

## DECEMBER WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

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

**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.

**At both hours:** Sunday School for children 3 years through 7<sup>th</sup> grade, adult supervision in Noah's Nursery.

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

**December 6:** Second Sunday of Advent. We light the candle of peace, and we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Dr. Brill's communion meditation, "Advent Peace," is based upon Isaiah 11:1-9.

**December 13:** Third Sunday of Advent. We light the candle of joy. At 9 AM, our choir will present "Sing We Now of Christmas: A Service of Lessons and Carols" - a work that weaves together 7 beautiful carol settings and 6 brief poetic narratives that celebrate Advent and Christmas. The composer, Howard Helvey, describes his composition this way, "The voices of the Old Testament prophets, the angel Gabriel, Mary and Gospel authors join together to unfold an elegant narrative pointing to the great mystery of the Incarnation". It will be accompanied by String Quartet, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, and French Horn. Our Sunday School students will present their Christmas pageant at 11 AM.

**December 20:** Fourth Sunday of Advent. We light the candle of love, the Celebration Bell Choir will play, and Easton Vernon Virtue will be baptized at 11 AM. Dr. Brill's message is entitled, "Advent Love"; the scripture is Luke 1:39-55.

## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

**5 PM:** This service, around 45 minutes in length, is designed especially for families with young children. The Celebration Bell Choir will ring several Christmas pieces. Students who sing or play an instrument are invited to present a piece during the prelude; please send an email to Pastor Kelly ([pastor@avonlakeucc.org](mailto:pastor@avonlakeucc.org)) by December 15 if you would like to participate.

**7 PM:** This service will feature the use of projections, music from the Anchored in Faith worship band, candlelight, and a message from Dr. Brill.

**9 PM:** This service of lessons and carols will feature music from the choir, "O Holy Night" sung by David Graves, candlelight, and a message from Dr. Brill.

**11 PM:** This candlelight service will feature music by vocalist Anne E. DeChant and guitarist Pete Cavano, in addition to our own keyboardist, Ruth Williams. Dr. Brill will share a communion meditation.

**December 27:** One worship service at 10 AM; the scripture is Luke 2:41-52. End the year by worshiping, and singing Christmas carols one more time!

**CHRISTMAS DECORATING** Saturday, December 5, 8:30 AM. Please come help decorate our trees and hang wreathes!

## A WORD FROM KELLY

One of my spiritual mentors is a man named Fred Craddock; he preached at ALUCC the first year we were in our new sanctuary. He was a preaching professor and once named one of America's ten most influential preachers. He was also a family friend, who died this past March.

One of my favorite messages of his has to do with living the Christian life. He said something like this: "We all would love to rise to the occasion and be heroic at a moment's notice, we would all respond in case of an emergency...but most of the time the Christian life is made up of thousands of small moments ...there's nothing dramatic about them...it's listening to a friend here, making a donation there, bringing a casserole, shoveling a sidewalk...but these moments make up our lives."

How do we live in the everyday moments of our lives? The day-to-day moments make us who we are, and they also prepare us to respond in times of crisis.

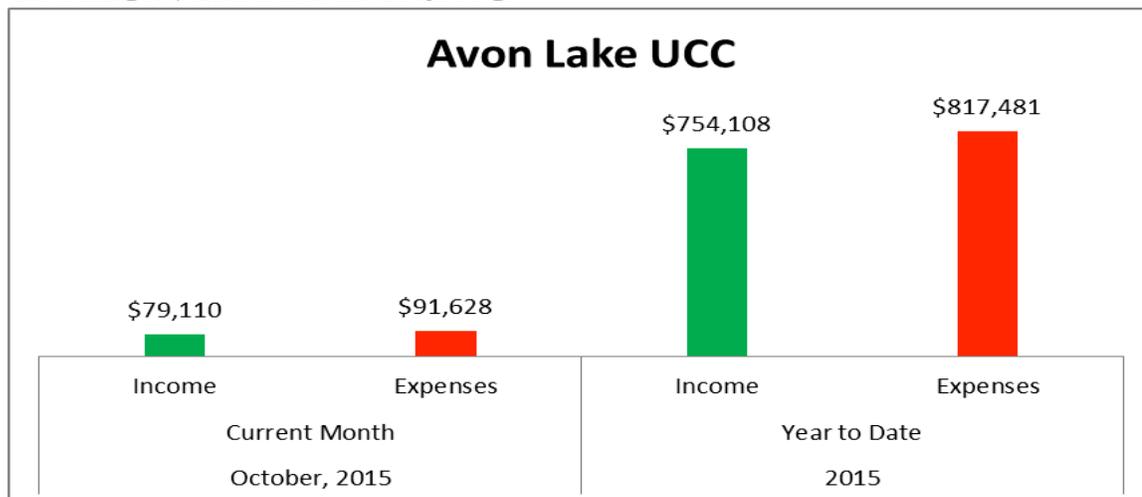
As we come to the end of the year, many people ask me what they can do to make a difference. What can they do to help someone in need? Where can they donate money? I am happy to talk with you about ways to give your time and talent; in fact, it gives me great pleasure to try to match people's interests with opportunities for service.

But sometimes the best gifts are the simplest. An extra donation to the church's general fund will ensure that we start 2016 in the black, and continue our daily ministries. An extra donation towards mortgage reduction will free us from debt that much sooner, freeing up money for mission. You may give to the Memorial Fund, the Endowment Fund, or towards a ministry about which you feel passionate. Remember, all year-end giving must be received or postmarked by December 31.

Thank you, ALUCC Family, for all of your daily acts of faithfulness throughout the year!

Blessings, Kelly

## OCTOBER FINANCIAL UPDATE:



**DID YOU KNOW?** A growing church costs more to operate than a church with fewer ministries. ALUCC is growing in numbers and programming. Please continue to give generously so that our mission will thrive!

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY**, led by Pastor Brill. Wednesdays, 10:30 am - 11:30 am.

**SERMON ROUNDTABLE**, Sundays, 10:30 am - 11:15 am. Join us for an open discussion of the scripture and sermon. October Schedule:

12/6 Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-9; Discussion leader: Phil Wadsworth

12/13 No Sermon Roundtable

12/10 Scripture: Luke 1:39-55; Discussion Leader: Lou Suarez

**MISSION BOARD GIVING TREE:** Ornaments will be on our 'Giving Tree' on Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. This year our church is sharing gifts with five organizations: Avon Lake Families, Haven Center, St Paul's Church, IHN, and Mercy Hospital's Resource Mothers. Simply take an ornament from the tree (which will have a 'wish/need' of a child or adult), sign your name and phone number on the form provided, and return the gift, (wrapped with the ornament taped to the gift) by Sunday, December 13. Questions? Contact Cheryl Updegraff or Kary Kandra.

**IHN HOSTING:** The IHN/Family Promise 4<sup>th</sup> hosting is December 6-12. We need six trained volunteers a day (42 for the week) as well as people to set up on Sunday, December 6 at noon, and volunteers to take everything down at 8 am on Sunday, December 13. You can sign up on the board in the Narthex anytime you are in church. Moving right along, the next hosting, the first in 2016, is January 17-23...mark your calendars now!

**JOYFUL STITCHERS** will be meeting in the Gathering Space Thursday evening at 7:15pm, December 3rd before we take a break for the Holiday. Please feel free to join us, no matter what project you may be working on. It's more fun to stitch and chat! For those that may not be able to attend but are interested in helping with prayer shawls, scarves, mittens or hats, patterns will be available at the Welcome Center on Sundays. Stay tuned for our 2016 schedule of meetings. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Teri Ann Jasany at 440-864-2597. We hope you can join us! All are welcome!

**EVENING MOM'S GROUP** will meet Monday, December 7, at 7 PM. All mothers with children elementary-aged and younger are invited to join this group which meets monthly for discussion.

**PRIMETIMERS' LUNCH** will be on Wednesday, December 9, at noon in the Gathering Space. Cost of the lunch is \$5, payable at the door. **A reservation is needed by noon on Monday, December 7.** Reservations can be made on the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center or by calling the Church Office. Primetimers are primarily retired members but anyone of any age and friends are always welcome. Don't miss out on the good food and fellowship!

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING:** An annual outreach to our members who are homebound and in care facilities, letting them know they're not forgotten. An intergenerational group will meet at the front entrance of the church, Sunday, December 13, at 3 PM. In addition to Christmas carols, each person visited will receive gifts provided by the youth group and the Mary-Martha Circle. Please join us so that everyone on our list is visited. Families with children especially welcome! Children's smiles brighten everyone's day.

### **CHRISTIAN ED NEWS**

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHRISTMAS PAGEANT DECEMBER 13 AT 11:00:** Each Sunday School class will be performing a song during the program. Sunday School children will continue to practice their songs during Sunday School each week. The class performance has been designed so that the children can participate in the performance whether or not they have been to all the practices. (However, the more practices they make, the better!) All children participating in the Pageant will need to arrive at 10:45 on Dec. 13 and then find their class in the sanctuary. They will sit with their teachers during the service. The children will not be wearing costumes (some children will have headpieces that will be provided), so they should come dressed in their Holiday attire. Any questions, contact Julie Reimer.

**6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> GRADERS:** Would you like a speaking part this year in the Christmas Pageant? Contact Mrs. Reimer for information!

**TRUE NORTH CHRISTMAS CONCERT:** On Saturday, December 19, 7:30 PM, the True North Chorale and Chamber Orchestra will perform in our sanctuary. Tickets are \$15.00 for adults. They may be purchased through True North ([tncarts.org](http://tncarts.org)) and will also be on sale Sunday mornings.

**WAYS YOU CAN SERVE THE ALUCC MISSION & MINISTRY:** The good works of our church are the result of what we all do together. Each member of the congregation has the opportunity to help make the decisions about worship services, educational programs, outreach and mission, maintaining our facilities and stewardship of resources. We are inviting you to consider sharing your talents on one of our ministry teams during 2016. It is all of us together that make the programs and ministries of our church possible. We would love to help connect you to the best ministry opportunity for you. Please contact a member of the Nominating Committee to get started. Your participation is most welcome! James Tanzilli (933-4846), Dan Gerbick (933-4716), Thelma Morningstar (933-2841), Al Zakel (933-7185), Ron Pallinger (933-2959), Rob Turner (933-7145), Barb Wherley (930-7753)

**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**

**HEAVENLY HELPERS:** If you are in need of transportation to church, a doctor's appointment, etc., contact Mike or Christine Carr at [heavenly.helpers.alucc@gmail.com](mailto:heavenly.helpers.alucc@gmail.com) or 930-2894. You may also contact the church office or the parish nurse.

**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:** Barbara Austinson, Isy Beal, Patty Byron (friend of Spaetzels and Fries), Dave Davis, Nick Hampe (Geoff's nephew), Jacob Heberling (family friend of Judy Reich), Tom Hoover (Nate Taylor's Uncle), Kitty Kress, Dennis Runyon, DeeDee Stech (Dan's mother), Linda Taylor (friend of Jennifer Gould), David Turner, Karen Weaver (Dave's daughter), Calvin Yeager (friend of Layla Ruben) and all who are homebound or in residential facilities.

Please remember our members who are homebound and in rehab or nursing home care.

**SYMPATHY TO:**

- The family of longtime ALUCC member, Doris Webb who died on October 29.
- The family of Agnes Gehrke who died November 4.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:** Dick and Dorothy Spaetzel on the birth of their granddaughter, Liliana Grace, born October 10 to Matt and Nicole Spaetzel.

**THANK YOU:** The Membership Team would like to thank all of you that participated in helping bake bread for our members. We were overwhelmed with the immediate response and greatly appreciate everyone's time and talent provided. Thank you very much!

Mary-Martha would like to thank the congregation for bringing their appetites to the Pancake Breakfast. We have a feeling no one went away hungry! We want to thank Perkins for generously supporting our annual fundraiser, Mary Pease for delivering our leftovers to Haven Center later that evening and our families for helping us make this a great success. Your contributions enabled us to make a generous donation to the Pastoral Fund. Thank you so much and we look forward to feeding you again next year.

**JACK-N-JILL REGISTRATION:** Jack-n-Jill Nursery School will be accepting registrations for the 2016-2017 school year (classes beginning in September) from Church members and those families presently enrolled in the school on Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis beginning December 2<sup>nd</sup> in the school lobby from 6:30-7:30 PM. Classes are available for 2.5 - 5 year old children. We are excited to announce a new class for 2.5-year-old children. This class will be held two days per week: Monday and Friday. Open enrollment for the community will be held on January 19<sup>th</sup> in the evening. Some classes fill very quickly. If you have any questions or would like a tour of our preschool, please call Melody Rice at 933-7946.

**LORAIN COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:** Thank you for your enthusiastic support. Last weekend, ALUCC volunteers installed roof trusses on the Paige family house. We will be volunteering every Saturday until the end of the year. New volunteers are always welcomed, both skilled & unskilled. Contact Doug Rider at 396-4666 or [dridr520@oh.rr.com](mailto:dridr520@oh.rr.com) if you want to volunteer. Check out the current photos on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/Lorain-County-Habitat-for-Humanity-230094180408549/>

**FIRST TUESDAY BOOK STUDY:** All are invited to discuss *The Road to Character* by David Brooks on Tuesday, January 5 at 7 pm. In *The Road to Character*, Brooks focuses on the deeper values that should inform our lives. Responding to what he calls the culture of the Big Me, which emphasizes external success, Brooks challenges us, and himself, to rebalance the scales between our “résumé virtues”—achieving wealth, fame, and status—and our “eulogy virtues,” those that exist at the core of our being: kindness, bravery, honesty, or faithfulness, focusing on what kind of relationships we have formed.

**FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY RETURNS TO ALUCC:** Avon Lake UCC is offering a nine-week money management class beginning January 10. Financial Peace University teaches principles of debt reduction, and discusses issues such as insurance, mortgages, savings for college and retirement. The class will meet nine Sunday nights, from January 10 - March 20, taking a week off for the Super Bowl. Babysitting will be provided free of charge for those who register in advance, and let us know of the need. To register and purchase materials, go to the website: [daveramsey.com/fpu](http://daveramsey.com/fpu). Questions? Contact Rich General: [moderator@avonlakeucc.org](mailto:moderator@avonlakeucc.org); 440-463-1801.

**WOMEN'S RETREAT 2016:** Registration is open for the 2016 women's retreat. ALL women are invited - so think about a friend, coworker, relative or neighbor who might like to attend with you. Spend 24 hours at the beginning of the new year recharging your spiritual batteries. This year's event is led by a creative retreat leader and spiritual director, Sharon Garner, who has planned a retreat designed to help women get to know each other and themselves better. For details, pick up a registration form at the Welcome Center or register online at [avonlakeucc.org](http://avonlakeucc.org).

#### **PARISH NURSE NOTES:**

Office Hours: Wednesdays 2:00 – 4:00; Sundays between services: additional times as needed.

Email: [cherylupdegraff@oh.rr.com](mailto:cherylupdegraff@oh.rr.com); home telephone: 440-933-3833

- An important part of the Holiday Season is reminiscing and remembering loved ones. Our beautiful Tree of Remembrance will be up the first Sunday in December. The opportunity to purchase ornaments is again available this year. Engraved ornaments are available in memory of church members and cloth angels in memory of friends. Forms are at the Welcome Center - they must be returned to the church office by Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. The Service of Remembrance is Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00 p.m.
- Diabetic Support Group Annual Christmas Dinner: Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 p.m.

**JANUARY DRUMMER DEADLINE** is Monday, December 14. Please note the earlier date due to the holiday. 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).)