

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

February, 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.

February 7: On this first Sunday of the month, we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Dr. Brill's meditation, entitled, "Good News around the Table," is based on I Corinthians 11:17-26.

THE SEASON OF LENT BEGINS ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Lent is the season of preparation for Easter, the season for spiritual growth. During this period of 40 days (plus Sundays), we consider how we can grow closer to God and to the ways God wants us to live. This year, we are focusing during Lent on Sacred Stories. Through sermons that center around the stories of several biblical characters and through the sharing of some testimonies from members of the congregation, we will be aware of the power of our stories, and marvel at the connection between our individual stories and the overarching biblical narrative.

On Ash Wednesday, Dr. Brill will conduct a service of ashes and communion at 1 PM in the Chapel. She will be in the Chapel again from 3:30 until 7:30 for people who want to drop in for prayers, ashes, and communion - after school, after work, before or after dinner, before Senior High Youth Group, Choir practice, etc.

February 14: Dr. Brill's sermon is entitled, "Ruth and Orpah, a Story of Uncommon Love"; the scripture is Ruth 1:6-18. At 11 AM, Jenna Elizabeth McKinley will be baptized.

February 21: It's Camp Sunday, the Celebration Bells are playing, and Dr. Brill's sermon, based on Genesis 28:10-22, is entitled, "The Power in a Dream: Jacob's Story."

February 28: The scripture reading is Acts 11:19-26; Dr. Brill's sermon is entitled, "Patient Leadership: The Story of Barnabas."

A WORD FROM KELLY

I am looking forward to our worship theme for the season of Lent: Sacred Stories. And I am asking for your participation. Do you have a story of an encounter with God, a time when you felt closest to God, a time when you heard God speaking to you, or nudging you in a particular direction? I will be incorporating some of these "God stories", these sacred stories, into worship during the six weeks of Lent. The sermons during Lent will focus on stories from individuals in the Bible, and I will be encouraging us to see our own lives as sacred stories. Please write your story and give it to me by hard copy, or by email, early in February.

~ Kelly

ADULT BIBLE STUDY, led by Pastor Brill. Wednesdays, 10:30 am - 11:30 am. Join us as we explore the book of Isaiah.

SERMON ROUNDTABLE, Open discussion of each Sunday's scripture and sermon. Sermon Roundtable begins 15-20 minutes after the 9 AM worship service ends and runs for approximately 45 minutes. All are welcome.

- 2/7 Scripture: 1 Corinthians 11:17-26; Discussion leader: Phil Wadsworth
- 2/14 Scripture: Ruth 1:6-18; Discussion leader: Maryann Ruben
- 2/21 Scripture: Genesis 28:10-22; Discussion leader: Lou Suarez
- 2/28 Scripture: Acts 11:19-26; Discussion leader: Julie Marlin

PRAY ALWAYS, a three-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 together what it means to *pray without ceasing*. Expert and amateur "pray-ers" welcome! Mondays, February 22, 29 and March 7, 6:45 to 7:45 PM.

FEBRUARY PODCAST DISCUSSION: Though one of the largest religions in the world, Islam remains a mystery to most Americans. This month, Boston University Religion Professor Stephen Prothero offers listeners a general and accessible introduction to Islam. To participate, you need only visit the ALUCC Facebook page (www.facebook.com/AvonLakeUCC), click on the link to the podcast, listen, and—as you're inclined to— post your thoughts. It's that easy! Please join us for open, judgment-free discussion and joyful fellowship with your partners-in-faith.

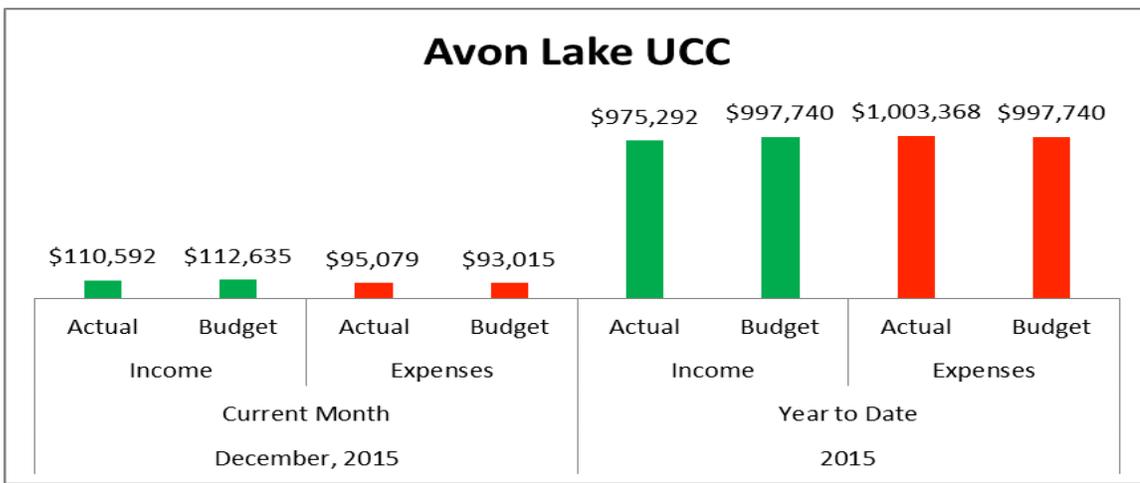
FEBRUARY MEETING OF ALUCC BOOK CLUB: The ALUCC Book Club will meet on February 24 at 7 PM for a discussion of *Still Alice* by Lisa Genova. *Still Alice* is the story of a 50-year-old woman's sudden descent into early onset Alzheimer's disease. Fiercely independent, Alice struggles to maintain her lifestyle and live in the moment, even as her sense of self is being stripped away and the effects on her and her loved ones grow increasingly more difficult. All are welcome!

FIRST TUESDAY BOOK STUDY-MARCH: Join us on Tuesday, March 1 at 7 PM for a discussion of *Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church* by Rachel Held Evans. According to goodreads.com, "Like millions of her millennial peers, Rachel Held Evans didn't want to go to church anymore.... Church culture seemed so far removed from Jesus. Yet, despite her cynicism and misgivings, something kept drawing her back to Church.... A memoir about making do and taking risks, about the messiness of community and the power of grace, *Searching for Sunday* is about overcoming cynicism to find hope and, somewhere in between, Church."

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!

CAMP SUNDAY IS FEB. 21: It may not look like it outside, but it is time to sign up for summer camp! Come and visit our information table during coffee hour. Learn about the different camps available while enjoying yummy camp snacks! Former Campers - wear a camp t-shirt to show your support for camp! Interested in helping on Camp Sunday to answer questions or provide snacks for coffee hour? Contact Julie Reimer at christianed@avonlakeucc.org.

FAMILY LENTEN WORKSHOP IS COMING MARCH 13: Mark your calendars and watch for more information coming soon!



Important information for those who are at least 70 ½ years old: The IRA charitable rollover is now a permanent provision in the law, allowing you to donate to the church with significant tax benefits. For your gift to qualify:

- You must be 70 ½ or older at the time of your gift.
- The transfer must go directly from your IRA to the Avon Lake UCC.
- Your total IRA gift(s) cannot exceed \$100,000.

Direct gifts from your IRA to ALUCC are:

- An easy and convenient way to make a gift from one of your major assets.
- Excluded from your gross income (i.e., a tax-free rollover)
- Counted toward your RMD (required minimum distribution).

Contact your qualified retirement plan administrator to complete the rollover.

ASSISTANCE FOR FLINT, MICHIGAN WATER CRISIS: In conjunction with the UCC in Flint, ALUCC is conducting a water and money drive. Our goal is 2,400 gallons of water and \$2,400. Water can be dropped off at the church on Sunday, January 31 and Sunday, February 7. Gallon jugs are preferred, but anything will be taken. Checks can be made payable to ALUCC; mark “Flint Water” on the memo line. The money will be used by a local church which is developing a water fill station to supply those in need and to cut down on the amount of plastic which is currently flooding the area. Rob Patton has offered to drive the water to Flint, accompanied by Kim Yonkers.

PRIMETIMERS' LUNCH will be Wednesday, February 10, at noon. Reservations are needed by Monday, February 8, at noon and can be made on the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center or by calling the Church office. Cost of the lunch is \$5 payable at the door. Since that is also Ash Wednesday, everyone is welcome to attend the Ash Wednesday service at 1:00 p.m. following lunch. Primetimers are primarily retired members of the congregation but any age and friends are always welcome.

WINTER GAME NIGHT AND POTLUCK: Are you bored with your usual Saturday evening plans? Are you sick of all of the cold? Would you like to get out and play games and laugh with friends? Well, the ALUCC has just the thing for you! Join us for the ALUCC Midwinter Game Night Spectacular on February 20 from 6 - 9 PM. There will be fun and games for all ages, including trivia, cornhole, ping pong, cards, board games, and more. There will even be games for the littlest member of your family down to age 3. Feel free to bring your favorite board games. Bring a dish to share; beverages will be provided. Sign up at the Welcome Center, or email pastor@avonlakeucc.org. Invite a friend or neighbor!

MOMS' GROUPS: If you have a child elementary-aged or younger, you are invited to participate in one of our Moms' Groups - and feel free to invite a friend! The upcoming dates are: for the day-time group: Tuesday, February 9, Monday, March 14, Monday, April 18, and Monday, May 9: all at 1 PM. The evening group will meet at 7 PM on Monday, February 8, Monday, March 14, Monday, April 18, and Monday, May 9. We will be discussing the book, The Five Love Languages of Children. Please begin reading, take notes, and come prepared with your questions and observations! We will provide babysitting, free of charge, but you must let us know ahead of time. Please contact Kelly five days before the session you want to attend: pastor@avonlakeucc.org.

ALL-CHURCH LEADERSHIP RETREAT: An all-church Leadership Retreat will be held Saturday morning, February 20, from 9 AM until noon. 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! Please RSVP by signing up at the Welcome Center, or by contacting Kelly: pastor@avonlakeucc.org. If you would like babysitting, contact Kelly by Sunday, February 14.

INQUIRERS' NEW MEMBER CLASSES: If you, or someone you know, is interested in joining our church or learning more about the UCC and ALUCC, we will be offering two sessions of our Inquirers' Class in February. The first class offers a basic introduction to the history and theology of the United Church of Christ, a personal message from Senior Minister Kelly Brill, and a tour of our facilities. The second class will focus on the Avon Lake UCC, including our leadership structure, our volunteer opportunities and a chance to meet and hear from church staff and committee chairs. **The classes are at 12:10 PM on Sundays, February 21 and 28.** We will welcome new members at worship on March 6. The Membership Team will provide a light lunch both days. Please write to Tim Schulz, Membership and Media Coordinator, at membership@avonlakeucc.org with questions or to RSVP. Babysitting can be provided, please request by Wednesday, February 17.

DINNER AND A MOVIE: Saturday, February 27th at 6:00 pm in the Chapel. February's movie night is the new release 'The Martian' starring Matt Damon, Jessica Chastain, & Kristin Wiig. It's been nominated for 7 Oscars! Please bring a dish to pass. Beverages and Popcorn are always provided. We'll eat great food while watching a great movie! Sign up at the Welcome Center so we know how many to plan for. The movie synopsis: During a manned mission to Mars, Astronaut Mark Watney is presumed dead after a fierce storm and left behind by his crew. But Watney has survived and finds himself stranded and alone on the hostile planet. With only meager supplies, he must draw upon his ingenuity, wit and spirit to subsist and find a way to signal to Earth that he is alive. Hope to see you there!

JOYFUL STITCHERS: Please join us the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month as we gather together in fellowship to work on whatever craft project you may be working on. Need a pattern? Stop at the Welcome Center and request to look through our Joyful Stitcher folder. Plenty of ideas. Have an idea or pattern you want to share? Bring a copy and we'll add it to our folder. All are welcome. We meet in the Family Lounge from 7:15 pm to 8:30 pm. Cross stitchers, knitters, quilters, crocheters - we'd love to have you!

FAITH AND FITNESS LITE is looking for new members. Come and exercise with us! Faith and Fitness Lite has been around for over 15 years. This exercise class meets Monday and Thursday mornings from 11-12 and is aimed primarily at seniors. Gentle stretching and weight exercises are at the core of the class. Instead of floor exercises, chairs and standing exercises are performed. Interested? Please drop by during class to learn more or give it a try during the month of February!

LORAIN COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: The church's Habitat Build Project is now on hold until additional funds are raised to complete the project. Our ALUCC team completed the house so that everything is enclosed. When we start up again, we will be insulating and installing drywall. Thank you to the 22 volunteers who participated in the 2015 segment of the Build. They are: Bob Burkhardt, Bob Miller, Christine Gates, Cindy Turik-Wadsworth, Dave Panzel, Doug Gates, Doug Rider, Elaine Newlin, Gerry Reynolds, Greg Deeks, Jim Droke, Jr., Jim Jaye, Jim Mackert, Judith Spencer, Julie Marlin, Mike Dodson, Paul Dunford, Phil Wadsworth, Rob Turner, Ron Pallinger, Sandi Gerhan, and Tom Tyler.

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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

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), Drew Small (recuperating from surgery), Anthony Spaetzel (recuperating after surgery), 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:

- Mona Leeson on the death of her husband, Barry, on December 10.
- Anil Henry and his family on the death of his father on December 21.
- Kim Irish on the death of her father, Clyde Rhein, on January 6.

CONGRATULATIONS TO: Andrew Peachman, who became an Eagle Scout on January 10.

THANK YOU NOTES RECEIVED:

Mercy Health Ministry Parish Nursing is humbled by your recent generous gift. We realize that his gift could have been given to many worthy organizations. Let us assure you that we will put this money to good use in our faith communities, as we continue to offer programs and screenings. We so enjoy our partnership with Cheryl Updegraff, RN. She is a gem! Please do not hesitate to contact us with any needs or questions. Thank you again for your generous gift! - Beth Finnegan and Sharon Wyckoff, RN

To All Of My Friends at ALUCC, Your prayers, visits, gifts, cards, and meals helped me recover as quickly! How blessed I am to be a member of this caring congregation. Thank you so much! My aim is to try to give back as much as I have received. Yours in Christian Love, Thelma Morningstar

MARCH DRUMMER DEADLINE is Monday, February 22. 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.