



## FEBRUARY WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9 AND 11 AM

Every Sunday: Worship at 9 and 11 AM, Sunday School for children 3 years through 7<sup>th</sup> grade, adult-supervised care in Noah's Nursery.

- 9 AM: Spirited Traditional Worship features hymns, choir anthems, and organ and piano music.
- 11 AM: New Horizons Worship features the use of projected images and music led by the Anchored in Faith worship band.

Our worship theme for January 4 – February 15 is “RESTART”. Our focus scripture is from 2 Corinthians: “So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” In this new year, we are reminded of the good news that God gives us new beginnings in life, again and again.

- **February 1:** The worship theme and Dr. Brill's sermon title is “Restart Sabbath”; the scripture is Isaiah 58:13-14. We celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion at both services.
- **February 8:** “Restart Compassion” is our worship theme and the title of Dr. Brill's sermon, with the familiar story of the Parable of the Good Samaritan as our scripture. Maxwell Lee Taylor will be baptized at 11 AM.
- **February 15:** On this Sunday that we welcome new members into the church, our worship theme is “Restart Discipleship.” Dr. Brill's sermon is based on John 21:15-17, 19.

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18. Lent is the six-week period before Easter, a season of spiritual growth. Our theme for Lent this year is “Amen”; our sermons will focus on prayer and on the Lord's Prayer. We are offering two unique ways to worship on Ash Wednesday. A service will be offered in the chapel at 1 PM with a brief meditation, communion and the imposition of ashes (for those who desire them.) This service is open to all, and will follow the PrimeTimers' luncheon.

From 3 PM until 7 PM, the chapel will be open for quiet meditation and prayer. Senior Minister Kelly Brill will offer prayer, communion and ashes as people drop in throughout the afternoon and early evening. Students and parents are invited to come in after school, people are welcome to come in after work, choir members and Church Council members are invited to drop in before practice and meetings.

**February 22:** “Lead us not into temptation” is our theme for the day, on this first Sunday in the season of Lent.

### A NOTE FROM THE MODERATOR

It is with gratitude that I was asked and have been voted in as moderator of our church. It is an exciting time for us. We have and will continue to offer you our parishioners a wonderful and special place to worship God. We will also continue to do all that we can to help those in need whether it be in our community or around the world.

I want to be accessible if you have any questions or concerns. My phone number is 440-463-1801. My email is moderator@avonlakeucc.org. Individually we can do a lot, together we can do so much more.

Yours in Christ, Rich General

**February, 2015**  
**In this Issue:**  
Worship Schedule  
A Word from Kelly  
Christian Ed News  
Calendar/Birthdays  
Youth Page

## **A WORD FROM KELLY**

My husband and I have just about completed our movie marathon for the season; we have seen almost all of the films nominated for the major Academy Awards. This may be the case most years, but it's been especially evident to me this year - that most of the highly acclaimed films are true stories. The stories are quite different - from the story of Stephen Hawking in "The Theory of Everything" to the story of Chris Kyle in "American Sniper" to the story of the civil rights movement in "Selma" - and many in between. One exception is the movie, "Boyhood," which is my personal choice for movie of the year. While "Boyhood" is fictional, it certainly could be true. The themes in that movie are ones with which many people can relate.

Most of us don't think of our lives as being interesting enough for the big screen, but the truth is that we each have a story. One of the privileges of my job is that I often am in the position to hear people's stories. Lives that may seem unremarkable on the outside often have a depth to them that proves more fascinating the deeper one goes. As I talk with members of this church, I hear stories of heroism - oh, not the kind that makes headlines, but definitely the kind that changes lives. I hear of the heroism of spouses caring for one another in difficult circumstances, and of grandparents raising grandchildren. I hear stories of courage: of people facing the challenges of cancer and other illnesses, of people rising above the despair of grief and loss. I hear stories of sacrifice - of generosity to the church and to family members - much of it done quietly, some of it done anonymously. I always notice the different ways people tell the stories of their lives: some complain, some brag, and some look for the good - finding where it is that God is at work in their lives.

The best movies combine a good story with good acting and good directing. All aspects matter, from the script to the cinematography to the costuming and lighting. While I sometimes enjoy movies "just for the fun of it," my favorite movies are those that are uplifting, those that exalt what is best about humanity, those that inspire me to be my best self. I choose to see those movies, and I find that their narratives help me think in new ways about the story of my life. We have so many choices in life - choosing which movies to watch is fairly simple. Choosing how to think about the stories of our lives: that's a choice that really matters.

Kelly

**PRIMETIMERS LUNCH** will be on Wednesday, February 18, at Noon in the Gathering Space. Cost of the meal is \$5 payable at the door. A reservation is needed by noon on Monday, February 15. There will be an Ash Wednesday service following lunch at 1:00 PM. Reservations may be made on the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center or by calling the church office. Primetimers is a group of mostly retired members who get together once a month to share a meal and the fellowship of each other's company. But anyone of any age and friends are always welcome. Don't miss out!

**MEN'S 12th ANNUAL SPRING RETREAT, SATURDAY, MARCH 14th, 2015:** All men over 18 are invited. If you're new to the congregation this is a great way to meet and get better acquainted with the men at ALUCC. The retreat's theme is "A SPIRITUAL TUNE-UP". We have invited Pastor Kelly to be more involved with the retreat this year and she has graciously accepted our request and will be with us most of the day. **The Retreat is from 9:00am - 3:00pm in the Chapel at ALUCC.** Cost is \$30 and breakfast and lunch will be provided. Please sign up at welcome center. You can pay the day of Retreat or at church. Make checks out to ALUCC and mark them Men's Retreat. Please do not let finances keep you from attending. Scholarship funds are available and confidential. Please call Kim Yonkers 937-5633 if you have any questions

**QUILTERS WANTED:** Do you enjoy quilting or spending time with fellow church members? You may not know this, but our church has a Quilting group that meets every Wednesday from 10AM - 3PM in the Music/Quilt Room. We quilt, we laugh, we share life stories and enjoy each others company. You don't need to make your own quilt or even have skill beyond sewing to join us. Our Quilting group has been an active part of our church community for over 35 years and have been able to fund countless projects that were not a part of the church's budget. For more information please contact Valerie in the church office at 440.933.3241.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS:

- **Valentine Care Packages:** The Membership Board will be sending special Valentine's Day Care packages to our students in college and to those members actively serving in the military. You can drop off your donations in the box located at the Welcome Center. Some suggestions for donations for the Care Packages: Pens, pencils, Gum, microwave popcorn, any kind of snack goodies, beef jerky, puzzle books, and of course Valentine's Candy! Your help is greatly appreciated! If you have any questions, please feel free to stop by the Welcome Center for more information. Deadline is Sunday, February 8.
- **Sign Up At The Welcome Center** and join us for the next Dinner and A Movie - Saturday February 28, 2015 in the Chapel. Bring a dish to pass and enjoy sharing a fabulous meal while watching a good movie! Bring a neighbor, bring a friend...all are welcome! The movie is *The Good Life* (PG13), starring Reese Witherspoon. (Please read more about it at the Welcome Center). Dinner starts at 6:00pm; Beverages and Popcorn always provided! Any questions, please feel free to contact Teri Ann Jasany at 440-864-2597 or [buddyonthelake@yahoo.com](mailto:buddyonthelake@yahoo.com) The movie synopsis: Sudanese refugees given the chance to resettle in America arrive in Kansas City, Missouri. where their encounter with an employment agency counselor forever changes all of their lives.

**STEPHEN MINISTERS RETREAT SATURDAY, MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup>: 9:30AM - 3:00PM.** All current and former/retired Stephen Ministers and Leaders, and anyone else interested in exploring the meaning of our ministry and how to maintain healthy boundaries is invited. The retreat will be held at The Centering Space in Lakewood and the Facilitator will be Kim Langley, President of Life Balances Enterprises. There is no cost, and lunch will be provided. Please register by March 1<sup>st</sup> with Judy Reich ([bjreich@wowway.com](mailto:bjreich@wowway.com), 440-930-5370) or the church office ([office@avonlakeucc.org](mailto:office@avonlakeucc.org), 440-933-3241).

**STIVES MISSION TRIP:** We will be returning to The Dominican Republic and Haiti the second week of March. If anyone has motel soaps, shampoos, etc or small toothpastes and toothbrushes, please drop them off at the church. If anyone likes to sew the cloth bags to hold the above items, please drop those off also. We are so grateful for all your support for our mission project and for our IHN guests as we also give each IHN guest a bag with health supplies. Any questions, please call us 440-933-9504. Bev & Bill Stives

**DECEMBER FINANCIAL UPDATE:** Your Board of Stewardship thanks you for your faithfulness in supporting the church's mission and ministry. As this chart indicates, we are on track with both income and expenses. Your giving allows us to support members in times of need, continue to expand programming in education, worship and outreach, and open our building to many community groups.

	Current Month			YTD		
	12/2014			2014		
	Actual	Budget	Difference	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income						
Member Pledges	\$73,559	\$82,252	-\$8,693	\$623,075	\$650,725	-\$27,650
Other	\$45,523	\$38,903	\$6,620	\$332,726	\$309,900	\$22,826
Total Income	\$119,082	\$121,155	-\$2,073	\$955,801	\$960,625	-\$4,824
Expenses						
Total	\$85,117	\$84,009	\$1,108	\$975,068	\$960,625	\$14,443
Net (Income less Expenses)	\$33,965	\$37,146		-\$19,297	\$0	

## A THANK YOU NOTE:

Dear Congregation,

On November 23rd, we held our annual Pancake Breakfast with an amazing turn out from you! We hope you had as much fun eating as we did serving you. We are blessed that our children have become quite a presence with this fundraiser as they mature. Our proceeds benefitted the Pastoral Fund. Thank you for helping us with this mission and for your support.

Mary Martha Circle

## UPCOMING ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (ACE) AT ALUCC

All are welcome! Bring a friend.

For more information on each program, check the weekly Sunday bulletin, the weekly membership email, or the church website.

*Adult Bible Study*, led by Senior Minister Kelly Brill. Wednesdays, 10:30 am-11:30 am in the Gathering Space.

### ***In February and March....***

*Minding the Gap*. Sundays, 10:10 am-10:50 am

- “Walking the Bible: A Journey Through the Five Books of Moses,” led by Cynthia Kitora. January 11-February 15.
- **New!** “Seven Strategies for Coping with Adversity: A Bible Study Based on Paul’s Letter to the Philippians,” led by Rev. Jim Edwards. March 1-22.

### *First Tuesday Book Study*

- *Saving Jesus from the Church: How to Stop Worshiping Christ and Start Following Jesus* by Robin R. Meyers. Tuesday, February 3 at 7 pm.
- *The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem* by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. Tuesday, March 3, 7 pm

*The ALUCC Book Club*. Titles forthcoming, Tuesday, February 24 and March 24

*Meditative Practice: A Path to Spiritual Growth*, led by Lynn Miller. Thursdays through February 19, 7 pm-8pm.

**New!** *The Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola*, led by Maryann Ruben. Mondays, 6:30 pm-8 pm, starting February 16, 2015.

*Cross Training*, Wednesdays, 6 pm-8 pm, February 25-April 1. (See information on enclosed insert)

*Men’s Spring Retreat*, Saturday, March 14, 9 am-3 pm. (See related article on page 2)

*Faith is a journey. Walk in wonder, and expect the unexpected.*

## **PARISH NURSE NOTES:**

- **No Diabetic Support Group in February.**
- **Free Mammograms** for those who qualify: women age 40 or over uninsured/ under-insured (high deduct/ high co-pay). Saturday 02/28, 7:30 - 12:00 noon. Call Debbie at 960-3624 with questions or to register. Location: Women's Health Center at Mercy Regional Medical Center, 3700 Kolbe Road, Lorain.
- **Doorstep Dinners** is a program of the Mission Board. Members provide dinners for members as needed. Additional persons are needed to help with this outreach – email Patty Greene or sign up at the Welcome Center if you are willing to help.
- **Heavenly Helpers**, another outreach of the Mission Board. We are now in need of a new chairman, who will coordinate member needs (transportation, visits or other requests) with a member willing to help. Additional members are also needed for this program. Please contact Judy Reich or the church office if you are willing to help.
- **Parish Nurse Hours:** Wednesdays 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.; Sundays between services. Evenings by Appointment. Contact information: [cherylupdegraff@oh.rr.com](mailto:cherylupdegraff@oh.rr.com) or call the church office.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS TODAY!** For the third or fourth time, ALUCC is hosting a visit from two youth choirs from the First Congregational Church of Crystal Lake, IL. The vocal and bell choirs will be performing as part of worship on Sunday morning, April 26. 13 girls and 15 boys (high school age) will be in need of host homes on Saturday evening, April 25. Please check your calendars; sign-ups will begin soon. (All hosts need to have completed a safe church protection volunteer form.)

## CHRISTIAN ED NEWS

- **Help Wanted:** Are you good with kids? Do you have one hour a week to spend volunteering? The children's class during Cross Training still needs a leader. Please contact Julie Reimer, Dir. of Christian Education if you are interested in helping out. *This is a great opportunity for Confirmation Students to get their service hours – they can lead the class with the help of a mentor or parent!*
- **Faith and Fitness Lite** is looking for new members: Come and exercise with us! Faith and Fitness Lite has been around for over 14 years! This exercise class meets Monday and Thursday mornings from 11-12 and is aimed primarily at seniors. Gentle stretching and weight exercises are at the core of the class. Instead of floor exercises, chairs and standing exercises are performed. Interested? Please drop by during class to learn more or give it a try during the month of February! But don't put off joining – if we don't get a few new members soon, the class may be dissolving.
- **Fourth Grade Pre-Confirmation:** Fourth Grade Pre-Confirmation will be held during Cross Training on Wednesday nights from Feb. 25-Apr. 1. If you have a fourth grader in your family, please RSVP to Julie Reimer at 933-3241 or [christianed@avonlakeucc.org](mailto:christianed@avonlakeucc.org) by Feb.15 to let her know whether or not your child will be attending. Parents, please check out the additional information on Cross Training classes in this Drummer. We are offering several classes specifically selected to be of interest to parents and siblings. Why drop your child off for an hour (really, how much can you get done in the 40 minutes or so you would have free?) when you can take a wonderful class and enrich your life! Better yet, bring the whole family and make an evening of it! Dinner and worship with your church family is always a good time! Register online at <http://avonlakeucc.org/ministry/cross-training/>
- **Camp Sunday is February 8:** It may not look like it outside, but it's time to sign up for summer camp! Come and visit our information table during coffee hour. Learn about the different camps available while enjoying yummy camp snacks! Former Campers, wear a camp t-shirt to show your support for camp. Interested in helping on Camp Sunday to answer questions or provide snacks for coffee hour? Contact Julie Reimer at [christianed@avonlakeucc.org](mailto:christianed@avonlakeucc.org).
- **Lenten Workshop:** coming in March! Watch for more information coming soon!

## QUIET GIVER

Our Quiet Giver was born in the rolling hills of Kentucky. It seems that he drew a lot of inspiration and guidance from those early years that shaped him into a truly special person. As a young man he was quite the athlete, especially on the baseball diamond where he started at 2<sup>nd</sup> base for his high school.

Upon graduation he went on to Transylvania University where he also played baseball. After completing his undergraduate degree he enlisted in the army and rose to the rank of Sergeant. He went back to school at the University of Kentucky playing baseball and also starting on the football field where he was a walk on. He graduated with a degree in English and started his career as a teacher. It was then that he met and married that special someone who stole his heart. They recently celebrated 51 years of marriage.

This man has a nickname, they called him "Big \_\_\_\_\_". This was due in part to his size, but it seems to fit him so well in other areas. Known for his big heart, his belief in God and living life well as an example to others really defined this person.

A father of 3 and grandfather of 3 he constantly was known to give out good examples on how to live life the way we should all try to live. *Anything worth doing is worth doing well. What matters is what lies ahead of you not what is behind. Faith is all well and good, but it is lifeless without good works. Touching the lives of others gives depth to your soul. See the good in people, see the good in yourself* are just some of the words of wisdom that could be heard from our Quiet Giver.

Honored as Lakewood's Man of the Year, he was also a member of our Board of Christian Education and the Man For All Time to his family and friends.

Do you know our Quiet Giver? (Last month's Quiet Giver was Don Marken.)

**Avon Lake United  
Church of Christ**

32801 Electric Blvd  
Avon Lake, OH 44012

Phone: 440-933-3241  
Fax: 440-933-7928  
Email: [office@avonlakeucc.org](mailto:office@avonlakeucc.org)

*Growing People to  
Serve God and Others*

We are on the Web:  
[avonlakeucc.org](http://avonlakeucc.org)  
[Facebook.com/AvonLakeUCC](https://www.facebook.com/AvonLakeUCC)

**HEAVENLY HELPERS:** Heavenly Helpers, a Mission Board outreach, this group provides assistance for members by members (transportation, visits, needs as requested). A Chairperson is needed to coordinate this program; additional volunteers are always welcome. Call the church office or contact Judy Reich or Cheryl Updegraff if you can help.

**PRAYER LIST:** Prayers help connect us to God and to one another. Please keep these members and friends in your prayers this month. Many members want to know how the folks on the prayer list are doing. So if you submit the name of a friend or relative, be sure to send an update by each Drummer deadline. We keep names on the prayer list one month at a time, so that the list will stay current and updated. To keep your loved one's name on the list, kindly send us an update (call or email the church office: 440-933-3241; [office@avonlakeucc.org](mailto:office@avonlakeucc.org))! Thank you.

**GOD'S BLESSINGS, LOVE AND COMFORT FOR:** Mary Ann Agler, Megan Bailey (family member of Theresa Brannen and Jeannine Stape), Tom & Isy Beal, Cara Burgess, Gladys Flynn, Nick Hampe (Geoff's nephew), Mary Jo Horton (friend of Maureen Wightman), Christa Ludwig (friend of Jim Edwards), Joshua MacDonald (nephew of Scott & Shelley MacDonald, recuperating from surgery), Dick & Barb Merriman (former members with health issues), Jack McCrum (recuperating from surgery), Rob Patton (recuperating from surgery), Virginia Spencer (Marilyn Sommer's mother recuperating from surgery), Kim Trask (friend of Updegraffs), Marion Walsh (Sid Stech's mother), Karen Weaver (recuperating from surgery), Daniel Wherley, Bob Williams & Herbert Williams (family members of Hal & Barb Wherley), George Wisser (Paul's father), Werner Wittman, and all who are homebound or in residential facilities.

**Sympathy to:**

- Doug Gates & his family on the death of his father, Chuck. Please keep his mother, Barbara, in your prayers.
- Cheryl Roberson & her family on the death of her father, John Dase.

**Congratulations** to Scott & Katie Crosby on the birth of their son, Hank Joseph Crosby, December 31, 2014. Please remember our members who are homebound and in rehab or nursing home care.

**THE REV. SCOTT PATTERSON** has begun visiting those members who are homebound and living in residential care facilities. To leave a message for Scott, please call the church office or email him: [revscott@avonlakeucc.org](mailto:revscott@avonlakeucc.org)

**MARCH DRUMMER DEADLINE** is Monday, February 23. If you would like any information included in the next monthly newsletter, please send it to the church office by email ([office@avonlakeucc.org](mailto:office@avonlakeucc.org)) or be sure to bring your items in by this date. News items/reminders may also be submitted for weekly email updates. (If you are not receiving the weekly email updates, please send your email address to [membership@avonlakeucc.org](mailto:membership@avonlakeucc.org).)

**HOSPICE OF THE WESTERN RESERVE NEWS**

**Hospice Of The Western Reserve Warehouse Sale:** Donations are needed for our next sale, Friday February 20, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Saturday, February 21, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Hospice of the Western Reserve Headquarters, 17876 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44110. Proceeds support patients and families of Hospice of the Western Reserve. We are accepting gently used indoor and outdoor furniture, other household items, collectibles, framed artwork, and holiday items. To donate items please contact the Warehouse Sale Team at 800.707.8922 ext. 6881.