

# *Avon Lake Presbyterian Church*

*Friends in Christ, Serving Together with Love*

# *Faithfulness in the Midst of Change*

TRANSFIGURATION  
SUNDAY

*"As the Lord lives, and  
as you yourself live, I  
will not leave you."*

*2 Kings 2:2*

FEBRUARY 11, 2024



*Hearing assistance available: FM receivers & earpieces are stored near the AV room. See sound technician with questions.*

*Coffee House Worship: in education wing foyer. Enjoy a more casual environment while worship is livestreamed from the sanctuary.*

**GATHERING MUSIC**      *Open Now the Gates of Beauty*      Setting by Richard Hillart  
UNSER HERRSCHER

**PRELUDE**      *Shout to the Lord*      Darlene Zschech  
*I Lift Your Name on High*      Rick Found's  
Setting by Joel Raney  
Susan Richardson, flute

## WELCOME

**INTROIT**      *Prepare the Way of the Lord (3x)*      No. 95  
PREPARE THE WAY

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *2 Kings 2, Psalm 50, 2 Corinthians 4*

One: As we live and as God lives,

**All: God will not leave us.**

One: When fire devours and storms blow us astray,

**All: God will not leave us.**

One: When truth is veiled and confusion reigns,

**All: God will not leave us.**

One: When the world changes around us,

**All: God will not leave us.**

One: When we long to speak but find no words,

**All: God will not leave us.**

One: When all around us is silent,

**All: God will not leave us.**

One: When faithfulness feels beyond us,

**All: God will not leave us.**

One: As we live and as God lives,

**All: God will not leave us.**

**OPENING PRAYER** *Psalm 50, 2 Corinthians 4, Mark 9*

**All: Holy One, when the world is full of confusion and your message is hard to perceive, still, we can see you. Still, your presence shines – a light to illuminate the shadows. When we cannot find a way to speak your story, let your being shine in us and through us, that we may reflect your glory, and your grace. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**      *Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain*      No. 193  
UNSER HERRSCHER  
Verses 1, 2, 4, 5

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

Joshua Bowyer

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *2 Kings 2, Mark 9**Let us take a moment for personal reflection.*

**All:** God of life, you never stop shining. Yet, sometimes we forget to keep looking. It is not always easy to remember to keep our eyes on you – to watch until you are out of sight, to remember that you are never really out of sight. We long for you, O God, especially when we have wandered away and yearn to come home. Entrust us with a double portion of your Spirit – when we need it most, when we don't even know we need it, when we have no words to ask. Bless us, we pray, and bring us home. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *2 Kings 2, Psalm 50, 2 Corinthians 4, Mark 9*

One: When we have turned away and have lost our way – still, God is with us; still, God will not leave us. When we have stopped looking for God – God is still looking for us, shining as brightly as we need, so we can find and be found again... and again.

**ANTHEM***How Will They Know?*

Natalie Sleeth

Muriel Homer, piano

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE** *2 Corinthians 4*

One: The one who said, "Let the light shine," has shone in our hearts and illumined our lives with knowledge of the glory of God through the face of Jesus Christ. Let us share this grace and peace with one another. May the peace of Christ be with you all.

**All:** And also with you.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*  
TRENTHAM

No. 286

Verses 1 and 2

**LORD'S PRAYER****PRAYER RESPONSE** *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*  
TRENTHAM

No. 286

Verses 3 and 4

**SCRIPTURE READING**[2 Kings 2:1-12; Mark 9:2-9](#)

Matt Wendling

**SERMON** "Faithfulness in the Midst of Change" Pastor Rick Stein

**\*OFFERING/DOXOLOGY** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* No. 606

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** *Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining* No. 192  
SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

**BENEDICTION**

One: Each week we remind ourselves

**All: to go out into the world. Return no one evil for evil, strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, and honor every person. Every person. And rejoice in the Lord always.**

One: And now may the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with each of you, all your loved ones, and all your concerns, now and forever. Amen.

**BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* No. 829  
OLIVET

Verse 2

**HANDBELL POSTLUDE** *A Simple Song of Praise* Arnold B. Sherman

# *Welcome to Avon Lake Presbyterian Church!*

*“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.”*

*As you join us for worship at Avon Lake Presbyterian Church, we hope that you will sense God’s presence, be caught up in joyful praise, be challenged by God’s Word and leave strengthened to live for Christ in the world.*

*In the event you need to step out of the Sanctuary, speaker systems are in both the foyer and the nursery so that you may listen to the worship service. When leaving the Sanctuary during the service, take care to close the door softly.*

**If you feel you would like a call or visit from Pastor Rick**, please contact the church office at 440-933-6240.

**Please silence cell phones** during our worship services.

**Offerings** may be given through [SimpleGive](#) and are always appreciated. Scan this code with your smartphone to easily access SimpleGive.



**Confidential prayers** are available now at the back of the sanctuary from the Healing Prayer Ministry after worship.

**The Chili Cookoff is back!** Want a chance of winning the Golden Ladle? Bring your soup or chili to Hart Hall anytime before or after the worship service on February 18. The Deacons will make sure everything stays the perfect temperature so that you can taste and vote for your favorite following the Congregational Meeting.

**Guatemala Mission Trip:** There are 2-3 openings for our upcoming trip April 6-15. If you are interested, please reach out to Kathy Leopold via email at [leapinleok@hotmail.com](mailto:leapinleok@hotmail.com) or phone at 440-242-5086.

**The Congregational Meeting of Avon Lake Presbyterian Church** will be held on Sunday, February 18, following the worship service. Copies of the Annual Report are available on the narthex table.

**2024 per capita** is \$38 per person. Please submit yours as soon as possible.

**New church directories** are available on in the church office.

**The Annual Report** is now available on the narthex table. Please take a copy to review prior to next Sunday’s meeting.

## *Please keep in your prayers this week...*

**Beth Shoemaker**, who is doing well throughout her chemotherapy.

**Joe Unger**, who will be undergoing further treatment for his cancer.

**Charlie & Debbie Swartz**, who are both facing health issues.

**George Lawson**, for continued healing.

**Noel Peel**, who seeks spiritual healing.

**Joy Harris**, who is now home and recovering well after her surgery.

**Lee Lohr's family** in the Ukraine; keep them safe and bring an end to this war.

Joyce Bihary's daughter, **Brenda**, who is receiving cancer treatments.

Matt & Sybil Wendling's nephew, **Tommy**, who has leukemia and recently suffered a stroke.

Penny Helbig's daughter, **Jen Lombardozi**, whose cancer has returned and is on a treatment of chemo pills.

## *This Week at the Church*

**Monday:** Walking Group meets at the church at 8:30 a.m. The Deacons will meet at 7:00 p.m.

**Tuesday:** The church staff will meet at 10:00 a.m. Ruth Circle will meet at 10:30 a.m. in the church library. Prayer Group will meet at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom. The CE Committee will meet at 6:00 p.m.

**Wednesday:** Walking Group meets at the church at 8:30 a.m. Ash Wednesday worship begins at 7:30 p.m.

**Thursday:** Bible Study will begin at noon in the Pastor's office. Yoga begins at 6:30 p.m. in the church narthex.

**Friday:** Walking Group meets at the church at 8:30 a.m.

**Saturday:** TrueNorth Cultural Arts will hold a concert at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

**Next Sunday:** Worship begins at 10:00 a.m. followed by the Annual Meeting of the Congregation at 11:00 a.m. The Deacons will host their annual Chili Cookoff in Hart Hall immediately following the Annual Meeting.

**Birthdays:** Mary Lou LaGrassa, *today!* Emilee Oliva, 2/22; Nancy Albrecht, 2/22; Cathy Graves, 2/22

## *Chancel Choir*

Dave Brunner  
Doug Day  
Jackie Day  
Clayton Dusek  
Tammy Dusek  
Joan Wojcicki Fortney  
Deb Gantz

Barbara Graves  
Cathy Graves  
Jeff Hansen  
Ed Homer  
Sue Mabe  
Jan Mackert  
Makayla McAfee

Bob Palisin  
Sharon Pervo  
Susan Richardson  
Beth Shoemaker  
Linda Swartz  
Marcy Uhl  
Sarah Waggoner

## *Handbell Choir*

Dave Brunner  
Ed Carter  
Gail Carter  
Doug Day  
Cheryl Dean

Joan Wojcicki Fortney  
Barbara Graves  
Cathy Graves  
Muriel Homer  
Jan Mackert  
Kathy Navarro

Sharon Pervo  
Beth Shoemaker  
Sherry Spenser  
Linda Swartz  
Sarah Waggoner

## *Volunteers Today*

Greeters  
Worship Assistant  
Sound Board  
Projections  
Ushers  
Children's Sermon

Barbara Lehmkuhl, Anita Cheriyan  
Matt Wendling  
Mike Ciarrone  
AmyLynn Kaspar  
Ken & Debbie Reichlin  
Joshua Bowyer

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