

The Installation of
The Reverend Doctor Kristian Bendoraitis
 as Pastor and Head of Staff of Avon Lake Presbyterian Church
 October 19, 2025 – 3:30 pm

Gathering Music		
Welcome		
Invitation to Worship		Lindsay Harren Lewis
Song	<i>God of Wonders</i>	Written by Third Day Performed by Remix
Scripture Reading	Jeremiah 29:11-14a Titus 2:11-3:8	John Schwarz
Message	“But As For You...”	John Fancher
Song	<i>God So Loved</i>	Written by We the Kingdom
Service of Installation		Gordon Landefield
Questions to Candidate		Gordon Landefield
Questions to Congregation	<p>Do we, the members of the church, accept Kristian as our pastor, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to guide us in the way of Jesus Christ? We do.</p> <p>Do we agree to pray for him, encourage him, to respect his decisions, and to follow as he guides us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church? We do.</p> <p>Do we promise to pay him fairly and provide for his welfare as he works among us; to stand by him in trouble and share his joys? We do.</p> <p>Will we listen to the word he preaches, welcome his pastoral care, and honor his authority as he sees to honor and obey Jesus Christ our Lord? We will.</p>	
Prayer of Installation		Gordon Landefield
Declaration of Installation		Gordon Landefield
Charge to Installed		Tom MacMillan
Charge to Congregation		Judy Mitchell
Offering		Lindsay Harren Lewis
Prayer of Thanksgiving		Clayton Dusek
Benediction		Kristian Bendoraitis
Postlude	<i>Pride (In the Name of Love)</i>	Written by U2 Performed by Remix

Today’s offering supports the Committee on Ministry’s Emergency Support Fund, providing emergency financial assistance to pastors, and the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, offering aid to seminary students within our presbytery. Checks may be written to Avon Lake Presbyterian Church.

Kristian would like to extend his gratitude

to all those who were able to attend today, both virtually and in-person. As the moment of this occasion drew close, Kristian became more and more humbled both by the calling to which he is responding and by the sheer number of people that have accompanied him along the way to whom he owes a great deal of gratitude. There is no way to walk this path alone. To those who have been there for even only a step, “Thank you.”

Kristian grew up in Toledo, Ohio, but has also lived in Los Angeles, CA, and Durham, UK while attending postgraduate schools. The seeds to his path to ministry began his senior year in high school when a friend invited him to a local church youth group. His interest in making God a bigger part of his life continued to grow throughout college, where he participated and helped lead a strong parachurch movement on the University of Toledo Campus, now known as Cru. There, he also met Susanne, his future partner in ministry. The two of them independently spent time in mission work after college before getting married and moving to California to begin their Masters of Divinity at Fuller Theological Seminary. After graduating, Kristian’s wife, Susanne won a pastoral scholarship that funded a year of travel and mission work outside the US, including stints in Croatia, Scotland, and Malaysia. Soon after, Kristian and Susanne moved to England, where Kristian began his postgraduate research in the Gospels, completing his Ph.D. in the summer of 2011 while volunteering for the local church youth programs in the area that his wife helped lead. Upon graduating, Kristian, Susanne, and new family (two boys, Jonah and Micah), moved to Cleveland, where Susanne took a call as the Associate Pastor at John Knox Presbyterian Church in North Olmsted. At that point, Kristian became a stay-at-home parent by day, and online adjunct teacher for various universities and seminaries by night. To this day, it remains one of Kristian’s cherished seasons. After many years of teaching and volunteering at John Knox, Kristian felt called to focus more on ministry. In the past ten years, Kristian completed his two-year certification in Spiritual Direction from the Ignatian Spirituality Institute at John Carroll, was ordained as a minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbytery of the Western Reserve, and was hired at John Knox as a Digital Minister, Director of Alternative Worship, and all-around general pastoral help. For the past year (almost exactly), Kristian has been serving as the pastor of Avon Lake Presbyterian Church. He currently lives in Bay Village, OH with his wife, Susanne, and two boys, Jonah (17) and Micah (15). He loves being outside, cooking (and eating!), hiking, traveling, biking, board games, goofing around on the guitar, building things, and playing with Lego.



Remix

Joining us today are members of the Remix Band. These are friends of Kristian’s and a band he helped organize and lead while working at John Knox Presbyterian Church. It was a huge source of joy and fun in Kristian’s ministry. Their presence and return to play together is a generous gift to Kristian and fun opportunity to worship again together as a group. Sadly, one of their members, Larry Dawson, is struggling with a fight against cancer and is unable to join them tonight. His talent and camaraderie are greatly missed by all the members of Remix. The band kindly requests to keep Larry in your prayers and offers their gratitude for the opportunity to play today.

Mike Stoltz Electric Guitar
Dave Knox Acoustic Guitar & Vocals
Emily Rhoads Vocals
Josh Daum Drum
Kristian Bendoraitis Acoustic & Electric Guitars

