



## APRIL HIGHLIGHTS WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9 AND 11 AM

**April, 2016**

**In this Issue:**

Worship Schedule

A Word from Kelly

Christian Ed News

Calendar/Birthdays

Easter Flower List

**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 7<sup>th</sup> grade, adult-supervision in Noah's Nursery.

**APRIL 3:** We celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion as we focus on the story of the followers who shared a meal with the risen Christ on Easter evening. Dr. Brill's meditation, "Recognizing Jesus", is based on Luke 24:13-35.

**APRIL 10:** One of ALUCC's favorite guest preachers returns: the always creative Bob Kloos, of Beacon Street Performing Arts Ministries. Bob's message is entitled, "Gone Fishing ... for Sheep". The scriptures are Acts 5:27-32, 40-41 and John 21:1-19.

**APRIL 17:** Dr. Brill's sermon, "Following Jesus" is based upon Psalm 23 and John 10:22-30. At 9 AM we will celebrate the baptism of Kennedy Millicent Chockla.

**APRIL 24:** We are celebrating the tenth anniversary of the dedication of the sanctuary. Dr. Brill's sermon, "Church as Base Camp," is based upon I Corinthians 3:9-13 and Ephesians 2:19-22.

**WELCOME, KIM ROSE, TO THE CHURCH STAFF!** At its February meeting, Church Council authorized a new staff position. At ten hours per week, this position will be funded (for now) from the Ministry and Mission Fund that the congregation has been contributing to for several years. We are delighted to announce that Kim Rose will be our first-ever Outreach and Connections Coordinator. In that capacity, Kim will work with the Membership Team, with our affinity/small groups, and with a new ad hoc group which will be reviewing our membership rolls. Her goal will be to help members become connected to the church - to other members and to avenues of service. She will begin this spring, but regular hours will begin this fall.

**UPDATE FROM THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE** As this issue of the Drummer goes to press, interviews are underway for the position of Director of Christian Education. Many thanks to dedicated volunteers for assuming responsibilities in this interim period. We hope to have an announcement of a new hire, soon!

### A WORD FROM KELLY

My thanks to everyone who participated in the Leadership Planning Retreat in February! 50 of us gathered for a Saturday morning to consider ways in which our church is being called to grow in ministry and mission. We discussed the trends that church consultants are noticing and ways of understanding new generations. Church Council is currently looking at the ideas generated by the small group planning sessions and will keep the congregation informed of ways they can be involved

~ Kelly

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Jill and Matt Andresen

Lauren Coleman

Zoe Cummings

Pat and Dale Dahlke

Jennifer Fazio

Deb and Paul Gorman

Ellyn and Hannah Nicholas

Gretchen Roberts

Kathleen and Clarence Schultz

Pam and James Perez-Strohmeyer

Cora Trefts

**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 upcoming sessions of our Inquirers' Class.

The first class, on April 24, 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, on May 1, 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 begin immediately following our 11:00 service. We will welcome new members at worship on May 8. The Membership Team will provide a light lunch both days. Please write to Tim Schulz, Membership and Media Coordinator, at [membership@avonlakeucc.org](mailto:membership@avonlakeucc.org) with questions or to RSVP. Babysitting can be provided, please request by Wednesday, April 20.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY**, led by Pastor Brill. Wednesdays, 10:30 am - 11:30 am. Please join us, all are welcome!

**COME TO THE SERMON ROUNDTABLE ON SUNDAY MORNINGS:** The Sermon Roundtable meets nearly every week in the new Conference Room (next to the nursery) about 15 minutes or so after the ending of the 9:00 worship. The time is geared to allow people time for fellowship before the informal Sermon Roundtable gathering. Our April leaders are:

- April 3 - Debbie Gorman
- April 10 - Bill Schubmehl
- April 17 - Bonnie Fisher
- April 25 - Wayne Eastman

**ALUCC BOOK CLUB**, April 26, 7 PM, CONFEDERATES IN THE ATTIC by Tony Horwitz. All are welcome!

**FIRST TUESDAY BOOK STUDY**, May 3, 7 PM, ACCIDENTAL SAINTS: FINDING GOD IN ALL THE WRONG PEOPLE by Nadia Bolz-Weber. The meeting will take place at the Sheffield Lake home of Lou and Deb Suarez, 811 Harris Rd. All are welcome.

**WOMEN'S PRAYER CIRCLE:** All women of the church and community are invited to join in spirited conversation, prayer, and brainstorming this crazy thing called "life". Different facilitators each week. Ongoing Mondays 6:45 - 7:45 PM in the Resource Room.



### COME CATCH THE WAVE OF GOD'S AMAZING LOVE AT ALUCC'S 2016 SURF SHACK VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

VBS is coming June 20-24 for children ages 4 years old through just finishing 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Our adventure this year is call Surf Shack: Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love. Each morning we will gather at 9:30 at the Surf Shack with Skipper and her friend Snappy the Crab. From there we will rotate to different stations to hear our radical Bible story, sing amazing songs, explore awesome science, create tubular crafts and eat super snacks. Registration begins

for our member's children and grandchildren on **April 10** and open registration beings **May 1**. **Sign up early – space is limited and we will fill up!** Download a registration form here: <http://avonlakeucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/VBS-Registration-Form-2016.pdf> . However, before we can have a VBS, we need a VBS team! Would you like to help plan, decorate, or assist at VBS this year? Contact the Dir. of Christian Education at [christianed@avonlakeucc.org](mailto:christianed@avonlakeucc.org) or 933-3241. Let's work together and Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love!

**SUMMER CAMP:** Are you ready for summer? Looking forward to swimming and hiking? Do you want to eat s'mores around a campfire? Then you need to sign up for an OCUCC Summer Camp! Registration is going on now at [www.journeythehills.org](http://www.journeythehills.org). Our goal is to send 100 people to camp! The Children's Ministry Team offers an incentive fund that pays ½ the cost, up to \$200, for camps for our members. What a great deal! **Register by March 31 to get the lowest rate.** Don't delay because some of the most popular camps will fill! After registering online, don't forget to fill out an orange ALUCC Camp Registration Form (outside the Chapel or find it on the website) and turn it into the church office. If you don't fill out an orange form, we won't know you are going to camp and the church can't send your incentive money to camp – so register online, fill out the orange form, and have a wonderful time at camp!

**GOOD NEWS AND THANKS:** **THANK YOU** to Rob Patton for spearheading our drive to collect water and money to assist Flint, Michigan. A total of \$1,600 sent to a UCC church in Flint for local water efforts. Thanks to all who donated! **THANKS** to the Mission Team for filling 25 Easter baskets for children – a last-minute, emergency request from Community Resource Services! **THANKS** to several anonymous members of the church for making generous donations to support our camp scholarship fund – including scholarships for children from Washington UCC in Cincinnati!

**DAY OF SERVICE – AUGUST 2016:** Last year was ALUCC's first ever "Day Of Service". On this day, over 55 people served our community and helped paint, bake and deliver cookies and even clean out our local animal shelter. This August we will continue our "Day Of Service" project and hopefully expand it to a two-day event. If you are interested in helping plan this project, our first meeting will be Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. If you are interested, have ideas or want more information, please email or call Kim Rose [[kim.a.rose@hotmail.com](mailto:kim.a.rose@hotmail.com)/440-961-0144] for further details. Thank you in helping our church fulfill its mission to serve others.

**IHN/FAMILY PROMISE:** April 10-17 will be the first week of hosting this year, our 10<sup>th</sup> year in the program for homeless families. The Volunteer Sign-up Board has been up in since March 20. Volunteers for dinner, activities time and overnight supervision are required to complete a short training course, which will be offered again sometime this spring. Anyone can help set up (12:30 pm Sunday 3/10), take down (7:30am Sunday 3/17), and do laundry. We host again May 29, July 17 and August 7.

IHN/FAMILY PROMISE BENEFIT, Sunday, April 10, 3pm. First Church UCC Oberlin, Main and Lorain Sts. Featuring: Bassoon quartet "Men Who Don't Bite". For more information, see the poster at the Welcome Center.

**INTERESTED IN INDIA?** Some members of ALUCC have expressed interest in a trip to see our mission partners there. Here are the details of how such a trip would work: best time to travel is between November and February. The hospital in Mungeli can accommodate only five to seven guests at a time. Cost of the trip would be about \$2500, which includes airfare, room and board for 8 days at the hospital, an overnight visit and safari at Kanha National Park (the setting for Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Book), two days in Delhi with a day-long adventure in Agra to see the Taj Mahal.

What would you do at the hospital? Serve according to your gifts, interests, and preferences. Write a blog, post Facebook stories, read to pre-schoolers, teach music, collect and organize data for research projects, clean and organize storage rooms, teach swimming/soccer/basketball, lead worship and/or Bible Study...they also enjoy visitors who are willing to walk around campus, visit with staff and help staff improve their conversational English skills. In other words, there's something for everyone!

Please contact Kelly by May 1 if you have any interest or have further questions. If a group is interested, she will help coordinate a group meeting time to discuss possible travel dates.

**SAVE THE DATE: WOMEN'S RETREAT 2017** We have reserved the Jesuit Retreat House for January 27-28, 2017, and Kim Langley has been booked to serve as our retreat leader. One of our most popular leaders, Kim is a professional speaker, an enthusiastic teacher and learner, and a passionate person of faith. She will be leading us on an exploration of the medieval German mystic, Hildegard of Bingen. Hildegard is being rediscovered as a person whose insights have wise application for today.

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

**GOD'S BLESSINGS, LOVE AND COMFORT FOR:** Bob Allen, Bea Beard, Roger Buffett (former minister), Patty Byron (friend of Spaetzels and Fries), Mimi Cruse, Martha Cullen (Jean Grady's sister), Nick Hampe (Geoff's nephew), Lois Hartsel, 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.

**GOOD NEWS - PRAYERS OF CELEBRATION:** Chris Marlin-Warfield, son-in-law of Tom and Julie Marlin, will be ordained into the Christian Ministry on April 3, 2016, at Church of Peace U.C.C. in Rock Island, Illinois, where his spouse, Mariah Marlin-Warfield (Tom and Julie's daughter) is pastor. Please keep Chris in your prayers and thoughts as he continues to work for the United Church of Christ's Back-Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Congratulations to Jeff and Angela Oleksiak on the birth of Andrew Jeffrey on February 24.

**PARISH NURSE NEWS:** Diabetic Support Group will meet on Wednesday, April 13 at 6:30 pm.

**RUMMAGE SALE CHANGE:** Now that it's spring, we still need to clean out our closets. However this year, Women's League has made an arrangement with the Good Neighbor Thrift Shop to accept your donations formerly saved for the church rummage sale. From now on your rummage sale donations can be taken to the Thrift Shop or you can place them in one of the bins by the backdoor at church, which are marked for the Thrift Shop. This can be done all year long, but please keep your donations seasonal appropriate.

**UPDATE ON STIVES MISSION TRIP:** We have decided NOT to go to The Dominican Republic this spring, we are planning to go this July to their VBS camp. If anyone is interested in going with us or sponsoring a child, see the info on the bulletin board by fellowship hall or contact us at 440-933-9504. If you sponsored a child last year and did not receive your tax receipt, please contact us. Bev & Bill

**MAY DRUMMER DEADLINE** is Monday, April 25. If you would like information included in the next monthly newsletter, please send it to the church office by email ([office@avonlakeucc.org](mailto: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](mailto:membership@avonlakeucc.org).

## **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING -April 10th**

Through One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), United Church of Christ members reach out in the name of Christ to:

- **Build sustainable communities.** OGHS supports self-help programs in more than 80 nations to build sustainable communities that enable people and communities to stand against and rise above hunger, disease, illiteracy, and other forces of injustice that deny and destroy dignity.
- **Respond to disaster.** OGHS provides emergency and long-term assistance to people in the aftermath of hurricanes, tornados, storms, floods, tidal waves, fires, explosions, technological disasters, civil strife, war, or other natural or human-caused events. On average, OGHS responds to a disaster once every 2.5 days.
- **Minister to refugees.** OGHS responds with advocacy and help, hope and hospitality for people who have been uprooted from their home of origin. More than 30 million of the world's people are uprooted at any given time.

In cooperation with Global Ministries, Church World Service, Action by Churches Together, Interchurch Medical Assistance, Foods Resource Bank, Oikocredit, Freedom from Hunger and hundreds of local partners around the world. One Great Hour of Sharing is part of a remarkable network of service and caring that is efficient, effective and faithful. Administrative costs are typically less than eight percent annually.

The United Church of Christ unites with Christians in eight other Protestant denominations and Church World Service in One Great Hour of Sharing, thus multiplying the effectiveness and extent of our witness many times over.

The partnership we share with nearly 6,000 United Church of Christ congregations across the United States and Puerto Rico is where this remarkable miracle connecting UCC members to the world truly begins. The UCC annually channels more the \$3 million dollars through One Great Hour of Sharing to humanitarian needs in the world

The OGHS offering is administered through Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ.

Please join in giving to One Great Hour of Sharing. Envelopes will be in the April 10th bulletin and will also be at the Welcome Center. Donations will be accepted throughout the week at the church office.

Sharing your resources really does change lives - your own life and the lives of others.

God Bless!

The Mission Board