



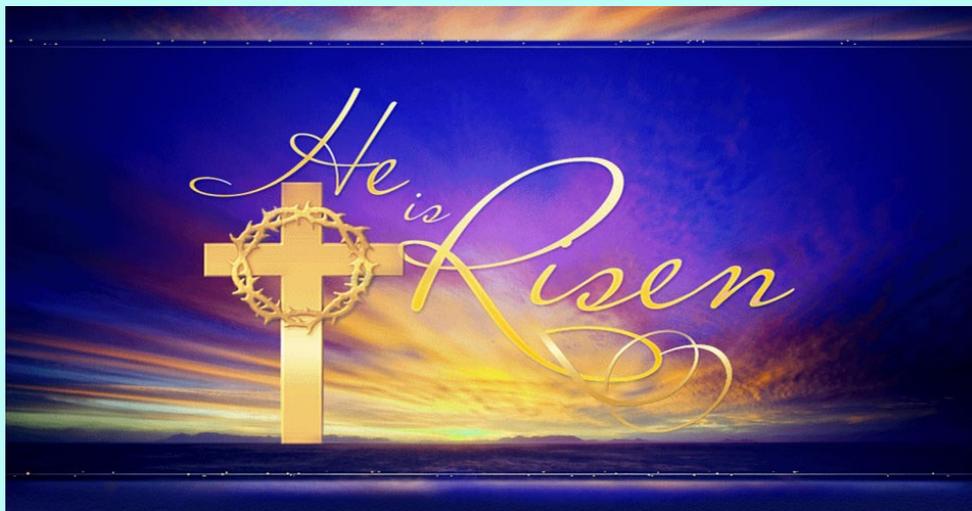
*Join us for Holy Week and Easter
Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service on April 18
7:30 p.m. Lord's Supper*

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*Good Friday Worship on April 19  
Noon here at ALPC*

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*Sunrise Easter Worship on April 21
on North Point Road in Avon Lake at 6:30 am
Easter Worship at 9:00 am and 11:00 am here at ALPC
Easter Breakfast at 10:00 am in Hart Hall*





FROM THE PASTOR/ Charlie Swartz

One of the visions of our Renewal is that our building is welcoming just as we are. As we are all too keenly aware, the state of our building has become shabby and rundown over the years. Through our community discernment came the clear voice that we need to apply attention to restoring our building. And it has begun.

Guided by our renewal vision, our Session created a maintenance position and hired an excellent man to fill it. We all believe that God sent Phil Stryczny to us. A retired fireman, a devout Christian, a friendly warm man, a life-long fixer, a guy who just loves to think through the solution to a physical problem, a worker that hustles the whole time he is on the clock, Phil is just what we need to help us make our building as welcoming as our hearts are.

In his first week, he took apart and fixed the old metal doors in the original portion of our facility. If you did not know it, the two bathroom doors slammed shut and hit the door frames. They were dangerous, especially to all our precious preschool children. They now swing smoothly and gently close properly into the door frames. This is just one example of how our new hire is working to improve our church experience.

If you are aware of something that is broken, needs attention, please fill out a brief job request form. They are available in the office and in the narthex on the information table. Just take the brief form, describe the problem and return it to the church office. As they come in, Phil and I look at them. We evaluate the job, determine the priority level, the level of complexity and cost. If it is a big job, then I share it with the chair of property and we collaborate on whether or not to do it and determine a time for the job. Cost, complexity, and benefit to the community are all considered as we make our decisions. At the beginning of each week, Phil and I sit down and go over his "punch list" for the week. Cindi, our office manager, is apprised of what he is doing and when in order to coordinate his work with any activities in the church.

Have you noticed the permanent shade structure installed on our playground? My guess is that you have not seen it, not because you have not looked, but because it has such a minimalist design that it is not apparent unless you are right upon it. But when you stand under it, you are sheltered from the sun and are in a gracious space, a space that will enhance children's enjoyment of our "Ark" play structure. We are now in full compliance with the state codes.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Charlie

Work Order Request Form
Place in Property Committee Mailbox

Date: _____

What needs to be done: _____

Requested By: _____

Phone# _____

For Property Committee Use

Date Completed: _____

How was work accomplished? By whom? _____

Informal _____ Property _____ Pro Needed _____

Cost _____

Additional Information _____

Janitor wanted



Avon Lake Presbyterian Church is seeking a part-time janitor to clean our church and preschool

12 hours per week on a flexible schedule.

Send application to

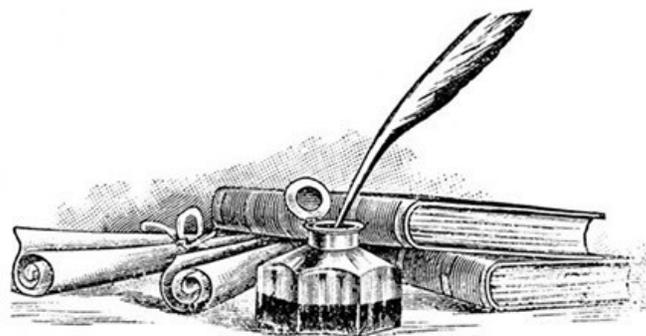
ALPC.HumanResources@gmail.com

before April 15, 2019.

Session Highlights

The Session met on March 18. Highlights of their meeting were:

- * Received training on the SMART method of goal setting (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-based).
- * Were updated on the collection of ideas for implementing the eight Key Result Areas identified during the Renewal process.
- * Learned that the members of the Renewal Coordinating Team are going to meet with every committee to assist them with clarifying goals and actions.
- * Decided to keep the Presbytery's allocation of our mission contribution the same.
- * Pastor Charlie reported on the interfaith prayer vigil held in Solon for the New Zealand shooting, and how grateful the Cornerstone family who invited us are that some of us came.
- * The HR Committee is looking for new venues for advertising the Social Media Administrator position.
- * The job description for a Director of Children's Discipleship was approved.
- * HR will develop an overarching vision for a comprehensive Christian Education ministry.
- * Our new maintenance custodian, Phil Stryczny, has been doing a great job.
- * The Property Committee will prioritize the work orders people submit for tasks to be done around the church.
- * Our janitor, Jessica Hughett, has submitted her resignation. May God bless her in her new situation!
- * The flyer for handing out at parades has been redesigned.
- * Paul Haggerty's resignation from Session was accepted with regret.
- * The Rise Against Hunger event will be postponed till next year due to funding.
- * Next Step staff arrive on May 25, and the larger groups they host will be staying in Lorain.



Elizabeth Shoemaker, Clerk of Session

Easter flowers for the Sanctuary



Easter is a beautiful season from the maker of all things beautiful. To celebrate the joy of Christ's resurrection Easter morning, potted spring flowers will adorn our worship service. If you would like to order flowers for our Easter celebration, please do. Several Sundays before Easter you will find a "flower order" insert in the Sunday bulletin. The flower will be yours to take home after the 11:00 am service on Easter.

Christian Education



April 14 is Palm Sunday. As is our tradition, the children will gather before the worship service in the Christian Education (CE) foyer to get their palms. They will process through the sanctuary waving their palms during the opening hymn. We hope to have all of our children present for the palm parade. On Easter Sunday, there will be two services with breakfast in between. The CE Committee is preparing goody bags to distribute to the children during breakfast. Childcare will be available during both services. We will not have Sunday school during the first service.

Another tradition at Avon Lake Presbyterian Church is to have the Elders of Jazz lead worship with their music on the Sunday after Easter. The children enjoy this service so we will not have Sunday school for the elementary school aged children. Preschool children will have the option to stay in the service or come to Sunday school.



Lee Lohr, Director of Christian Education

Presbyterian Women

Did you know that you are invited to attend gatherings of Presbyterian Women in The Presbytery of the Western Reserve and PW in the Synod of the Covenant? PW in our presbytery will hold its' Spring Gathering on Saturday, April 27 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm (includes lunch) at Lyndhurst Community Presbyterian Church. The theme is *Earth Care Stewardship*. The cost is \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. Flyers with information and a registration form are available on the information table in the narthex.

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Covenant will hold its annual gathering on July 12-13, 2019 at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Columbus, Ohio. Featured keynoters and workshop leaders will include Eugenia Gamble, author of the 2019-2020 Horizons Bible Study, *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*; Diane Moffett, Presbyterian Mission Agency Executive Director; and Hannah Estabrook, expert on Human Trafficking. Early registration fee is \$90 (includes meals and programs). Late registration fee is \$110. Special hotel rates are available.

For more information, contact Lee Lohr (LeelaAnn60@gmail.com or 396-6593). If you are interested in being part of the Avon Lake PW Coordinating Team, please contact me. Your input would be welcome. Thank you!

Lee Lohr for Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women's Fairy Garden Tea



Mother's Day-Fairy Garden TEA—Please put Saturday May 11th on your social calendar NOW! That is the date Presbyterian Women's annual TEA will be take place in Hart Hall from 11-1PM. A light luncheon will be served and the fan favorite, our marvelous auction, will be held. Please be thinking about what you can donate for this fun event. You all have a special skill or service that can be donated, such as, a free night of baby-sitting, a home-made birthday cake for someone, concert or ball game tickets a couple would enjoy, a flat of fresh spring flowers, a gift basket for a family movie night. Use your imagination! Raffle tickets will be 75 cents each. All proceeds go to PW missions. Tickets for the Fairy Garden TEA will be \$10 each and will be on sale closer to the time of the event. Ask your mom, mother-in-law, sister, aunt, cousin, grandmother and granddaughter! Come one and all to the event of the spring! See you there!

Healing Prayer Ministry

In the beginning of God's Word, God tells us a story about creating man and woman in His image so that He could enjoy them and live with them forever. But they weren't exactly like Him. They were able to reason, relate to Him and the other children, and use their free will to make decisions for themselves but they weren't omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent. They were limited in their abilities so God needed to take care of them and guide them. And God did and everything was GOOD! But then a liar came into the picture and told them a lie and they chose to believe the liar instead of God and that was the end of paradise. The liar said "You will not die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (Genesis 3:4,5)

What if this whole life on earth is all about LEARNING how to identify THAT lie and all the other lies the liar keeps whispering in our ear. What if this whole life is all about LEARNING how to turn away from the evil one and choose God – to reject the lies and embrace the TRUTH. The liar said we wouldn't die. Well, we do die and we have to endure the pain our body experiences as it goes through the process of dying. The liar said we would know good and evil. Well we're seeing in this country the more we ignore God and go it alone, the more confused we become. And even WITH God's help we're often perplexed. We might think it's a **good** thing to warn our daughter-in-law about the dangers of what she's doing and then we wonder why she runs away anytime we try to get close.

We are not equipped to be God. That wasn't what we were created for. We were created to be God's children; to love Him with all of our heart, soul, strength and mind and trust Him to be in charge. **He only gave us control of our own heart, soul and mind and when we try to control anyone else's, we mess things up.** The GOOD NEWS – Jesus came to redeem all our messes and to give us as many chances as we need to LEARN! And as we learn to trust God, becoming more and more dependent on the redemption and salvation of Jesus Christ and the counsel of the Holy Spirit, we find ourselves living more and more in the Kingdom of God!

Every Sunday after worship, there are a couple of pray-ers at the front of the sanctuary on the left side by the wheel chair ramp who would love to pray with you. We are always seeking to reject the liar's fear and embrace God's truth filled with love, peace, and hope. We would love for you to join us.

Submitted by Arlene Strauch on behalf of
the Healing Prayer Ministry

EVERY MOMENT IS AN OPPORTUNITY
FOR HOLINESS.
LEARNING TO GRASP THESE OPPORTUNITIES
**ONE MOMENT AT A TIME
IS CENTRAL TO
THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.**

—MATTHEW KELLY, *The Biggest Lie in
the History of Christianity*

Mission Matters

Thank you for "Sharing Your Luck" by donating taxable items for CRS and our neighbors. We will continue to collect these types of items periodically throughout 2019.

One Great Hour of Sharing is Palm Sunday! (April 14th) This is a Presbyterian Church USA special offering that supports Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Programs and Self-Development of People. It is a way to reach out to neighbors near and far. There is an envelope in your offering box designated for OGHS. You may also make a notation on your check OGHS or donate online. Besides the flyer in your bulletin, you may visit <http://specialofferings.pcusa.org/oghs> for details about this giving opportunity.



This Easter, we are asking for donations to continue to provide delicious, "homemade" lunches for our community. The cost of providing a monthly lunch is \$300-\$400 which includes all the food, beverages and tableware for 125-150 diners. (some ingredients are provided by Second Harvest). We are blessed to be able to offer this no cost meal to anyone wishing to attend. ***We cannot do that without your help.*** Please use the Easter offering envelope or note, "Lunch Bunch" on your check to support this great outreach. Special thanks to members that help with donations on a regular basis. If you are on a tight budget but have some time to spare, please consider volunteering to help with Lunch Bunch Lunches on the 3rd Wednesday or Thursday of each month. And remember everyone is welcome!



part of the family

Staying home for "Spring break" this year? How about going through your closets for spring clothes to donate to Leon's clothing pantry hosted at St. John UCC, Lorain. ***They just need spring season, clean, practical clothing.*** Donations may be dropped off the week of Sunday 4/28 only. Drop off location TBA.

In case you are wondering what do I do with outdated or un-used medication? You may drop off prescription or over the counter pills 24-7 no questions asked at police departments in Amherst, Avon, Avon Lake, North Ridgeville Sheffield Village, etc. For your privacy sake, they ask that you remove labels from the bottles. ***Also, there are some quick references guides on the table in the foyer with resources for anyone dealing with addiction in our area.***

We're looking for photos from past mission trips. If you have any to share (we can make copies if needed) please contact Beth Janis bjanis1383@gmail.com or Kathy Leopold leapinleok@hotmail.com.

Mission Opportunities in May:

Cash donations for the summer food program for kids provided by CRS. This is a combined effort of Avon Lake churches which helps insure that children that depend on school lunches during the school year have enough to eat over the summer break.

NEXT Step interns arrive in Lorain County Memorial Day Weekend.

Financial Report

Year to date through February, we have excess receipts over expenditures of around \$7,000.00. One reason for this is that there were unfilled staff positions for the part-time maintenance director and the social media coordinator. It is also because year-to-date giving is higher due to some members having paid their 2019 pledges in full.

	Mar YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income:		
Congregational Giving	\$61,481	\$54,580
Other Income	<u>5,946</u>	<u>6,250</u>
Total Income	\$67,427	\$60,830
Expense:		
Worship & Spiritual Life	\$19,819	\$21,624
Christian Education	223	1,438
Stewardship & Mission	924	966
Property	9,753	7,108
Support Staff & General Expenses	19,240	24,388
Youth Mission Trip (deposits)	(1,587)	1,000
Per capita Expense	<u>11,765</u>	<u>11,506</u>
Total Expense	\$60,137	\$68,030

Susan Reighard, Finance Committee

Evangelism Committee

The Evangelism Committee has sent approximately 60 letters to new residents of Avon and Avon Lake. These letters contain a cover letter signed by Pastor Charlie and our program pamphlet with information about our church. Although there is little response from the letters, we will continue the mailing as it can be a positive and welcoming influence for the community.

The Committee has also planned a postcard which will be sent to some of the members of our church whom we have missed seeing for a while. The postcard will have an inclusive message to let them know they are loved, cared for, and that we hope they will be able to join us for worship.

Transportation to Church is important and Evangelism will get a list of those needing transportation and those willing to provide that kindness to help members attend our worship services and perhaps other activities.

A suggestion was made to send a Birthday card to each member of the church. Members will be asked to write their Birthday date on the Friendship Pad and a record of all birthdays will be kept in the office. Pastor Charlie will sign the card and perhaps include a personal message. This will be a special way to let every member know we care.

The next meeting for the Evangelism Committee will be Sunday April 14, 2019 at 11:30a.m. in Pastor Charlie's office. We would love to have you join us.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Graves



Worship & Spiritual Life



Can you believe that we are almost halfway through Lent already? For some of us the strains of “Silent Night” have barely faded away. Our Lenten season began with a quiet, candlelit, meditative Ash Wednesday service. Since the theme of Ash Wednesday and Lent is penitence and becoming closer to God we each went forward and burned a piece of paper on which we had written an unloving behavior as a symbol of giving that trait to God to help us change. Each week during Lent, Pastor Charlie will have a sermon addressing the list of key result areas in our renewal journey. His Tuesday night studies will correlate with his sermons.

This year, our Holy Week will Biblically be a little different. We have decided to use the scriptures from the gospel of John, which has not been our custom in the past. This account is so beautifully full of the love of Jesus for his disciples and all of human race. We will be celebrating Palm Sunday with the traditional waving of palms to relive the feeling of Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem. On Maundy Thursday, we will observe the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples, followed by a Tenebrae service filled with scripture readings, music by both choir and congregation and the dimming of lights and extinguishing of candles to signify the last day in Jesus life, as felt by Jesus and his disciples, and his impending death. On Good Friday, we will continue with the scriptures that finish the story of the crucifixion. Then, of course, the culmination of the dramatic week is Easter Sunday, when we rejoice in Christ’s resurrection. Perhaps you will choose to celebrate it very early in the morning the natural way with the sun rising over the lake and birds singing or maybe you prefer the flower decked sanctuary with bells and choir singing, or even both ways. The Deacons will host a delicious breakfast at 10:00.



Holy Week

Remembering and Making Present

In the liturgical year, Easter does not end on the calendar date, but continues to the “Season of Easter” for seven weeks until Pentecost, which this year is June 9th. The first Sunday after Easter we tap our feet and sing along with the Elders of Jazz. Another special thing that Sunday is that we will have a baptism. There is something special on the calendar for each one of those Sundays. We will tell you about those things in the next *Saints Alive!*

We challenge you to participate in all of the Lenten and Holy Week services. You will have a stronger feeling of “what it is all about” instead of just pieces of the story. And to make the experience even better, try reading the gospel of John on your own.

At our last meeting we welcomed Donna Bradley to our committee. Donna will be in charge of decorating the sanctuary with fresh or silk flowers and working with Gary Uhl on the paraments and banners. Remember that there is a sign up chart on the bulletin board if you would like to donate flowers for a special occasion. Soon there will be a sign up sheet in the bulletin to donate flowers to make our sanctuary beautiful on Easter.



We are still looking for more volunteers to video the Sunday services for Facebook Live. If you are interested, please speak to Margre Lind Mills or Barbara Lehmkuhl.

If you have any comments or suggestions about worship services, please let us know. Or, join us on our committee. We have a good time while accomplishing much.

Written by Muriel Homer on behalf of the Worship and Spiritual Life Committee

Vision Renewal

2019 is our year to begin to BECOME what God wants us to be as a church family. Our renewal process has identified 8 critical areas that are crucial to our church's faithfulness, growth, and our ability to fulfill God's Vision for us.

These critical areas include being:

- Inclusive
- Forgiving
- Welcoming
- Serving
- Compassionate
- Obedient
- Faithful
- Learning

How are we going to turn these critical areas into actions? The Renewal Coordinating Team has been looking at the suggestions and ideas presented at past events as well as working with our committees, small group ministries, staff, Session and Deacons. You may have noticed the inserts in recent worship bulletins. These inserts are a way to capture the valuable suggestions of people who may not be part of other groups within ALPC. We encourage you to fill out one of these inserts and put it in the offering plate or in the renewal box near the Renewal bulletin board outside the Sound Room.

As we continue to move forward on this renewal journey, the Coordinating Team will encourage alignment with these critical areas in all that we do as a church. We will also look at how we can evaluate and track our progress toward these lofty goals.



The first of these goals that we are focusing on is being inclusive. If our congregation aligns to this goal, we will encourage children, youth, and adults of all ages to engage together in worship, Christian education, fellowship, outreach and mission. Every member, visitor, friend, staff member, and preschool family will feel a sense of family and belonging at ALPC that makes them comfortable and able to fully participate in all activities.

What projects, activities or tasks do you think support these critical areas? What ideas do you have that move us toward a church that is more inclusive, forgiving, welcoming, serving, compassionate, obedient, faith-full, and filled with learning?

Please think, pray, and share your ideas through your small groups as well the bulletin inserts.

Sybil Wendling, on behalf of the Renewal Coordinating Team: Carol Nussle, Pastor Charlie, Jo Ann Wainscott, and Margre Lind Mills.

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)

Our Mission Statement

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.

Letter of Gratitude



Dear church members,

My grandson, Everett, was a recipient of your kindness last fall. The care package you sent finally arrived after weeks in transit. The following note is adapted from the video thank you he sent to our congregation.

Marian Conn

“Hello everyone,

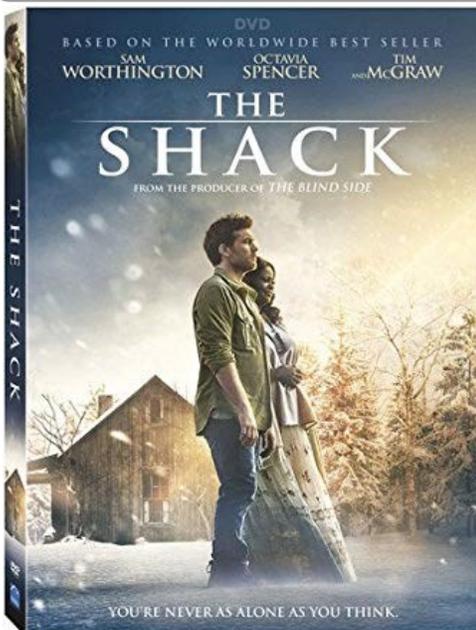
My name is Everett Conn and I’m a Peace Corps volunteer working here in Kosovo up in the mountains where I teach English to primary school children. I am in the Peace Corps office right now and as you can see, we have a little bit of a library here.

Thank you so much to the congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Avon Lake and my grandma,

Marian Conn, for the gracious donations you sent me over the holiday season. Things from America are hard to come by so I especially appreciate them.

If you have any questions or would like to know more about Kosovo or the Peace corps, you can reach out to me on Facebook or email at xemconnx@yahoo.com.”

From the Deacons



The Deacons are sponsoring a get together with pizza, popcorn, pop and a movie after worship next Sunday, March 31. Plan to stay and enjoy this fellowship and the movie, *The Shack*.

There will be an alternate movie for the children.

Cornerstone Preschool

*Cornerstone Preschool is
planning a Family
Bowling Night!*

More information coming soon!



Family Bowling Night



Please join Cornerstone
Preschool on
Wednesday, March 27th
for our fundraising event with
Marco's Pizza in Avon Lake.
Cornerstone earns 15% of total sales
when you mention your order is to
benefit Cornerstone Preschool!
Orders can be made by
Call-in or Walk-in.



CONGRATS!

We're So Proud

It's that time of the year again when the church gathers a picture and bio of all our graduating seniors. Please send your information to Cindi at alpresby@avonlakepc.org.

The Church office will be closed on Monday, April 22

Avon Lake Presbyterian Church
32340 Electric Boulevard
Avon Lake, OH 44012

Newsletter deadline

The deadline to submit articles to Cindi via email: alpresby@avonlakepc.org
for the May, 2019 newsletter is **April 15. (another deadline for tax day!!!)**

Sunday Worship

Worship at 10:00 am

Youth & Children's Sunday School 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
Maintenance	Phil Stryczny
Office Administrator	Cindi Dansizen
Treasurer	Marcy Uhl
Director of Preschool	Julie Erker