

**DECEMBER WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS  
FOLLOW THE LIGHT!**

**December 21:** Fourth Sunday Of Advent. We light the candle of love. Dr. Brill's message is entitled, "Follow the Light Towards Love"; the scripture is Luke 1:46-55. Our liturgical dance team will share in worship at 9 and 11 AM.

**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.
- **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, candlelight, and a message from Dr. Brill.
- **11 PM:** The mood of this candlelight service is more quiet and meditative. Music will be shared by Pete Cavano on guitar, Michele George on violin, and Jeffrey Schimelfenig on cello, in addition to our own keyboardist, Ruth Williams. Dr. Brill will share a communion meditation. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be offered to all.

**January, 2015**  
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**December 28:** One worship service at 10 AM; one last chance to sing carols! Kelly Brill's sermon, "Endings and Beginnings" is based on Luke 2:22-40. Donna Case and Ken Hunt will bring special music. Sunday School will be offered for children through the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and Noah's Nursery will be staffed.

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

Our worship theme for January 4 - February 15 is "RESTART". Our focus scripture is from 2 Corinthians: "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" In this new year, we are reminded of the good news that God gives us new beginnings in life, again and again.

**January 4:** "Restart You!" is the theme for Dr. Brill's communion meditation. We will renew our baptismal vows as we hear the story of Paul's conversion as told in Acts 9. Jacob Barrett Winters will be baptized at 11 AM.

**January 11:** Dr. Brill's sermon is entitled, "Restart Relationships"; the scripture is Genesis 45:1-19.

**January 18:** Micah 6:8 is the basis for the theme, "Restart Justice" and for Dr. Brill's message.

**January 25:** On Annual Meeting Sunday, we celebrate the mission and ministry of Avon Lake UCC. "Restart Church" is the theme for worship and Dr. Brill's message. The scripture is 2 Timothy 1:3-7.

**YEAR END GIFTS:** Please consider a donation to Avon Lake UCC as you are thinking about your year-end giving. Donations may be made to the General Fund, the Pastoral Fund, or given towards any number of special purposes (bequest, music, landscaping, mortgage reduction, etc.) If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Brill. End of year gifts must be received by December 31 or if mailed, postmarked no later than December 31.

## **A WORD FROM KELLY**

Last Friday I had a meeting in Columbus, so I drove to Columbus on Thursday and spent that day with my parents. Thursday ended up being a very busy day at the church, with several people in and out of the hospital, and one of our church members had died. I woke up Friday morning and needed to send some messages, but my phone wasn't working correctly. I tried three times to send one text message and kept receiving a message back that "message failed to send."

During the course of the meeting, I checked my phone and noticed I had a few missed calls. Still, my text messages weren't going through. I wondered why I wasn't getting better phone service in Columbus; I had never had that problem before.

Driving home, I decided I should call the number that had called me twice. I learned that another church member had died that day. Fortunately, the phone worked fine for talking, so we were able to make some arrangements.

Saturday morning I noticed that my phone still wasn't working correctly and I knew it didn't have anything to do with poor service. I remembered the old trick, "turn it off and then restart it." Not ten seconds after pushing the restart button, I received eleven text messages and three voice mail messages, all from Friday. I felt terrible that I hadn't received those messages in a more timely manner, but grateful that I finally remembered the old "restart" trick.

January 1 is a wonderful time to push the restart button. What is it that you would like to be different about your life in the year 2015? Would you like to be more creative, more forgiving? Would you like to laugh more, pray more, say "no" more? Would you like to find more time for quiet, for family, for service to others?

I'm excited about our "Restart" worship series that will begin on January 4 and take us through February 15, right before the start of the season of Lent. Each week we will explore a different aspect of our lives and consider all of the ways that we can begin this year with new energy, new focus, new intentions. Our focus scripture is one of my very favorites, "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" God is ensuring us that change is possible, that we don't have to be stuck in old habits, old patterns of behavior that we no longer find useful or healthy.

Happy New Year! Let's restart together!

## **FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY RETURNS TO ALUCC**

Avon Lake UCC is offering a nine-week money management class beginning January 4. 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 4 - March 8, 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 Kelly Brill, 440-933-3241 or [pastor@avonlakeucc.org](mailto:pastor@avonlakeucc.org). Rich General, active ALUCC member and retired mortgage banking specialist, is the leader.

**PRIMETIMERS LUNCH** will be on Wednesday, January 14, at Noon in the Gathering Space. Cost of the meal is \$5 payable at the door. A reservation is needed by noon on Monday, January 11. 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!

## **PARISH NURSE NOTES:**

- **Diabetic Support Group:** Wednesday, January 14th, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Program: Dr. Brendan McCarty, Podiatrist. All welcome.
- **Parish Nurse Hours:** Wednesdays 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.; Sundays between services. Evenings by Appointment. Contact information: [cherylupdegraff@oh.rr.com](mailto:cherylupdegraff@oh.rr.com) or call the church office.

## NEWS FROM THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE/JOB OPENINGS

Due to the news that Valerie Tanzilli will be retiring June 30, 2015, the Personnel Committee is posting two jobs, each at 30 hours per week.

- **The Office Manager** will focus on the preparation of worship bulletins and the newsletter, management of the church calendar, non-financial record-keeping, and coordination of all-church mailings. Qualifications include: organizational skills, proficiency in Microsoft Word, ability to learn to operate the printing and folding machines. It is hoped that this employee would know or be able to learn graphic design software.
- **The Business Manager** will have oversight of the financial operations of the church and all building-related matters, including oversight of custodial work, building-related purchases and repairs, and usage of the church by outside groups. Qualifications include: organizational skills, background in accounting or bookkeeping, ability to learn financial church software system.

Those selected for each position will possess outstanding people skills and understand the need for the upmost level of confidentiality.

Anyone interested in applying may submit a resume to the ALUCC Personnel Committee, attn: Gary Loar. Deadline for applications is February 1. The positions will officially begin July 1, but the selected employees will be paid for orientation time to begin late spring. If you have questions, please contact Gary Loar (cbgary2003@yahoo.com) or Senior Minister Kelly Brill.

### SCOTT PATTERSON JOINS CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Scott Patterson will join the church staff as of January 1 as part-time Associate Minister for Pastoral Care. Scott is replacing the Rev. Jim Deitz who is retiring. Scott will maintain a regular schedule of visitation, focusing on our homebound members and those living in residential care facilities. He will assist Senior Minister Kelly Brill and Parish Nurse Cheryl Updegraff in hospital visitation, and will be available in Dr. Brill's absence for funerals, weddings and other pastoral care needs.

Scott is familiar to the ALUCC family as he and his wife Karen are active members. He was the minister in charge during Kelly Brill's 2013 sabbatical.

**NOVEMBER 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 11/2014			YTD 2014		
	Actual	Budget	Difference	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income						
Member Pledges	\$56,017	\$55,897	\$120	\$549,516	\$568,473	-\$18,957
Other	\$31,106	\$30,997	\$109	\$287,203	\$271,267	\$15,936
Total Income	\$87,123	\$86,894	\$229	\$836,719	\$839,740	-\$3,021
Expenses						
Total	\$88,076	\$75,640	\$12,436	\$889,951	\$876,616	\$13,335
Net (Income less Expenses)	-\$953	\$11,254		-\$53,232	-\$36,876	

**COUPLES RETREAT:** This retreat is open to all couples: engaged, married, or partnered. It will take place at Aquamarine Clubhouse Friday, February 6, 7-9:30 PM and Saturday, February 7, 9 AM - 5 PM. The cost is \$30.00 per couple. Registration forms are located at the Welcome Center and are available on line.

**WOMEN'S RETREAT:** *The Journey Toward Forgiveness*, led by Kelly Brill and Maryann Ruben. The retreat, open to all women, will take place at Jesuit Retreat House, January 23 -24. The cost is \$80.00. Registration forms are located at the Welcome Center and are available on line.

## ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (ACE) AT ALUCC

All are welcome! Bring a friend.

*Adult Bible Study*, led by Senior Minister Kelly Brill. Wednesday mornings at 10:30 in the Gathering Space. All adults are welcome, whether you're familiar with the Bible or a complete novice.

### IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY....

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

- "Walking the Bible: A Journey Through the Five Books of Moses," led by Cynthia Kotora. January 11-February 15. Take a journey by land through the five Books of Moses as we view the DVD series "Walking the Bible". Together we'll travel on foot, by Jeep, rowboat and camel across three continents as the stories come alive. We'll visit the slopes of Mount Ararat where Noah's ark landed, trek to the desert outpost where Abraham first heard the words of God and scale the summit where Moses received the Ten Commandments. "Walking the Bible" offers new insights into the roots of our faith. The sessions are a combination of video journeys and group discussions. Child care will be provided. If you have questions, please contact Cynthia Herr Kotora at [ckotora1983@gmail.com](mailto:ckotora1983@gmail.com) or 440-871-5639.

*First Tuesday Book Study*

- *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi* by Amy-Jill Levine. Thursday, January 8 (note the day change) at 7 pm.
- *Saving Jesus from the Church: How to Stop Worshiping Christ and Start Following Jesus* by Robin R. Meyers. Tuesday, February 3 at 7 pm.

*The ALUCC Book Club*. Tuesday, January 27 at 7 pm. The title for January: *The End-of-Your-Life Book Club* by Will Schwalbe.

*Meditative Practice: A Path to Spiritual Growth*, led by Lynn Miller. Thursdays, January 15 - February 19, 7 pm-8pm. Meditation can offer many benefits for your body, mind and spirit. Lynn will begin each class with a short guided meditation, followed by discussion. The session will end with a longer meditation. We will use *Meditation for your Life*, by Robert Butera (available through Amazon.com), as a resource for suggestions and guidance, but everyone should feel free to attend and participate without using the book.

*Women's Retreat, The Journey Toward Forgiveness*, led by Kelly Brill and Maryann Ruben. Jesuit Retreat House, January 23-24. The cost is \$80.

*The Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola*, led by Maryann Ruben. Mondays, 6:30 pm-8 pm, starting February 16, 2015. What does God want from me? And how will I know? Join Maryann Ruben on a "journey to spiritual freedom and wholehearted commitment to the service of God." Through meditation, contemplation and prayer as recommended by St. Ignatius, we'll grow in faith together as we learn to experience God more deeply in our daily lives. Requirements: Faith of a mustard seed, and 1.5 hours on Monday nights. An informational meeting will be held on Sunday, February 1, 2015 at 10:10 am. Contact Maryann or see <http://www.ignatianspirituality.com/> for more details.

*Faith is a journey. Walk in wonder, and expect the unexpected.*

**PARENTS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN:** Our church is blessed with many infants and toddlers right now. I would love to find some ways for these ALUCC parents to get to know each other. I'm considering a Bible Study during the day, perhaps twice a month, for stay-at-home parents, and perhaps one evening a month for those who work during the day. If you are interested, please send me an email: [pastor@avonlakeucc.org](mailto:pastor@avonlakeucc.org). We can then begin discussing what days and times might work best.

Also: I will be looking for volunteer babysitters as we begin these outreach programs. If you would like to offer your services so that our young parents can feel safe and secure, please let me know that, as well.

Many thanks, Kelly

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Church of Christ**

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*Growing People to  
Serve God and Others*

We are on the Web:  
[avonlakeucc.org](http://avonlakeucc.org)  
[Facebook.com/AvonLakeUCC](https://www.facebook.com/AvonLakeUCC)

**HEAVENLY HELPERS:** If you or someone you know needs help getting to church on Sundays, please consider calling Heavenly Helpers. This is a transportation service for UCC members provided by UCC members. Most who use Heavenly Helpers call for transportation to the grocery store, the pharmacy or to doctors appointments. Please call Margie Kaufman at 440-933-9347 You can also email Margie at [margiekaufman@wowway.com](mailto:margiekaufman@wowway.com) to add your name to the volunteer driving list.

**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. Beginning with this issue of the Drummer, we are going to 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:** Mary Ann Agler, Debbie Enger Baldwin (friend of Nancy Daniels), Tom & Isy Beal, Linda Brown, Cara Burgess, Kenny Clark (friend of the Pattons), awaiting surgery, Ed Collins, Cunningham Family (relatives of Maureen Wightman), John Dase (Cheryl Roberson's father), Laurie Dieringer (friend of Maureen Wightman), Nora Farmer (Mickey Farmer's daughter) diagnosed with cancer, Mickey Farmer, (recuperating), Leonard Fish (Patty Greene's father), Herb Gillespie (friend of Mary Ellen Allen), Sue Gould (Jack's mother), Nick Hampe (Geoff's nephew), David Henderson (friend of Judy Reich), Mary Jo Horton (friend of Maureen Wightman), Kim (friend of the Piersons) diagnosed with cancer, Carol Kotora (Jim's mother, recuperating after surgery), Kris McLeod (Glenn & Ruth Williams son-in-law), Mark Mihalik, Shirley Mitchell (friend of the Bayleys), Mary Muller (friend of Maureen Wightman), Melissa Newbern (Richard Turner's daughter) recuperating from surgery, Frank & Joanne Olesko (Diana Pierson's parents), Patricia Peterkin (former membr), Don Severo (friend of Jim & Diane Bayley), Kim Stepak (friend of Amy Nasr), Rick Strait (brother-in-law of Maggie Watson) diagnosed with cancer, Amy Tackett (friend of Mary Ellen Allen), Irene Taylor, Linda Taylor (friend of Jennifer Gould), Colleen Theusch (friend of Marge Fehlner), Chris Kent Thomas (Jana Thomas-Roach's brother, diagnosed with cancer), Kim Trask (friend of Updegraffs), David Turner (son of Richard Turner) awaiting surgery, Susan Walschott (Dave & Lois Davis' daughter), Marion Walsh (Sid Stech's mother), Nancie Wright, and all who are homebound or in residential facilities.

**Sympathy to:**

- Dave Witzigreuter & his family on the death of Jan, November 30.
- Erin Mitchell & Nicole Gowell on the death of their grandfather.
- Peggy Weber on the death of her brother December 5.
- Patton Family on the death of their friend Joe Horvath and Teri's father, Dennis Bielak.
- Hilary Runyon on the death of her mother December 6.
- the family and friends of Jan Van Wagner who passed away December 11.
- Barbara Lindsay & her family on the death of Allen December 12.
- Tim Schulz on the death of his uncle, December 15.

**Congratulations to:**

- Kirk & Becky Spielmaker on the birth of their daughter, Carson McKay, November 25.
- Jason & Alison Anderson on the birth of their daughter, Erin Audra, December 11.

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

**FEBRUARY DRUMMER DEADLINE** is Monday, January 26. If you would like any information included in the next monthly newsletter, please send it to the church office by email ([office@thealucc.org](mailto:office@thealucc.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@thealucc.org](mailto:membership@thealucc.org).)

## QUIET GIVER

Our Quiet Giver came into this world on the wild side. He was born in northern Minnesota in a town called Bemidji which is located on the most northern bank of the Mississippi River. Living that far north as you would expect his young life was filled with all manner of outdoor sports. He enjoyed hunting, ice fishing, water sports and all ball games. Not exactly a metropolis he attended a one room school house with 1 teacher and 16 other students.

After graduating from High School our Nation called, he enlisted in the Navy and spent 4 years as an Electronic Technician, he was discharged as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Petty Officer. After the Navy, he went back to school where he studied Pre-Engineering; it was there that he met the love of his life, they recently celebrated 53 years of marriage. After graduating from the University of North Dakota as an Industrial Engineer they moved to Vermont and after 2 years came to Avon Lake working for the Eveready Battery Company. The couple was blessed with 2 sons and the family has grown with the addition of 2 granddaughters.

A very active member of our church, he is a past Moderator, Trustee, Stewardship and Capital Committee member. He was also on the Pastoral Committee that found Kelly. Both our Quiet Giver and his wife (who also has been a very active member) are currently gracing our church by singing in our choir. They both love the ALUCC.

Do you know our Quiet Giver?

### SAVE THE DATES:

- **Sunday, January 18** will be "Each 1 Bring 1 Sunday". This is an opportunity to invite a friend or family member to church that day.
- **Inquirers Classes for Prospective Members.** Classes for anyone wishing to learn more about ALUCC or join in membership, will be held on February 1 and 8 at 12:10 PM following New Horizons worship. A light lunch is provided by the Board of Membership. If you are interested or have questions please contact Tim Schulz, Membership and Media Coordinator at [membership@avonlakeucc.org](mailto:membership@avonlakeucc.org)
- **Cross Training Begins February 25:** Cross Training, ALUCC's mid-week programming, offers opportunities for members to share in education and discussion, share a meal and worship together informally. Spring Cross Training will run on Wednesday nights from Feb. 25-April 1. Dinner begins at 6, worship is at 6:30 and classes are from 7-8. Classes will include:
  - A class for children, subject TBD
  - Pre-Confirmation for 4<sup>th</sup> Graders, led by Julie Reimer, Dir. of Christian Education
  - Senior High Youth Group
  - Bible Basics, led by Rev. Scott Patterson
  - Beginner's Golf, led by Paul Ruben
  - A parenting class, leader TBD

Watch for more class and registration information next month!

**FAITH AND FITNESS LITE:** Follow through on your New Year's resolution and join us for exercise Monday and Thursday mornings from 11-12.

**VOLUNTEER TRAINING FOR IHN/FAMILY PROMISE:** Four weeks a year, ALUCC hosts homeless families as part of a network of churches that provide hospitality due to a shortage of shelters. We rely on a large team of volunteers to serve dinner, interact in the evening hours, and stay overnight. Our volunteers find the experience extremely rewarding. If you would like to learn more about the program, please attend Volunteer Training on Sunday, January 18, at 12:30 PM. It is a requirement of the program that all volunteers participate in volunteer training. For more information, or to sign up, please contact the ALUCC Family Promise coordinator Angela Oleksiak: 440-570-9387, [asoleksiak@gmail.com](mailto:asoleksiak@gmail.com).