

Saints Alive!

Volume 20, Issue 2
February 2022
"Friends in Christ, Serving
Together with Love"



AVON LAKE PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Discipleship by the Sea

Sundays Jan. 16 - Feb. 27
In person or streamed online.

Follow Jesus along the shoreline and become
the kind of disciples he has called us to be.

Cornerstone's Drive-in Art Show & Spaghetti Dinner
Fundraiser is Wednesday, February 23 at 5:30 pm.



Help Needed!

Every school needs lots of cash,
That's why we hold our annual bash,
And invite all the world to come,
And make some money and have some fun.
Well once more it is that time of year,
When we call on you to volunteer.
And we think that you'd be really great,
As a helper at our annual fete.
So if you can help us out please let us know
With you on board its "All systems go!"
So come and join "The chosen few,
These things can't happen without you!

***If you would be interested in helping the
Cornerstone Staff with the Art Show & Spaghetti
Dinner Fundraiser, please sign up when you
receive the signupgenius email***

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](http://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 6:00 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:
avonlakechurch.com

Preschool website:
cornerstonepreschoolal.com

Church office hours:
Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday & Thursday:
8:00 am—3:00 pm

Greetings from Pastor Rick



Out of Retirement

**“Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.”
Exodus 3:1 (NIV)**

Greetings from your new Gap Pastor! I did not know what a Gap Pastor was until I was asked if I would take this position after Pastor Charlie retired. In essence, I am charged with filling the “gap” while your Session and presbytery work to find a permanent interim minister.

Many of you might be wondering what my duties will be as your gap pastor. Your Session and I agreed to the following duties:

1. Preparation for worship, planned during Worship and Spiritual Life committee meetings on January 6 and February 7, at 6:30 pm by Zoom.
2. Sunday services, including worship leadership and sermon.
3. Emergency pastoral care and visitation, as needed.
4. Moderation of the January 17 and February 21 Session meetings, at 7 pm in person (or Zoom, if determined).
5. Moderation of *ad hoc* Session meetings for budget approval, if needed.
6. Moderation of the annual congregational meeting on January 30.

Moses (a Hebrew) grew up in the home of the Pharaoh of Egypt. He fled Egypt after murdering an Egyptian beating a Hebrew worker and ended up in Midian. The above scripture finds Moses tending the flock of his father-in-law. While it might not have seemed like retirement to Moses, he was indeed living a completely different lifestyle than he had previously known. Little did he know that God would soon call him to a new job.

I, too, was leading a completely different lifestyle since retiring from the ministry two years ago. I had kind of gone off the grid so to speak, settling in to a different routine and a different pace of life. But then God called me back to work.

It wasn't a hard decision. Charlie is a good friend and I knew how much he loved and respected all of you. Charlie is the reason I am here.

Moses was charged with leading his people to the promised land. My charge is to help all of you during this early time of transition. How long that might be only God knows. And that's ok with me.

I will assist you in any way that I can. Don't hesitate to contact me. I look forward to being on this journey with you.

Blessings, Pastor Rick

Pastor Rick's Bio

Reverend Rick Stein has gladly accepted the assignment to be the “gap pastor” at Avon Lake Presbyterian Church. He is the former Covenant Pastor at First United Presbyterian Church in Elyria. Rick served First United from October, 2006 until his retirement on December 31, 2019.

His wife, Mary, is also retired from Baldwin Wallace University where she worked for 46 years. They have two daughters (and son-in-laws), five grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

They are enjoying retirement and spending time with their family. They also enjoy gardening and going to their small “getaway home” in Marblehead, Ohio.

Rick's cell number is 440-864-7343. Please feel free to call him with any pastoral needs. He is looking forward to serving the congregation and helping Avon Lake begin the next chapter that God has called them to embark on.

Deacon News

Now that the snow is really flying, our Deacons have a few fun activities planned.

Check your email for a link or go to <http://cerv.is/0293rALPRESBYTERIAN2022> to sign up for a volunteer slot at Second Harvest Food Bank. There is space for 8 ALPC volunteers on January 24, February 15, or March 21 from 9:30am-noon. If you need help registering, contact Sybil at 440-453-1265.

Our very own Sandra Seib is putting together a few hiking dates for members and friends to meet up at local metro parks and enjoy the fresh air and beautiful scenery. Get those winter boots ready!

Winter would normally bring with it our annual Soup & Chili Cook-off. As you guessed, we're not able to do this in person quite yet. However, we'd love to have everyone drop off their favorite chili or soup recipes to the church office or email them to sybilwendling@gmail.com. Please get them in by February 13. We're working on a fun way to share these recipes in late February.

And, remember that we continue to offer the Deacon Ride Service. If you need transportation (weekly or just occasionally), please call the church office. If anyone has suggestions for activities or events, let one of us know!



The Deacons are planning two group hikes. All are welcome to enjoy fresh air and fellowship. Both hikes will have flat paved options available but for those so inclined, there are options to venture onward and upward as well. No sign up required but anyone

with questions or in need of a ride can email Sandee Seib at ssseib@yahoo.com.

First hike will be Sunday February 6th at 2:00pm, Cascade Park 387 Furnace St, Elyria, OH 44035. Meet in the parking lot near the playground.

Second Hike will be Sunday February 20th at 2:00pm, Huntington Park, Bay Village, meet in front of the nature center.

Hope to Meet Up Then! Peace and Health, Sandee Seib

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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Worship & Spiritual Life

Happy New Year! After a very meaningful Advent and Christmas season, focusing on the “Angels Among Us,” we have entered a year of change, discernment, and hope for the future in 2022!

Though bittersweet, we said, “bye for now” to Pastor Charlie as he gave his last sermon to us on January 2nd, reminding us that “we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.” We will miss Charlie, his encouragement, and his smiles, but we are happy that he can now better focus on his family and maintaining his health!

On January 9th the Reverend Sharon Core, our General Presbyter, teamed up with the Reverend Rick Stein, our Gap Pastor, to lead us in a Reaffirmation of our baptism, including a few sprinkles of water! Sharon’s message reminded us to follow Jesus’ example as we journey forward as a community of faith... get in line, come to God in prayer, and claim the blessings of being God’s beloved children.

We are so happy to welcome the Reverend Rick Stein, and his wife Mary, to ALPC! The Worship & Spiritual Life Committee has been working with Rick for several weeks now and are grateful for his calm presence, gentle nature, and willingness to try new things. Through stories from the book of Mark, Pastor Rick will lead our first worship series of 2022, “Discipleship by the Sea.” This series will focus on the ways in which Jesus models discipleship and calls for us to follow. How fitting for us, on the shores of Lake Erie, that many of Mark’s stories of Jesus happen on the shoreline, on the sea, or in a boat. How are we, as individuals and as a community of faith, seeking to be the disciples Jesus has called us to be?

Thank you to all who continue to dedicate their time and talents to make our worship run smoothly. We welcome all to participate in any way that they are comfortable. As always, we welcome your suggestions and feedback to make the worship experience meaningful and filled with the awesome wonder of God! Please contact any member of the Worship & Spiritual Life Committee.

Written by Margre Lind Mills, on behalf of the committee: Donna Bradley, Dave Brunner, Rick Fortney, Margre Lind Mills, Beth Shoemaker, Jeff Spenser, Cris Till, Marcy Uhl, Sarah Waggoner, JoAnn Wainscott, and Pastor Rick Stein.

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Jeremiah 29:11-14

From Rick Fortney, Music & Arts Ministry

Hymn # 721,

Lord You Have Come to the Lakeshore, opens our worship each Sunday throughout our *Discipleship by the Seashore* series, 1.16.22 – 2.27.22.

‘O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me, and while smiling have spoken my name; now my boat’s left on the shoreline behind me. By your side I will seek other seas.’

The beauty of the verse ... You have searched me and know me ... You have spoken my name ... You are always with me. The challenge in his verse for me ... I will seek other seas. I try daily to follow Him and be His light, loving as He would love. Unfortunately, self gets in the way all too often. Though I claim and desire to seek other seas, its often a challenge and reminder to make sure I am following Him and not the other way around in my weakest moments.

But ... I then am reminded of Hymn # 184,

Calm to the Waves

*‘Calm to the waves. Calm to the wind. Jesus whispers, ‘Peace, be still.’
Balm to our hearts. Fears at an end. In stillness, hear His voice.’*

A wonderful promise and reminder, just to be still ... listen ... hear His voice ... and follow. We are never alone, even in our weakest moments He is with us. What a privilege and truth to hold on to!

(continued on next page)

From Rick Fortney, Music & Arts Ministry (continued)

I hope you use music as a vehicle to learn of God's truth and in worshipping Him. The music we select for worship each week through our hymns and responses, and our anthems, are selected in complimenting the theme for the week in hearing God's voice and responding, praising Him.

In this series, the Handbells will be performing '*Reflections*' by Karen Lakey Buckwalter. Just a small pebble creates ripples in a pond. '*Reflections*' reminds us that each of us has a great impact on the lives of those around us.

One of the Chancel Choir anthems in this series will be a favorite of mine, *He Never Failed Me, He Never Failed Me Yet* by Robert Ray. With its driving beat this powerful gospel work may drive you to spontaneous, hand-clapping joy ... not just in emotion of the piece, but in its promise!

*I will sing, to Gods mercy every day every hour
He gives me power.
I will sing and give thanks to Thee
for all the dangers, toils, and snares
that he has brought me out.
He is my God, and I'll serve him!*

We will be adding a couple new responses for this series that we hope you will enjoy, participate in, not only here at ALPC, but in your personal worship as well.

As the ushers bring up the prayer basket we sing:

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

Lord, listen to your children praying.

Lord, send your spirit in this place.

Lord, listen to your children praying.

Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

After the Lord's Prayer and as the ushers bring forward the offering baskets:

"Glory to God"

*"Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit whose love has set me free.*

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen."

Following Offertory Prayer:

"Doxology" Hymn 606

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (OLD HUNDREDTH)

Blessings, Rick



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.

Mission Matters

*There are three ways to ultimate success: The first way is to be kind.
The second way is to be kind.
The third way is to be kind." Mr. Rogers*



In January, we collected mittens, gloves, hats and scarves. Donations will go to the Socks plus collection location. Thank you to everyone that participated.

February 13 is Souper Bowl Sunday. We will be collecting cans or cartons of soup, stew, etc. to donate to LCM-Open Door ministry. We are planning to make this a fun competition between the fans of the two teams playing in the Super Bowl. We will let everyone know the details of our Super/Souper bowl soup competition as soon as the teams are announced. Plan to wear your football "colors" to church and help your team win by donating food for people in need.

Kathy Leopold reported that they collected over \$18,000 for the Guatemala family fund from the quilt raffle this fall. Unfortunately, they cannot visit the students this year due to COVID restrictions, but they are in contact with program directors in Guatemala. Thank you to everyone that has helped support this vital mission.



It's not a lunch bunch lunch but, we have been able to provide "brown bag lunches" for some of the residents of Haven House in Lorain. Our famous lunch bunch chef, Bill Till stepped in to make dinner for forty to be dropped off to the families staying at Haven House. We are hoping that we can do this on a monthly basis throughout the winter. Thank you to the lunch bunch volunteers that baked cookies and brownies, helped pack lunches and lent a hand in the kitchen.

We are hoping to host a book drive in honor of Mr. Rogers Day March 20th. (Noted in the PCUSA calendar). Details closer to the date. March is Read Across America month.

Kathy Hamilton and Kathy Navarro shared the news from LCM at our January meeting. Some highlights include a Wine and Cheese event and an Oktoberfest including a bluegrass band that can play Polkas.

Afghan Response Store is looking for the following items for their "store" for refugees. They need specific items due to storage space. corn oil, pasta, flour, sugar, salt, lentils, red dried beans, green/black tea, non-perishable milk. Spices: cumin, turmeric, coriander seed, cardamom seed, tomato paste, dried nuts/fruits. They also need sets of tea cups, toilet paper, baby diapers of all sizes, paper towels, Laundry Detergent, dish soap, shampoo, conditioner, NEW towels, blankets, and Walmart gift cards. Michele Cold will be able to transport if you would like to help with these necessities. Needed by February 1st. Please call Michele at 440-541-3013.



Do you have any suggestions or comments you would like to share with the mission committee? Email bjanis1383@gmail.com or call Marian Conn 933-3456.

**Saints Alive Articles due to Cindi
at alpresby@avonlakepc.org:
March issue due on Tuesday, February 15**



Property Committee

The new bathroom renovation is close to completion. Take a look at the new restrooms the next time you are at the church.



Get those steps in! Parking spots closest to the doors. The Property Committee is evaluating whether we have enough Handicap parking spots. We are suggesting that you park further away from the doors (if you are able), to allow our members who need closer parking, particularly during the winter months. I still have a daily step goal of 10,000 steps and this will help me get to that goal! Come join me!



And speaking of burning some calories in the winter..... We need additional help in clearing the snow on Sunday mornings when there is snow. We particularly need help clearing the snow on weekday mornings before Cornerstone opens up. If you are interested, please see someone on Property Committee. We are also looking to see if there is a service that will do this, or a student who would do this for pay, or for community service hours.

Terry Vine
440-225-4225

Birthdays



Janet Maurer	February 10
John Dickey	February 11
Maddie Weeden	February 13
John Weeden	February 14
Karen Kneiss	February 17
Dave Brunner	February 17
Mary Lou LaGrassa	February 18
Daniel Shramo	February 20
Nancy Albrecht	February 22
Catherine Graves	February 23
Dan Maloney	February 27
Dan Rudolph	February 27

Tell Me the Stories of Jesus

Topic: What are ways people in our church family make you feel loved, liked or appreciated?



“When Alice fell down the Rabbit hole in Wonderland, she fell so slowly that she could pick up and put back dishes from the cupboards and books from the shelves. She could examine pictures and study maps hanging on the walls. But when Alice looked down to see where she was headed, she could only see darkness.”

(From an article in “The Presbyterian Outlook” of November 17, 2021 by Taylor Troutman.)

Living through this long lasting COVID pandemic seems a lot like falling down that rabbit hole with no end in sight. It’s a scary experience in some ways but one advantage of this free fall is how it has slowed us down from the usual, often stressful, hurried pace of our day to day lives and given us more time for contemplation, more time for Bible reading, more time for prayer.

I’ve been writing in a daily journal for over fifty years now and in one entry in 1977 while I was working as a coordinator of youth ministries at a small Presbyterian Church - constantly attending staff, committee and program planning meetings - I wrote, “All this emphasis on organization is beginning to stifle me. I feel as though we are all rapid-transit trains on parallel tracks. I am traveling fast, always moving. I’m alongside other people who are equally bent on their tasks and destinations, and although we are traveling side by side (and the click clack makes a gay sound), we never really touch. Tracks are rigid things. I want to stop the train, get off the track and run in an open field.” The slower pace of this pandemic isolation has allowed us to have time to breathe in the fresh air of an open field and reach out to one another in loving and caring ways.

I have appreciated that my Circle of Hope sisters have communicated with me through cards, email and texts (I can’t hear well enough for phone calls) and that a deacon even made the 45 minute drive out to my house in Bratenahl to check on me. I’ve also had congregation members who are friends communicate through posts and comments on Facebook; and I’ve been able to keep in touch with my church family by participating in worship services online and in person when I can.

We are all sad about Pastor Charlie having to go on disability and pray that God will bless he and his family abundantly on their new path. But I am here to attest to the fact that “the mystery of God is at work in broken places” - another phrase I borrowed from “The Presbyterian Outlook” - in that for me and my church friends God’s gift of faith that the Holy Spirit has given us, the followers of Christ, continues to shine brightly in any darkness or uncertainty we may encounter as we walk daily with our Lord.

Submitted by Darlena Gallant



The church office will be closed on
Monday, February 21 and every Friday