



MARCH 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 7th 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.

March 1: Nate Taylor, Director of Youth Ministries, is giving the morning message, "Hallowed or Hollow?" The scripture is Psalm 46:10. On this first Sunday of the month, we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

March 8: Dr. Brill begins a sermon series on the Lord's Prayer. The first sermon is entitled, "Thy Kingdom Come"; the scripture is Luke 6:20-31. At 9 AM, new Stephen Ministers will be commissioned. At 11 AM, Hadley Marie Johns will be baptized. At both services, we will have a representative from the Back Bay Mission with us.

March 15: Kelly Brill's sermon title is "Thy Will Be Done"; the scripture is Romans 12:2, 9-21.

March 22: At 9 AM, the choir presents The Passion according to St. Mark by British organist and composer John Beralot. The Black River string quartet will accompany the choir and soloists in a work from the late 20th century. The congregation will get involved by joining the choir in singing a few hymn-chorales. It is a dramatic work with beautiful and haunting melodies with some modern harmony depicting the last week before the crucifixion of Jesus.

At both services the scripture reading will be Matthew 6:25-34, and Dr. Brill's message entitled "Give Us This Day".

March 29 is Palm Sunday. We begin worship experiencing the triumphant mood of the first Palm Sunday and end by ushering in the somber mood of Holy Week. The scripture readings are Mark 11:1-11 and Mark 14:66-72. Dr. Brill's message is "Forgive Us/Help Us Forgive."

PILGRIMAGE TO ISRAEL: Do you know someone who might be interested in a trip to the Holy Land? Senior Minister Kelly Brill is leading a tour in January of 2016. The tour group planning the trip, Magi Tours, has been conducting pilgrimages to Israel since 1983. Two groups are in Israel right now and have experienced no safety or security problems whatsoever. Please contact Kelly for more information.

PRIMETIMERS LUNCH will be on Wednesday, March 11, at Noon in the Gathering Space. Cost of the meal is \$5 payable at the door. A reservation is needed by noon on Monday, March 9. 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!

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME STARTS MARCH 8: TURN YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD MARCH 7.

March, 2015
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A WORD FROM KELLY

I write this as the season of Lent is beginning. The word, "Lent" means "lengthen", referring to the longer days as spring approaches. I like to call Lent the season for spiritual growth. During these next forty days, a lot of growth can take place. What if you decided to pray for someone every day for forty days – someone you're worried about, or someone you want to forgive? What if you decided to simply listen for God every day for forty days? What might you begin to hear?

As I look at the courtyard outside my office right now, I see a layer of snow on top of ground that has been hardened by winter and below-zero temperatures. I can't see it, but I trust that underneath that ground, there is growth preparing to happen. There are bulbs that will push through the hardened ground, bringing green shoots of hope. The rose bush that is dormant will bloom again.

We can't always see the way that God is at work in our lives, yet we trust that it is happening. My prayer for each of us is that we will experience new growth between now and Easter morning. As the days grow longer, may our connection with God grow stronger.

~Kelly

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.

GENERAL SYNOD 2015 NEEDS YOU!!! Do you have a smile you are willing to share? Do you like meeting other people of faith? Do you have several hours available the end of June, 2015? If you answered yes to any of these questions, we need you to consider volunteering for General Synod. General Synod, the United Church of Christ's Annual Meeting is taking place June 26-30 at the Cleveland Convention Center. The process is simple...check out the volunteer opportunities at <http://synod.uccpages.org/overview-of-volunteer.html> or in the brochure at the Welcome Center. Sign up to volunteer and then register for Synod. You will be notified in late April of your volunteer assignment. If you have any questions, send a message to 2015UCCGSVolunteers@gmail.com or talk to Sandi Gerhan.

STEPHEN MINISTERS RETREAT SATURDAY, MARCH 7TH: 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 1st with Judy Reich (bjreich@wowway.com, 440-930-5370) or the church office (office@avonlakeucc.org, 440-933-3241).

SPRING FOOD DRIVE: On March 15, 22 and 29 the Mission Team will be taking your donations for the Spring Food Drive 2015. Food is purchased at wholesale prices according to the needs and requests from 3 agencies: Haven Center in Lorain, a homeless shelter for families; St. Paul's UCC in Ohio City Cleveland; and CRS in Avon Lake (Community Resource Services). You may give with cash, check or credit card.

HOST FAMILIES WANTED: ALUCC is hosting a visiting vocal and youth choir from Crystal Lake, IL on Sunday morning, April 26. The group will arrive for practice Saturday night. Host families are needed to provide a bed that night, breakfast and a ride to the church on Sunday morning. A minimum of two youth will stay at each home. To volunteer, please sign up at the Welcome Center. All hosts must complete a safe church protection form before the hosting date. Questions? Contact Mike Fowle: fowle.michael@gmail.com.

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

JANUARY 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 1/2015			YTD 2015		
Income	Actual	Budget	Difference	Actual	Budget	Difference
Member Pledges	\$46,464	\$50,376	-\$3,912	\$46,464	\$50,376	-\$3,912
Other	\$26,678	\$25,981	\$697	\$26,678	\$25,981	\$697
Total Income	\$73,142	\$76,357	-\$3,215	\$73,142	\$76,357	-\$3,215
Expenses	Actual	Budget	Difference	Actual	Budget	Difference
Total	\$79,998	\$85,196	-\$5,198	\$79,998	\$85,196	-\$5,198
Net (Income less Expenses)	-\$6,856	-\$8,839		-\$6,856	-\$8,839	

WHAT GOOD DOES YOUR GIVING DO? Your gifts to ALUCC support a variety of ministry and mission. Consider all of the caring that takes place under the ALUCC umbrella. Our homebound, hospitalized, and those in residential care facilities are visited by our ministers and our parish nurse. Doorstep dinners are coordinated by the Mission Team. In February, one of our homebound members called the church and left a message saying, "I just want to thank everyone, from the bottom of my heart, for your prayers, your calls, cards and meals. We don't know where we would be without our church family." Your giving makes a difference! Thank you!

RUMMAGE SALE: It is time to get ready for our annual church Rummage Sale by cleaning out your closets and finding those unused items. It will be held on Tuesday, April 14th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a presale after church services on Sunday, April 12th. Donations of good used clothing and household items are appreciated. Items can be put in the Fellowship Hall by noon on Saturday, April 11th for set-up.

NEW PEW PADS

We introduced new pew pads in January. On the new pew pads are space for current members to leave updated contact information. Complete this section if you have a new email, phone # or address. Below that is a space to leave prayer requests or messages for the office. There is no need for you to sign-in or complete a pew pad form if current members to leave updated contact information. Complete this section if you have a new email, phone # or address. Below that is a space leave prayer requests or messages for the office. There is no need for you to sign-in or complete a pew pad form if you do not have new information for church staff. The top of the pew pads are for our guests to leave their information so that we can welcome them to Avon Lake UCC and add them to our mailings.

Welcome Guests! We are glad you are here. Please fill out this section below and drop in the Offering Plate. After worship, please join us for coffee hour in Fellowship Hall and stop by our Welcome Center.

I am a first time visitor
 I attend here regularly
 I am a new resident
 I am interested in membership
 A friend/family invited me name: _____

Members: Use the space below to update any of your information.

name(s) _____ date _____
 phone # _____ service time _____
 e-mail _____
 address _____

I have a prayer request or a message for the church office:



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 March....

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

“Seven Strategies for Coping with Adversity,” led by Rev. Jim Edwards. Sundays, March 1-22, *Minding the Gap*, 10:10-10:50 am. In the third and fourth chapters of Philippians, Paul gives us a rich variety of ways to cope with adversity. Probably no one was better qualified than Paul to teach us how to deal with adversity because he faced sorrow and setback throughout his missionary travels. Indeed, he wrote Philippians from a Roman prison, where he faced danger and difficulty every day. In this Lenten course, we’ll explore seven of St. Paul’s strategies for coping with adversity: forget what lies behind; see God’s new possibilities for your life; stop worrying and start praying; seek God’s peace; focus on the positive; learn to be content; and depend on Christ’s redeeming strength whenever you hit the panic button. Child care will be available. This class will meet in the Conference Room.

First Tuesday Book Study

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. The selection for March is *The Orphan Train* by Christina Kline. A powerful tale of upheaval and resilience, second chances, and unexpected friendship, Kline’s novel follows the intersecting lives of Vivian Daly—as a child, one of thousands sent on so-called “orphan trains” from the cities of the East Coast to the farmlands of the Midwest—and seventeen-year-old Molly Ayer who, in order to avoid being sent to juvenile hall, accepts a community-service position helping an elderly widow clean out her attic. According to Richard Russo, “Christina Baker Kline is a relentless storyteller. Once she sets her hook and starts reeling you in, struggle becomes counterproductive. The narrative line is too taut, the angler at the other end too skillful.” We hope to see you on Tuesday, March 31 at 7 pm. Contact Judy Reich, bjreich@wowway.com, for more information.

Cross Training, Wednesdays, 6 pm-8 pm, February 25-April 1.

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.

CHRISTIAN ED NEWS

CROSSTRAINING BEGINS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25: During the 6 weeks of Lent, the church family gathers for Wednesday evening programming. The evening begins at 6 with dinner, followed by an informal worship service at 6:30 and classes for all ages from 7-8. Adult classes for this session are: “Bible Basics,” “Golf Fundamentals,” and “Who’s My Neighbor? Comparative Religions”. Fourth graders are offered Pre-Confirmation, younger children have supervised fun and games, Mid-high students will be in “Mid-High Mayhem” and Senior High Youth Group meets at the same time. Register online at www.avonlakeucc.org/ministry/cross-training/ or call the church office.



FAMILY LENTEN WORKSHOP SUNDAY, MARCH 15: The Christian Education Team will be hosting the Annual Family Lenten Workshop on March 15 from 12-1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Join us for a family friendly lunch of hot dogs and mac ‘n cheese followed by an hour of fun-filled Easter Crafts! *Adult and youth volunteers needed to help supervise crafts.* Contact Julie Reimer at christianed@avonlakeucc.org to volunteer or get more information.

HOMEMADE SOUP FOR SALE MARCH 22! Take the night off from cooking! The Christian Education Team will be selling homemade soup (prepackaged and ready to take home) on Sunday, March 22 after both services. Funds raised will be used for the Camp Incentive Fund to help send members to camp this summer. *If you would like to donate a pot of soup, please contact Julie Reimer at christianed@avonlakeucc.org.*

WELCOME TO THESE NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED IN FEBRUARY

- Joe and Marcia Coleman, 108 Tomahawk Drive, Avon Lake 44012. Joe: 440-752-5604; Marcia: 513-828-7198. Children: Madison (7th grade) and Jackson (7th grade)
- Greg and Kim Deeks, 340 Crestmont Circle, Avon Lake, 44012. Greg: 216-338-7067; Kim: 440-258-1988. Children: Ava (2nd grade) and Jonny (1st grade)
- David and Nelle Doyle, 32291 Pinehurst Drive, Avon Lake, 44012. David: 757-232-9406; Nelle: 757-284-6570. Corie (4 years old) and Connor (20 months old)
- Jennifer Jento, 595 Treeside Lane, Avon Lake, 44012. 440-548-1568. Children: Summer (8th grade) and Adam (4th grade)
- Karl and Kaylee Lessman, 32535 Belle Road, Avon Lake, 44012. 930-4855. Karl: 216-233-0082; Kayleen: 440-242-7657. Children: Ty (7th grade) and Sophie (5th grade)
- Kevin and Kristen Moore, 33387 Canterbury Road, Avon Lake, 44012. Kevin: 440-670-4774; Kristen: 440-821-7086.
- Joyce Rubenstein, 9404 Foxboro Drive, North Ridgeville, 44039. 440-281-8203. Husband: Earl
- Kyle and Kim Rose, 31847 Bayview Drive, Avon Lake, 44012. 440-961-0144. Kim: 937-408-7647. Children: Lincoln (1st grade) and Ella (preschool)
- Kevin and Kari Samuels, 614 Arborside Lane, Avon Lake, 44012. 440-653-9277. Kevin: 216-789-6248; Kari: 216-224-1455. Children: Nolan (Pre-K) and Piper (preschool)
- William Schubmehl, 108 Highland Avenue, Avon Lake, 44012. 440-933-3954.
- Jeremy & Jenny Winters, 2689 Seton Drive, Avon, 44011. Jeremy: 216-956-9138; Jennifer: 330-718-3138.

SAVE THE DATE - INQUIRERS CLASSES: Inquirers Classes for prospective new members will be held on April 19 & 26. Both classes will be held following New Horizons worship. Lunch is provided by the Membership Team. For more details or to register for these classes, please contact Tim Schulz, Membership & Media Coordinator at membership@avonlakeucc.org

QUIET GIVER: Last month's quiet giver was Allen Lindsay.

**Avon Lake United
Church of Christ**

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Avon Lake, OH 44012

Phone: 440-933-3241
Fax: 440-933-7928
Email: office@avonlakeucc.org

*Growing People to
Serve God and Others*

We are on the Web:
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)! Thank you.

GOD'S BLESSINGS, LOVE AND COMFORT FOR: Mary Ann Agler, Tom & Isy Beal, Patty Byron (friend of Spaetzels & Fries, treatment for cancer), Cara Burgess, Peg Ebner, (awaiting surgery March 6), Gladys Flynn, Nick Hampe (Geoff's nephew), Jean Jackson (health concerns), Marilyn Jones (Paul Dunford's sister awaiting surgery), Bob Loar (Gary's brother undergoing tests), Joshua MacDonald (nephew of Scott & Shelley MacDonald, recuperating from surgery), Dick & Barb Merriman (former members with health issues), John & Joyce Parsons (health concerns), Rob Patton (recuperating from surgery), Donna Shiley (recuperating from surgery), Kim Trask (friend of Updegraffs), Werner Wittman, and all who are homebound or in residential facilities.

Sympathy to:

- Tom Noeller & his family on the death of his father, Paul, February 2.
- Dinah Hunt & her family on the death of her mother, Shirley, February 13.

Congratulations to:

- Mike & Katy Foutz on the birth of their son, Jacob Michael, January 27.
- Brad & Amber Ralston on the birth of their son, Jackson Craig, February 15.

Prayers for Bill & Bev Stives as they leave on their mission trip, March 7.

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

PARISH NURSE NOTES:

- **REMINDER:** free Mammograms for those who qualify Saturday February 28, 2015 7:30 a.m. - 12 noon at Mercy Hospital. Call Debbie at 960-3624 with questions.
- **Diabetic Support Group** meets Wednesday, March 11th from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the Gathering Space.
- **Living Will, Healthcare Power of Attorney, Estate Planning** at SJMC Wednesday, March 25th 7:00 p.m. RSVP 877-597-6348
- **Alzheimer's Info:** Learn more about the challenging behaviors that may be displayed by those with Alzheimer's or other dementias and learn ways that work best to manage. Thursday, March 26th @ 6:30 p.m. at Independence Village. RSVP 440-353-3080.
- **Parish Nurse Hours:** Wednesdays 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.; Sundays between services. Evenings by Appointment. Contact information: cherylupdegraff@oh.rr.com or call the church office.

APRIL DRUMMER DEADLINE is Monday, March 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) 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.)