

Saints Alive!

Volume 20, Issue 3
April 2022
"Friends in Christ, Serving
Together with Love"



During COVID shutdown, we had the entire inside of our church - Sanctuary, Narthex, kitchenette, east end bathrooms, hallways and Hart Hall newly painted and new cove bases installed. The bathroom project at the west end of the building (of which is the most expensive) represents our continuing step to bring our church to a higher standard and more welcoming. The Bathroom Renovation is now Complete! Please take a few moments to visit the new restrooms on the west end of the church after the Preschool/Sunday School rooms. You will see a new Men's room, Ladies room, and Family restroom with handicap access.

We are celebrating our new renovation with a Ribbon Cutting on 3/27/2022 right after the Worship Service. We want to recognize this important step in the life of our church and have a little bit of fun at the same time! There are many people who had input into the design, and decor of this project. And, many people contributed time and money to getting this to completion. Thank you all!

Terry Vine, 440-225-4225



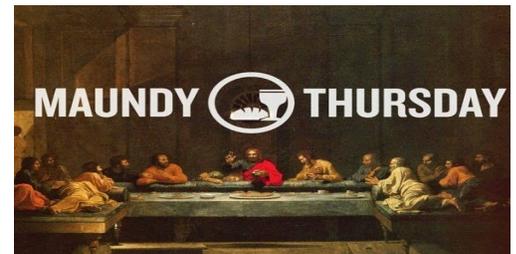
Palm Sunday, April 10, 10:00 am



Easter Egg crafts
and hunt after worship for children

Maundy Thursday, April 14, 7:30 pm

In the church Sanctuary
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.

**Sunrise Easter Service, April 16,
6:30 am-**

Fun and inspiration as we gather on the grass east of North Point Rd overlooking Lake Erie to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord as the sun rises over Cleveland, with coffee and donuts (weather permitting).



Traditional Easter Worship - at 10:00 am in our Sanctuary.

Jesus Bracketology



Pastor Rick teaching on
Mr. Rogers Sunday, March 20

As I am writing this article, “March Madness” is upon us. The Division 1 NCAA Basketball Championship Tournament has begun. It is one of the most anticipated sporting events in America. Sixty-eight collegiate teams are selected to play with the same goal: to win the national championship. There are four “play-in games” (eight teams) and the four winners trim the field to sixty-four teams

A committee of college representatives gathers to decide which teams get invited to play for the championship based on their performance throughout the current basketball season. The country is divided into four regions with sixteen teams each. Every team in each region is rated from one to sixteen (seeds). Number 1 will play number 16, number 2 plays number 15, etc. If you lose, you are out of the tournament.

Each regional winner will gather in New Orleans this year. The goal of the seeding is to have each number one seed reach the final four and play for the national championship. When you look at the set-up, you see four large brackets.

Basketball fans fill out the brackets and select who they think is going to win each game that is played hoping to select the national champion. Selecting the winners has become known as the art of bracketology.

Needless to say, betting is involved and many of you may have participated in an office pool or with friends. There is no need for me to get into the details of how the betting pools work.

March Madness always occurs around Easter. This year I could not help but think about what the odds were for Jesus becoming the Messiah back in his day. Of course, we know the story and what God’s plan was. But if we lived during the time of Jesus, would we have filled out a bracket, so to speak, that would have him becoming the “champion” of all humankind? What would have been his odds for succeeding?

Jesus’ odds during that time would have been a long shot at best. The infant mortality rate was very high, though there are no concrete statistics. Having a successful birth was a true miracle. If Mary shared her news from the Angel Gabriel, people probably would have thought her to be crazy.

People were amazed at what the shepherds told them after Jesus’ birth (Luke 2:17-20). But did they truly believe them? After all, they were just lowly shepherds and they were not really respected within the community.

When Jesus began his ministry, we read that the people of his hometown were amazed at his teachings. But they also dismissed him because of who his parents were (Matthew 13:53-58; Mark 6:1-6a; Luke 4:16-30).

Jesus continues to make his way through his “bracket” in spite of the obstacles placed in front of him by other people and both religious and political leaders at the time. He continues to avoid the upsets that plague so many of the elite basketball teams during tournament time.

To his fans, Jesus is the true underdog; not highly regarded by experts but continuing a string of victories, all on the road. No home court advantage for him.

When Jesus seems to be defeated on the cross, he continues to surprise all of us. He proves without a doubt that he is the true champion. And I bet not many people had him picked in their office pools at the time.



Blessings,
Rick

Deacon News

Thanks to all who sent in their favorite soup recipes this winter! We hope that everyone enjoyed making some of our ALPC favorites! As we make our way into spring in NE Ohio, the Deacons have added a few more activities to our calendar. We will continue to keep an eye on CDC recommendations for COVID safety while trying to provide opportunities for fellowship and community building at ALPC. We're always open to suggestions for improving what we're doing--just stop one of us in the narthex or send an email to Sybil, sybilwendling@gmail.com.

And, remember that we continue to offer the Deacon Ride Service. If you need transportation (weekly or just occasionally), please call the church office. It is truly a blessing for us to help get people to church!

If anyone has suggestions for activities or events, let one of us know!

Upcoming Events

Second Harvest Food Bank

April date to be determined

Friday, May 13, 930-12pm

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 27, 2pm, French Creek Reservation Nature Center. Please join us Sunday April 10th at 2:00 for a fresh air and fellowship hike at Day's Dam in Lorain. We will meet at the trailhead which is just past the intersection of Norfolk Ave. and 31st Street. The address is 3104 Norfolk Ave., Lorain.

Lenten Movie Night

Saturday, April 9, 7pm

Enjoy *Risen* with friends in our Sanctuary. Popcorn and drinks will be available.

Sunrise Service Snacks & Drinks

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

Spring Cleanup

When our awesome Property Committee says that it's time to clean up around the outside of the church, Deacon Dogs *may* be making a comeback!

Food Mission Projects

Deacons will help the Mission Committee pack lunches for Haven Center in May. Please consider helping Second Harvest Food Bank with donations through their website, at our own ALPC food drive, or by attending a repack or mobile unit volunteer session. Many of the local churches that host meals and offer pantries receive supplies from Second Harvest.



Bathroom Renovations finished! 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

Plans are getting underway for the Avon Lake Memorial Day Parade! Please join us as we represent ALPC in our community. John Weeden has graciously offered the use of his bus again. The event will be on Monday, May 30th at 10:00 AM, followed by the Memorial Day ceremony at 10:45 AM at Veterans Park.

We have recently posted Pastor Charlie's retirement tribute video on our website, along with pictures from the Deacons' nature hike at Huntington Beach. We will soon be adding the "Good Night, God" bedtime story videos created by our Christian Education Committee as part of our children's ministry. We'd love to add photos of your events or small groups too. Feel free to send articles or photos to Cindi Dansizen (alpresby@avonlakepc.org) or Susan Reighard (reighard4@gmail.com)



John Weeden's bus

It's nice to have the Friendship Registers back in the pews. If you don't know your neighbor, be sure to introduce yourself or refresh your memory on names of those you already know!

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Reighard

Tell Us Your Story



At the time I selected the topic of Easter traditions for April storytellers, COVID was beginning to slow down and we were starting to feel more hopeful about that crisis. The war in Ukraine was not yet even on my radar. In fact, I was thinking about how as a child, I loved getting a brand-new outfit as an Easter tradition. No hand me downs from my sister, cousin or the daughter of my Mother's church friend on Easter. I got to pick out the dress, hat, white gloves and sometimes even new shoes. Now I kind of chuckle about all this fuss because growing up in Northwest PA, all that finery was covered up with a winter coat anyway most Easter Sundays.

Now, well past the age of elementary school, I see Easter through a different lens, a lens refined in recent days by watching pain, fear and uncertainty on the faces of the Ukrainian people. March 6, as we participated in communion, I looked at the table, and reflected for a bit on those who had come to the table, those who will come to the table in the future and those who have yet to accept the invitation. We see the joy of sitting at the Lord's table somewhat dimly from this side of Heaven. Can you imagine the joy of breaking

bread as one family, plenty for everyone, and the restoration of abundant life? Happy Resurrection Sunday!

As summer approaches and we look ahead to storytelling for *Saints Alive!*, the May topic for telling your story is, "Where did you grow up?" (City/country, multigenerational household, playmates were siblings, cousins, neighborhood kids, schoolmates, ,etc.) I'd love to hear your story. Stories should be sent to Cindi via email at: alpresby@avonlakepc.org by April 15th.

Shalom,
Nancy Baldwin

Session Highlights



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

- * Learned that the Deacons are still offering rides to church and will continue to announce this in the newsletter.
 - * The Deacons' first movie night was successful, and a second movie night will be held in April.
 - * They will again serve Deacon Dogs for the upcoming church work day.
 - * February's expenses exceeded receipts by \$6,500.
 - * The gift fund for Pastor Charlie totaled at \$10,460.
 - * The Stewardship campaign ended with 66 giving units pledging \$237,384.
 - * Interviews are being held with candidates for interim pastor and office administrator.
-
- * Quotes are being obtained for new janitorial services.
 - * Two additional handicapped parking spots will be identified with signs.
 - * Cornerstone Preschool is thrilled to receive a grant of \$22,379 from the Ohio Department of Education, which will be used for classroom and playground maintenance.
 - * An Easter egg hunt in the woods will be held on Palm Sunday.
 - * Meals are being prepared for Haven House twice a month.
 - * The books collected in the book drive were given to the Cleveland Children's Book Bank.
 - * Our church will participate in the Memorial Day parade, along with the *Weeden Bus!*
 - * The church brochures are being updated.
 - * A new members' class will be scheduled.
 - * The Bunn coffee maker was repaired, and coffee is now served again after worship!
 - * The Coffeehouse Worship area is being used again.
 - * The Elders of Jazz will return to lead worship on the Sunday after Easter.
 - * Pastor Rick is planning to restart home Communion.

Elizabeth Shoemaker, Clerk of Session

Hey Kids!

The Easter Bunny is coming to ALPC!
There will be Easter crafts and an Easter egg hunt right after worship.



Mission Matters

"Try your best to make goodness attractive. That's one of the toughest assignments you'll ever be given."
Fred Rogers

Thank you for helping us celebrate the spirit of Mister Fred Rogers by donating books for the Cleveland Kid's Book bank and local book boxes. Did you like wearing a sweater to church? It was fun to see Pastor Rick in his red "Mr. Rogers sweater" and tennis shoes!

We are continuing the brown bag lunches and dinners for Haven Center in Lorain until June. Dates for the brown bag lunches are 4/10, 5/8, 6/12. Dinners will be 4/24, 5/22, and 6/26. If you would like to help with this mission, donations of desserts and items for making lunches are welcome. You might also like to help pack the lunches. Please call Kathy Hamilton or email Beth Janis at bjanis1383@gmail.com for more details. Thank you to the people that have donated desserts and food for the meals and helped pack and deliver the lunches. Extra thanks go to Bill Till for making dinner "to go" for 50 the past three months!



SPECIAL OFFERINGS ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

On Palm Sunday, April 10th, we will be participating in One Great Hour of Sharing, a PCUSA special offering. In 1947, in a Saturday night radio broadcast President Truman and popular musicians and actors of the time, closed with the request to make a sacrificial

contribution at their own place of worship the next morning. It is estimated that over 75,000 churches participated! The focus then was Worldwide relief. The focus is still Worldwide relief. Donations may be made to Avon Lake Presbyterian Church with the notation, OGHS. There is an envelope in our individual offering box. You may also go online to [OGHS](#)

The offering on Easter Sunday, April 17, will go to the Lunch Bunch fund to use for dinners and lunches and other hunger related missions. We are not prepared to host community meals yet but have been participating in other meals like the Brown Bag lunches and evening dinners at Haven Center and food pantries in Lorain. If you are interested in being a part of Lunch Bunch conversations, please call Kathy Hamilton, Kathy Leopold or email Beth Janis.

LCM is hosting a Wine and Cheese fundraiser May 14. Cost is \$10 per ticket at First Lutheran church in Lorain. We will be donating 2 "Sweet Treats." There will be a raffle and appetizers. More details soon.

Coming in May: "Specific item" food drive.

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.

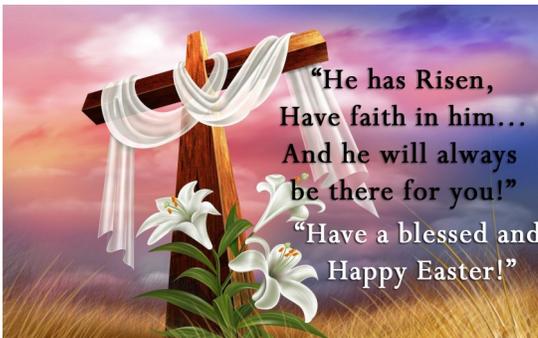
**Saints Alive Articles are due to Cindi
at alpresby@avonlakepc.org:
The May issue due on Good Friday, April 15**



Worship & Spiritual Life

By the time you are reading this article, we have sprung forward into daylight savings time. . .more daylight hours to our days that make us smile. Spring has arrived according to our calendars; however sometimes not to mother nature. The COVID numbers have gone down; thank you Lord! Masks are no longer part of our attire at morning worship; it is optional if you feel more comfortable wearing yours and that's ok. We are so happy to see more of our church family on Sunday mornings.

We began our "Candles of Grace" Lenten series journey with a beautiful, powerful, moving service on Ash Wednesday. The congregation was invited forward to receive the placing of ashes and prayers from Pastor Rick to begin this Journey to Jerusalem, the Cross and to Life Everlasting. The Holy Spirit filled our church. Each Sunday Pastor Rick has stirred our hearts to contemplate the Love and Sacrifice of Christ. His sermon messages focus our thoughts to a time of reflection bringing us to the Cross and New Beginnings.



On Palm Sunday, April 10th, we begin this Journey to Jerusalem. Our Holy Week Services are as follows:

Maundy Thursday - April 14th - 7:30 pm
The sacrament of communion will be served

Good Friday - April 15th - 7:30 pm
"Candles of Grace" Cantata
An expressive musical service of shadows portraying the events of the Passion

Our Chancel and Bell Choirs will present this musical worship service joined by our guests from TrueNorth Chorale & Chamber Orchestra

Easter Sunday - April 17th

6:30 am Sunrise Service (weather permitting)

10:00 am Traditional Easter Service in the sanctuary

Many thanks to all of you who donated the beautiful spring Easter flowers. Please take your flower or flowers, if you ordered more than one, home with you after the Easter worship service.

On Sunday, March 6th, there was a little meeting after church with any of the congregation who wanted to attend to start brainstorming ideas on how we can improve the sanctuary for better usage of space and any changes that might be an added improvement in the flow of things. Many great ideas were thrown out there. Thank you for all your thoughts. **If you missed the brainstorming event, we still want your ideas! Please see the display in the narthex. Feel free to add your ideas to the mix!**

As warmer weather blesses us and COVID restrictions continue to be lifted, more of our church family is returning to the sanctuary in person for worship. Such a welcomed sight. We are starting to get back to a "somewhat" normal worship once again. We are passing the collection plate, friendship pads have been put back in the pews, communion trays are being passed, and we are getting comfortable with the passing of the peace. We are looking forward to sharing together the Journey to Jerusalem, the Cross and to Life Everlasting this Holy Week and Easter.

"From the fullness of His grace, we have all received one blessing after another." John 1:16

As always, if you have any concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to contact a member of our committee. If you have been thinking lately that you would like to be a greeter or usher, JoAnn Wainscott (440-933-2391 or wainscottjo@gmail.com) would welcome you to help out on Sunday mornings.

Happy Easter! Happy Spring!

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

Music & Arts Ministries

We continue to make changes and adjustments to enrich our worship experience. I hope you have enjoyed our new responses as we begin worship, enter into prayer, respond to our Offering, and as we close our service. We will continue to find creative ways to strive to connect and effectively lead in our worship. Some will work, others may not, but will always come from the heart! If you have suggestions, I am always open to your ideas and past experiences, and welcome an email, phone call or visit. Once again, if you or a family member have experience and interest in the arts, please contact me and get involved!

Mosaic Cross in the Narthex on the round welcome table. I hope each of you have seen the mosaic cross created by artist and ALPC member, Janet Parker. Janet created this cross, inscribed LOVE, for our Beatitudes series last year. Janet loves working with mosaics. Janet was asked how she creates mosaics. "Each piece is a challenge because the choice of material is so large. Tiles, beads, stain glass, broken china and jewelry, as well as mirrored pieces and anything that can be adhered to a backing can be used. I have enjoyed learning the unique techniques required and how to use the specialized tools." Please take time to admire Janet's mosaic cross on love as well as all the other beautiful crosses on the window seals throughout the sanctuary this Lent. The Sanctuary is open daily, take time to come in during the week for a time of reflection.

Good Friday evening, 7:30 p.m., our music ministry will be leading us in a Tenebrae service, **Candles of Grace**. Friends from TrueNorth Cultural Arts Chamber Orchestra and Chorale will be joining us. It promises to be a special evening as we journey to the cross, preparing us for our journey and celebration of the resurrection and life everlasting! I hope you will join us Good Friday, April 15, 7:30 p.m. This is an excellent time not only for our personal reflection and worship, but an opportunity to bring friends, using this as a side-door ministry in inviting the community to join us in worship at ALPC. A love offering will be taken to help defray the costs of the evening.

I asked a good friend of mine to prepare a **Lenten Bible Study** to be used for Lent, or possibly Holy Week. To be used individually, as a family, or in small group study with friends. I asked him to have the theme be based on our Lenten series we are currently going through. He did a wonderful job and am excited to share it with anyone whom may be interested. **A Lenten Journey with Jesus ... to Jerusalem ... to the Cross ... and to Life Everlasting!**

- 1 - **Heading to Jerusalem - Matthew 20:17-19 *The Mission***
- 2 - **A Requirement for the Journey - Matthew 20:20-28 *A Call for Humility***
- 3 - **Following a Different Kind of King - Matthew 21:1-11 *Palm Sunday***
- 4 - **The Upper Room - Matthew 26:17-29 *The Lord's Supper***
- 5 - **The Cross - Matthew 27:32-54 *The Cross***
- 6 **"All y'all" - Matthew 28:16-20 *The Great Commission***

Hu Auburn, retired minister from Bay Presbyterian Church, whom I have shared in ministry with both at Bay Presbyterian and Linwood Tabernacle, put this together on his front porch in Baraga Springs, California where he and his wife live during the winter months. If anyone would like to go through this study with Joan and I, or would like to have it for your personal worship, or to go through with family or friends, please contact me and I can email you the study. You will be encouraged and blessed.

Joan and I would like to thank our church family for your prayers, love, cards, and emails ... truly a blessing. Joan's Mom and Dad moved to Ohio in late October so we could share in the support of loving them as Betty fought her fight with cancer. Betty died on February 22nd. The ALPC Prayer Shawl Ministry presented both Frank and Betty with a prayer shawl. For those who do not know, this is a powerful ministry ... thank you for including us in your ministry. After spending the day with Betty, Frank would come home each night, wrap himself in the comfort of the shawl, and reflect. Betty, never let the prayer shawl leave her side. It became so important to her, we chose to bury her with the prayer shawl ... thank you. Dear to Betty's heart was the Linus Project, a non-profit providing new handmade blankets to children in need. We believe the prayer shawl meant even more to Betty due to her involvement in doing the same for others in the past.

Rick Fortney, Director of M&A Ministries

Financial Report

At the end of February our receipts were about \$11,400 above budget and our expenses were still below budget. However, the receipts include several full year pledges paid so this will level off as the year progresses.

If you have not paid your Per capita yet it's not too late!. The amount this year is \$34.91 per confirmed member. Please remember that this amount is over and above your pledged giving.

It also isn't too late if you have not turned in your pledge. Pledges can be placed in the offering plate or sent to the church.

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

	Feb YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income:		
Congregational Giving	\$62,195.09	\$47,496.16
Other Income	5,461.86	8,723.98
Total Income	\$67,656.95	\$56,220.14
 Expense:		
Staff Expense	\$26,876.57	\$30,119.11
Worship & Spiritual Life	473.08	1,200.00
Christian Education		770.84
Stewardship & Mission	2,228.09	791.67
Property	10,057.64	8,782.34
General Expenses	3,810.29	3,916.66
Youth Mission Trip		1,500.00
Per Capita Expense	12,323.23	12,323.23
Total Expense	\$55,768.90	\$59,403.85

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

Cheryl Dean, Finance Committee Chair



The Church office will be closed on Monday, April 18

General Information

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

Jazz Sunday

The *Elders of Jazz* will be here to lead our worship service on Sunday, April 24, at 10:00 am, with Jan Hart Traxler giving The Rev. Al Hart's last sermon.

The *Elders of Jazz* is a group of amateur musicians who make a joyful noise to the Lord, playing Dixieland Jazz.

There is a general agreement among scholars that religious music was one of the primary roots of jazz. Many of the songs played by the early New Orleans bands were spirituals or gospel songs, and many of the occasions for which the music was played were religious occasions. The *Elders of Jazz*, in the music, are going back to those roots, seeking to praise God in their own special joyous ways!



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 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 Stein
Rick Fortney, Music
Marcy Uhl, Treasurer
Cindi Dansizen, Office
Julie Erker, Preschool

	Sharon Pervo	April 01
	Will Wendling	April 01
	Barbara Wiedl	April 02
	Margie Mills	April 02
	Elliot Stryczny	April 07
	Jackie Butrey	April 07
	Janet St. George	April 07
	Vickie Joyce	April 09
	Tom Tighe	April 11
	Gino Meehan	April 12
	Melanie Brunner	April 13
	Olivia Kompan	April 13
	Jenny Doran	April 14
	Michele Cold	April 19
	Joseph (Skip) Albrecht	April 20
	Joan Fortney	April 22
	Bill Gantz	April 23
	Bill Till	April 25
	Kathy Mohr	April 27
	Aimee Cockburn	April 28

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

Health Care by Zip Code

A Closer Look at Healthcare Disparities

10 AM – 11:30 AM

Saturday, April 30

Dr. Latasha Jarrett from The Centers

& Hope Lane from Community Solutions

Special Offering In Memory of Claudia Meyke



Call or Email PW Registrar: **Suzan Plautz**
suzanpc@yahoo.com 440-269-1465

before Noon, Tuesday, April 26

Suzan will ask for your Email address
The ZOOM link will be sent from the Presbytery
on Friday, April 29

This virtual program is open to anyone—invite your friends