

Friends in Christ. Serving Together with Love

Saints Alive!

November 2024 | Volume 22, Issue 9

Orkney and Finding God in the Ordinary

By Rev. Dr. Kristian Bendoraitis

A number of years ago, Susanne and I got the chance to visit the Isle of Orkney. This is a small island that is about a two-hour ferry ride north of Scotland. While it is technically part of Scotland, it has its own culture due to its unique geography and its distance from Scotland and other Northern European countries. Two things about Orkney's geography are relevant to what I want to share.

First, the island historically has very few native trees due to the dramatic

winds that it has all year. This is important because this means that any civilization that lived on the island used rock to build anything that they needed. So, the island is rich with ruins and archeological sites dating back at least 5,000 years. In fact, Orkney has some of the world's oldest and best-preserved Neolithic sites, with more being discovered each year.

Second, Orkney was rich with fishing, farming, and other items necessary for living there. In other words, the ancient cultures that lived there did not need

to fight for survival. This means that they had time for religion and art.

There are huge standing stones everywhere and beautifully preserved stone circles, burial mounds, and tombs. Each one is different, yet mysteriously connected. Anthropologists and archeologists are still trying to figure out the meaning of much of what was built. When Susanne and I were there, it was easy to feel inspired by the sacredness of what we saw.

Why is this important? Because those on Orkney (*continued on page 13*)



Vat of Kirbister, Stronsay
Photo Credit: Orkney.com

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Perk up with a cup of joe at our Coffee House! Sundays at 10 a.m., worship services are live-streamed so you can watch from the comfort of the couch while enjoying a hot beverage, a donut, and of course, fellowship. If you prefer worshipping in the sanctuary, coffee and tea are always available after the service.

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.

If you would like to be a worship service volunteer, please contact the head organizer of the position you're interested in.

Worship Assistants: Sherry Spenser, sherryspenser@hotmail.com

Greeters: Lee Lohr, LeelaAnn60@gmail.com

Ushers: Kathy Hamilton, kmhamilton228@gmail.com

Communion Servers: Lee Lohr, LeelaAnn60@gmail.com

Coffee Servers: Cris Till, b.cristill17@gmail.com

Deacons' Report

Submitted by Sybil Wendling

The Deacons kept busy in October making sure the Cornerstone kids had enough candy at their annual Trunk-or-Treat. We all had a great time at our pirate-themed trunk helping kids walk the plank to reach the candy-filled treasure chest. Bill Hamilton recommends everyone attend next year! The costumes of both the kids and the Cornerstone staff were so fun to see! Many thanks to all our members who put together trunks, brought candy, or helped hand out treats.

As we're heading toward a season of more challenging driving conditions, please remember that the Deacons are happy to provide rides to and from church services. If you need a ride, contact the church office at 440-933-6240 or Sybil Wendling (440-453-1265 or sybilwendling@gmail.com). Don't let a lack of transportation stop you from getting to know our new pastor!

Our Deacons also deliver Bill Till's delicious homecooked meals on the fourth Sunday of the month to ALPC members who don't get out as much as they used to, who are having health challenges, or who would just enjoy a meal and a smile. If you'd like a meal, don't hesitate to mention it to Kenzi in our church office, Deb Reichlin, the Hamiltons, or the Tills. Deacons can always use help delivering meals, too. If you'd enjoy being part of this ministry, please let Sybil know.

If you're looking for a way to keep active this fall, remember that Sandi Seib is continuing her yoga classes on Thursday evenings at 6:30. No matter where you are in your fitness journey, you're always welcome. Donations support our Guatemala missions.

As we head toward the holiday season, our Deacons will be cooking breakfast for all on December 15. Come hungry! We'll also be screening a classic holiday movie after worship on December 8. Further down the road, we'll be dusting off our crockpots and ladles for the annual Chili & Soup cook off in January and trying out a new event in March—Pie Day!



Captain Hamilton helps a little werewolf across the plank.

Session Highlights

From the regular meeting held on October 21, 2024.

*Submitted by Elizabeth Shoemaker,
Clerk of Session*

- ◆ The Deacons want to start reaching out to members who haven't attended in awhile.
- ◆ The Deacons' moderator's number will be the one to contact for rides to church.
- ◆ The Deacons would like to hold a church rummage sale next June.
- ◆ Giving needs to recover to help the budget catch up by the end of 2024.
- ◆ For the year, receipts have lagged expenses by about \$22,000, even without a full time pastor's salary.
- ◆ The stewardship campaign is being planned, and a letter will soon be mailed.
- ◆ The employee handbook will be updated with language about reporting overtime and comp time.
- ◆ Pastor Kristian will start planning his installation service with the Presbytery.
- ◆ The Cornerstone Advisory Committee met and is planning more meetings.
- ◆ Increases to Cornerstone Preschool tuition have been proposed to keep up with Ohio averages.
- ◆ Volunteers are needed to be substitute grandparents on cornerstone's Grandparents' Day.
- ◆ The youth group held their first meeting with several youth and additional adults in attendance.
- ◆ Upgrades to the pastor's office are being planned.
- ◆ Using the crib room for worship storage is being investigated.
- ◆ ALPC received a certificate from PC (USA) for regularly participating in the four annual denominational offerings.
- ◆ The new welcoming brochure has been designed.
- ◆ Hanging of the Greens is scheduled after worship on November 24.
- ◆ A new outdoor silhouette nativity is being made.
- ◆ The annual meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2025.
- ◆ Rev. Jim Smucker was honored for 50 years of ordination at the recent Presbytery meeting.
- ◆ A new educational program from the Presbytery's Race Action Network is available.
- ◆ Annual paid family leave stipulations were added to the pastor's Terms of Call.
- ◆ The Yarn Ministry will be displaying their work and looking for additional participants.
- ◆ The car traffic for Cornerstone's drop-off and pick-up will be receiving attention.

Your Elders of Session



Financial Report

Submitted by Cheryl Dean, Finance Committee Chair

We are excited that Kristian has joined us as our new pastor! Please help us stay financially sound so we can continue to do all the good things we have been doing and be in a position to do any new things that God is calling us to do. As you can see below, this year's giving is about \$20,000 behind our anticipated giving. Spending is

\$32,000 behind what was anticipated, so that is helping, but we need to turn things around. In the past when we have anticipated a deficit, the generosity of this congregation has kept us from having to use savings. If you have fallen behind with your giving, please try to catch up. If you can give a little extra, that would also be greatly appreciated.

Simple Give (QR code below) can be used for general giving or for giving to a specific fund. If you would like to designate a contribution to a specific fund, please contact Marcy or Cheryl to specify the fund and we will make sure it gets to the correct place.

Any financial questions may be addressed to Marcy Uhl, Treasurer, or to Cheryl Dean, Finance Committee Chair.

	Sept. YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income:		
Congregational Giving	\$190,033.48	\$210,000.00
Other Income	19,625.38	18,175.00
Total Income	<u>\$209,658.86</u>	<u>\$228,175.00</u>
Expense:		
Staff Expense	\$143,246.85	\$167,675.32
Worship & Spiritual Life	5,594.16	6,112.50
Christian Education	1,734.65	3,075.00
Stewardship & Mission	3,703.67	3,862.50
Property	30,922.20	37,500.00
General Expenses	18,673.13	17,700.00
Per Capita Expense	8,968.00	8,968.00
Total Expense	<u>\$212,842.66</u>	<u>\$244,893.32</u>
Net Income (Loss)	-\$3,183.80	-\$16,718.32



Using the camera app on your smart phone, aim your camera at this QR code. A link for SimpleGive will pop up; click the link and you will be taken directly to ALPC's online donation platform. You can scan the code from anywhere - paper bulletins, wall projections during worship, even right here as you read!

Christian Education

By Emilee Oliva, Director of Christian Education

The past few months—or perhaps years—have been a whirlwind of change and transition, ushering us toward new beginnings and opportunities. What lies ahead for us remains uncertain, but we can place our trust in God as we focus on our current needs. The journey has not been easy, and I commend each of you for handling it with grace. While we may not be exactly where we aspire to be, we are precisely where God intends for us to be.

Trusting God with our future is a cornerstone of our faith, providing us with peace and assurance even in times of uncertainty. As we navigate life’s complexities, the bible offers us timeless wisdom and encouragement to rely on God’s promises. Throughout scripture, we find numerous instances where God calls us to trust Him; if trust were not significant, it would not be emphasized so frequently.

Our souls yearn for nourishment, and our minds seek to grow in knowledge of the Lord our God. Christian Education plays a vital role in facilitating these opportunities for growth and transformation. Some may feel they have fulfilled their learning

journey, believing they have grown enough over the years. However, I want to share the uplifting message that God is not finished with you yet. Christian Education aims to encourage and support you in every facet of your faith. As we progress, we would like to encourage your active participation within our church community at ALPC. We invite you to join or engage in our current or upcoming classes. If classes are not what you are seeking, we also recommend considering participation in one of our Circles.

Faith is not a static element of our lives; it is dynamic, demanding continuous growth and nurturing to thrive. Just as a seed needs water and sunlight to grow, our faith requires regular engagement and reflection to flourish. Growing in your faith is a lifelong journey that enriches every aspect of your life. It transforms your relationship with God, enhances your resilience and peace, and empowers you to make a positive impact on the world. Embrace this journey with an open heart and a willing spirit, trusting that God will guide you every step of the way.

Christian Education would also love to hear from you. If you feel called to teach a class or have an idea for one

we want to hear about it! Our goal is to help build up our community, creating a place that encourages diversity.

As we approach the next couple of months, we will conclude our current classes and transition into the Advent season. To stay informed about our ongoing and upcoming classes, please visit our website, watch our Sunday service livestream, review our bulletins, or check the Christian Education board located in the Narthex. We have an exciting program year ahead and eagerly anticipate welcoming both current and new faces here at ALPC.

Christian Education extends its heartfelt gratitude to all for your ongoing support and commitment to growth. We eagerly anticipate a promising future while appreciating the insights that God is revealing to us now. Our prayers for you are to not limit yourself in your walk with God and know that no matter what path we are on we are all anticipating the same future with our Father in Heaven. Let’s work together to help paint God’s picture of our future here at Avon Lake Presbyterian Church by lifting each other up and remembering this Journey together.

I FEEL LOST AND NEED GUIDANCE	Proverbs 3:5-6	Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.	This verse reminds us to rely on God's wisdom rather than our own, assuring us that He will guide us along the right path.
I NEED TO BE ENCOURAGED	Jeremiah 29:11	For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.	Here, God promises a hopeful future, encouraging us to trust in His good intentions for our lives.
I'M NERVOUS ABOUT THE FUTURE	Matthew 6:34	Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.	Jesus teaches us to focus on the present and trust God with the future, easing our anxieties about what lies ahead.
I FEEL ANXIOUS	Philippians 4:6-7	Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.	This passage encourages us to bring our worries to God in prayer, assuring us of His peace that surpasses all understanding.
I FEEL ALONE	Isaiah 41:10	So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.	God's reassurance of His presence and strength provides comfort as we face the future.

Christian Education Highlights

C.R.O.S.S.

C.R.O.S.S. stands for Children Raised On Sunday School. At ALPC, our Sunday School program is designed to cultivate a deep and meaningful understanding of faith in our young learners. We believe that early exposure to biblical teachings and Christian values lays a solid foundation for a lifetime of spiritual growth. Key elements of our current curriculum and what we hope our children will be getting out of C.R.O.S.S. this year:

- **Bible Literacy**—our children are engaging with the Bible in a structured and hands-on way. They are learning the stories of the Bible, diving into a different one each week and learning about the characters and the lessons each story imparts. Additionally, we are working on memorizing the order of the books in the Bible, aiming to make children familiar with its structure and content.
- **Fruit of the Spirit**—we emphasize the development of character traits that reflect the Fruits of the Spirit as described in Galatians 5:22-23. Children learn how the virtues of Love, Joy, and Peace can impact their interactions with others. They learn the importance of practicing traits such as Patience, Kindness, and Goodness in their daily lives. And, children work on developing qualities such as Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control as they grow in their faith journeys.
- **Fellowship**—building a sense of community is a main focus of our program. We encourage children to participate in group activities, promoting teamwork and friendship, as well as age-appropriate service projects to instill a sense of responsibility and compassion for others.

By providing a nurturing and educational environment, we aim to support the spiritual journey of our children, helping them to grow in their faith and understanding of God's word. We are excited to see how these teachings take root and flourish in their lives this program year and the years to come.

Children's Sermons

Children's Sermons will be conducted on the second and last Sunday of each month. In December, we will hold a children's sermon every Sunday in celebration of Advent.

Revival Youth Group

Over the past two months, we have been fortunate to successfully establish our youth group, which meets on the second and last Sunday of each month. Currently, our attendance stands at six participants. As part of our Revival Youth Group, we have dedicated our efforts to fostering a supportive and enriching environment for teenagers. Key focus areas we have been working on and are still continuing to grow in as we navigate throughout the year are:

- **Identity in Christ**—understanding and embracing one's identity in Christ is foundational for young believers. We delve into what it means to be a new creation in Christ and how this identity influences everyday decisions and relationships.
- **Building Resilience**—in a rapidly changing world, resilience is an essential trait. We focus on equipping our youth with the tools and mindset needed to overcome challenges and grow from experiences.
- **Service & Outreach**—Encouraging acts of service and outreach helps teenagers see the impact of faith in action. We organize community

service projects and outreach programs to demonstrate the love of Christ to others.

- **Healthy Relationships**—navigating relationships can be complex, especially as a teenager. We discuss how to form and maintain healthy, respectful relationships that honor God and reflect His love.
- **Prayer & Spiritual Practices**—developing a strong prayer life and engaging in spiritual practices are crucial for spiritual growth. We guide our youth in exploring different ways to connect with God and deepen their faith.

We closed out October with our theme "Out of the Darkness." We reflected on the light we project onto others and consider how the brightness of others can illuminate our own paths. We also examined what it means to have Jesus in our hearts and how our choices influence the radiance of His presence within us. As teenagers navigating through a world filled with various influences and challenges, it's crucial to understand the importance of living as lights in the darkness. In Ephesians 5:8-14, the apostle Paul urges believers to walk as children of light, exposing the darkness around them. This passage is especially relevant for teenagers as they encounter moral dilemmas, peer pressure, and societal norms that may conflict with their faith. Understanding how to shine the light of Christ in the darkness of the world is essential for teenagers to grow in their faith, stand firm in their convictions, and positively impact their surroundings. Through this lesson, we explored what it means to live as children of light and how we can practically apply this principle in our lives as teenagers.

Library

Submitted by Beth Shoemaker, Church Librarian

Every month or so, I change out some of the library books on display in the foyer, where you may check them out. Please also visit the library to browse the full collection in a warm and inviting setting. If you are done with any books you have borrowed, please return them in the library or church office.

Faith and You, Volume 1 by Terry Pluto

This plain-spoken *Plain Dealer* sports columnist provides 28 of his thoughtful essays on faith in everyday life.

The Challenge of Jesus by N.T. Wright

This account of Jesus is sure to grip readers with its clarity and full accounting of the facts. We can rethink our standard images of Jesus and never read the Gospels the same way again.

A Bright Tomorrow: Words of Wisdom for the Days Ahead by various authors

God holds tomorrow in His hand, and you can find that hope in this collection of encouraging thoughts about direction and purpose.

Finding God in the Questions by Dr. Timothy Johnson

Religion can answer questions or raise many more. Doubt can purify belief rather than tear it down.

It's Not About Me by Max Lucado

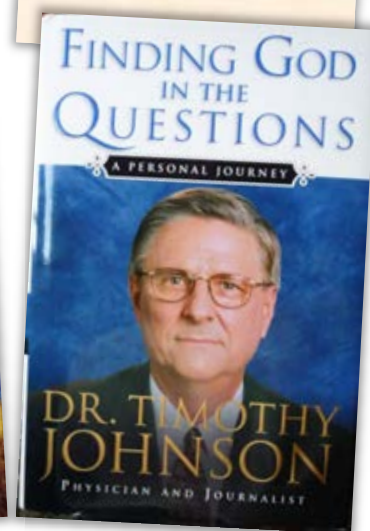
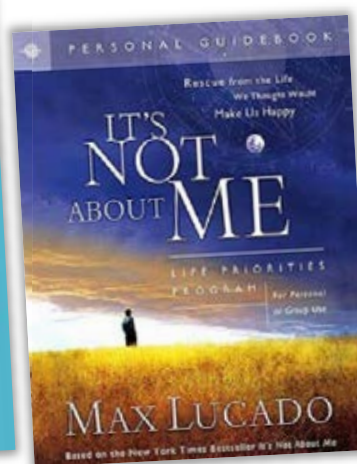
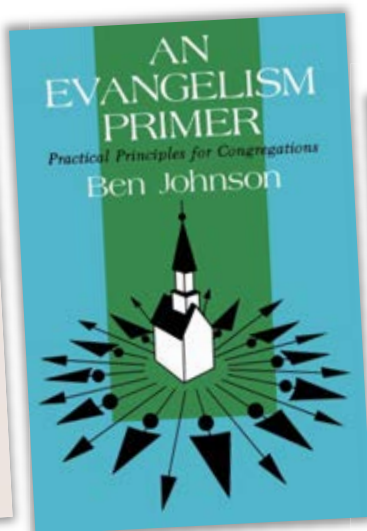
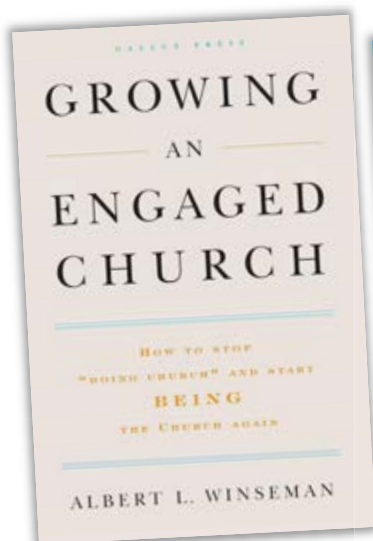
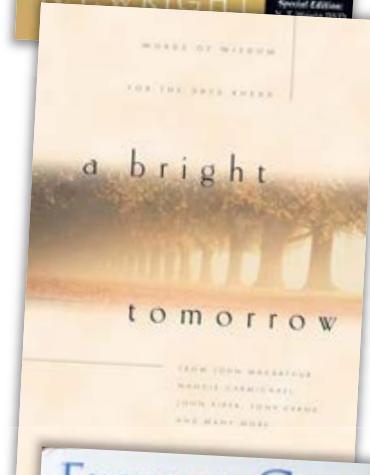
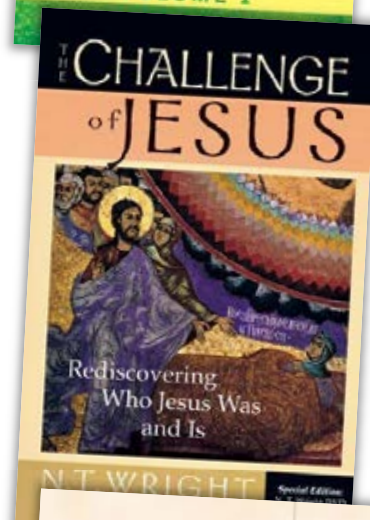
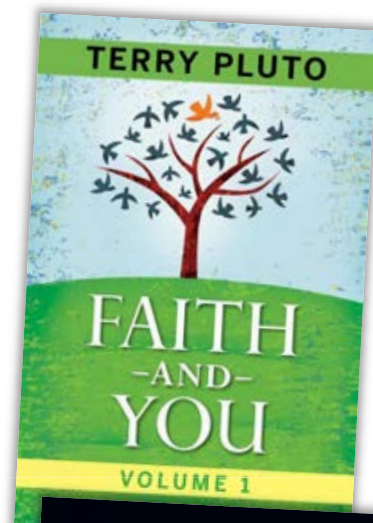
Bump your life off of self-center and find where life makes sense, when our pleasures and problems are all for the One who created us.

An Evangelism Primer by Ben Johnson

Fresh, enlightening, practical, and logical strategies for “doing” evangelism in the local church are based on utilizing the entire “organism” of the church to capture the spirit of Christian love, encouragement, and acceptance.

Growing an Engaged Church by Albert L. Winseman

Deeply insightful and practical solutions are offered as churches look to the future. Engagement is crucial for both church growth and church depth.



Missions

"Thank you is the best prayer anyone can give." -Alice Walker

Submitted by Beth Janis, Mission Committee Chair

We are grateful for the wonderful support of Sock O Jammies. No doubt there will be some cozy nights' sleep and some very warm feet this winter. If you still want to donate we will be happy to deliver your socks or pajamas to the appropriate place.

We are thankful for your donations to the PCUSA Peacemaking and Global Witness mission. The local portion of our donations will go to The Valor Home in Lorain. They serve veterans in our community with issues including addictions and homelessness. Thank you to Mike Ciarrone for making our deliveries to The Valor Home.

We were pleased to receive a certificate from PCUSA for "4 for 4" for our consistent support of four special offerings each year. The offerings include One Great Hour of Sharing,

Pentecost, Peace and Global Witness, and Christmas Joy. Thanks to Lee Lohr for presenting it to the committee on behalf of the Presbytery.

We can never say thank you often enough for all the donations of desserts, lunch supplies, and lunch baking for our neighbors at The Haven Center. We pack about 60 lunches each month and Bill and Cris Till make dinner for about 80. Bill would say 60 but his portions are super-sized. Your donations to the Mission Outreach fund support these meals as well as our other local missions.

Speaking of local missions... Have you bought your ticket to the Chili Supper and Raffle at First Lutheran Church in Lorain (Front Door Ministry) on Saturday, November 9? Tickets are \$12 for each Chili meal, including corn bread and dessert! Of

course ALPC is helping with food and two raffle items. Please see Kathy Navarro or Kathy Hamilton for tickets or to make a donation.

Start watching for Thanksgiving Dinner ingredients when you shop. We are teaming up with **Cornerstone Preschool families** to provide the ingredients for a turkey dinner for several families in our area. We need nonperishable donations like stuffing mix, fruit, canned vegetables (corn, peas, green beans), side dishes (mac 'n' cheese, potatoes, rice mixes), muffin and cornbread mixes, and packaged cookies or desserts. If you would rather donate money, checks payable to ALPC with notation of Mission Thanksgiving would be great.

Please join us when we get together to discuss mission activities. We usually meet on the first Thursday of each month.

Thank You

FOR YOUR DONATIONS



Music Notes

Submitted by Rick Fortney, Director of Music

The Change of Seasons

I was not looking forward to the autumn season as Joan and I were so blessed with summer experiencing the outdoors enjoying our home away from home in Marblehead, finding balance and R&R, being with friends. It was just a beautiful time for the two of us.

But then entered September with the regular start-up schedule both at Church and TrueNorth, and I realized how excited I was to be back. The excitement of creating... Music... Fellowship of friend... Not to mention the Guardians playoff run, nor the 3-0 start of the CAVS season, nor the Browns win yesterday afternoon (yes, I love sports along with music!).

This past weekend was truly special as TrueNorth had our Fall Concert featuring Symphonic and Tone Poems, and the poetry of Robert Frost through Randall Thompson's *Frostiana*; and then the next day celebrating in church

on Reformation Sunday and the start of our new Pastor's ministry! Yes, it was a special weekend. Joan and I left for Marblehead after church Sunday to close-up for the season. This morning in walking the dogs we experienced again the change of seasons and the beautiful colors of autumn. Life is pretty grand!

Praise the Name of Jesus

I want to share my excitement of welcoming Pastor Kristian to our ministry. It seemed to be an extended amount of time waiting, hoping, praying, truly feeling God's hand, timing, and blessing. Looking forward to the vision ahead which Kristian touched upon yesterday during his first Sunday with us as to who we are and are seeking to become. Welcome, Kristian!

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

The order of creation is amazing... I'm in awe of the order, the colors... the consistency... the wonderment.



Awesome Power

November brings to us a time of reflection and thanks before the Advent season.

November 3 we will celebrate All Saints' Sunday. I write this on my Dad's birthday, October 28. Dad passed away way too early, he died at the age of 53 in 1981 from cancer. When I reflect on my life I see so many traces of those who have gone before me in my personal life. Truly a gift that



Lake Erie as seen from Marblehead, Ohio.
Above: A peaceful path in Marblehead.

their spirit and love lives on. My dad loved the outdoors, we spent our summers boating and camping. He and my mom lived a very busy life but found time to balance family with all the other responsibilities. They bought a cabin at Pelee Island; it became a respite, a refuge of sorts to just slow down when there, to experience nature, and to find alone time with God. I am a slow learner but finally I have followed suit through Marblehead.

November 10 we will celebrate the oneness we share, no matter the results of the upcoming election!

November 17 we will focus on our stories as we prepare for the dedication of our time, talent, and treasure.

November 24 we will celebrate Stewardship Sunday and Thanksgiving Sunday.

Now Unto Him Who is Able

Ephesians 3:20, "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us."

I sometimes substitute the word "immeasurably" with "infinitely." Powerful! Looking forward to our Advent preparation and celebration of Christmas and the New Year, it is truly a time of new beginnings for us at Avon Lake Presbyterian and I celebrate what lies ahead. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, December 21 as we host the TrueNorth Christmas Concert!

TrueNorth
Cultural Arts
presents
Christmas Joy
Let the Stable Still Astonish
Saturday, December 21, 7:30pm
at
Avon Lake Presbyterian Church

Featuring:
Christmas Concerto | Randall Bass' Gloria
Dan Forrest & Mack Wilberg Christmas Carols

NOVEMBER ANTHEMS

NOVEMBER 3
"Saints Bound for Heaven"
J. King and William Walker
Arr. Howard Helvey

"For All the Saints"
Arr. Barbara B. Kinyon

NOVEMBER 10
"The Peace of God"
John Rutter

NOVEMBER 17
"For the Beauty of the Earth"
John Rutter

NOVEMBER 24
"For the Autumn Sky"
Ruth Elaine Scram

"Thanksgiving Canticle"
Arr. Mark Hayes

"Thanks Be to Thee"
G.F. Handel
Arr. John F. Wilson

Worship & Spiritual Life

Submitted by Sherry Spenser on behalf of the Worship and Spiritual Life Committee: Lee Lohr, Co-Chair; Marcy Uhl; Janet Parker; Chris Till; AmyLynn Kaspar; Beth Shoemaker; Rick Fortney, Music Director

Bob Dylan penned this popular tune, with the obvious focus — changing times. It suits us well at present. While some “traditions” will be continued this Advent season, we can all expect new things as a new Pastor leads our church.

One of our traditions will continue with the Hanging of the Greens on November 24 upon conclusion of the morning service. Our faithful deacons will provide a light lunch, and we ask that you provide helping hands in getting our sanctuary and narthex ready for Advent. We will again have our “Family Tree,” upon which the children can place their handmade ornaments, and adults can bring “ornaments of meaning” from home to display.

We look forward to repeating our “presentation of the Nativity pieces” each Sunday in Advent, with the scene expanding and unfolding each week. We will be looking for volunteers to present a new piece or pieces each Sunday. Lighting of the candles will also continue with a twist — candle lighting volunteers **WON'T HAVE TO SPEAK!** You read that correctly — the scripts will be read for you (unless you choose to read them), and all you need to do is come forward and light the candles. Sign-ups for these events will be in the narthex.

Worship and Spiritual Life Committee is preparing to purchase a super-sized wreath to hang on the south exterior wall of the church, and plans are underway for a new, enhanced outdoor crèche.

Beyond that, Advent will likely bring new approaches, styles, and emphases this year. We await their discovery with eager anticipation, knowing that all will be done decently, and in order.

While these “traditions” continue, Bob Dylan warned us — change lies ahead. With that, allow me to share a short story with you.

A new camp commander observed two soldiers guarding a bench. He inquired as to the reason for this task. He was informed that the last commander had given instructions to perform the duty, and they believed it was some sort of regimental duty. The new commander located and contacted the previous commander, who explained that the commander preceding him had continued those orders. Reaching back three more commanders, the puzzled officer finally found the originator of those orders, and asked the significance of the guarded bench. The aged gentleman responded, “What?! Is the paint still wet??”

Sometimes there are valid reasons for change, sometimes not. But changing times are ahead of us, and rather than resist, perhaps we should step away from our guard posts, and embrace the change.



Orkney

were not stressed out about surviving; they had time for religion and spirituality.

Are there any of you that feel like the reverse is true? That we are so focused on surviving that religion takes a back seat??

Life is constantly changing, introducing new challenges with family, work, school, shopping, eating, travel. The list is different for each of us, but the result can be the same. Religion and spirituality take a back seat.

Rather than suggest that we add it back into our lives (adding one more thing to a long list you already have), I'm going to invite you (all of us, really) to remember God, who God is, and

that God never leaves us, even when we are busy and struggling to survive.

Remember that in Exodus, God's chosen people wandered the desert for forty years trying to stay alive and get through. Forty years in a desert! It is not an easy place to live and is quite unforgiving. Yet, in every moment God never abandoned them.

Nehemiah 9:19 reminds us of that time in Exodus: Speaking to God, "You, in your great compassion did not forsake them in the wilderness; the pillar of cloud that led them in the way did not leave them by day, nor the pillar of fire by night that gave them light on the way by which they should go."

We can be busy, stressed, or facing a great challenge.

God never leaves.

God is always there even when we are not reaching out.

So, my encouragement to you is this: in the midst of whatever unique version of stress your life is taking on this particular moment in time, remember God loves you and is with you, even when you are short on time, remember God loves you and is with you, even when you are short on time and energy. Find a time, this month, this week, or this day to take a moment to take a deep breath and express a sigh of gratitude, "thank you." Let us begin our small steps of faith by recognizing God's never-ending presence in our lives and our church.

Photo Credit: Orkney.com



View over Brodgar, Orkney



The Ring of Brodgar, Orkney



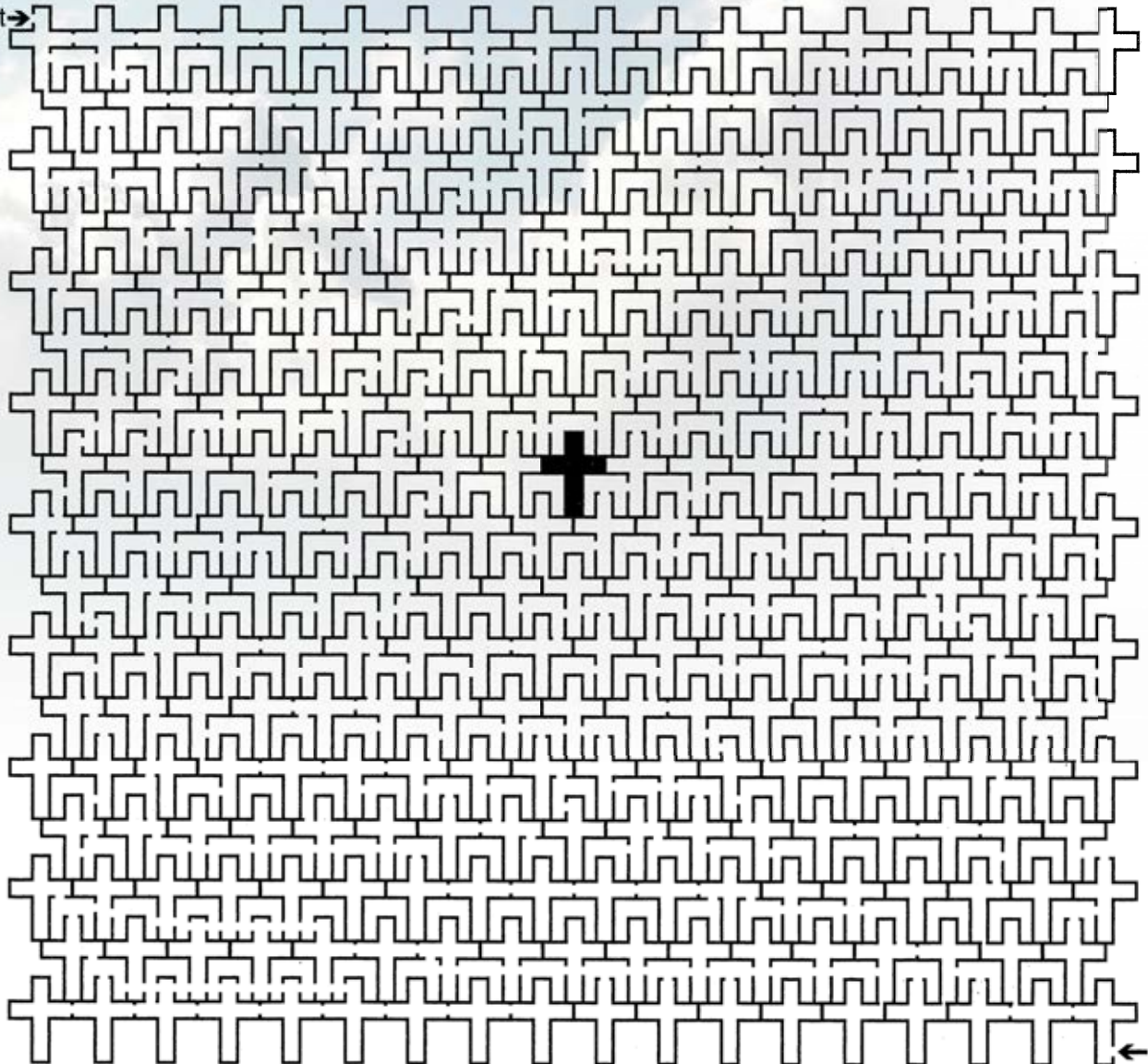
St. Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall

FUN & GAMES



IF THERE WERE CELL PHONES AT THE RED SEA

Start →



← End

Property Report

Submitted by Jeff Spenser

The Property Committee is working hard to maintain the church and grounds. We meet on the first Monday of the month. We are currently working on getting the building and grounds ready for winter. We had some boiler repairs to get ready winter, other wise we are in good shape. If you have any handyman skills, please join us on the second Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m. Coffee and donuts provided.

Join Us!
FIX-IT DAY

09 NOV

PLEASE CONSIDER GIVING SOME OF YOUR TIME TO HELP THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE COMPLETE PROJECTS AROUND OUR CHURCH

Lorain Cooperative Ministry
CHILI DINNER
SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 9, 2024
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
4501 CLINTON AVE.
5-7 PM
\$12 Dine-in or To-Go!
Help support the efforts of
Lorain Cooperative Ministry!
Raffles! Music!
Gluten-free available upon request
PURCHASE TICKETS;

Who are we?

A group of 8 churches, dedicated to addressing the needs of our Lorain County Community.

What Do We Do?

We schedule a variety of services to ensure that everyone in need, can easily access them.

Can Your Church Join Our Efforts?

Yes! Thank you for wanting to make a difference!
Email us:
LorainCoOpMinistry@gmail.com

Lorain Cooperative Ministry

Our Mission

With regard to the care of the poor and oppressed of our community, we believe that we can do more together, acting cooperatively, than we can do separately. In this way, we hope to offer our Lord, and those for whom He died, better service and opportunities for sharing in the faith of Jesus Christ.

What Kinds of Programs?

Food Pantries
Community Meals
Clothing Pantry
Gas Vouchers
Hygiene Pantry
Referrals



LorainCoOpMinistry.com



Our worship services begin at 10:00 am every Sunday.

Live streaming of our services is available on Facebook at www.facebook.com/avonlakepc

Our Sunday services will air on ALC-TV beginning the following Wednesday, and continue every day throughout the week at 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

32340 Electric Boulevard, Avon Lake, OH 44012

(440) 933-6240

alpresby@avonlakepc.org | www.avonlakechurch.com

ALPC Staff

Kristian Bendoraitis	Pastor
Rick Fortney	Director of Music & Arts Ministries
Emilee Oliva	Director of Christian Education
Kenzi Roberts	Office Administrator
Marcy Uhl	Treasurer
Julie Wasserman	Director of Cornerstone Preschool
Ed Homer	Lock-Up Custodian

