



**AVON LAKE**

United Church of Christ

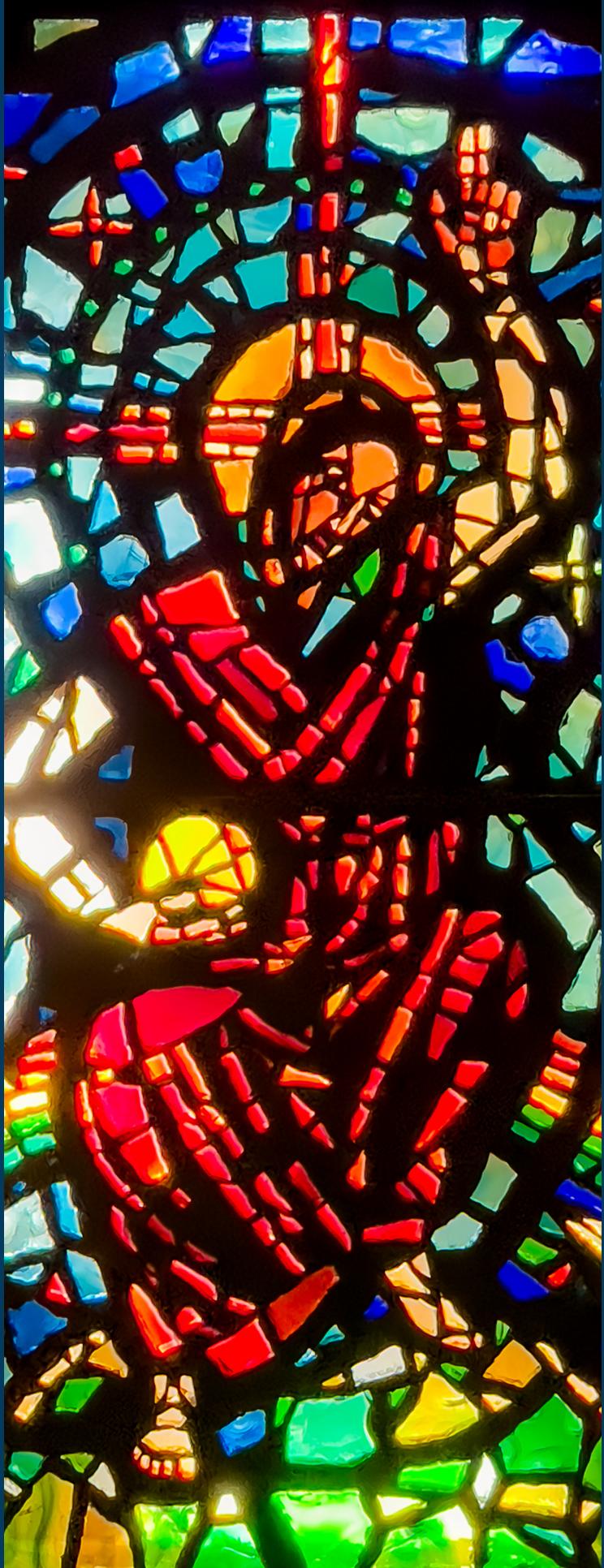
*"Growing People to Serve God and Others"*

# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

**Annual Meeting**

January 25, 2026

[avonlakeucc.org](http://avonlakeucc.org)  
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## AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

**Sunday, January 25, 2026**

INVOCATION	Rev. Mark Pettis
CALL FOR A QUORUM	John Rice
APPROVAL of JANUARY 2025 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES	John Rice
STAFF REPORTS	
Senior Minister	Rev. Mark Pettis
Minister for Children & Families	Rev. Beau Dansizen
Director of Youth Ministries	Nate Taylor
Director of Membership & Media	Tim Schulz
Good Neighbor Thrift Shop	Kristen LePrevost
REPORT OF THE MODERATOR	John Rice
FINANCIAL REPORTS – Church & Thrift Shop	
Financial Secretary	Walter Henry
Treasurer	Sandra Gerhan
ENDOWMENT REPORT	Shelley MacDonald, Scott MacDonald
OLD BUSINESS	
NEW BUSINESS	
Nominating Committee Report & Approval	Amy Nasr
Updated Constitution & By-Law & Approval	John Rice
Proposed 2026 Budget Approval	Tim Penton
BENEDICTION	Rev. Beau Dansizen

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## SENIOR MINISTER

Dear Members and Friends of the Avon Lake United Church of Christ,

As I complete my first year in ministry here at Avon Lake United Church of Christ, I find myself doing a fair bit of reflecting. Returning to congregational ministry has been such an incredible experience and rich blessing for me and for my family.

The welcome I received from the outset in February has been overwhelming. As you might expect, the idea of getting to know all of the people who make up ALUCC was daunting, but I have appreciated the patience I experienced, as well as the willingness of people to simply come up and introduce themselves...in some cases multiple times. In addition, working with the Membership Team, I was graciously hosted in many of our members' homes for "Pastor Parties," which allowed me to get to know people in smaller venues. I will admit that I am still learning names and faces, but I am also feeling well connected to our church family. I am also so appreciative of the welcome that my family...Elena and Thomas have received, as they too have been wonderfully embraced.

When I was candidating back in December of 2024, I made a pledge to make no changes in my first year as Senior Minister. My intention has been to really get to know the congregation and our ministries by experiencing as much as possible. ALUCC has been doing incredible ministry for so many years, and it would be presumptuous of me to make changes before I really experienced how we do church. As a result, I have spent this first year learning as much as possible about the wide and ranging ministries here at ALUCC, and I continue to be impressed each day.

As you know, our congregation is blessed with an incredible staff. Each member of the staff is deeply committed to our mission of "Growing People to Serve God and Others," and each brings true expertise to their ministries. I could not have asked for a better group of people to work with in ministry, and they have been invaluable in helping orient me to all that is happening here at ALUCC.

Similarly, our church has been gifted with so many dedicated and talented lay leaders. From our moderator, John Rice, to our other officers, Team Leaders, and full Council, the congregation has chosen well those who help to lead our church. I know well the amount of time and energy these generous souls offer to the ministries of our congregation, and for this gift, we are all deeply grateful.

As for me, I spent a little time looking back over my monthly Council Reports, just to remind myself of all that has happened in this blur of a year. Here are a few highlights:

- Our weekly worship services have been among my primary responsibilities since my arrival. We experimented some in the Spring with incorporating Lay Liturgists, which added something different to the services. Since summer, Pastor Beau and I have taken on primary worship leadership responsibilities. I have loved getting to know the nuances of our two services, as well as the experience of a "combined" service in the summer months. The music, led by our Director of Music, Scott Ewing, brings such deep meaning to each service. Throughout the year, we took on a variety of Sermon Series including, "Making All Things New," a Lenten series on Ted Lasso, a summer series on the Parables of Jesus, and two fall series on

“Why Church?” and “Be The Church” (which connected to our Stewardship Program. Worship remains a central aspect of our congregational life, and one we in which will continue to seek excellence and meaning.

- I was pleased to take over leadership of the Wednesday morning Bible Study, after Lou Suarez graciously led it between Pastor Kelly’s departure and my arrival. It is a wonderfully inquisitive group, with whom I have the opportunity to learn each week. We tried a few different studies this year, and I look forward to walking with this group in the coming year again.
- Beginning in April, I began leading a once-monthly worship service on the first Tuesday of the month at Independence Village. We have a number of members who live there, and some others who join us for our services. Our Music Director, Scott Ewing joins me in leading these services, and they have come to be among my favorite experiences each month.
- Twice this year, in Lent and in the Fall, we offered our Cross Training programming. This inventive format for Adult Education entails 4 or 5 weeks of classes, preceded by brief worship services on Wednesday evenings. During the Lenten Cross Training, I led a book study on the book “How to be Perfect,” and in the Fall series, I led a class exploring the treatment of Heaven and Hell in Popular Culture. Participation in our classes was strong this year, and I truly enjoyed leading the book study in the Spring and the topical study in the Fall.
- Prior to the start of the program year in the fall, we established a new Stewardship Committee to assist with the planning and execution of this year’s Stewardship Program. This group identified a theme, “Be The Church,” and assisted me in plotting out how we would approach stewardship this year, and they proved invaluable. This year we began laying the foundation of information for this coming year, as we seek to help our broader congregation understand the overall level of support needed by our ministries. I also want to thank our staff for their committed effort in stewardship, with a particular note of appreciation to our Business Manager, Kelly Smolik.
- A large part of getting to know a new congregation involves coming to understand the pastoral care needs of the members and friends of ALUCC. To that end, I worked with our incredible Parish Nurse, Cheryl Updegraff, along with the leadership of our Stephens Ministry to seek to meet the varied pastoral needs. It is a true gift to walk with people in their moments of need.
- Another similar gift is to be invited into peoples’ lives at key moments...Baptisms, Weddings, Memorials/Funerals/Ashes. Over this past year, I conducted 6 baptisms (2 private and 4 during Sunday worship services). I officiated at a vow renewal, as well as a wedding. And I officiated at 6 memorial services held in our sanctuary. I also officiated two services at Busch Funeral home. I also conducted 4 ash spreading’s in our Memorial Garden.

- This year, we were blessed with Heather Ferguson joining our staff as a Ministerial Intern, as she pursues her Master of Divinity degree. I have enjoyed meeting with Heather weekly beginning in September. She is doing wonderful ministry, having created the Living the Message ministry, as well as working closely with our Confirmation class, and leading worship on December 28<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to our continued work in the coming semester.
- Beginning in September, with the assistance of Kelly Smolik, I began receiving applications for Thrift Shop Grants for 2025. Then, in December, following the November 1<sup>st</sup> application deadline, I served with four others on the Grant Committee. After reviewing 37 completed applications, we awarded \$265,000 in grants to 24 organizations. Taking part in this incredible ministry was a wonderful experience, and I am so appreciative of Kristen and the Thrift Shop team for their work in making this possible.
- In the fall we began a new ministry at ALUCC. Courageous Conversations is an opportunity to come together for faithful and respectful conversation regarding important issues facing our community, nation, and/or world. We held our first conversation on the topic of Climate change, and we will pursue additional conversations in the coming year. This is an important form of mission at a time in our culture when such respectful engagement is in short supply.
- On September 14<sup>th</sup>, I was officially installed in the position of Senior Minister at ALUCC. Pastor Beau did a wonderful job coordinating the service, and our Association General Minister, Rev. Dr. Elena Larssen officiated. Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer was the featured preacher. It was a very meaningful service.
- In July, I attended UCC General Synod as part of my service to the Wider Church. The meeting took place in Kansas City, MO.
- Throughout the year, I continued work on my Doctor of Ministry degree with the support of the congregation and staff. I am now in the research/writing phase of my thesis, and I anticipate completing the degree during the Fall Semester 2026.

In addition to all of the items I mentioned above, there were a number of other ministry activities in which I took part this past year.

- I attended numerous Primetimer's Luncheons and provided the program for the luncheon in September 2025.
- Along with Tim Schulz, I led one of the Confirmation classes in October, as well as participating in several Inquirer's classes throughout the year.
- In June, I traveled to Charleston, WV to visit our Senior High Service Trippers.
- Working with our lay leaders, I helped to plan and participated in the Paying off the Mortgage/Mortgage Buring that we held in August.

In writing this report, I can see that it has been an incredibly full year (as we all know, I do not like to use the word busy). I feel like I am really getting to know the congregation and moving beyond just knowing names and faces. I am constantly amazed at the capacity of our staff, as well as their absolute dedication to the congregation. I have mentioned a few in this report, but would note that each of them (Beau, Nate, Scott, Tim, Angela, Kelly, Cheryl, TJ, Diane, Kristen, Kim, Dinah, Heather, Eileen, Annie, and Jim) warrants special thanks.

In addition, I have been blown away by the generosity of our congregation, both with their time and with their resources. We set records this year in several of our drives and offerings, along with another incredible year with our Thrift Shop. As a result, the impact we are having, as a congregation continues to grow. Our congregation truly recognizes the need that is present in our community and world, and we are impacting so many lives for the better!

As I look ahead to 2026, I do so with so much optimism for all we will be and do in the coming year, as we continue “Growing People to Serve God and Others.” Avon Lake United Church of Christ truly is an amazing expression of the Living Body of Christ in our community and world, and I am blessed to serve as your pastor.

Shalom...

Rev. Mark Pettis, Senior Minister

## MINISTER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

ALUCC Friends,

This calendar year has brought about a number of changes to the ministry and to the church itself. This year the numbers were similar to 2024, with about the same number participating in Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, but with fewer participating in the Christmas Pageant. The fellowship programs grew despite low numbers in individual grades. Total number of children participating was about the same as in 2024.

Back in 2023, we saw a shift in the worship patterns and practices of many of the church's families with children to worship almost entirely at the 11am service. While we still see small numbers of children attending at 9am, we have agreed that maintaining a full Sunday School curriculum is necessary during this service in addition to the 11am service, and **Eileen Zakei**, our Christian Education Coordinator, has been overseeing the teaching of that class. Vacation Bible School increased in number this year by a few children over 2024, but with over 100 children in total. The Family 5 p.m. Christmas Eve service saw growth with its largest numbers since 2019 at nearly 400.

The **Faith Formation Advisory Team** has a robust group of individuals, currently led by our council representative, **Beth Rollins**. We have begun meeting on a regular basis with both in-person and virtual attendance. The team continues to increase their participation, and I am grateful for their wisdom and willingness to help out with the ministry.

The **Drama Program** has continued to grow and has surpassed the numbers, when it comes to participation, we had at any other time since its inception. In 2026 I hope to increase focus on the Drama Club program, which serves as an outreach program to the community through both the **Christmas Pageant and Vacation Bible School (VBS)** programs. The Christmas Pageant Sunday attendance was very strong, surpassing all other services in 2025 other than the Christmas Eve services. Participation in the pageant itself was smaller, but only marginally, compared to 2024. Vacation Bible School is one of the largest in the area. We will continue to mold the VBS program in 2026 to be a multi-tiered program that also helps preteens and young teens develop leadership skills working with the children of the church. VBS in 2025 surpassed 2024 as the second highest attendance in my 8-year tenure here at Avon Lake UCC.

The **Children's Fellowship** programs include youth group style programs which encourage fellowship and fun here at ALUCC. Our youth group for kids in grades 4 and 5, called **Mid High Mayhem**, now meets on a monthly basis during the program year. Our group for kids in grades 2 and 3, called **Primary Pandemonium**, also meets monthly. This is a change from an event-based scheduling decision we made in 2023. As numbers of attendees continue to grow, we will adjust our meeting times to accommodate the needs of the congregation.

I continue to lead and participate in more than just the Children and Family Ministry. 2025 also saw me leading Cross training worship (along with our Director of Music Ministries, **Scott Ewing**, and Senior Minister, **Mark Pettis**), lead a book study, continue supporting the Men's Prayer and Discussion Group. I assist and preach and lead worship, presided over weddings and funerals, and help develop ways to enhance the worship

experience through lights and projection, help with computer support for the church database, and assist with technical support regarding the virtual meeting equipment.

In February of 2025 we welcome Senior Minister Mark Pettis (and family!) to Avon Lake United Church of Christ. They seem to be settling in well and they are a welcome addition to the church family. I pray that God will continue to guide Rev. Pettis as he leads the congregation in the coming year.

As I look ahead to 2026, I anticipate that more changes will come, and I pray that we are ready to weather these changes. With lower-than-expected pledge numbers coming into the new year we have had to make some changes with the way that the children's ministry will be funded in 2026, utilizing reserve endowment money to help cover expected expenses. Normally, the Children and Family Ministry is funded through the church's General Fund, which receives support from the congregation's pledges and offerings. While this will mean we need to rethink some long-term ideas for the ministry, I have faith that things will end up ok.

I continue to be grateful for my call to ministry here at Avon Lake United Church of Christ.

If there are any other areas you feel we can serve the community better when it comes to Children and Family Ministries, please reach out to me.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beau Dansizen

Minister for Children and Families

## FROM THE PASTOR'S RECORD BOOK

### We celebrated the following **Baptisms** in 2025:

Molly Ann McCrea	Cameron Gregory Baraona
Emily Lou Josephine Baraona	Rachel Lowey
Isabel June Greaige	Easton Lawrence Paradis
Presley Anne Martter	Krysta Perry
Lucy Porter Weber	Kendi Cleo Hunt
Ivy Marietta Cooper	

### IN MEMORIAM

### We mourned the passing of the following members and friends in 2025:

Gloria Weaver	Richard Brown	Mary Kay Fratoe
Loren Hartsel	Thomas Cammock	Pat Rust
Jo Ann Hodge	Tracy McDowell	Dean Kelble
Mary McGill	Patricia Greene	Barbara Austinson
Hugh Walters		

### WEDDINGS

### The following couples were united in Holy Matrimony in 2025:

Emily Frances Nicholas and Ian Patrick Silkworth

**Avon Lake United Church of Christ**  
**AGM**  
**January 26, 2025**

This meeting was held in-person and a quorum was in attendance.

**Meeting Called to Order:** 12:58pm

Moderator, Kyle Rose asked the secretary if a quorum of 50 attendees was present, Zoe Cummings acknowledged that there was a quorum.

**2024 AGM Minutes:** Kyle Rose called for a motion to approve the 2024 AGM Minutes as submitted.

**Motion:** Doug Rider

**Second:** Bonnie Fraser

**The 2024 AGM Minutes as submitted were approved by unanimous voice vote.**

**STAFF REPORTS:**

***Senior Minister:***

(During transition - Please see retired Senior Minister Dr. Rev. Kelly Brill's report in the 2024 Annual Report)

***Minister for Children & Families:***

(Please see Beau's full report in the 2024 Annual Report)

Rev. Beau Dansizen said it's not so much about the numbers but about our hearts and serving one another. But numbers are bouncing back – the number of kids and families is strong both with regard to joining and participating. More than 100 kids attended VBS. 20% more children took part in the Christmas Pageant, Sunday School numbers are up. Numbers involved with all groups are up. This all points in a healthy direction and Rev. Beau is honored to share these figures with the congregation.

He thanks the multitude who have gone above and beyond in 2024. He especially thanked – Eileen Zakel, Beth Rollins, the Faithe Formation Team, all the staff and the congregation for their support of the Children's & Families Ministry and of himself personally.

He is filled with renewed optimism that ALUCC will continue to thrive and grow people to serve God and others.

***Director of Youth Ministries:***

(Please see Nate's full report in the 2024 Annual Report)

Nate Taylor thanked all the chili cooks, Confirmation students and their mentors.

He said it's a privilege to continue serving in this community and seeing peoples' joy.

He looks forward to Senior Minister Rev. Mark Pettis starting on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February.

This is the 125th year of the UCC being in operation and it is still needed.

He thanked everyone for continuing to believe in the work we're doing and all the prayers and support.

2024 was a really good year and he is excited for 2025.

There is power in serving others and this year we are working with a new partner in Appalachia for the SH Service Trip.

Nate thanked Dan Walther for continuing to lead the JH Service Trips. He is grateful for the support, love and guidance he got from retired Senior Minister Rev. Dr. Kelly Brill. He looks forward to serving alongside, learning from, and being in ministry with Rev. Mark Pettis. He is excited about the new “BetterBoat” mental health support group for teens that starts in 2025.

***Director of Membership & Media:***

(Please see Tim’s full report in the 2024 Annual Report)

Tim Schulz thanked Rev. Dr. Kelly Brill, the Search Committee, the Transition Team, Kim Rose especially for the Gala Event, the AV Team especially Dinah Hunt for her work behind the scenes, his colleagues, Kyle Rose, Jason Kesseler & Bill Calkins for leading the Men’s Ministry – there are 10 Podcast episodes online now and Fellowship Hall has over 1000 downloads.

Tim thanked the Worship Team, deacons, and ushers.

Average attendance in 2024: 129 at 9am service, and 170 at 11am service.

Summer 10am service numbers were down 10% compared to 2023.

For more attendance numbers see Tim’s report which he also has to provide to the UCC National Denomination as well as to ALUCC church council.

25 new adults have joined ALUCC via Inquirer’s Classes.

7 students were confirmed in 2024.

Tim thanked the congregation for attending this meeting and asked us to continue to spread the word and invite family, friends, and others to join us in any capacity since this is how we grow. He looks forward to Cross Training and the season of Lent – this will be his 20<sup>th</sup> year serving at ALUCC.

***Good Neighbor Thrift Shop Team:***

(Please see Kristen’s (Manager of GNTS) full report in the 2024 Annual Report)

Kristen LePrevost reported another record year for the Good Neighbor Thrift Shop.

Sales were over \$700,000 and over \$321,000 was given away in 2024.

GNTS expanded (HomeGoods building) in 2024 and the project was on time and within budget. She thanked departing GNTS chair - Scot McNutt and welcomed new chair –Jen Miller.

She thanked the GNTS staff and all the volunteers – she had them stand for a round of applause. She asked people to come and volunteer even if only for 2 hours a week – there were flyers on the tables with GNTS contact information.

***REPORT of the Moderator:***

(Please see Kyle’s Moderator’s Report in the 2024 Annual Report)

Kyle Rose thanked everyone for submitting their reports for the 2024 Annual Report, it showcases just a snippet of what has been happening at ALUCC.

He suggested that instead of watching the news, or on social media, or doom-scrolling that the congregation pick one day this week and instead read the 2024 Annual Report – he guarantees you will feel better once you have read it.

Kyle is encouraged due to all the things we have accomplished this year despite facing tremendous change.

The Search Committee did a stellar job while the rest of us prayed and supported them.

Finance remains a challenge at the moment but a lot of work and analysis has been done and the bottom line is that over the last several years, contributions income is down while expenses increase.

Kyle challenges Church Council and the congregation to let go of pre-Covid comparisons since it has been shown that the institutions that are doing the best are those which focus on the here and now. He said to recognize the realities of the current financial situation and operate accordingly, not keep waiting for pre-covid levels of giving, attendance, etc.

There are lots of opportunities and some challenges but ALUCC has handled these well in the past.

As he reflected on the finances the last several years, ALUCC has been fortunate with some one-time, non-recurring sources of income (ERC tax credits, estate gifts, etc.), in the past, but relying on these is not sustainable for the future.

ALUCC has a committed staff who are leaning into the current situation.

He thanked ALUCC for the opportunity to serve as Moderator, and he and his family will remain active in this church in other ways.

There is an outstanding roster of candidates for Teams and Committees to be voted upon today to build momentum for the future.

#### **FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

(Please see Finance Team & Walt Henry's (Financial Secretary) full reports, and the 2025 Budget, in the 2024 Annual Report)

*Financial Secretary:* Walt Henry highlighted some of the main financial activities.

His responsibility is basically due diligence of church income and assets.

He explained that the General Fund concerns the day-to-day operations of the church (daily bills, paying for staff, building & grounds maintenance, utility bills and other expenses) and that it is quite separate from GNTS and GNTS income.

In 2024 finances were in line with budget and the Christmas Offering going to the General Fund helped, so that by EOY the General Fund was in the black. But a slowing with regard to giving was observed at the year progressed.

The Legacy Fund - \$125,000 was used to pay down the mortgage and is a testament to the generosity of the congregation.

For a review of General Fund Revenue versus Expenses over the last few years please see the bar chart provide on paper at the tables.

Government ERC credits and special gifts are a one-time deal that the church cannot rely on moving forward.

The church and staff do an exceptional job managing finances and their expenses while programs continue to thrive and Walt has faith in the continued generosity of the congregation.

Our challenge is to keep Pledges and Contributions coming in.

Walt gave kudos to the staff and Trustees for keeping expenses under tight control.

*Treasurer:* Sandi Gerhan thanked Kelly Smolik and Walt Henry and referred us to the Financial Reports in the 2024 Annual Report.

Sandi re-iterated that the flat or declining income presents a problem, and that Expenses are only down a tiny amount due to the extreme diligence of staff and Teams. ALUCC wants to maintain its excellent staff and offer competitive salaries, the fixed cost of which comprises 90% of the budget. Variable costs comprise only 10% of the budget.

**Finance Team Chair:**

***Endowments:***

(Please see Shelley & Scott's full report in the 2024 Annual Report)

Scott MacDonald (co-chair of Endowments Team) referred us to Pages 59-60 of the 2024 Annual Report.

The Endowment Fund is a long-term fund to support the needs of the church.

The fund comprises: 50% stocks, 30% bonds, 20% cash.

2024 was a strong year with the fund up 9.75% and with ~\$1,100,000 in assets.

5% of the Fund comes back to the General Fund at EOY and this was used to pay down the mortgage.

Scott thanked Valerie & Jim Tanzilli and the Pete & Lynn Barth Endowment for their significant gifts in 2024.

Scott thanked the other Endowment Committee members for their service.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1) **Updated Constitution & By-Laws:** Kyle Rose thanked Kelly Smolik for her tireless work spearheading this project. These have not been updated since January 2021. The process involved Kelly Smolik, Maureen Johnson, Kyle Rose and all members of Church Council. Kelly Smolik confirmed when asked by Bonnie Fraser, that the Final version includes the Constitution & By-Law Addendum provided to the congregation on paper at today's meeting. (No officer shall hold more than one office at a time. The Financial Secretary and Treasurer will attend all Finance Team meetings, as non-voting ex-officio members. The Moderator may serve as an ex-officio voting member of all Teams.)

**Kyle Rose called for a motion to approve the Updated Constitution & By-Laws with the Addendum as presented.**

**Motion: Bill Calkins**

**Second: Rebecca Zabel**

**The Updated Constitution & By-Laws with the Addendum were approved by a show of hands vote (a three quarters majority was achieved).**

- 2) **Proposed Budget for 2025:** Tim Penton (Finance Team Chair) presented the 2025 Budget and had been requested to share the positives. While retired Senior Minister Rev.

Dr. Kelly Brill said she wouldn't miss worrying about church finances – incoming Senior Minister Rev. Mark Pettis has assured Tim that he loves finances. Tim stated that the church has many good people handling and keeping an eye on the church finances and gave a shout-out to Kelly Smolik, the Finance Team, Walter Henry, Sandi Gerhan, the Endowment Team, the Trustees, and Church Council.

In 2024, we were charged with building a budget that could be sustained by Pledges & Offerings. The 2024 Budget was a little off target by being short ~\$40,000 on expenses. In 2025, we were initially ~\$167,000 short, but after a lot of work and reaching out to the membership, making 10% cuts to all departments, GNTS generously picking up the church's ~\$50,000 payment to OCWM, we got down to ~\$104,000 short.

ALUCC is a church family and a house of faith and we are not sinking. We are facing a dip in the number and size of Pledges and offerings and we have lost some generous donors. We were warned by the head of UCC to expect some of this during a transition year.

There is a plan to address the shortage – but this is not a long-term strategy. Cash Reserves of ~\$125,000, ERC Credits of ~\$83,000, and Other Funds of ~\$65,000 can be leveraged in order to balance the 2025 Budget at the end of the year 2025.

Moving forward ALUCC must increase income and grow Pledges & Offerings.

The 2025 Budget is very tight, Tim Penton is comfortable with the financial numbers and is happy to explain or answer questions if members wish to call or text him.

**Kyle Rose called for a motion to approve the Budget for 2025 as presented.**

**Motion: Valerie Tanzilli**

**Second: C.J. Jasany**

**The 2025 Budget was approved by show of hands vote.**

- 3) **Nominating Committee Report:** Amy Nasr (Chair) directed us to the Nominated Slate of candidates for church Teams & Committees on Pages 56-58 of the Annual report. Amy directed attendees to 3 updates to the Nominated Slate provided to the congregation on paper at today's meeting. (Thrift Shop Team, Christine Carr is a full member, not adjunct. A listing of the Youth Ministry Team was added with William/Bill Calkins as Chair. New Moderator, John Rice, was removed from the Mission Team list – as per the By-Laws the Moderator serves on all Teams.)

**Kyle Rose called for a motion to approve the Nominated Slate of candidates for church Teams & Committees with the 3 updates as presented.**

**Motion: Paul Dunford**

**Second: Bonnie Fraser**

**The Nominated Slate of candidates for church Teams & Committees with the 3 updates was approved by a show of hands vote.**

- 4) **Incoming Moderator Welcome:** John Rice was unable to attend due to a family emergency. However, Kyle Rose said John has already been very actively engaged with the church and its teams while shadowing him recently.

**Chili Cook-Off:** Students from the Confirmation class thanked the congregation and all the chili chefs and announced the winners of the Chili Cook-off...

Spiciest Chili	“Camp’s Cluckin’ Good Chili”	Jill Camp
Best Vegetarian Chili	“Colleen’s Colossal Multibean Chili”	Colleen Kane
Best Wild Game Chili	“Max’s Backwoods Not-So-Big-Buck Bussin’ Chili”	Max Taylor
Best Name	“This Meat Lovers Chili Will Have You Volunteering as an Usher at an Upcoming Service”	Jamie Clemens
Best Overall	“Traverse City Cherry Peach Chili”	Kris Purdy

Rev. Beau Dansizen closed the meeting with a prayer.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 1:55pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Zoe Cummings, Church Clerk

## **MODERATOR**

In reflecting upon the past year at the Avon Lake Church of Christ, what struck me most is our congregation's resilience and momentum. We have demonstrated resilience in the past of course, navigating the pandemic for example, but welcoming a new senior minister to a congregation can be a formidable challenge for even the most stable congregations. I would suggest that we not only met that challenge, but Pastor Mark has embraced our congregation, and our congregation has embraced Pastor Mark, in outstanding fashion. I would further suggest the same is true of the relationships between Pastor Mark and our wonderful staff. I am very thankful for the work of our search committee and for the timing of Pastor Mark's return to congregational leadership.

In my first year as Moderator, I have attended many team meetings and through those and other conversations have much deeper insight into the workings of our congregation. I am deeply impressed by the capabilities and dedication of our team members, our staff, and other church members (and non-members) who step up to drive the numerous ministries of our church. In attending the meetings and listening to the discussions, the level of expertise in various disciplines shines through. From the Trustees to the Worship Team, and everything in-between, we have very talented and dedicated individuals driving the momentum of our church life.

And speaking of momentum, the Youth and Children's Ministries continue to be of the highest quality and engage so many young people in our congregation, a couple of the foremost examples of our commitment to our mission – Growing People to Serve God and Others. Our Music Ministry is surely setting the bar in terms of what's possible with outstanding programming within the church, and in addition we held wonderful concerts which drew members of our congregation as well as others from our community. The momentum of the Thrift Shop is astounding – we set another record in 2025 in terms of contributions to our community, and at a time that additional help was badly needed.

Financially, we had a solid year, and circumstances related to the land sale combined with a timely gift made it an opportune time to pay off the church mortgage – what a milestone! I want to note that we need to do more in 2026 to even our revenues and expenditures. Once again in 2025 we found a way to make it work, and will do so again in 2026, but continuing to have budget deficits is not sustainable. I am hopeful that in 2026 we will make substantial progress towards balancing the books for 2027.

A second hope I have for 2026 will be to see us embrace more of all that Pastor Mark has to offer. As he promised, he spent 2025 primarily observing pre-existing patterns, focused on meeting and learning about our congregation. If we are to enjoy the full benefit of all Pastor Mark has to offer, it will be important that we as a congregation are receptive to some new ideas as he brings them forward. The Growing People commitment we have

made includes our personal growth and our growth as a congregation – I'm excited to see how we will grow in 2026!

Lastly, while I have another year to serve, I want to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to be Moderator and for helping me in my role. It has deepened my appreciation for all of you, our staff, and our ministers. We are blessed to be in community together, and I look forward to our experiences together in 2026.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Rice  
Moderator

## FAITH FORMATION

The Faith Formation annual report supplements my Minister for Children and Families report, so please refer to that for additional programming details. In this report I will highlight some numbers and changes that happened in 2025:

- **Sunday School** continues to operate at both the 9am and 11 am services for Preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, though there are more children at the 11am service. As a result, the 9am Sunday School is more combined, though it is still a full curriculum.
- Primary Pandemonium our youth group for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade children and Mid-High Mayhem for grades 4 and 5 is once per month during the program year, and event-based during the summer months.
- Drama Club has become a major fellowship group with kids in grades 4 and up. The Drama Club focuses on two events as the cornerstone of the program – Vacation Bible School in the summer and the Christmas Pageant in December. The Drama Club has around **40 children/kids** who are active in one way or another.
- We have a team of around **10-15 volunteer Sunday School teachers** who teach on a rotation.
- 2025 Vacation Bible School had an attendance of **99 children, 50+ volunteers including many teens and preteens.**
- Fall Cross Training took place in October and November as a 4-week program with about **80 participants in several different classes.** Worship was led by Rev. Beau Dansizen, Rev. Mark Pettis and Scott Ewing.
- The Christmas Pageant took place on Dec 14, and featured more than **40 children** with designated parts, plus **numerous children** who participated on the day of the event.
- The 2024 Christmas Eve “Family Service” (5 pm) included the contemporary worship band led by **Scott Ewing and Beau Dansizen.** The service was led by the children of ALUCC, who also shared their musical talent before the service. There were about **397 people** in attendance, a significant increase
- **Eileen Zakei** continues as our **Christian Education Coordinator.** She has been an asset to the program both in development and implementation.

The Children's Ministry of ALUCC has finished the year under budget nearly every year since I began nearly a decade ago. We have managed to do so without additional fundraisers and requests, save for once or twice for items outside of the budgeted expenses. We have been blessed to fund this ministry out of the pledges given to the church's general fund every single year since well before I began. In 2026, we will need to make a change, dipping into the reserve funds set aside for special Children's Ministry projects and partially fund the ministry from that reserve, exhausting those funds. It is my hope and prayer that the ministry will be able to once again have a reserve set aside for special Children's Ministry opportunities and response in the future.

Faith Formation team has met on a regular basis since the beginning of the current program year. I would like to thank all of the teachers who have volunteered their time to do the work of the church, raising our children to understand the ways of Christ. The value of our volunteer and paid teachers cannot be overstated. Thank you for all you do for our children.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rev. Beau Dansizen  
Minister for Children and Families

## DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES

In April, I will have completed 19 years of service as part of this community of faith. As I have reflected on the last year, I have also been reflecting on all 19 of these years. This is probably due in large part to the retirement of Rev. Kelly and the beginning of Rev. Mark's ministry with us. The Greek philosopher reminds us that "the only constant in life is change." As we have spent the past year getting to know Pastor Mark, working with him, serving with him and learning his hopes and vision for our congregation...I have found myself excited for this new chapter. I am hopeful for the new changes we are making and will inevitably experience together.

2025 was another impactful and amazing year in ministry with so many young people we are fortunate to meet and get to know and walk with as they travel this incredibly special journey as teenagers.

The cornerstone of what we offer is our Wednesday night youth groups. As we see growth in our SH youth group, our JH youth group has also begun to show some growth. We are so fortunate to have a dedicated team of adults who selflessly give of themselves and pour into these students' week-in, week-out. This includes our Confirmation teachers, Confirmation Mentors, JH Youth Group Volunteers, SH Youth Group Volunteers, JH & SH Service Trip Leadership Teams and so many others along the way that invest in these students.

We had 12 students participate in the Rite of Confirmation this past September. I am grateful to each of them for their interest in continuing their faith journey and becoming adult members of this faith community. The students confirmed this fall were Kyle Bracy, Ashley Cackowski, Janelle Coleman, Delaney Hamilton, Reid Judkins, Avery Lanigan, Marcus Lavriha, TJ LePrevost, Presley Martter, Krysta Perry, Ella Rose & William Triplett. I am also grateful to their mentors – Jasin Kessler, Christine Rotar, Carolyn Coy, Emily Lotz, Mackenzie Vargas, Dianne Hamilton, Chris Gee, Jen Fazio, Debbie George, Lynne Barth and Bill Calkins for their work with each of these young people.

In March we hosted our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Euchre Tournament benefiting our summer camp incentive fund. Congrats to Leslie & Scot McNutt on their championship. This year's tournament is set for Saturday, March 21. Registration opens on February 1. We'd love to have you join us!

In May we hosted our 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Cabin Fever Cornhole Tournament. We were able to raise over \$14,000 for our SH Service Trip. The most exciting part of this year's tournament was when Devin Blotzer hit the world record for the longest cornhole shot...AGAIN. This time at a distance of 88 feet. That's correct...two years in a row he has set a new world record. He won \$500 and some major bragging rights. This year's tournament is set for Saturday, May 9, 2026.



Registration opens on February 1. We are also taking court sponsorships and silent auction donations. We appreciate the continued support of this important fundraiser. This year's tournament will benefit our SH Service Trip and our JH Service Trip. We have decided to no longer hold our Dirty Dog 5K and Dog Wash. That fundraiser has lacked the interest and support in recent years necessary to make it profitable.



We had another incredible summer of ministry together. In June a group of 85 students and 31 adults traveled to Charleston, WV to serve with Appalachia Service Project. It was a powerful week of serving, growth, fellowship, worship and fun. One week later over 70 people from our church family attended Sportscamp as either a camper or counselor. This was our first summer at Camp Christian in Marysville, OH. We all agreed that this new campground and their incredible team made our week one of the best ever. We are excited for this new chapter in the history of Sportscamp. In

July, we had a group of 22 students and 9 adults participate in our JH Service Trip with our friends at Washington U.C.C. in Cincinnati. We are grateful for our longstanding relationship with that church and that community and continuing to partner with them for years to come. My gratitude and appreciation for Dan Walther and his continued leadership for our JH Service Trip is hard to express in words. He has a gigantic heart and deep love for this community and for our students. We are beyond fortunate to have someone like him leading this experience. At the end of July we took a group of 10 graduated HS seniors camping in the Allegheny National Forest as part of our Senior Excursion. This capstone experience is always a special time in the woods reflecting on the past 18 years and spending time considering what the next chapter will hold in store for each of them.

A major reason our summers happen every year is because of our Youth Ministries Summer Assistant. Last summer we hired Savannah Stobe to serve in this role. She was instrumental in ensuring that so much of what we did this summer...happened. From her very first day to today...she has worked tirelessly and given so much of herself to our church and to our young people. We are so fortunate to have someone like her on our team. I want to personally thank her for making last summer one of our best ones ever. I am thrilled to report that Savannah will be joining us again this summer and we are very excited to have her on our team.

In March, one of our beloved and long-time youth group volunteers, Tom Cammock, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly. Tom was a staple of Monday night JH youth group for years. He served as a Confirmation mentor for several students and he was a beloved member of our Cabin Fever Cornhole Team. His smile, his laugh, his personality...you couldn't help but gravitate to him. He cared deeply for our students and was genuinely interested in their lives, their accomplishments and seeing them thrive. He had a deep faith and loved everyone. And everyone who was privileged enough to know him....loved him too.



It was decided soon after his passing, to ask his family for their permission to rename our Bunks and Bunkers Golf Outing in his memory. With their blessing and their support, we held the first annual Tom Cammock Memorial Golf Outing in October at Thunderbird Hills Golf Course. We were blessed with an absolutely beautiful October day for this year's outing. We had 37 foursomes and over 150 golfers participate in this year's event. We were able to raise over \$14,000 for our summer camp incentive fund and make donations to the education funds for both of Tom & Sarah's two boys.

Along with all of this, Tom's family asked that all memorial gifts be made to our youth ministries program. We will be working with Sarah and Tom's family to determine a best use for these funds to honor and remember Tom. We are deeply humbled by the generosity of so many and grateful for the privilege of continuing to honor his life and legacy. Please watch for more information coming soon regarding our 2026 Tom Camomck Memorial Golf Outing.

This fall we had 27 students apply and interview to be a part of our SH Student Leadership Team. These young people have been instrumental in helping us shape and form the youth group experience for so many young people in our church family. I appreciate their honesty, their interest and their dedication. We are so blessed to have so many young leaders who have a desire to serve and give back.



Another program that we introduced in 2025 was a program called Better Boat. This was a new initiative targeting high school students and college students. Our hope is to provide a support group specifically for young people that focuses on our mental health journey and our overall wellness. The idea behind Better Boat is to provide a place where our young people can find resources and support, ask questions and hear the stories of others who have experienced challenges in their own journey. The name Better Boat is based off the title of a Kenny Chesney song by the same name. We were drawn to the lyrics for the song and the concept of the ongoing process we all go

through as humans trying to build the best version of ourselves. Sometimes we must let things go and sometimes we have to ride the waves we can't control. I am incredibly grateful to Tyler Andrews, for his vision and his ideas and his energy for this important and much-needed ministry. I am also grateful to our moderator, John Rice, who has advised Tyler and I extensively as we have waded through the early stages of getting this group off the ground.

As we look ahead to the new year, I am excited and hopeful and ready. We opened registrations for our SH Service Trip and filled all 85 spots in less than one HOUR (not a typo). Our JH Trip has over 65% of its spots filled, our Senior Excursion is sold out and our summer camp registrations continue to come in. We have over 50 adults who have agreed to serve in some capacity this summer to provide these life-changing experiences for our young people.

In 2026 we are excited to see where God is leading our church and how Pastor Mark continues to grow into this new role and make his impact in the life and ministries of our congregation. We are excited for new initiatives such as a once-a-month worship service, specifically for teenagers. We plan to simply call this Vespers and hope to launch it yet this winter. We are grateful to the many volunteers that care for our facilities and for the Buoy. I am especially grateful to the Property Team and for all the ways they continue to ensure the Buoy is functional and in the best possible shape it can be.

In March, we were fortunate and blessed to be the beneficiaries of an Eagle Scout Project. One of our longtime students, Jeff Kessler, graciously agreed to remake our bonfire ring to the north of the Buoy. He spent a great amount of time planning, preparing and completing this work. Having this space for our students to gather is such a blessing and will be for many years to come. In March, Jeff celebrated his cord of honor ceremony in our Chapel. We recognize the significance of an Eagle Scout Award, and our church has had a long history of having Eagle Scout Projects completed at the church, benefiting the church. With that being said, we are in the process of researching as far back as we can, compiling a list of completed projects and plan to recognize those Eagle Scouts with a special plaque in the Buoy sometime in 2026.

Every week at youth group I make a point to tell our young people how much we appreciate them being there. That we realize they are busy and they are tired and that they have choices with their time and their extracurricular activities. We consider it a privilege that they choose to spend 90 minutes with us every week. We consider it a privilege that you entrust your children to us week in and week out. We strive to provide safe, enjoyable, meaningful and fun experiences – whether it's a Wednesday night or week at summer camp. We make mistakes and we learn from them. We try new things and sometimes they don't work. We don't always answer an email as fast as we hoped to. Sometimes a light bulb is out, or you may find an expired ketchup bottle in our refrigerator. We take your feedback and your ideas very seriously. We try to do more and we try to get it right each time. All that being said, we appreciate your patience and your grace and your support when we don't.

Being in ministry with each of you and being invited to travel life's highway alongside each of you...is truly a blessing and a joy and a privilege. As we embark on a new year, on this next chapter, my prayer is that each of us finds the ability to soak in each moment, each conversation, every laugh and every tear. My prayer is that we feel more alive than ever and commit ourselves even more to this important and necessary work.

Respectfully submitted,

Nate Taylor  
Director of Youth Ministries

## PARISH NURSE ANNUAL REPORT

As I write my annual report, it is with gratitude for the opportunity to be a part of the Caring Ministry Outreach of our church and the many friendships as we walk together in good times and difficult times. Together with our pastors, Stephen Ministers, Mission Team and church family, we are responding to church family needs as well as identified needs outside our church family.

Some changes in Mercy's Parish Nurse Program have affected their support for us; I do continue to attend the Northeast Ohio Parish Nurse meetings, which provides an opportunity for networking and education with other church programs. I also attend, as the subject is appropriate, educational C.E.U.'s.

I continue to feel a significant role of a Parish Nurse is "to be present" as needed. One simply has to be where He guides us to be. I continue to spend a significant part of my time responding to the needs of our church family. As in the past, my response has included visiting hospitalized members, members in care facilities and home visits; Tuesday and Wednesday morning office hours as well as availability on Sunday mornings; evenings by appointment. I am also available and provide support and education re availability of services, programs, and church family support as needed through our Mission Team's Doorstep Dinners and Heavenly Helpers.

This fall Cross Training included a health care focus with a series of four programs offered: an excellent Mental Health educational program by John Rice; a program on Medicare changes prior to the period of time when changes can be made in Medicare health plans and prescription drug coverage for the following year; a program by Carole Klingler entitled "Dementia Friends"; and a program by Anthony Colemen of Care Patrol: Eldercare Options and How to Pay for Them. Andrea Zimmer for Ohio Senior Health Insurance Program also offered one-on-one meetings as needed for Medicare questions during the weeks following the program.

It is a privilege to have a small part in the following programs:

- Although all the programs offered are important, hosting weekly, L.I.F.E., a program for those with dementia and their caregiver, is a wonderful addition. L.I.F.E.'s mission is to link individuals and families on the dementia journey, through Education and Engagement; the focus is on support and education for the caregiver while providing engaging activities (physical exercise, music therapy, and arts and crafts) for their loved one living with dementia. Services are offered at no cost to participants. One of our GNTS grants made it possible to fund this program for the first year at our church; a grant has been provided for another year.
- Caregiver's Support Group: this group meets at the church on the third Tuesday of each month to support each other in the challenges of caregiving and sharing resources. This group is facilitated by Connie Hippler.
- Mental Health Caregiver's Support Group: this group is a support group for those with family members or friends currently dealing with a Mental Health concern.

This group is facilitated by Michael Carr, a clinical professional employed by The Cleveland Clinic; they meet on the first Tuesday of the month at the church at 7PM

- Grief Support Groups:

We host a Grief Support Group for those who have lost a spouse, partner or significant other; the group is facilitated by Amy Boyd Kirksey and provided by Hospice of Western Reserve. They meet at the church on the first Thursday of each month.

I do my best to share regularly our Stephen Ministry Grief Journey booklets (a series of four provided throughout the first year following a loss).

A Grief Support Session was provided in November prior to the holidays, led by Mark. Our goal for this session is to provide support for those on the grief journey prior to the holidays.

Tree of Remembrance: an important part of the Holiday Season is reminiscing and remembering loved ones who are deceased. Our beautiful tree was again located in our Vestibule and all angels from prior years were placed on it. Special thanks to Valerie Tanzilli for all she does to keep this organized.

Service of Remembrance: this service of prayer, scripture, readings, special music by Scott and a brief meditation by Mark is designed to help those grieving enter the Advent season with a sense of hope. A 'together time' was held following the service and as a part of the service, members and friends were invited to add their ornaments to our tree. Special thanks to Marsha Wisser, who made angels for the tree as well as provided an ornament gift for each who attended the service. Marsha is a blessing to many.

Giving Tree: 531 gifts were provided by our church family in response to the wishes/needs of church family and five of our Mission partners: The Villages, Haven Center, Resource Mother's, Denison, and St. Paul's. Special thanks to Molly Dunford, who does an incredible job of organizing the wishes, Lynn Miller and Joyce Olson for arranging delivery of gifts, and to all who helped in any way, whether you took a tag and shopped for and returned a gift, helped with the sorting and bagging of gifts for delivery, donated dollars, or helped deliver gifts. This wonderful caring outreach could not be done without many hands.

Jammie outreach: because of Paul and Marsha Wisser's continuing pajama ministry that had been in existence for many years, each of the children on our Giving tree also received jammies (209).

Doorstep Dinners: this outreach is a Mission Team outreach, coordinated by Parish Nursing: members caring for members by providing a meal when needed (after surgery, hospitalization, or injury). Special thanks to this special group who always says "I can do that" when we are aware of a need,

Heavenly Helpers: also a Mission Team outreach, coordinated by Parish Nursing. This group always responds when a need, most frequently for medical appointments.

I love being a part of our church staff and our very caring church family. Our Parish Nurse Program would not be possible without the support of many. Special thanks to Mark and Beau, who are always there to provide leadership, support and guidance; to Angela for the many ways she supports all of us and to Tim Schulz, who provides a lot of support in communication every week. Thank you also to the Doorstep Dinners and Heavenly Helpers groups and all who have said "I can help"; you have responded to so many requests. And finally, special thanks to my husband for his continued patience and understanding: ***Love lets us be where we are needed.***

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Updegraff

## STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry is an international organization based in St Louis MO. More than 14,000 enrolled congregations represent 190 different denominations and 30 countries. There are more than 80,000 Stephen Leaders and more than 600,000 trained Stephen Ministers. **More than one-and-a-half-million people have had a Stephen Minister to walk with them, providing one-to-one Christian care during tough times.**



Stephen Ministers are congregation members who have received over 50 hours of training by our Stephen Minister Leaders prior to their commissioning. They continue to receive education and training and meet in supervision groups while they are assisting those in need. SM leaders receive additional training as well. The program is **completely confidential**; no names of care-receivers are ever shared in meetings. Caring relationships are always with persons of the same gender. All assignments have been made by Pastor Mark, Pastor Beau or through Cheryl Updegraff, our Parish Nurse.

Stephen Ministers are not professional counselors. They are Christians who are trained in active listening and whose role is to walk with a person during a crisis or life transition. For over 30 years Stephen Ministers (see ACTS 6: 1-6) at ALUCC have cared for people dealing with illness, death or illness of a loved one, grief, job loss, divorce and/or depression, among other difficult situations. In short, Stephen Ministry helps carry out the mission of our church.

For 2025, our Stephen Ministry team has consisted of active members **BJ Myers-Bradley, Jim Browning, Jeff Chase, Diane Clark, Debbie DeMars, Sandy Dibbell, Sandy Garrett, Anita Harris, Kathleen Hejduk, Connie Hippler, Cynthia Kotora, Kris Purdy, Penny Simmelink, Ann Stark, Lou Stark, Maggie Stark, Laurie Henrichsen, and Bill Stives**. Active SM Leaders currently consist of **Susie Donovan, Teri Ann Jasany, Judy Reich, and Cheryl Updegraff**. **Teri Ann Jasany** and **Susie Donovan** alternate leadership of monthly supervision meetings. Our SM Leader and Parish Nurse, **Cheryl Updegraff**, coordinates and oversees the following support groups that provide additional help to our church family and the wider community: a Grief Support Group, The **LIFE** Dementia Friendly Program, Caregivers' Support Group (also facilitated by Connie Hippler), and the Mental Health Support Group (Facilitated by Mike Carr). Our Stephen Ministry team provides additional help to support Cheryl's programming by meeting with those who may be homebound and in need of social visits from church family.

For 2025, we started the year with a focus on spirituality, how it is one of the important parts of our 'Wellness Wheel', and how we fit it into our ministry. We had some great conversations about it this year, and we all collaborated on building our own Stephen Ministry definition of spirituality. It was our hope that each Stephen Minister would continue to deepen their faith as they serve Jesus through the Stephen Ministry program. Stephen Ministers are also required to participate in continuing education and the topics this year were exceptional! We were blessed with an Al Anon Presentation where one of our Stephen Ministers, and their adult daughter, walked us through an actual Al Anon

meeting and what that looked like. Their presentation was very informative and inspirational. The information will be helpful for SMs working with care receivers living with family or friends dealing with issues related to alcohol and addiction. In September, we were pleased to have Carol Klinger as guest speaker, certified Dementia Practitioner and Founder of Ohio's first registered and award winning, **LIFE Memory Café**. Her presentation addressed the topic of Dementia Awareness. We also had a discussion about Mental Health with Mike Carr, our very own clinical expert, and facilitator of ALUCC's Mental Health Support Group. Stephen Ministers are trained to give emotional and spiritual support based upon God's unconditional love, but sometimes a hurting person's needs extend beyond the boundaries of Stephen Ministry. The Stephen Ministry Team is trained to recognize when a person is experiencing a mental health crisis and is confident in suggesting that a trained professional's involvement would be beneficial. Sometimes the care receiver needs a level of care and type of skills beyond the Stephen Ministry training. Stephen Ministry also assists in supporting those who are caring for loved ones experiencing a mental health crisis.

To increase visibility of Stephen Ministry, our group has continued the monthly publication of the *Stephen Ministry Corner* in the Thursday congregational email. These brief paragraphs are written by active members and share a glimpse of the impact Stephen Ministry has on those it serves. It also is a reminder of how to request a Stephen Minister. In addition, Stephen Ministers are easily identified by the blue name tags we wear on Sundays and whenever we are in church. People are encouraged to stop and chat with us to find out how we could possibly help them!

This year several Stephen Ministers have experienced serious health or family issues. The group has surrounded them with thoughtful gestures of affection and support. The "Prayer Patrol" has made sure that we're all praying for our colleagues. As trained care givers, it has been heartwarming to see the group caring for each other.

Our Stephen Ministry is funded by an endowment from Catherine and Ernest Walker and their family, and by other caring church members. We are grateful for their generosity, which provides funds for caregiving training and extensive leadership training from headquarters in St Louis, as well as continuing education and materials. We thank our church family for their continual support of this ministry. We also want to thank our families, who support us while we give the gift of our time serving others.

*"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." – 1 Thessalonians 5:11*

Respectively Submitted,

Teri Ann Jasany and Susan Donovan

## **WORSHIP TEAM**

The Worship Team welcomed our new Senior Minister, Mark Pettis. We met with Mark early on to let him know our usual process for preparing for services on Sunday mornings. We did not make any major changes to any of the Sunday Service preparations.

The Team works closely with Mark Pettis, Beau Dansizen and John Rice, and we appreciate the opportunity of having them join our Team meetings as they can. The Worship Team continues to prepare the elements for Communion on the first Sunday of each month. We also assist both Mark and Beau with serving Communion.

The Worship Team would like to thank those that volunteered as Greeters, Ushers & Communion Assistants in 2025. As a reminder, we use both Sign Up Genius and a paper signup sheet. On Communion Sundays, we need at least 4 Ushers; the other Sundays we need 2 or 3. There are some Sundays when we pass the offering plate, and we need additional Ushers for those services. Jamie will provide as much advance notice as possible to the Team to give the Deacons a chance to recruit additional Ushers. If you have an interest in ushering or greeting for an upcoming service, please let one of the Team members know.

The Worship Team works closely with the Safety Team Chair, John Braun, in scheduling volunteers for the Safety Monitor position for each service. We anticipate recruiting some new Safety Monitors and providing new training. If anyone is interested in becoming a Safety Monitor, or has questions, please see Jamie Clemons and/or John Braun.

Many of our Team members are certified in AED and CPR. We work closely with Cheryl Updegraff in letting her know which members are certified.

The Worship Team would like to thank both Mark Pettis and Beau Dansizen for their continued support of the Worship Team.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Clemons, Chair

2025 Worship Team Members: Jennifer Braun, Fran Burik, Cindi Dansizen, Debbie DeMars, Gary DeMars, Beth Garrett, Dale Garrett, Sandy Garrett, Diane Graves, Gail Salco, Cameron Taylor, Lisa Boehm, Nelle Doyle (adjunct), Cathy Harvey (adjunct) and Dinah Hunt (adjunct)

## MUSIC MINISTRY

2025 has been another active and rewarding year for ALUCC's music ministry. Our worship ensembles continue to enjoy steady membership and participation, and concert series events have been well-attended and financially self-sufficient. We've welcomed new members and continued to strengthen long-time bonds of musical friendship.

### **Chancel Choir**

We welcomed several new members to the chancel choir following great participation in our summer 'pick-up' choirs, offered once a month during June, July, and August. I'm always so happy to see people going out on a limb and trying something new, especially when they decide to stick with it into the fall. Our choir is such a welcoming and friendly group, and I encourage everyone to give it a try at some point. Members have the opportunity to learn more about worship, music, and singing, as well as make some wonderful new friends. The choir learned several new pieces of music in 2025, and continued to improve performances of our favorite selections.

### **Bell Choir**

2025 was our second year with Annie Rasor directing the bell choir, and she continues to do a wonderful job. Membership within the bell choir has been steady, and they have continued to add beautiful music to the 9am worship service once per month. The dedication of the members of this ensemble has been evident as they continue to challenge themselves and grow in their musicianship. During the month of December, the choir took their bells on the road, visiting and bringing Christmas music to assisted living facilities in Avon and Cleveland.

### **Contemporary Worship**

Our 11:00 service continues to offer a great variety in music, both in repertoire and the musicians playing. Several different ensembles have been formed and have settled in during 2025. At our 11:00 service, attendees can expect to hear and participate in all kinds of music from contemporary praise and worship music to blues, gospel, jazz, and even (on some occasions) bluegrass. Our church is blessed with a great lineup of musicians who choose to share their talents with the congregation in many different ways.

### **Special Music Events**

Several concert events were offered in 2025. It's a delight to feel the support of our community at these events. All of our concerts have been well attended, and we have received generous donations to cover the costs and support future events. Here are some of the concerts offered in 2024:

*Pete Cavano, David Doyle, Scott Ewing, and Scott Purks* joined together for a concert in the sanctuary in March 2025. This concert featured a wide range of music including rock and roll, jazz, and R&B.

*Chamber Music for Piano Quartet*, in April of 2025, featured three members of the Cleveland Orchestra alongside pianist Scott Ewing. Isabel Trautwein, violin; Gareth Zehngut, viola; and Tanya Ell, cello.

Our *Words and Music* series continued in May of 2025 with Lauren Boudon, cello and Scott Ewing offering a selection of music inspired by poetry, as well as some favorite musical selections from film and television.

*Apollo's Fire*, Cleveland's beloved Baroque Orchestra, performed a concert in the ALUCC Sanctuary. July 2025

*Pete and Nolan Cavano* performed a concert in the ALUCC chapel in October 2025, sharing an eclectic collection of songs, stories, and jokes. A free-will offering was taken to benefit ALUCC mission partner Road to Hope, raising approximately \$1,000.

*Chamber Music for Piano Trio* in November 2025, with Mary Beth Ions, violin; Lauren Boudon, cello; and Scott Ewing, piano - works by Mozart, Frank Bridge, Astor Piazzolla.

*Words and Music for the Winter Solstice*, Mary Beth Ions, violin and Scott Ewing, piano, performed music for the winter season, with poetry readings by Colleen Kane and Beau Dansizen. December 2025.

## **2026**

Our music ministry has a lot of momentum going into 2025, and has no plans on slowing down. Our worship ensembles will continue working to provide meaningful and inspiring music at worship, and several concert events are already in the works for this year. I'm ever grateful for the blessing of this community and the opportunity to do this work.

-Scott Ewing

## CELEBRATION RINGERS' HANDBELL CHOIR

Thanks to the dedication of the ringers, the Celebration Ringers Handbell Choir was able to participate in worship every month of 2025. We especially remember ringing "Darkness in the Midst of the Storm" in February when there was a literal snowstorm keeping lots of folk's home. Dinah Hunt really helped make the October piece meaningful by creating and timing slides with the words to the hymn along with "Fantasy on Kingsfold." In November, we rang "We Give Thanks" while Donna Case accompanied us beautifully on flute. We are blessed to have a great working relationship with the Rocky River United Methodist Church bell choir and were able to yet again borrow their fourth and fifth octave bass chimes multiple times this year to enhance our music and fully play songs.

For Summer Bells, where ringers can play on a month-by-month basis, we had ringers from the singing choir join us, one who had never played bells before. During this time we rang ensemble music more suited to the smaller size and ability of the group, some of which was accompanied on the piano by Scott Ewing.

We hosted a Percussion and Handbells Workshop for college students in September, organized and facilitated by Sharon Dixon. The students learned how to strike a timpani using various mallets and techniques and how that correlated to creating different handbell sounds.

In December, a small group rang an outreach Christmas concert at St. Mary of the Woods in Avon. The group was able to play some of the music for prelude and postlude during December services as well.

I am blessed every week by the people and the music of the handbell choir. It is a joy and a privilege to work with them. Thanks to everyone who was a part of the handbell music ministry this year, including Lynn Kingman, Ross Kingman, Martha Twining, Ken Hunt, Valerie Tanzilli, Karen Klein, Sue Ganyard, Sharon Dixon, Jean Wolpert, Judy Kean, Judy Reich, Amy Storms, Marc Rasor, Tim Kingman, Shelli Segura, Bonnie Fraser, Sandi Gerhan, Wende Bakeman, Jen Davis, Cynthia Kotora, Gary Twining, Kelly Smolik, and Bonnie Bumford.

Annie Rasor  
Celebration Ringers Handbell Choir Director

## **DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP & MEDIA**

As it is with many events and occasions in life, it is hard to believe how quickly the year has passed. Some events seem like they just happened a couple weeks ago, and others couldn't possibly have been this past year! The Annual Report and our Annual Meeting is always cause for reflection on the year our church has celebrated – but also an opportunity to look ahead at what can be in 2026!

It was a year ago that we welcomed Rev. Mark Pettis to be our Senior Minister and to lead us, not just in Sunday morning worship, but also as a mentor, teacher and cheerleader. He has done a tremendous amount of listening and observing in 2025. Mark has had to learn all our names (hundreds upon hundreds of us!) and make just as many decisions. I look forward to working with Mark on his visions for ALUCC in the coming year.

It must be noted that the Service of Installation for Pastor Mark in September was a momentous occasion for him and us. It truly was a fun service with so many friends, colleagues in ministry and his family participating.

Beyond the change of Senior Minister, our congregation continued to be the community and congregation we have been known to be. In "Growing People to Serve God and Others" we continue to walk the path of Christ by acting as role models for our children. We teach and mentor. We comfort one another. We celebrate together. We serve and pray together. Many of us even take Sabbath together.

As Director of Membership and Media I gain witness to passionate people at work. I see the passion in our musicians, our mission volunteers, our youth leaders, our leadership teams and my colleagues on staff. This is an incredible church community and one that I am proud for my family to be a part of and even luckier to serve in.

In the past year we have held classes, studies and discussions (Cross Training, Courageous Conversations, Bible Studies) to further educate ourselves and open our minds to new ideas and diverse opinions.

We are active in ministry and mission on a weekly basis with so many groups and agencies (see Mission Team report!). There are volunteer opportunities for all ages and skill levels, and we have increased the amount of donations and the time we give to those in need right here in our region. The Good Neighbor Thrift Shop outshines itself month after month and continues to be a blessing to this church and the wider community!

We create and consume live music. Thank you to Scott and our musicians for all they do on Sunday – AND the several concerts that we hosted throughout the year. A menagerie of musicians and styles – from chamber music to rock bands - each performance was captivating. If you visit other churches or speak with new members and guests, you know that our choir, bell choir and band ensembles set themselves apart. We are fortunate to give praise with their lead.

I am not a musician, but these events are big days in my world. On the membership side these concerts are opportunities for us to gather, but also excellent ways to share our space and welcome in the wider community. On the media side, there are graphics to meet, shows to promote and audio video needs during performances. At this church, we are fortunate to have the ability to meet those needs and continue to be a venue for live music. Big thanks to Scott Ewing for his efforts in organizing and providing a spectrum of experiences for us all.

We certainly don't shy away from breaking bread together – with social communion moments like the summer picnic, the chili cook-off, potlucks, coffee hours and at least 20 other reasons to bring pizza into the Buoy.

As part of being a vibrant church, our Membership Team helps each of us to feel connected and well fed! They organize and assist at our picnics, outreach to guests and homebound members, and staffing our Welcome Center. The Trunk or Treat event in October is a fun family event for our members and has grown to be a community function with people making a stop here a part of their weekend plans. It is great exposure for the church and takes many hands and smiling faces. Thank you to all of those that serve on the Membership Team and to Kim Rose and Holly Kessler for leading that team.

I've said it before, and I may never stop saying it. Every one of us is a greeter and welcoming part of our membership team. You make a connection every time you hold a door or say hello or shake hands during the passing of the peace. When you greet as an usher, help at the Welcome Center, serve at the Thrift Shop, or teach a child – you represent the extravagant welcome of Avon Lake UCC.

Every single week Dinah Hunt prepares and displays worship projections including the lyrics, scripture, and prayer texts you see. Our staff works together during the week to coordinate the order of worship and share ideas, images and text. Dinah's mastery of our projections has allowed me to be flexible to other needs that arise on Sundays and to monitor our livestream and even take vacation! Dinah also has put together The Lighthouse newsletter, which features highlights from church programs and ministries. There is an issue for each season of the calendar, and I invite you to look back to see the many accomplishments and joys of the past year. All issues are on the events page of our website. I take most of the photos you see, but I really love when people take and submit their photos too. I am currently looking for more help with photography – if that piques your interest, let's talk! If you are at an event or service opportunity, please take and share your photos.

We continue to be so fortunate to have the technology to be able to provide worship online, to communicate effectively, to join a meeting or bible study from home, and to enhance the experience of VBS, Cross Training, concerts and youth group. Every worship service, plus weddings and funerals would not be possible without our Audio Video team. They are amongst the first to arrive and the last to leave on Sundays.

I always thank our Audio Video team volunteers (and hope you do to) and remind them that their efforts are an important part of the church's wider ministry. On the surface, it appears to be pushing buttons and making things sound or look good. There is a lot to

learn and maintain, but more importantly it is a ministry. We bring worship to people at home. The sermons, the good news of our mission work, our talented musicians, weddings, and memorials are shared all over the world! Thank you to these members of the Audio Video Team that assisted with our technology and ministry in 2024: Trey Bell, Andrew Boudon, TJ Frie, Dinah Hunt, Jasin Kessler, Chris Rollins, and Jim Stonebraker!

I hope you have been able to listen to our Fellowship Hall podcast. Bill Calkins (host) and Jasin Kessler (audio engineer/producer/sidekick) bring people of the church to the world. These stories and interviews of our staff and friends help all us to know these great people a little better when we hear about their passions, careers, and families.

The Fellowship Hall podcast began in 2024 and recently exceeded 2600 downloads!! Kudos to Bill and Jasin – we all look forward to more of these entertaining insights in 2026.

It is my pleasure to be able to serve this faith community and to be witness to the ministry that happens year-round. What an honor to work with a team that gives so much of themselves and cares so deeply in the mission. I wish everyone could see what efforts you all put forward each week to assist families and individuals while creating meaningful worship, music, and programs.

As always, thank you to my best friend and wife, Katie, and my boys, Nick and Alex. Your support and belief in our mission means everything to me. Nick has graduated and moved on to a job and his own apartment – just one week after he served as a Sportscamp Counselor. Alex is on the Student Leadership Team and assists CJ on the church grounds. Thank you to this community and our youth ministries for helping us to raise these two young men.

Tim Schulz  
Director of Membership & Media

## ATTENDANCE REPORT

This page historically is where we include statistics based on attendance numbers provided by our Worship Team (ushers count) on Sunday mornings. One part of my job is to track attendance data for our church, and we also report some of these numbers to the UCC annually.

### 2025 Average Attendance

#### Winter/Spring = January 5 to May 18

9 AM = 108

11 AM = 158

9 & 11 = 266

#### Summer (May 25 to August 31)

10 AM = 233

#### Fall = September 7 – December 21

9 AM = 123

11 AM = 154

9 & 11 = 277

### All Year

9 AM all year = 114

11 AM all year = 156

9 & 11 all year = 270

Average of all two service Sundays = 270 (-7.2%, 291 in 2024)

Two service average January 5 to May 18 = 266 (-2.2%, 272 in 2024)

Two service average September 7 to December 21 = 277 (-12.3%, 316 in 2024)

We had an average attendance of 114 at 9 AM (-5.8%, 121 in 2024)

Average attendance was 156 at 11 AM (-8.2%, 170 in 2024).

Our average attendance at 10 AM worship in the summer (May 25/Memorial Day to August 31/Labor Day) was 233 (+5.6%, 220 in 2024).

The average of ALL individual services for the year = 152 (-8.4%, 166 in 2024)

Christmas Eve: 397 at 5:00, 339 at 9:00, 157 at 11:00

(2025 total = 893; -15.2%, 1053 in 2024; -0.8%, 900 total in 2023)

I will note that 2025 Christmas Eve is right in line with 2023 Christmas Eve. Christmas Eve services in 2024 were also Rev. Kelly Brill's last with us which contributed to higher attendance that evening. A similar spike in Fall 2024 attendance can be attributed to Pastor Kelly's retirement, which included several special services and Candidate Sunday for Pastor Mark Pettis.

Avon Lake UCC's online presence is a vital part of our connections and worship. Through our television ministry, each service is livestreamed and recorded. The recording is edited and uploaded to [vimeo.com/avonlakeucc](https://vimeo.com/avonlakeucc) for playback or download at the viewers convenience. Vimeo also has an app where you can follow Avon Lake UCC.

Tracking online viewership is difficult. One account may be 2, 3, 4 people viewing in a household. Facebook counts engagements and reaches as well, but you are counted once if you were there for 5 seconds or 50 minutes. Engagement and reach are always a much higher number than we count.

We can see the number of accounts viewing our live stream of service on Facebook at that moment. I try to record the highest number I see during each service on Facebook Live. For Sundays with one service at 10:00, we averaged 33 viewers. 9:00 AM averaged 33 viewers and 11 AM was 19.

In addition to online options, the City of Avon Lake has provided us with a live cable broadcast on ALC-TV since 1984! We appreciate the city continuing to allow us to broadcast our 9:00 AM (or 10:00 services) live, as well as showing repeats daily. We do not know viewership numbers for Avon Lake Community Television. Spectrum Cable has experienced an issue with the connection from ALC-TV and stopped carrying the public access channel in October.

On Sunday, September 14, we held our Service of Confirmation and welcomed 12 students into the membership of Avon Lake United Church of Christ.

Three Inquirers' Classes for prospective new members were held in February, May and October. The staff really enjoys these opportunities to meet new people, introduce them to more of the church programs and facilities and find out about the faith journey that brought them to Avon Lake UCC. We welcomed 19 adults, representing 14 households, as new members in 2025.

Tim Schulz  
Director of Membership & Media

## OUTREACH AND CONNECTIONS COORDINATOR

This past year marked a meaningful season of transition with the arrival of our new pastor, Pastor Mark Pettis. We knew this was coming, and as always, our congregation did what we do best – and that is support him and support one another. As a membership team, our goal is to promote connection and fellowship among the congregation while welcoming and supporting our church community. In 2025, we took that seriously and wanted to make sure all felt welcome and heard during this adjustment period.

Our successful year is thanks to the tireless work of the 2025 Membership Team: Lynne Barth, Julie Burr, Jennie Calkins, Sheri Downey, Colleen Kane, Holly Kessler, Janet Kipple, Kendra Kumar, Lisa McElwain, Pam Omslaer, Kim Rose, Rob Turner, and Carol Zakel.

The membership team planned and held the below events for the 2025 year. All of them were well attended and our congregation seemed appreciative of the opportunities to attend them.

- Pastor Parties held at various members' houses. These were planned as a way for Pastor Mark and his family to get to know some members in a smaller group setting.
- Our July all church picnic continues to grow each year and exceed our expectations. It just keeps getting bigger and bigger every year with over 180 attendees.
- In July we were able to burn the church's mortgage at the Bouy's fire pit. The final payment was issued and the church no longer is paying monthly mortgage payments. This was a fun and new event to add to our agenda.
- Trunk-or-Treat in October was another hit this year with over 225 guests that walked our parking lot in festive costumes participating in the many decorated trunks and plenty of treats. This event, sponsored by Membership, Faith Formations, and Youth Ministries provides a welcoming environment for our surrounding community and neighbors and become familiar with our church grounds.
- And new this year was our December Christmas Cookie social where we collected gobs and gobs of homemade cookies (baked with love from our congregation), packaged them up and delivered to over 30 households including our homebound members and friends. This was a wonderful addition to our Membership program and helped many of our members feel a little extra love this past Christmas season.

In addition to the events above, our membership team also provides lots of little "extras" behind the scenes. Have you been able to enjoy the puzzle in the Courtyard Café? That

was us. We also help with refreshments for some of our special music concerts, inquirer's classes and of course coffee hours. We hope that these special touches allow our guests and members to feel a "welcome" that only ALUCC excels at. We really do strive to help out and go out of our way to make people feel at home here.

These are the moments we want people to remember. We want them to think back to how comfortable they felt when they leave one of our events and be one of the reasons they return to our church. We do enjoy putting on these events and want people to leave "wanting more". That is always a sign of having a good time.

As we reflect on a year of change, I hope it is one with gratitude for the past year and hope for our church's future as we continue moving forward together – faithful, committed and inspired to serve one another.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Rose and Holly Kessler

## **NEW MEMBERS**

We officially welcomed 19 adults to membership at Avon Lake United Church of Christ in 2025. We are happy that they have found a new home on their faith journey and look forward to active involvement in our church's ministry.

Mark Pettis	Elena Pettis Larssen	Julie Burr
David Burr	Paula Butkowski	Catherine Fox
Robert Fox	Leah McDermott	Matt McDermott
Amy Saggio	Mary Callesen	Katie Leininger
Dana Schnabel	Diane Grunick	Amanda Inman
Sara Steinman	David Martin	Jacob Baraona
Amber Baraona		

## **CONFIRMATION CLASS**

On Sunday, September 14, 2025, we welcomed 12 students with joy from our Confirmation Class into the membership of Avon Lake United Church of Christ.

Kyle Bracy	Ashley Cackowski	Janelle Coleman
Delaney Hamilton	Reid Judkins	Avery Lanigan
Marcus Lavriha	TJ LePrevost	Presley Martter
Krysta Perry	Ella Rose	William Triplett

## MISSION TEAM

In 2025, our church community enjoyed an outstanding year of philanthropy, made possible by the dedication of our Mission Team members, the generous contributions of our congregation, and the essential support from the Good Neighbor Thrift Shop. Together, we made a significant impact on many individuals in need within our community through various meaningful initiatives.

**Food Drive:** Our spring and fall food drives achieved remarkable success, raising over \$22,000 - a record amount. These funds supported eight of our Mission Partners in providing essential food, cleaning products, and personal hygiene items.

**Easter Offering:** Thank you to Pastor Mark and the congregation for their generosity; we added \$4,266.50 to the Mission Team's Emergency Fund.

### Emergency/Miscellaneous Fund Distributions:

- The Mission Team contributed \$5,000 to the US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) to assist refugee families as part of a goal to raise \$100,000, with an anonymous donor offering to match funds raised up to that amount.
- We also approved a \$5,000 donation to Hosanna Industries, which our church has worked with for over 20 years, to aid in recovery efforts from devastating floods in Welch, WV.
- A \$5,000 contribution was made to Honey from the Rock, an organization providing essentials to foster families, specifically for rent on storage space for donated items.
- The Living Water Association received a \$5,000 fund request, which was approved by the Mission Team, Thrift Shop, and Council.
- In response to a request from a Lorain City School social worker, we allocated \$500 to assist a scholarship recipient at Marshall University with school supplies.

**Easter Basket Donations:** In March, we collected and delivered 120 Easter baskets to CRS, spreading joy and support in our community. Additionally, the Mission Team purchased extra baskets for 19 families residing at Haven Center.

**Adult Mission Trip Support:** The Mission Team allocated \$500 from the Adult Missions budget to support the Heartland Conference's Disaster Response Team and \$1,500 for Maddie Kennedy's Mission Trip to Kenya, where she worked with orphaned children affected by AIDS.

**Cornhole Tournament Donation:** We donated a basket from Legacy for the Cornhole Tournament, promoting fun and fellowship while supporting our youth ministry program. Volunteers from Primary Purpose, one of the agencies we support, helped with this event.

**Good Knights Bedding Drive:** In July, we raised \$1,880 in donations and collected 5 blankets, 10 throws, 1 pillow, 65 sheet sets, 17 comforters, and 5 full sheet/comforter sets from our congregation.

**Giving Tree Program:** This year, the Giving Tree program provided 483 gifts to ALUCC families, The Villages/Road to Hope, Denison Avenue UCC, Mercy Resource Mothers, Haven Center, and St. Paul's UCC. We thank the congregation for stepping up and taking all the gift tags. The Mission Team also allocated \$1,000 for gift cards to Genesis House and purchased 44 gifts requested by Haven Center for 11 children, added at the last minute. A special acknowledgment goes to Marsha Wisser, who provided "Jammies" for all the children receiving gifts. Marsha has distributed over 6,000 "Jammies" since she started this initiative.

**Empty Bowls Event:** In October, we volunteered and contributed \$500 to the Empty Bowls event, which successfully raised \$28,500 for local beneficiaries.

**Mission Partner Mid-Year Contributions:** Thanks to the success of the Good Neighbor Thrift Shop, the Mission Team distributed additional mid-year contributions to various partners: \$4,500 each to Genesis House, St. Paul's UCC, CRS, Resource Mothers, Margeau's House (RTH), Primary Purpose, Haven Center, and Good Knights, along with \$4,000 to Second Harvest.

#### **Mission Partner Updates:**

- **Haven Center:** Received \$15,000 from the Good Neighbor year-end grant and \$4,500 from mid-year giving, with additional support directed towards essential items and children's welcome kits.
- **Genesis House:** Benefited from \$4,500 mid-year support, along with \$7,500 from the year-end grant, with an additional \$500 designated for essentials.
- **St. Paul's UCC:** Benefited \$4,500 from mid-year giving, which supported their utility assistance program, alongside a year-end grant of \$15,000, and additional funds for the same purpose. The Mission Team also donated \$500 to St. Paul's Harvesting Hope fundraiser in September.
- **Community Resource Services (CRS):** CRS received \$4,500 from mid-year giving and \$10,000 from the year-end grant; we also provided 100 snack bags and \$3,500 in gift cards for families to purchase Thanksgiving food, along with a \$1,000 emergency fund request.
- **Mercy Resource Mothers:** Resource Moms received a total of \$20,000, which included \$4,500 from mid-year giving, \$15,000 from the year-end grant, and \$500 for baby items.
- **Primary Purpose:** Primary Purpose used the \$4,500 from mid-year giving to improve the women's restroom. They also received \$15,000 from the year-end grant, plus \$500 for vacuums and other essentials.
- **Margeau's House/Road to Hope (Now Trinity House):** Margeau's House received \$15,000 from the year-end grant, \$500 on essential items, and \$4,500 on electrical and house repairs. They also received \$550 for toiletries and baby items.
- **Denison Avenue UCC:** Denison was added to the fall food drive in 2025, as well as receiving \$10,000 from the year-end grant, and \$550 for its food pantry.
- **Good Knights:** Good knights received \$4,500 for the mid-year giving, \$15,000 from the year-end grant, and \$1,050 for bedding/pillows.

- **Second Harvest:** Along with \$4,000 received from the mid-year giving and \$15,000 from the Good Neighbor Year-end Grant, the Mission Team organized 4 (quarterly) volunteer opportunities at Second Harvest.
- **Haven Center Dinners:** For the past 12 years, Mary Pease has organized and provided meals for Haven Center every third Saturday. She has managed this program almost single-handedly, even during the COVID pandemic, with the help of a few core volunteers. Mary has decided to "retire" from this program and certainly deserves a special thank you for her dedication. We also want to thank Heather Ferguson, who has taken on the leadership of this program and organized three teams of lead volunteers to ensure that it continues.

To further strengthen the relationship between the Mission Team and the agencies it supports, the Mission Team toured Haven Center and its newly opened wing, which includes a decontamination room, private rooms with bathrooms for families, ADA-accessible rooms, Margeau's House, and Good Knights' new facility in Elyria. Members of the Mission Team and other ALUCC members volunteered at Genesis House's Christmas with the Claus event. Volunteers helped serve breakfast, manage the Elf Shoppe, hand out gifts, assist at craft tables, and clean up. These experiences are both enriching and enlightening because of all the amazing work these agencies do to help those in need in our community. This is an initiative we plan to continue as a team.

None of this would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our Mission Team, the Good Neighbor Thrift Shop, and our congregation. Thank you for your unwavering support as we remain dedicated to expanding our reach and impact, continuously seeking new ways to serve our community with love and purpose.

2025 has been an extremely fulfilling year for our Mission Team, and we look forward to continuing to build on this momentum in the coming year. Together, let's continue making a lasting difference.

Sincerely,

Amy Malloy & Janice Bell  
Co-Leaders, Mission Team

## GOOD NEIGHBOR THRIFT SHOP

After a record sales year in 2024, we were hopeful for another strong year in 2025. 2025 exceeded our expectations! This was all thanks to our staff, volunteers, customers, and those that donate to our thrift shop. It is a true testament to our mission that our popularity continues to grow, which allows us to meet the increased needs of our community,

### 2025 highlights to share:

- Refurbished iPad was purchased to assist in home store checkouts during busy times.
- Volunteer get-togethers were introduced to allow for social gatherings outside the thrift shop, which were well attended and will continue in 2026.
- Front door was replaced in home store.
- Floor was repaired in home store, which was due to normal wear and tear.
- Christmas in July sale was held for first time and was very popular, generating \$2,000 in sales.
- \$40,000 mid-year giving was allocated for Mission Team to distribute.
- \$5,000 was authorized for miscellaneous mission requests. This streamlines the process for time-sensitive requests. Donations under \$1,000 will only need Thrift Shop Team approval. Donations of \$500 or less are at the discretion of Kristen LePrevost. This has been very helpful in meeting the increased needs in our community in a timely manner.
- Holiday Happy Hour was introduced for Thrift Shop volunteers and was well received. This replaced the Thanksgiving gathering with the goal of providing a festive event for volunteers without requesting their assistance in the event.
- Thrift Shop Team voted to increase yearly OCWM giving amount to \$54,000.
- Additional parking lot space was added for staff and customer overflow. At no cost to the Thrift Shop, this was a welcomed addition that creates much-needed parking for staff and volunteers and eases congestion of both parking lots.
- Elimination of returns began on January 1, 2026. This was a necessary policy change due to increased fraud with returns.
- Elimination of deadline on frequent shopper card rewards was also announced. This was a welcomed change among customers and staff/volunteers.
- Expansion into part of vacated lawyers space, effective January 1, 2026. The addition of this space allows for increased storage of backlog stock allowing for increased sales and less going directly to Simple Recycling, increased sale space on home side, creation of breakroom for staff and volunteers, and increased space to allow for more streamlined processing and volunteer space.
- 40 grant applications were received, with a total of \$265,500 distributed, which was an increase from \$175,000 from last year (please see below).

- Reorganization and repairs were completed during holiday break in expanded space and existing space.
- Volunteer recruitment in 2025 went well, including an increase in group volunteers. There continues to be a desire to have more church member's volunteer.
- New social media manager was hired.
- Addition of Sharon Parsons, Beth Yates, and Ellyn Nicholas to the Thrift Shop Team in 2026.

2025 revenue was \$918,300 compared to the profit in 2024 which was \$710,676, an increase of 29%.

2025 mission giving totaled \$440,588, an increase from \$321,357 given in 2024.

Please see Good Neighbor Thrift Shop 2025 Mission Giving Report for 2025's grant recipients.

We continue to adjust and improve the experience for both customers, staff, and volunteers. We look forward to another successful year in 2026!

Jen Miller  
GNTS Chair

## FINANCE TEAM

The 2025 Finance Team was comprised of the following church members: Ray Salco, Chris Steinman, Bruce Stevens, Alison Hawkinson, Tom Clark, Andrew Boudon, and Tim Penton. (also non-voting team members – Sandi Gerhan, Walt Henry, and Kelly Smolik)

The primary responsibility of the Finance Team is to oversee the financial resources of the Church through 1) monthly monitoring of financial reporting; 2) management of the annual giving campaign; and 3) development of the Church's annual budget.

The 2025 fiscal year ended in a positive position. The general fund will begin the new year with a \$73K cash balance. The 2025 budget was presented to the congregation in January 2025 as an unbalanced budget showing a deficit amount of (\$90K). A plan was put in place to cover the deficit with the 2024 carry-over amount of \$26K and the use of one-time “other fund” balances. In February 2025 the Church received a \$131K bequest from the Shelley Marsh Estate. Council voted to use \$31K of this gift for 2025 wage increases. (Increases had been omitted from the original 2025 budget). In the month of May, Council voted to combine the remaining \$100K gift with the ERC fund (\$82K), the Morningstar fund (\$17K), and the Legacy fund balance (\$15K) to pay off the church mortgage balance of \$214K. This action reduced the general fund deficit amount by \$40K by eliminating seven months (June – December 2025) of mortgage payments. Total general fund expenses for 2025 came in under budget by \$36K. Some additional, unplanned giving helped close the remaining deficit gap and we ended the year in a positive cash position.

The 2026 budget continues to be impacted by the decline in estimated pledged giving that we first saw in the 2025 budget cycle. This year, the total general fund budget deficit amount is (\$103K). We will use \$38K of 2025 carry-over funds to help offset this deficit. In addition, we will use identified, one-time “other fund” balances that we did not use in 2025 to cover this projected deficit. There is always hope that the actual 2026 giving amounts will exceed estimates and help to close the deficit gap.

Throughout the pandemic and post-pandemic years, our contribution income has maintained but has not grown in proportion to pre-pandemic levels (i.e. it has flattened out). The year of transitioning our senior pastor, we experienced a one-time decline in pledges of (\$100K). Meanwhile, our operating expenses increase annually and the need for capital asset repairs (i.e. gas/waterline repairs, HVAC replacements, parking lot repaving) continues to persist. We have been blessed, and all of our current financial needs have been met. It is a challenging job to manage the budget within these existing financial constraints. The discussion about budget sustainability in future years will be ongoing among church leadership.

In May of 2025, the trustees sold the vacant building lot on Rt. 83. The sale netted the Church \$70K. These funds have been earmarked for use by the trustees for future capital improvement needs.

The Finance Team wishes to thank the Church Members for their continued strong support of the Church's mission through their donations and offerings. In addition, we give special thanks to Kelly Smolik, Sandi Gerhan, and Walt Henry for their assistance and guidance for all that was accomplished this past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Penton, Finance Team Chair

## **FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

In what has been categorized as a transition year for the church, I am humbled by the generosity of the congregation in the face of change. Although not without its challenges, 2025 turned out to be what I would say was a better-than-expected year.

In 2025 Pledge and Offering Income totaled \$928,474 ahead of what was budgeted, but down 2% from a year ago. Although giving was ahead of plan, the trend is slightly disconcerting as contributions have been flat to slightly down over the last several years. Not totally unexpected as we exited a global pandemic and welcomed a new Senior Pastor to the church. That said, inflation remains persistent and the church is not immune to these cost pressures. On a more positive note, contributions gained momentum in the second half of 2025, exceeding expectations by 14% and expenses were well controlled throughout the year.

Total Revenue in 2025 was \$1,360,481, which exceeded plan by 5%, primarily due to stronger than expected congregational giving. Adjusting for one-time items net income was modestly positive for the year, up more than 2%, helped by the previously mentioned contributions and continued excellent expense management.

In a milestone event, the church paid off its mortgage in mid-2025. Funds raised in the previous year through the Legacy Fund were used to pay down the mortgage, putting a payoff within reach. Early in 2025 a significant bequest from the Shelley Marsh estate was received by the church. This bequest coupled with memorial gifts from Thelma Morningstar; additional Legacy Fund income and other unrestricted monies provided the funds necessary to pay off the mortgage. This will eliminate the annual mortgage expense which totaled \$85,545 in 2024.

The year also saw the sale of a parcel of ALUCC-owned property, often referred to as "The Route 83 Property". The proceeds of \$70,565 were put into a capital reserve account that will be used by the Trustees, over time, for much needed capital related projects (i.e., HVAC, Sound System...).

Thank you for your financial gifts to the church, your continued giving is what allows for amazing and uncompromised programming and makes the Avon Lake United Church of Christ such a welcoming community. If you haven't pledged and see it in your hearts to do so, please consider giving as it will help the church sustain and grow well into the future.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter J. Henry

Financial Secretary

## TRUSTEES

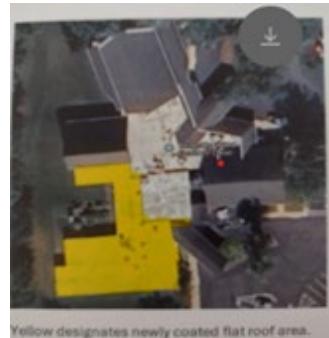
It is a privilege and honor to serve as Co-Chair of the Trustees' Team alongside Derek Harley. We have worked our very best as partners together on this journey. I'm grateful for the working relationship that Derek and I have and the friendship we have built together on this team. We would like to thank the following servants that give their time and talent so generously: Ryan Dietz, Ken Hawkinson, Russ Henderson, Dean Henrichsen, Erik Kramhoeller, Kim Kramhoeller, Joe Peachman, Meg Reinking, Paul Rubin, Mark Spaetzl, Dave Updegraff and Larry Bowersox (Adjunct). We would like to welcome our new incoming member, Leslie McNutt.

The Trustees are responsible for the care and maintenance of the buildings and grounds. Our team provides oversight of the operating expenses and capital improvement projects. (The 2025 Operating Budget was \$163,930) Our mission is to provide a safe and comfortable environment for staff, church family and the community that visits our church. The Trustees would like to extend a special thank you to those individuals who go above and beyond in giving of their time and talent to the church. We would like to thank Kelly Smolik for her support and expertise on the budget and projects. We would also like to thank Angela Oleksiak for her support throughout the year and her expertise on the sale of the Rt 83 property. Thank you to TJ Frie for his outstanding care of our buildings, serving as the facility manager. Much appreciation to Diane Velez for outstanding work in keeping our church clean and welcoming and always looking it's very best! Another thanks, to John Braun, Safety Director, and Tom Coy for the care of our HVAC systems. A huge thank you to all the other volunteers that participate in projects throughout the year.

### **2025 Projects/Work – Facilities** (report submitted by TJ Frie, Facilities Manager)

Besides the day-to-day maintenance and repairs, the following is a partial list of large and smaller projects completed throughout the facilities in 2025:

- The parking lot was sealed and striped by Surface Engineering.
- Recoated sections of the flat roof above the Parish Nurse's Office, choir room, West restrooms, hallway, and Ed Wing. (reference picture included)
- Cleaned Sanctuary front prow window using manlift and pressure sprayer (special thank you to Paul Rubin). Additionally, cleaned East side upper windows of sanctuary, gutter and trim.
- Re-stained the Buoy deck and railings.
- Replaced front entrance door closure.
- repainted old TV room and installed shelving.
- Replaced church entrance carpet runners.
- Replaced all back up batteries in the church and Bouy fire alarm panels.
- Installed kitchen dishwasher under counter and made functional.
- Replaced blower motor in office on the roof top unit, per recommendation by Tom Coy.



Yellow designates newly coated flat roof area.

TJ continues to supervise Road to Hope volunteers on Thursday afternoons for one to two hours when they come to help with projects.

## **2025 Projects/Work – Landscaping and Grounds**

(Report submitted by CJ Jasany, Grounds Manager)

**Memorial Garden** – The regular care and maintenance for the Memorial Garden continues as always throughout the year. Please see the Memorial Garden Report for more details.

**Tree Maintenance** - The oversight of the mighty Oaks and other trees on the grounds is of utmost importance. Arborist, Al Hopp, and I walked the grounds to assess the condition of the trees every year. This year, two trees were removed by the front entry for safety concerns. I continue to plant trees throughout the property to add value and beautify our grounds. Several of the trees planted were in memory of loved ones (see Memorial Garden report for listing).

**Landscaping Projects** – New plant material was installed along the Buoy deck. A tree was planted in memory of Nate's grandmother. Areas throughout the property have been designated as 'Natural Tall Grass' areas with installed bird houses to provide shelter and nesting spots for wildlife. Regular ground maintenance continues throughout the year which includes mowing, edging, trimming, fertilizing, weeding, and mulching. Snow removal was provided by DATKO during our Winter months.

**Backwoods Property** – Recovery in Progress. I'm happy to report that after several years working to restore (re-wild) the backwoods to its natural state, the project is complete. This year, Al Hopp, certified Arborist from *Out On A Limb Tree Service*, completed the final phase of chipping/mulching of the large piles of debris throughout the backwoods. It is now time for the woods to rest, heal and recover. We are so fortunate to have this amazing space on our church property. The Backwoods Committee will continue to meet in the future to collaborate on the state and continued progress of the woods.

**Property Brothers Crew** – Thank you to all those brothers and sisters who serve on the property crew. I'm so grateful for this amazing team of servants who give of their time tirelessly and in ALL kinds of weather! Thank you specifically to Paul Burick, Lisa Godfrey, Ken Hawkinson, Diana Jancura and her dog Tripp, Leslie McNutt, Bob and Lynn Miller, Meg Reinking, Jim Tanzilli, Barb and Hal Wherley, Linda White, Mary Wright and her son Christian Van Buren. Another big thank you to Nate and the youth group and their mentors, to TJ Frie and the Road to Hope volunteers who help throughout the year. A big shout out to Alex Schulz, a youth group grounds technician, that has been a great help to me for the past two years. He never complains, always is pleasant and does outstanding work!



**Bouy Maintenance Update** – Derek and I met with Nate and teamed up to review the overall maintenance of the Bouy. Nate provided a ‘wish list’ of items to be addressed. A few items have been completed, including the re-staining of the Bouy deck (thank you TJ Frie). Trustees have started ordering replacement carpeting for the downstairs space. Thank you, Dean Henrichsen, for volunteering to spruce up the walls with new paint in the coming year! The grounds and landscaping always continue to be a priority for me as well. The other items will be tackled in 2026.

### **Other Accomplishments for 2025** (Report Submitted by Derek Harley)

This year, Trustees completed the sale of the Route 83 property, a project that began in 2023. The process for ‘splitting’ the parcel from ALUCC’s main property was completed in December 2024 and the deed for the new (split) parcel was recorded with Lorain County on January 7, 2025. Shortly thereafter, we engaged Angela Oleksiak as our real estate agent and began preparing the property for sale, including retaining the services of *Out On A Limb Tree Service* to clear brush from the property.

Angela listed the parcel for sale on March 13, 2025, for \$75,000. We received an offer very shortly after listing, however, closing took until May because of complications with the mortgage on the main property. Specifically, the church’s mortgage held by Huntington Bank, was attached to the newly split parcel, and church staff had difficulty getting the bank to release it. Ultimately, to facilitate the sale and help balance the 2025 general fund budget, Council voted to pay off the remaining mortgage balance. The property finally sold on May 23, 2025, for \$77,500, approximately 3% over asking price, providing \$70,564 (after closing costs and fees) to be set aside in a Capital Reserve Fund for use by Trustees for priority projects and improvements at ALUCC.

The Trustee’s team looks forward to all that we can accomplish in 2026 as we work together in fellowship for the good of the church. We are grateful for the Capital Reserve Fund from the sale of the Route 83 property and are now preparing plans for future renovations for the church. We would like to also thank Pastor Mark and John Rice, for all their support this past year.

**1 Peter 4:10** “*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in various forms.*”

Respectfully Submitted by,

CJ Jasany and Derek Harley – Trustee Team Co-Chairmen

## **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

2025 was a big year in the life of our church as Pastor Mark joined us as our Senior Minister. When a pastoral transition occurs, there are many tasks delegated to various committees. The Personnel Committee was devoted to supporting all of our staff, including Pastor Mark, during this transition. As they always have, our staff worked together to welcome Pastor Mark and help him learn many of the traditions of our church. The months passed quickly in 2025. Other than this major change, it was an uneventful year for the Personnel Committee, thanks to our incredibly professional and hardworking staff members.

Like we do every year, the Personnel Committee will be conducting end-of-the-year meetings with staff members. For 2025, we are doing this in late January and early February, a bit later than usual, so that we can gather all necessary feedback from the congregation and staff after almost a full year with Pastor Mark leading our church.

The transition from 2025 to 2026 brought some changes in the Personnel Committee as well. After years of leading this committee, I am stepping down and leaving the Committee in the very capable hands of Tom Coy. Jeff Omslaer is also stepping down after many years of service. We are so grateful to the new members who are enthusiastically joining in 2026 - Deborah Bracy, Meghan Burmeister, and Colleen Kane.

I have loved serving our church and staff in this role and am incredibly grateful for my relationships with our staff. It has been a privilege to serve alongside each of the other Committee members as well.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Harley, Tom Coy, Bonnie Fraser, Phil Johnson, and Jeff Omslaer.

## MEMORIAL GARDEN

Of all our outdoor spaces on the church grounds, my favorite is the Memorial Garden. This incredible outdoor sanctuary is in our own backyard and is a sacred space where memorial services are officiated and ashes of loved ones are scattered throughout the garden. It also provides an opportunity for prayer, for meditation and to be outdoors with nature. There are pathways and benches, and a water feature and even Corinthian Wind Chimes. There are beautiful trees planted in memory of loved ones: There are Birch Trees, Evergreens, and Red Bud Trees. We have butterfly bushes in a designated butterfly area as well. I invite you to come and enjoy the wildlife, the playful sounds of chickadees as they flutter from tree to tree, or to listen to the serene rhythm of the water from the fountain. There are bird houses and bird feeders and so much wildlife to enjoy. This garden has been designated as a Certified Wildlife Habitat, as it provides food, water and shelter for all critters. We follow organic principles which mean we avoid synthetic chemicals and use natural practices to protect the environment. We have our very own nature preserve - Right here at church!



Thank you to those many volunteers who spent countless hours helping care for the garden: Jim Tanzilli, Mary Wright, Linda White, Paul Burik, Leslie McNutt, Ken Hawkinson, Diana Jancura, Meg Reinking, Barb and Hal Wherley and Alex Schulz. It is a great pleasure to work alongside my fellow committee members Margie Fehlner, Leslie McNutt and Jim Tanzilli.

One of the most important responsibilities of overseeing the Memorial Garden is to ensure that the space is aesthetically pleasing before each memorial service. Of all the years I have cared for the garden, this year, I personally experienced the scattering of ashes of a loved one. The scattering of my brother's ashes was a very powerful moment for me, and I too am now forever grateful for this lovely sacred space

### The names of those whose ashes were scattered in 2025:

**Scott Coy, Patricia (Patty) Greene, Edward Michael Jasany, Anne Long**

### Gifts donated in 2025:

- A bench was donated in memory of Brody and Brinkley, beloved pups of CJ and Teri Ann Jasany.
- A bench was donated from the Memorial Garden Committee in honor of Margie Fehlner, a long-time supporter and committee member of the Memorial Garden.
- A Weeping Crabapple tree was planted in loving memory of George Fehlner, from his wife Margie.

- Miscellaneous shrubs and perennials, including a burning bush, were donated by Margie Fehlner.
- Please note: Additional trees, in memory of loved ones, were also planted on the church grounds outside of the garden. A Paper Maple Tree was planted at the Buoy in memory of Nate Taylor's grandmother, Lois Taylor. Two October Glory Maple Trees were planted, one in memory of Elizabeth Cooper, mother of Phil (Laurie) Cooper, and another planted in memory of William (Bill) Parsons (Sharon) and were donated from Gary Loar and Chow- Meng Loar. Two Butterfly bushes were planted in the Café Courtyard, donated by Diana Jancura.

***The memorial garden committee is grateful for the monetary donations that help us maintain the garden.*** This year, along with the regular maintenance of the garden, which includes weeding, mulching, fertilization, etc., the Memorial Garden pathways were power washed by Paul Rubin. Thank you, Paul! If you would like to donate to the Memorial Garden Fund or discuss Pre-Planning, please see Rev. Mark Pettis or Rev. Beau Dansizen or Margie Fehlner. If you are interested in volunteering to help maintain the garden, please see CJ Jasany.

### ***Tree Therapy:***

*Consult a tree, sit at its base,  
 place a hand on its trunk,  
 breathe a slow pace. Imagine  
 being this tree, steady and  
 strong with roots deeply planted  
 and incredibly long. Grounded  
 and firm you would feel in  
 yourself, settled and calm, your  
 mind in good health. Remind  
 yourself of being a tree,  
 when you feel your emotions  
 lifting you from your feet.*

*~ Author Unknown*

Respectfully Submitted by C.J. Jasany, Chairman

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2026 ELECTIVE POSITIONS**

The following 2026 slate of dedicated individuals consenting to serve as officers, council delegates, team or committee members, or delegates to the Heartland Conference or Living Waters Association for the Avon Lake United Church of Christ is presented by the Nominating Committee:

### **OFFICERS**

Moderator	John Rice (2025)
Church Clerk	Zoe Cummings (2022)
Treasurer	Sandi Gerhan (2020)
Financial Secretary	Walt Henry (2024)

### **COUNCIL DELEGATES**

Jill Camp (2025)	Jim Stobe (2025)
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### **FAITH FORMATION \*Chair**

Pitt Curtiss (2026)	Beau Dansizen (ex officio)	Ann Hasenstaub (2024)
Rosemary Keener (2026)	Amanda Lavriha (2024)	Ellyn Lykins (2026)
Shannon Meadows (2026)	Beth Rollins* (2024)	Chris Rollins (2024)
Sara Steinman (2026)	Renee White (2024)	Eileen Zakel (ex officio)

### **FINANCE TEAM \*Chair**

Sharon Benhringer (2026)	Andrew Boudon (2024)	Tom Clark (2024)
Alison Hawkinson (2024)	Tim Penton* (2022)	Ray Salco (2018)
Chris Steinman (2022)	Bruce Stevens (2022)	

### **MEMBERSHIP TEAM \*Chair**

Lynne Barth (2020)	Julie Burr (2025)	Jennie Calkins (2023)
Sheri Downing (2025)	Maureen Johnson (2026)	Colleen Kane (2024)
Holly Kessler (2024)*	Janet Kipple (2025)	Kendra Kumar (2023)
Lisa McElwain (2025)	Pam Omslaer (2023)	Kim Rose (2020 ex officio)
Adjuncts: Rob Turner (2016/adjunct 2026), Carol Zakel (2023)		

### **MISSION TEAM \*Co-Chairs**

Janice Bell* (2020)	Kevin Bracy (2026)	John Dmochowsky
Connie Dmockowsky	Candy General (2016)	Kathy Kamps (2024)
Toni Lecorchick (2025)	Amy Malloy* (2023)	Lynn Miller (2023)
Colleen Minnich (2025)	Joyce Olson (2023)	Mikhaila Rice (2025)
Nancy Sharbaugh (2025)	Carol Singleton (2026)	Marilyn Sommer (2026)
Sid Stech (2023)	Cheryl Updegraff (2014)	Jamie Wise (2024)
Adjuncts: Carol Chawansky (2026), Karen Francy (2023), Elaine Newlin (2018/adjunct 2026), Eric Olson (2023), Kurt Zbin (2022)		

### **TRUSTEES \*Co-Chairs**

Ryan Dietz (2022)	Derek Harley* (2020)	Ken Hawkinson (2025)
Russ Henderson (2012)	Dean Henrichsen (2003)	CJ Jasany* (2012)
Kim Kramhoeller (2023)	Leslie McNutt (2026)	Joe Peachman (2023)

Meg Reinking (2025)  
Dave Updegraff (2001)

#### Trustees continued

Paul Ruben (2012)

Mark Spaetzl (2023)

Lisa Boehm (2026)  
Jamie Clemons\* (2020)  
Gary DeMars (2018)  
Sandy Garrett (2014)  
Janice Hamilton (2026)  
Adjunct: Cathy Harvey (1999), Dinah Hunt (2014)

#### WORSHIP TEAM \*Chair

Jennifer Braun (2025)  
Cindi Dansizen (2019)  
Beth Garrett (2023)  
Diane Graves (2024)  
Gail Salco (2018)

Fran Burik (2025)  
Debbie DeMars (2018)  
Dale Garrett (2023)  
Tom Hamilton (2026)  
Cameron Taylor (2024)

Christine Carr (2022)  
Paul Dunford (2021)  
Kristen LePrevost (2021)  
Ellyn Nicholas (2026)  
Lou Stark (2024)

#### THRIFT SHOP TEAM \*Chair

Bill Cowles (2021)  
Beth Gee (2024)  
Jen Miller\* (2024)  
Sharon Parsons (2026)  
Cheryl Updegraff (2023)

Sandy Drickhamer (2021)  
Candy General (2025)  
Scot McNutt (2021)  
Chris Peachman (2022)  
Beth Yates (2026)

William Calkins (JH)\*  
Tyler Andrews (JH)  
Mackenzie Andrews (JH)  
Dan Walther (JH)  
Jen Buck (SH)  
Maddie Stiles (SH)  
Gabbie Sterling (SH)  
Regan Pore

#### YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM

Nate Taylor (ALL)  
Chris Gee (JH)  
Christine Rotar (JH)  
Evan Taylor (SH)  
Beth Gee (SH)  
Isaac Rice (SH)  
Amy Nasr (Confirm.)

Stephanie Harley (JH)  
Rachel Young (JH)  
Sara Steinman (JH)  
Jasin Kessler (SH)  
John Braun (SH)  
Jim Stobe (SH)  
Chris Steinman (Confirm.)

Deborah Bracy (2026)  
Bonnie Fraser (2017)

#### PERSONNEL COMMITTEE \*Chair

Meighan Burmeister (2026)  
Phil Johnson (2019)

Tom Coy\* (2019)  
Colleen Kane (2026)

Doug Gates (2024)  
Scott MacDonald\* (2022)

#### ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE \*Co-Chairs

Gary Loar (2025)  
Scot McNutt (2025)

Shelley MacDonald\* (2022)  
Bruce Stevens (2022)

Paul Dunford (2014)  
Beth Gee (2022)  
Chip Minnich (2025)  
Jana Peachman (2022)

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE \*Chair

Heather Ferguson (2024)  
Kevin Kane (2024)  
Amy Nasr\* (2022)

Linda Gates (2025)  
Margie Kaufman (2025)  
Ron Pallinger (2004)

#### HEARTLAND CONFERENCE

Judy Reich (1988-89; 2016-present)

Judy Reich (2005)

#### LIVING WATERS ASSOCIATION

Doug Rider (2008)

Sandy Rider (2008)

## **ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE**

The Avon Lake UCC Endowment is a long-term fund used to support mission and ministry while at the same time ensuring that the church is here for future generations. The fund is invested in a diversified portfolio of financial securities principally consisting of stocks and bonds. The unrestricted income is distributed regularly and is used to support church, member and community needs. The endowment is managed by an outside independent investment manager (Sequoia Financial Group) and is overseen by the church endowment fund committee.

The endowment fund committee meets quarterly, or on an as needed basis, to monitor the fund's investments as well as oversee the general health of the endowment. Committee members have a fiduciary responsibility which includes, but is not limited to, acting in good faith, giving reasonable effort in understanding the fund's investments and respecting the mission of the church.

The committee also has the responsibility of keeping Church Council and the congregation informed on endowment actions, including investments, distributions and other relevant activities.

Gifts are assigned as either unrestricted or restricted depending on the wishes of the donor. These categories are defined as follows:

1. Unrestricted Gifts: Both the principal and interest may be spent for general church needs as determined by Church Council and/or a membership meeting.
2. Restricted Gifts: Both the principal and interest must be spent as specified by the donor.

Unless absolutely necessary, it is the intention of the committee to preserve the principal over the long run and only distribute income.

With 2025 being another strong year in the markets, the Avon Lake UCC Endowment Fund ended the year with \$1,257,615 in assets. This was an increase from the 2024 year-end level of \$1,097,383.

The Fund's performance tracked solidly against its benchmark, the 60/40 MSCI ACWI Investable Net/Bloomberg US Aggregate Index. The benchmark was up 16.2% in 2025 while the Fund's investments were up 14.6% (net of fees).

The endowment fund is diversified across various investment classes (stocks, bonds and cash), styles (growth and value), size (large, mid and small) and geographies (domestic and international). This diversification is a mainstay of the endowment's investment strategy as it helps reduce volatility while providing competitive long-term returns. The funds' asset allocation ended the year with 57% in stocks, 37% in bonds and 6% in cash.

The total outflows from the fund in 2025 were \$39,923; \$31,032 in quarterly transfers back to the church and \$8,891 in advisory fees paid to our investment manager.

The committee distributed 5% of the fund's unrestricted average assets back to the church. These funds were used to cover operating expenses through the General Fund and to help pay down the principal on the mortgage.

Sequoia attended two quarterly endowment committee meetings to provide their market insights and views.

We were pleased to receive two gifts to the fund this year. Thank you to the Valerie and James Tanzilli Endowment for their \$15,000 gift which will support future capital projects and to Patricia Belcastro for her \$15,500 gift which will support church staff education.

2025 Endowment Committee members were Shelley and Scott MacDonald (co-chairpersons), Bruce Stevens, Doug Gates, Scot McNutt, and Gary Loar.

Respectfully submitted,  
Scott and Shelley MacDonald

## MAJOR ENDOWMENT FUND GIFTS

**George and Edith Featherstone** - The Featherstone's were close to the life of this church over many years, Edith especially being active in a Discovery Group. They first met in a church youth group in Cleveland and always had an interest in Christian youth programs. George died in 1974 and Edith in 1977.

**Eda Weilemann** - Following the death of her mother, this church became Eda's "family". She simply loved to worship, volunteer, and fellowship with us. She planned for her estate to be used by the church following her own death to meet the challenges of our new building and program. Income from her bequest has greatly helped our Building Expansion.

**Ella Handy** - Once a librarian, Ella's interest came to be in the Avon Lake Historical Society and the establishment of the Peter Miller House. Ella was a friend of this church over many years.

**Eva M. Dickson** - Eva and Neil ("Dick") lived in Bay Village but worshipped here when they were not in Florida. Both had the gift of humor and friendship and some of their closest friends were young people.

**Quentin and Jean Cahill** - Both devoted to this church over many years. This gift was designated to the Music Endowment account in accordance with their own wishes. Each waged a valiant struggle with cancer, and their courage inspired us all.

**Paul and Lillian Folino** - Paul was the beloved pastor of this church from 1947 to 1963 and Lillian was a leader in our Christian Education program. The endowment represents love gifts from many members and friends.

**William McKinley, Megan McKinley, Neil Conant** - This gift memorializes William McKinley, a sports enthusiast who established a company his family now continues; his granddaughter, Megan, who died as an infant, blessing her family with immeasurable love; and Neil Conant, a leader in our parish who struggled over many years with a rare disease, teaching us both how to live and how to die as a Christian.

**Katherine Walker** - The devoted wife of Ernest, mother of Lain and Fiona, and grandmother of Joshua. Katherine was active in our church, particularly in the library. Her quiet but warm and caring love is now memorialized in the full support of the church's Stephen Ministry program.

**John Watterson** - John was a technician in the B.F. Goodrich Chemical Company and a long-time faithful member of the church, particularly in the Men's Breakfast fellowship, but he and his wife Charlene, came to enjoy attending the Saturday Vespers. He is also survived by a son, John, and a daughter, Terry Holstein.

**Melinda C. Neuenschwander** - Melinda had been the church organist for many years. She retired in 1964 and moved to Eugene, Oregon, where she lived until she passed away in 1990 at the age of 102.

**Helen (Nazel) Krumwiede** - Helen was active in our church over many years, providing leadership especially in our Discovery Groups and with the Women's League and Golden Agers. She enjoyed writing poetry and often led devotions for various church groups. Though she suffered a severe hearing loss, her church loyalty and attendance were sustained always.

**Vera C. and Edwin Mast** - Vera and Ed were loyal members of this church since joining in 1949. Both were quite active and supported many church projects over the years (often anonymously!). Vera was a leader of the Career Women, a group of Women's Leagues made up of business and professional women. One of her hobbies was taking homemade goodies to people who were sick or shut-in. Ed's many involvements included participating as a Deacon and a Trustee and serving on committees such as the Debt Retirement, Personnel and Planning Committees. The Mast's were always interested in the expansion and beautification of our sanctuary.

**Robert S. Luce** - Bo's interest included boating, fishing, transportation - a love which he pursued as a career in the car rental business - and servicing the needs of others. Even during the last months of his illness, the biggest joy was found in sending gifts to friends. Bo is affectionately remembered by all who knew him for his charisma, warmth of friendship, compassion, genuine spirit of caring and concern for the well-being of others.

**Deborah L. Darnell** – Debbie was a young woman who loved children, people, her church and life. She was everyone's best friend because she cared for them. Her love of nature, reading and quiet moments led to the desire of establishing a fund to support the Memorial Garden for the benefit of our church members and the community.

**Ruth Dobosy** – Ruth was an active member in our church from the time she joined on December 18, 1949 until she passed away in 2005. She served on many boards and committees and was active in the Women's League over the years and was Moderator in 1975 and 1976. She was also active in PTA and served as PTA Council President in 1965-1967.

**Nancy Bower** – Nancy was an active member from the time she joined the church in 1982. She served on the Board of Christian Education and the Board of Deacons. She was a psychiatric social worker at Community Health Partners.

**David and Sandy Dibbell** – Dave and Sandy have been long standing members of our church. They have both been very active. Dave as a past Moderator and is currently serving as Financial Secretary. The Dibbell's are the first active members to make an Endowment gift in a long time. We are hoping that other active members will follow their lead. Their gift will be the Bailey-Dibbell named fund, as a way to honor their family, including Sandy's mother, Alice Bailey.

**Richard Turner** – Richard Turner was an active and committed member of the church from the time he joined in 1958 until the day he died in 2017. He served as Moderator, Stephen Minister, and on countless boards and teams. He left money to the church in his estate for the Endowment Fund and also for our music ministry which he loved and appreciated.

**Thomas and Isabelle (Isy) Beal** – Tom and Isy were longtime active members of the church. Tom was a devoted member of the choir. Their gift supports the music ministry of the church.

**Bob Marimon** – Bob was an active 70-year member of the church and a former Moderator. His unrestricted gift to the Endowment Fund will help support ministry and mission.

**Don and Mimi Cruse** – Don and Mimi were not active members of the church long, but they loved Avon Lake UCC and especially its inclusive ministry. Their unrestricted gift to the Endowment Fund will help support ministry and mission.

**Patricia Belcastro** – Patricia joined the church in 2020. She has been an active participant of Wednesday morning Bible Study group and our monthly Haven Center Dinner prep team. Proceeds from Patricia's endowment will help support continuing education for church staff.

**Valerie and James Tanzilli Endowment** – Jim and Valerie are long-time active members of the church, having joined in 1971. Valerie worked in the church office as the Church Secretary/Administrative Assistant. She has served on various boards like Christian Education and has contributed her talents for many years to the Bell Choir. Jim is a former Moderator and served on various boards. Their restricted gift will be used to support future capital projects.

**Pete and Lynne Barth Endowment, in honor of the ministry of the Rev. Dr. Kelly Brill** - Lynne has served in different capacities and is active in the Primetimers group. Pete was heavily involved with the Mission Team, Men's Ministry, and the Thrift Shop. The income from this unrestricted gift will be used to support the General Fund of the church.

<b>Avon Lake United Church of Christ</b>	
<b>Balance Sheet - Church</b>	
<u>Accounts</u>	<u>Year End Balances</u>
	<u>2025</u>
<b>Assets</b>	
<b>Cash Assets</b>	
Church Checking	55,894.01
Petty Cash	169.28
Sweep Money Market Account	109,002.82
Vanguard MM Fund	409,782.25
<b>Total Cash Assets</b>	<b>574,848.36</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Pre-Paid Expenses	10,744.71
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>10,744.71</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
Building-Church	3,052,000.00
Land	186,240.00
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>3,238,240.00</b>
<b>Endowment</b>	
Endowment	1,257,615.00
<b>Total Endowment</b>	<b>1,257,615.00</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>5,081,448.07</b>
<b>Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Accounts Payable	650.00
Credit Cards	
Citi Bank	3,223.04
Lowes Credit	188.24
US Bank	2,952.23
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>7,013.51</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	
<b>Operating Funds</b>	
General Fund - Church	126,190.00
<b>Total Operating Funds</b>	<b>126,190.00</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Funds</b>	
Capital Improvement Funds	27,178.07
Capital Improvement Funds Family Room Re	2,697.92
Capital Improvement Funds Music Wing	812.64
Capital Improvement Funds Restrooms	31,514.39
<b>Total Capital Improvement Funds</b>	<b>62,203.02</b>
<b>Memorial Funds</b>	
Flynn Memorial Fund-Cap Improvement	8,500.00
Memorial Funds	6,262.14
Memorial Funds Music	4,968.80
Memorial Garden Fund	1,999.44
Morningstar Memorial Fund-Transition Costs	2,500.00
<b>Total Memorial Funds</b>	<b>24,230.38</b>

Report continued on next page

<b>Pastoral Funds</b>	
Pastoral Emergency Fund	32,173.76
Stephen Ministry Fund	5,420.04
<b>Total Pastoral Funds</b>	<b>37,593.80</b>
<b>Faith Formation Funds</b>	
Children's Ministry Fund	13,593.10
Mission 101 Fund	500.00
<b>Total Faith Formation Funds</b>	<b>14,093.10</b>
<b>Music Funds</b>	
Music Concert Series Fund	17,758.95
<b>Total Music Funds</b>	<b>17,758.95</b>
<b>Tech &amp; Media Funds</b>	
Tech & Media Fund	4,345.99
<b>Total Tech &amp; Media Funds</b>	<b>4,345.99</b>
<b>Youth Ministry Funds</b>	
Jr High Service Trip Fund	8,161.95
Sportscamp Fund Cap Imp Camp	6,149.20
Sr High Service Trip Fund	28,058.37
Sr High Service Trip Fund Cornhole	5,308.71
Summer Camp Fund Camp Incentive	6,964.60
Summer Camp Fund Euchre	316.35
Summer Camp Fund Golf Outing	5,686.64
Summer Camp Fund Washington UCC	559.36
Youth Fund	12,281.48
Youth Fund Adult Mission T	20.35
Youth Fund Mission Scholar	6,332.48
Youth Fund Pop	853.52
<b>Total Ministry Youth Funds</b>	<b>80,693.01</b>
<b>Mission Funds</b>	
Food Drive Fund	813.56
<b>Total Mission Funds</b>	<b>813.56</b>
<b>Reserve Funds</b>	
Capital Reserve Fund	70,564.45
Cash Reserves	140,093.30
<b>Total Reserve Funds</b>	<b>210,657.75</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	
Endowment Fund	1,257,615.00
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>1,257,615.00</b>
<b>Owner's Equity</b>	
Owner's Equity	3,238,240.00
<b>Total Owner's Equity</b>	<b>3,238,240.00</b>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>5,074,434.56</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>5,081,448.07</b>

Avon Lake United Church of Christ Summary Statement of Activities - Church - General Fund			
<u>Accounts</u>	<u>Actual 2025</u>	<u>Budget 2025</u>	<u>Budget 2026</u>
<b>Revenue</b>			
Capital Reserve Income	31,145.78	31,145.78	-
Operating Income - Contributions & Offerings	928,474.41	861,000.00	870,000.00
Miscellaneous Income	94,998.93	91,664.45	21,100.00
Interest Income	15,195.26	12,512.00	12,012.00
Pastoral Income	8,910.00	13,050.00	103.33
Worship Income	4,712.70	4,000.00	3,200.00
Faith Formation Income	3,609.50	3,000.00	3,000.00
Youth Program Income	6,791.00	8,550.00	7,500.00
Membership & Outreach Income	40.00	1,500.00	1.11
Mission Income	2,105.00	1,700.00	3.33
Endowment Income	42,119.50	42,508.78	41,400.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>1,138,102.08</b>	<b>1,070,631.01</b>	<b>958,319.77</b>
Other Fund Transfers*	222,378.79	219,678.79	2,500.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>1,360,480.87</b>	<b>1,290,309.80</b>	<b>960,819.77</b>
*Other Fund Transfers are from Balance Sheet Funds			
<b>Expenses</b>			
Capital Reserve Expenses	82,374.94	82,374.94	-
Operating Expenses	141,643.64	163,930.00	169,750.00
Service Charges	12,769.45	15,000.00	15,125.00
Mortgage Expense	244,466.66	244,909.52	-
Office Expenses	23,303.77	23,390.00	26,780.00
Pastoral Expenses	13,399.52	13,870.00	1,513.33
Worship Expenses	6,315.19	6,260.00	8,050.00
Faith Formation	12,519.88	14,615.00	17,000.00
Music Expenses	8,729.44	8,010.00	9,700.00
Tech & Media Expenses	16,173.02	17,942.00	21,000.00
Youth Program Expenses	29,420.63	18,860.00	27,950.00
Membership & Outreach Expenses	782.83	5,100.00	4,001.11
Mission Expenses	1,880.00	1,700.00	3.33
Personnel Expenses	716,021.27	730,090.00	763,650.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,309,800.24</b>	<b>1,346,051.46</b>	<b>1,064,522.77</b>
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>50,680.63</b>	<b>(55,741.66)</b>	<b>(103,703.00)</b>

Avon Lake United Church of Christ Summary Statement of Activities - Church - Other Funds			
<u>Accounts</u>	<u>Actual 2025</u>	<u>Budget 2025</u>	<u>Budget 2026</u>
<b>Revenue</b>			
Capital Reserve Income	100,000.00	100,000.00	-
Memorial Income	5,485.00	6,700.00	5,000.00
Pastoral Income	44,253.92	28,000.00	2.22
Music Income	7,841.00	400.00	-
Youth Funds Income	182,132.48	146,750.00	138,500.00
Mission Income	23,120.00	10,000.00	1.11
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>362,832.40</b>	<b>291,850.00</b>	<b>143,503.33</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Capital Reserve Expenses	100,003.99	160,800.00	-
Memorial Expenses	3,116.67	38,700.00	5,000.00
Pastoral Expenses	98,667.91	158,107.45	2.22
Faith Formation	-	14,000.00	5,000.00
Music Expenses	3,120.00	13,400.00	-
Tech & Media Expenses	-	4,300.00	-
Youth Fund Expenses	167,095.51	204,730.00	147,400.00
Mission Expenses	23,919.02	11,600.00	1.11
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>395,923.10</b>	<b>605,637.45</b>	<b>157,403.33</b>
<b>Net Total**</b>	<b>(33,090.70)</b>	<b>(313,787.45)</b>	<b>(13,900.00)</b>
**Other Fund deficits are covered by Balance Sheet Funds			

Avon Lake United Church of Christ		
Balance Sheet - Good Neighbor Thrift Shop		
	Year End Balances	
Accounts	<u>2025</u>	
<b>Assets</b>		
Sweep Money Market Account	84,441.47	
Thrift Checking	116,874.20	
Pre-Paid Expenses	3,200.00	
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>204,515.67</b>	
<b>Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Credit Cards - Thrift	4,731.86	
Gift Cards Unused-Thrift	2,897.53	
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>7,629.39</b>	
<b>Net Assets</b>		
General Operating Fund - Thrift	61,411.55	
Capital Reserve Fund	81,208.27	
Cash Reserves	50,000.00	
Emergency Mission Fund	4,266.50	
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>196,886.32</b>	
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>204,515.71</b>	

Avon Lake United Church of Christ			
Summary Statement of Activities - Good Neighbor Thrift Shop			
<u>Accounts</u>	<u>Actual 2025</u>	<u>Budget 2025</u>	<u>Budget 2026</u>
<b>Revenue</b>			
Operating Income	917,984.12	600,000.00	775,000.00
Interest Income	60.59	20.00	30.00
Miscellaneous Income	255.48	400.00	400.00
Emergency Mission Fund Income	4,266.50	-	-
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>922,566.69</b>	<b>600,420.00</b>	<b>775,430.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Capital Reserve Fund Expense	8,812.05	4,600.00	10,000.00
Operating Expenses	29,601.06	29,050.00	35,550.00
Utility Expenses	22,930.02	28,360.00	34,900.00
Rent Expense	68,400.00	68,400.00	83,800.00
Sales Tax Expense	47,750.47	35,000.00	47,500.00
Service Charge Expenses	20,216.05	13,100.00	17,520.00
Personnel Expenses	209,255.36	207,870.00	264,450.00
<b>Mission Giving</b>			
Emergency Mission Fund Expenses	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Mission Team Expenses	35,196.32	36,300.00	36,500.00
Thrift Team Expenses	99,891.85	102,500.00	113,500.00
Grant Gifts	305,500.00	87,240.00	116,000.00
<b>Total Mission Giving Expenses</b>	<b>445,588.17</b>	<b>231,040.00</b>	<b>271,000.00</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>852,553.18</b>	<b>617,420.00</b>	<b>764,720.00</b>
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>70,013.51</b>	<b>(17,000.00)</b>	<b>10,710.00</b>

<b>Good Neighbor Thrift Shop</b>	
<b>2025 Mission Giving</b>	
	<u>Amounts Given</u>
<u>Estimated Inventory Donated</u>	
To Local Groups and Families	15,000.00
	<u>\$</u> 15,000.00
<u>2025 Gifts</u>	
URSCS - Emergency Mission Fund	5,000.00
Community Resource Services	4,500.00
Community Resource Services-Snack Bags	506.61
Denison Avenue UCC	550.00
Empty Bowls	500.00
Genesis House	1,500.00
Giving Tree	1,283.17
Good Knights Of Lorain County	1,050.00
Honey from the Rock	5,000.00
Hosanna Industries	5,000.00
Margeau House	1,036.34
Mercy Health Foundation-Resource Moms	500.00
Misc Thrift Shop Support	2,391.85
Neighborhood Alliance - Haven Center	509.90
Neighborhood Alliance - Haven Center Dinners	4,210.30
Primary Purpose	500.00
St Paul's Community Church	1,050.00
Adult Mission Trips	2,500.00
AA Groups Rentals	6,000.00
Avon Lake UCC - Youth Camp Incentive	10,000.00
Avon Lake UCC - Youth Service Trips	30,000.00
Living Water-Mission Grant Fund	5,000.00
Our Church's Wider Mission	48,000.00
Neighbors in Need	1,500.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	2,000.00
	<u>\$</u> 140,088.17
<u>Mid-Year Mission Partner Gifts</u>	
Genesis House	4,500.00
Community Resource Services	4,500.00
Good Knights Of Lorain County	4,500.00
Primary Purpose	4,500.00
Road To Hope Inc	4,500.00
Second Harvest Food Bank	4,000.00
St Paul's Community Church	4,500.00
The Neighborhood Alliance	4,500.00
Mercy Health Foundation-Resource Moms	4,500.00
	<u>\$</u> 40,000.00
<u>2025 Grant Funding</u>	
Footpath Foundation	5,000.00
Hosanna Industries	10,000.00
Living Water	10,000.00
USCRI Cleveland	15,000.00
Second Harvest Food Bank	15,000.00
Washington UCC	10,000.00
Camp Imagine	10,000.00
Community Resource Services	10,000.00
Denison Avenue UCC	10,000.00
Family Planning Services of Lorain County	5,000.00
Genesis House	7,500.00
Good Knights Of Lorain County	15,000.00
Harbor and Bridge	3,000.00
Honey from the Rock	10,000.00
LIFE Memory Cafe	20,000.00
Mercy Health Foundation Lorain Market	15,000.00
North Ridgeville Community Care	10,000.00
Ohio Guidestone	5,000.00
Primary Purpose	15,000.00
Road To Hope Inc	15,000.00
St Paul's Community Church	15,000.00
St Augustine Community Cupboard and Closet	10,000.00
The Neighborhood Alliance	15,000.00
West Park United Church of Christ	10,000.00
	<u>\$</u> 265,500.00
<b>Total Given in 2025</b>	<b><u>\$</u> 460,588.17</b>

<b>Avon Lake United Church of Christ</b>		
<b>2025 Benevolent Giving</b>		
<u>Good Neighboor Thrift Shop 2025 Mission Gifts</u>	\$	460,588.17
<u>Support from the Avon Lake UCC - Church Funds</u>		
Avon Lake UCC - Financial Assistance to members	1,665.66	
<u>Pastoral Emergency Fund - Community Resource Services</u>	1,000.00	
Good Knights of Lorain (Appeals)	1,880.00	
Mission Food Drive (Appeals)	23,919.02	
Mission Giving Tree*	26,550.00	
Saturday Work Crew & Property Brothers	Priceless**	
	55,014.68	
Total Given in 2025	\$	515,602.85
* Estimated value of 531+ member donations which included clothing, toys, gift cards, household items more		
**A value impossible to calculate. Every year, time and talent is generously given by those who work hard to improve our church; picking up and mantaining the grounds, repairing the building and doing a multitude of jobs, that would cost the church an insurmountable amount of money.		

## MODERATORS OF THE AVON LAKE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1943-1950	J.I. King	1989-1990	Robert Turner
1951-1952	John Brunn	1991-1992	Donald Marken
1953	James Van Boven	1993-1994	Thelma Morningstar
1954-1957	J.I. King	1995-1996	Paul Dunford
1958-1959	Fred Lott	1997-1998	Lenore Marken
1960	Howard Hoxie	1999-2000	David Dibbell
1961-1962	Art Gerhan	2001-2002	Jack Kneiss
1963-1964	Ken Birnbaum	2003-2004	Thomas Coy
1965	Don Armbrecht	2005-2006	Joseph Poplstein
1966-1968	John Clarke	2007-2008	Lynn Greene
1969-1970	Verne Nygaard	2009-2010	T.J. Frie
1971-1972	George Morningstar	2011-2012	Maureen Johnson
1973-1974	Howard Flynn	2013-2014	David Wilhoite
1975-1976	Ruth Dobosy	2015-2016	Richard General
1977-1978	Richard Turner	2017-2018	Robert Miller
1979-1980	David Weaver	2019-2020	Timothy Harris
1981-1982	Robert Marimon	2021-2022	Mark Spaetzel
1983-1984	James Tanzilli	2023-2025	Kyle Rose
1985-1986	Helen Marimon	2025-	John Rice
1987-1989	Robert Fitzsimmons		