



Saints Alive!

SUMMER 2025

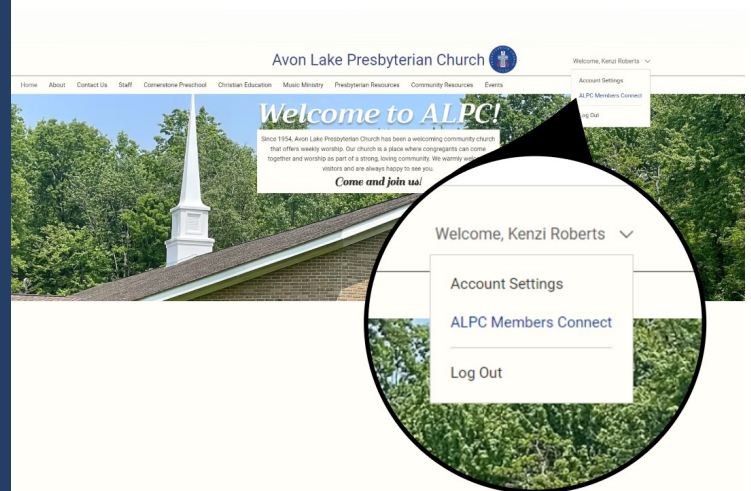
Friends in Christ. Serving Together with Love

AVON LAKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Volume 23, Issue 3

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.



Don't forget!
The ALPC website is a great resource!
Visit the member's only section for
these helpful links!



Follow along while streaming worship. Past and current bulletins are available here.



The monthly newsletter of ALPC is available to read here. Browse past editions as well as the latest issue.



A digital version of our member directory is available.



Interested in joining a circle or getting involved? Check out our Circles & Groups!



View our calendar.



Photos from events and social gatherings.

OPEN OFFICE HOURS

The ALPC staff is happy to accommodate you within the posted hours. Outside of these hours, we are focused and dedicated to completing our tasks.

MON: 9.30AM-3PM

TUE: 9.30AM-3PM

WED: 9.30AM-3PM

THU: 9.30AM-3PM

FRI: CLOSED



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

Summer rolls in with the smell of sunscreen and a kind of cultural permission to do less. And yet—if you're like me—it's almost impossible to slow down. The lawn needs mowing, the vacation needs planning, the house needs repair, and somehow everyone on social media is doing summer *better* than you. Summer promises rest, but often delivers a different flavor of busyness.

There is a way also that it is suggested that spiritual growth comes from doing more. Be more. Make the most of every season. But the more I do this, the more I wonder about the spiritual practice of *noticing*—something that can show up in both suffering and sweetness. Every season is ripe for noticing, but summer seems to fight it while also provide ample opportunity. The chirping of birds at an hour that feels too early. The warmth of sun on skin. The way children seem to move through time without hurrying. The watching of collection of condensation on a cold glass and the intermittent drop slipping down the side.

In Scripture, we see Jesus rests often, usually at inconvenient times. He naps in a boat during a storm. He retreats to pray when the crowds are pressing in. He doesn't apologize for rest—He embodies it. And in doing so, He reminds us that being is as holy as doing. But this is not always an easy message to hear in a world that celebrates productivity like it's a virtue. We're supposed to wring meaning from every moment, make every second count, and never, ever fall behind. Even in summer. Maybe especially then. And yet, Ecclesiastes 3 tells us there is "a season for every activity under the heavens." Including a season to stop. To not produce. To not optimize your summer for spiritual breakthroughs, Pinterest-worthy vacations, or perfect rhythms of rest. Just a time to be present and find God in those moments.

Rest, real rest, is not laziness. It's resistance. Resistance against the lie that our worth is tied to our output. It's a quiet declaration that God is God and we are not.

So maybe this summer, instead of adding more to our calendars, we can take something off. Let the grass grow a little longer. Let the dishes wait. Let ourselves sit in the sun for five more minutes and breathe, not because it's productive, but because grace lets us stop. And, if we're practicing noticing, we'll find God—right in the slow, quiet heat of summer, reminding us that we are already enough.



SUMMER SUNDAYS IN CHURCH: ARE THEY IMPORTANT?



As we ease into the summer months and look for ways to make the most of our leisure time, church attendance suffers the consequences. But is summer church attendance important? And WHY should you make summer church attendance a priority?

Consider these reasons:

Because your physical presence reminds others within the community of faith that you want to connect with them, to join in their concerns and their joys, and to keep them in your hearts throughout the week;

Because when you or a loved one are faced with a life-altering event that calls for a church, you have remained connected and know where to turn;

Because while “virtual participation” can offer an alternative to being present, it can also lend an element of artificiality for which the embrace of the community of faithful offers no substitute;

Because corporate prayer expands the intensity and resonance of the sacred words that are being recited as one body—an experience that cannot be fully replicated when watching a virtual version of that unity;

Because you might miss updates for fun social events!

And Because your fellow church members miss you!

See you in church this summer!

SOWING THE SEEDS OF WELCOME

Have you ever commented on the large bushes and other green growing things around the main entrance to the church building? “Why doesn’t someone trim those bushes,” you wonder. This area was lovely thirty years ago when it was planted! The peace pole is now nearly hidden and the stone bench is askew. Weeds and debris have taken over. The time has come to rescue this area and make it more inviting for all who come to worship!

Are you interested in landscape design? Do you have ideas to share? Please share your ideas by sketching your suggestions and submitting them to Carol N. or leave your design in the Property mailbox in the church office. The Property Committee would like to renew the areas on the north side of the building from the East driveway to the beginning of the classroom windows to the West. Be sure to name the items you suggest for planting while keeping in mind a low-maintenance and attractive presentation.

Please respond by June 14.



MISSIONS

The Mission Committee is a working group. We talk, laugh, and make things happen. So why not join us at our monthly meetings on the first Thursday at 4pm in the ALPC foyer. We always have snacks and chocolate, too!

Thank you for your donations totaling \$687 for PC(USA) One Great Hour of Sharing and \$1500 on Easter for the Mission Outreach fund.

The PC(USA) summer fundraiser is on Pentecost Sunday, June 8. Our portion of this offering will go to Community Resource Services (CRS) for summer snacks for kids.

Don't forget Penny-Cost. Empty out your piggy banks and car cushions. Our spare change will go to fund local hunger programs via Cents-Ability. Online donations are welcome, as well.

Consider these Missions opportunities:

1. Pack lunches the second Sunday of each month. You should see how fast we make ham sandwiches! We provide 80 brown bag lunches each month to Neighborhood Alliance's Haven Center in Lorain. Don't have time to help pack? We always need cookies for the lunches!
2. Help in the kitchen on the fourth Sunday of each month before church. We provide 80 dinners each month, also to the Haven Center. Or, bake a dessert to include with the meals.
3. Empty your closets and watch for summer sales of blankets. We will be helping places like Valor Home and Good Knights with donations of new or gently used blankets. Look for cabinet in the foyer to make your donations.

AVON LAKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IS A PROUD SUPPORTER OF:



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440.420.4563 | roger@goodnightsoflc.org
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veteranmanagement@fcsserves.org
221 W 21st St., Lorain, OH 44052

CONCERTS AT ALPC

Our Concert Ministries mission is centered on glorifying God, uplifting the congregation, and reaching out to the community through music. Our vision is to inspire worship and to glorify God while fostering spiritual growth and reaching out to the community in which we live.

We surely found that through our Good Friday Tenebrae, "Song of the Shadows." Music is certainly a tool for fostering spiritual growth and deepening faith. Avon Lake Presbyterian's Music Ministry was joined by musicians from TrueNorth Cultural Arts Chamber Orchestra & Chorale volunteering their talents. It was a night of worship which highlighted the truth that when there are shadows, there is also light.

The Saturday before Memorial Day weekend, we hosted TrueNorth as they shared their Patriotic Concert with the community. It was an evening of celebration as we reflected on the freedom that we share and the rich history of our country.

Both concerts can be seen through Avon Lake Presbyterian's YouTube channel and on TrueNorth's website www.TNCArts.org. TrueNorth is grateful for the opportunity to share its music here at our church throughout the years.

Worship. Reverence, adoration, and devotion. A time of praise, a time of prayer. Worship is a response to God's greatness and holiness. We worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness! We celebrate His abundant goodness and joyfully sing of His righteousness.

We often think of worship as our service on Sunday morning, but be encouraged to worship daily, individually. Then, on Sunday morning, it becomes even more of a celebration as we worship from our quiet times to a time of worshipping together! It is the exclamation point to the week as we praise God, pray, and learn from His teachings!

Worship honors and glorifies God and cultivates a deeper relationship with Him. It is a way of living—a daily practice—within our faith. May this summer provide ample opportunities to share His love, celebrate His teachings, and grow in faith.



TrueNorth's patriotic concert



A NOTE OF GRATITUDE

"When the peace of Christ rules in our hearts, thankfulness overflows.
Even in the darkest of times, we can praise God for his love, his sovereignty,
and his promise to be near us when we call."

Psalm 145:18

Joan and I would like to thank you, our church community, for the prayers, support, and love shown to us throughout Frank's (Joan's dad) illness and passing. Your cards, phone calls, visits, food... thank you so very much. Frank died on Monday, May 12, at 85 years old. The day before, we transported Frank to the AMES House in Westlake, a part of Hospice of the Western Reserve. Please know what a diamond we have right here in our neighborhood [in AMES]. The ministry and care provided was so appreciated. Frank died with Joan and me at his side while a priest from St. Ladislav Catholic Church in Westlake, Father Latcovich, anointed him. During the Lord's Prayer, he passed. Truly a God moment!

In addition to Frank's passing, we said goodbye to our cat of nineteen years, Ellie. All of this while we adopted two ten-year-old cats from a friend who could no longer care for them. The one cat had a tumor and needed major surgery. Surgery and recovery have been accomplished and now the two new cats are adapting to their new home and their two new siblings, our dogs. Our furry animals give us much joy!

Transitions, changes, memories, thankfulness. Life continues and moves on.
Remembered with Love. Praise God!

From Rick F.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

How do you see the Holy Spirit at work in your life, particularly in worship?
Do you recall a recent Sunday when something in worship touched you?
Here are some ways that a few members of the Worship & Spiritual Life Committee have felt the presence of the Holy Spirit in Worship.

"This year's Holy Week and Easter were among the most meaningful ever in my life. Being able to sing in the cantata twice, at two different churches, was a blessing. The cantata sung by the big chorus with the orchestra had such a full, dramatic sound that brought the evocative language of the songs to life. Descriptions such as 'hear the wine pour' and 'even the heavens are weeping' were made almost visible and palpable in my imagination. Then on Easter, in addition to the best Easter sunrise we've had at that spot on North Point Drive, Izzy's entry into the dim sanctuary carrying the Christ candle, accompanied by the rising volume and tempo of the organ, choir, and bells as the lights were brought to full power, was an amazing reenactment of the glory of the Resurrection! I believe God speaks to us clearly in our 'holy imaginations,' and he did so several times for me during this season. When we know something is true, and we can envision a metaphor for that truth, we are experiencing that truth in a wonderful way. Thanks be to God!"

-Beth S.

"I find that worship is a good start to the week. The Holy Spirit gives me what I need for the coming days. The music fills my soul. Recently, Kristian's two-part sermon on taking up our cross to follow Jesus particularly touched me. That scripture passage was always a challenge for me. It helped to hear that following Jesus sometimes means sacrificing and suffering. But there is also glory that comes with following Jesus."

-Lee L.

As we start the summer months, consider how you might experience the Holy Spirit during and after worship. When you enter the sanctuary, take a deep breath and prepare your hearts for worship to fully experience the Holy Spirit. And remember that if a particular hymn or sermon doesn't touch you, it's just what someone else needs to hear.

"Over the years, I've felt God's presence in worship when:

- Prior to singing the anthem each Sunday morning, Rick looks up at the cross, which reminds me what we're about to sing is in God's glory. It centers and focuses me on the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- The sense of community we share every Sunday as we greet each other, pray for one another, And serve one another. I truly feel we are a family.
- The reminder every Sunday that, no matter what, we are loved, cared for, and cherished by God."

-Marcy U.

See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making
a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.
Isaiah 43:19

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We're still glowing from the excitement and energy buzzing around our church as we prepare for this year's Vacation Bible School, Into the Wild! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your incredible support, whether you've donated supplies, volunteered your time, prayed for the children, or simply cheered us on. VBS is shaping up to be a wildly wonderful week, and we know God is going to move through it in big ways!

As we look ahead to Fall, the Christian Education team is already dreaming and planning for our next program year. We're praying about new opportunities to deepen our faith, explore creative ways to engage all ages, and embrace new ideas that invite us to grow together. Yes, *try new things!* Maybe that means a fresh take on Bible study, a fun intergenerational experience, or even something we haven't imagined yet (we're letting the Spirit lead!).

Before we get there, though, Summer is our sacred space to prepare. We'll be using this season to rest, reflect, brainstorm, and build. We're meeting with leaders, reviewing feedback, and laying the foundation for a fall full of connection and Christ-centered learning. So, if you have ideas or nudges on your heart, share them! We're in this together.

Let's hold to Isaiah 43:19 as rallying cry. God is doing something new! Even when things feel familiar, God is always inviting us into a deeper walk, a braver faith, and a more joy-filled community. Let's stay curious, stay faithful, and stay open.

We're thankful for each of you and this past program year and cannot wait to see what God does next. Let's get ready for an amazing season ahead.

DEACONS & FELLOWSHIP

The ALPC Deacons are looking forward to a relaxing summer filled with fun fellowship activities, opportunities to help each other and our larger community, and time to reflect on how we can all continue to grow in our faith.

Our main fellowship activity for the summer is our July corn roast. Look for more details and a sign-up in June. If you've never attended, it is a great time! Our corn roaster extraordinaire, Gary U., makes a pilgrimage to Sandusky's Puckrin Farms for the sweetest corn this side of the Maumee; Deacon Dogs are grilled; and, our wonderful congregation members supply delicious desserts. You'll definitely need a nap afterwards.

The Deacons are also working with other ALPC groups to bring back the rummage sale sometime in late July or early August, after VBS and Cornerstone summer activities have concluded. We see this sale as an opportunity to open our doors to welcome others as well as clean out our own closets, attics, and garages. Please consider hanging onto items you might have otherwise donated elsewhere for use at the rummage sale. The sale will require all hands on deck for success. If you're willing to help sort and organize items or work sales, please let the church office know.

As the seasons change, so does Deacon membership and leadership. Cathy G., Jeff S., and Sybil W. are ending their tenure as Deacons. John W. and Michelle M. will be joining the group. Deb R. and Sandee S. have stepped up as Co-Moderators and Michelle M. has graciously accepted the role of Secretary. We're looking forward to the unique gifts that each of these new folks brings and appreciate their willingness to help make ALPC a truly welcoming place for all.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Our financial status is a Beauty and the Beast type of story. On the Beauty side, our financial status is currently good, and we had the best year I can find with Per Capita receipts. But, on the Beast side, we had a projected budget deficit of \$35,664.86 that has risen to about \$41,000 due to increased costs of insurance, custodial services, and utilities. These additional costs were not known when the budget was created. Our trustees researched other options for insurance and found that, even with the increase, our current provider was still the best option.

As summer approaches, please remember to continue your giving through the summer months. *You* may be on vacation, but the church bills don't take a vacation! Staying current with your pledge will help us keep current with our financial obligations without dipping into our savings. If you can give beyond your pledged amount, it would be greatly appreciated and very helpful in decreasing our deficit.

Any questions about our finances can be directed to Marcy U. or Cheryl D.

DONATE TO
ALPC



A HEALING MIRACLE!



Joy H. received a miracle! Joy, a member of ALPC since the 1960's says, "I'm on cloud nine! It's a miracle! My cancer is gone!" Time for a joy dance! Thank God with shouts of joy!

What an awesome change of circumstances! Not very long ago she got the awful news that tests found cancer in her pancreas. Joy had known something *wrong* was going on inside of her for quite a while. Last August, pain prompted her to an urgent care facility which sent her directly to a hospital. A scan revealed cysts in her pancreas and liver which they would keep an eye on. She prayed over these things and put it in God's hands. The healing prayer ministry prayed for her, too.

She endured nearly nine months of frustration and struggles as she sought medical attention for this, yet couldn't get *any* help. Many, many prayers were prayed and finally, she got connected in April to two top cancer specialists. Blood tests confirmed what new scans revealed: cancer was found in a cyst and lesion in her pancreas. Horrible news.

Prayers were prayed over Joy in church after our worship services, in our Tuesday Zoom prayer gatherings, from family, and from additional friends. She even received a special prayer with anointing by member and retired pastor, Bob P.

More tests were needed to determine the best course of treatment. This was when the glorious news came—Joy was told the cancer is gone! Dr. Fazel Dinary and Dr. Jordan Winter, her new specialists, each said it's a miracle from God!

Joy still has a pre-cancerous cyst that her doctors believe won't turn into cancer; it doesn't need to be checked for a year. Joy says, "Keep your faith, things happen in God's time, not ours. God is good. I can't think about life without God in it." Says Cris T., "God used me on April 5 at the OSL [Order of St. Luke] healing conference to heal somebody as soon as I laid my hands on her. That was a wonderful blessing I received. Praise You! Praise You, God!

Let us take hope from this. Do not give up. Whatever you are praying for, large or small, trust that God hears... and thank Him in advance. As the Bible says, "No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Need prayer?
The Healing
Prayer
Ministry
meets every
Sunday
following
worship in
the northeast
corner of our
sanctuary.
Can't make it
to church?
Get on the
prayer list:



AVON LAKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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.

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