

Saints Alive!

Volume 19, Issue 4
April 2021
"Friends in Christ, Serving
Together with Love"



Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday, March 28, 10 am

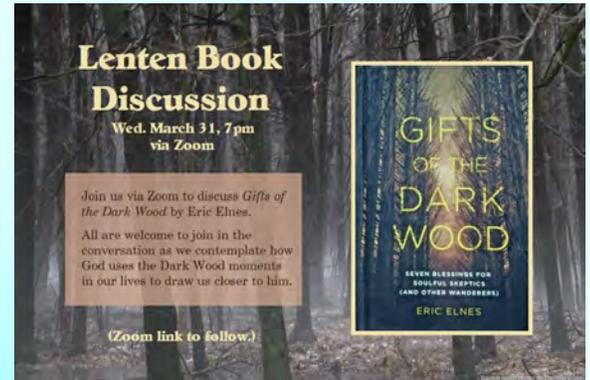
"The Gift of Misfits" on Facebook and YouTube

Wednesday, March 31 at 7:00 pm
Zoom Lenten Book Discussion

Join Zoom Meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3231460155?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3231460155?pwd=Sm9ZZIRZcE9HMHp4TWRYY0ZIMmo3QT09)

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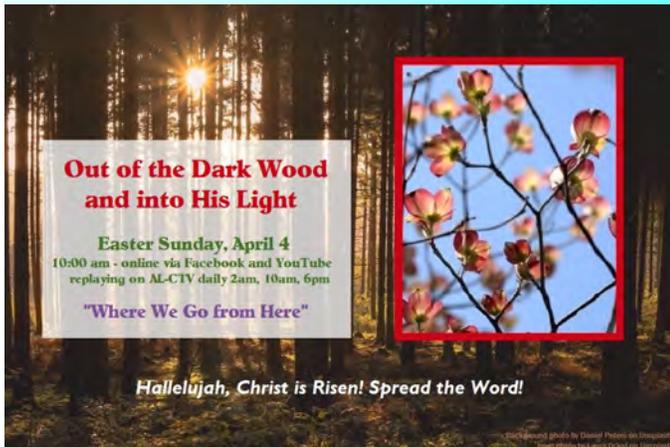


Maundy Thursday, April 1, 6:45 pm "The Gift of Disappearing" on Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3231460155?pwd=Sm9ZZIRZcE9HMHp4TWRYY0ZIMmo3QT09>

A time for fellowship has been added before our Zoom Maundy Thursday service on April 1st. Connect early at **6:45pm** to say hello and visit with one another before our church service begins at 7:00pm. This was inspired by the enjoyment experienced when participants arrived early for the Zoom Ash Wednesday service and could visit with the others they hadn't seen for a long time.



Good Friday, April 2, at noon.

A Service from our Synod
(produced by Synod Commissioners & the Michigan
Black Presbyterian Caucus)
on Facebook and YouTube

Easter Sunday, April 4, 10 am

"Out of the Dark Wood and into His Light. Go Tell!"
on Facebook and YouTube

Our worship on the *Sunday after Easter*, April 11, will be a very interesting Synod service (produced by the Eastminister, Mackinac and Western Reserve Presbyteries), beginning at 10 am on Facebook and YouTube.

Our next series, "Just as He Told You" will actually begin on Easter Sunday, then pick up again on April 18th and run through Pentecost. This series focuses on our instructions from Jesus. From the very beginning Jesus began to prepare his disciples to continue his ministry once he was no longer with them. This Easter season, we will encounter teachings of Jesus that end up coming in handy as the early church struggles and thrives...ultimately handing on the instructions to us. What will we do with them?

FROM THE PASTOR/ Charlie Swartz



Dear Friends,

Listen to the psalmist who expresses the relief that we feel at this moment in our battle with COVID 19. "I love you, O Lord, my strength. The cords of death encompassed me, the snares of death confronted me. In my distress I called upon the Lord; to my God I cried for help. He heard my voice. He reached down from on high and took me. He delivered me. The Lord lives! Blessed be my rock and exalted be the God of my salvation," (Psalm 18 various verses).

Everything I read in the paper, or online, concerning statements from the CDC, statements from our wise governor, statistics from the state Health department, reports on numbers of people vaccinated, all indicate that this long nightmare is coming to an end. It is almost too good to believe. Over a year of the pandemic made us accustomed to bad news. Now that the pandemic is being driven back, I feel jubilation. Life will return to what will be close to the old normal.

The vaccines change the whole calculus of what is, and what is not safe. Our congregation has been getting vaccinated since January, starting with the medical workers, then the eighty year olds and above, then the seventy year olds, then those sixty five, then sixty, and as of today the governor says anyone sixteen or older may get vaccinated. These amazing vaccines really change everything. I got my first of two vaccines last Tuesday. I was one of the few to get sick from a really robust immune response. But as I lay on the couch, I rejoiced in the knowledge that my body was building, moment by moment, immunity against this deadly scourge. Through this remarkable combination of science and government intervention, God is building a hedge of protection around my body to keep me safe from the coronavirus. Wow and praise God! If you have not received your vaccine, I urge you to schedule this miracle of protection.

As you know, our Session, with advice from our COVID Advisory Group, has been looking over the welfare of our entire congregation since day one of the pandemic. This amazing assembly of elected leaders has wisely and reasonably given us guidelines to enable us to continue ministry and protect the lives of each precious member. As you would expect, these elders are talking with our



COVID Advisor Group, which is comprised of members in health, science and engineering, about how we appropriately open back up in person in a reasoned manner - not too fast and not too slow, but "just right." As soon as we have our new guidelines, we will communicate them to you.

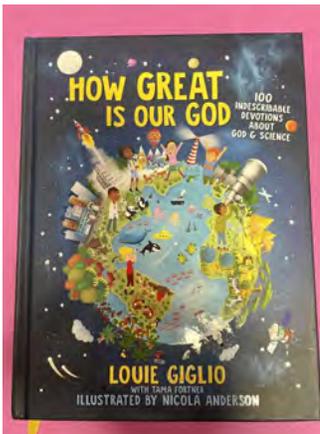
I know we can get impatient and want everything to be done yesterday. Please be patient with your leadership as we figure how to return to our new normal. In any large organization, we will differ on what we each think is the right thing to do in a complex situation. The Elders appreciate your prayers and support.

In His love,
Pastor Charlie

From Tarra, Director of Children's Ministries

Hello ALPC families!

I hope you have been enjoying our Lenten worship series. I have certainly been having a lot of fun playing in the woods. I hope that you have been able to get outside and make connections to God in our great outdoors.



If you know a child that really enjoys science and nature, I would like to recommend the devotional book, How Great is Our God: 100 Indescribable Devotions about God and Science by Louie Giglio. This book offers great connections between God and the natural world. I have enjoyed reading these devotions myself, and they would be a great addition to the night time routine for kids ages 5-10.

As we prepare to celebrate the miracle of Easter, I always remember being a new mom and wondering how I would share such an important but complicated story with my little ones. Perhaps you wonder this too, or maybe you are looking for new tools sharing Easter with your children.

For preschool children, the most important part of the retelling is the empty tomb. Using an intentionally empty plastic egg, you can remind kids of the tomb on Easter Morning.

For older kids, you can tell the full story of Easter with Resurrection Eggs, these eggs hold items from the Easter story. Resurrection Eggs can be purchased online, or made at home.



Another fun activity is baking Easter Story Cookies together. This recipe, which is found across the internet, tells the story of Easter with each ingredient and activity in the recipe.

Yet, the most simple and meaningful way to share the story of Jesus' death and resurrection is to gather together and read the story from a children's bible. Let your kids ask questions; wonder together about the people in the story, and share a conversation on what it means to you that Jesus rose from the grave on Easter Morning.

Whether you use plastic eggs, Easter cookies, or reading the Bible, I pray that you experience God's loving presence as you celebrate the resurrection.

Please remember that during COVID times, members and parents are not allowed in the Cornerstone hallways during school times (Monday through Thursday, 8:00—3:00 and Friday, 8:00—12:30 pm) without permission so as to keep our children and teachers safe.

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From the Director of Music and Arts Ministries

I hope everyone has had a blessed Lenten journey. I have so appreciated our worship series **Gifts of the Dark Wood**. My thanks to our Chancel Choir and our various instrumentalists in the sharing of their time and talent throughout Lent as together we explored the Dark Wood and worshipped our living Lord. This week, blessings as you travel from Jerusalem to the cross and to life everlasting. He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Our Worship Series for April and May is entitled '**Just As He Told You ... Go Tell!**' Each week, we will study the teachings of Jesus, ultimately asking the question, what will we do? It reminds me of the closing song in the Dallas Holm Cantata, **His Last Days** which features the song **I Will Rise Again**. My church choir at Ebenezer Mennonite Church in Bluffton, Ohio sang this cantata back in 1980. The cantata closes with the following:

*All I had to give, I gave ... All I had to say, I've said ... What will you do?
All the tears I had, I cried ... All the pain I felt inside ... What will you do?*

*Will you turn me down today? Will you up and walk away?
Inside your heart you'll say, It's not for me.*

*Laugh at me and turn me away ... Say anything you want to say
But all I'm telling you is true ... All I've done, I've done for you*

What will you do?

I've always remembered this song and its closing question ... it has helped steer my direction throughout my journey of faith ... journey of life.

In the March issue of *Saints Alive!* I shared the impact, to me personally, of the musical piece '**Jesus Wept**' ... *Music has a way of reciting scripture and truly touching our heart and soul ... this song does that for me. What song brings you to such a place? Share it with me, I would love to hear your stories and what pieces of music speak to you.* ... Gail Tanner was one of the people who responded, I would like to share her story with you.

My favorite hymn is "**The Old Rugged Cross**". I sat in a forked tree over looking Jerusalem when I was



5 years old. We traveled all over the Holy Lands. I saw where Jesus supposedly stamped his foot to go back to Heaven and visited the Garden of Gethsemane. My Dad gave slide shows of our travels in our church on Long Island, so most of my memories were brought to life through his talks and slides. The song reminds me of our time there. My Mom knew I liked that song and bought me a gold cross that is fairly smooth on one side but rugged on the other. They were having money problems so she said she was sorry that they couldn't afford a necklace to go with it. That cross and song live in my heart. Hopefully someone who knows me will sing it at my

funeral (but not any time soon!). You asked for songs that mean something to each person, this is mine!

Thanks Gail ... the string quartet will be playing '**The Old Rugged Cross**', along with '**O Sacred Head Now Wounded**' for our postlude on Palm Sunday. If others would like to share your stories, I would love to hear them. Music has a special way of connecting us to each other, to scripture, and to Him personally.

TrueNorth Cultural Arts re-opened its doors to the public, Wednesday, March 24th after being closed since March 13th of last year. TrueNorth has moved to a new location, 33463 Lake Road, just west of Moore Road across the street from Kowalski Ford. TrueNorth is available for music lessons in all applied areas and is preparing for summer camps in music and theatre. The opening Gallery Show, in addition to TrueNorth artists, will feature our Avon Lake Presbyterian Music and Arts Ministries with '**The Beatitudes**'. Artists Elizabeth Swartz, Janet Parker, Amy Ringholz and Adam Richardson's artwork, accompanied by virtual music of the Avon Lake Presbyterian Church music ministry, will highlight our Epiphany's series on the **Passionate Jesus, Emotions as God's Gift**. The Gallery will be open Tuesday – Friday, 2:30 – 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Sunday and Monday by appointment only. I'd be honored to have any of you stop by and visit. I am excited, as this pandemic lifts, to continue finding ways to encourage and compliment ministries between ALPC and TrueNorth.

Worship and Spiritual Life



Easter Joy is upon us! Celebrating our Savior Jesus Christ's glorious triumph over evil, sin and death makes this new season ring out with Hope and Joy! Flowers express our Easter Joy so perfectly. Plans are in place for our church's flower-covered cross to be displayed Easter morning on our front lawn, a beautiful reminder of our Redeemer's tremendous Love for mankind.

Pastor Charlie's Lenten sermons, Gifts of the Dark Wood, have focused on how our faith and trust in God can truly grow stronger and deeper in our darkest and most painful struggles. Through these faith-filled sermons God is equipping us once again to be blessed and thrive in all times and circumstances.

We're ever grateful to God for the musicians and artists whose talents have enhanced our worship services. Our thanks to the artists: Janet Parker, Adam Richardson, Amy Ringholz and Beth Swartz and to the musicians: Jacob Campbell, Doug Day, Joan Wojcicki Fortney, Barbara Graves, Cathy Graves, Amy Jankovsky, Cecelia Ilg McKay, Sherry Spenser, Sandy Tucker, Madeline Waggoner, Sarah Waggoner, Penelope Wending and Matt Wirfel.

Staying in touch with God is saving us in many ways during this long stretch of staying out of crowds, "sheltering in place" and employing all the other precautions to stop the spread of COVID-19 that have been in place for twelve months now. Whew! The end is getting nearer and nearer but isn't here yet. We are all looking forward to the time when we can safely gather again at our beloved church. Be assured our COVID Advisory Committee looks forward to this too and are continually assessing all the pertinent data related to it.

Our committee hopes you're doing well and that you're receiving our Sunday Services through Facebook, YouTube, the Avon Lake cable channel or the printed copies Cindi mails out to those without these services to keep us all connected to the heart of God.

God Bless Zoom! It's quite a blessing to be able to connect with one another through Zoom technology for our Coffee Hour every Sunday around 11:00am. Please join in! We miss you and would love to see you!

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3231460155?pwd=Sm9ZZIRZcE9HMHp4TWRYYY0ZIMmo3QT09>

Or join by phone to hear and be heard if you don't have an internet connection. Dial 1-(301)715-8592, Meeting ID: 323 146 0155, Password: 32340.

"God doesn't want us to be shy with his gifts, but bold and loving and sensible. So don't be embarrassed to speak up for our Master...keep at your work, this faith and love rooted in Christ. Guard this precious thing placed in your custody by the Holy Spirit who works in us."
2 Timothy 1:7-8, 13-14 The Message bible

We wish you a very Blessed and Happy Easter!

Submitted by Cris Till on behalf of the Worship & Spiritual Life Committee: Donna Bradley, Dave Brunner, Rick Fortney, Margre Lind Mills, Pastor Charlie, Beth Shoemaker, Jeff Spenser, Marcy Uhl, Sarah Waggoner, and JoAnn Wainscott.



Evangelism Committee



Calls were made to Avon, North Ridgeville, Bay Village, Sheffield, and Sheffield Lake City offices to inquire about our worship services being shown

on their community television channels. North Ridgeville and Avon still have a community television channel but it is limited to their own city activities. Bay Village used to have a community television channel but no longer.

The Evangelism Committee has arranged for a beautiful ad about our Lenten and Easter worship services. The ad will appear in the West Life paper on March 31, and we thank Margre and Beth for the information and creating the graphics.

The flyer that has been given to the community at both the Memorial Day and Homecoming parades has been updated to include all of the ways our worship services can be watched online and our Avon Lake Community TV channels. 50 copies of the updated version have been printed and Rick Fortney will be using them at an open house for the new location of True North.

Sharon Pervo	April 1
Will Wendling	April 1
Barbara Wiedl	April 2
Margie Mills	April 2
Jackie Butrey	April 7
Janet St. George	April 7
Vickie Joyce	April 9
Tom Tighe	April 11
Gino Meehan	April 12
Melanie Brunner	April 13
Olivia Kompan	April 13
Jenny Doran	April 14
Jack Storm	April 16
Michele Cold	April 19
Joseph (Skip) Albrecht	April 20
Bill Gantz	April 23
Bill Till	April 25
Kathy Mohr	April 27
Aimee Cockburn	April 28



Deacon News

Hello ALPC,

So, it has been a year of dealing with the life of COVID 19. We have all gone through the pains, losses and benefits of the virus/quarantine to different extents. I have received comfort from our church through this pandemic but voids in life still exist. The good news is God is with us and the vaccine is becoming available. During the past week I've gone through the process of registering for the vaccine and getting it yesterday. Registering was a challenging process. My boss came by my desk at the apex of my frustration. He had gone through the process a few days before and was able to talk me off the virtual ledge and help me register with Lorain County Health Department. I returned the favor by helping a friend register that night. My point is: if you get frustrated with the process, contact Sherry Thompson, me or any other veteran of the COVID vaccine sign-up. Getting the vaccine was quick and painless. They were well organized. Last night my arm felt like someone hit it with a hammer but getting better today. It's a small price to pay for avoiding the virus. I'll let you know how the second shot goes next month. Susan has had both vaccines with no adverse effects and I hope others are on their way to being vaccinated.

Nancy Baldwin is leading the effort to reach out to others through *Share Your Story* which is published in *Saints Alive!* I encourage you to read those and if you have a story to share, please contact Nancy, because she is looking for writers and stories.

Sherry and Charlie made the next step in structuring the Congregational Care Ministry. We plan to roll this out after we get clearance from the COVID Advisory Committee. In the meantime, Deacons continue to reach out to members. If you need anything, please contact a deacon: Mike Reighard, Sybil Wendling, Cathy Graves, Mike Ciarrone, Shawn Brunner, Joy Harris, Jeff Spenser, Craig Shoemaker, Sherry Thompson, Sandee Seib, Nancy Baldwin, Madeline Waggoner.

I looked at some of my letters a year ago and decided to reprint a poem that hopefully brings you some comfort and humor. Since I'm writing this just before St. Patrick's Day let me leave you this 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.



Let your hope keep you joyful, be patient in your troubles, and always pray (Romans 12:12).

Sincerely, Mike Reighard, Deacon Moderator



My family and I wish to thank the church family for all their cards, calls and texts of sympathy for the loss of our dear Russ. It is a true testament of the Christian love from truly caring members and means so much to all of us. Thank you,

Joan Beck

Mission

"Even the strongest of hands can lose their grip, the greatest of minds can become cloudy and the biggest of hearts can break. So be kind, just always be kind." unknown

Our Easter Offering this year will be going toward the Lunch Bunch fund. We are working on "Lunch Bunch Re-imagined" for this summer. Kathy Hamilton is observing two different church drive up meals and is working with Second Harvest inspectors to make sure we meet their current standards. We will be working with our LCM (Lorain Cooperative Ministry) partners and the ALPC COVID Advisory Team to make sure we can serve our neighbors in a safe way. Bill Till is onboard as "Head" cook. We hope to serve the first meal in June or July.



Thank you for your donations to One Great Hour of Sharing. [OGHS](#). If you want to learn more about this special offering, the link is a good way to start.

Mission committee members are often asked about organizations that are in need of donations and volunteers. This seems like a good time to highlight some of the groups we have helped in the past.

Second Harvest is currently accepting donations at local grocery stores. Each \$1 provides 5 meals to local families. It is easy to add a few dollars to your tab. And you may have received something in the mail recently. [Harvest for hunger](#)

Neighborhood Alliance provides a 24/7 homeless shelter in Lorain as well as senior programming including "Meals on Wheels," family support and child enrichment including preschool. [neighborhood alliance](#)
Neighborhood Alliance 1536 E. 30th St. Lorain, Ohio 44055. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to call 440-233-8768.

CRS: Community Resource Services serving Avon and Avon Lake residents, Their food pantry is most in demand but assistance with transportation, housing, utilities etc. are also available. They post a wish list that is updated often and, of course, welcome any financial donations and volunteer help. **CRS [33479 Lake Road, Suite C Avon Lake, OH 44012](#). Phone: (440) 933-5639 Email: aalcrs@aalcrs.org**

Valor Home in Lorain helps homeless veterans. They need financial donations but also have a wish list on their website. [Valor home 2021 221 W. 21st St, Lorain, Oh 44052](#) 440-387-4293.
Kathy Leopold is a ALPC contact for additional information.

LCM (Lorain Cooperative Ministries) We are a part of this cooperative group of Lorain County churches. The groups advice and knowledge and connections to helpful services has been a blessing to many. [LCM](#) The address is [1010 W. 5th St, Lorain, OH 44052](#) 440-240-4402. Kathy Hamilton and Kathy Navarro are contacts for this group.

Of course, [guatemalafamilydevelopment.com/](#). Michele Cold and Kathy Leopold are the local liaisons for this ongoing mission.

And **PCUSA-PDA** which is the Presbyterian Church version of the American Red Cross. [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#). They have the ability to respond quickly to situations utilizing contacts worldwide. Please feel free to contact mission members with your ideas and if you would like to be a part of the mission projects at work at ALPC. Beth Janis bjanis1383@gmail.com.

Property Committee

Special thanks to the members that volunteered to help keep our doorways and walkways cleared this winter. Let's hope snow season is done for the year.

For routine security reasons, the lock on the door by the kitchen has had its key numbers changed and the code will be given out as needed.

We are still on track for the bathroom renovation beginning in late May or early June. The down payment has been made and Jim Janis will keep in touch with the general contractor, Mark Smith of Superior Quality Builders, LLC.

Presbyterian Women and the Property committee are considering sharing the cost of the replacement of the mini fridge in the kitchenette. The price would be around \$200.00. There has been a mini fridge for years and years in the kitchenette and it gets its use.

Let's hope we can have a spring clean up this April or early May. Sorry this can't be done virtually, no zoom meeting needed. If you would like to help, please call Jim Janis 440-522-9496.

Phil has been doing the painting in the sanctuary and it is coming out great. He also thought that since the scaffolding was in use he would change out the broken bulbs in the foyer and sanctuary. You can never see Phil sitting around.

I hope that by late Spring or early Summer, we can all be together in our church. Especially if we see some Deacon Dogs, after we see anyone first of course.

Be Well, Jim Janis



Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering

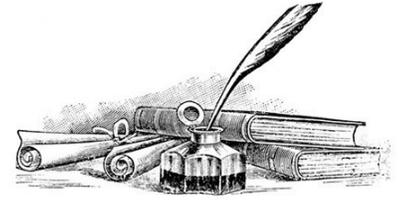
Presbyterian Women Virtual Spring Gathering – PW in the Presbytery of the Western Reserve is sponsoring a virtual event, “Welcoming the Stranger: Insight into Homelessness” featuring the Rev. Shane Nanney. This virtual event will be held via Zoom on Saturday, April 24, 2021, from 10-11:30 am. Registration is required by contacting Suzan Plautz at suzanp@yahoo.com **440-269-1465** before Noon, Wednesday, April 21. On Friday, April 23, a ZOOM link will be sent from the Presbytery. This program is open to anyone – women and men.



Session Highlights

The Session met on March 15 – Highlights of their meeting were:

- * Heard that the Deacons will take leadership of the Tuesday virtual prayer ministry.
- * The Deacons have begun providing assistance with COVID vaccine signups.
- * While giving has exceeded expenses so far this year, in February, giving was significantly less than last February's level.
- * Kathy Navarro will cover as treasurer while Marcy Uhl is on vacation for the month.
- * The COVID Advisory Group will study to provide new recommendations as regulations from the CDC and the State of Ohio relax.
- * Approved Cornerstone Preschool's plans for summer camps.
- * Pastor Charlie has assembled a team to study racial justice issues and come up with ideas for our church.
- * Pastor Charlie will preach at the March 22 Presbytery meeting.
- * Ms. Tarra will have the children leave painted rocks in the woods for others to find.
- * A new version of our parade brochure will be distributed at the upcoming True North open house.
- * Human Resources has retained the services of a new custodial contractor.
- * A drive-up version of Lunch Bunch is being planned for this summer.
- * The repairs to the flat roof did not leak from the ice buildup this winter. A job well done!
- * Services recorded by the Synod will be used for our worship on Good Friday and on the Sunday after Easter. This gives our recording team a break and introduces our congregation to other Presbyterians in our region.
- * The congregation is being asked to send in pictures or videos of branch waving for our Palm Sunday processional.
- * Our Maundy Thursday service will be via Zoom and will feature dramatic readings.
- * Our Easter service will start with a recorded sunrise.



Elizabeth Shoemaker, Clerk of Session

Coffee Hour each Sunday

Join us after worship each Sunday for a Zoom coffee hour. We will get together around 11:00 am or after the worship service is over. Zoom Link:



[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3231460155?
pwd=Sm9ZZIRZcE9HMHp4TWRYY0ZIMmo3QT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3231460155?pwd=Sm9ZZIRZcE9HMHp4TWRYY0ZIMmo3QT09)

Or, if you can't Zoom on your computer, (or don't have a computer,) you can call in. Dial the following number: 1-301-715-8592, then when it prompts you for a Meeting ID, dial in 323 146 0155, then when it prompts you for a password, dial in 32340.



Guatemala Family Development

Making a Difference in 2020



Thank You!

Tim MacMillan
Mission Team Leader
Founding Board Member

Over the past 20 years, you've generously supported our mission to provide medical clinics, clean water systems, and build homes in the rural villages of Guatemala. When our pictures and stories touched your hearts, you inspired us to share on larger scale. Guatemala Family Development was founded so that, together, we can continue to make a difference in the lives of Mayan families.

While COVID was a challenging year in the USA, it was even more devastating in Guatemala. Medical and humanitarian aid trips were canceled. For COVID safety, all roads were closed stranding rural communities without access to food, supplies, or medicine.

In November, two Hurricanes, Eta and Iota, hit the communities causing massive flooding, landslides, and loss of life. With hundreds of vulnerable people living in shelters, after their villages were destroyed, you generously donated again.

In 2020, you gave \$26,440 for Mayan families in rural villages. Funderor, our mission partner in Guatemala for the past 10 years, makes every dollar count. Your donations put food into hungry stomachs, provided schooling for grateful young girls, gave toothbrushes to hurricane survivors in shelters, and most importantly—it let them know you care.

The need is still great, but our strength and faith is strong. Thank you for supporting our mission. Together, we are making a difference.

Tim

2020 IMPACT

1,800
Bags of Food

& health supplies were delivered to

25 Villages

where most families live on \$2/day



HUMANITARIAN RELIEF

Daily distributions of non-perishable food and basic supplies were life-changing when COVID-19 created critical food shortages as roads and schools were closed.



Tell me the Stories of Jesus

The topic for this month's ALPC storytellers is a favorite hymn that is especially meaningful to you. Yes, it is difficult to pick just one.



"Be Thou My Vision" is surely on my list of top five favorite hymns. For me, it represents a choice of a lifelong commitment to God's work.

Back in the sixties, I headed off to nursing school fairly certain of my career choice. St. Luke's Hospital of the Methodist Church had required chorus as an extracurricular activity. We practiced weekly and "Be Thou My Vision" was sort of our signature hymn. We sang it at our capping ceremony. The words seemed somewhat reaffirming of the promises I made at confirmation years earlier. *"Be thou my vision O Lord of my heart, naught be all else to me, save that Thou art."* We sang this same hymn many times over in the three years of our nursing program. Our night out was often being loaded up in an old school bus and visiting nursing homes in the Cleveland area.

"Thou and Thou only first in my heart" kept the vision in front of us.

We sang it again at our graduation ceremony. It was sort of a sendoff to adult life. *"Heart of my own heart whatever befall, still be my vision thou ruler of all."*

At our 50th class reunion, we allowed as how our memories weren't as sharp as they once were, but we could still remember the words to "Be Thou my Vision" and we sang it!
Shalom, Nancy

Next month's topic for storytellers will be: **What have you learned from your church friends?**
Please submit your story to Cindi in the church office by April 15th

Our Stories of Jesus



I love the hymn, "Just a Closer Walk with Thee." It brings back memories of my husband playing it on the guitar and singing it together.

The song warms my faith in Jesus every time I hear it and the older I get.

Beth Swartz

Our Stories of Jesus

When I was around six years old, certain hymns meant so much to me, I could not sing them without crying my eyes out. "Amazing Grace" is a well-loved favorite of so many people, perhaps I should share about another of the many hymns I've loved since childhood. However, right now, "Amazing Grace" has resurfaced in my life, so I'll tell that story.

First, let me explain why, at such a tender age, I would cry so much at this hymn. It was the last verse (in the hymnal I used) that spoke to me so:

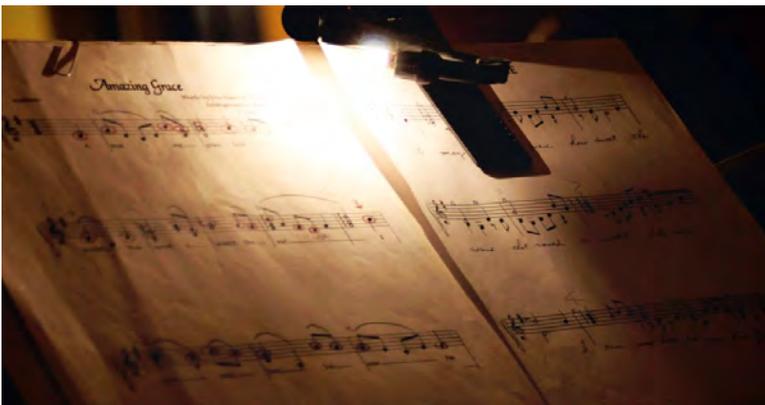
"When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun."

These words have carried me through all these years, knowing that I would be in Heaven someday, able to see Jesus forever and join the eternal choir singing to him, and never grow tired of it! The thought was so beautiful, that I always cried. In fact, I still do.

I have a beautiful recording of "Amazing Grace" on a CD album of favorite hymns. It's a lovely collection, and I enjoy all the hymns sung by different choirs. However, the rendition of "Amazing Grace" is so, well, amazing, I'm thunderstruck every time I hear it.

I love it so much, I ache to play it on the piano. Several years ago, I searched the Internet for sheet music of this piece, as arranged by John Warburton. I thought it would be an easy search and quickly done, but it was impossible to find.

Instead, I found a website for the annual community carol concert in York, England, which is where Warburton directed the choir that sang "Amazing Grace" on my CD. I found a contact email and requested information on this piece, but I never heard back. Not surprised, I bookmarked the site and pretty much forgot about it.

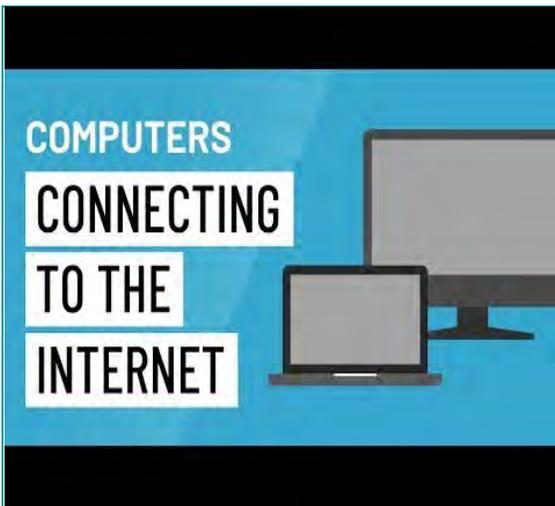


A few weeks ago, I was cleaning up the bookmarks in my web browser, saw that link, and visited it just for fun. I again found the contact email and wrote another note. And this time someone responded! He was thrilled to hear from me and forwarded my request to John Warburton's wife, Sue. She then wrote me and explained that John has Alzheimer's and can't reply. She said his arrangement of "Amazing Grace" was never published, and she would try to find it among his papers. Amazingly, a couple weeks later, she emailed that she had indeed found the handwritten score and sent images of it!

This was such a thrill for me, I immediately wanted to transcribe the handwritten score into formal notation so I could play it on the piano and maybe even sing it someday. Turns out I know someone in our church who could do this for me, none other than Doug Day! I sent him the images as well as a link to the recording, and rather quickly he transcribed the score for me. I immediately sat down at my piano to plink out those beloved harmonies, a dream come true!

I promised Sue I would send her the final version of her husband's "Amazing Grace" score, which Doug and I are working on. I hope she will give permission for it to be sung on this side of the pond, as I think more people should be introduced to the delights of this most beautiful arrangement of a most beloved hymn.

..Beth Shoemaker



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.



Twice a month I visit Cornerstone Classrooms to teach about God and his care for us. Each month, children learn about a new emotion. In March we talked about feeling sad. My first visit in the classrooms, we discussed what sad feels like and looks like. I used a puppet to show sadness and asked the kids to help cheer up the puppet. We learned that sad feelings do not last forever and ever. My second visit I talked to the kids about Easter. I gave each child a paper plate with a happy sticker on one side and a sad sticker on the other. As I taught the children about the events of Holy Week (made age appropriate for each class), they showed happy or sad on their paper plates to match the events of the story. All the children learned that Easter is about Jesus and it is a very happy day. Through the joy of the resurrection children were reminded that sad feelings do not last forever.

Tarra Oppewall, Children's Ministry Director



CORNERSTONE

PRESCHOOL

In a child's eyes, a mother is a goddess. She can be glorious or terrible, benevolent or filled with wrath, but she commands love either way. I am convinced that this is the greatest power in the universe.

* N.K. Jemisin

*

To the Mothers of Cornerstone Preschool Children,

Think about it! You are a Super Hero in the eyes of your children. You possess more strength than Captain America, you have more enhanced senses than the Black Panther, more expert tactician than Killmonger, a stronger healing factor than Groot, better eye-hand coordination with your children than Hawkeye, you can detect lies better than Black Widow, your animal like senses which cause you to be able to see and hear your children anywhere surpasses Wolverine's, you put Iron Man's suit to shame when you can withstand all the emotional and physical pressures of raising children, and Hulk, oh please! Mom's, yes- you suppress the anger and rage every day but can bring it out when it's absolutely necessary! You may not have a web shooter but there's no doubt your sense of danger when it comes to your little ones beats Spider-Man's-webs down! You are SUPER MOM's! Julie Erker

As spring approaches, we will go outdoors to play as much as possible. The Preschool playground is loved by all students.



Spring Pictures and Pre-K Graduation Pictures
April 14 & 15

Important dates:

April 2-9
April 23
May 19-20
May 21

Easter Break
no school
Last Days of
regular classes
Pre-K
graduation
Parade
5:00 pm

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.



THINGS TO REMEMBER



The church office will be closed
Monday, April 5 and every Friday in
April.

Please remember that if you are the
last to leave the building and the
shed, that the doors are properly
locked. If you have issues, call the
church office 440-933-6240.

The May edition of *Saints Alive!* will be E-mailed on Sunday, April 25, 2021



Everyone is Welcome

Sunday Worship – Our worship service begins on Facebook at 10:00 am
Join us: www.facebook.com/avonlakepc
Search YouTube for Avon Lake Presbyterian Church Worship at 10:00 am

Our worship service is now on the Avon Lake public access channels (1024 for Spectrum and 22 for WOW!). Sunday services will begin showing the following Wednesday, at 2:00 am, 10:00 am and 6:00 pm and then show every day at those times throughout the week.

32340 Electric Boulevard, Avon Lake, OH 44012
(440) 933-6240

Church email address: alpresby@avonlakepc.org
Church website: www.avonlakechurch.com

Preschool website: www.cornerstonepreschoolal.com

Pastor	Rev. Charles E. Swartz	440-522-5484
Custodian	AAGG Enterprise, LLC	
Director of Children's Ministries	Tarra Oppewall	440-915-5817
Director of Music Ministry	Rick Fortney	440-724-7189
Director of Preschool	Julie Erker	400-933-7646
Financial Secretary	Lynn Morway	
Lock-up Custodian	Ed Homer	
Maintenance	Phil Stryczny	
Office Administrator	Cindi Dansizen	440-231-3528
Treasurer	Marcy Uhl	440-724-7000