

Saints Alive!

Volume 16, Issue 7
October, 2018
"Friends in Christ, Serving
Together with Love"



**Avon Lake's Homecoming Parade
Saturday, September 29, meet at Bleser at 9:15**

**Youth Group
Every Sunday night beginning with
dinner at 6:00 pm**

**Journey Renewal
Small Group Discussion after worship
On October 7**

Teacher Appreciation October 21st

**LCM Pasta Dinner
Saturday, October 20, 5:00—7:00 pm**

**Community Lunch Bunch
Thursday, October 18, 11:30 am—1:00 pm**

**Presbyterian Women Sponsored
Rummage and Bake Sale
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
October 24, 25 & 26**

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.

A Word from Pastor Charlie



Dear Friends,

Is it an easy thing to hear God? If a pastor tells you it is, he is a huckster. In the Bible we see over and over again the difficulty of hearing God's message. Think of the stories in which people have a clear vision from God. Elijah had to be out by himself for many weeks before he heard God's voice. Moses was by himself for years in the wilderness before he saw the vision of the burning bush. Jesus our Lord and inspiration, who was intimate with God the Father and filled with the Holy Spirit, even he had to go off for forty days to find God's vision before he started his ministry. God frustrates our need to get quick answers through His slow, faint, purposely quiet voice.

That is frustrating! God frustrates me by the way he makes me listen, listen, wait, study, listen, wait, study, as he slowly, oh so slowly (like a three toed sloth trying to cross a road slow) as he reveals his plans to me. Does he frustrate you? Are you frustrated that it is taking forever for the Renewal team to give you what our future plans are? I think many have become impatient with the whole God-slow experience.

Why impatient? Because we are anxious about our future, we do not like it that some families have left in the last year, or that we have fewer youth and children involved. We want to change that, and change it now. I get it, I understand. We do not want to waste any time and get right to the needed things to do that will bring more light, life, energy, people, hope, GOD into our midst." So come on already and give us the plans, the programs, which we expect this renewal deal will give us!" we say.

I hear you. Let me explain how you can help. As I write this, the renewal team has been sharing the vision which the vision panel wrote based on your ideas. It is being tested and adapted through feedback. On October 7 after worship, you will be invited to sit down with the renewal team and share how you hear God's will for our church expressed through the vision. You will be asked how it could be stated clearer. You will be asked what the difference in our church would be made if the vision is followed. What you say will be listened to, recorded, and help us see that this truly is a community unifying vision. And if changes need to be made as we listen to God's slowly spoken voice spoken through each other, changes will be made. God will be heard.

After that, our leadership will identify the key results areas. Examples are "witnessing community" and "reconciling community" or "caring community." Our leadership will turn those into 5 year milestones or goals. An example for "We are a Caring Community" could be "All members and friends will feel cared for by their church family and no one will feel lost or forgotten." Then we the church will develop concrete activities that support and move us toward the Milestones. Deacons might say, "Well, we could really make that happen by doing" as could other groups like Prayer Shawl ministry, or the youth ministry. We will all get a chance to study the key results areas and see how we can make them happen.. And then, led by God's vision and Spirit, we will enact the plans to God's glory.

God's voice may seem sooo slooowwww. But it is fruitful. And faithful. And will lead us forward. Hang in there and get ready to act!

Your friend and pastor, Charlie

With Sympathy

*Thinking of you
at this sad time
and sending love*



Our Sympathy and prayers to the family of Ralph Nussle who died September 9. Ralph is the father of Susan, Patti and Herb Nussle, all former members of our church, and his former wife Carol Nussle.

Journey of Renewal



What's up with our Renewal?

Renewal is back in full swing this fall! Our Guiding Vision debuted at our Rally Day service and has been making appearances at other ALPC events ever since! This vision is a base for our church to build upon. It's the measuring stick we'll use when we decide what actions to take in the future. Because this document is so important to the future of our church, we're taking time this fall to make sure that everyone understands the process of Renewal and how this vision document is calling ALPC to act.

We'd love it if every member would spend a few quiet minutes reading and considering the Guiding Vision. Pastor Charlie has and will continue to help us all understand it during worship services. The Session spent part of their September meeting thinking about and discussing the Guiding Vision. And, our Beulah Beach sessions focused on bringing attendees closer to the Vision. It really is worth all this time and consideration.

In all of these venues, we've been asking, "What is this Vision calling us to become?" and "What difference can this Vision make in the life of our church?" We've heard that the Vision is calling us to be obedient to God, to create wholeness in our world, and to be a servant people. If you haven't been at one of these discussions, please ponder these questions and feel free to share your responses with the Renewal Team or with Pastor Charlie.

We're looking forward to hearing more responses to these questions at an event after worship on Sunday, October 7. Please plan to stay and share your thoughts. With everyone's input, we can create a stronger ALPC, where we have clarity of purpose, a greater sense of trust and unity, and common goals for future success.

Avon Lake Presbyterian Church

**Pastor Charlie Swartz; Clerk of Session, Beth Shoemaker
Committees 2018-2019**

Christian

Education Ministry

Charlie Swartz
Lee Lohr
Jay Knox

Julie Erker

Lynn Campsey-Clutter
Linda Swartz
Penny Helbig

Elder/
Moderator
Pastor/Ex-
officio
CE Director
Elder
Cornerstone
Director

Meets 1st Monday of each month

Elder

2018-2019 Committees

Finance and Endowment Committee

Susan Reighard	Elder/ Moderator	Meets after worship each Sunday
Marcy Uhl	Elder/ Treasurer	
Lynn Morway	Financial Secretary	Secretary
Bob Ralston		
Clay & Tammy Dusek		

Human Resources Committee

Matt Wendling	Elder/ Moderator	Meets sporadically
Charlie Swartz	Pastor/Ex- officio	
Tammy Dusek		
Terry Linick		
Carol Unger		
Carolyn Beeler		

Mission Ministry

Kathy Leopold	Elder	Meets 1st Monday of each month
Sue Mabe		
Marian Conn		
Beth Janis	Moderator	
Jenny Stryczny		
Jennifer Gavin		
Mandy Robison		
Carol Madson		

Nominating Committee

Kathy Leopold	Elder/ Moderator	Meets sporadically
Cindi Dansizen		
Joy Harris	Deacon	
Beth Shoemaker		
Jackie Day		

Presbyterian Women

Lee Lohr	Moderator	Meets sporadically
Secretary Janet Parker		
Treasurer Kathy Navarro		
Coordinator of Kitchen Beth Janis		
Coordinator of Mission Mon- ies Janet Parker		
Compassion Meals Cindi Dansizen		
Emergency Meals Kathy Navarro		
Sanctuary Decorating Lynn Campsey- Clutter		
Sanctuary Decorating Barbara Lehmkuhl		
Sunshine Sherry Spenzer		
Rummage Sale Team Jackie Day	Arlene Strauch	Marian Conn Pam Novak

2018-2019 Committees

Property Committee	Dave Burr Larry Madson Craig Shoemaker Jack Storm Artie Austin Rich Dunfee	Elder/ Moderator	Meets 1st Monday of each month
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Worship & Spiritual Life Committee	Margre Lind-Mills Charlie Swartz Marcy Uhl Muriel Homer Chris Chase Barbara Lehmkuhl Ruth Weeks Beth Shoemaker Dave Brunner	Elder/ Moderator Pastor/Ex-officio Elder Director of Music	Meets 1st Monday of each month
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Circle of Friends	Lee Lohr	Meets 4th Tuesday of each month
Circle of Hope	Ruth Weeks Susan Reighard	Meets 3rd Wednesday of each month
Circle of SMILES		
Healing Ministry	Arlene Strauch	Meets after worship each Sunday
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Carol Nussle	Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of ea mo
Ruth Circle	Carol Nussle	Meets 2nd Tuesday of each month
Sarah Circle	Sharon Call	
Serendipity Circle	Cindi Dansizen	Meets Sporadically

Stewardship Ministry	Jackie Butrey Barbara Schweitzer Sherry Spenser	Elder/ Moderator Elder	Meets sporadically
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Presbyterian Women



You're invited to the Fall Gathering of Presbyterian Women to hear from two women who went on the Church wide PW Global Exchange to Indonesia and from a nurse who visited Dougbe River [Presbyterian] School in Liberia. The theme is, "Mutually Encouraged by Each Other's Faith." (Romans 1:12)

Details: Saturday, November 3, 2018; 9:00 am – 1:30 pm (sign-in and coffee at 8:30 am); at Rocky River Presbyterian Church, 21750 Detroit Rd.; Lunch included; \$10.00 in advance, \$12.00 at the door. Flyers with registration forms will be on the information table in the foyer. Contact Lee Lohr (440-396-6593) with questions.

Lee Lohr for Presbyterian Women

PW Fall Rummage/Bake Sale

October 25 & 26, 2018

Thursday, Oct. 25th 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Friday, Oct. 26th 9:00 am-11:00 am (\$2-\$3 Bag Sale)

September and Fall are here! Always beautiful! So..... PW's rummage/bake sale is happening soon! Please mark your calendars. It is time to set aside gently used and **clean** items and donate to our largest fall fundraiser. You are the key to our success!!

Church members are invited to shop Wednesday, October 24th from 6-8 pm.

When donating, please:

Screen all items: Clothing condition- no stains or tears and definitely CLEAN. Please sort and label clothing by size and gender. Mark the **size** of any **bedding, curtains, tablecloths** and large rugs. It saves those working **SO MUCH TIME!!**

******* NO computers or TVs, or printers or monitors** - Small electronics should be labeled **"WORKS."** Household items, books and toys are welcome. Tools are welcome. Small furniture is ok. If you have a sofa etc. please take a photo, label it and we will post it at the sale.

*******Also, PLEASE consider baking for the **bake sale** on Thursday the 25th. Baked goods can be dropped off Wednesday evening, Oct. 24th in the kitchen or early Thursday morning, Oct. 25th, the day of the sale. Consider helping in Hart Hall with this huge and fun event! WE NEED HELP ALL WEEK !! Sign up on the orange poster in the lobby. Thank you.**

Our committee is in need of new volunteers to join us and bring new ideas.

Please contact Jackie Day 933-2183, Pam Novak 933-6771 or

Arlene Strauch 864-1862

The PW Women's Rummage Sale Team 2018

Jackie Day, Susan Bernard, Pam Novak, Arlene Strauch and Marian Conn



Healing Prayer Ministry



“CHOICE.” That’s one of the most powerful words in the English dictionary. Because of Jesus Christ, we HAVE a choice. We can choose God and live in His Kingdom OR we can choose to go it alone and continue to live in a very different place. Sometimes we forget we have a choice. We feel like a victim in an evil world that hurts. We feel powerless when nothing goes as we had planned. We feel hopeless when we lose the people and the things we care about. We feel overwhelmed when the physical and emotional pain is too much. We feel angry when all we can see is injustice and evil surrounding us. The GOOD NEWS – Jesus gives us a choice! We can look to God for a new plan; we can choose to let God remind us that we haven’t lost anything of ultimate value for nothing can separate us from His love and we will all

be united together with Him for eternity; we can choose to seek relief from the One who suffered greater pain than any of us; we can choose to remember that God has already defeated evil and justice WILL reign forever. This world is only temporary. The pain will only last for a day. When our eyes are on God and our lives are focused on the salvation and redemption of Jesus Christ, we can CHOOSE victory!

Every Sunday morning after the worship, service pray-ers are in the front of the sanctuary on the left side by the wheel chair ramp. We would love to pray with you to help you choose God and be victorious!

Submitted by Arlene Strauch on behalf of the Healing Prayer Ministry

Worship Committee

The new church year has begun with a successful Rally Day, and inspiring Renewal Service. The Bell and Chancel Choirs have started up and along with great music for the church season, plans are being made to have both choirs attend the Avon Lake Bicentennial Community Choir at the beginning of next year, more information to follow.

The Worship and Spiritual Life Committee is working on new goals for the coming year and is sincere in developing goals that help you experience Gods presence; and with new goals comes a budget that we must plan for, discuss and maintain.

Time never stops; conversation and plans have already begun on our different worship services; All Saints Day, Thanksgiving, Christ the King, Advent, and yes even Christmas Eve.

We are continuing to look for ways to involve youth in our worship service and feel it is important to have their voices heard as part of the congregation. With that in mind, we are looking into ways to maintain our Christian Education Program and still allow the youth to participate in worship.

And as always, we are working with so many wonderful volunteers to coordinate Sanctuary preparation, Communion preparation, Usher scheduling, Sound room and video operations, and all the small but special things that make our church unique and worthy for worshipping God. Thank You All!

Worship and Spiritual Life Committee



Mission

On October 14th, we will welcome Michele Gillum, Director of Lorain Cooperative Ministries, to share some information about Lorain Cooperative Ministries and upcoming events. LCM is a cooperative of churches that work together to help people in Lorain. Pastor Charlie and Mandy Robison are board members.



Lunch Bunch is Thursday October 18th. Help is needed Wednesday, October 17 and of course Thursday, October 18. Please call or email Kathy Navarro if you would like to be on the monthly volunteer email list or if you have questions about volunteering. 440-233-6214 or knavarro5@hotmail.com

October 7th is Peace and Reconciliation Sunday. ALPC has been promoting "Peacemaking Sunday" for decades. Have you noticed the peace pole in our gardens? It was planted in the 90's. We will be accepting donations to be shared with Presbyterian Missions and Neighborhood Alliance's "Senior Pantry." Please see the insert for more information regarding this special offering. Make a note on your donations, *peace*.



On November 4th and 11th, we will be collecting non perishable food donations with the upcoming holidays in mind. Items like: canned sweet potatoes, squash, dried potato mixes, canned fruit and vegetables or applesauce. How about raisins, dried cranberries, nuts, corn bread and stuffing mixes, and desserts? Canned pumpkin, evaporated milk, pumpkin pie spice, coffee or tea are also suggested. Of course any non perishable food is welcome. Questions: Beth Janis or Kathy Leopold.

It's time to remember our church family members that serve our nation in the military or Peace Corps. Mandy Robison is overseeing this mission again this year. If you would like to make a donation, simply mark your check or deposit with, *Thank-a-Soldier*. If you would like to include a family member, please email Mandy their name and address before November 4th.

mrobison450@gmail.com

Mission committee meets the 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 at church. Membership is optional, guests are welcome. Beth Janis 440-522-1771



Christian Education

The new program year is off to a good start. Rally Day was fun even though it rained and we had to be indoors. Thanks to the Deacons, Evangelism Committee, and Worship & Spiritual Life Committee for helping with food and activities!

The preschool Sunday school class has grown, which is wonderful! We've added elements to the program to hopefully make the Bible stories more interesting and memorable for the children. Of course, at that age, they enjoy having play time after the story and story-related activity.

We began using a new curriculum for the elementary school aged-children. *Grace and Gratitude* is published by our denomination. It is formatted to flow similarly to worship. It includes singing; prayer; imagining; Bible reading by the children; the story in language easy for the children to understand; reflections on the story; and related activities. What I like most about this curriculum is that it asks the teachers to share a life experience of their own related to the story, and the children are sent with something to think about or do during that week. For example, the first lesson was on the creation story in Genesis 2. It included that God told humans to take care of creation, so the children were asked to think of one thing they could do that week to take care of creation.

For adult Sunday school, we continue to have a class that discusses the Bible through current events using "The Wired Word" curriculum. However, one of the outcomes of our Renewal visioning was to have an additional option for adult Sunday school. CE will offer short-term studies on various topics so that adults may choose to attend depending on their interest. Upcoming topics will include, "The Great Ends of the Church," various books of the Bible, and "Advent in Narnia." Watch the Sunday bulletin and the weekly e-mails for details.

Jay and Leslie Knox have agreed to take the lead with our youth. They are coordinating a group of volunteers to share their interests and faith in Youth Sunday school and during Youth Group. Youth Sunday school is during worship. Youth Group meets on Sunday evenings from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm with dinner to start.

October 21st is **National Sunday School Appreciation Day!** We will have a brief recognition of our Sunday school teachers during worship and a cake reception after worship.

See you on Sundays!

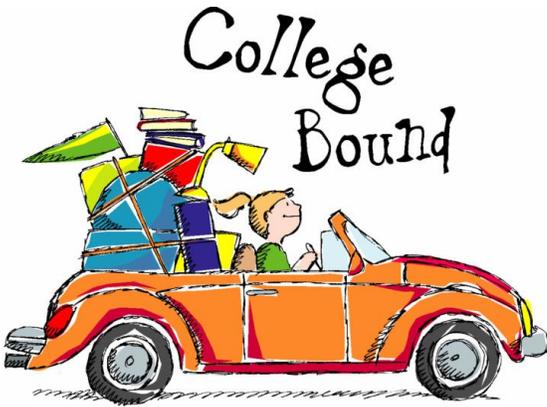
Lee Lohr
Director of Christian Education

It takes a big
heart
to help shape
little
minds.



As the Christian Education Committee continues its relationship with Cornerstone Preschool, a ministry of our church, we encourage the congregation to participate in the fourth annual Hallelujah-ween. Various stations are set up where church members sit and hand out candy to the children as they safely parade around the building in costume. Children of our church and their friends are also invited to trick-or-treat in this safe environment. The last three years were successful with about 75-85 children participating. Church members as well as the children had a fun time. If you are interested, watch the bulletins in the month of October for the date!

John Weeden, Deacon Co-Chair



It's early September 2018, and my wife and I just went through the strenuous process, physically and emotionally, of depositing three out of our four daughters across the world, at three very different colligate posts for the semester. Poor Georgia was left here, to look after Kristen and I, while the others are out expanding their minds!

My wife dropped Brie, our oldest, off at Kent State University to begin her Senior year, before heading off to a presently undeclared graduate school next year. Brie has established herself as a diligent hard working student, conscious with her budget, and has already experienced three full years with three different roommates and survived them all relatively unscathed.

Each time we drop her off at school, I can't help remembering her as that little skinny girl with reading glasses, standing there holding a book ...and although still emotional leaving her...we felt pretty good about this one.

Maddie was next....oh Maddie! Well we needed a big jet plane to deposit this one, as she is studying in Florence Italy for the semester as part of her Fashion Merchandising program at Kent State University. Maddie is beginning her third year at Kent, and like Brie, has proven that with enough push, she can do what it takes to succeed in a university setting...now is Florence Italy considered a university setting...who knows...that's yet to be seen I guess. Maddie busted her hump over this past summer saving the money she would need to survive while studying and traveling around Italy. So of course, in typical parental fashion, my wife and I pumped her full of great advice the day she left...make sure to budget your money dear, and remember why you're there...for your classes, not just sightseeing and wine tasting...and a lot more really, really good advice that no doubt, went in one ear then out the other.

The truth is, the words "Maddie" and "Advice" have never really mixed all that well...it's kind of like making granola...you pour some honey in the bowl and then a little vegetable oil and stir, and stir, and stir, and after several minutes it's clear, through visual inspection, the two were never really meant to be natural companions...the stirring, in this scenario, would be my wife and my repeated "advising." When I think about it though, what should we really expect? Maddie was the one, who on arriving at the bus stop on her first day of school in first grade, immediately looked at mom and dad, who stood emotional with camera in hand and said..."ok... you can go now." So although we were a little more nervous about this one, we had faith in her independence, and knew at the end of the day, Maddie would be just fine too.

Now our hearts were vulnerable letting the third one go. Lily had just graduated from Avon Lake High School and had decided to go down to The University of North Carolina in Wilmington... a campus on the beach!. Lily is sweet and sensitive, and just seemed too damn young to be moving so far away from the protection of the home that she's always known. Although weary, Kristen and I supported her decision to go, so we prayed as we got periodic updates on her hunt for a potential roommate, which she was searching for over social media. The process would start with a girls profile that would catch Lily's eye...something they had in common, similar tastes or interests maybe, someone that liked to have fun but wasn't a huge partier...Lily would message them, then wait for a response...sometimes it was quick....and sometimes it took a long time...and sometimes there would be no response at all..."what a heart breaking process," Kristen and I said to ourselves! All the while Lily wondering if the different girls liked her too...or if she had written the right words to accurately describe herself...or if her words were scaring the hell out of any potential roommate... she just didn't know.

Well, this process seemed to go on and on and on, as the Fall deadline for declaring a roommate got closer and closer. Our daughter, who was originally excited about this next step in her life, had become overwhelmed with the thought she may be entering her first year at a strange school, with no roommate whatsoever. She would message, then wait... message, then wait... but anyone who she would seem to click with, would ultimately fall through, for one reason or another. I can still hear my wife's voice, "pray she finds someone John...I'm getting worried." Then Kristen said, "I've been praying..." her face was filled with worry, as were both of our hearts.

So I would go to bed, and I would open my heart, in the best way I knew how, and I would pray....

With only a few days left before the university's deadline, Lily informed us that she had just meet a great girl online...her name was Hannah. Guarded, I exhaled a slight sigh of relief..."tell me about her." I said,...still cautious that Lily was about to get jilted again. Lily told me Hannah seemed really sweet! She also said that she grew up in Wilmington, so her family would be close by in case she needed anything..."Love it...Love it!" I thought to myself. Lily continued "she loves the beach, has a boyfriend, and isn't a huge partier..." "keep it coming!" I said to myself "I've got a good feeling about this one...I love this girl already!" my mental dialogue continued as Lily went on ..."and she has an older sister that can show us around the campus, she goes to UNCW too..." "Thank you God!" I silently exclaimed within my own head..."book her...book her quick!" again in my own head.

Lily has been at school for nearly a month now...and her new roommate Hannah seems to be a God send...so I look back and wonder...was she? Were our prayers actually answered? In this lifetime I'll probably never know exactly which of my prayers have actually been answered. I think that in itself, is an important element in a successful prayer...believing and opening yourself without really knowing. I think God knows how "factual" us physical folks are...and I think he has a full knowledge that we live in a world where "seeing is believing," but despite this uncertainty...even of his very existence, many of us, still open ourselves to him. I think he is pleased when we close our eyes and truthfully search for him from our place of uncertainty. I think he demands a truthful search too...truthful means we don't only run the words through our heads, but instead we run them through our hearts, and we do this with sincerity...with a pure intention. This can be a road block for many of us..."how do I feel something as I stand alone with my eyes shut... no different than staring a blackboard," you may think to yourself.

Well, when I pray, I run images of the person I'm praying for through my mind...In Lily's case I pictured her on the computer, searching for the right words to describe herself to a potential roommate. Then the most important part...within my own heart, I try to feel what she must have been feeling at that very moment...how she was fighting to describe herself as "worthy," as she searched for a roommate. How she must have felt wounded when potential roommates fell through, and how incredibly frightened she must have felt at the very real possibility of starting a brand new life in this strange place...totally alone.

That's opening your heart...with intention, taking on another's pain, or joy...truthfully fighting to feel it within your own heart. This in itself will open a door for you...within this door is the very place you search for God...this is the place you pray from...the place where your prayers are heard with an improved clarity, and if you do it enough times...a clarity to God's word begins to bubble up within your own heart...for me anyway, they don't come through as actual words, but more as a push from my heart, subtly at first and then as you continue to open yourself, a bit stronger...moving you to say something or do something for someone who may be in need. Following these pushes feels a bit strange at times. Sometimes I don't really understand the push at all, but through time I've learned to trust in it because a purpose always seems to unfold itself in the end.

It can be so hard in this fast paced world to pull yourself away from all the external distractions and daily obligations, and solely focus on another's heart through prayer...but this place I'm talking about, this place of stillness within your own heart, is literally the place where miracles can happen, a place where physical laws don't always dictate...this place where the pain or joy of another are willingly accepted on to ourselves holds unimaginable significance... yet sits idle within so many of our hearts...waiting...waiting for a truthful fight to expand itself... to be pushed beyond what most of our hearts typically feel. Strange doors absolutely open when we push ourselves to feel more. Miracles can happen when we truthfully pray...and when we do all that, when we pray with true intention and open hearts and our prayers remain unanswered...then what? Doesn't he feel my pain? Doesn't he love me? Oh course he does...he takes on every bit of our pain...as we feel it...at that very moment...feeling all that we do...never once leaving our side....

Do the unthinkable, and find the strength within yourself to keep praying, keep believing...don't allow an unanswered prayer to affect your faith, or the love in your heart.

Do the impossible and fight to find a purpose within your state, whatever it may be...open your heart again, and ask God for his direction within that...and ultimately, if your heart is open... it absolutely will unfold itself in the end...God's idea of your miracle may not be the same as yours.



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

Sunday Worship

Worship at 10:00 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
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