



AVON LAKE
United Church of Christ
THE LIGHTHOUSE

FALL 2017/WINTER 2018

*Your quarterly newsletter featuring
ALUCC's fall and winter highlights*



At the 11:00 AM service on September 10, we celebrated the Confirmation of 12 of our students.

Please congratulate and welcome to membership:

Kenny Davis, Julie Eston, Jackie Grissinger, Myles Kaufman, Elizabeth Kotora, John Odle, Allison Peachman, Lily Purks, Ava Rodrigues, Zachary Rudduck, Nicholas Schulz and Max Stiles.



Our annual **Fall Fest** took place on October 1 and was a huge success!

Fall Fest featured free games for children, hayrides for everyone, the famous youth pie-eating contest, cakewalk and pumpkin painting. New this year were craft and vendor booths, a clambake, concessions, and live music. It was a great day of family fun!

Funds raised at Fall Fest benefited our summer camp scholarship fund.

Twenty-one men attended our annual **Men's Retreat** weekend at Pilgrim Hills in October.

The guys enjoyed a "choose-your-own-adventure" weekend. There was golfing, hiking, fishing, cornhole, cards, eating, fellowship, sleeping and a weekend away getting to know each other and renewing themselves. It was a weekend of fellowship, fun and fresh air!



Thanks to the hard work of our Mission Team and generosity of our congregation, the **2017 Fall Food Drive** was a huge success! Approximately \$6,600 was raised to purchase food and other special needs per requests from local agencies. Our Food Drive supported: Haven Center in Lorain which is the only 24/7 homeless shelter for families in Lorain County; St. Paul's UCC which is our sister church in Ohio City, Cleveland; Avon Lake CRS (Community Resource Services) that serves our residents who are suddenly in need of emergency assistance; Mercy Resource Mothers in Lorain who support new, single expecting mothers through their pregnancy and their baby's first year; and Assist Communities with support of Primary Purpose and Margeau's House (male and female rehab homes respectively). Thank you for your continued support!



Welcome our new custodian, Joe Romano!

The Personnel Committee announced the hiring of new custodian, Joe Romano. Joe began work on December 1 with Megan Reinking prior to her relocating out of state. Both Joe and Dave Uthe now share custodial duties for the church.

Joe spent 30 years working in the Rocky River School Systems and has 10 years experience at the Church of the Redeemer in Westlake.

Joe and his wife, Penny reside in Sheffield Village.

Our annual **Service of Remembrance** was held Sunday, December 3 at 4:00 PM. The service of prayer, scripture, readings and a brief meditation is designed to help those who are grieving enter the Advent and Christmas season with hope. As part of the service, people were invited to place an ornament on the memorial Christmas tree. A time of being together, with refreshments followed the service.

The Giving Tree went up Sunday, November 26 with 292 ornament gift tags containing the needs/wishes of ALUCC Families, Haven Center, IHN, Primary Purpose, Resource Mothers, and boots for St. Paul's (75). Special thanks to all who so generously responded to the wishes and needs of the agencies and people we serve. All labels were taken and Christmas was made happier for many in need.



Sunday School children and some amazing volunteers presented **"Ruby's Runaway Pageant"** on Dec 17 at 11:00 AM worship. The production was a HUGE hit with over 80 children participating. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and talents.



Christmas Eve at ALUCC: 5PM – Family Service, Children’s Time, Bell Choir
7PM – Carols, Candlelight, Worship Band
9PM – Carols, Candlelight, Choir
11PM – Communion, Candlelight, Anne E. DeChant & Pete Cavano
We held four services with music and candlelight to celebrate Jesus' birth. Over 1100 people attended!





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WOMEN'S RETREAT

Thirty women attended our annual **Women's Retreat** at the Jesuit House January 26-27. This year's retreat was led by Kelly Brill and Maryann Ruben. 2018 is the Year of Compassion at ALUCC. The women spent the weekend relaxing, connecting and talking about the connections between compassion, service and self-care.

The **Annual Meeting and Chili Cook-Off** was held after the 11 AM service on January 28. Members listened to church staff and team reports and voted on the 2018 budget all while enjoying the delicious Chili Cookoff provided by our Confirmation Class.

Congratulations to this year's Golden Ladle winners:

- Best Spicy Chili: Alex Masgras
- Best Vegetarian Chili: Amy Nasr
- Best Wild Game Chili: Nate Taylor
- Best Chili Name: C.J. Jasany
- Best Daniel Plan Chili: Rev. Dr. Kelly Brill
- Best Overall Chili: Kurt Zbin



Fifteen couples of all ages and varying relationship stages attended our **Couples Retreat** in February. The weekend was spent renewing relationships and building skills to help better communicate and gain a better understanding of personality differences. Couples enjoyed time away to focus on each other.



The Daniel Plan lifestyle is "better health and wholeness the way God intended us to live." The Daniel Plan essentials are: Faith, Food, Fitness, Focus, and Friends.

In mid January, approximately 150 people began The Daniel Plan journey. Our program was supported by Center for Functional Medicine at The Cleveland Clinic. Participants supported each other by meeting in small groups for the six week period and following the challenge to a healthier life. Groups enjoyed fellowship, developing new relationships, sharing recipes and much more. The ALUCC had the largest number of participants in a Daniel Plan group thus far.



Welcome to the following **new members** who joined the ALUCC family in February:

- Megan Becker
- Bill & Jennifer Calkins
- Tom & Katie Cirino
- Tom & Ruth Hitchcock
- George Kirby
- Jennifer Kramer



Dear Avon Lake United Church of Christ,

Thank you so much for your very generous donation to Next Step Ministries! I am in awe of the support I have received from ALUCC. Not only in this very generous donation from the church, but as well as the overwhelming support shown by numerous individual ALUCC families. Your financial support and prayers will enable my team and I to assist communities that were devastated by Hurricane Harvey. Thank you again for your support and I look forward to using my time and talents this summer to help make a difference! Sincerely, Hannah Nicholas

UPcoming EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE:

March 25	Palm Sunday
March 29	Maundy Thursday Service
March 30	Good Friday Service
April 1	Easter Sunday
April 22-28	IHN Week
April 23	Book Discussion
May 6	Inquirers' Class
June 18-22	Vacation Bible School
June 27	Bike & Build

Please let us know if we missed an event in your family & we will add it to the next newsletter.

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