



Candles of Grace

AVON LAKE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Journey with Jesus to Jerusalem,
the cross, and to life everlasting.*

Sundays, March 6-April 10
Ash Wednesday, March 2
Maundy Thursday, April 14
Good Friday cantata, April 15
Easter Sunday, April 17

In person or streamed online.

Lent begins on
Wednesday March 2nd.
Our Lenten worship series,
Candles of Grace, is a time to
reflect upon the sacrificial love
of Jesus Christ and the new life
available through his
resurrection.

Journey with us to Jerusalem,
the cross and to everlasting life,
beginning on
Ash Wednesday, March 2nd,
at 7:30 pm.

Pastor Rick will impose ashes or
pray over you as desired. Will
you join us on the journey?

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](https://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

Pastor Rick



Trust in the Lord

*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.
In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.
Proverbs 3:5-6a (KJV)*

I remember praying about whether I should resign my job as a tutor at Midpark High School. My option was to step away from the best job that I ever had and take a job as a Christian Educator at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

Full-time versus part-time.
Highest paying job I ever had versus very low pay.
The only job I ever had with retirement benefits versus a job with nothing.
A job I had gone back to college for versus a job I had no training in.
Hmmm...

Needless to say, I wrestled with this choice for quite a while. The decision did not come easy. I was reading and studying scripture on a daily basis. Mary and I had been back to church for a couple of years now. Our lives had changed because of the choices we made in our lives. The emptiness we had felt inside was filled with the Holy Spirit. A semblance of spiritual peace had enveloped us.

But still I wrestled; like Jacob "wrestling with God" out in the wilderness on his way back to Canaan. Jacob won the all-night match and was renamed Israel.

In a sense, I also won, even though at first it did not feel that way. I knew that God indeed won the battle with me because the trajectory of my life was about to change. I felt good about the decision of changing jobs but my decision was filled with anxiety, apprehension, and even some doubt.

How will I do this new job? I never had any training as a Christian Educator. The only experience I knew was trying to remember my days in youth group back in high school 30 years before. Basically, I had no clue. None what so ever.

Mary and I had planned a vacation to our favorite getaway: Washington Island, WI. We go there quite often (once or twice a year) with my best friend from high school and his wife. His grandfather bought a small cottage on Detroit Harbor in the mid 1940's and it has remained in the family ever since.

It is a peaceful place. Five miles out in Lake Michigan. Great people live there year round. Lots of hiking and plenty of time to relax. Practically no cell service back then. A great place to reflect and connect with God.

Mary and I were shopping at one of the stores when I saw something hanging on a wall that was for sale. It was a handmade wall plaque by one of the islanders. It's words grabbed me and touched my heart. Immediately, my anxiety, apprehension, and doubt about my new job was lifted. The words were Proverbs 3:5-6a (see above). Two and a half years later I was attending seminary. Big life changes indeed. But I wasn't alone. I put my trust in the Lord.

I imagine the last few months have been hard on you with Charlie having to step down unexpectedly. Not only will you begin looking for an interim pastor but also a Christian Educator, an Office Administrator, and a custodian. Wow! That's a lot on your plate.

Remember the above proverb as you travel this path that has been laid out before you. Trust in the Lord. Always.

Blessings,
Rick



Deacon News

Thanks to all who sent in their favorite soup recipes this winter! A booklet of recipes will be available in the Narthex on Sunday, February 27 along with some 2022 Soups for your Soul Challenge wooden spoons. Pick one up and stir up a pot of soup at home. Send pictures of your soul-satisfying creations to sybilwendling@gmail.com to be shared in the next newsletter or post them on Facebook! Can't wait to see what you all make!

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!

Upcoming Deacon-Sponsored Events

Second Harvest Food Bank

Monday, March 21, 9:30am-noon

April & May dates to be determined

Go to <http://cerv.is/0293rALPRESBYTERIAN2022> to sign up for a volunteer slot. If you need help registering, contact Sybil at 440-453-1265.

Get Outside! Hike Series

Sunday, March 13, 2pm, Bradley Woods Pavilion

Sunday, March 27, 2pm, French Creek Reservation Nature Center

Lenten Movie Night

Saturday, March 12, 7pm

Enjoy a movie with friends in our Sanctuary.

Sunrise Service Snacks & Drinks

Easter Sunday

Warm up after our sunrise service with warm drinks and snacks!

The Deacons are planning two more group hikes for March. 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 March 13th at 2:00pm at Bradley Woods, 4538 Bradley Rd, Westlake, OH 44145. Meet at the pavilion.

Second Hike will be Sunday March 27th at French Creek Nature Center, 4530 Colorado Ave, Sheffield, OH 44054. 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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Evangelism Committee



Thank you for giving Pastor Rick Stein a warm ALPC welcome. If you have not already done so, please introduce yourself and remember to wear your name badges! It will not only help him learn all our names, but also be welcoming to any new visitors to our church.

We are always looking for new content to post on our church website. In addition to the latest copy of *Saints Alive*, worship bulletins, and video archives of past services, we also have photos of activities like Lorain Food Bank volunteers and our Walking Group. We'd love to add photos of your events or small groups. Feel free to send articles or photos to Cindi Dansizen (alpresby@avonlakepc.org) or

Susan Reighard (reighard4@gmail.com)

Mark your calendars for Monday, May 30th for the Avon Lake Memorial Day Parade. We're hoping that the Covid fog will have lifted enough to allow for this outdoor community celebration!

If you're looking for ways to serve our community or your family is in need of support, please check out the "Community Information" tab on our website. Our Mission Committee has provided helpful links for our local mission partners where people can get assistance or for organizations that are needing volunteers.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Reighard



Sunday school is alive and well. Please come and join us. We have been waiting patiently for you, our children of the church to return. We have teachers ready to share the love of Christ. Every Sunday there is a lesson, a craft, and a message of Christ's love.

Come....

Penny Helbig, Christian Education

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.



Church Family,

I was a patient in the Cleveland Clinic Avon for 2 days in November after being diagnosed with COVID. I was home for 2 days and then I returned to the Clinic for 11 days adding pneumonia to my diagnosis. I was very sick. Upon my release, I went to the nursing home for an additional 18 days. I was released to be home for Christmas.

I had physical and occupational therapy at my home for January and early February.

I was so blessed to receive many, many "Get Well" and "Thinking of You" cards. It was the highlight of my day when I received a card. I looked forward to the mail every day.

Thank you to everyone who prayed for me and to everyone who sent a card. I am forever grateful for each and everyone of you.

Penny Helbig

Session Highlights



The Session met on February 21 – Highlights of their meeting were:

- ⇒ Learned that the Deacons are sending greeting cards to our isolated members for Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day and Easter.
- ⇒ Income for January was good primarily because some members fulfil their pledges for the year in January.
- ⇒ Voted to allocate our giving to the Presbytery between the Presbytery, the Synod, the General Assembly and the Theological Education Fund.
- ⇒ Approved a raise to Pastor Rick's weekly pay from \$300 to \$400 retroactive to Feb. 1, due to the greater number of hours he puts in over what was initially expected.
- ⇒ Approved the Ministry Information Form that will be used in the search for an interim pastor.
- ⇒ The job description for Office Administrator was posted on Indeed.com.
- ⇒ In person Sunday school has resumed.
- ⇒ The online "Goodnight, God" story videos are among our highest viewed videos.
- ⇒ Roof ice was removed and the leaking skylight was sealed.
- ⇒ The restroom renovation is nearly complete.
- ⇒ Fifty meals were sent to Haven House for the homeless.
- ⇒ Pastor Charlie's tribute video has been approved to be uploaded to the church website.
- ⇒ Lenten and Easter services have been scheduled.
- ⇒ A Cantata called "Candles of Grace" will be offered on Good Friday.
- ⇒ Approved changes to our current COVID safety protocols suggested by the Worship & Spiritual Life Committee, which will be implemented in accordance with CDC guidelines and local COVID statistics.
- ⇒ Pastor Rick doesn't mention last names in the prayer requests to protect people's privacy, because our services are streamed on the Internet.

Elizabeth Shoemaker, Clerk of Session

Tell Us Your Story

Follow Me

Our recent worship series, "Discipleship by the Sea" has put the words "Follow Me" front and center for the Season of Lent. If I close my eyes and listen, I can almost hear the waves lapping up on the shore or against a boat. If I listen a little more intently, I can imagine the whisper of "Follow Me" on a dark and starlit night. Those first disciples, some of them real fisherman, likely had no idea of what following Jesus might entail. In fact, it took them a bit to figure out who Jesus was and that He would suffer death, death on a cross, to save them and to save us.

I think that it is the same for us when we hear the call, "Follow Me." It's a lot to process and the season of Lent can take us to that quiet place where we strengthen our faith with prayer, fasting, and self-examination. We know the story of Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection. We know that the promise of the Holy Spirit was kept. We know this *Greatest Story Ever Told*.

We begin digging into ourselves to discover our shortcomings and think about how committed we are to following Jesus. We repent. Jesus calls us still, "Follow Me."

Nancy Baldwin

Submit your story for April: What Easter traditions do you celebrate on resurrection Sunday with family and friends? Tell us your story. Please submit your story to Cindi in the church office prior to March 15th

Mission Matters

"Anyone who does anything to help a child in his life is a hero." Mr. Rogers.

"Won't you be my neighbor?" We recently learned that the PCUSA (Presbyterian Church USA) designated Sunday March 20th as Mr. Rogers Day. We would like to celebrate his legacy of kindness and inclusivity with a **Youth Book Drive**. Please bring a new or a gently used book(s) for ages birth to 18 years old March 6th thru March 21st. Donations will be collected in the Narthex. Note: I'm planning on wearing a cardigan on the 20th. Questions or suggestions : Bjanis1383@gmail.com or Marian Conn 933-3456.

Thank you for your support of the Winter weather gear collection. Totals: 88 plus pairs of gloves and mittens. 40 hats, 9 sets and 14 pairs of socks.

We are happy to report that we delivered our second brown bag lunch for 50 to Haven Center Monday, 2/14. Thank-you for the food and dessert donations. Special thanks to Avon Lake 2nd graders who decorated the brown bags with winter scenes and Valentine hearts. Bill Till will be preparing dinner for 40 to be delivered February 28th.

We are planning on packing lunches again March 13th and Bill Till will be making dinner for March 27th. Please contact Kathy Hamilton or Beth Janis if you would like to help.



Souper Bowl results: Cincinnati Bengals won! Well they won the food drive, not the Super Bowl. Honestly, was there any doubt that we would support the other Ohio team? Donations were taken to CRS and LCM. Tally: 100plus for Bengals, 20 for Rams. Great effort Team Cornerstone and Team ALPC!

If you would like to join Team Mission, our next meeting is March 2nd at 4:15.

Beth Janis bjanis1383@gmail.com

Deacon's Soups for the Soul

While we were not able to gather for our traditional ALPC Chili Cook-off, soup is still an essential part to surviving our Ohio winters. The Deacons collected members' favorite soup recipes and put them together into a small recipe booklet. Grab one from the narthex and get busy making soup for your soul while the snow is still flying. Take a wooden spoon to help you stir! Feel free to call the members who submitted the recipes and let them know how your soup came out or snap a picture and post it on Facebook. Happy soup making!



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

Worship & Spiritual Life

"He spreads the snow like wool and scatters the frost like ashes.

He hurls down his hail like pebbles.

Who can withstand his icy blast?

He sends his word and melts them; he stirs up his breezes, and the waters flow."

Psalms 147:16-18

This verse reminded me of the wintry weather we have been experiencing! I do find the snow beautiful, as it clings to the branches and the sunlight glistens upon it. I marvel at the beauty of God's earth. But at some point, I think that we all long for the warmth and easiness of spring. This verse just reminds us that spring will come, as will God's help and mercy if we trust in Him.

As we approach spring, we will be beginning a new sermon series for Lent. Pastor Rick and our music director Rick Fortney have been collaborating to create a worship series based upon Joseph Martin's Tenebrae cantata titled "Candles of Grace." The movements of the cantata will be the basis for the message and music each Sunday during this series. A different movement will be the theme each week. At the conclusion of the series, the cantata will be presented in its entirety as our Good Friday service. Our chancel choir will be joined by members of the True North orchestra and chorale.

As we are able to meet in person this year (Hallelujah!!), our worship services for Holy Week will be scheduled much as they have been in the past. Below is the schedule for our Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter services:

Ash Wednesday, March 2, 7:30 pm.

Maundy Thursday, April 14, 7:30 pm, communion served

Good Friday, April 15, 7:30 pm, "Candles of Grace" cantata. This musical "service of shadows" is filled with emotive texts and deeply expressive music portraying the events of the Passion.

Our music ministry will be joined by True North orchestra and chorale members.

Easter Sunday, April 16, 6:30 am and 10:00 am.

We will again have a sunrise service at 6:30 am, weather permitting.

More details to follow. 10:00 am will be our traditional Easter service in the Sanctuary.

As COVID appears to be loosening its grip a bit, we can consider returning to some of our former worship practices, such as a coffee hour following worship. Many practices will be a blend of pre-COVID and COVID practices and precautions. Please note that all changes will be brought before Session before implementation.

We would like to thank Pastor Stein for his leadership as our church continues to search for an interim minister. Perhaps you have been as moved as I have been as I listen to the personal stories and reflections that Pastor Stein includes in his sermons and in his words prior to the benediction. Thank you, Pastor Stein.

Also, thank you to all of our members who submitted lakeshore photos. What a joy it has been to see them each week!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please share them with a committee member!

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

COVID *Guidelines*

Worship & Spiritual Life Committee Recommendation on COVID Restrictions Moving Forward

Understanding that COVID vaccines are available for ages 5 and up, vaccines for kids < 5 are anticipated later this year, COVID metrics in our area are dropping, CDC indoor masking guidance has not changed yet, but is expected to soon, and current knowledge that the virus spreads through the air, not contact with contaminated surfaces, the WSL Committee recommends the following adjustments be made to our current worship procedures:

Now (or as Soon as Practical)

Passing Things

- ◆ Bulletins remain on the wooden table in the Narthex for folks to grab.
- ◆ Continue with two greeters near foyer doors and two ushers at sanctuary doors to greet, answer questions, provide direction as needed.
- ◆ Return the attendance pads to the pews and pass down rows as in the past. Ushers collect after the service as in the past.
- ◆ Remove any restrictions during the time to Pass the Peace.
- ◆ Prayer request cards and basket remain in the Narthex as currently practiced. An Usher brings forward at the designated time.
- ◆ Ushers pass the offering plate as in the past and bring forward at designated time.
- ◆ An offering collection box will remain at a small table in the narthex for folks who prefer to give that way or may give during the week.
- ◆ Continue to use sealed communion elements but put these in the trays and disperse with 2 Elders passing as in the past; and/or by 2 Elders standing in front with the trays so that people can process up to collect their sealed elements in a simulated intinction.

Seating/Social Distancing

- Remove ribbons from pews, open seating.
- Individual prayers after the service resumes.
- Coffee House worship area opens (without coffee or snacks consumed initially).

Masking

- ⇒ Continue masking for all. One person at a time can unmask. This is usually the pastor, worship assistant or soloist.
- ⇒ Continue to mask high aerosol instruments (trumpet, oboe, trombone).

Eating

- * Stay with the current process of packaged goods for take-away.

Note that these changes may take several weeks to "fill the pipeline" with volunteers, re-write instructions, develop signage, train volunteers, etc.

Also, we recommend we:

- * Continue to urge folks to lovingly respect the boundaries of others.
- * Continue to encourage healthy practices of vaccination, washing hands, using hand sanitizer, and staying home when unwell.
- * Continue to provide masks and hand sanitizer throughout the church, especially the Sanctuary, Narthex and Coffee House area.

COVID *Guidelines (continued)*

As CDC Guidance Changes for Indoor Venues (assumes guidance will allow reduced restrictions based on COVID metrics in local areas, expected within the next few weeks)

Masking

- * Optional for vaccinated individuals, including congregation, choirs, soloists, and instruments.
- * Continue to mask high aerosol instruments (trumpet, oboe, trombone) initially, then move to unmasked, placed away from the congregation (i.e., not close to pews), or behind screen.

Eating

⇒ Continue with packaged goods but allow eating in the Narthex and Coffee House. Coffee and water will also be available.

Note that we tried to connect procedures to CDC guidelines so that there was basis for the changes now and in the future, if needed.

No Changes

Children's Message

- ◆ Hold on this for now as children rarely attend worship at present and we do not currently have a Director of Children's Ministry. If this is desired, we recommend that CE take on recruiting volunteers to provide this 5-minute message. If children less than 5 years of age (currently no vaccine) attend the message, the person providing the message should wear a mask. As vaccines become available for children less than 5, vaccinated people giving the children's message have the option to wear masks.
- ◆ Masks should still be worn by those folks working with children under the age of 5 (ex: Sunday school, children's message) until vaccines are available. At that time masks would be optional for vaccinated people working with young children. [Note that we also need to consider a younger age where caregivers might still be required to mask, for example <2, as well as be consistent with Cornerstone policies so need to discuss with CE and Julie E.]

Easter Flowers

We are so very excited to worship together in the sanctuary in person this Easter season. Filling the sanctuary with the newness of spring flowers welcomes the joy and celebration of Christ's resurrection. Flowers express messages of love and are joyful symbols of peace, beauty, life, hope and new beginnings. Help to celebrate this joy at Easter by contributing a flower to adorn the sanctuary.

Please complete the form below and return it to the church. You can put it in a basket found on the Narthex table or one on the counter in the church office. Be sure to note "Easter Flower" on your envelope, check or kiosk contribution. When you make a kiosk payment, please leave a note on Cindi's desk. The last day to order your Easter flower is MARCH 23rd, 2022. Please take your Easter flower home after Easter worship service. Thank you so much.

Easter Flower Order

Easter Flower cost \$8.00 ea.

Payment made (check one) Cash _____ Check _____ Kiosk _____

Easter flowers are to be taken home after Easter morning worship service.



NAME _____

Phone _____

Financial Report

At the end of January, our receipts were about \$20,500 above budget and our expenses were just under \$4,000 below budget. However, the receipts include several full year pledges paid so this will level off as the year progresses.

Per capita giving has been strong but we still have a ways to go. If you have not paid your per capita, please do so as soon as possible. The amount this year is \$34.91 per confirmed member. Please remember that this amount is over and above your pledged giving.

If you have not yet pledged for 2022 it is not too late. Pledges can be placed in the offering plate or sent to the church.

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

	Jan YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income:		
Congregational Giving	\$46,275.00	\$23,748.09
Other Income	4,391.83	6,361.98
Total Income	<u>\$50,666.83</u>	<u>\$30,110.07</u>
Expense:		
Staff Expense	\$14,780.63	\$17,237.58
Worship & Spiritual Life	310.49	600.00
Christian Education		385.41
Stewardship & Mission	1,092.30	625.00
Property	3,642.73	4,391.16
General Expenses	1,521.21	1,958.34
Youth Mission Trip		
Per Capita Expense	12,323.23	12,323.23
Total Expense	<u>\$33,670.59</u>	<u>\$37,520.72</u>

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

Cheryl Dean, Finance Committee Chair

Candles of Grace

AVON LAKE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Journey with Jesus to Jerusalem,
the cross, and to life everlasting.*

Sundays, March 6-April 10
Ash Wednesday, March 2
Maundy Thursday, April 14
Good Friday cantata, April 15
Easter Sunday, April 17

In person or streamed online.



MARCH



Birthdays

Sue Maloney	March 4
Joan Metzger	March 4
Mary Jane Camerot	March 4
Dennis Waggoner	March 6
Jim Janis	March 6
Rev. Jim Smucker	March 6
Jay Knox	March 7
Larry Madson	March 7
Gail Carter	March 8
Joan Beck	March 9
Jeff Hansen	March 12
Tammy Dusek	March 12
Linda Swartz	March 15
Alex Wendling	March 17
Cris Till	March 17
Bill Hamilton	March 19
Andrew Butrey	March 20
Carter Knox	March 20
Barb Hall	March 22
Terry Vine	March 23
Gail Kucharson	March 25
Joe Cockburn	March 25
Natalie Waggoner	March 27
Kristen Weeden	March 31



REGION 4 CONFERENCE

Armor Up!

PRAYER PRACTICES FOR DAILY EMPOWERMENT

SATURDAY, MARCH 19TH, 2022

Session 1: 11am-12:30pm EST

Session 2: 1:30-3:00pm EST

Virtual Conference via Zoom

All regions and non-OSL members invited to attend free through Zoom!



**Presenter,
Saran Warne**

OSL NA Board
VP & Region 6
Director



**Live Music,
Kathy Stanton**

Good Shepherd
Worship Leader

There is NO FEE for the online conference
Love offering donations are accepted

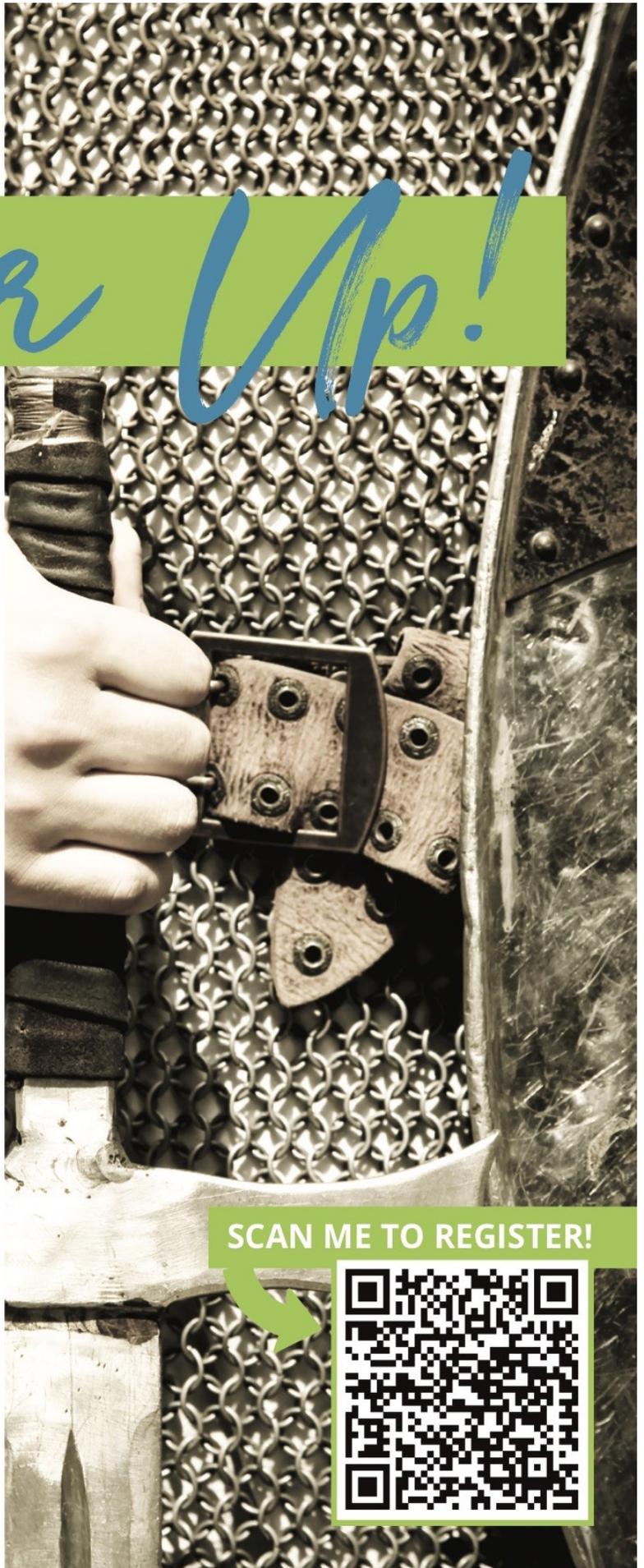
For more information and register:

<https://bit.ly/3uDi5Kj> or contact

Convener **Cris Till**, b.cristill17@gmail.com



presented by
OSL Westshore Healing Community



SCAN ME TO REGISTER!

