



2021 High School Graduate Congratulations to Aidan Cockburn!



Aidan will be graduating from Westlake High School this month. He has taken IB as well as AP and honors courses. Aidan was a wrestler and a swimmer going into high school but had to choose between them (same season) so he chose swimming. His stroke was the butterfly. COVID changed a lot of things- so he did not swim this past year due to the restrictions. Aidan will be going to Miami University in the fall and is planning to study Diplomacy and Global Politics.

Open House at the church—June 27, 4:30 pm—all invited!

Online, The Blessings of Creation

- 5/30: The Path of Justice and Compassion
- 6/6: The Path of Awe and a Joyful Celebration of Music
- 6/13: The Path of Awe, Delight and Gratitude
- 6/20: The Path of Creativity; Using Our Own Creative Spirit
- 6/27: The Path of Release; Letting Go and Letting Be

In-Person and Online, A Place to Call Home

- 7/4: A Place to Call Home
- 7/11: All Are Welcome
- 7/18: Guest Pastors Susanne Carter and Ken Jones
- 7/25: Guest Pastors Susanne Carter and Ken Jones
- 8/1: Guest Pastor Luke Choi
- 8/8: Growing Up Disciples
- 8/15: Residing in Love
- 8/22: Supported in Our Labors and Hardships
- 8/29: Always Room for One More
- 9/5: Always Blessing, Always Blessed



Read more on pgs 8 & 9

FROM THE PASTOR/ Charlie Swartz

Dear Friends,

Today, May 21, I met with Deb Reichlin, Jim Hough, and Terry Vine for officer training. And get this - we did not meet on Zoom! Because we are all fully vaccinated, we met in my office without masks and around my desk for officer training. I never had so much fun teaching officer orientation before!

Teaching on Zoom was so hard. Yes, I taught classes but it was such a huge effort with such distance between the teacher and the student. This was almost effortless as we could see and sense each other's reactions and responses to the material. I could notice in a facial gesture if what I was teaching was or was not understood. Did I say it was fun? I do not think any four people so enjoyed officer training. I thought it would be awkward teaching sans masks and right next to each other after all this time, distanced and Zooming; but it was not! Like they say, once you know how to ride a bike, you always know how. I heard words like, "It is so good to be back in the church! I have not been in here for more than a year."

**RETURN TO
IN-PERSON
WORSHIP**



The pandemic is loosing its grip on us. And are we ever glad! I know we are all going to be giddy when we worship together July 4. That will be the return of in-person worship. It will come sooner than you know it. The weekend before, we are going to have an Open House with food and music, but most importantly with each other. That will be Sunday June 27 from 4:30—6:00 pm.

The Session is working in cooperation with our COVID Advisory Group to determine what kind of guidelines we will have for masking and social distancing. As we all are aware, there are a lot of differing ideas on what is the best way to go about this, and we will do our best to keep the balance between safety and freedom. Please try to use our Christian forbearance, for whatever we decide will be thought of as too strict by some and too loose by others.

Next week, I moderate my last Presbytery meeting. I found that I really enjoyed moderating the meetings for I was in a position in which I could influence the experience of those attending the meeting. In this anxious year, I was proud that I could bring a feeling of good humor, calm, and trust into the meetings. It is with sadness I will hand over the proverbial gavel to the next moderator. My service to the presbytery continues as I will assume the role of moderator of the Coordinating Cabinet. That is roughly the equivalent of the session for the Presbytery.

In Christ's love and hope,
Pastor Charlie

YIPPEE!! After months of fishing, I caught this steelhead in the Vermillion River in April. It was so exciting!



From Tarra, Director of Children's Ministries

Hello Church Family!

As I write this article, committees within the church are working to prepare for a July 4th return to in person worship. It almost seems surreal. After 15 months of providing worship virtually, the thought of being able to worship with you all in person is joyfully overwhelming. It will be so good to be with you again!

When I reflect on the past 15 months, I want to thank you for the ways you have participated in Sunday school and supported me during our months of virtual worship. Thank you for all the videos and pictures that you sent in for me to include in our recorded Sunday school



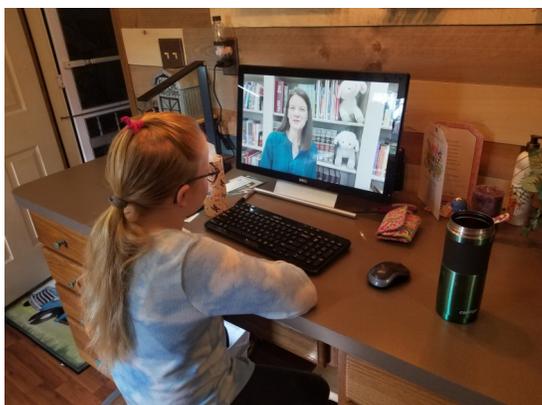
messages. Thank you for greeting me at your doorstep when I came to say hello and drop off activity bags. Thank you for mailing me sweet pictures from your kids and sharing words of encouragement. Thank you for participating in Cram the Van (with toiletries) and Sock Drive. Most of all, thank you for every moment that you kept Sunday school alive in your home through each conversation and activity that you chose to do with your children that pointed them to God's love. This church life during the pandemic has reminded me that the church is not a building, it's the people. And the people of ALPC have shown that God's love and care for others is not limited to within the walls of our building. That is the kind of church life we want to pass on to our little ones; one that is active in the community and beyond Sunday morning. I'm excited to take that lesson from the pandemic and keep building on it when we return together.

When we return to church, Sunday school will be provided for children from preschool to 5th grade; details on our safety protocols are still being determined. Virtual Sunday school will also continue throughout the summer. We will also provide

opportunities for small gatherings of kids and families outdoors during the summer.

I cannot wait to be together again!

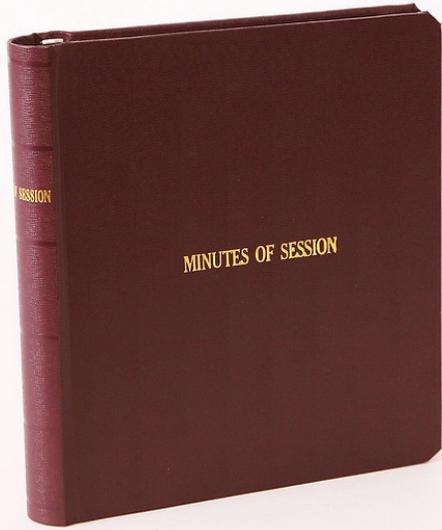
Tarra Oppewall



Bathroom Renovations to begin June 1, 2021. Please remember to come to the church office and check in with Cindi before going down the hall to other rooms—for safety's sake.

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Session Highlights



The Session met on May 17 – Highlights of their meeting were:

- ⇒ Heard that Pastor Charlie and six other members and staff attended the Presbytery's technology roundtable to learn about and discuss hybrid worship.
- ⇒ Met the new moderator of Deacons, Sybil Wendling, and heard about their socially distanced and masked in-person meeting in Hart Hall.
- ⇒ The treasurer noted that *giving* was up in April leaving us in the black again. Thank you for your support!
- ⇒ A "Donate" button will be added to our Facebook page, providing another way to give online.
- ⇒ Discussed our planned return to in-person worship on July 4, and compiled a list of questions for the COVID Advisory Group to review and provide guidance on.
- ⇒ Pastor Charlie is delighted to be able to visit members in their homes again.
- ⇒ Ordination and installation of new elders and deacons will be replayed in worship on June 13.

- ⇒ Substitute pastors are booked to fill in for Pastor Charlie during his vacation Sundays, and they all are planning something interesting to share with us.
- ⇒ Baptisms and welcoming of new members will be held on July 11.
- ⇒ A dead tree leaning near a power line was professionally removed.
- ⇒ The drive-thru Lunch Bunch for summer is being developed with guidance of the COVID Advisory Group.
- ⇒ The Christian Education and Human Resources Committees are working with Cornerstone Preschool on their budget.
- ⇒ The youth mission trip to Knoxville, TN will occur in July.

Elizabeth Shoemaker, Clerk of Session

Restroom Renovations

The renovations to the restrooms in the older part of the building are scheduled to begin at the beginning of June. Last year, we held a capital campaign to raise the funds for this project and several thousand dollars was raised at that time.

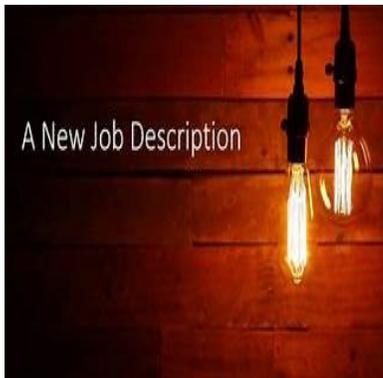
Now that the project is about to begin, we are requesting additional funds to help complete the project.

Any funds not raised will be taken from our savings account. The difference between what we have raised so far and the estimated cost is approximately \$30,000.

Thanks in advance for any additional help you can give!

Jim Janis, Property Chair and Cheryl Dean, Finance Chair

Deacon News



The May Deacon meeting took place in person in Hart Hall (our lovely Ohio spring weather didn't allow us to be outside). It was wonderful to be in the same room with everyone and have a natural conversation! We're looking forward to an al fresco June meeting.

The May meeting was the last meeting for our Moderator, Mike Reighard, and for member Mike Ciarrone. Many thanks to them for their great service--pancake flipping, table & chair setup, deacon dog grilling, chili judging, leaf raking, and more. Their service allowed friendships to be made and a community of caring to be built at ALPC. Even when faced with pandemic shutdowns, they found a way to remain engaged with members through calls & cards, and offers to help where needed.

Moving forward, Sybil Wendling will step into the Moderator position with Cathy Graves continuing as Secretary and Craig Shoemaker taking the Treasurer role. New Deacons include Deb Reichlin and Jim Hough. We're all eagerly awaiting the reopening of the church & more opportunities to build relationships (and eat yummy food)!

Please contact any of the Deacons with suggestions for activities. Sybil can be reached at: sybilwendling@gmail.com or 440-453-1265.

Thank You for Everything!

Tarra and church members,
Thank you so much for all the acknowledgement and treats for Teacher Appreciation Week.

I appreciate everything! Thank you!

Dawn Crannis, Pre-K Teacher



Dear Church family,
Thank you so very much for your generous and thoughtful gifts celebrating teacher appreciation week. It was an amazing week and very sweet gift bag.

Mindy Thomas, Pre-K and 2/1/2 year olds Teacher

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.

Summer Birthdays

Craig Young	June 1
Susan Linson	June 1
Val Stark	June 1
Sherry Thompson	June 2
Rory Knox	June 3
Mike Ciarrone	June 4
Penny Helbig	June 6
Isabel Brunner	June 9
Brie Horvath	June 10
Carol Unger	June 10
Rev. Malcolm Peel	June 12
Daniel St. George	June 13
Sue Mabe	June 13
Mary Lou Chapman	June 14
Scott Kompan	June 14
Mike Wiedl	June 15
Caleb Burr	June 15
Ruth Ann Peel	June 17
Hannah Shoemaker	June 18
JoAnn Wainscott	June 19
Ruth Riha	June 20
Abby Marshall	June 21
Ruth Weeks	June 23
Theda McGrew	June 24
Bernadette Barnes	June 26
Don and Deb Stueber	June 26
Leigha St. George	June 27
Sybil Wendling	June 28



Nanette Wiedl	June 30
Barbara Lehmkuhl	June 30
Shawn Brunner	June 30
Deb Gantz	July 4
Kenneth Prince	July 6
Laura Marshall	July 9
Kathy Hamilton	July 10
Penelope Wendling	July 10
Doug Day	July 12
Beth Janis	July 13
Susan Storm	July 13
Joy Harris	July 14
Jill Ralston	July 15
Paul Butrey	July 15
Amy Brunner	July 18
Brandon Wiedl	July 19
Fred Call	July 19
Bob Parker	July 21
Jason Call	July 22
Sue Scott	July 23
Mike Reighard	July 23
Sherry Spenser	July 24
Barbara Zadroga	July 25
Ken Reichlin	July 28

Summer Birthdays



Pam Hoffmann	August 2
Russ Beck	August 2
Roberta Young	August 3
Shannon Brunner	August 4
Ed Carter	August 8
Ian Call	August 9
Jackie Bowyer	August 12
Donna Bradley	August 13
Sandra Seib	August 13
David Joyce	August 14
Jeff Kucharson	August 17
Anthony Doran	August 19
Tim Strauch	August 20
Delaney Rudolph	August 23
Sharon Smucker	August 24
Matt Wendling	August 29

Evangelism

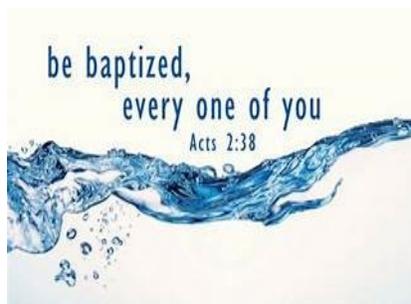
Thank you to all who have been donating birthday cards and placing them in the church office Evangelism mailbox. We will be preparing 31 birthday cards for members of our church who have a birthday in the month of June and 20 cards for those who have a birthday in July.

During the summer, we will continue to make the plastic Fairy Hearts and deliver them to anyone who might find joy in receiving our little token of friendship, caring and love.

Phil Stryczny, Jenni's husband and Elliot's father, wants to be baptized and join the church in July when Elliot is baptized.

Evangelism is not planning to participate in the Avon Lake City Memorial Day Parade because of health and safety concerns related to COVID.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Graves and Susan Reighard



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.

Worship and Spiritual Life



As I write this article, the sun is shining, and it looks to be a beautiful day...not quite summer but getting closer. We are also getting closer and closer to returning to in-person worship, which is targeted for July 4th. Please know we are coordinating with our Session, the COVID Advisory Group, and other committees so that we follow best practices for gathering, whatever they will be at the time! More up-to-date information will be available in our weekly newsletters and bulletins, so please stay tuned. We will continue to provide worship on

Facebook, YouTube, and the local Avon Lake cable channels for those desiring an online worship experience, are not available on Sunday mornings, or maybe want to hear the scripture or sermon again.

As we finish the Easter Season with a Pentecost celebration, we hope you have been moved and inspired with our series, "Just as He Told You." This focused on the instructions Jesus left His disciples, who have passed them down through generations of other disciples to us: Tell the Good News, Pray for One Another, Be an Agent of Healing, Disagree Peacefully, Love One Another, Live Now and Forever, and Be One in the Spirit. I was particularly interested by the process Rev. Jim Butler and John Weeden use to pray and have incorporated some of their ideas into my own prayer practice.

We are in the process of planning two worship series for the summer, including some interesting ways to welcome everyone back to church, arranging guest pastors for Charlie's vacation time, and beginning to plan worship for the Fall and the 2021 Advent season. We hope that by developing a framework so far in advance, we can include interesting elements and be more inclusive in our worship plans.

Our summer season will kick off on Memorial Day weekend with a 5-week series called "The Blessings of Creation." This series runs from May 30th through June 27th and focuses on the goodness and sacredness of God and the eternal pathways we can follow to grow in Him and stay connected to Him.

Our second summer series kicks off on the 4th of July and marks our return to in-person worship! Praise God! This 7-week series very appropriately named "A Place To Call Home," will remind us and help us explore more fully what it means to have "a place to call home" in our spiritual lives. This series runs through September 5th, with a 3-week pause while Charlie is on vacation.

We have some new faces joining us this year to fill the pulpit during Charlie's vacation, from July 12th to August 2nd. In all cases, they celebrate the diversity that is our congregation! The first two Sundays (July 18 and July 25) our pulpit will be filled by The Revs. Susanne Carter and Ken Jones, a retired Presbyterian clergy couple. In their sermon series they will teach us about how different people hear scripture differently. The third Sunday (August 1) our pulpit will be filled by The Rev. Luke Choi. Rev. Choi will lead us in a Blended Worship service, gently combining elements of both traditional and contemporary worship, along with our Director of Music Ministry, Rick Fortney.

We thank each of you for your patience and grace as we have tried to safely navigate this pandemic environment, yet still provide a meaningful opportunity for worship, hearing the Word and being filled with the Holy Spirit. We pray your patience continues as we move back to being live in-person and live online, particularly as the environment changes so quickly around us. Many, many thanks to all who have worked so hard to brainstorm, prepare, broadcast and troubleshoot these services over the past 18 months! Praise God for the wonderful, hard-working, creative, willing, very kind grace-filled people in this church! Whenever the trials and tribulations began to overwhelm, I was reminded of what Jesus told his disciples:

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33 (NIV)

As always if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please contact any of us. Submitted by Margre Lind Mills, on behalf of the Worship & Spiritual Life Committee: Donna Bradley, Dave Brunner, Rick Fortney, Pastor Charlie, Beth Shoemaker, Jeff Spenser, Cris Till, Marcy Uhl, Sarah Waggoner, and JoAnn Wainscott.

Worship and Spiritual Life

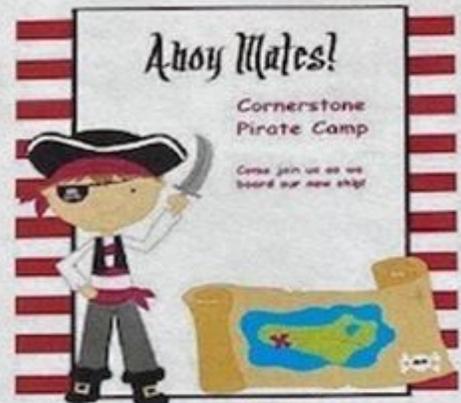
Introducing Our Summer Guest Pastors

The first two Sundays (July 18 and July 25) our pulpit will be filled by The Revs. Susanne Carter and Ken Jones, a retired Presbyterian clergy couple residing in Willoughby, Ohio. They each served various congregations in the Presbytery of the Western Reserve and concluded their full-time ministry with a three-year assignment as mission co-workers of the PC(USA) in South Africa. After their return, Susanne held worship services for 13 years in the German language, her mother tongue, for a German speaking segment of a Lutheran congregation on Cleveland's West Side. Through this Lutheran connection Ken and Susanne discovered the research and writings of Mark Allan Powell, professor at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio. In their sermon series (July 18 and 25) they will pass on some of what they have learned regarding how different people hear scripture differently. They hope this wider view of biblical texts will enrich their hearers' understanding.

The third Sunday (August 1) our pulpit will be filled by The Rev. Luke Choi. Rev. Choi is also a member of the Presbytery of the Western Reserve where he served as an associate pastor at Korean Central Presbyterian Church in Brecksville, Ohio. Since 2017, Rev. Choi has served as the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s manager for Korean-Speaking Councils Support in Louisville, KY. Rev. Choi works with Korean-language presbyteries, connecting with other presbyteries that have Korean-language churches among their membership, working with all mid councils, and connecting with synods. Rev. [Choi will lead us in a Blended Worship service, gently combining elements of both traditional and contemporary worship, along with our Director of Music Ministry, Rick Fortney.](#) This service will be a wonderful opportunity to worship in a new way. Luke promises to engage us in the Word, Praise and Prayer, but no flashing lights or loud music!



July 5-9



July 12-16

CRAZY CRAFT CAMP



July 19-23

2021
CORNERSTONE
PRESCHOOL
SUMMER CAMP
SCHEDULE

STEM



July 26-30

Mission Committee

" All of us are richer because of each other. All of us are poorer without each other."
Rev. Dr. Jim Reese.

Thank you for your donations to the Pentecost Special offering.

Snacks for kids: We are once again joining other Avon Lake churches to help CRS (Community Resource Services) supplement summer meals with snacks. Our goal is to fill 50 bags with 12-15 snacks each. **You may leave your donation in the container in the entryway at church Mondays — Wednesdays, 9:00 am—2:30 pm and Thursdays 9am—Noon, June 20th until July 5th. If you would prefer to drive up/drop off your donations, volunteers will be on hand to get your items from your trunk or backseat on Sunday, June 27th from 11:30am—1:00 pm.** All snacks must be individually packaged. Suggestions: Fruit and apple sauce cups, chips, pretzels and popcorn, single serving Mac n cheese, type things. Raisins, dried fruit, nuts, granola bars, crackers, pudding and juice boxes (low sugar) . How about what your kids and grandkids like? Candy is not appreciated. (by the adults of course)



PS. If you see the fold top plastic sandwich bags (the old fashioned kind) in the store buy one for LCM (Lorain Cooperative Ministries) for monthly and weekly meals. A drop off container will be in the entryway.



We are covering the cost of snacks for the LCM/PACE summer camp as well. No donations are currently needed.

Lunch Bunch Re imagined: We are working on a No Cost Drive up/Pick up meal for our community. We are hosting a practice meal for church members June 17th from 5-6:30 pm. (reservations needed) Please call the church office to make a reservation. We simply need your name and number of meals needed.

We will be contacting people that have volunteered in the past to help with the drive up meals. Workers will be part of a team with an assigned job and time. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Kathy Navarro, Kathy Leopold or Beth Janis. You may also call the church office 440-933-620 to add your name to the list.

In July, we will open the Drive up/Pick meals to the community. We are working on plans to make it safe and welcoming for our guests. We are trying the evening time to be able to include more families and volunteers. We are also considering the disruption of Cornerstone preschool each month. We realize of course, that many of our guests come to visit with friends and the fellowship of our church. But, we do not feel that type of gathering can happen yet. We will keep evaluating the meals and will keep an open mind about times, etc. Once again Bill Till has agreed to prepare the food!

Remember 2¢ a meal? Our coins, including the all important pennies, are collected and passed on to the Presbytery for their on-going food missions. It has been a long time since we had a 2¢ a meal Sunday, so lets try for September 12th. Not only do the donations add up, but putting a few coins in a jar each day is a way to give thanks for our food and pray for the many people who are struggling to feed their families.

Beth Janis

Property Committee

Thank you to everyone that helped with Spring cleanup. It was great to see some new volunteers and youth along with our veteran workers. We were able to accomplish a lot! We always welcome help with maintaining the grounds at church. Even an hour of weeding or trimming throughout the summer makes a noticeable difference.

We recently had a bit of a problem with a tree on the northwest side of the parking lot. It had to be cut down by professionals because it was near the power lines. We checked with the Illuminating Company and they said it was the churches' responsibility. The cost was \$450.00.

We're counting down the days until the restroom renovations begin. It will make such a difference for members, guests and Cornerstone students to have an updated, accessible bathroom! We will continue to accept donations toward this great project. Just make a notation Restroom Renovations on your check or electronic payment.

Phil Stryczny is still working to complete the painting in the sanctuary. It looks great. Phil also took care of the annoying leaky spot in the skylight area near the session room.

We are keeping our ears open for a less expensive way to mow the church lawn. In the meantime, we are happy with the great job of Mowery Landscape Design.

As always, we welcome your questions and concerns. Or, if you are interested in becoming a part of the property committee, please contact me or a property committee member. Jim Janis 440-522-9496.

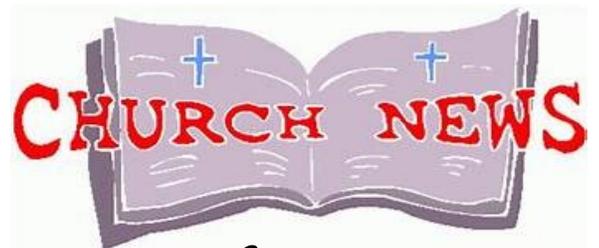
We look forward to seeing fellow members of our church in July. It has been more than a long year and I hope every is doing well.

See You Soon, Jim Janis



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 September edition of *Saints Alive!* will be e-mailed on Wednesday, August 25, 2021



Church Office Hours to Change

The Church office hours will change in the summer—beginning Tuesday, June 1st through Tuesday, September 7, the church office hours will be:

Mondays through Wednesdays, 8:00 am until 4:00 pm

Thursdays, 9:00 am until noon

Closed on Fridays

Monday, July 5, and Monday, September 6, will also be closed.



Update on those we lost during COVID



It is with a heavy heart that we say good bye to those we lost during COVID and couldn't celebrate their life with a memorial service.

We are planning memorial services to start happening when our church opens up this summer:
Russ Beck's private service—June 16
Jack Storm's service—July 2
Lew Bush's service—August 7 at 11:00 am

Tell me the Stories of Jesus

September: The story topic for next time will be about a favorite vacation you have been on or a trip you would like to take. They will need to be submitted to Cindi in the office by August 15th.

Stories for the summer issue of "Saints Alive!" are targeted at Gifts of the Dark Wood, the recent Lenten sermon series. Listed in the book are uncertainty, emptiness, being thunderstruck, getting lost, temptation, disappearing, and the gift of misfits as applied to the pandemic.

My gift from the dark wood-uncertainty

For me, the gift of uncertainty was not a gift I would have requested. However, it is not the first or only time that I have felt the Holy Spirit leading me in a direction that met with some reluctance on my part. This trip to the "dark wood" during the pandemic was challenging. I like routines, making schedules, and making plans. The uncertainty of a deadly air born virus was worse than first thought. Hearing of friends and family who contracted COVID-19, rising death tolls, exhausted and fearful first responders and healthcare workers only magnified the uncertainty of this crisis. When political and racial strife increased, they served to fan the flames of uncertainty. More people were hungry, homeless, and jobless, while food lines got larger. Where is God in all this?



It took a while in that dark wood to conclude that life was created to be uncertain as a reminder that we need to rely on God. It was a VERY long year filled with loss. Everyone and everything was affected in some way. And then, the gift of uncertainty, began turning into certainty. It wasn't that things were back to normal, but vaccinations became available, warm temperatures returned and spring blossomed. The certainty of God's presence was reestablished by remembering that He is in charge of the schedules, routines, and the plans. His timing is perfect. He used this time to stretch our caring for others and to love each other in new ways. The real certainty is that God is always with us, just as He promised. Sometimes He reveals Himself in nature, sometimes in scripture, often in silence, and also when singing His praises. The verse below reveals the certainty of His presence as it came to those before us and as it comes to us.

*Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come.
Tis grace has brought me safe thus far. And grace will lead me home. (verse #3 Amazing Grace)*

*Shalom,
Nancy*

Tell me the Stories of Jesus (continued)



How appropriate that our Lenten worship series focused on Gifts of the Dark Wood, for surely it seemed we were in that very dark wood for the past 15 months or so! Though Eric Elnes describes the Dark Wood as that place where we may feel uncertain, empty, lost, tempted and alone, he also suggests it is the surest place to find God and his many blessings. Where did I find God and his blessings during the pandemic? I found God in technology and in amazing human ingenuity and adaptability. Google, Zoom, Facebook and YouTube allowed me to stay connected with many friends and family via email and Zoom. Both my book club and bible study group did not miss a beat, connecting monthly and weekly via Zoom and YouTube. I was able to worship weekly via Facebook and YouTube and heard inspiring messages from Charlie and Tarra. The ALPC Worship committee had many Zoom meetings, as did Session. It is so wonderful to see a screen full of smiles of wonderful, loving church friends. I frequently

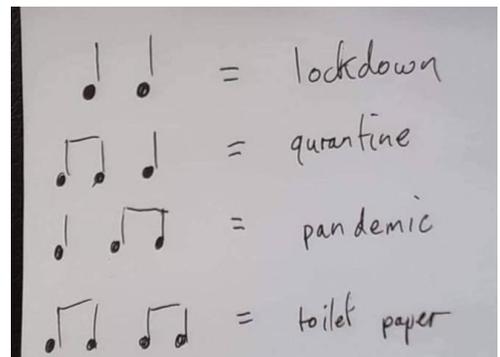
practiced yoga online, and though I was alone in my basement, Jesus was always with me on my mat. It became a time of prayer and reflection. I learned many new things. I attended lectures and author discussions from as close as the Cuyahoga County Public Library to as far away as the University of California. I took online sewing classes and watched many knitting tutorials. I knitted my first hat! Stepping outside my comfort zone was not so hard when I did it from home! The second place I found God, was outside my house...in nature. We walked nearly daily in Kopf Reservation. It was amazing to really focus on how the trees, leaves, flowers, plants, streams, and wildlife changed from season to season and in all kinds of weather...how quiet it is when everything is blanketed in snow, or how loud the owls and woodpeckers can be. Most importantly, I saw God in all the people I interacted with. You were Jesus when you lifted me up and encouraged me, fed me with scripture and prayer, and checked in with texts or calls, blanketing me in kindness, and love! You may not have realized it, but I did!

Regards, Margre Lind Mills

Tell me the Stories of Jesus (continued)

The theme of this newsletter ... **“What were some gifts you received in the “Dark Wood” of the pandemic over the last year?”** Personally, the first four months of the pandemic was very hard for me, I went from going 24/7 to a stark STOP! I challenged myself as to what my role could be in this pandemic, being an artist who’s not allowed to perform, conduct, nor teach. It was hard. The turn-around came when I revisited a conversation I had earlier, pre-pandemic, when Muriel and Ed Homer shared with me that Muriel was retiring. At the time of our conversation, it was as friends and a time to support, encourage and celebrate Muriel’s ministry and impact to the church and community at large. But upon further reflection, I decided to look into the position she was leaving behind and to apply. Truly a blessing ... we needed to think outside the box and train ourselves in a new art form ... the art of technology and computer skills so we can communicate and create virtually ... but what a ride and truly a blessing ... thank you! In addition to joining the ministry at Avon Lake Presbyterian Church, TrueNorth Cultural Arts moved to a smaller location and is in the process of starting back up yet again! My wife and I have spent quality time at home so now that the pandemic is lifting, I think I will be able to have much more balance in my life by not creating 24 / 7 and to spend quality time at home, valuing what is most important. Also, Joan and I started a plant-based whole food lifestyle August 31 ... it has changed and enriched our lives. Thus far, Joan has lost 40 pounds and I have lost 90 pounds; more importantly, it has cleansed our bodies which made my right knee replacement on April 12th possible. All this to say ... the Dark Wood of this pandemic filled my life with four months of rediscovering myself followed by many blessings. Truly a gift!

I Am Blessed, Rick Fortney



Director of Music & Arts

Amazing that we are preparing for our summer newsletter ... an entire year has passed since this pandemic began ... since Muriel retired ... since I started up as your new Director of Music and Arts Ministries. I am so looking forward to Sunday, July 4th ... the date we are hoping to meet 'LIVE' once again and worship together all under one roof!

A HUGE thank you to the 11 choir members who felt comfortable with the **Virtual Choir** format this year. Your continued leadership throughout this pandemic providing music each week has truly enhanced our worship and has been a phenomenal gift ... thank you!

Soprano:	Alto:	Tenor:	Bass:
Jackie Day	Joan Fortney	Dave Brunner	Doug Day
Susan Richardson	Beth Shoemaker	Clay Dusek	Ed Homer
Marcy Uhl		Jeff Hansen	
Sarah Waggoner			

We look forward to the day we can sing truly as one ensemble and invite our missing friends from previous years to rejoin us as we continue to grow and lead together.

The Handbell Choir met for six weeks in the fall and recently just started back up. I have so enjoyed this group of musicians and friends and look forward to the music and opportunities which lie before us. We also are eager to welcome back our missing 'ringers' that could not join us due to the pandemic.

Doug Day	Dave Brunner	Muriel Homer	Sherry Spenzer
Linda Swartz	Kathy Navarro	Cathy Graves	Beth Shoemaker
Cheryl Dean	Joan Fortney	Barbara Graves	Sarah Waggoner

We have been blessed by many **Instrumentalists** throughout the year. My thanks to each.

Gail Carter, Hammered Dulcimer	
Cathy Graves, Flute	Susan Richardson Flute
Kim Weaver, Oboe	
Sherry Spenzer, Bassoon	Madeline Waggoner, Bassoon
Matt Wirfel, Trumpet	Sarah Waggoner, Trumpet
Doug Day, Trombone	David Joyce, Trombone
Denise Lavin, Violin	Amy Jankovsky, Violin
Jacob Campbell, Viola	Penelope Wendling, Viola
Joan Wojcicki Fortney, Cello	Doug Day, String Bass
Barb Graves, Organ and Piano	Sarah Waggoner, Piano
Doug Day, Piano	Ed Carter, Piano
Gail Carter, Timpani	

Throughout Epiphany, we complimented the sermon series on The Passionate Jesus using four visual artists from our congregation bringing the beatitudes to life through their artwork. Special Thanks to **Visual Artists**: Janet Parker, Adam Richardson, Amy Ringholz, and Beth Swartz.

Finally, in thanking people for their service to our ministry throughout the year I would be amiss if I did not give special thanks to those **Behind-the-Scenes**: **Gary Uhl** for setting up our Bell tables and Handbells each week; **Jackie and Doug Day** for overseeing the music library and preparing folders; **Doug Day** who not only shares many Piano Preludes throughout the year, but also serves as our Chancel Choir's accompanist; and finally **Beth Shoemaker** in preparing video text each week and to **Joan Wojcicki Fortney** and **Jay Knox** for their recording and post editing throughout this pandemic season leading us in worship through the Audio/Visual Ministries.

Director of Music & Arts (continued)



We begin our summer series with 'Music Sunday' on June 6th where we will celebrate the music shared throughout the year and give thanks to the musicians for their service and continued ministry. Each Sunday throughout the summer, we will be led by various vocal and instrumental soloists and ensembles. **Summer Musicians, all ages ... If you would like to join us and participate, please contact me!** Also, as we prepare for 'LIVE' worship, there has been many changes and additions to our Audio / Visual needs. If you would like to **join us through the Audio / Visual Ministry**, please contact myself or a member of our Worship and Spiritual Life Committee. rickalpcmusicministry@gmail.com / 440.724.7189

Finally, I hope to see many of you at our **Opening Event on Sunday afternoon, June 27th, 4:30 p.m.** where we will celebrate being able to meet together once again.

Rick Fortney



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

**Beginning July 4, our worship service will ALSO be in person
in the church sanctuary 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.

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Church website: www.avonlakechurch.com

Preschool website: www.cornerstonepreschoolal.com

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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
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Lock-up Custodian	Ed Homer	
Maintenance	Phil Stryczny	
Office Administrator	Cindi Dansizen	440-231-3528
Treasurer	Marcy Uhl	440-724-7000

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.