



September, 2015

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SEPTEMBER 6: LAST SUNDAY FOR SUMMER WORSHIP We end the summer with an abundance of music! Donna Case will share special music on the flute AND the Golden Crescent Barbershop Chorus will be with us. We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion; Dr. Brill's meditation, "Endings and Beginnings" is based on Luke 9:51-62.

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

**FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS SEPTEMBER 13;
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.

September 13: At 9 AM, Dr. Brill's sermon, "Change Can Be Glorious", is based upon Luke 9:28-37. At 11 AM, we celebrate the Sacred Rite of Confirmation for 18 students.

September 20: The book of James describes "A Most Tempting Sin" in chapter 4, verses 11-12. This is the title of Dr. Brill's sermon.

September 27: The morning scripture is Psalm 23, and the sermon title, "A Table in Sanctuary." 3rd graders will receive Bibles, as a gift from the church and the Christian Education Team.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROGRAMS AT ALUCC

For more information on each program, check the weekly Sunday bulletin, the weekly membership email, or the church website.

Adult Bible Study, led by Pastor Brill, will begin on Wednesday, September 9, at 10:30 am. The fall session will start with an exploration into Acts of the Apostles.

Sermon Roundtable: Starting on September 13, a new Adult Christian Education program, called *Sermon Roundtable*, will be offered Sundays between 10:30 am and 11:15 am. The goal is to promote conversation about the day's scripture passage and sermon. What intrigued you? What challenged you? What questions do you have? Join us for open, judgment-free discussion and joyful fellowship with your partners-in-faith. All are welcome.

ALUCC Book Club: Join us for a discussion of *The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism* by Doris Kearns Goodwin, Tuesday, September 29 at 7 pm. According to goodreads.com, *The Bully Pulpit* captures the Progressive Era through the story of the broken friendship between Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft, culminating in their running against one another for president in 1912.

A WORD FROM KELLY

The young man was a guest in our church this summer. He said the sanctuary was beautiful, and he was surprised when I said it's ten years old. "It seems newer than that," he said, and then he asked me about the baptismal font: "Is that holy water?" It was the next question that somewhat surprised me: "Do you save people?" "I try," I said, with a smile. But the question was very serious to him. I encouraged him to come to worship, to get a feel for what we're about here.

He found me a few minutes later. "I wasn't talking about coming to church week after week. I just want to be saved. I'm looking for a 'one and out'." I told him I'd be happy to meet with him, and he asked for my card.

I find myself thinking about him. I appreciate so much his sincerity; he told me that he's "not a bad person" but a person who's made some mistakes and wants a new beginning.

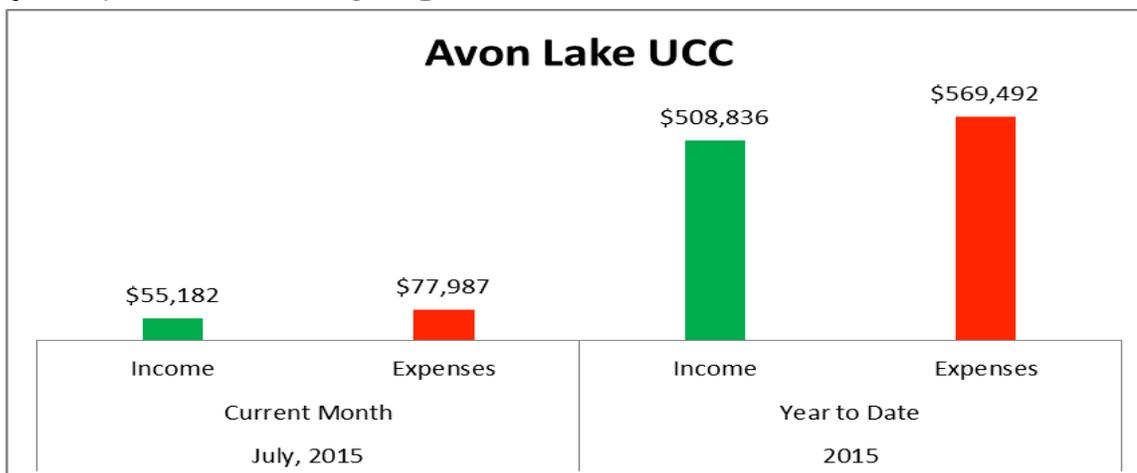
If we get the chance to talk, I'll tell him that I have good news and bad news for him. The good news is, well, the good news: the essence of the gospel, that in Christ, we are given new chances over and over throughout our lifetimes...that we are unconditionally loved and forgiven even before we ask. The bad news? The life of faith is not a "one and out."

One or two stellar moments don't make you a good parent, or a good spouse, or a good friend or employee. We make our life not in a few grand gestures, but in the small acts of daily living, day after day, year after year.

Former President Jimmy Carter is widely known as one of our most successful ex-presidents. The life he has lived since leaving office has been exemplary. He has written books, worked for peace, and donated his time and talent to dozens of worthy causes, most notably Habitat for Humanity. The secret is not in a few magnificent speeches, but in a humble and faithful daily discipline: diet, exercise, writing, family time, study, prayer. He teaches Sunday School regularly at the Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, Georgia, his home town. His life is rooted in scripture and the practices of the faith. Far from a drudgery, living his faith has made his life rich and full. It's the kind of life I want. The kind of life most of us want. And the kind of life I wish for our young guest.

Blessings, Kelly

JULY FINANCIAL UPDATE:



Thank You for your donations which have made possible such valuable ministry and mission this summer: Vacation Bible School, two youth mission trips, Bike & Build, snack bags to CRS, hosting homeless families through IHN/Family Promise, a Day of Service with over 80 people involved...AND...behind-the-scenes, Stephen Ministers matched up with care receivers, people coming to the church for counseling and AA meetings...AND...weekly worship, Sunday School, new staff members coming on board...AND plans for the fall. Please begin prayerfully considering your support of ALUCC in 2016, and help us end this year well!

PRIMETIMERS will meet for lunch on Wednesday, September 16, at noon in the Gathering Space. Cost of the luncheon is \$5, payable at the door. A reservation is needed by noon on Monday, September 14, and can be made on the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center or by calling the church office. Primetimers is made up mostly of retired members who enjoy sharing a meal together but anyone of any age and friends are always welcome. Don't miss out!

NEW GROUP FOR MOMS STARTING: If you are a mother with children elementary school age and younger, you are invited to an exploratory meeting on Tuesday, September 22, from 1 to 2:30 PM at the church. The purpose of this gathering is to see if there is interest in an ongoing group for moms: to get to know each other, support each other, share information and ideas. Senior Minister Kelly Brill will facilitate the first session. Please contact her by Friday, September 18 if you need babysitting (440-933-3241; pastor@avonlakeucc.org.) If you are interested in being a part of a moms' group but are not available this time or during the day, please contact Kelly as well.

ATTENTION WOMEN: Women's League Circles are in need of more women! In the past few years two Circles have had to disband due to sickness and people moving away. We would like to start at least one more Circle or more if there is interest. It is a wonderful way to connect with other women in the church for meaningful fellowship and involvement in church projects. Presently we have the following Circles:

Eve Circle meets the 4th Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. It is a diverse group - some working, some proud grandma's or single. We provide friendship and support sharing in the joys and challenges of life.

Hannah Circle meets the last Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. We are a very supportive group that shares a lot of meaningful fellowship. Our projects include CRS, Clothe-a-Child, Genesis House and our Caring Basket that's given to special friends throughout the year to lift their spirits.

Mary-Martha Circle meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 6 p.m. for a prayer/fellowship meeting and then uses e-mail throughout the year. We are a mission minded, diverse group of women from ages 30's to 80's. A few of our activities: a pancake breakfast with proceeds benefiting a charity; bake for shut-ins; clean the Thrift Shop. Contact: Chow-Meng Loar at cgluar95@gmail.com

Ruth Circle meets the first Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. We are a group of grandmothers and even a few "greats". Our devotions and mission projects have always been an important part of the group along with the friendships we have developed.

Participating in a Circle is a great way to get to know other women in the church. Please call the church office, Patty Greene, or Sandy Dibbell if you are interested.

CHRISTIAN ED NEWS

PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY DRIVE: Thanks to your generosity, ALUCC donated almost 100 lbs of peanut butter and jelly to CRS last week in honor of children going back to school. Way to go!

SUNDAY SCHOOL: The Sunday School program year starts Sept. 13 with classes for children from 3 years through seventh grade. The preschool and younger elementary classrooms will be using a new curriculum called *Spark Activate Faith*. *Spark* is an exciting, innovative program that uses multisensory activities to integrate Bible learning with life. Junior High students will continue using the *Connect* curriculum from Sparkhouse. *Connect* combines silliness and seriousness in just the right amounts! The junior high students will also get to meet in the Buoy again this year. Junior High students should gather by the back door after Children's Time and walk over to the Buoy together.

ACOLYTES NEEDED: All 5th, 6th, and 7th grade students are invited to serve as Acolytes. Heather Wilhelm from the Deacons Team will be training new acolytes on Sept. 20 at 10:15 in the chapel. Please contact Heather at heatherwillhelm47@aol.com to sign up or for more information.

THIRD GRADERS RECEIVING BIBLES SEPTEMBER 27: Parents of 3rd grade students - you will be receiving a letter soon with all the details.

FALL FESTIVAL OCTOBER 11: Save the date! ALUCC's Annual Fall Festival will be from 4-6 pm on Sunday, October 11. There will be face painting, hayrides, crafts, games and much more! Bring your family and friends for a great afternoon of fun!

**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: Mike and Christina Carr have stepped up to coordinate - yay! If you are in need of transportation to church, a doctor's appointment, etc., contact them at goirishcarrs@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: Roger Buffett (former Associate Pastor), Dave and Lois Davis, Eric Fancher, Nick Hampe (Geoff's nephew), Jacob Heberling (family friend of Judy Reich), Joshua MacDonald, Rhoda Montgomery, Irish Peepers, Dennis Runyon, DeeDee Stech (Dan's mother), Linda Taylor (friend of Jennifer Gould), Marion Walsh (Sid Stech's mother), Karen Weaver (Dave's daughter), Calvin Yeager (friend of Layla Ruben) and all who are homebound or in residential facilities.

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

SYMPATHY TO:

- Kim Banks and her family on the death of her mother, August 1.
- The family of Irene Taylor, who died August 18.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- Glenn and Ruth Williams on the birth of their granddaughter, Caroline, August 17.

OCTOBER DRUMMER DEADLINE is Monday, September 28. 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.)

PARISH NURSE NOTES:

Office Hours: Wednesdays 2:00 - 4:00; Sundays between services: additional times as needed.

Email: cherylupdegraff@oh.rr.com; home telephone: 440-933-3833

Special thanks for prayers, cards, phone calls, visits, and meals following my recent surgery. All were very appreciated by David and I. How blessed we are to have such a wonderful, caring church family.

Diabetic Support Group will resume their monthly meeting schedule: September meeting, Wednesday, September 9th, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. All welcome.

As we return to more structured schedules perhaps time to explore exercise options; we have several meeting at our church!

- Faith and Fitness: currently meeting Mondays only 11:00 - 11:45 a.m. in the Gathering Space (light exercise).
- Faith and Fitness: Monday/ Wednesday evenings @ 6:00 led by Sandy Douglas in the Chapel.
- Yoga: Saturday mornings 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. usually in the Gathering Space led by Debbie Suarez. The class is free for members; there is a \$10.00 charge for non-members

MUSIC NOTES

CELEBRATION RINGERS: We will begin practice on Monday, September 14 at 6:30 pm. If you have played bells before and would like to join us, please give me a call at 440-263-9319 or email me at sdixon0714@sbcglobal.net.

HANDBELLS 101: YOUTH (6-12 th grade) and ADULT - Please watch for details for another beginner handbell class beginning on Wednesday, October 7th. You don't need to read music - if you have rhythm you can learn to play. Come join us for a fun four weeks of Handbells 101!

SINGIN' IN THE CHOIR: Looking for a rewarding, challenging, healthy and fun way to get involved here at ALUCC? Consider joining the Choir singing weekly at the 9:00 service. The rehearsals are Wednesdays from 7:30 until 8:30 and Sunday mornings at 8:30. Get to know other church members who are also involved in Mission work, Church leadership, Christian education, Quilters, Women's groups, Stephen Ministry in addition to their love of singing. It helps to have some musical background, but being an expert sight-reader isn't necessary. The choir works diligently, has fun, loves learning, and finds singing in worship deepens their faith. If you'd like help with babysitting for rehearsals or would like to be able to sit with your family during the service--contact me at fancherie@aol.com . If you're not sure about this, but would like to give it a try for a few weeks, that's fine, too--no strings attached. See you for rehearsal on Wednesday, September 9th at 7:30. Mary Fancher, Director of Music Ministry

DO YOU PLAY AN INSTRUMENT OR LOVE TO SING? Do you have a passion for worship and a desire to help others connect with our church and with our faith? Are you feeling called to share your musical talent with your church family? We are always looking for additional musicians to join our ranks. Our worship band "Anchored in Faith" meets for rehearsal on Thursday evenings from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in our sanctuary. Membership is open to senior high youth who have completed confirmation and adults. Worship band provides music for our 11:00 a.m. New Horizons worship service. If you would like to give worship band a try or would like additional information about this group, please contact our worship band leader Jim Kotora at jameskatora@wowway.com

TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND JANUARY 2016: Visiting the holy sites in Israel is one of those "once-in-a-lifetime" experiences. Being able to visit them with members of your church family is even more special. Please pick up a brochure by the Welcome Center, and contact Kelly if you have questions.

Our trip is being planned by Magi Travel - they have been bringing groups to the Holy Land for over 30 years and are very highly recommended. ALUCC members who have signed up thus far: Kelly Brill, Bengt & Margenta Gerborg, Peg Kneiss, Chuck and Debbie Pettys, and Julie Reimer.

TRAINING FOR NEW IHN/FAMILY PROMISE VOLUNTEERS at ALUCC on Sat. Sept 19, 10am - noon in the Adult Ed room. Reserve your space by contacting Judy Reich (930-5370, bjreich@wowway.com) or the church office (office @avonlakeucc.org or 933-3241)

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A DINNER AND A MOVIE - Family style! Saturday, September 26th at 6:00pm in the Chapel. Bring a dish to pass that is kid friendly! This month's movie is the new Disney release, Cinderella, starring Lily James, Cate Blanchett and Richard Madden. Popcorn and beverages always provided! Sign up at the Welcome Center so we know how many to plan for. Please join us as we watch this timeless classic!

TIM THOMAS MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

- All proceeds will go towards college expenses for Nicole and Taylor Thomas.
- Saturday, September 26, Bob-O-Link Golf Course in Avon.
- \$100 per golfer, \$40 for dinner only
- Sponsorships available for \$100.
- Make checks payable to Tim Thomas Memorial and send to Mark Samsel, 3390 Tuscany Circle, Avon, OH 44011. Include a return address.

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 October. 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, October 4 and 11.** We will welcome new members at worship on October 18. 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, September 30.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE FUNDRAISER: Donate your used stamps - they are collected in a bin outside the church office. Just cut them off the envelopes. Thank you.

KUDOS TO: Barb Wherley, for service above and beyond the call of duty during our recent Family Promise Hosting Week.

TJ Frie for repairing the Bunn Coffeemaker!

THANK YOU!

Dear Pastor Kelly, ALUCC staff, and members of the church,

THANK YOU so much for allowing the farmers market to spend its first two months with you on your lawn (and in your Fellowship Hall when rain threatened!) THANK YOU for trusting us to put on a safe and organized market and for all your help in spreading the word. The Avon Lake Farmers Market wouldn't (and couldn't) have happened without you. Gratefully yours, Leanne Hoppe (and signed by all the vendors)

NOTE - The Avon Lake Farmers Market, though it has moved to 32747 Lake Road, continues through the end of September (09/29) from 3-7pm every Tuesday. Find us on the South lawn of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church where we continue to provide the community with fresh, local food.

I'm feeling good and I can be taken off the list of health concerns. I am grateful to you and the Congregation for your prayers and thoughts, they really do smooth the path to recovery. Thanks, Jerry Kerwin

Good morning,

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers. They worked and I am now in remission. Please take my name off the prayer list. Thank You, Mary Ann Agler

Dear Kelly,

Departing the area has been very difficult. Saying bye to great people is just so difficult.

The Avon Lake United Church of Christ is an amazing community and we are deeply saddened that we have been pulled away. Thank you for the beautiful memories.

Regards, Russell Hall

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Most days, the church office will be officially open from 9 AM until 3 PM; those are the current office hours for Office Manager Karyn Jacobson and Business Manager Jill Eston. The church is often open earlier and later as well, but always free to call if you need to stop by and want to make sure someone is here.

DID YOU KNOW...that you can contribute to the church through an Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT)? Many people like to pay their bills automatically. It's convenient for you, and the church appreciates the steady income throughout the seasons. Contact Jill Eston in the church office for more information.