

Friends in Christ. Serving Together with Love

Saints Alive!

June 2024 | Volume 22, Issue 6

Pastor's Passage

Long May You Run

*"Long may you run, long may you run
Although these changes have come
With your chrome heart shining in the sun
Long may you run."
Neil Young*

Neil Young's song "Long May You Run" was a shoutout to the first car that he owned after it finally died on him. "Why," you might ask, "would Rick bring this up?" Because I think the refrain, printed above, reflects our relationship.

I don't know what the future holds. The Pastoral Nominating Committee is working hard as it searches for new pastoral leadership. I do know they had sixty applicants and have narrowed the list down. I also know they have begun interviews. What I don't know is how and when this search will end. I do know that when a candidate is selected, the congregation will have the final say. When that happens... who knows?

So I write this newsletter as if it will be my last one as your pastor. Not sure if

I'll be here when the next newsletter comes out in the fall.

Mary and I would like to thank you for allowing us to be a part of your congregation. You made us feel welcome from the very beginning. We had planned on being here for only a few months as you searched for a full-time Transitional Pastor. We all know

how that worked out! God had other plans and I was blessed to fill that position and here we are. But, our time together is now gradually coming to an end.

I can't say enough about the church staff. I love them all very much. Kenzi has been a great addition and can do almost *(continued on page 15)*



Events Calendar

Summer
2024

June
23

**Elders of
Jazz**



July
28

Corn Roast



Aug
25

**Saints Alive!
Articles Due**

Sept
8

Rally Day



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.



*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.*

*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

Contents

Pastor's Passage 1, 15

Missions 4

Property 5

Music Notes 6-7

Worship & Spiritual Life 8

Financial Report 9

Christian Education 10

Caught On Camera 11

Fun & Games 12-13

Announcements 14

Missions

"When you have nothing but faith, you have enough." Regina Brett

Submitted by Beth Janis, Mission Committee Chair

Do you wonder each month, "Now what do those mission people want?" Well, in all honesty, we are asking for something almost every Sunday. In a way, that is the point of the mission committee. We strive to provide a variety of ways for everyone to participate in a mission of some kind.

Thank you for your support of the One Great Hour of Sharing and Easter Offerings. And let's not forget about Pentecost—a portion of our special offerings went to Camp Imagine in Avon Lake. Special thanks to Kathy Hamilton for sharing her personal impressions of Camp Imagine.

We are happy to share that the Reichlins won a raffle prize from the

recent Lorain Cooperative Ministries fundraiser. LCM raised over \$2,100 to help neighbors in Lorain County.

Our next Brown Bag Lunch packing day is June 9 after church. Help is always welcome and we need donations of cookies, brownies, or bars to tuck in each lunch. June 23 is the Sunday we provide Haven Center with a meal and dessert. If you would like to bake or buy something for this meal, please bring your donation to church on the 23rd.

Please join the mission team at our next meeting on Thursday, June 6 at 4:15 p.m.

And, of course, we appreciate the donations of clothing for the Great Lakes clothing pantry in Lorain. We hope to gather more clothes in the fall.

If you would like information about dropping off a donation, please speak with a mission group member.

*The clothing pantry is filling up!
Thank you for your donations.*



Yarn Ministry

BLESSINGS BY HAND

The Yarn Group meets in the ALPC narthex on the third Tuesday of each month at 10:30AM, even during the summer. We knit or crochet items such as scarves, gaiters, and blankets for less fortunate folks. Most of the knitting or crocheting takes place at home, but we gather to bless the items we made before we distribute them to various communities in need.

We invite anyone interested in helping with this outreach ministry to come join us!
We can teach you how to knit or crochet!

Property

Submitted by Carol Nussle

Fix-It Saturday get-togethers continue on the second Saturday of each month here at the church. January through April we repaired or replaced many items in the church building. Summer is here and now we need help maintaining the work outdoors. We

have a mowing service but we need many helping hands for outside projects. Weeding, trimming, raking, etc. We also need all of the windows washed on the outside!

Join us June 8, 9:00 a.m. to noon, or just stay as long as you wish. Bring tools that you might use depending on

the task. Tasks vary, so I suggest you bring whatever you are comfortable with and we will find work for you! Coffee, water, donuts, and other snacks are provided. This opportunity to join in the fun of working together to beautify the church grounds is open to everyone!

Fix-It Saturdays

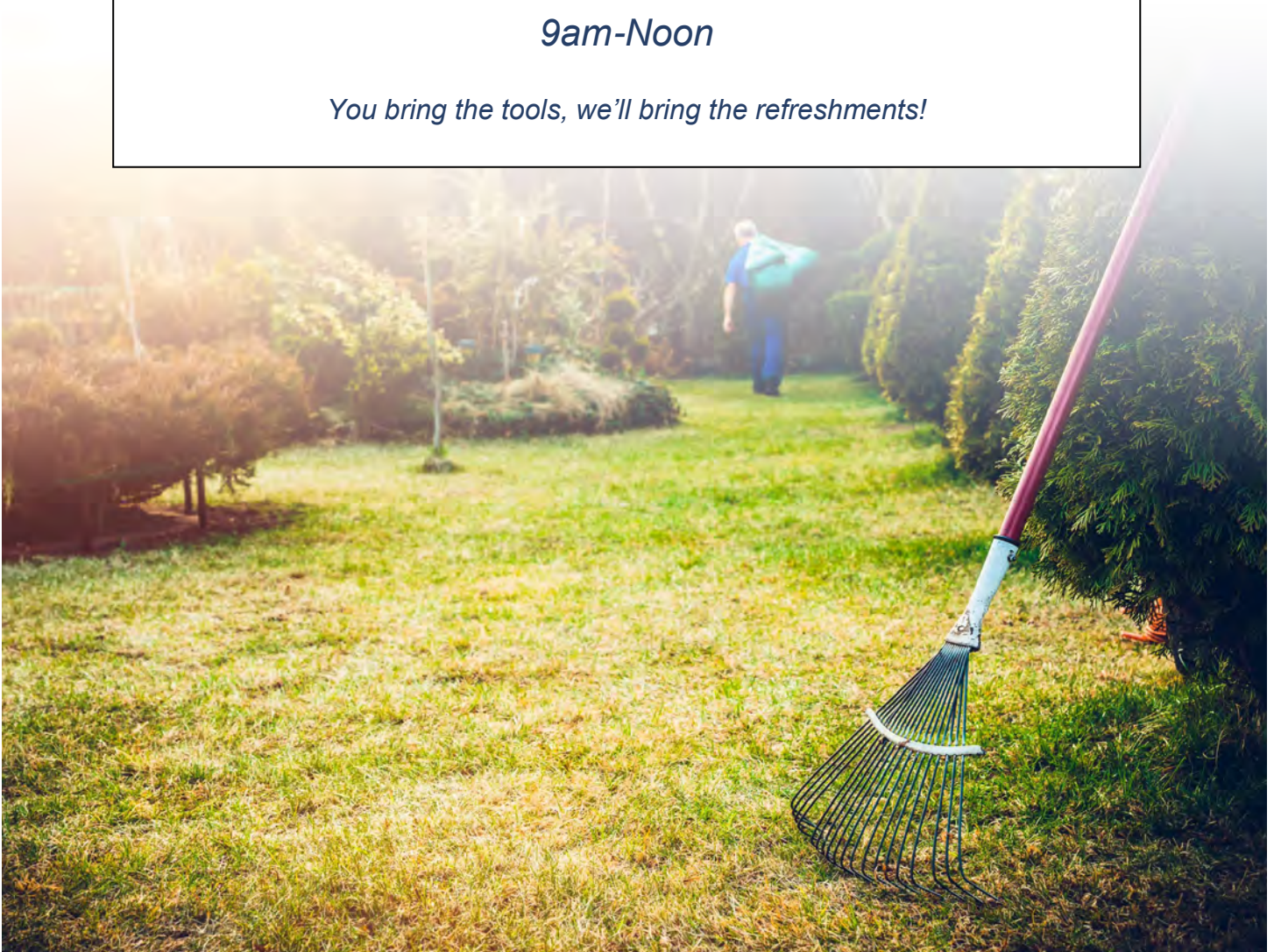
June 8

July 13

August 10

9am-Noon

You bring the tools, we'll bring the refreshments!



Music Notes

By Rick Fortney, Director of Music

Happy summer!!!! I thank the Music Ministry for their perseverance, servanthood, and willingness to take risks and continue to grow both musically and spiritually throughout the year. I continue to thank them as many continue to serve throughout the summer.

Each Sunday we will have a small group leading the hymns and praise choruses, along with a summer soloist. I have asked the soloists to write a few sentences each week which will be featured in our Friday e-newsletter preparing us for the coming Sunday.

I thank Dave Coxe, Muriel Homer, and Doug Day, who will serve as organist/pianist on my vacation weekends. We are very happy to welcome back Jim Traxler and The Elders of Jazz, who will be leading us on June 23. The Elders of Jazz, a Dixieland band that makes a joyful noise for the glory of God, are no strangers to Avon Lake Presbyterian Church. Traditionally, they have played annually the Sunday after Easter; but, now that Jim and his wife, Jan, are snowbirds, we begin a new tradition!

Our summer introit, chorus before and after prayer, and our benediction response are as follows:

Congregational Introit

The Family of God (FAMILY OF GOD)

William J. Gaither

[As posted by *thescottspot* on October 13, 2016] *The Family of God* was written in 1970 by well-known Gospel songwriters Bill and Gloria Gaither.

The Gaithers were home for Easter and attending their home church in Anderson, Indiana. They heard of a young man in the community who had been severely burned when an explosion demolished the garage where he worked. Doctors did not expect him to live through the night. A church prayer chain was activated and church members prayed all night for the young man. When the church members gathered to celebrate Easter the next day, they received word that the young man was recovering. The pastor reported he had just spoken to the doctor, who told him the young man had a chance to pull through. The church family rejoiced in the answer to prayer. As Bill and Gloria went home after the Easter service that morning, they talked about what a wonderful thing it is to be part of a family of believers and to be able to pray together to our Father in Heaven. Before long, the Gaithers did what the Gaithers do—they wrote a song, “The Family of God.”

“I’m so glad I’m a part of the Family of God;

I’ve been washed in the fountain,
cleansed by His blood!

Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel
this sod,

For I’m part of the family, the Family of God.”

As we sing this chorus throughout the summer, may it be a reminder to love one another. Care for one another. Forgive one another. Bear each other’s burdens.

Prayers of the People

The Family Prayer Song

Morris Chapman

Written in 2011 for The Promise Keepers. With the emphatic refrain, “as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord,” this praise song shows our desire to commit our families to God. A simple but earnest expression of the theme expressed in Joshua 4:15.

“Come and fill our homes with Your presence

You alone are worthy of our reverence.

As for me and my house

We will serve the Lord”

Prayer Response

Peace Like a River (PEACE LIKE A RIVER)

[From the blog “Finding Peace like a River” as written by Morgan Young] I value this imagery of peace being compared to a river, continually running. The water surges over rocks, logs, falls, or any other kind of debris. The river simply finds a way to go around or over obstacles. It just keeps flowing. So when I think of peace like a river, I think of peace as something that can be continually flowing in our lives despite our circumstances or the obstacles that may get in our path.

Consider times when people came to Jesus in great distress and He responded with words such as “Peace, be still,” or “Be not afraid, only believe” (Mark 4:29; Mark 5:36, respectively). These calm responses don’t mean Jesus never felt troubled, sorrowful, or anguished—or that we won’t either. With His understanding of the plan of salvation and complete trust in His Father’s will, He was able to endure all things and overcome so

He might be able to succor us in all things. As He said: "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). So how do we experience peace flowing in our lives like a river? We go to the source—to Jesus Christ. I gratefully recognize the peace that I can have in my life today and each day because of His Atonement. I am so thankful for all He suffered to be able to bring me that peace.

"I've got peace like a river
 I've got peace like a river
 I've got peace like a river in my soul
 I've got love like an ocean
 I've got love like an ocean
 I've got love like an ocean in my soul
 I've got joy like a fountain
 I've got joy like a fountain
 I've got joy like a fountain in my soul"

Benediction

Morning Has Broken (BUNESSAN)

I came across this chorus from a friend who attends worship in Borrego Springs, California. They close their worship each week holding hands as a congregation while singing this simple chorus. The words touch me and I thought it would be a great chorus to conclude our summer worship each week.

"New life has bloomed here, God's
 love has warmed us.
 Now the world calls us to go spread
 that word.
 God's grace go with you; may it
 sustain you.
 To bring us together; to praise God
 again!"



SUMMER SOLOISTS

<p>5/26 David Brunner, Jacob Campbell 6/2 Bob Palisin 6/9 Barb & Cathy Graves David Graves, Doug Day Sherry Spenser 6/16 Susan Richardson 6/23 Elders of Jazz 6/30 Clayton Dusek 7/7 Sherry Spenser, Doug Day 7/14 Gail & Ed Carter</p>	<p>7/21 The Waggoner Family: Maddeline, Trent, and Sarah Sherry Spenser 7/28 Ed Homer ALPC Wind Ensemble 8/4 ALPC Men's Ensemble 8/11 ALPC Women's Ensemble 8/18 Jan Mackert 8/25 Joan Wojcicki Fortney Jeff Hansen 9/1 Muriel Homer, Doug Day</p>
--	--



Summer Hymn Ensemble

Tammy Dusek
 Sue Mabe
 David Brunner
 Clayton Dusek
 Mike Dean
 Bob Palisin
 Marcy Uhl
 Sarah Waggoner
 Cathy Graves

Jackie Day
 Doug Day
 Ed Homer
 Joan Wojcicki Fortney
 Jeff Hansen
 Susan Richardson
 Jan Mackert
 Barbara Graves

Worship & Spiritual Life

Submitted by Lee Lohr, WSL Co-Chair

Summer is upon us—a time when many of us take opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and/or go on a vacation. But as you enjoy these things, remember to worship. If you can't find a place of worship when you're out of town, try to watch the ALPC live-stream worship service.

We are in a time on the lectionary calendar called "Ordinary Time," sometimes also known as Green Growing Time. It's a time for us to focus on growing our spiritual lives. Of course, one way to do that is through worship. But what we get out of worship depends on what we put into it. Some of us don't settle into the pews until well into the prelude. I've been guilty of that myself. The prelude is a time for us to prepare our hearts for worship, when we still our minds and invite the Holy Spirit to help us listen to what God has to say to us through worship.

If you don't already do a daily devotion, I recommend it as a way to build your spiritual life. ALPC has a subscription

to *These Days*, a devotional guide published quarterly. Copies are available on the table outside the church office—first come, first served. If they're gone, say something to Kenzi. We might need to increase the amount ordered. Our denomination offers devotional options on its website: www.presbyterianmission.org/devotions. If you like using apps on your phone, d365 is a downloadable devotional app. It's the one I use. The app is free, but they ask for donations at least once a year. Another option is to read your Bible from cover to cover, reading a couple of chapters a day. It will take a long time to get through it

and some parts are yucky, but it's eye-opening and thought-provoking.

Other ways to build your spiritual life is through the Zoom Prayer Group that our congregation offers. We have a few women's circles that offer Bible study or faith-based book studies. Even communing with nature can connect you with God. Whatever works for you, the point is that the more time you spend with our Triune God, the more you will build your spiritual life. I end with this verse from Romans 15:13: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Scan below for devotions and prayers suggested for daily meditation and prayer!



Would you like to beautify the sanctuary with flowers commemorating a special event or person, or even just as an act of worship? Contact Kenzi in the church office when you want to donate a flower arrangement and she will put you on the calendar and list your gift in the bulletin. Please arrange to have the flowers delivered during office hours.

Financial Report

Submitted by Cheryl Dean, Finance Committee Chair

We have had several months in a row where expenses have exceeded income. Although we projected a deficit for the year and income is still about \$4,000 ahead of expenses, the trend is a little concerning. As we are moving into the summer months, please keep up with your pledges so we don't fall behind for the year.

It is still not too late to pay your Per Capita. This year, Per Capita is \$38 per ALPC member. Per Capita supports the Presbytery, the Synod, and the General Assembly. We have already paid our obligation to the Presbytery for the year, which amounts to \$8,968. So far, we have only collected \$3,721 of this total. Although we don't usually collect more than \$4,000 of this obligation, this is below what we have collected in previous years and is also

below the budgeted amount of \$4,000. If you have not paid your Per Capita, please do so as soon as possible.

Any financial questions may be addressed to Marcy Uhl, Treasurer, or to me at any time.

	Apr YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income:		
Congregational Giving	\$98,880.48	\$93,333.33
Other Income	10,603.56	10,166.67
Total Income	\$109,484.04	\$103,500.00
Expense:		
Staff Expense	\$67,048.31	\$66,735.69
Worship & Spiritual Life	2,741.97	2,716.66
Christian Education	1,223.27	1,366.67
Stewardship & Mission	1,828.67	1,716.66
Property	16,326.50	16,666.66
General Expenses	7,474.84	7,866.68
Per Capita Expense	8,968.00	8,968.00
Total Expense	\$105,611.56	\$106,037.02



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

I would like to start off by saying thank you for your ongoing support this past year! We have seen so much growth in different areas of our church. We appreciate those who have participated in classes for continued faithful growth and relationship building with our Lord. We thank you for your time and efforts toward our programs, your smiles, and your generous, giving love. We appreciate your attendance and volunteering and your conversations. May the Lord bless your summer with memories, laughter, love, and growth. We can't wait to see you this fall, and we look forward to providing continuous education on your walk with Jesus. Our journey does not end because we've grown older and wiser; our journeys are truly just beginning and the work of Jesus is never done. I pray that you go

into this summer and continue to remember the almighty God we serve and that He is always a thought, conversation, and prayer away. Make it a goal to talk to our father in heaven as if he were our physical father on earth in all that you do. Peace be with you all! Amen.

As this season comes to a close, we are filled with gratitude and are eager to enhance the areas that require improvement. The adult programs have been running smoothly, as well as our Sunday school and children's sermons. We aim to give more attention to the youth group, especially during the transitional period of finding our new pastor. The teenagers are heavily involved in academics, sports, and extracurricular activities, so we are looking to establish consistent days and times for their participation in youth group and outings. We are committed to

doing our best in this regard and appreciate your prayers on this path. With a growing number of young attendees, we are excited to witness their progress in their faithful walk. In the upcoming fall, we plan to introduce additional programs for adults and young adults, while continuing our youth gatherings. Our goal for next year includes organizing a community mission trip and providing more outreach opportunities for the youth.

Vacation Bible School will have 19 kids in attendance this summer and we, along with our volunteers, are so thrilled to have the outcome that we do. We cannot wait to have fun with learning about music and having what I'm sure to be many dance parties. Thank you all who have donated their time with this program and we ask for prayers that it continues to be successful.



The Sunday school kids decorated the most scrumptious cookies for Mother's Day, as well as make their own rose bouquets. Cookies were generously donated by Shannon Brunner.

Caught on Camera!



Our delicious, custard-filled Pentecost cake! Thank you, CE for the decorations! And, thank you, Calls for the cake!



May 19 was a wonderful, sunny day for cheering on the Lake Erie Crushers.



Eleven ALPC members (including: Elizabeth & Craig Shoemaker, Cathy Graves, Barbara Graves, Jeff Spenser, Rev Bob Palisin on his bicycle, Cheryl & Mike Dean, Fred & Sharon Call, and John Weeden with his magical bus) had a great time at the Memorial Day Parade! Thirty-one pounds of candy got tossed to the children along the route, flags were waved, and pens and brochures were shared. Be sure to thank these great ambassadors of our wonderful church!

FUN & GAMES

LITTLE KNOWN GOSPEL STORIES :

JESUS HEALS A MAN BORN WITHOUT FASHION SENSE.

Omigosh! Why am I wearing black socks with these sandals?



Teenage Moses gets a summer job.



inherithemirth.com ©2011 Cuyler Black

PRAYER PUPS BY JEFFREY SMITH

THERE AREN'T MANY PEOPLE IN CHURCH LATELY.



NOPE. EVERYONE IS TAKING A SUMMER VACATION.



WHERE'D YOU GO ON YOUR LAST VACATION?



TO THE KENNEL.



Footprints in the Sand

One night I had a dream.

I dreamed I was walking along the beach
with the Lord...

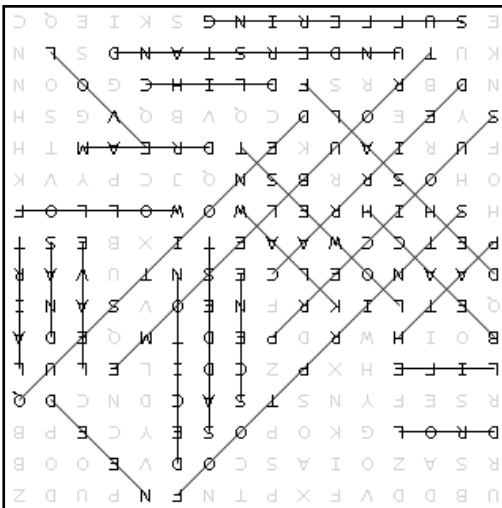
Across the sky flashed scenes from my life...
For each scene, I noticed two sets of
footprints in the sand,
One belonging to me, and the other to the Lord...

When the last scene of my life flashed before me,
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.
I noticed that many times along the path of my life
There was only one set of footprints.
I also noticed that it happened at the very lowest
And saddest times in my life.

This really bothered me
And I questioned the Lord about it:
“Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you,
You’d walk with me all the way.
But I have noticed that during the most
Troublesome times in my life
There is only one set of footprints.
I don’t understand why
When I need you most you would leave me.”

The Lord replied:
“My precious child, I love you and would
never leave you.
During your times of trial and suffering,
When you see only one set of footprints,
It was then that I carried you.”

Find the 25 underlined words from the poem.



U	B	D	D	V	F	X	P	T	N	F	N	P	U	D	Z
R	S	A	Z	O	I	A	S	C	O	D	V	E	O	O	B
D	R	O	L	G	K	O	P	O	S	E	Y	C	E	P	B
R	S	E	F	Y	N	S	T	S	A	C	D	N	C	D	Q
L	I	F	E	H	X	P	Z	C	D	I	L	E	L	U	L
B	O	I	H	W	R	D	P	E	D	T	M	Q	E	D	A
Q	E	T	L	I	K	R	F	N	E	O	V	S	A	N	I
D	A	A	N	O	E	L	C	E	S	N	T	U	V	A	R
P	E	T	C	C	W	A	A	E	T	I	X	B	E	S	T
H	S	H	I	H	R	E	L	W	O	W	O	L	L	O	F
O	H	O	S	R	R	B	S	N	Q	J	C	P	Y	V	K
F	U	R	I	A	U	K	E	T	D	R	E	A	M	T	H
S	Y	E	E	O	L	D	C	Q	V	B	Q	V	G	S	H
N	D	B	R	R	S	F	D	L	I	H	C	G	O	O	N
K	U	T	U	N	D	E	R	S	T	A	N	D	S	L	N
E	S	U	F	F	E	R	I	N	G	S	K	I	E	Q	C

Happy Summer, ALPC!

On behalf of Emilee and myself, we are extremely grateful for the gift of Summer Hours that were recently approved by the HR Committee. The new temporary schedules will offer some relief on the financial burden of childcare as well as give us crucial time with our families that we all know is so fleeting. Emilee's kids are still quite young and need her around. My kids are older, but it is still important to be able to be there for them. My oldest is off to college in the fall and I will be using the summer to soak up all the time I can with him before he leaves. I hope you all have wonderful summers and many blessed opportunities in the sunshine! Please see my and Emilee's new schedules below.

♥ Kenzi,
Office Administrator

Dear Church Family,

I want to thank you for all the prayers, cards, calls, meals, and support you provided for me and Craig during my illness. I am so happy to be back attending church with you all again, though it was also great being able to watch remotely. Our church is wonderful that way!

In Christ's love,

Beth Shoemaker

solī Deo gloria!

Office Hours

June 3 - Sept 2

Mon-Thurs
9:00am-3:30pm
Closed Fridays

CE Director Hours

June 3 - Sept 2

Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri:
Remote

Sundays & Thursdays:
In-Office,
Flexible Hours



anything. She is amazing and the perfect person to greet anyone who comes though the door or calls on the phone. Marcy took me under her wing when I first started. She has been my “church wife.” I charged her from the very beginning to keep me on task and not be afraid to ask me the hard questions. Rick is a true musical leader and it shows in his work with the choir, bell choir, and all of the talented instrumental musicians that bless us every Sunday. It has been a joy planning worship with him. Emilee has grown in the year she has served as Director of Christian Education She has worked very hard to lay a new foundation with the youth and it’s beginning to show. Julie is an awesome Director of Cornerstone. You are blessed to have her leadership and the school as a ministry. With new pastoral leadership, I hope the Cornerstone Advisory Board will get back on track. This will help to improve your relationship and transparency and open up new possibilities for integrated ministry.

I want to thank the many people who have served on Session, Deacons, and the various committees and worship volunteers. The church cannot function without your dedication and time. I pray that others will answer God’s call when asked to serve in the future. God will help you manage your time and church work is not as time consuming as you might think.

I want you to know how blessed you are as a congregation .Your ministries touch many people, both in the church and outside your church walls. You are a beacon of light that impacts those you connect with. You are truly children of God.

Continue to welcome the stranger (visitor) that walks through your doors. Don’t expect someone else to do it. Each one of you must make it a personal responsibility to reach out, not matter how difficult it might feel. The Holy Spirit is with you and will give you the words to share. Sometimes we think someone else will do this only to realize that the guest(s) are no longer coming and we wonder why. Don’t put your personal light under a bushel basket. Let it shine!

This has been a remarkable experience. We have faced many challenges in the two-plus years I have served you. At times, it may have seemed like it was taking too long. Two steps forward, one step back. But as we said from the beginning, “Always moving forward... in God’s time.”

We are where we are supposed to be. At this time. At this place. At this moment. God has always been in control and leading us where we needed to be (even if it felt, at times, like we were wandering through the wilderness and not making much progress).

Sometimes, God brings people together for a specific purpose and that purpose only God knows. The time together might be brief or it may be for an extended period. When that purpose is fulfilled, it is time to move on. And reflecting back on that time, we realize that we are taking something with us to share with someone else down the road.

As much as Mary and I would like to stay connected after we leave, in our hearts—both yours and ours—we know that is not possible. Mary and I

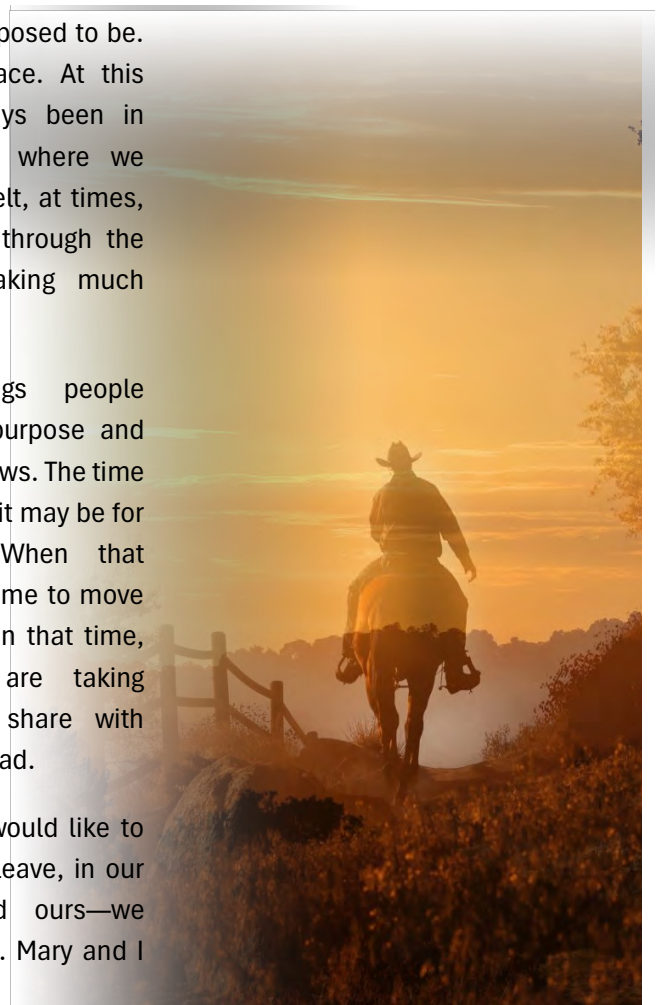
must step aside to allow your new pastor to become a part of your lives. Mary and I know from experience that you will welcome and embrace whomever God brings to ALPC with the same love and care that you showed us.

You will always be with us. We will continue to keep you in our prayers as a new journey begins. As Neil would say:

“Long may you run, long may you run
Although these changes have come
With your chrome heart shining in
the sun
Long may you run”

Thanks for everything. We love you from the bottom of our hearts.

Blessings, Rick and Mary





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

Rick Stein Transitional 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

