

MARCH 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.

SUNDAY, MARCH 6: On this first Sunday of the month, we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion and welcome new members into the church family. At 11 AM, Quinn, Grey and T.J. Matteson will be baptized. Dr. Brill's communion meditation, "A Story of Human Weakness," is based upon Luke 15:11-32.

SUNDAY, MARCH 13: (Don't forget to spring forward your clock before you go to bed Saturday night!)

As our Lenten series on Sacred Stories continues, the scripture reading is John 12:1-8; Dr. Brill's sermon is entitled, "A Story of Extravagance."

SUNDAY, MARCH 20, PALM SUNDAY: Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday worship. Children will be given palm branches to wave at the beginning of worship, and then will enjoy an Easter Egg hunt at Sunday School. At 9 AM, the choir is presenting an eclectic variety of sacred music. At 11 AM, we celebrate the baptism of Keeley Actea Coleman. Dr. Brill's sermon, "The Story of the Cheering Crowds," is based upon Luke 19:28-40.

Coffee Hours following both services will be hosted by the Personnel Committee in honor of Julie Reimer.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 24, WORSHIP AT 7 PM: Worship in the sanctuary will feature music, scripture, prayer, a meditation, and the Sacrament of Holy Communion as we commemorate Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples.

GOOD FRIDAY ECUMENICAL COMMUNITY WORSHIP: This year's community service will be held at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Avon Lake at 11 AM on March 25. Area clergy, including Dr. Brill, will participate.

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 27, WORSHIP AT 9 AND 11

Celebrate the good news that evil and death do not have the last word!

Worship with your church family in the beauty of our sanctuary on Easter!

Dr. Brill's sermon is entitled, "The Story Still Not Believed," is based on Luke 24:1-12.

JOB OPENING: The Personnel Committee is accepting applications for the position of Director of Christian Education, currently a 20-hour-per-week position. The person hired will be on an interim basis, through the end of 2016, with the potential for longer-term. The main responsibilities are to work with the children's ministry programming (oversight and volunteer recruitment and training for Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, Noah's Nursery). Hours are flexible. Looking for outstanding people and organizational skills. A complete job description is available. Resumes are to be sent by March 15 to the Personnel Committee, Avon Lake UCC, 32801 Electric Blvd., or to Bill Parsons, chair. Bill's email address is: billpar@oh.rr.com. Questions can be directed to Bill Parsons or Kelly Brill.

March, 2016

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A WORD FROM KELLY

I want to express my thanks to Julie Reimer for her six years of dedicated service to our church as our Director of Christian Education. One of the strengths of our church is that we are truly multi-generational. The care we provide to our children is an essential element in attracting and keeping young families. Julie has been hard-working and creative in continuing our traditions and starting new ones. VBS (Vacation Bible School) has grown, we have provided a variety of learning opportunities for all ages, and during Julie's tenure, we have started CrossTraining, our Wednesday evening programming in the fall and spring. Thank you, Julie! And best wishes to the entire Reimer family; you will all be missed!

I ask church members and friends to help us spread the word that we are receiving applications for Julie's replacement.

I also want to thank all of those who participated in the February 20 Leadership Retreat - over 50 of you gave your time on a beautiful Saturday morning to dream together about the future of our church. Details of that meeting will be shared with Church Council then with the congregation at large.

And finally, thanks to the team that planned the Mid-Winter Potluck and Game Night and helped with set-up and clean-up. About 75 of us spent the evening together: eating (well!), playing games, and laughing. Thanks to Jen Snyder, Jen and Summer Jento, Heather and Eric Tuck-Macalla, Jodi Foley, Phil and Maureen Johnson, C.J. and Teri Ann Jasany, Dave Witzigreuter, Chris Rafferty - and everyone else who pitched in!

~ Kelly

ISRAEL PILGRIMAGE PICTURES AND STORIES: Participants in January's trip to Israel and Palestine will be talking about their trip and sharing stories twice in March: Tuesday, March 15, at 7 PM and Wednesday, March 16, at 1 PM (after the PrimeTimers' lunch.) Invite friends!

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

SERMON ROUNDTABLE, Open discussion of the day'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.

- 3/6 Scripture: Luke 15:11-32; Discussion leader: Phil Wadsworth
- 3/13 Scripture: John 12:1-12; Discussion leader: Jim Edwards
- 3/20 Scripture: Luke 19:28-40; Discussion leader: Bill Schubmehl
- 3/27 **Easter: No Sermon Roundtable**

MARCH PODCAST DISCUSSION: Nadia Bolz-Weber is a Lutheran minister who founded and is the pastor at the House for All Sinners and Saints, a mission congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in Denver, Colorado. She is also a two-time *New York Times* bestselling author. For this month's podcast discussion, we'll listen to Bolz-Weber's NPR interview with Terri Gross. To participate, you need only visit the ALUCC Facebook page (www.facebook.com/AvonLakeUCC), click on the link to the podcast, listen, and—however you're inclined to— post your thoughts. Whether it's a sentence or a paragraph, your contribution is welcome. Please join us for open, judgment-free discussion and joyful fellowship with your partners-in-faith.

FIRST TUESDAY BOOK STUDY-APRIL: Join us on Tuesday, April 5 at 7 PM for a discussion of *Re-Claiming the Bible for a Non-Religious World* by John Shelby Spong. According to progressivechristianity.org, *Re-Claiming the Bible for a Non-Religious World* is "a primer on the history and significance of the Bible. In this informal and accessible survey, Spong [moves] book by book through the Scriptures, introducing their themes and messages by examining the sweep of history in which these books were originally written.... For the vast audience of people eager for a meaningful journey into the Bible, Spong leads the way." The April meeting will take place at the Sheffield Lake home of Lou and Deb Suarez, 811 Harris Rd. All are welcome.

FAMILY LENTEN WORKSHOP IS SUNDAY, MARCH 13: The Children's Ministry Team is hosting the Annual Lenten Workshop on March 13 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 are needed to supervise crafts.* Contact Julie Reimer at christianed@avonlakeucc.org or sign up to help on our SignUp Genius: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050f4ea5a82ea64.lenten2>

SEND S'MORE KIDS TO CAMP! Support the Camp Incentive Fund by buying a paper s'more! S'mores are available for \$10 after the 3/6 services.

PALM SUNDAY EASTER EGG HUNT: All Sunday School children will be hunting Easter Eggs during Sunday School March 20 - don't miss out on the fun!

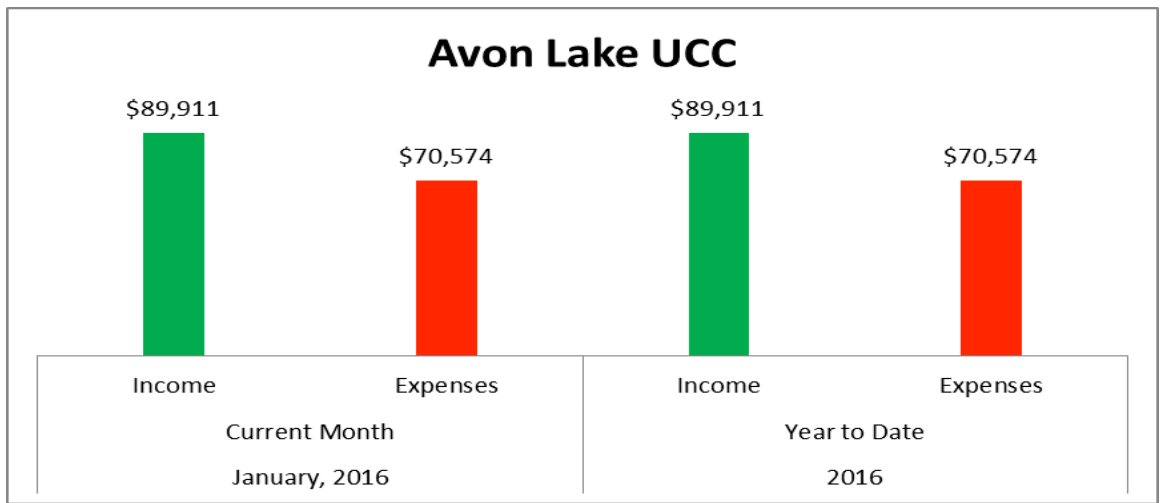
SPRING FOOD DRIVE: On March 6th, 13th & 20th the Mission Team will be taking your donations for the Spring Food Drive 2016. Food is purchased with your donations at wholesale food prices per the needs & requests from 4 local agencies: Haven Center in Lorain which is the only 24/7 homeless shelter for 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 a situation of immediate need; Mercy Resource Mothers in Lorain who support new, single expecting mothers with health care training and guidance through their pregnancy & their baby's first year. The need is great & also ongoing! Your donations turn into food & household necessity items that support the wonderful efforts of these organizations! You may give cash, check or make your payment by credit card. Please come see us after each Service in the Gathering Space. Thank you!

IHN/FAMILY PROMISE VOLUNTEER TRAINING: On Monday March 14 we will have volunteer training at 7pm. Anyone who has direct contact with our guests during the hosting weeks(s) needs to be trained. We need a minimum of 6; anyone in the network may come. Please let me know ASAP - Judy Reich bjreich@wowway.com or 930-5370. The next hosting is April 10.

MOMS GROUPS IN MARCH: Are you a mom with a child elementary school-aged or younger? Then you are invited to attend Moms Groups at ALUCC. The meetings in March are on Monday, March 14; the daytime group meets at 1 and the evening group at 7. We'll continue our discussion of The Five Love Languages of Children - but please come even if you haven't read the book. We will provide babysitting if you let us know five days in advance; send Kelly an email: pastor@avonlakeucc.org.

PRIMETIMERS' LUNCH will be Wednesday, March 16th, at noon. Reservations are needed by Monday, March 14th, 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. Following lunch Rev. Brill will present a program on her trip to Israel. Primetimers are primarily retired members of the congregation but any age and friends are always welcome. Don't miss out!

TRUENORTH CONCERT: Join TrueNorth Cultural Arts Chorale and Oberlin's Choral Spectrum for one of our Palm Sunday weekend concerts. The performances will include Benjamin Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb* and Dello Joio's *A Jubilant Song*. Performances are Saturday, March 19 at 7:30 PM at Bay Presbyterian Church in Bay Village or Sunday, March 20 at 3 PM at St. Peter Parish in Lorain. Tickets (\$15 adults/\$10 youth) will be available between services on March 6 and 13 or online at www.tncarts.org. Jan Mackert, Barb Ziegler and Sandi Gerhan are part of these groups.



If you have not yet made a pledge commitment to support the church in 2016, it's not too late. Please contact Kelly Brill or the church office.

**Avon Lake United
Church of Christ**

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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: Larry Arnold, Roger Buffett (former minister), Patty Byron (friend of Spaetzels and Fries), Martha Cullen (Jean Grady's sister), Nick Hampe (Geoff's nephew), Jacob Heberling (family friend of Judy Reich), Tom Hoover (Nate Taylor's Uncle), Lollie Kasulones (Kary Kandra's mother), Linda Taylor (friend of Jennifer Gould), David Turner, Karen Weaver (Dave's daughter), and all who are homebound or in residential facilities.

SYMPATHY TO the family and friends of Marilyn Thompson who died January 31.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- Greg and Katie Leininger on the birth of their daughter, Emme Frances, on February 1.
- Crystal Spaetzel on the birth of her daughter, Rayna Nicole, on February 3.
- Cole and Mary Carlson on the birth of their daughter, Nora Louise, on February 13. Grandmother is Mary Carlson; great grandmother is Thelma Morningstar.
- Bob Marimon, being inducted into the Kiwanis Hall of Fame, March 5, 2016 in Columbus.

PARISH NURSE NEWS: Diabetic Support Group will meet at 6:00 pm (note time change due to Cross Training) in the Library on our regular meeting night, Wednesday, March 9.

ELECTRONIC RECYCLING STATUS REPORT: Over the last six years, we have received \$2232 from our church's recycling efforts. We have recycled: new or used toners, inkjets, cell phones, iPods and laptops. The recyclable items are sent to Advantage Cartridge, Ft. Wayne, IN. The non-recyclable items are environmentally disposed at the Lorain County Solid Waste Management Facility in Elyria. Thank you so much for your recycling efforts. The monies received went into a maintenance fund to purchase energy efficient lighting. For any inquiries about the program, contact Doug Rider, 933-2758.

APRIL DRUMMER DEADLINE is Monday, March 21. 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.