



JANUARY WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS
WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9 AND 11 AM

January, 2016
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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 7th grade, adult-supervision in Noah's Nursery.

OUR JANUARY WORSHIP THEME IS: GOOD NEWS (for the Winter Blues)

January 3: On this first Sunday of the month, we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Dr. Brill's communion meditation is entitled, "Good News: Rest for the Weary"; the scripture is Deuteronomy 5:12-15.

January 10: The scripture for the day is Exodus 18:13-26. Dr. Brill's sermon is entitled, "Good News: It's Not All Up to You."

January 17: "Good News: 3D Living" is the sermon title, based on Romans 12:9-21.

January 24: Dr. Brill returns from the pilgrimage to Israel to share a message entitled, "Good News from a Holy Land"; the scripture is Genesis 12:1-9.

January 31: On this Annual Meeting Sunday, Dr. Brill's sermon is entitled, "Good News for a New Year": the scripture is I Thessalonians 4:9-10, 5:12-22.

A WORD FROM KELLY

Do you make New Year's resolutions? The word "resolution" is connected to the word "resolve"...when you make a resolution, you're asking for resolve, for strength, determination, courage to make changes in your life. Several years ago, I was trained in a program called Circle of Life, a self-help program that teaches the psychology of change. I learned that:

- 1) Baby steps are often the best way to make change. For example, if you want to lose weight, change one small thing about your eating or exercise routine. Once you've incorporated that change and made it habit, take on one more. If you want to save money, start by saving your quarters, etc. Small, incremental baby steps can lead to significant transformation.
- 2) Be gentle and forgiving with yourself. Notice which changes are easy for you, and which are hard for you, and reflect on what you're learning about yourself. But don't self-criticize or wallow in shame or guilt; it won't help!
- 3) Pray for God to help strengthen your resolve. Your spiritual life is connected to the rest of you...let prayer help direct your energy.

And Happy New Year!

Blessings, Kelly

OFFICIAL CALL FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING: The Annual Meeting of the Avon Lake United Church of Christ will be held January 31. We will begin at noon in Fellowship Hall with the Chili Cook-off followed by the meeting.

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. January Schedule:

1/10 Scripture: Exodus 18:13-26; Discussion leader: Lou Suarez

1/17 Scripture: Romans 12:9-21; Discussion leader: Bonnie Fraser

1/24 Scripture: Genesis 12:1-9; Discussion leader: Bill Schubmehl

1/31 Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10, 5:12-22; Discussion leader: Julie Marlin

FIRST TUESDAY BOOK STUDY-JANUARY: All are invited to discuss *The Road to Character* by David Brooks on Tuesday, January 5 at 7 PM. The discussion will take place at the Avon Lake home of Cindy Turik and Phil Wadsworth, 33000 Maplewood Circle. 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 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.

JANUARY MEETING OF ALUCC BOOK CLUB: Join us on January 26 at 7 PM for a discussion of *Lila*, a novel by Marilynne Robinson. Homeless and alone after years of roaming the countryside, Lila steps inside a small-town Iowa church—the only available shelter from the rain—and ignites a romance and a debate that will reshape her life. She becomes the wife of a minister, John Ames, and begins a new existence while trying to make sense of the days of suffering that preceded her newfound security.

JANUARY PODCAST DISCUSSION: Our busy lives often keep us from reading the books we’d like to read or attending classes on topics that interest us. Podcasts—audio files available through the internet—offer one solution. Join us in January to discuss Amy-Jill Levine’s incisive comments on Jesus’ “short stories.” Listen as she explores the historical context of Jesus’ parables and invites us to view them from the perspective of first-century Judaism. To participate, you need only visit the ALUCC Facebook page (www.facebook.com/AvonLakeUCC), click on the link to the podcast, listen, and post your thoughts. It’s that easy! Please join us for open, judgment-free discussion and joyful fellowship with your partners-in-faith.

FIRST TUESDAY BOOK STUDY-FEBRUARY: Join us on Tuesday, February 2 at 7 PM for an exploration of *No god but God: The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam* by Reza Aslan. Though it is the fastest-growing religion in the world, Islam remains shrouded in ignorance and fear for many in the West. In *No god but God*, Reza Aslan explains this faith in all its beauty and complexity. The February meeting will take place at the Sheffield Lake home of Lou and Deb Suarez, 811 Harris Rd. Please consider joining us.

PRAY ALWAYS, a 3-week program facilitated by Maryann Ruben. Choose to spend your extra time this Leap Year 2016 deepening your relationship with Christ. Explore the mystery of prayer as we learn what it means to *pray without ceasing*. Expert & amateur “prayers” welcome! Mondays, Feb 22, 29 & March 7, 6:45 - 7:45 PM.

FOURTH GRADE PRE-CONFIRMATION: Fourth Grade Pre-Confirmation will be held during Cross Training on Wednesday nights from Feb. 17-Mar. 23. If you have a fourth grader in your family, please RSVP to Julie Reimer at christianed@avonlakeucc.org or 933-3241 to let her know whether or not your child will be attending. Parents, please check out the additional Cross Training classes in this Drummer. We are offering 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 an hour?) when you can take a wonderful class and enrich your life! Better yet, bring the whole family and make an evening of it! Dinner is served at 6, worship at 6:30 and classes begin at 7. See you there!

JACK-N-JILL REGISTRATION: Jack-n-Jill Nursery School is currently accepting registrations for the 2016-2017 school year (classes beginning in September) from Church members and those families currently enrolled in the school. Registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Community registration begins on January 19th. Classes are available for 2.5, 3, 4 and 5 year old children. Church members have first priority to register: some classes fill very quickly, so come in to register as soon as possible or call Melody Rice at 933-7946 for further information.

MOMS' COOKING NIGHT: First time ever.... Crock Pot Freezer meals and casseroles night! Tired of figuring out what to do for dinner during that "busy" day that everyone has? Let's all come together and cook and prepare some homemade meals that we can take home and pop in our freezer. Think of prep work and weekly meals to make ahead of time, but with lots of women to cook with, chat with and visit. It'll make our time in the kitchen more fun, with more meals and less time. Save the date for Monday, January 25, 2016, at 6 PM. Spots will be limited to just 20 people. Contact Kim Rose (kim.a.rose@hotmail.com) to reserve your spot; she will then communicate about what to bring.

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.

FUN & FELLOWSHIP FOR THE NEW YEAR: What could be better on a cold winter night than to gather with friends and enjoy a good meal together? Our church has a group made up of both singles and couples that meet the third Thursday of each month to dine together at a restaurant chosen by someone in the group. There is always good conversation and plenty of laughter. All are welcome! Contact Sandy Dibbell at 933-9018 if you would like to receive the monthly email with information on date, time, place, and who is taking reservations.

LORAIN COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY is building two houses on 345 Warden Avenue in Elyria. Last weekend, ALUCC volunteers finished wrapping the Paige family house, adding bracing and began building the front porch. This Saturday from 9 to 4, we will be installing windows, doors and completing the front porch. In addition, three contractors will be putting on the roof, wiring the house and installing the vinyl siding before Christmas. On the second Saturday of January (9th), we will be insulating. Call Doug Rider, 396-4666, or email: drider520@oh.rr.com if you like to volunteer. You can follow along on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/Lorain-County-Habitat-for-Humanity-230094180408549/>

CROSSTRAINING SPRING 2016: The season of Lent begins early this year! Ash Wednesday is February 10. CrossTraining will begin February 17. In the coming weeks, look for more details on these classes:

- Pre-Confirmation for 4th Graders
- Twelve Women of the Bible: Life Changing Stories for Women Today (a video course facilitated by Cynthia Kotora)
- Healthy Families: this course will be led by Julia Bartram, nurse and wellness coach, Pastor Kelly Brill, and Maryann Ruben. The focus is on developing healthy habits for your family, including meal planning, stress reduction, financial and spiritual health.
- The Great Outdoors: learn more about how to enjoy nature this coming spring and summer, from fly fishing to kayaking to bicycling to bird-watching...more details to come!

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY: The following policy was approved by Church Council at their November meeting: In case of inclement weather or a power outage, Avon Lake United Church of Christ will communicate in the following manner:

Decisions will be made about events at least two hours before the start time of each event. Cancellations will be published on the church's Facebook page and website, and the church office will be notified (if there is someone in the office at that time.) Any events cancelled involving our youth ministry programs will be communicated through our social media platforms and through our text-messaging program. Church members who are coordinating events: if you are cancelling your event, please contact Tim Schulz (440-933-3241 (o); 440-522-8769 (c); membership@avonlakeucc.org) or Kelly Brill (440-933-3241 (o); 216-210-7160 (c); pastor@avonlakeucc.org) so they can publish the cancellation. Worship will only be cancelled if the church has no power and/or if there is a driving ban in effect. During regular business hours, the office personnel can be contacted by phone and they will be able to answer questions about which events have been cancelled.

**Avon Lake United
Church of Christ**

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*Growing People to
Serve God and Others*

We are on the Web:
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 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)! Thank you.

GOD'S BLESSINGS, LOVE AND COMFORT FOR: Patty Byron (friend of Spaetzels and Fries), Nick Hampe (Geoff's nephew), Jacob Heberling (family friend of Judy Reich), Tom Hoover (Nate Taylor's Uncle), Thelma Morningstar (recuperating after surgery), Drew Small (awaiting surgery, 1/12), Anthony Spaetzel (recuperating after surgery), 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.

SYMPATHY TO:

- The family of Dave Davis, who died November 20.
- The family of Jean Jackson, who died November 26.
- The family of Ray Anderson, who died December 9.
- Donna Case on the death of her sister, Carole Hunter, December 13.
- Harry Barelka whose 100-year-old cousin, Anela Barelka died December 15.

PRAYERS: Please keep in your prayers this month those participants on the Holy Land Pilgrimage - from ALUCC they are Kelly Brill, Bengt and Margerita Gerborg, Sandi Gerhan, Julie Reimer, Chuck and Debbie Pettys, and Maggie Stark. Also participating are Julie Reimer's parents and one of their friends, former member Peg Kneiss, and Matthew Barelka (grandson of Harry and Joann). They leave January 11 and return January 20.

CONGRATULATIONS TO: Nate and Lisa Taylor on the birth of their daughter, Nora on December 2.

THANK YOU: In the past month the members of ALUCC have made love visible with their generous spirit - nearly \$5000 for food and paper products during the Fall Food Drive, and nearly 300 gifts under the Giving Tree. Recipients were Haven Center in Lorain, Community Resource Services in Avon-Avon Lake, St. Paul UCC in Cleveland, IHN/Family Promise of Lorain County, and Resource Moms of Mercy Hospital UH in Lorain. The Mission Team coordinated - many thanks to all!

SAVE THE DATE! An all-church Leadership Retreat will be held Saturday morning, February 20. We will review data collected from the recent church survey, divide into groups and begin dreaming about our next five-year plan. All members are welcome! If you are serving on a board/team/committee this year, you are especially invited! If you would like babysitting, we will be happy to provide free childcare.

WOMEN SINGERS: You are cordially invited to join the Avon Lake Women's Chorus as rehearsals begin Monday, January 11. Weekly Monday rehearsals are 9:30 am - 11:30 am in our Avon Lake UCC Choir Room. Currently 28 voices strong and professionally led by a director and piano accompanist, we enjoy learning music to sing for residents of senior apartments, assisted living/care facilities and members of various organizations throughout Lorain and western Cuyahoga Counties, plus we have lots of fun together socializing and performing! We hope you will ask Fran Niziolek or Irene Madasz about this important extension of music ministry & join us!

FEBRUARY DRUMMER DEADLINE is Monday, January 25.