

## SUMMER WORSHIP 10 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN 3 YEARS THROUGH 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE

Every Sunday: adult-supervised care in Noah's Nursery. The Family Lounge is also open for families with young children.

- **August 2:** On this first Sunday of the month, we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Dr. Brill's communion meditation, "What the World Needs," is based on John 6:24-35. Musical guests are Pete Cavano on guitar and Michele George on violin.
- **August 9:** The sermon will be given by the Rev. Jim Kulma. Jim is an ordained minister who has spent most of his career as a hospital chaplain. He currently is staff chaplain for the MetroHealth System. Jim is also a renowned storyteller. He has been a popular guest preacher before at ALUCC, and is a close family friend of Tim and Katie Schulz. Jim's sermon text is Mark 6:30-34, 53-56. Musical guests: David Graves and Men's Vocal Ensemble (Doug Brill, Rob Grandy, David Graves, and Bill Zurkey).
- **August 16:** BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUNDAY. We will bless backpacks and bookbags, and dedicate teachers and school staff as they begin another school year. The scripture is Ephesians 5:15-20; Dr. Brill's sermon is entitled, "Too Busy?" The Anchored in Faith worship band will lead the day's music. We will hear stories and see pictures from the Junior High Mission Trip.
- **August 23:** PICNIC SUNDAY. Dress casually for Picnic Sunday. The Anchored in Faith worship band will lead us in music. Dr. Brill's sermon, based on Ephesians 6:10-20, is entitled, "When Life Is a Struggle."
- **August 30:** The fabulous Solid Brass ensemble will be with us in worship. Dr. Brill's sermon is based on James 1:17-27 and is entitled, "Simply Love."

**August, 2015**

**In this Issue:**

Worship Schedule  
A Word from Kelly  
Christian Ed News  
Calendar/Birthdays

**CHURCH PICNIC:** Mark your calendar for "Fun"...this year's church picnic will be held on Sunday, August 23rd. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for kids 12 and under and can be purchased the day of the event. Sign Up sheets will be up beginning Sunday, August 2nd. Let us know if you're coming so we know how much to plan for! We're changing things up a bit and having the classic picnic with hamburgers, hotdogs and veggie burgers provided by Novotny catering. We are also offering this year several games/activities/crafts available for every age to enjoy after our meal. No need to eat and run, stay around for some fun! Lunch is right after church and the games begin at 12:00. The Membership Team could use your help in making all of this possible! If you are interested in hosting and setting up a 'fun' station, please contact Jen Miller at 440-653-5287 or Teri Ann Jasany at 440-864-2597. Some 'fun' examples would be 'water balloon toss', 'three legged races' 'scrambled egg throw', 'empty milk jug knock-down', 'water relay', 'minute-to-win-it challenges', or anything else that may be Pinterest-inspired. Thanks so much for your consideration! Make sure you mark your calendars!

**DAY OF SERVICE:** Following worship on August 30, groups will disperse to participate in service activities. Activities are planned for every age and interest group. Details will be shared in weekly email updates, bulletin and worship announcements. Sign-up sheets will be available soon. The projects planned include: cleaning the kennels at Love-A-Stray (Avon Lake's animal shelter), painting the new day center in Elyria for IHN/Family Promise, making cards and decorating cookies for our homebound members and emergency personnel (fire/police/EMS), working the water stations at the Fox 8 Fox Trot run (benefitting Prayers from Maria), making prayer shawls and Doorstep Dinner casseroles. Please save the date and consider how you want to participate!

## A WORD FROM KELLY

I'm trying not to use the word, "proud" but that's the word that keeps coming to my mind. "Pride" is one of those seven deadly sins, after all. But the truth is I'm so proud of the Avon Lake United Church of Christ this summer.

OK, let me use the word "grateful." It's never wrong to express gratitude! The truth is I'm grateful to the Avon Lake United Church of Christ this summer.

While attending the UCC General Synod meeting in Cleveland as a delegate in late June, I couldn't go more than an hour or two without seeing one of our members serving in a volunteer capacity. I knew we had many members volunteering, and several serving in leadership roles, but I didn't know just how many until I saw the program book for the week. 28 persons were named as "local arrangements leaders" for the event. 8 of them were from ALUCC! Scores of others volunteered in other capacities. And many of you made cookies! Sue Wimer, from the UCC church in Hudson, was in charge of all local arrangements. Every time she saw me, she thanked me for the great participation from our church. Not only did we respond with numbers, but our leadership was of excellent quality. I was so ~~proud~~...I mean grateful!

The very next day after Synod concluded, ALUCC hosted the crew from Bike and Build. The Fellowship Hall was full of welcoming people and - believe it or not - more food than even those hungry cyclists could eat! It was a wonderful turnout. My thanks to everyone who hosted, to those who prepared breakfast for the cyclists the next morning, and to those who provide leadership for this event.

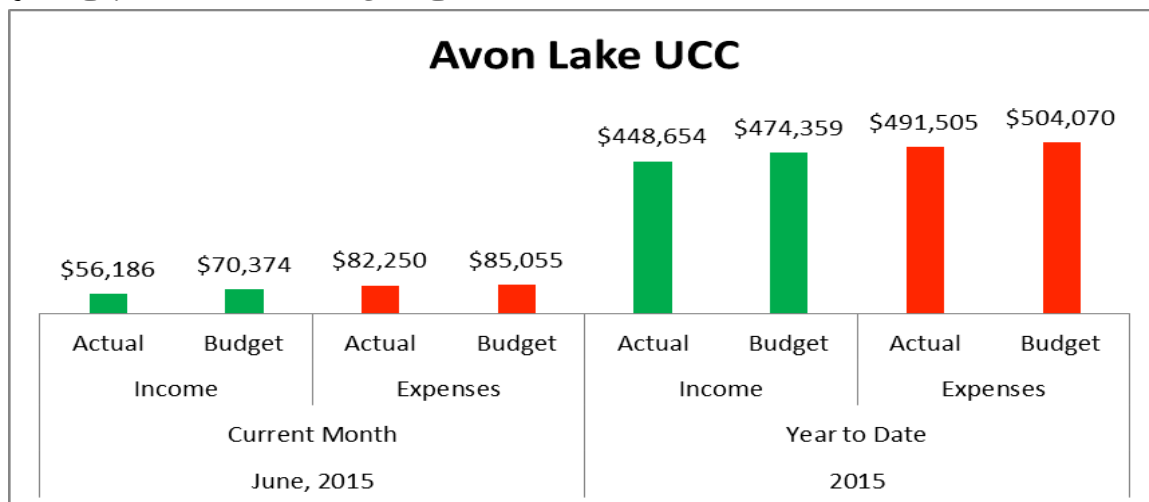
I want to thank Julie Reimer and all of the volunteers who provided a fun and valuable week of learning at Vacation Bible School, Nate Taylor and all of the Senior High Mission trip volunteers and participants (I loved watching the mission trip worship service!), Dan Walther and all of the Junior High Mission Trip volunteers and participants, Leanne Hoppe for her leadership with the Farmer's Market, all of the Dog Wash Volunteers, those who provided snack bags for school kids through Community Resource Service and our Mission Team, those who provided school clothes for kids...I could go on and on...what a summer!

Many special events are scheduled for August - I look forward to Back-to-School Sunday on August 16, to a new and improved All-church Picnic on August 23, and to something new this year...our Day of Service on August 30.

I pray that you find some time for refreshment and relaxation as we continue to enjoy the gifts of summer...

A reminder that we have Funeral Planning Forms available in the Resource Room and on line. Planning ahead is a gift of love to your family and friends. I encourage all members and friends to seek legal counsel so that affairs are in order: wills, bequests, powers of attorney, end-of-life wishes, etc. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to talk about any of this. Blessings, Kelly

## JUNE FINANCIAL UPDATE:



"SUMMER SLUMP" has arrived...our income for the summer months is down, even though expenses remain steady. Please help us begin the fall program year in good shape by keeping your pledges current. We do not want to have to make any cuts to ministry or mission!

In addition...we have lost a few members in 2015 to death and relocation. Some of them were among our most generous givers. If you are able to increase your giving for the remainder of 2015, know that it will make a difference for good! Thank you for your support!

## **ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM AT ALUCC**

**Summer Bible Study**, Sunday mornings, 9 am – 9:50 am, through August 30. Each discussion session will draw from a series called “Weekly Seeds,” a United Church of Christ resource based on the readings of the Revised Common Lectionary. Discussion will be led by various ALUCC members. No previous Bible study experience or long-term commitment is expected or required. Drop in when you can and enjoy fellowship with other members and guests.

- ❖ Aug 2, Scripture: John 6:24-35. Discussion Leader: Cynthia Kotora
- ❖ Aug 9, Scripture: Ephesians 4:25-5:2. Discussion Leader: Scott Patterson
- ❖ Aug 16, Scripture: 1Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14. Discussion Leader: Bill Schubmehl
- ❖ Aug 23, Scripture: James 1:17-27. Discussion Leader: Judy Reich
- ❖ Aug 30, Scripture: Mark 7:24-37. Discussion Leader: Phil Wadsworth

## **CHRISTIAN ED NEWS**

**SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL** will continue through Labor Day weekend with children ages 3-4<sup>th</sup> grade attending Sunday school and children older than 4<sup>th</sup> grade worshipping with their families. Sunday school will be offered for 5 & 6 graders in the Buoy on Aug. 30.

**SUMMER CHILDREN'S VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED:** Nursery volunteers (both adult and youth) are still needed for Aug. 16, 23 and Sept. 6. Sunday School leaders and helpers are still needed for Aug. 9, 16, 23, 30 and Sept. 6. You can sign up to help for the nursery here:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050f4ea5a82ea64-20151>

And for Sunday School here: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050f4ea5a82ea64-summer3>

Parents, please consider volunteering one Sunday. Your kids love it when you do and so do the regular program year leaders!

**BACKPACK SUNDAY – SCHOOL AGE KIDS:** bring your backpacks to church on Aug. 16 for a special blessing and gift from your church family!

**IT'S PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY TIME!** As you shop for Back to school this month, throw a jar of peanut butter and jelly into your cart. Bring your PB&J donations to church on Backpack Sunday, August 16. We will be donating the PB&J to CRS.

**MIDHIGH MAYHEM:** Incoming 4,5, & 6 graders – join us at the Buoy Aug. 25 from 7-8 pm for a bonfire! It's always a blast!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERS NEEDED:** Looking for a way to give back to your church family? Volunteer to be a Sunday School Leader! Julie Reimer, Dir. of Christian Education, is putting together the Sunday School schedule for the 2015-16 program year and is looking for Sunday School Leaders. The lessons are all planned and very easy to follow. Most classes have 2-3 leaders that rotate Sundays, so you'd only have to lead 1-2 times a month. It couldn't be easier! Interested or need more information? Contact Julie in the church office or at [christianed@avonlakeucc.org](mailto:christianed@avonlakeucc.org).

**NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Help make a difference in the lives of your youngest members (and their parents!) Volunteer in the nursery! Both youth and adult volunteers are needed for the 2015-16 program year. Nursery volunteers help out one Sunday a month. Interested? Contact Julie Reimer to volunteer or for more information.

**SAVE THE DATES FOR FALL CROSS TRAINING:** Cross Training will be Wednesday evenings beginning Oct. 7 and ending Nov. 11. One of the classes being offered is “Non-violence and Religious Tolerance in Islam”. Stay tuned for more information on additional class offerings! Full class list and registration information will be coming in the September Drummer.

**Avon Lake United  
Church of Christ**

32801 Electric Blvd  
Avon Lake, OH 44012

Phone: 440-933-3241  
Fax: 440-933-7928  
Email: [office@avonlakeucc.org](mailto:office@avonlakeucc.org)

*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:** 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](mailto: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](mailto:office@avonlakeucc.org))! Thank you.

**GOD'S BLESSINGS, LOVE AND COMFORT FOR:** Mary Ann Agler, Fran Baird, Roger Buffett (former Associate Pastor), Dave and Lois Davis, Peg Ebner, Eric Fancher, Nick Hampe (Geoff's nephew), Jacob Heberling (family friend of Judy Reich), Jerry Kerwin, Joshua MacDonald, Rhoda Montgomery, Nancy Myers-Bradley (awaiting surgery August 3), Irish Peepers, Dennis Runyon, DeeDee Stech (Dan's mother), Linda Taylor (friend of Jennifer Gould), Cheryl Updegraff (awaiting surgery August 4), Marion Walsh (Sid Stech's mother), 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:**

- Ruth Collins and her family on the death of her husband, Edward June 25.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

- Bill and Alyssa McKinley on the birth of their daughter, Jenna Elizabeth, July 8

**SEPTEMBER DRUMMER DEADLINE** is Monday August 24. If you would like any information included in the next monthly newsletter, please send it to the church office by email ([office@avonlakeucc.org](mailto: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](mailto:membership@avonlakeucc.org).)

**PARISH NURSE NOTES:**

Email: [cherylupdegraff@oh.rr.com](mailto:cherylupdegraff@oh.rr.com); home telephone: 440-933-3833

- Office hours: Because of surgery scheduled for 08/04/15, I will not have office hours for the next two weeks. I will be at home and available by phone or email after Friday, 08/07/15.
- Ragweed season officially begins mid-August; the season lasts until the first frost. As a prior allergy nurse I will again share some information about Ragweed. It is one of the most important allergenic plants in North America and probably causes the most misery. Decreasing the foods that cross react with the Ragweed pollen during the Ragweed season makes a difference for many; those foods are dairy products, melons, and bananas. Because the pollen count is the highest in the mornings plan your activities accordingly.
- Diabetic Support Group will resume Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. All welcome!

## 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 4402639319 or email me at [sdixon0714@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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](mailto: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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 [jameskotora@wowway.com](mailto:jameskotora@wowway.com)

**UCC MUSICIANS ASSOCIATION WORSHIP AND MUSIC CONFERENCE 2015:** I participated in the 2015 UCC Musicians Association Worship and Music Conference in Elmhurst, Illinois a few weeks ago. It was a dynamic, energizing time of worship, concerts, workshops, lectures, choral rehearsals, singing new choral music sessions and networking with other musicians. I look forward to sharing with the choir and the congregation some of the ideas and methods picked up in the following workshop sessions: Choral Conducting: Singing with Understanding, Enlivening Congregational Singing, Choral Gesture, Spiritual and Gospel styles and the Mature Adult Voice. I appreciated being able to attend the conference this year. Mary Fancher

**THANK YOU:** Many thanks to ALUCC for sponsoring me, along with Mary Fancher and Sharon Dixon, to attend the United Church of Christ Musicians Association annual conference at Elmhurst College in Illinois. We were surrounded by an inspiring amount of talent, creativity, experience and insight, represented by UCC musicians from all over the country.

The accommodations at Elmhurst were modern, clean, and spacious. I just about got the hang of the one swipe card and three keys before it was time to move out of the dorm! A far cry from college back in the 70's!

I attended several very interesting workshops. At one on group touring, I reconnected with Ann Tucker of Crystal Lake IL, and Jim Larrabee of Omaha NE, both of whom have brought their touring groups here to ALUCC. Another session on blended worship brought insight and tips from a pastor/musician duo who have successfully instituted blended worship at their church in Downers Grove IL. "Do it and don't give up," was their advice! This musician is obviously a guy who can perform just about anything!

Two other workshops were the Composer's Forum and New Organ Music Sharing. I had the chance to present a choir anthem and an organ composition of mine with very gratifying response.

We had two bus tours while there; one to a nearby church for a wonderful organ recital followed by an absolutely amazing bell concert. The second tour took us to Navy Pier in Chicago for a very interesting (but chilly!) boat trip down the Chicago River.

The grand finale was the closing worship service, where Sharon and I were able to participate in the handbell choir. Some really amazing compositions by the presenters at the conference were included on the program. All in all a very inspiring 4 days. Thank you again! Ruth Williams

Dear Avon Lake UCC, Thank you so much for sending me to the UCCMA Conference in Chicago. The College of Elmhurst was a beautiful venue for an inspiring four day workshop/worship experience. The highlight for me was hearing The Agape Ringers, a professional handbell group directed by David Weck. Lookout Celebration Ringers - we're gonna learn how to weave!!! Thanks again, Sharon

**INTERESTED IN ART?** Come with your brushes and favorite art supplies to the Avon Lake, Miller Road Park (adjacent to the boat landing at Lake and Miller Roads) at 6 pm, Monday, August 3. We will meet at the Gazebo and then set out individually or with friends or new acquaintances, as you wish, to find inspiration in that setting to do your own art work. This is a new group, newly forming ideas, with few limits. It may include a variety of media, various ages, various skill levels. (Beginners and experimenters will find a few basic art supplies available, or you can bring your own.) There is no cost for this event. If you would like more information, you may contact any member of The Art Interest Group: Julie Marlin, Jen Miller, Deb Suarez or Janelle Schubmehl.

**WOMEN'S LEAGUE:** With the fall season starting up, Women's League is hoping to add another Circle to take the place of Rachel Circle that had to disband. Women's Circles are a great way to bond with other women of the church with monthly meetings and sharing in Women's League projects. If you are new to the church or someone who is looking for fellowship with other women, please give this some consideration. Our Women's League Board Meeting will be Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9 a.m. in the resource room (library) and we would like to invite anyone with input about starting a new Circle. If you have any questions, please contact Patty Greene or Sandy Dibbell.

**GETTING CONNECTED ROAD TRIP:** Catawba Island organized by Westlake Senior Center. Thursday, August 27, Catawba Island Club, Catawba, OH. Catawba Island Club for lunch. Tom Todd will entertain us J. Buffett style, Bergman's Orchards Farm Market, and Tofts Ice Cream. Depart: 10:00am and Return approx: 4:30pm. Cost: \$52, payable by 8/14, pay with credit card, check or cash. **YOU MUST CALL FOR RESERVATIONS: 440.899.3544 and to ARRANGE PAYMENT. SIGN UP at the Welcome Center**

**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. John Brady, the president of Magi Travel, will be here Monday, August 24, at 7 PM to answer questions about the trip.

ALUCC members who have signed up thus far: Kelly Brill, Bengt & Margenta Gerborg, Peg Kneiss, Chuck and Debbie Pettys, and Julie Reimer.

**FIRST TUESDAY BOOK STUDY:** All are invited to join us on **Tuesday, September 1 at 7 pm** to discuss *Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith* by Anne Lamott. According to goodreads.com, the book is "a chronicle of faith and spirituality that is at once tough, personal, affectionate, wise and very funny.... Lamott takes us on a journey through her often troubled past to illuminate her devout but quirky walk of faith. In a narrative spiced with stories and scripture, with diatribes, laughter, and tears, Lamott tells how, against all odds, she came to believe in God and then, even more miraculously, in herself." The group meets at the Sheffield Lake home of Lou and Deb Suarez. Please consider joining us. For more information, call 440-949-6611 or email [lms728@yahoo.com](mailto:lms728@yahoo.com).

## **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.

## **THANK YOU!**

ALUCC members: We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and meals following the unexpected passing of our beloved husband and father Tim. It means so much to know that we have such a wonderful church family. God bless, Janet, Nicole and Taylor Thomas

Thanks to all of the church members who shared their time, money and talent shopping for Clothe-A-Kid. Yes, talent because some shapes and sizes are more challenging to shop for. We all remember our first day of school, it was exciting and sometimes scary. How nice it is for the 52 students we clothed to start their year with brand new clothes. Thank you, The Mission Board

From the Mission Team: some "thank yous" are in order!

1. Thank you for hosting and feeding Bike and Build riders July 1, directed by Patty Greene and Mike Fowle, and the Men's Prayer Group

2. Thank you for providing snacks for 100 family snack bags for the CRS (Community Resource Services) food cupboard; Kary Kandra and Amy Papp from the Team directed this.

3. Thank you for clothing 53 kids for school for Love Inc., coordinated by Jean Grady.

4. Thank you for providing dinner for Haven Center (the homeless shelter or families in Lorain) once a month all year; more volunteers are needed.

5. Thank you for hosting IHN/Family Promise in January and June; the sign-up board for August 9 is in the Narthex near the Welcome Center. Judy Reich is the coordinator; [bjreich@wowway.com](mailto:bjreich@wowway.com) or 930-5370.

6. Save The Date October 10 2015: Empty Bowls (soup) fundraiser for CRS in Fellowship Hall.

**UNCLAIMED NAME TAGS:** Are you missing your nametag? A number of nametags are available for pick-up at the Welcome Center. Check the list by the Coffee Hour sign. Thank you!

**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.