like Cornerstone!

We had a wonderful time at the Avon Lake Homecoming Parade. The kids had a lot of fun riding on the float and throwing candy to the spectators. Thank you... Thank you... Thank you to Morgan McDonough, Shelly Hyland & Melissa Glynn for designing and constructing the Cornerstone float. It was AMAZING!!!!!!



Important Dates:

- Oct. 11- Marco's Pizza Night**
- Oct. 11/12- Parent/Teacher Conferences**
- Oct. 13- NEOEA Day (no school)**
- Oct. 30-Hallelujahween indoor trick-or-treating**
- Oct. 30 & 31- Class Halloween Parties**
- Nov. 13-14- Picture Day**
- Nov. 15- Donuts with Dad**

I want to thank you for participating in the *Stoller Pastry* Fundraiser. I am happy to announce we made close to \$2000. This money will go towards family engagement events and activities at Cornerstone. Thank you for your support!

Avon Lake Presbyterian Church

Officers for 2017-2018

Class of:

2020	Bernie Barnes
2018	Shawn Brunner
2020	Julie Burr
2018	Michael Ciarrone
2020	Mackenzie Kneiss
2019	Megan Kumler
2019	Sue Maloney
2018	Bill Marshall
2019	Terry Robison
2017	Carolyn Rose
2019	John Weeden
2018	Mike Reighard

Deacons

bbarnes03@icloud.com	
shawnbrunner@mjb-financial.com	
julie@atlantanewhomesdirectory.com	Treasurer
michaelciarrone@gmail.com	
mackk4200@gmail.com	
meganmae126@icloud.com	
smaloney311@gmail.com	
bmarshallpsu@gmail.com	
nittany_77@yahoo.com	
carolynwilderose21@gmail.com	Co-Moderator
weedenwaterproofing@gmail.com	Co-Moderator
mikeboater23@gmail.com	

Board Duties

Elders

2019	David Burr	ddb3322@gmail.com
2018	Jackie Butrey	jgb363@aol.com
2018	Cheryl Dean	dbm_games@yahoo.com
2020	Paul Haggerty	haggerty3@gmail.com
2019	Kathy Hamilton	kmhamilton@centurylink.net
2018	Jay Knox	JayKnox35@gmail.com
2019	Kathy Leopold	leapinleok@hotmail.com
2018	Larry Madson	lmadson@roadrunner.com
2019	Dan Maloney	maloneyd00@gmail.com
2020	Margre Lind Mills	lind-mills@oh.rr.com
2020	Marcy Uhl	muhl0710@oh.rr.com
2020	Matt Wendling	matthewt.wendling@energizer.com

Committee

Property
Stewardship
Finance
Evangelism
Christian Education
Christian Education
Mission
Property
Stewardship
Worship
Worship
Human Resources

Trustees

2018	Paul Selvage	selv@oh.rr.com
2019	Jim Janis	jjambo_us@yahoo.com
2020	Tim Strauch	TFStrauch@aol.com

Mini Mission in Lorain



Mini-Mission Trip—Nov. 4, 2017 9am-5pm

A local Lorain County woman and her brother are in need of a wheelchair ramp. On November 4th we will be partnering with Next Step to build this family a wheelchair ramp. Anyone is welcome to come and help. Funds to complete the project have already been arranged. Sign up on the Youth bulletin board outside of the CE and Youth Office. (Participating in this project is not limited to the youth only!)

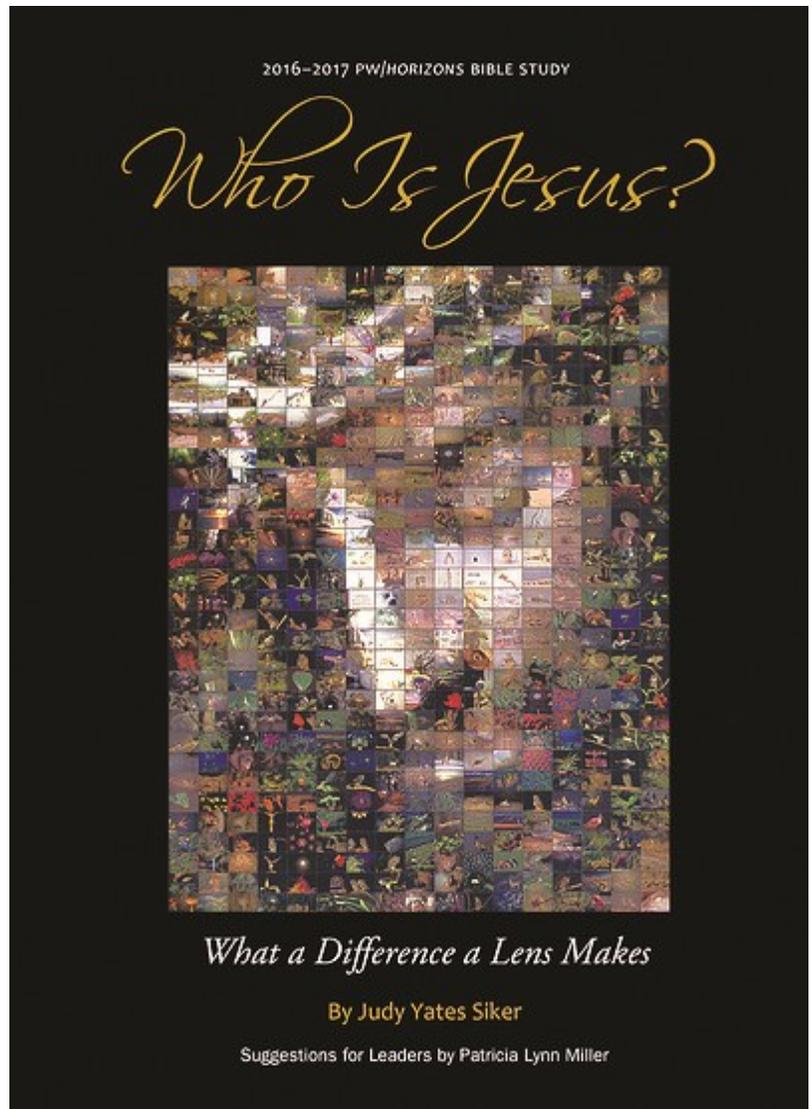
Please email **Lauren Vann** with any questions at lvann@avonlakepc.org



Circle of Hope Invitation

Presbyterian Women's Horizons Bible Study, Who Is Jesus

Starting in January, the Circle of Hope will be discussing the Horizons Bible Study, *Who Is Jesus?* It consists of 9 parts; what we learn about Jesus from 1. Mark, 2. Matthew, 3. Luke, 4. John, 5. Paul, 6. the Book of Hebrews, 7. the non-canonical gospels, 8. other Abrahamic faiths, and 9. contemporary cultural interpretations. Hope Circle meets on the third Wednesday of every month at 9:30 a.m. We would like to invite all members of the church to join us. We will be ordering the books early in December. Regular print costs \$8, large print costs \$12. If you have any questions or would like a book, please contact Ruth Weeks, rtwrr@aol.com or 440-895-0714.



Avon Lake Presbyterian Church
32340 Electric Blvd.
Avon Lake, OH 44012
Return Service Requested

Sunday Worship

Worship at 10:00 am

Youth & Children's Sunday School at 10:15 am

(440) 933-6240

www.avonlakechurch.com

www.facebook.com/avonlakepc

alpresby@avonlakepc.org

Pastor	Charles E. Swartz
Pastor Emeritus	Alfred A. Hart
Custodian	Jessica Hughett
Director of Christian Education	Lee Lohr
Director of Music	Muriel Homer
Director of Youth Ministries	Lauren Vann
Financial Secretary	Lynn Morway
Lock-up Custodian	Ed Homer
Office Administrator	Cindi Dansizen
Social Media Director	Julie Burr
Treasurer	Marcy Uhl
Director of Preschool	Julie Erker