



Annual Meeting of the Congregation Sunday, January 26, 2020, 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary

The purpose of the meeting is

- to vote on the Pastor’s “terms of call”
- to elect Elders, Deacons and a Trustee
- to elect the 2020/2021 Nominating Committee.
- to review the reports of all the committees
- To review the 2019 Annual Report

Activities and refreshments are planned for the children during the meeting so that parents can be present at this very important meeting in the life of our church. After the meeting, join the Deacons in Hart Hall for our annual Chili/Soup Cook-off!

Chili Soup Cook-off

We know that even though it’s cold in January you look forward to this time of the year because of the Chili and Soup Cook-Off! We will be having this crowd pleasing event on Sunday, January 26th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm in Hart Hall. There will be a sign-up sheet in the foyer of the church to estimate attendance and find out who will be entering their favorite recipe.

Per Capita 2020

All Presbyterians are called to take part in the ecclesiastical and administrative work shared by the whole church through per capita giving. The annual rate is a per-member apportionment that is assessed biennially by the General Assembly. (Book of Order, G-3.0106) All congregations — large and small — are encouraged to participate, either through an annual budget item or through a special direct appeal to their congregations. In your monthly offering envelope packet there is a special offering envelope specifically for your contribution to the Per Capita. Per Capita is a “head tax” assessed by the denomination to help with the cost of the work in the local Presbytery, the Synod and the work of the General Assembly.

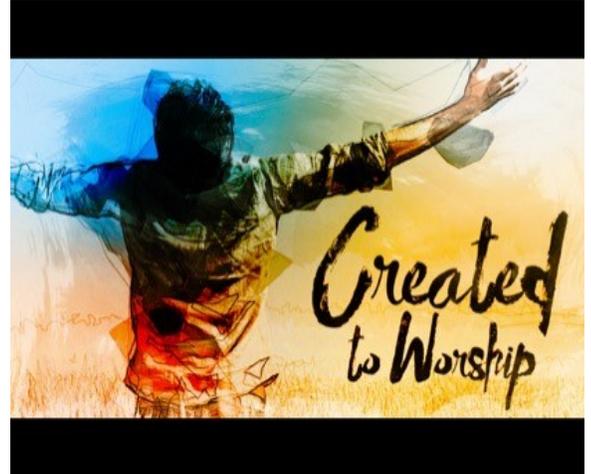
The amount you need to pay per member is \$32.41.



FROM THE PASTOR/ Charlie Swartz

Dear Friends,

What a wonderful advent we ENJOYed in worship! If you came to any of the services, you immediately noticed lush layers of visual art surrounding and filling our sanctuary. With the artful use of skits, dramatic entrance and theme songs, we were treated to fresh experiences of God that felt so alive and joyful. So many people have told me how they have loved the worship series on joy. This powerful new type of multi sensory liturgy comes to us through the "Worship Design Studio," an online resource created by the genius Dr. Marcia McFee. Our worship committee began exploring her materials nine months ago and what we see now is the fruition of those months of research, learning, trying and doing.



Our worship committee is learning that by planning farther in the future, we are able to bring more people into the creating action. When more people are involved - more people acting, more people doing artwork, more people creating music, more people creating visuals - the energy is raised and worship becomes more and more engaging for us all. Our youth, back in the end of November, spent an evening with members of the worship committee creating the cool music note scrolls hanging on the pews, the candle arrangements, the hanging stars and helped Margre Mills, Jon Mills and Donna Bradley create and decorate. Donna had the vision for the sublime white and blue poinsettias. Craig and Beth Shoemaker cut fresh boughs for the liturgists to carry in each week. In addition, Donna and Margre have come in many times during these weeks to improve and augment the decorations. Sandi Ciarrone created the script messages affixed to the glass entrance doors. Gary Uhl hung the banners and moved the bell tables. So many hands at work!

Each person's gifts and talents bring something unique and wonderful to our worship. We are so thankful for the dramatic and humorous gifts that our "Living Advent Wreath" has brought into our Advent. We all have laughed and learned as Ed Carter (Hopeful Joy), Madeline Waggoner (Loving Joy), Gail Carter (Joyful Joy), Cris Till (Peaceful Joy) and Trent Waggoner (Incarnate Joy) brought new aspects of joy to life through their skillful acting and a really wise and funny script. Our music director, Muriel Homer, has done a remarkable job figuring out how to add so many new musical elements into our service, and overseeing the work so that it is seamless and beautiful. It is incredible how our choir and instrumental musicians have jumped into this new kind of worship with such passion. Our office manager, Cindi Dansizen, designed and created each week a special bulletin for the actors, sound technician, video projectionist, worship leader and pastor that has all the scripted material printed so they all can see exactly what is going on and can do their parts at precisely the correct time so that the experience for the worshipper is seamless. This has been a sophisticated team effort. We are blessed to have such talent in our congregation and the willingness to use those talents for God's glory.

Our next effort will not be as extensive, although we hope it will also be inspiring. Called, "Who Are You?" it begins Sunday January 5 (Epiphany) and continues through February 23 (Transfiguration) and explores how each of us is unique and has a special role in God's plans. If you would like to help out with producing this, please tell Margre Mills or Beth Shoemaker. I hope that you will attend each Sunday and be blessed for it.

Happy New Year!
In God's joy, Pastor Charlie

Church office hours

The church office will be closed on
Wednesday, December 25,
Thursday, December 26
Wednesday, January 1
and Monday, January 20.

Christian Education

Greetings from Children's Ministry! Are you still feeling the Joy of Advent? I am mindful of your families, your children and all the ways that you bring Joy to our church family. Family Fundays bring me so much joy, and I am so thankful for your support and participation as we experiment with new ways to build friendships and create meaningful experiences for our children. Our next Family Funday will be January 12th, I hope you will mark your calendar and join us for another special time together.



Another new fellowship opportunity is beginning in January. Adults are invited to join an after church book study. Penny Helbig, Darlena Gallant, and Barbara Schweitzer will lead a study with the book *Grace and Gratitude* from the PCUSA Being Reformed Series. Beginning January 5th participants will meet after church each Sunday around 11:15, see Penny, Darlena, or Barbara for more information.

As we begin the new year, let us all remain open to new ways God is speaking to us and leading us. And if you have new ideas for Christian Education, please let us know! Wishing you a blessed start to 2020!

Tarra Oppewall



Church News

Men's Lunch Group

The Men's Lunch Group meets for lunch the 4th Tuesday of every month. They meet in the church office at noon to decide where they will be having lunch that day. **Contact: Tim Kurak 933-2615**

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee has the responsibility of recommending members to the congregation for election to the Session and Board of Deacons. We are looking for new members. **Contact: Marcy Uhl at 440-933-6240.**

Cornerstone Preschool

2020-2021 Cornerstone Preschool Registration is open to the public on **January 3rd.**



Attention Committee Heads: Annual Report

The deadline to submit articles to Cindi via email: alpresby@avonlakepc.org for the 2019 Annual Report is **Sunday, January 19.**

Deacons' News

Hello ALPC,

On behalf of the Deacons, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and hope you can spend some fun and relaxing time with family and friends. Thank you for everyone who came to the Christmas breakfast. We had over 80 people and we received many thumbs up on the new menu. In the December Deacon meeting, everyone told the group a favorite Christmas memory or tradition. It was fascinating hearing different versions. Here are a few:

- * Decorating a tree in the woods with popcorn strings and fruit for the wildlife.
- * An orange in the bottom of the stocking.
- * Going to 5 church services Christmas evening then putting the turkey in the oven to be ready Christmas morning.
- * Praying Christmas Eve for a child and receiving a gift from God approximately 9 months later.
- * Listening to Christmas music while driving on a picture perfect snowy Christmas night.
- * Opening presents after midnight Christmas Eve services late into Christmas morning.
- * Spending Christmas Eve afternoon with family and friends then going to ALPC together.
- * Making kids wait to come downstairs Christmas morning while dad describes loudly the sizes of packages under the tree just to amp up the excitement.
- * Each Christmas all of the kids received the same ornament so when they grew up and out of the house, all had the same ornament on their respective Christmas trees.

Deacons are working on restructuring the Congregational Care Ministry to better fit the needs of ALPC. Some items have been implemented but it is a work in progress.

Deacons have several functions planned this winter to chase the cabin fever way.

- ◆ January 26 is the Congregational Meeting and we will have the annual Chili and Soup Cook-off after the meeting. Get those recipes and digestive tracks tuned in!
- ◆ On Saturday February 29 we will leap into a bowling event in the afternoon. There will be a sign-up sheet with more details in January.
- ◆ A new event will be a Family Feud night at the church. We are working out the details but we will ask the congregation for input to some fun questions. Like the game we will have teams competing by providing responses to surveys from church and game questions. The teams can be families or groups (circle, youth, choir, etc.). We are considering a baked potato bar for dinner. The event will be Saturday evening April 4. More details to follow.



Sincerely,
Mike Reighard, Deacon Moderator

Stewardship

PLEDGE CARD

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Email _____

I commit to give \$ _____ over the next year.
I plan to give:
 1x Weekly Twice a month Monthly Quarterly Other _____

I believe this is a defining moment and I will not hold back. I prayerfully commit to step out in faith and pledge to give **above my regular tithes** over the next year.

Return this card in a postage paid giving envelope, at a weekend service or make your pledge commitment at rockpointchurch.com

Happy Holidays! It is a busy time of year for sure. We hope you have enjoyed the Christmas services as much as we have. The church has never looked more beautiful. **SO MUCH JOY!** There are a lot of people working hard, practicing and decorating, all for us, such a blessing. We have many things to look forward to in the new year. We sure are excited! If you have not yet, please send in your pledge card. Session will be working on the budget after the Holiday. We thank you for loving our church as much as we do. We wish you a Healthy and Happy Holiday.

The Stewardship Committee

Evangelism



Become Part of Our Church Family

Welcoming postcards are sent to all new homeowners in Avon, Avon Lake, Sheffield Lake, and North Ridgeville. The postcards are designed to be modern, attractive, and serve as an invitation to join our church for worship.

Since April 2019, the Evangelism Committee has arranged for everyone in our church who has given us their birthday date to receive a birthday card with a special greeting from Pastor Charlie. There are still about 35 members of our church who have not given us the month and day of their birthday and we hope to have that information for this new year.

The Evangelism Committee has also identified several individuals who are interested in joining our church and we will be meeting with them to get better acquainted, discuss information about our church, and plan for a Sunday when they will become members of The Avon Lake Presbyterian Church.

Barbara Graves
Co-chairperson, Evangelism Committee

Healing Ministry

Sometimes it's hard to keep our focus during this hectic – overly busy time of year and when we lose our focus, we may notice the absence of love, joy and peace. Fortunately, there are lots of reminders – Christmas music, decorations, special worship services, Christmas caroling, parties with friends and family – to help us refocus. But the greatest helper of all is the Holy Spirit. If we're feeling lonely and unloved the Holy Spirit can remind us of God's love and encourage us with the truth that although we have no control over the love others give to us, we have total control over the love we give to others. We can ask the Holy Spirit to guide us to the person who would love a visit or to the charity that could use our help or to those people who would love an invite to a festive lunch or dinner. When we're busy loving others, loneliness tends to disappear.

If we're missing the joy, the Holy Spirit can bring to mind all the blessings God has bestowed upon us beginning with the greatest blessing of all, Jesus Christ. When our mind is on the One who revealed God's unconditional love, we remember all that he has done for us and our hearts are filled with JOY!

And if peace is alluding us, the Holy Spirit can center our mind on the Kingdom of God where God is our Father and we are His children, where love rules and evil is vanquished, where fear and shame have been conquered and our tears are washed away.

Every Sunday morning after the worship service, we gather together in the front of the sanctuary to invite the Holy Spirit in to refocus our minds and receive God's love, joy, and peace. We would love for you to join us!

Submitted by

Arlene Strauch on behalf of the Healing Prayer Ministry



Coffee House Worship



Coffee House Worship
Takes place in the Christian Education Foyer
Every Sunday at 10:00 am
(the same time worship is going on
in the Sanctuary)
Tell your friends that
this is a great way to experience
a new way of worshipping at our church!

Mission Matters

"I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service.
I acted and beheld, service was joy."
— Tagore

It's time to express our thanks and joy for your donations made to The Christmas Joy Offering and the scholarship program for girls in Guatemala. We appreciate your support of these worthwhile missions and as always, we welcome your input.



What's in store for 2020?

In January, 2¢ a meal donations will be collected. Laura Van Dale from the Presbytery of the Western Reserve shared that we have a long history of supporting the hunger initiatives of the PWR. The real name of this mission is Cents- a-ability but ALPC calls it 2¢ a meal, The idea is to literally put money in a bank for each meal you eat and pass the cash on to those in need. Perhaps now you might just transfer funds but the concept is still valid. People in our county and country are struggling to keep their families fed. Our "change" can help!

Thank you so much for helping us treat our neighbors to Thanksgiving and Christmas Feasts. Delicious meals (and pie!) and service with a smile. If you would like to help with the preparation, serving or clean up for these monthly meals, please talk with Carol Madson or Kathy Hamilton. *** Thank-you to Bill Till for planning and cooking the meal each month.

In February, we will be joining Cornerstone Preschool and our Sunday school students in the collection of

books for the Cleveland Kids' Book Bank. Should we call it "We  sharing books? Or how about, We Love to Read! Details will be available in January.

Please consider joining the Mission committee at our monthly meetings the first Monday each month. We welcome new ideas and can always use help.

Beth Janis 440-522-1771

Safety Sub Committee

I think our safety program has gone pretty well in the first year and much of that has been with the cooperation of our congregation. We have done the two mock evacuations this past year and this was our goal. The feedback from this has been positive so thanks for your cooperation and patience. The mock drills have given us other ideas to work on. That would be our goal for the coming year. We want to meet in January and discuss what else we can do to take the next step for safety in our church.

Some of the safety ideas that we have completed went hand in hand with the Property Committee. This would include the camera in the main entrance and the ability to buzz someone in when needed. We also have lights on overnight at the entries to the main doors. Also, thanks to Julie Erker, we are able to use the radios for the Site Monitors and for the teachers in the classrooms on Sunday.

Please note: If you ever feel that an entry door has been broken into, you should call the police before entering the building.

Please contact me if you have any ideas or questions about what we do. You can also join us for a safety meeting. Any input would be appreciated.

Peace and Joy be with you.
Chairperson: Jim Janis



Property Committee

All of a sudden you turn around and a new year is right behind you. Then it's time to think about what we have accomplished and what we hope to accomplish for the coming year.

This past year, we have tried to make our church more welcoming. This included a new look for the library and office. We did some clean up in areas that needed it, including the shed and some paint touch up on the south side of the building. Of course we have been lucky to have Phil with us as our maintenance guy. He has been responsible for most of the clean up and repair jobs. This included the cleaning of all the floors that made them look like new.

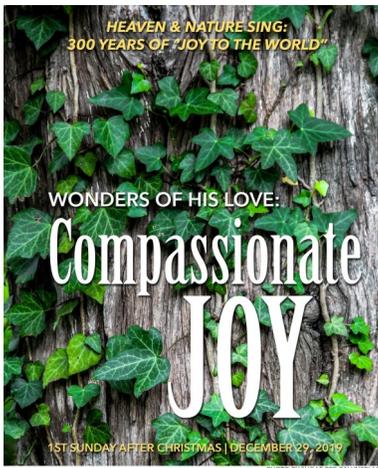


The above is only a start as we have much more to do in the coming year. This includes repairs and/or renovation in the older restrooms, the session room, the parking lot, and extensive indoor painting. Currently we are attempting to get quotes from different companies with the hope of saving some money.

Any questions or ideas please contact me so we can talk about them. You can also join us for a Property Committee meeting. Please consider this as any help at all would be appreciated.

Peace and Joy be with you.
Chairperson: Jim Janis

Worship & Spiritual Life



"Heaven and Nature Sing", our second worship series from Worship Design Studio, allowed us to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the writing of "Joy to the World" and reminded us that joy is something greater than mere happiness, that it is a gift from God that rises from within and is not dependent on the circumstances around us. We hope that you opened your heart to the moving of the Holy Spirit, that this amazing joy has become part of your life!

"Who Are You?" This is the theme of the worship series for the period between Epiphany and Lent. Do you know who God made you to be? Do you know how loved you are? Do you hide your true self? How do you be real in your relationships? How do you find your sense of call? Whose are you? These are questions that will be addressed over these eight weeks. We will also celebrate the star that led the Wise Men to Jesus, and remember our baptisms.

While our committee loves planning worship services, we also coordinate most of the worship volunteers, including ushers, greeters, worship assistants, Communion servers, and coffee servers. We also cooperate with the teams that prepare the Communion elements, prepare and present the projections, operate the sound equipment, and video record the services. If you are interested in participating in any of these activities on a rotating basis, please let us know. All these groups could use your help!

If you have suggestions or interest in planning worship, join us on the first Monday of the month at 7:30 pm.

Beth Shoemaker, on behalf of the W&SL Committee



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

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

News from the Presbytery

Grapes and Leaves Group An opportunity to consider a vision for the presbytery

At the June meeting of the presbytery we considered: The Presbytery of Western Reserve How do we re-serve each other? How do we re-serve congregations? How do we re-serve this region?

The responses to these questions were gathered on Grapes and Leaves and added to the branches of our vine. In the subsequent months the Coordinating Cabinet gathered the responses into a variety of categories. The idea of "What is our Why?" has been discussed but no action has been taken. Until now!

We are creating a visioning group - The Grapes and Leaves Group - to start in January. It will have a moderator (or co-moderators) and Sharon Core will help to lead the discussions. The creation of this group will allow the Coordinating Cabinet to focus on other responsibilities.

Anyone is invited to participate in the Grapes and Leaves Group. And we mean anyone--young people, congregational members (i.e. you don't have to be a ruling elder)

For those interested, there are expectations for participation:

Timeline: Identify members: Nov - Jan Commission the GLG: - January PWR meeting Activities at PWR meetings: March and May Final report: July

Commitments: Daily prayer and Bible study (using the same study) Weekly sharing (through a social platform) Meet every other week (in person and/or via electronic means) Mining the Grapes and Leaves data Lead the presbytery in visioning activities

If you are interested and willing to make a commitment to the process, please respond to Sharon Core (score@preswesres.org) and Martha Goble (goblemartha44@gmail.com).

Our Church

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

**Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary
and Coffee House 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**