



Sunday, November 7 Daylight Saving Time ends



We are celebrating All Saints Day on Sunday, October 31st. It is a tradition of this church to remember in worship all those saints who died in the previous 12 months with pictures.

See pgs. 10-13

November is Stewardship Month!

By now you will have received a letter from the stewardship committee updating you on all the activities ALPC has been involved in despite the virus and the inability for us to be together for half of the year. In a short time, you will be receiving pledge cards for the upcoming year. We ask that you please continue to support our church so we may continue to do God's work! Thank you and be safe!

Church office will be closed November 25 & 26



First Sunday of Advent is November 28th!

A Note from Pastor Charlie

Dear Friends,

I cannot believe that I am writing the November newsletter. Next thing you know and it will be Christmas! As Lucy says to Schroeder, “You know, Santa Claus and ho-ho-ho, and mistletoe and presents to pretty girls.” But before that lands, we have Thanksgiving and before that, awareness of our financial gifts (stewardship).

November is the month of gratitude. It is the only time when we have a national holiday whose purpose is to give thanks for the blessings in life. And of course, as Christians we see as behind all those blessings God.

What are you thankful for this year? I am thankful for so much. I am more aware than ever of the richness of my ministry. I realize how lucky I am spending my hours counseling you and sharing in your pains and joys. I treasure the holy moments we have together, when you call me seeking comfort or spiritual wisdom in the fright of a new diagnosis or challenge. I love to lead you in worship—taking our lives up to God. Preaching the word of God involves so much of my life. When I am writing the sermon, it is a dialogue with God, in which I strain to hear His voice and the needs of you, my dear congregation. It is hard work, writing and rewriting, trying to get a line to sound just right. When I deliver the sermon Sunday morning I always feel as if this is what I was born to do. What you do not know is that when it is going really well, I am at the middle of communication between you all and the Spirit. I am so blessed to be part of a really great staff: Rick, Cindi, Julie, Marcy. What you might not know is that we have a lot of fun together, lots of laughs! I love sharing the work with the Session, together holding up different aspects of the church life. I also have such a good time working with the Deacons as we hold up all of your lives to Christ. Those are just a few of the things I love about working as your pastor.

I want you to feel free to call me, email me or drop in the office with any challenge that you might have. I am sure you wondered how much I could do when I was first diagnosed with MSA. I was to! You might have been reluctant to come to me with your problems for fear of overburdening me. I want to assure you I am doing great, and want to help you in any way I can, just as before I was diagnosed. You can trust that I will tell you if I cannot do something at that moment.

Speaking of doing for others, our stewardship pledges are one way we do for others. It is a hard time for churches, trying to function as a relational organization in the COVID realities. Please know that your gift is truly appreciated and will be used so our church can make a difference in the lives of others. As Jackie our Stewardship chair wrote, “Be a difference maker!”

Sincerely, Pastor Charlie



Evangelism

We had the bus, banners, church flyers and candy but (alas) not enough people to participate in the Avon Lake Homecoming Parade on October 2nd. I think people were still a little skittish over COVID concerns for such a large gathering, so Pastor Charlie decided we should opt out from the fall parade. Cornerstone Preschool also decided not to participate. We will try again for the Memorial Day parade!

Have you seen Muriel Homer’s retirement tribute video on the website? And photos from the Rally Day picnic too? We will be adding a “Community Events” page where non-church items of interest (such as True-North Cultural Arts info, Lorain Cooperative Ministry news, etc.) can be posted. Feel free to send articles or photos to Cindi Dansizen (alpresby@avonlakepc.org) or Susan Reighard (reighard4@gmail.com).

We have some new faces at ALPC – please be sure to introduce yourself and make them feel welcome!

Respectfully submitted, Susan Reighard

A Message from the Presbytery

The Presbytery of the Western Reserve is looking for a person to serve as a Recording Clerk for the six stated meetings of the presbytery and special meetings as needed, to be supervised by the Stated Clerk. The stipend is \$150 per meeting. Minutes must be completed and presented to the Stated Clerk no more than 10 working days following the meeting. The ability to use Google Drive is expected (training will be available if needed).

If interested, please reply with a paragraph on your qualifications to Judy Mitchell jmitchell@preswesres.org.

Peace,
Judy Mitchell
Stated Clerk
Direct: 216.273.8897
Office: 216.241.3966

Presbytery of the Western Reserve
PO Box 24189
Cleveland, OH 44124

Bathroom Renovations are still going on. 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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Deacon News



On Thursday, October 14, ALPC Deacons, along with Worship and Spiritual Life and The Mission committees, partnered with Cornerstone Preschool for another delightfully successful Trunk or Treat in ALPC's parking lot. Over 100 excited preschoolers and their siblings enthusiastically participated in the event, and even the weather cooperated. A huge THANK YOU to all who helped make this event a festive and memorable occasion for the children and their families. If you were not there, consider this your warning--you have a year to figure

out how to decorate your trunk for next year!

Deacons will be volunteering at Second Harvest Food Bank (Baumhart Rd, Lorain) on Tuesday, November 9 from 9:30-noon. We have space for 3 more volunteer food sorters. Anyone that would like to join us, please let the church office know. Masks are required. Carpooling will be arranged.

The new Deacon Ride Service is going well. A few members have taken us up on getting a ride to church. If you need transportation (weekly or just occasionally), please call the church office or Sybil Wendling (440-453-1265, sybilwendling@gmail.com).

Session Report

The Session met on October 18 – Highlights of their meeting were:

- Heard how Pastor Charlie has implemented changes to help him keep steady and maintain his energy while leading worship.
- Cindi Dansizen handed out information to help the Ruling Elders communicate better with the church office and keep her apprised of plans for activities.
- The Deacons are learning about Stephen Ministries to see if it is a right fit for their caring ministry in our church.
- Giving in September and October inched up encouragingly, keeping us from increasing the budgetary gap that developed over the summer months.
- A church Venmo account will soon be set up to facilitate giving.
- Learned about the COVID protocols professional theaters use that allow singers to perform together without masks. No changes were made to our current protocols.
- Having an usher bring forward the offering plate and the prayer requests basket has visually encouraged members to participate more.
- Two pews on the west side were removed to allow the choir more room for their rehearsal and recording seating.
- Cornerstone Preschool's fall term started well with only one COVID case.
- The Trunk-or-Treat event was a hit, with good participation of church members as well as preschool families.
- The CE Committee will investigate delivering Sunday School materials to students at home and perhaps holding Zoom Sunday School sessions.
- The HR Committee continues to advertise for a Director of Children's Ministry and will explore ways to attract more applicants to the Indeed.com posting.
- The recommendation from Presbytery to increase the minimum Terms of Call for pastors 6% in 2022 was discussed.
- The restroom renovation is picking up pace again, with the women's restroom now also under renovation.
- Contracts for heating/cooling maintenance and snow removal were renewed at the same cost.
- The safety monitor program will continue.
- Parents of youth will be asked to sign release forms so photos of youth activities can be used in social media and on our website.
- One vacancy remains on the Board of Deacons.
- Elizabeth Shoemaker, Clerk of Session

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.

Financial Report

So far this year (through September) our income is below budget and our expenses are also below budget. However, our expenses are about \$11,700 more than our income. Giving was down during the summer months and we're seeing some improvement, but we still need to do better, if possible. If you are behind with your giving please try to catch up now that we are back in person and the fall program year is underway.

Here is the link for online giving: [Give \(simplegive.com\)](http://simplegive.com)

	Sept YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income:		
Congregational Giving	\$212,360.00	\$214,339.50
Other Income	9,431.60	10,075.00
Total Income	\$221,791.60	\$224,414.50
Expense:		
Staff Expense	\$157,238.71	\$164,021.05
Worship & Spiritual Life	5,172.93	6,000.00
Christian Education	749.97	4,856.25
Stewardship & Mission	3,250.18	3,750.00
Property	35,291.93	35,958.75
General Expenses	17,180.27	18,712.50
Youth Mission Trip	3,407.61	6,000.00
Per Capita Expense	11,181.45	11,181.45
Total Expense	\$233,473.05	\$250,480.00

Any questions about our finances may be addressed to Marcy Uhl, Treasurer or myself at any time.

Cheryl Dean, Finance Committee Chair

Avon Lake
Presbyterian Church
Walking Group
Wishes everyone
A Happy Halloween!



Mission Matters

"Some days, doing the best we can may still fall short of what we would like to be able to do, but life isn't perfect on any front and doing what we can with what we have is the most we should expect of ourselves or anyone else." Fred Rogers

We have entered into the time of year that seems to bring out a giving spirit. It's also the time of year that we can be overwhelmed with suggestions about ways to help others. We hope we offer enough of a variety of opportunities throughout the year, so that everyone can be a part of an ALPC mission.

In November, we will once again be collecting non-perishable food or financial donations for local community members. This year, Cornerstone families and ALPC Deacons will be participating, too! Donations may be dropped off beginning

November 7th through

November 15th. *Items like stuffing mix, corn bread, apple sauce, crunchy onions, for holiday meals but also meals mixes like macaroni and cheese Canned fruits and vegetables, Canned meats including tuna, chicken, roast*

beef, turkey, SpaghettiOs, Ravioli, jelly/jam, Meals in a can (hearty soup, stew, chili, chicken & dumplings), Pasta and pasta sauce, Cereal, Instant Oatmeal, Healthy snacks, Dinner "helpers" such as rice sides, pasta sides, Hamburger Helper. Financial donations payable to ALPC with the notation, "Food drive" will be welcomed.



THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE



If you would like to make a special donation for Thanksgiving, we have designated Neighborhood Alliance as the recipient. They serve people of all ages and situations in Lorain County. Preschool, daycare, emergency 24/7 shelter for families, family counseling, senior enrichment including Meals on Wheels and more! Please visit their website if you would like to learn more about them [Neighborhood Alliance](#). The notation "**Thanksgiving**" on your check, envelope or electronic payment will be key to getting your donation to the right spot.

Thank-you to everyone for making donations to Socktober/Undie Sunday and Thank a Soldier. We would love to hear your feedback on these mission projects.



We are working on plans for The Christmas Season. We will keep in touch so you don't miss out! Our next meeting will be November 10th at 4:15 at ALPC.

Beth Janis 440-522-1771

← We were able to pass on hundreds of pairs of socks and undies for kids, women and men. What a feat!

Property

Where does the time go? In October, we talked about the upcoming fall chores. Now that it is time for the November newsletter, we are thinking about the holiday season! But, we still have outside work to do.

- November 7th is the official fall outside work day. Leaf raking, trimming, etc. are needed. This is a great way to get outside among the beautiful fall foliage and help clean up the church. There are jobs both inside and outside of the church. We will begin working at 11:00 am until 1:00 pm. Bring your favorite yard tools and we will provide lawn bags, donuts and water. If Mother Nature has a different idea for that Sunday, we will try again on November 14th. And we will finally remove the mysterious wooden box that is in the grassy area between the two sides of the parking lot.
- The Property (Building and Grounds) Committee is looking for volunteers to help clear the walkways to the church building when it has snowed. We want to keep all of our members and visitors safe during winter months.



We are planning on renewing our contract with Scott Mowery Landscape & Design for the snow removal of the parking lot. We feel he does a great job for a reasonable price.

Do we feel comfortable with the shape of our sidewalks on Electric Blvd. Why you might ask are we bringing that up? Avon Lake has begun a sidewalk repair program. We will be notified if we need to make any repairs. If that happens, we will discuss options at that time.

We need help with two more things.

- First, the area by the south playground that runs along the edge of the building where grass does not grow. Mulch and pea gravel are not practical.
- The second is how to quiet the entry doors to the sanctuary during services.

Please call Jim Janis at 440-522-9496 if you have any ideas.

The Property (Building and Grounds) Committee is looking for members to join its committee. If you enjoy planning of the upkeep of our church, physical project planning, keeping our church building safe, and keeping our church beautiful, this is where you belong! Please contact Terry Vine(terrylv99@yahoo.com) or Jim Janis (jjambous74@gmail.com) for more information.

We know the progress with the new restrooms has been much slower than anticipated. We are hopeful that noticeable advancements will happen soon.

Jim Janis and Terry Vine, Co-Chairs

Worship & Spiritual Life

Fall certainly has been so beautifully warm. And those beautiful fall skies! It is mid October and we aren't seeing too much foliage color. Perhaps, November will usher in all the vibrant leaf colors and Thanksgiving blessings. Just hoping no white stuff on those trees. . . just yet.

Hope you all are enjoying the sermon series that Pastor Charlie blesses us with each Sunday. His messages are so powerful, uplifting, hopeful and inspiring during these days of uncertainty in our pandemic world. November, Charlie's messages will continue to be as powerful. "Moving Out of Scare City." He will lead us on a spiritual journey into the truth of Abundance of all that we need offers us an alternative vision where to live our lives. Charlie's message will have us leaving "Scarcity" for Abundance of God's abounding Grace.

Many of us are worshipping together on Sunday mornings in the Sanctuary. We are still required to wear masks while in the church building. As part of the in-person worship, we wear the mask inside the church to protect each other to help prevent the spread of COVID. Also, during the Passing of the Peace, we remain in our pews and stand and wave or offer another safe greeting of peace to one another. Our COVID Task Team and Session continue to follow the CDC for guidance. Those that prefer to worship online can continue to do so. We continue to live stream on Facebook live, YouTube and the Avon Lake local cable channel.

The seating arrangement has been changed in the sanctuary. The East sections of the sanctuary no longer have ribbons blocking some pews. These sections will be open seating where worshipers may sit directly in front or behind fellow worshipers. On the West side the sections still have ribbons blocking every other pew. This area is for those who wish to maintain a physical distance. You are welcome to choose whatever seating you are comfortable sitting in. You also might notice that several pews have been removed in the very front section of the far West side of the sanctuary. WSL would like to thank Jay Knox and Gary Uhl for completing this project. This will give Rick extra room and area with the placement of a future choir loft for our choir. He and the choir are extremely excited to have this much needed extra space.

One of our church members reached out to our committee wanting to know when we would be using "normal" bulletins? Cindi uses a special printing program when preparing the weekly bulletin. The publisher program enables those at home to download and print out the Sunday bulletin to be able to follow along with the worship service and be a part of the church family Sunday worship. Once the pandemic guidelines are lifted, the ushers will be able to personally hand you the book type bulletin. Just another little change to keep us safely engaged together in God's holy word. If any of you have any further questions or concerns, please let our WSL committee know. We truly welcome all your thoughts.

Thursday, November 25th we will be celebrating Thanksgiving. We wish everyone a most blessed day with your family and loved ones. God is good. And we are grateful and blessed. Thanks be to Him.



Please contact any of our committee members with suggestions or comments: Donna Bradley, David Brunner, Margre Lind Mills, Beth Shoemaker, Jeff Spenser, Pastor Charlie, Chris Till, Marcy Uhl, Sarah Waggoner and JoAnn Wainscott.

On behalf of Worship & Spiritual Life, Donna Bradley

← Worship & Spiritual Life Trunk-or-treat
Trunk decorations

Tell me the Stories of Jesus

Favorite Vacation

It's hard to pinpoint one favorite vacation because there have been so many. They all mostly revolved around being by the water for me, of course. When I was in high school, we'd trail the boat to Marblehead which was a fun week or travel around the country with Susan, but I think I will focus on our 2021 summer vacation.

After the COVID isolation, worries, and restrictions and not getting way for two years, we made a road trip. Susan, I and the boys loaded up our cars with beach gear, bikes and sunscreen from Avon Lake, Dayton and Kankakee and converged in Michigan City, IN by the Indiana Dunes on Lake Michigan (It's a very Blue lake). We rented a house that was walking distance to the beach.

During our stay, we spent every day at the beautiful, sandy beaches in the area, walking, playing corn hole, reading and sitting counting waves (more just watching than counting). We went for bike rides, hiked up dunes, swam and just relaxed. God's beautiful creations were evident in the dunes, lake, and beaches. The best part of all was the four of us relaxing, talking and just spending quality time together. I even had a chance to visit a couple lighthouses. Evenings were spent going to a restaurant or brewery talking about life, playing euchre and just enjoying each other's company. A few ice cream trips were made too. Later in the evening we'd watch the Olympics while I fell asleep on the couch (some things are hard to change).

Life is never perfect, but with a good group, we can hash out the problems and develop potential solutions. What made this vacation so nice was experiencing a new area and getting away from house chores, work and reminders of problems in the world while spending time with people we love. If the recent past has taught us anything; it's to take advantage of time away without restrictions or schedules. Vacations don't have to be spectacular to be wonderful!

Regards, Mike Reighard



***Please note Mike Reighard's story was held up in the world of Spam over the summer. It is a beautiful story and too good to be missed.**

Penny Helbig's memories



As a child I always enjoyed Thanksgiving. My mom would cook a traditional meal. She would bake pumpkin pies. My mom was a great cook. When I grew up I enjoyed hosting Thanksgiving. It would be a great celebration of both sides of the family. Our Avon Lake home was large enough to have 20+ in attendance. Lots of food and laughter.

In recent years, Thanksgiving sends me on a search to find a friend to share the holiday. My daughter always invites me to her home but I would prefer to reach out and make a new memory. I am very close to my daughter, son in law and granddaughters. I see them frequently.

I reach out to my fellow single friends and we pick a favorite restaurant and make a reservation. New traditions are good.

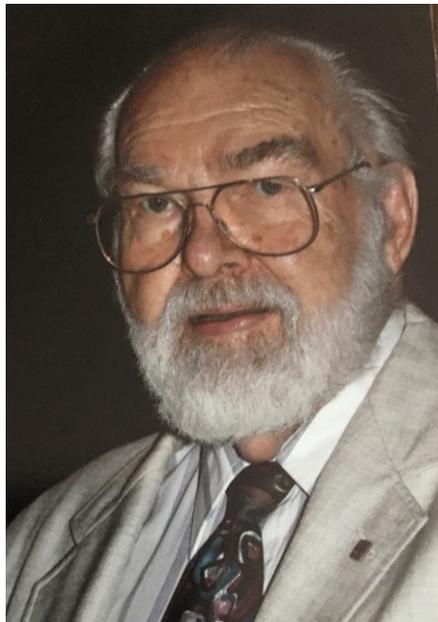
The Saints of Our Lives—Members



Russ Beck

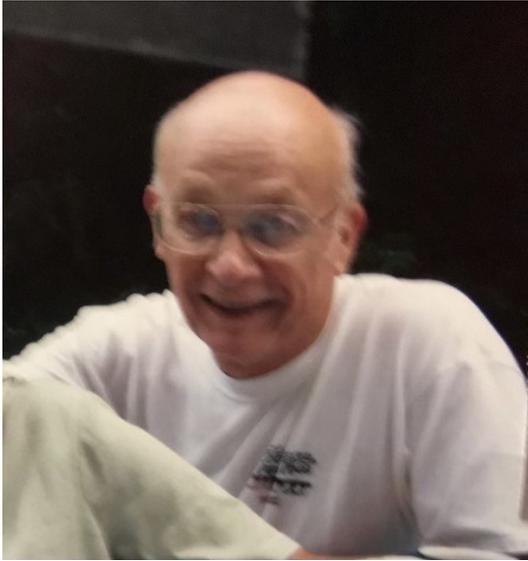


Tom Metzger



Don Hall

The Saints of Our Lives—Members



Jerry Ruffner



Jack Storm



Jay Ruoff



Ruth Weeks
Arlene Strauch's mom

The Saints of Our Lives—Family of Members



**Mary Jane Camerot
Cheryl Dean's mom**



**George A. Conn
Marian Conn's Husband**



**Marcia T. Day
Doug Day's Sister-in-law**



**Lois Huff
Sue Maloney's mom**

The Saints of Our Lives—Family of Members



Carol Kolbow
Jim Janis' sister



Billie Pfifer
Marcy Uhl's mom



Warren P. Newman,
Sherry Spenzer's father

Tell me the Stories—Nancy Baldwin

Back in the Day

Growing up in Northwest Pennsylvania, our nuclear family of four lived more than 500 miles from any grandparents, aunts, uncles or cousins. Needless to say, there were no trips “over the river and through the woods” to Grandmother’s house for the holidays. The closest any family lived was in Waterbury Connecticut. Construction on the New York State Thruway did not start until 1950 so heavy snows in the Snowbelt and underdeveloped highways were definite deterrents for travel.

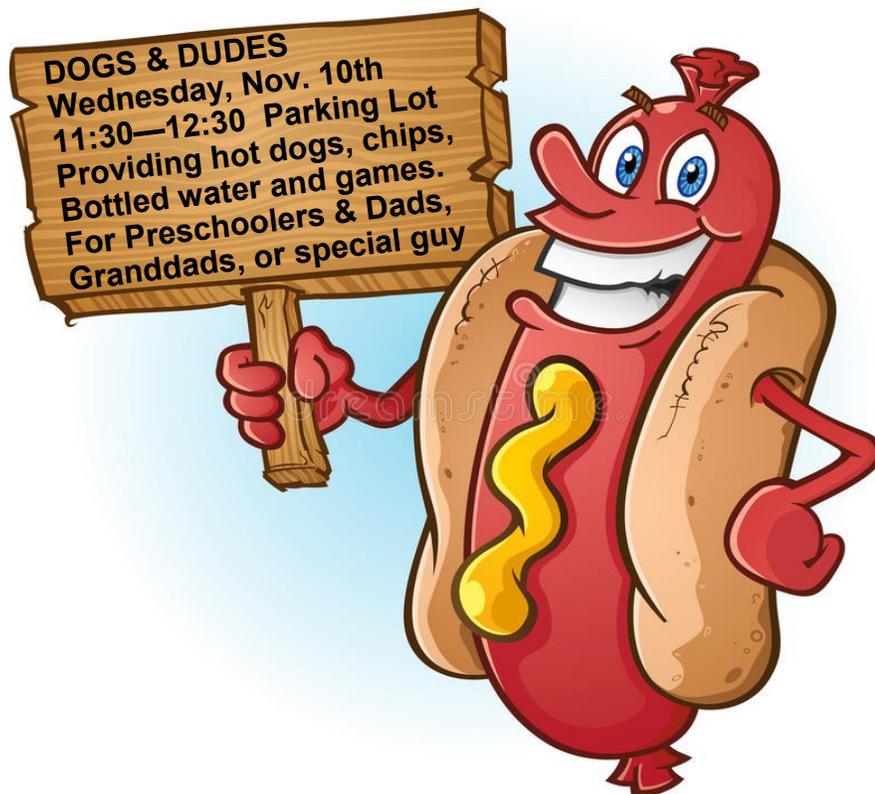
Of course, it wasn't like traveling to a new world on the Mayflower or loading up a Conestoga wagon to head west, but I often think of my mom creating her own traditions for our little family. We ate in the dining room reserved for special occasions. She used the good china and silverware just for us. We went around the table and said what we were grateful for before the blessing. A centerpiece of gourds and small pumpkins was fashioned into a cornucopia of sorts. Somewhere along the way she added some special candles for decoration from the local 5 and 10, a turkey and two pilgrims. We never lit them, but they were ever after on the table as part of the Thanksgiving decorations.

For whatever reason, these three candles that probably cost less than a dollar, are still in my possession. I am not really a saver of such things, but they remind me of so many of the things I have to be thankful for, including family traditions. This tradition is not just about formed wax with wicks, but one that pulls out a myriad of memories of things I am grateful for.

Nancy Baldwin



****December's topic is a Christmas memory, tradition, or celebration.
Stories are due to Cindi in the church office by November 15th.**



Cornerstone
Preschool



Trunk or Treat was a success!!!



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

George Lawson	November 1
Rick Fortney	November 1
Jagger Dahl	November 2
Barbara Graves	November 4
Avery Knox	November 5
Cheryl Dean	November 5
Barbara Schweitzer	November 8
Philip Barnes	November 9
Joe Unger	November 10
Carolyn Beeler	November 16
Joe LaGrassa	November 19
Sarah Mills	November 21
Al Zadroga	November 22
Tommy Reighard	November 24
Jackie Day	November 25
Susan Reighard	November 26
Jerry Ruffner	November 27
Wayne Linson	November 27
Debbie Reichlin	November 28
Sarah Waggoner	November 28
Eric Mills	November 29
Ruth Ann McCarbery	November 29
Ed Homer	November 30
Kodee Dahl	November 30

Presbyterian Women Virtual Gathering

**Join us for a Virtual Presbyterian
Women Gathering**

Women on the Move:
Empowering Women

SATURDAY, November 6, 2021

9:45 AM – 11:30 AM

You are invited to join us for this ZOOM -
PW gathering

Call or Email PW Registrar:

Suzan Plautz

suzanpc@yahoo.com 440-269-1465

before Noon, Tuesday, November 2

**Your ZOOM link will be sent from the
Presbytery**

on Friday, November 5

This virtual program is open to anyone –
tell your friends!

**Registration qualifies you for a variety
of door prizes!**



Everyone is Welcome

**Sunday Worship – Our worship service begins at 10:00 am
Also on Facebook and YouTube at 10:00 am
Join us: www.facebook.com/avonlakepc**

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

Church office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 8:00 am—4:00 pm

Pastor	Rev. Charles E. Swartz	440-522-5484
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	
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.