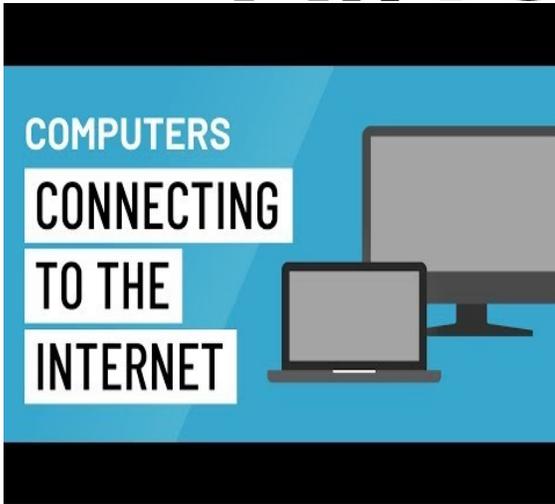


# Saints Alive!

Volume 18, Issue 4  
April 2020  
"Friends in Christ, Serving  
Together with Love"



## *Instructions for connecting with ALPC worship on Facebook*

- ⇒ Download the Facebook app onto your smartphone, laptop or desktop computer.
- ⇒ At the search bar, search for Avon Lake Presbyterian Church
- ⇒ Click to go to the church's page
- ⇒ Click the thumbs up to "Like" the page
- ⇒ Whenever the church begins a live-stream (or adds a post) you will be notified
- ⇒ Click on the video to connect.

Note that you can watch the video afterwards by going to the church's Facebook page and clicking on videos. Then just click on the one you want to watch.

Please contact Margre Lind Mills (440-785-1160) if you have questions, or Cindi in the church office (933-6240) and she will have Margre (or another church member) contact you with help.

## *Message from Tarra*

While we are unable to meet in person I will be putting a children's message online each week on our Avon Lake Presbyterian Church Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/avonlakepc](http://www.facebook.com/avonlakepc)). I hope that by using Facebook I will be able to stay connected to your family and share lessons with our youngest members.

Tarra Oppewall, Director of Children's Ministries

## *The Helpers*



We have members of our congregation that want to help. If you need anything at the store or pharmacy, or wherever, and you can't or don't want to go out, please contact the church office (440-933-6240), or Cindi (440-231-3528) and your wish is our command!

## *A Prayer from Pastor Charlie*

Dear God, We praise you for your constant and abiding love, ever-present and the source of our hope in this day, as in every day. We thank you for the safety of our homes and the wisdom of our state leaders in this war on the coronavirus. Use the social distancing measures to protect us and our communities.

Help us to be both cautious and optimistic, trusting in your care for us and all people. Help us to be self-protecting but not selfish. Let us rest in your grace, and bathe in your love. Please heal the people in Avon Lake with COVID19 and protect those people caring for them. We praise you for your strong hand at work in our lives, upholding us when we would fall. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Be wise! Love God! Love your neighbor!

Pastor Charlie

## An Interview with Muriel



Muriel Ellen Ramsey was working as a Vocal Music Teacher at Erievew, Westview and eventually Redwood Elementary schools here in Avon Lake when Betty Lou Wallace called and asked Muriel to accompany her kids at contest. She continued this practice and played piano at kids' lessons for years for Betty Lou's kids and others. At the time, Muriel was a member of the Methodist Church.

She was a part of MGP (Mighty Goliath Players) when she became friends with Dave Wallace. Dave, who was an Elder, offered Muriel the position of Choir Director for Avon Lake Presbyterian Church in the fall of 1965. She reluctantly accepted the position because during this time, she continued teaching piano and her job as Vocal Music Teacher in Avon Lake schools.

Muriel had a first date with Ed Homer in March of 1968. After that, Ed disappeared for a while. When Ed returned later in 1968, she found out that he had gone to Michigan to help take care of his dad, who died in the summer of 1968. Ed joined Avon Lake Presbyterian Church on May 26, 1968 and Muriel joined the church on May 25, 1969.

Ed and Muriel married on June 21, 1969. They were the second couple Rev. Al Hart married. Shortly after, she took 4 years off while having her two sons, Matt and Chris. After her first son, Matt, was born, she subbed in the school system, but didn't really like the "last minute" part of subbing, so quit that too.

Muriel spent one semester at Lakewood Little Theatre (now Beck Center) as Music Director. She was the piano accompanist for Avon Women's Chorus for several years. She spent one summer as Music Director at Huntington Playhouse and also played the part of a Nun in the Sound of Music. She is in the Hall of Fame of MGP, spending 20+ years singing, helping practice, accompanying and two years as Music Director.

Muriel has worked with Rev. Bob Swanson, Rev. Al Hart, Rev. Jim Butler, Rev. Tom Robinson, Rev. Nick Yoda, Bill Lindeman, Rev. Dennis Zimmerman and Rev. Charlie Swartz.

Next month—more interesting facts about my good friend, Muriel.

Cindi Dansizen, Office Administrator

## The Church Building



Here at the church, we are constantly spraying with the approved Lysol disinfectant – door knobs, counters, etc. and Carl, our custodian, has been using an approved anti –bacterial solution to wash the floors and furniture. We are cleaning the Sanctuary wood and vacuuming the pews. On March 24, we closed the church building until April 6 or until the Session

decides it's safe to open. We hope to have the entryway foyer, narthex, hallway to the security doors and kitchenette painted by the time we meet in church again. Our hope is that when you return, everything will be fresh and "new" like the season of Easter!

# Worship & Spiritual Life

Our seemingly mild winter is behind us; daylight savings time is upon us and Spring is in the air. God's love abounds!

We recently experienced an eight week worship series concentrating on "Who Are You?" It was very sensory enriched with uplifting visual elements encouraging our focus to imitate Jesus and how he wants us to live our lives. As Lent began, we shared together in Sunday worship hearing powerful sermons and dramatic readings in our spiritual journey, "Entering the Passion of Jesus." These events of Christ's Passion that take place during the last weeks of Christ's life were "freeze frame" moments allowing us to experience the passionate moments of His journey. These special moments in Jesus' last days impact our faith journey to be true followers of Jesus.

And then along came the corona virus that literally "freeze-framed" our very lives, causing our daily routines to change significantly in order to slow its progress. While what we do on a day to day basis may not have changed, how we do it certainly has, and that includes how we worship together. At our last Session meeting (a video conference using Zoom), we decided that we would not hold worship in the sanctuary until at least April 26, unless there is clear direction that it is safe for all to resume normal activities. But that doesn't mean we won't be worshipping together! We will continue to worship via Facebook live-stream at 10:00 am each Sunday. Please sign in about 9:55 and feel free to let everyone know you are present, and share messages with each other, as well as prayer requests via your comments. Prayer requests will be captured and given to Charlie so he can include them in our prayers at the end of the service. The order of worship each week will roughly follow the format of Welcome, Music, Scripture, Message, Prayer, Benediction, and will last about 30 minutes. We will try different locations in the narthex and sanctuary to provide the best result, so please let us know what you think.



Our online worship will include Holy Week and Easter Sunday with the following schedule:

Maundy Thursday - April 9th - 7:30 pm  
Good Friday - April 10th - 12:00 noon  
Easter Sunday - April 12th - 10:00 am

Note that we are considering live-streaming an Easter sunrise service, weather permitting, but need to take care that we do not gather in person. More information will be

available if we decide we can do this. Unfortunately, Jazz Sunday will be postponed to a later date.

Many thanks to all who dedicate their time and talents during worship each Sunday morning. A special thanks to those of you who provided dramatic readings during the "freeze frame" messages, the worship assistant's extra scripture readings during Lent, Muriel and choirs for their beautiful, inspiring and uplifting Lenten music prior to our change to live-streaming.

Our dear Music Director, Muriel Homer will be retiring after 50+ years in May, and we will truly miss her music ministry! On May 31st, Pentecost Sunday, we will be honoring and celebrating Muriel. Please mark your calendars for this special day.

Even with these strange circumstances, we hope this is a time you will grow closer to God and to your family, including your church family. With God's help, we will not only survive, but thrive! We wish you all a very blessed Easter. He is Risen!

Written by Donna Bradley and edited by Margre Lind Mills on behalf of WSL: Donna Bradley, Dave Brunner, Muriel Homer, Margre Lind Mills, Beth Shoemaker, Jeff Spenser, Pastor Charlie, Cris Till, Marcy Uhl, Sarah Waggoner and JoAnn Wainscott.

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

## Christian Education

*Let's Connect!*

Greetings ALPC Families! How are you doing? Really- How are you doing? This is a strange time for everyone right now and everyone is handling it in different ways. Emotionally, financially, spiritually, our experiences may be different right now, but we are all in this together and the greatest thing we can do is be there for each other. But how do we do that when we can't *physically* be there for each other? Well, we have to get creative. For some of us, social media has been a great way to stay connected and for others it has been a

source of anxiety. Wherever you may fall on that spectrum, I encourage you to take advantage of Facebook on Sunday mornings when we can all connect during our online worship service on Facebook Live. This new normal requires us to be creative and proactive in seeking out connection- call each other, text each other, sending mail is okay too! Wave or smile at everyone you see, these simple acts remind us of our connectedness and shared experience. These opportunities to connect are bringing me joy in this uncertain time.

How are your kids doing? Parents, I feel for you. Having your children at home can be wonderful and challenging. How are you handling it? There is no one size fits all for this experience. For some, a schedule and structure is a natural answer to this situation. Research shows that at times like these routine and structure are comforting to kids. However, be true to your parenting style and your children's personalities. Make sure your kids are having fun, having a chance to talk about their feelings, and are making healthy choices regarding physical activity and mental health. Our kids have suffered a wide range of losses through this experience and the compassion and empathy we offer them is a gift they truly need. At the same time, take care of yourself as well. You may be trying to work, trying to homeschool, and trying to stay organized and patient. It is not an easy task. Your physical, mental, and spiritual health are key- please find ways to take care of yourself too.

As a family I encourage you to "Look for the Helpers". Remember the story Mister Rogers shared at 9/11, when he saw scary things on the news as a little boy, his mother reminded him to look for the helpers. Right now we have an amazing opportunity to recognize helpers throughout the world- from the workers bringing us food, good health, and safety to the local man playing the bagpipes outside of nursing homes for residents. Look for the helpers and look for ways you and your children can help.

I am here to help as well. I offer my ear to anyone who needs to talk through a stressful day at home, or who just wants to catch up, please call or text, 440-915-5817, and your children may call, text, or e-mail me too with your permission. I welcome finding new ways to connect.

While we are unable to meet in person I will be putting a children's message online each week on our Avon Lake Presbyterian Church Facebook page. I hope that by using Facebook I will be able to stay connected to your family and share lessons with our youngest members. Until we meet again together, know I am praying for you daily. This is an opportunity for us all, children included, to shine our light and use our gifts. Be creative, stay connected, and remember that God is with you- always.

Tarra Oppewall, Director of Children's Ministries

## Cornerstone Preschool

As we navigate through these uncharted waters, parents are now burdened with the extra task of teaching their children at home. To try and lighten this burden for parents, the Cornerstone Teachers have implemented some very exciting programs to help guide parents through the process of home learning. Cornerstone Teachers are providing interactive learning through classroom videos, emailing lessons/ materials, providing virtual support to parents and they are even using social media Platforms to encourage Socialization with their school friends. It will also be a great way for children to share what they have been working on at home with each other.

We are encouraging parents to embrace this time with their children and make it not only educational but fun too! I believe we will all eventually look back on this and treasure the time we had with our families, appreciate the lessons that we learned along the way and be encouraged knowing that we are stronger than we ever thought we were!

Julie Erker, Director

## Deacons' News

Hello ALPC,

So, has all of this COVID-19 stuff got your knickers in a twist like me? I try not to watch too much news because it just heightens my anxiety, but I saw a segment from a psychologist on the Today show and she confirmed anxiety is normal and we all experience it to some level. The best way to combat it is keep in touch with friends and family and even though we are physically separated we can still be connected through the phone. Feel free to call me or any Deacon, if you need someone to talk with. Also, learn a new skill, read that book you've wanted to read. I've found praying and Charlie's e-mails helpful. But my favorite stress reliever is humor. Everyone says social distancing is this new thing...really? I experienced a lot of social distancing when I was a teenager and in college when I asked girls out! Fortunately a few smart ones, and one in particular, said yes.

As I'm sure you have heard by now, the Deacons Family Feud Game and the Easter Breakfast have been cancelled this year. We will utilize the efforts in planning to hold the event in the Fall or next winter.

So let me leave you this parting Irish poem,

### No Worries:

Why Worry? In life there are only two things to worry about:  
Whether you are well, or whether you are sick.  
Now if you are well, you have nothing to worry about.  
And if you are sick, you only have two things to worry about:  
Whether you get better, or whether you die.  
If you get better, you have nothing to worry about.  
And if you die, you only have two things to worry about:  
Whether you go to heaven, or whether you go to hell.  
Now if you go to heaven, you have nothing to worry about.  
And if you go to hell, you'll be too busy shaking hands with your friends and family,  
that you won't have time to worry.  
So Why Worry?

Sincerely,  
Mike Reighard, Deacon Moderator



## Evangelism



The Evangelism Committee will not be meeting until further notice. However, we will continue to reach out to the community and to our church membership.

The postcards will still be addressed and mailed to the new homeowners in the communities of Avon, Avon Lake, Sheffield Lake, and North Ridgeville.

The birthday cards will still be sent to all the church members who have shared with us the month and day of their birthday.

We are working on plans for our church to participate in the Avon Lake Memorial Day Parade again this year. The parade is scheduled for Monday, May 25, 2020, and if it is not cancelled because of the coronavirus, we will look forward to the parade where we represent our Avon Lake Presbyterian Church .

Barbara Graves, Moderator

# Mission Matters

"I've learned that people will forget what you said,  
people will forget what you did,  
but people will never forget how you make them feel." Maya Angelou

**Lunch Bunch Cancelled in March.** It was not an easy decision but we cancelled our Lunch Bunch lunch for the first time in 8 years! As with everything else that it is pause mode these days, we will keep everyone apprised of April's lunch plans. On a positive note, we passed our safety/health inspection with Second Harvest. Thanks to everyone that helps keep our kitchen and storage areas clean and organized.

**LCADaway presentation has been postponed.**

**March 22nd is World Water Day.** This link below has eye opening facts and ideas concerning water issues in the USA and worldwide. It is hard to comprehend the vast unavailability of safe drinking water and basic hygiene facilities living in the Great Lakes Region. It surely is a reminder of the blessings we take for granted. [World Water Day CDC](#)

**GIVE**  
to the  
**EASTER**  
**OFFERING**

**The special Easter Sunday Offering is in support of Haven Center In Lorain.** As of March 18, they are still providing services. We feel it is important to support this 24-7 homeless shelter during this especially challenging time. It seems likely that people will be feeling the effects of this health crisis in unexpected ways, including loss of pay or small business closures. Please note Haven Center or Easter offering on any donation you make. Checks payable to ALPC. This link provides a great overview of the shelter and Neighborhood Alliance, or to make a direct donation. [Haven Center](#)

**One Great Hour of Sharing has been a long-time tradition as part of our Palm Sunday service.** Please read the bulletin insert for more details. OGHS is a way to support all types of Presbyterian missions including Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). PDA is similar to groups like the Red Cross that travel to disaster areas to access and provide aid and spiritual support. PDA is often one of the first groups to arrive and last to leave. If you wish to make a donation please add OGHS to the memo. Checks payable to ALPC. You may also donate directly through this link <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/>

Since many of us are spending more time at home and might be doing some Spring organizing, keep in mind Leon's clothing pantry sponsored by Church of the Redeemer in Lorain. Specific items are needed:

- \* Men's winter wear, like coats, jackets, **jeans, boots,** gloves, hats belts and **sturdy shoes.** (not dress clothing) *Any NON summer, practical clothing for children is welcome.* Including any jackets, hats, boots etc.
- \* Also needed is bedding and towels.
- \* **NOT Needed** Dress clothing or women's clothing other than warm jackets. Drop off date TBA. (to be announced)



**The annual LCM Wine and Cheese fundraiser is May 7th.** Kathy Hamilton and Carol Madson have tickets for this fun event. Price \$10. Lorain Cooperative ministries plays a huge part in providing services to the people of Lorain including the Front Door program at 1st Lutheran and meals and food pantries throughout Lorain County.

Please contact any mission committee member if you have questions or ideas to share: Beth Janis 440-522-1771. Marian Conn, Kathy Leopold, Carol Madson, Sue Mabe, or Jenni Stryczny.

## Property Committee



Hello all. We hope everyone is doing well and the challenges we have had are behind us. We pray that people worldwide are getting the help they need and can be with their friends and family.

We also want you to know that measures have been taken to keep us safer. There is hand sanitizer in dispensers when entering or leaving via the main doors to the sanctuary and when entering the narthex. The floors have been disinfected as well as the tables and counters around the church. This will be an ongoing precaution until things stabilize. Please visit the church anytime you would like during the day.

You are getting this newsletter about two weeks or more after it was written. That means that our painting plan might have changed again. Right now we intend to have the foyer painted first, then the sanctuary. This will introduce members and guests to a new fresh look when they step into our church. The sanctuary needs more time in order to make the projection work correctly with the color of paint that will be used.

As an update to the above, the Session voted to go ahead with painting the foyer as soon as the color is chosen. The cost will be about \$1500.00 plus paint. Session also voted to install a wood floor in the library at the cost of about \$870.00.

We would like to create some directional signs that would show various locations in our church. We would like these to be wooden so if anyone has that talent or someone you know does, please let us know. We also have hanging signs, one for the main door and the other for the glass door by the Coffee House Worship. They both indicate that the doors are locked during our church services and that entry can be gained at the main entrance. A Site Monitor will let them in.

At our last meeting, we also walked through the Session room and the main kitchen. We all know that it's been time, for awhile, that these two locations need some work. We will be working on what needs help in these rooms and the best way to make the improvements. More on this will be explained at a later time in regards to some help that we may need.

As you are reading this, it will soon be time for a work day. We want to get ahead of ourselves and not have the weeds take over. Also once we get our lawn mower going, Doug Day offered to start the cutting; so thanks to Doug. Anyone else that wants to ride this cool mower, let me know.

We are also working on solutions for the video feed for the Coffee House Worship. Larry Madson and Dan DeRoma seem to have this under control as both are excellent Tech guys.

We seem to have many projects in the coming months. We'll see what happens and hope for the best. Any thoughts or ideas please let us know.

Peace Be With You, Jim Janis

## Comfort Blankets



### *A Moment for Local Mission*

My dear friends—this is an idea for using your time during isolation for mission for those less fortunate. I have started making small blankets/quilts to give to the Avon Lake Police Department to give to a child if and/or when a child has to be taken from their home due to domestic violence or the death of a parent.

If you would like to participate by knitting, crocheting, quilting, or creating a home-made child-size COMFORT BLANKET that would be wonderful! I will collect them after our isolation is lifted and deliver them to our ALPD. Thank you so much! Please contact me, Kathy Leopold, at 440-242-5086 or [leapinleok@hotmail.com](mailto:leapinleok@hotmail.com) anytime. Stay safe!

# Finance

So far this year (through February), our income is ahead of budget and our expenses are below budget. However, since several people have already paid their yearly pledge, giving will level out as the year progresses. During this uncertain time of the covid-19 virus, our expenses will continue even though we are doing what we can to save on utilities since most of the building is not being used. Our staff is still being paid and are doing a great job at staying connected with our members through email, Facebook and Zoom. If your bank already sends your pledge payments, we will continue to receive them as usual. For members who usually place their pledge payments in the offering plates, we request that you mail your giving to the church while we are meeting virtually. Above all, stay safe and healthy so we can all return to worship together when the time is right!

	February YTD Actual	YTD Budget
<b>Income:</b>		
Congregational Giving	\$73,927	\$50,502
Other Income	<u>5,870</u>	<u>7,950</u>
Total Income	\$79,797	\$58,452
<b>Expense:</b>		
Worship & Spiritual Life	\$20,012	\$21,065
Christian Education	186	1,354
Stewardship & Mission	750	850
Property	8,744	7,726
Support Staff & General Expenses	20,357	22,843
Youth Mission Trip	0	2,000
Per capita Expense	<u>11,506</u>	<u>11,506</u>
Total Expense	\$61,555	\$67,344

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

## *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.

Sunday Worship on Facebook Live at 10:00 am  
Tune in on Sunday to [www.facebook.com/avonlakepc](http://www.facebook.com/avonlakepc)  
(440) 933-6240

Website: [www.avonlakechurch.com](http://www.avonlakechurch.com)  
Email: [alpresby@avonlakepc.org](mailto: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