

Saints Alive!

Volume 17, Issue 8
October 2019
“Friends in Christ, Serving
Together with Love”



The Evangelism Committee invites you to join them in Walking in the Avon Lake Homecoming Parade



Join us in representing our church in the Avon Lake Homecoming Parade. We will meet in the Avon Lake Presbyterian Church parking lot at 9:15 am on Saturday, October 5th.

The parade is a wonderful way to spend your Saturday morning with friends and family riding on John Weeden's bus and tossing candy to the crowds that line the parade route. If you are able, join the group that will walk along side of the bus and pass out flyers that invite and welcome the community to visit our warm and friendly church family. The flyers include information about our Sunday morning worship as well as the Cornerstone preschool.

Don't miss out on this fun-filled activity! Sign up in the church foyer and join in the parade!

Presbyterian Women's Fall Rummage and Bake Sale



**FALL RUMMAGE
AND BAKE SALE 2019**
Church Members Only—
WEDNESDAY, Oct. 9, 6:00—8:00 pm
Members and Community—
THURSDAY, Oct. 10th
9:00 am-1:00 pm
FRIDAY, Oct. 11th
9:00—11:00 am (\$2-\$3 Bag Sale)
[Read more on pg. 5](#)

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,

We had such a wonderful retreat at Beulah Beach loving each other and learning about God. This one was unique in the way the youth and adults were so well integrated. We all enjoyed each other and deepened our knowledge and appreciation for each other. A big thanks to all who so faithfully met and planned over the year to create once again a splendid experience.

As a church we have so many choices for what we can do for Jesus. The point of our Renewal process has been to sift out what are the key things that we want to do together. And it worked! We all narrowed so many possibilities down to eight main Jesus breathed activities. Not that these beautiful activities are all that we do, yet they are agreed to be super important for us to grow in Christ.

As you read this, I want you to creatively imagine how you act out these gospel actions for Jesus, and how you might grow in them. And I want you to pat yourself on the back when you read one and say, "Hey, I do this all the time!" I would like you to ask yourself when you encounter one that is more rarely accomplished, "Hmm, how can I do this a little bit more?"

Welcoming I invite people into our church so that they may know Christ's love. I work to see that our building, our communications, and all us members extend a genuine welcome to newcomers.

Inclusive I do my best to see that all people are included in the life of our church, and that no one who has become isolated is forgotten. I do not exclude anyone for being different, and work so see that all feel they are family.

Forgiving I am known as a peacemaker and one who helps people reconcile. I am resilient, open to change and non-judgmental. I forgive when wronged.

Serving I will help someone when I see them in need. I will go out of my may to give physical help to people suffering whether at home or far away when I am able.

Compassionate With heartfelt love, I care for others in times of need in various ways (conversations, listening, prayer, act of love). I reach out into the world with the heart of Jesus leading and enabling me.

Obedient and Faithful I try my best to obey God in all that I do. I honor God, giving the best of myself to others. I trust God and seek His grace.

Always Learning I study the Christian faith, the Bible, theology. I learn new skills and seek wisdom from others when I am trying to do something for the church and do not know how. I teach the faith to others that they know Jesus and his love.

I know that when I ask God to help me do these things, I grow in effectiveness for Christ. These activities lead me closer to God and help me love others. I know they will for you too!

Seeking and serving God with you,
Pastor Charlie

New role with Presbytery

This year, my responsibilities to our presbytery have increased a bit. I have been serving on the Coordinating Cabinet the last six years, and served on the nominating committee for the General Presbyter four years ago for 18 months. I was elected as the vice-moderator in June for a one year term and will be installed at the next Presbytery meeting (9/23). This will be followed by a one year term as moderator of the Presbytery, and then followed by a one year term as the moderator of the Coordinating Cabinet. I have one two-three hour meeting a month downtown (second Tuesday of the month) and will have an additional 90 minute meeting a month as vice moderator. I am hoping to attend that meeting by FaceTime so I won't have the travel time. Since I already attend Presbytery meetings as a minister, my participation in those meetings in these new roles will not change the time I use serving Christ in our presbytery.

There is moderator training November 21-23 (Thu, Fr, Sat) in Louisville that I will try to attend remotely. That would be paid for by the Presbytery.

I do not know the full extent of my responsibilities a year from now when I am moderator, but I do not imagine they will be much heavier in terms of time than they will be this year. It will, of course, be more responsibility in terms of decision making.



Christian Education

Greetings ALPC Friends and Family! I am writing this fresh off a wonderful experience at the Beulah Beach Church Retreat. I hope more of you will join in the fun next year. I had so much fun organizing crafts and activities for children on Saturday, while also enjoying food, fun, and fellowship with the adults and teens too. What a wonderful tradition and incredible opportunity for church members to relax, have fun, and learn together in a beautiful location. My son, Tyler, and daughter, Noelle, had a blast too, and I know all 3 of us will be encouraging new families to join us next time.



Another incredible event recently was Rally Day! It was a joy to watch how so many members of the church worked together to bring fun and fellowship to our community. Thank you to each person who contributed time and talents to this special day. We were blessed by the presence of many Cornerstone Preschool families who stopped by to enjoy the foam machine. The foam machine brought out the kid in all of us, and thank you Julie Erker and Jay Knox for creating such a fun experience for us all!

Sunday School is off to a wonderful start. We are starting the year off with simple family registration forms for each child in attendance so that we may serve our littlest visitors to the best of our abilities. I have assembled goody bags and welcome letters for each child's first visit. Sunday School will be offered every Sunday after the children's sermon, sometimes combining preschool through elementary school in one class, and sometimes separating by age depending on availability of the teachers. On that note, if anyone is interested in volunteering to teach Sunday School once a month I welcome your assistance! Please contact me in person or at alpctarra@gmail.com for more information.

Tarra Oppewall, Director of Children's Ministries



6th grade through High School Youth Sunday school at 10:00 am, and 6th grade through High School Youth Group (Sundays at 6:00 pm), will begin weekly meetings on September 29th.

Evangelism

I am hoping by now you have seen the planter at the main entrance of the church, recognizing our church member, Kay Usher. Kay passed away recently and this planter was placed at the front entrance honoring her for all she did for all of us. This new idea will continue for all members. If in the future, you have any requests or special idea for any other member we may lose, please contact me directly and I will help plan a planter to honor your special person.

Sandi Ciarrone
sandiciarrone@gmail.com



Financial Report



Now that school has resumed and fall activities are in full swing, please remember to bring and keep your pledge current. If you are able, please consider giving a little more than your pledged amount to help defray the deficit. If you need to check your pledge balance, please email our financial secretary, Lynn Morway, at lynnmorway@roadrunner.com.

Here is our financial status as of the end of August. Giving is behind budget and expenses are also behind budget but overall expenses are \$14,481 more than income.

	August YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income:		
Congregational Giving	\$200,489	\$218,321
Other Income	<u>10,275</u>	<u>10,000</u>
Total Income	\$210,764	\$228,321
Expense:		
Worship & Spiritual Life	\$88,578	\$ 86,494
Christian Education	551	5,750
Stewardship & Mission	3,978	3,867
Property	32,131	28,433
Support Staff & General Expenses	81,290	94,552
Youth Mission Trip (deposits)	6,952	4,000
Per capita Expense	<u>11,765</u>	<u>11,506</u>
Total Expense	\$225,245	\$234,602

If anyone has any additional questions about our finances you are welcome to ask Marcy Uhl, Treasurer, or myself at any time.

Cheryl Dean, Finance Committee Chair

Healing Prayer Ministry

Prayer focuses our mind on the Kingdom of God and reminds us that this broken world is only temporary. C.S. Lewis writes in the chapter on Hope in [Mere Christianity](#):

“Hope is one of the theological virtues. This means that a continual looking forward to the eternal world is not (as some modern people think) a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do. It does not mean that we are to leave the present world as it is. If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next.”

When we focus on the Kingdom, we are free from our fear and shame. Our hearts and minds are filled with love, joy, peace and grace. We have energy and enthusiasm to share the Good News and be open to the creative ideas of the Holy Spirit knowing that it's not our job to save the world – It's our privilege to love the world and thank God for having sent **Jesus** to save it. We get to be involved in Kingdom work without the weight of being in charge. We don't know exactly how God's story will play out but every minute of our lives we get to choose how much of our time we want to spend participating in His story without the fear of ruining it. Jesus took care of that for us!

Every Sunday, after worship there are people at the front of the sanctuary on the left by the wheel chair ramp who focus on God and His Kingdom. We invite you to come and pray with us as we participate in His Kingdom work seeking help, healing, and guidance.

Submitted by Arlene Strauch on behalf of the Healing Prayer Ministry

Presbyterian Women Rummage/Bake Sale

FALL RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE 2019
CHURCH MEMBER PREVIEW -
WEDNESDAY, Oct. 9th, 6-8 pm
THURSDAY, Oct. 10th 9:00 am-1:00 pm
FRIDAY, Oct. 11th 9:00 am-11:00 am
(\$2-\$3 Bag Sale)



October and Fall are around the corner. 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!!

HELP US SAVE TIME !

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 contact the church first.

BAKE SALE



Also, **PLEASE** consider baking for the bake sale on Thursday the 10th. Baked goods can be dropped off Wednesday evening, Oct. 9th in the kitchen or early Thursday morning, Oct. 10th, the day of the sale.

Consider helping in Hart Hall with this huge and fun event! **WE WILL NEED HELP ALL WEEK BEGINNING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 6TH ! Sign up on the orange poster in the lobby . Thank you.**

New Prayer Group at church



Moms In Prayer will be meeting in church every Wednesday through the school year and all moms, aunts, and grandmothers with children in Avon Lake schools are welcome to join them. This group of praying women gathers in the church foyer at 9 and then moves to the Session Room or Library to pray from 9:15-10:15. Learn more about Moms in Prayer International at momsinprayer.org. The Avon Lake chapter of Moms in Prayer is led by Avon Lake resident, Carol Chapin, who can

be reached at carol@thechapins.com. Contact Carol or Tarra for more information.

Mission Matters

Thank you to everyone that helped welcome the Cornerstone teachers with a "grown up back to school supply bag"

Highlight the dates:

October 1— LCM (Lorain Cooperative Ministries) monthly meeting at ALPC beginning at 9:00am in the church foyer.

October 6— *Peace and Global Witness Offering. It's also World Communion Sunday.



***Donations made to The Peace and Global Witness offering are divided between PCUSA Peace initiatives with 25% going to local churches for donations of their choice. ALPC Mission group has chosen PDA for our 25% portion. They have a long history of responding quickly and staying longer in areas hit by natural disasters like Hurricane Dorian. You may make a donation to ALPC with a notation to Peace Making.**

October 6,7 & 8 - Drop off donations for the ALPC Rummage Sale. A LOT of help is needed.

October 7 - Mission Meeting 7pm in the Sanctuary. Everyone is welcome.

October 10 - Rummage sale 9-1, October 11 - Fill a bag 9-11 \$3

October 12 - Heritage Presbyterian *Annual* Pasta dinner to support LCM and the continuing efforts to help people in need. Tickets: See Carol Madson for tickets. \$10.

October 17— Lunch Bunch, 11:30 to 1:00. Please join the fun as a volunteer or a guest. Call Carol Madson for volunteer details. 934-2643



October-27 to November 3- ****Thank a Soldier, Peacekeepers**, Cards to sign, donations accepted etc.

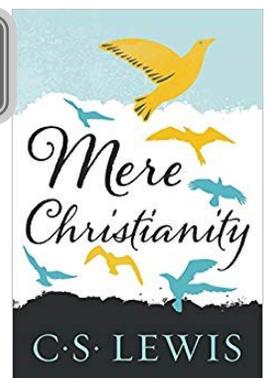
****We want to thank our friends and family that are currently in the Military and Peacekeeping services. We would also like to send them cards and a gift to let them know we care. Monetary donations are welcome with the notation, Thank-a-Soldier. We would like the donations by November 4. If you have a name to add to the list in the bulletin please contact Beth Janis 44-522-1771**

Questions? Please ask Marian Conn, Beth Janis, Kathy Leopold, Sue Mabe, Carol Madson or Jenni Stryczny.

"God is looking for willing hearts... God has no favorites. You do not have to be special, but you have to be available." Winkie Pratney

Pastor's Bible Study

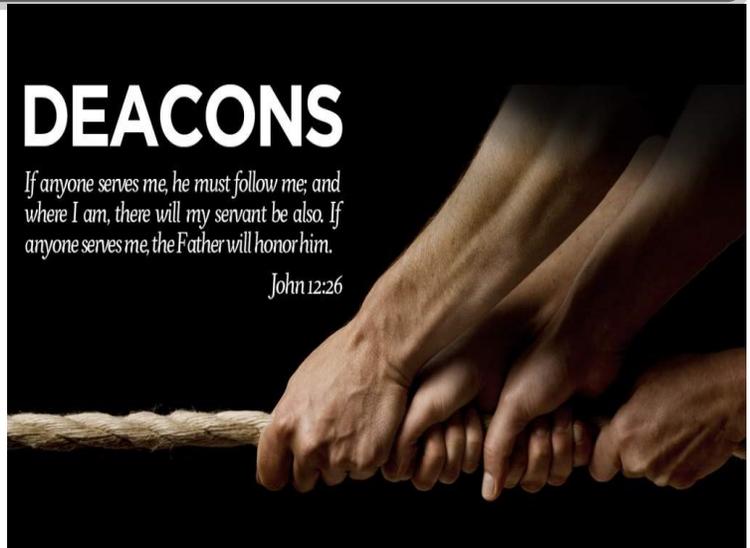
Pastor Charlie is starting a Bible study on Mondays at noon in the Session room, beginning Monday, October 7. The study will be about the book, Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis. If you would like to join in the group, but don't have a book, please sign up in the foyer and Charlie will order you one.



Deacon News

Hello ALPC,
 This is my first newsletter as moderator of the Deacons. First, I want to thank John Weeden for the great dedication and leadership during his time on the Deacons. I have some big shoes to fill. This year the Deacons will focus on how we can support the Renewal vision. We started this summer by listing the reasons we became Deacons. I was thrilled to hear what I heard from the other Deacons:

- * Wanted to serve.
- * Asked to join by surprise and it was good timing. Moved by the spirit.
- * Liked the activities and the people involved with Deacons.
- * Evaluated our purpose in the church and decided to get involved.



The next step in our journey was to list the activities and functions Deacons provide to APLC and critique them for the positives and areas for improvement. The activities/functions over the last several years were divided into Fellowship and Outreach shown in the table below:

Fellowship	Outreach
Meals (Christmas/Easter)	Congregational Care Ministry
Chili Cook-off	Communion assistance
Outdoor clean-up meal	Visitor Honey Greeting
Special Events: Pig Roast, Silent Auction assistance	Path to Faith (Dr. Nemeah)
Rally Day set up	
Entertainment: Talent Show, Movie	

As we mulled this over we met in September to brainstorm areas for improvement and new ideas. In October, we will narrow down the changes and ideas and layout a plan to implement the ones we feel most beneficial to ALPC, while not overloading the team. We will be presenting some of the ideas and plans in the Renewal meeting on October 15. I hope everyone can make the meeting to see what Deacons and other groups have in store for the church.

Sincerely,
 Mike Reighard, Deacon moderator

Families with young children



THURSDAY MORNING COFFEE: I am eager to get to know all the families of the church better. I'm hoping there might be some parents that might be interested to meet for coffee/tea to connect and help me better identify the needs of our families with young children. If you are free I'd love to set up a date! I'll travel near you and take an hour of your time- kids welcome too, we can meet at a playground if that is best.

Tarra Oppewall, Director of Children's Ministries

Property Committee



Hello All,
In the past few weeks we have made some progress in making the outside look better. We have done some landscaping around the church along with some painting outside on the south side of the church. I would like to thank Gary Uhl, Mike Ciarrone, Jeff Spenser, Beth Janis and Linda Kotowski. This group helped in all or some of the above as well as cleaning out the shed.

We also discussed two ideas at our

Property meeting. One would be a group who could meet once a month on Saturday for an hour or two. Yes we do have a maintenance man as well as a cleaning person on staff but there always seems to be some small things that could be done. This could include cleaning up the kitchens, setting up or taking down tables or chairs, and cleaning up outside around the church. This group could just be extra help as needed. The other idea was to go back to the Gardening Angels. This was when a member would take care of a particular area in the landscaping. Anyone interested in either of these please call me.

Fall work day will most likely be in October when the leaves start to fall. As always, the focus will be cleaning out the basin and leaf removal from the landscape and parking lot. We will come up with a date soon. Thanks for your help ahead of time and remember to invite your tarps and leaf blowers.

Peace Be With You,
Jim Janis 440-522-9496

Session

The Session met on Sept. 16.
Highlights of their meeting were:

- ⇒ The Deacons bring gifts of small bottles of honey to the homes of new visitors.
- ⇒ A list of all ministries in our church was prepared by the Renewal team in preparation for the fall Living the Vision meeting on Oct. 15.
- ⇒ The new cleaning contractor is working out well on a monthly basis until we hire a new janitor.
- ⇒ A Blue Christmas service is being considered around the winter solstice for those who face loneliness, loss, depression, stress, difficult change, etc. during the Advent season.
- ⇒ The Property Committee is exploring replacing or refreshing the office computers.
- ⇒ Another evacuation drill is being developed that would be more comprehensive in scope.
- ⇒ A survey on how people like to receive and read the *Saints Alive* newsletter is being developed.
- ⇒ A leaf blower was donated for keeping the landscaping by the main entrance tidy.
- ⇒ Yard signs to promote ALPC will be made available to members.
- ⇒ Talks with Next Step have negotiated details for hosting mission groups here next summer.
- ⇒ Thanks go to Jay Knox for building the foam machine for the fantastic Rally Day picnic!
- ⇒ Cornerstone's Gardening with Grandparents event will plant perennials in the church flower beds.
- ⇒ The Session committees are submitting their preliminary budgets for 2020. Elizabeth Shoemaker,
- ⇒ A theme and schedule of mailings have been planned for the stewardship campaign.



Elizabeth Shoemaker, Clerk of Session

Worship & Spiritual Life Committee



The new church year has begun with the welcome return of the Chancel Choir. The anthem on Rally Day was especially fitting, as it referred to teaching our children the love of God. The Bell and Chancel Choirs are back to rehearsals on Wednesday evenings and looking forward to sharing their worship through music with all of you.

This committee remained busy over the summer, with the introduction of the Coffeehouse worship location, which runs simultaneously with our regular Sunday service. The

regular service is live streamed over Facebook and experienced in a more casual setting in the CE foyer in the west end of the building. This arrangement serves a number of worshippers, from those with young children, to our older community and everyone in between. All are welcome.

Our communion preparation has been enhanced with the addition of covered communion cups. These work well with those that may have difficulty with an open cup and for serving communion to those not able to attend services.

The committee continues to work on new ways to help you experience God's presence. We are embarking on a new worship program called Worship Design Studio. This program provides many inspiring ways to enhance the worship experience. The program is being studied by committee members as they discern the best way to incorporate the program. More details will follow in the months to come.

Plans are under way for special worship services. We celebrate World Communion Sunday on October 6. All Saints Day, to be celebrated October 27, will include special decorations to represent our departed Saints in the sanctuary. Please join us for these meaningful services.

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

On behalf of the Worship and Spiritual Life Committee, Marcy Uhl

Fall Renewal Vision Meeting

Slight change of plans! The Fall Renewal/Vision Meeting will now take place on Tuesday, October 15th, starting at 6:00 PM with a light supper of pizza, salad and dessert, with the working portion of the meeting beginning at 6:30 PM. [Sign up in the church foyer to attend.](#) Everything else stays the same! This all-church meeting will focus on planning for the coming year. How will we put God's vision for us into action? Each ministry group (committees, Deacons, staff groups, ministry groups, etc.) will present a short summary of what they have accomplished in helping us live the vision, as well as a few new ideas that can move us further into the vision. The remainder of the gathered group will listen, affirm, encourage, and ask clarifying questions. We will be able to look at the bigger picture to identify: areas of common interest and potential collaboration; gaps (areas we could be working on, but are not); and perhaps, an area that is so critical to how we Live the Vision that we would like to focus on it as a church-wide priority for 2020. Ministry groups should prepare to explain:

- How they see their role in Living the Vision
- 1-2 Key Successes in Living the Vision
- 1-2 Areas for Improvement in Living the Vision better
- 1-2 New Ideas that help us Live the Vision

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

Church & Preschool together



Avon Lake Presbyterian Church's Rally Day And Cornerstone Preschool's Back to School Foam Party was a total success!



Avon Lake Presbyterian Church and Cornerstone Preschool will host a Safe Indoor Hallelujahween night from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Oct. 17th inside the church. The event is free for all children. Children are invited to come in their costumes and run from door to door trick or treating. Church members and friends will be handing out candy to the children. There will also be a FREE snack and craft in Hart Hall! Safe Indoor Hallelujahween is funded by ALPC and Cornerstone Preschool. The event is designed to provide the children from the church and school with a safe, indoor location for trick-or-treating, food, and fun!

Church & Preschool together

Gardening with Grandparents Monday, September 30 and Tuesday, October 1

Cornerstone is seeking volunteer grandparents for *Gardening with Grandparents*. If you are available to help serve as a substitute grandparent for a child who does not have one in attendance, please add your name to the sign up sheet in the narthex. Volunteers are needed September 30th and October 1st from 10:15-11:15 and 1:45-2:45. Thank you!



The Gobbling Goblins

will be coming back!

These hauntingly hungry goblins are *dying* to get their claws on your leftover Halloween candy!

Want to rid your castle of excess Halloween candy? Then bring your bags of leftover or unwanted candy to church on Sunday, November 5th – Sunday, November 3rd. A “Gobbling Goblins” box will be in the foyer.

Our church office will put your candy to good use!

Saints Alive Articles due to Cindi at alpresby@avonlakepc.org:

November issue due on Tuesday, October 15
December issue due on Friday, November 15
January issue due on Sunday, December 15
February issue due on Wednesday, January 15
March issue due on Saturday, February 15
April issue due on Sunday, March 15
May issue due on Wednesday, April 15
Summer issue due on Friday, May 15

(Can you see a theme here?)

Reminder:

If you or a loved one are in the hospital and wish prayers or visits from the pastor or your Congregational Care Friend, please call the church office (933-6240). Otherwise, we may not know you're there!

On the Table in the Foyer

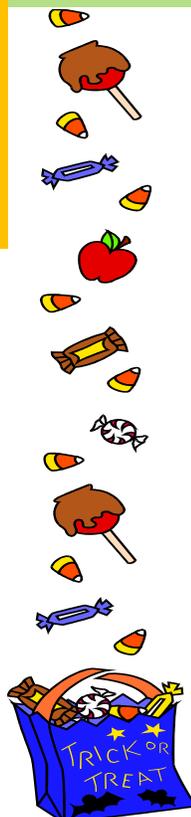
Please know that all booklets and pamphlets available on the table in the foyer are yours for the taking.

Presbyterians Today is a monthly publication which includes a variety of articles of national interest in our denomination.

These Days is a quarterly daily devotional guide that is an excellent resource for thought and inspiration.

Extra copies of the monthly newsletter, **Saints Alive!** are on the table.

A **directory of members** names and addresses is updated every month. They are available for anyone who would like to have one.



**Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary
and Coffee House Style Worship in the Christian Education Foyer
10:00 am
(440) 933-6240
www.avonlakechurch.com
www.facebook.com/avonlakepc
alpresby@avonlakepc.org**

**Pastor
Custodian
Director of Children's Ministries
Director of Music
Director of Preschool
Financial Secretary
Lock-up Custodian
Maintenance
Office Administrator
Treasurer**

**Rev. Charles E. Swartz
Carl Douglas
Tarra Oppewall
Muriel Homer
Julie Erker
Lynn Morway
Ed Homer
Phil Stryczny
Cindi Dansizen
Marcy Uhl**