

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

MAY 1: On this first Sunday of the month, we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. At 9 AM, Rayna Nicole Spaetzel will be baptized and the Celebration Bell Choir will play. Dr. Brill's communion meditation, "Unity", is based on Galatians 3:26-28.

MAY 8: We thank and celebrate our Christian Education volunteers with a sermon entitled, "Learning"; the scripture is Matthew 22:34-40. We welcome new members at both services.

MAY 15: Our Confirmation class will lead us in worship, followed by Coffee Hour at the Buoy! Wear red for Pentecost.

MAY 22: At both services, we will recognize our high school graduates. Dr. Brill's sermon is entitled, "Passion," based on Romans 12:9-21. At 9 AM, the Celebration Bells will play and Andrew Jeffrey Oleksiak will be baptized. Senior High Mission Trip participants are having a car wash.

MAY 29: SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS

Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend: one service at 10 AM

Sunday School is offered to children 3 years through those who have completed the 3rd grade.

ON MAY 29, the worship band, Anchored in Faith, will lead music. Dr. Brill's sermon is entitled, "Legacy", based on Joshua 24:14-24. Children will be planting the Secret Garden.

A WORD FROM KELLY

It is an exciting time in the life of our church as we begin the process of searching for an Associate Minister for Children and Family. I hope you will join me in praying for us to find the right person! We will be formulating a job description soon; we know that it will encompass the duties of the Director of Christian Education, in addition to other ministerial duties.

As I meet with other ministers in conferences and meetings, I am aware that most churches of our size are staffed with two or three full-time ministers. I am pleased that we have been able to accomplish so much with a smaller staff, but I firmly believe that adding this new staff position is the right move for our church at this time.

This decision also presents an opportunity for those who are not currently pledging or not currently giving at a sacrificial level. We will need to increase our Personnel budget in order to attract the best possible new staff member. I encourage each of us to look at what we are giving to the church, pray about what God has given us, consider what this church means to us, and ask ourselves, "Is it possible for me to begin giving more?" Pledges can be made and/or increased at any time. Giving via electronic funds transfer is a wonderful option for you and the church. Please contact me or Jill Eston (business@avonlakeucc.org) if you have any questions.

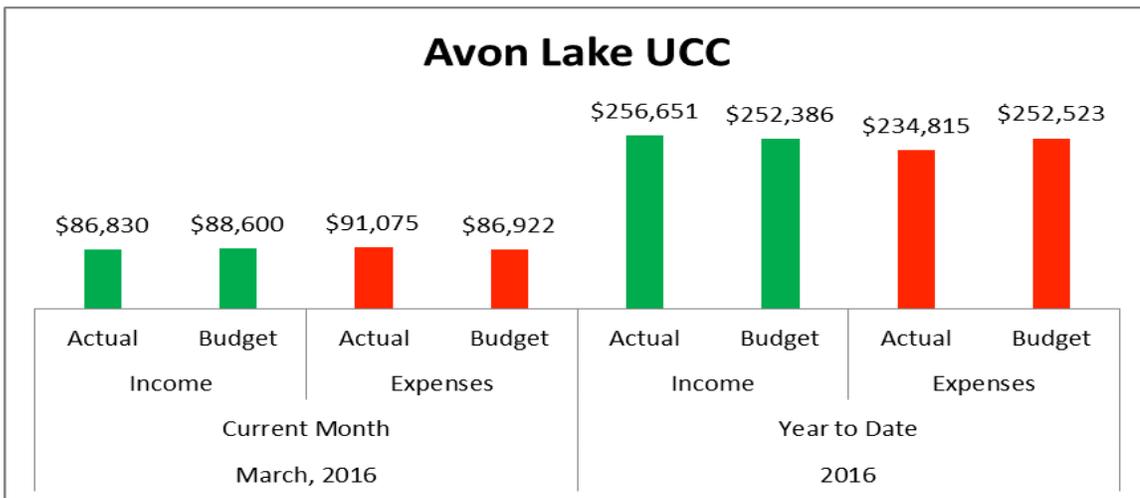
I thank my friend, the Rev. Scott Patterson, for his work as our Associate Minister for the past 18 months. His visits have been deeply appreciated by those who are homebound and in residential care facilities.

~ Kelly

May, 2016

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NEWS FROM CHURCH COUNCIL AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

It has been a busy month for personnel-related issues at ALUCC. Here is a summary of that activity:

Several candidates were interviewed for the position of Director of Christian Education. For a variety of reasons, none emerged as the final viable candidate.

Shortly thereafter, the Rev. Scott Patterson submitted a letter to Kelly and the Personnel Committee, announcing his retirement effective June 1.

The Personnel Committee discussed the church's situation, given these two openings, and voted to recommend to Church Council that we pursue a full-time Associate Minister for Children and Family. At its April 20 meeting, Church Council approved this proposal, unanimously.

The next step in the process is to meet with the Rev. Bonnie Bates from the Western Reserve Association to discuss formulating a search committee and to learn about publicizing our position through the UCC channels. Members of Council, Christian Education, and Personnel have been invited to that meeting.

In the meantime, members of the Christian Education Team have assumed leadership responsibilities. Deb Gorman has selected summer church school curriculum, and is recruiting and training teachers. Melissa Guilianelli has assumed responsibility for nursery staffing. Kim Banks and Sherry Hird are co-chairing Vacation Bible School.

Two college students have been hired to help with Christian Education during the summer. Katherine Kotora, an Education student at Bowling Green, will teach the Preschool Sunday School. Laura Brand, a ministry student at Calvin College, will be our children's ministry intern, helping on Sunday mornings and to prepare for fall. It is anticipated that an interim Director of Christian Education will be hired by fall.

Every attempt is being made to ensure that our children's ministry programming flourishes during this interim time, and we are planning for expansion and growth of this program in the future. Members of the Personnel Committee and Church Council believe that ALUCC has been understaffed for some time, compared to other churches of our size and activity level. The opportunity to expand our fulltime staff is seen as a vote of confidence in the future of the congregation.

Any members who have questions are encouraged to contact Moderator Rich General, Personnel Committee Chair Bill Parsons, Christian Education Chair Maryann Ruben or Senior Minister Kelly Brill.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE: Every Thursday, throughout the spring and summer, a group of volunteers gathers to work on the church gardens. If you enjoy gardening, please consider donating a few hours to plant, weed and water. Contact Sharon Parsons if you have any questions.

Every Saturday morning, a group meets at the church from 8 AM until noon to tackle a never-ending to-do list. People of all skill levels are needed; there's a job for everyone. The Saturday morning crew saves the church thousands of dollars per year by donating their time working outside and inside the church. From chipping wood to raking leaves to painting and plumbing - new workers are always welcome!

Thanks to the Saturday morning work crew for the new kitchen floor! The group is currently looking at suggestions received via the church survey - grab bars in the bathrooms, for example.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY, led by Pastor Brill. Wednesdays, 10:30 am - 11:30 am. Please join us, all are welcome!

COME TO THE SERMON ROUNDTABLE ON SUNDAY MORNINGS: The Sermon Roundtable meets nearly every week in the new Conference Room (next to the nursery) about 15 minutes or so after the ending of the 9:00 worship. The time is geared to allow people time for fellowship before the informal Sermon Roundtable gathering. Our May leaders are:

- May 1 - Bev Stives
- May 8 - Maryann Ruben
- May 15 - Richard Turner
- May 22 - Lou Suarez
- May 29 (no Sermon Roundtable)

FIRST TUESDAY BOOK STUDY IN JUNE A SPECIAL EVENT: In October, ALUCC will host renowned Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann. In anticipation of Professor Brueggemann's visit, the book selected for the First Tuesday Book Study in June is his 2014 publication titled *Reality, Grief, Hope: Three Urgent Prophetic Tasks*. It is our hope that many of you will want to read Professor Brueggemann's book and join us on Tuesday, June 7 at 7 pm to explore its meaning and implications. Since we look forward to a larger turnout than normal, June's meeting will take place at the church. To hear Brueggemann discuss the book, visit <http://www.eerdmans.com/Products/7072/reality-grief-hope.aspx>.

IHN/FAMILY PROMISE VOLUNTEER TRAINING: Anyone who has direct contact with our guests during our hosting week must attend a volunteer training session. We do not yet have a date for training here in May, but anyone interested in going to one in Oberlin on Thurs, May 12 at 6:30pm, should contact Judy Reich 440-930-5370 or bjreich@wowway.com for details. Our next hosting is May 29 - June 4.

PRIMETIMERS LUNCH will be on Wednesday, May 11, at noon. Since this is the last one before we take a break for the summer, there will be a picnic menu with fried chicken. Following the lunch at 1:00, Bill and Bev Stives will show a video and talk about their trip to Panama and Costa Rica. Cost of the lunch is \$5 payable at the door. Reservations are required for the lunch by Monday, May 9, at noon and can be made on the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center or by calling the church office. Primetimers are primarily retired members but everyone of any age and friends are always welcome for the lunch and/or the presentation following. Don't miss out!

SUMMER CHURCH SCHOOL STAFF MEETING: There will be a summer church school staff meeting Sunday, May 15, in the Resource Room from 10:10 AM - 11 AM. All lead teachers and helping hands are welcome. The summer curricula will be introduced, reviewed, and distributed at this time. Teaching schedules will also be handed out and various teaching helps offered. The summer curricula will tell the story of Noah building the Ark and children will begin to understand how God wants us to live. The second part of summer will be spent learning about the Fruits of the Spirit and how these gifts help us to live as God wants us to live. Please call Deb Gorman at 440-934-1010 if you have any questions.

MOTHER'S DAY FLOWERS: Let the lady in your life know she's special! Beautiful quality **hanging flower baskets** will be available for purchase for \$17 on **Mother's Day** weekend. Choose from a wide variety - **best selection available Saturday, May 7, 1:00 - 2:30 pm and after each service Sunday, May 8**. Proceeds will help Send S'More Kids To Camp. The Christian Ed Team thanks you for your support and commitment to our Children's Ministry!

SAVE THE DATE: WOMEN'S RETREAT 2017 We have reserved the Jesuit Retreat House for January 27-28, 2017, and Kim Langley has been booked to serve as our retreat leader. One of our most popular leaders, Kim is a professional speaker, an enthusiastic teacher and learner, and a passionate person of faith. She will be leading us on an exploration of the medieval German mystic, Hildegarde of Bingen. Hildegarde is being rediscovered as a person whose insights have wise application for today.

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*Growing People to
Serve God and Others*

We are on the Web:
avonlakeucc.org

[Facebook.com/AvonLakeUCC](https://www.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: Bea Beard, Roger Buffett (former minister), Martha Cullen (Jean Grady's sister), Nick Hampe (Geoff's nephew), Lois Hartsel, Tom Hoover (Nate Taylor's Uncle), Lollie Kasulones (Kary Kandra's mother), Deanna Pottinger (Dawn's mother), Linda Taylor (friend of Jennifer Gould), David Turner, and all who are homebound or in residential facilities.

SYMPATHY TO:

- Jean Forster on the death of her son, Brad, on March 24
- Bud Consolo on the death of his sister
- Lenore Marken on the death of her sister, Peg Bugher, on April 1
- Joe Poplstein on the death of his brother, Tony, on April 2
- Tom Coy on the death of his uncle, James McEvoy on April 3
- Dave Weaver on the death of his daughter, Karen, on April 21

CONGRATULATIONS TO Bracken and Allison Danielson and big sister, Kamryn, on the birth of Halston Lilyan, on March 29.

PARISH NURSE NEWS: Diabetic Support Group Annual May Spring Dinner: Wednesday, May 25th at 6:00 p.m. in the Gathering Space at the church. Mark your calendars! Spouses welcome.

Free Lab Screenings: Mercy Hospital will provide free screenings for: CMP/Lipids/HgA1c/TSH/PSA (men > 40). Blood Drawn at church Sunday, June 5, 8:30 - 10:30 am. This is a great opportunity if you have a high deduct policy or no insurance.

JOB OPPORTUNITY: Jack-n-Jill Preschool is in search of a creative, enthusiastic individual to fill a teaching position for the 2016-2017 school year. The qualified candidate must have a bachelor's degree in education and experience working with young children. If you have the energy for little ones and are ready to make learning fun, please contact Melody Rice, the preschool director, at 440-933-7946 or send a resume and cover letter to jacknjill@avonlakeucc.org.

JUNE DRUMMER DEADLINE is Monday, May 23. If you would like information included in the next monthly newsletter, please send it to the church office by email (office@avonlakeucc.org) or 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 update, or would like to submit news for inclusion, please email Tim Schulz at: membership@avonlakeucc.org.