



## FEBRUARY WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Worship and Sunday School at 9 and 11 AM

**February 5:** On this first Sunday of the month, we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Dr. Brill's communion meditation, based on Mark 1:29-39, is entitled, "Healing Our Demons." At 9 AM, we will also celebrate the baptisms of Allison, Andrew, and Nathan Peachman. The Children's Choir will sing at 9 AM.

**February 12:** the scripture is Mark 1:40-45; Dr. Brill's sermon is "Jesus' Healing Touch." The Celebration Bell Choir will play.

**February 19:** Dr. Brill's sermon, "God's Fabulous Promise", is based on Isaiah 58:1-12. At 11 AM, we celebrate the baptism of Quintin Crannis.

**Ash Wednesday, February 22:** Meet in the Chapel at 7:30 for a quiet service of music, meditation, reflection, communion, and the imposition of ashes. Begin the season of Lent with your church family.

**February 26:** New members are welcomed into the congregation. Dr. Brill's sermon, "Be Led," is based upon Psalm 25:1-10. And it's Camp Sunday! Find out about all of the opportunities for all ages at UCC camps this summer.

**Mary Martha Spaghetti Lunch, Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 am.** The cost is \$7 adults and \$3 children age 3 to 10. Take out is available. The meal includes spaghetti (with or without sauce, plain or meat sauce), bread and butter, salad, beverage, and choice of desserts. **All proceeds will benefit Avon Lake Relay for Life**

### CROSSTRAINING BEGINS FEBRUARY 29

CrossTraining is a five-week program for the entire church community (and friends), designed to help members become better acquainted with one another through spending time together over a meal, in informal worship, and in small group experiences. Please see the yellow insert for all of the details.

### February, 2012

Inside this issue:

A Word from Kelly

Prime Timers Schedule

Music Department  
News

Prayer List

Christian Ed News

Birthdays

Calendar

Youth Page

## **A WORD FROM KELLY**

Welcome to a new year in the life of the Avon Lake UCC! I write this the day after our Annual Meeting. We celebrated in worship by watching a video that highlighted the many events and activities of our church in 2011. At the meeting, we elected new members to boards, committees, and Church Council.

I want to print here what I said in my sermon: It is my dream that every member of this church family find a way to participate. Whether it's serving in an official capacity, as on a board or committee, or ministering in more quiet, behind-the-scenes ways...whether it's choir, or Sunday School teaching, or one-time volunteer opportunities...try something! If it's not the right fit for you, try something else! You grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ when you use your God-given gifts. And you feel more a part of the church family when you connect with others.

It is my goal to help each person find the right ministry fit, so please ask if you want ideas, if you have more time to give, or if you have not yet found the right way to serve.

I give thanks to God for all of the time, talents and treasures that have been given in the past...and I look forward to seeing what God will do in our midst in this coming year!

**INQUIRER'S CLASS:** We will be holding two Inquirers' Classes for prospective members in February. The first class offers a basic introduction to the history and theology of the United Church of Christ. The second class will focus on the Avon Lake UCC with a tour of our facilities and guest speakers from staff, boards and committees. The classes are at 12:15 PM on Sundays, February 5 and February 19. Lunch will be provided both days by the Board of Membership. Please write to Tim Schulz, Membership Coordinator, at [membership@thealucc.org](mailto:membership@thealucc.org) with questions or to RSVP. Babysitting is offered upon request.

## **NEWS FROM CHURCH COUNCIL**

At its January meeting, Church Council passed a Safe Church Policy, intended to provide all possible precaution for children and youth who participate in church activities. Many other congregations have already passed similar policies; the policy we adopted is based upon a template provided by the UCC and recommended by many insurance companies.

Our Christian Education program has already been following safe church recommendations; Sunday School teachers, nursery workers and youth advisors all have to provide references and provide other information. The new policy will also require references and other information from people who would like to host youth in their homes (visiting high school choirs, for example.) More information will be forthcoming. Please ask a staff member or Moderator Maureen Johnson if you would like a copy of the policy. It will also be posted on the church website.

## **NEWS FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING**

The annual meeting of the congregation was held January 22. A balanced budget was passed, and a new slate of leaders was elected. Copies of the annual report booklet are available at the Welcome Center; it is also posted online.

**PRIME TIMERS' SCHEDULE:** Saturday, February 25 potluck, 6pm - bring table service and a dish to share. At 7pm, we will watch a movie *The Help*. Sign up for either or both at the Welcome Center or [bjreich@wowway.com](mailto:bjreich@wowway.com) or 930-5370. **Transportation available. All Programs Open To All. No Age Restrictions**

**FAITH AND FITNESS LITE:** Follow through on your New Year's resolution - join us for exercise Monday and Thursday mornings 11-12.

**Avon Lake United  
Church of Christ**

32801 Electric Blvd  
Avon Lake, OH 44012

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

*Growing People to  
Serve God and Others*

We are on the Web:  
[thealucc.org](http://thealucc.org)

**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 Valerie Tanzilli in the church office for more information.

**CHANGE IN JOB DUTIES:** In an attempt to balance the 2012 budget, and address a slight budget shortfall, the Board of Trustees and Church Council are cutting down on the number of set-ups and take-downs our custodial staff will be doing. Any group using the church is asked to do their own set-ups and take-downs, with exceptions for groups that are not physically able. We will be monitoring this change to see how it is working. Members are asked to not ask our custodial team to do jobs that members are able to do themselves. Any comments should be directed, **not** to our custodial team, but to Moderator Maureen Johnson, Trustees Chair Paul Angel, or Senior Minister Kelly Brill. Thank you!

## PRAYER LIST

We update this list at the beginning of each month. Please contact the church office by phone (933-3241) or email ([pastor@thealucc.org](mailto:pastor@thealucc.org)) to send an update or to add a name.

**New on the Prayer List:** Katie (Updegraff) Lopez, complications of pregnancy. Steve Ward (Pam Kauffman's brother) diagnosed with a brain tumor. Susan Cicerchi, diagnosed with cancer. Bill & Bev Stives as they journey to the Dominican Republic on a Medical Mission International trip. They leave February 11 and return March 1.

**Members with Health Concerns:** Lois Hartsel, Krystal Holstein, Marilyn Luce.

**Members Receiving Treatment for Cancer:** Linda Brown

**Friends and Relatives Receiving Treatment for Cancer:** Don Bayley, Karen Beech, Tom Brunner, Rita Flaim, Mary Harold, Kristie Jarrett, Kris McLeod, Jim Neibes, Sharon O'Donnell, Michelle Peterlin, Heidi Peck, Joy Petit, Susan Porter, Maura Roberts, Emily Stephens, David Turner, Werner Wittman.

**Friends and Relatives of Members:** Mary Anne Berlot, Hayden Briggs, Alex Burbules, Kay Cracas, Joyce Dorbish, Brandon Hiller, Mick Haddox, Toni Kulma, David Mange, Lillian Piggott, Nancy Trautman, Thomas Trefts, Julie Weaver.

### Sympathy to:

- Judy Reich & her family on the death of her husband, Bob, January 3.
- Don George & his family on the death of his brother, Michael, January 11.
- the family & friends of Luanne Varndell, who passed away January 15.
- Carolyn Coy on the death of her uncle, Ralph Turner, who passed away January 16.
- Jennifer Gould and Loy Wiley on the death of grandfather/father Wesley Brown who died January 23.

### Congratulations to:

- Jim & Diane Bayley on the birth of their great-granddaughter, Amelia Margaret Reynolds, January 6. Parents are Kyle & Ashley and the grandparents are Mike & Tami Reynolds.
- Ron & Jean Forster on the birth of their grandson, Vincent Steel, January 11. Parents are Brad & Leigh.
- Brandon and Vanessa Aslaksen on the birth of their daughter, Emily Lynn, January 21. Emily is a patient at University Hospital, diagnosed with pulmonary hypertension. Please keep Emily and her family in your prayers.

**Serving Overseas:** Matt Roesel, Tadd Schultz, Wes Wiblin.

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

**REMINDER:** If you or a loved one are in the hospital and wish prayers or visits from the church, please call the church office. Otherwise, we may not know you're there!

**CAMP SUNDAY IS FEBRUARY 26:** It may not look like it outside, but it is time to sign up for summer camp! Come and visit our information tables at coffee hour – you can register for camp online right there! Learn about the camps available while sampling some yummy camp snacks.

**CALLING ALL 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS:** The fourth grade pre-confirmation class will be offered during the Lent Cross Training this year. If you have a 4<sup>th</sup> grader in your family and they have not received a letter concerning the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Pre-confirmation class, please call Julie at the church office at 930-8639 or email her at [christianed@thealucc.org](mailto:christianed@thealucc.org).

### **PEOPLE IN THE NEWS:**

We like to share good news! If you see a news story or picture in a newspaper or magazine about anyone in our church family, please cut it out, bring it to church, and put it in the Membership mailbox near the church office. We'll post it on our "In the News" bulletin board.

### **PARISH NURSE NEWS:**

- **Parish Nurse Hours:** Wednesday 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.; evenings by appointment. Contact by email: [cherylupdegraff@oh.rr.com](mailto:cherylupdegraff@oh.rr.com) or 440-933-3833
- **Health screening opportunity:** on Sunday morning, March 18<sup>th</sup>, Mercy Hospital will be at the church to draw blood for the following studies: (if you have no insurance, a high deduct or co-pay this a great opportunity for important screenings.)
  1. PSA (men over 40) FREE
  2. TSH (for thyroid) \$4.00
  3. HbgA1c (3) month blood glucose average \$12.00
  4. OccCP (c chem. Profile (250.00 value) \$12.00
- The month of February always has a 'Heart Healthy' focus; "Go Red for Women" packets will be provided as well as Blood Pressure screening.
- **No Diabetic Support Group meeting in February.**

**ALUCC BOOK CLUB:** Our next meeting will be Tuesday February 28 at 7pm. As of the Drummer printing time, the February book selection had not been made. Please watch your bulletins for the title.

**PARENTS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN:** Our next get-together will be February 25 at 7pm. We'll be having a game/card night. Details to come soon-we will decide the game and the place at our January event. (Progressive Dinner)

**HAVE YOU SEEN THESE ITEMS?** We are missing 2 dollies from the church. We use them constantly for moving items, bringing in large amounts of paper products, etc. If you have borrowed these dollies, please return them soon. They are greatly missed. Also missing is an 8 foot aluminum ladder, blue and yellow in color. Please return it if you have borrowed it.

**JACK & JILL REGISTRATION:** Community registration for the 2012-2013 school year continues with interested parents contacting the office almost every day. We have openings in our morning and our afternoon classes for 3 year olds. Our 4 year old and pre-K classes are full in the morning, but there are several openings in all of our afternoon classes.. Jack & Jill Nursery School continues to be a great place where kids develop in a safe, fun, and creative atmosphere. Please share our information with your friends who have preschool age children. You can stop by the welcome center or the church office for a brochure. For more information or a tour of the school, please contact Melody Rice at 933-7946.

**VOICES FOR CHILDREN NEEDED:** Voices for Children is a non-profit program in Lorain county that recruits, trains and oversees volunteer Guardians ad Litem (court appointed special advocates), who represent the best interests of abused, neglected, and dependent children who have entered the system. Training classes will be held in March. For more information, please call 329-5158 or apply online: [www.vfcl.org](http://www.vfcl.org).

## THANK YOU

The Choral Department would like to extend our sincerest appreciation to Janice Van Wagner for sharing her time and talent to make the needed alterations to several of the new robes for the choirs. They look wonderful!!!

We were overwhelmed with the many beautiful cards, poems and notes sent to us by our church family at the time of my mother's passing. We are thankful for her long life and the fact that she was able to spend the last six years of her life here in Avon Lake. She was especially interested in the good music at ALUCC and watched the Sunday services on TV. Visits from Jim Deitz were always a day brightener and cards and visits from other members were always a blessing. She especially enjoyed the carolers who sang in her room at Christmas time. We are also thankful to Kelly for the meaningful memorial service and our wonderful Hannah Circle friends who put on the reception afterwards.

Sandy Dibbell & family

Dear Friends, Thank you so much for your cards full of memories and good wishes, your calls with assurances of prayer and concern, and your visits with food and other help following Bob's death Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>. We felt blessed at the celebration of Bob's life, and will be forever grateful to Kelly, the choirs, Ken, Rob, Rich, Bob, and Kim, the media crew, and all who continue to offer comfort and love. "Surely, the Lord is in this place..."

Judy, Karen, Kathy and David, Scott and LeeAnn

Rev. Kelly and my dear friends at UCC, thank you for the love and support that really held me up in the last three years. Kelly, your encouragement and loving compassion kept me going...you are my angels. ~ Kathy Smith

I want to thank the congregation for the love and concern shown to me through my time of crisis. Your prayers, gifts, hugs, and care allowed me to know the love of Christ through each of you. Special thanks to Council for remembering me in their prayers. I am constantly reminded of how blessed I am to be a part of this church family!

Mary Pease

**MARCH DRUMMER DEADLINE** is Monday, **FEBRUARY 27**. If you would like any information included in the next monthly newsletter, please send to the church office by email ( [office@thealucc.org](mailto:office@thealucc.org)) or be sure to bring your items in by this date. News items/reminders may also be submitted for Kelly's weekly email updates. (If you are not receiving the weekly email updates, please send your email address to [pastor@thealucc.org](mailto:pastor@thealucc.org).)

### **OLIVER COMES TO AVON LAKE!**

You are invited to the Mighty Goliath Production of *Oliver!* Dates are: February 10-12, February 17-18. Friday and Saturday night performances begin at 7:30; the Sunday matinee begins at 2. Tickets are \$10.00 in advance (general admission.) (At the door, tickets will be \$15.00 for adults, \$13.00 for students and seniors.)

ALUCC members involved in *Oliver* are: Doug Brill (director), Fiona Walker (producer), Jim Kotora (musical director) , Carol Sue Beck (accompanist), Leslie McNutt (orchestra member) and cast members: Kelly Brill, Sandi Gerhan, Elizabeth Kotora, Jan Mackert, Shelley MacDonald, Barb Wherley and Hal Wherley. Come support them! See them if you would like tickets! (Tickets are also available at Rio Café and Hartsel Automotive.)

MGP is a 53-year-old organization which donates annually to the arts programs at Avon Lake High School; it has given over \$200,000 in its history. This year, since the play touches on topics of hunger and poverty, MGP is supporting CRS as well.

**RIDES TO AIRPORT OFFERED:** Jim Wise will provide transportation to and from the airport to any member, in exchange for a donation to the church. If you ever need a ride to the airport, and/or a pick-up, please call Jim at 440-933-3120 (home phone) or 216-337-8537 (cell phone.)

**STAMPS:** Please bring in your used postage stamps and place them in the box outside the office. Please leave approximately ¼ inch of paper around the stamp for trimming. Please leave postcards whole. This is a Women's League fundraising project. Thank you.

## LENTEN CROSSTRAINING CLASSES

The Lenten 2012 CrossTraining will begin Wednesday, February 29 and meet for five consecutive Wednesdays.

Dinner is at 6 PM (adults \$7.00/children under 12 \$5.00); Chapel worship (music led by Jim Katora) from 6:30 – 7; Classes for all ages from 7 – 8.

Adult Class offerings:

**"Hosanna: A Spiritual Journey through Holy Week"**, taught by Scott Patterson. In this Bible Study, we will look at all of the writings that deal specifically with the last week of Jesus' life and with the resurrection. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all tell the story, but each in their own way. Paul was the first to write about the crucifixion and resurrection. What do each of the stories really say? And what does this story mean in our lives today? Scott Patterson is a gifted teacher, a member of ALUCC, an avid golfer(!), and a retired UCC minister.

### Understanding Mental Illness:

#### A Class for Family Members of Those Living with Mental Illness

Session One	What is Mental Health and Mental Illness
Session Two	Understanding the Diagnoses of Mental Illness
Session Three	Common Reactions to Mental Illness
Session Four	Role of Family and Friends
Session Five	Help and Resources

Facilitators:

**Terri Miller** is Program Coordinator for NAMI Greater Cleveland since March of 2003. Terri's primary responsibilities involve Coordinating NAMI's three Education Courses, the development and on-going supervision of 29 support groups. Terri first experienced mental illness when her sister was diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder in the early 1990's and became the liaison between her sister, her sister's doctors and the rest of the family. Terri first became involved with NAMI as an attendee at a support group for parents with a mentally ill child. Terri went on to become trained as a support group leader, advocate and as a Family-to-Family and NAMI Basics instructor; teaching other family members in the community about mental illness.

**Ed Boyte** is a volunteer for NAMI Greater Cleveland and like Lee Rutti is a trained teacher of NAMI's Family-to-Family program. Ed is Assistant Director of Cleveland Mediation Center, where he teaches mediation classes and runs a homeless diversion program in the Cleveland's homeless shelters. Ed is brother of Kelly Boyte Brill ~ their brother and sister-in-law are persons with mental illnesses.

**Lenore Rutti** also volunteers for NAMI and teaches the Family-to-Family program. Lenore has had decades of experience with mental illness ~ she witnessed firsthand how mental illness can afflict and affect many member of one family. Her experience is one of hope of wellness for those with the illness as well as support and encouragement for their families.

**Improving your Space:** Five different classes that will help you improve your home. Join us to learn home improvement advice, tips and safety. We'll have guest speakers each week that will teach you how you can do it yourself or what you need to know before you hire someone. Bring your questions and ideas and leave with the knowledge to tackle your next project and improve your home or yard. These sessions are open to everyone.

**Pre-Confirmation for 4<sup>th</sup> Graders:** This class is an introduction to worship, the sacraments and our church for fourth graders. Led by Julie Reimer, Director of Christian Education.

**Youth Theater:** Youth grades 5-8. Have fun using your creativity while learning theater skills. Focus exercises and theater games along with some improvisation will make this an exciting, fun place to be! This class will be led by talented adults from our congregation.

**Kids Ten Commandments:** Children ages 3-3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Join us as we watch learn about the 10 Commandments in a fresh and entertaining way! Each class will start with one of the episodes from an engaging animated mini-movie series and will be followed by discussion, games and crafts.

## **IHN NEWS**

Become a volunteer and bring warmth and comfort to those without homes. There are two upcoming Family Promise/Interfaith Hospitality Training Sessions.

- January 28<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM - 12 PM, First Congregational Church UCC, 330 Second St., Elyria. Come to this special training session conducted by Elizabeth Tore, Regional Director of Family Promise. Current trainers and volunteers wishing a refresher session are encouraged to attend as well as newcomers. RSVP to [lois@familypromiselorainco.org](mailto:lois@familypromiselorainco.org) or call 284-0494 by Wednesday, January 25th.
- February 11<sup>th</sup>, 11 AM - 2 PM, First Church UCC, Oberlin in the JFO Room. Meet our new Executive Director as she conducts her first training session!

The Cleveland Orchestra's Amici String Quartet will present an hour of beautiful music on Sunday, Feb. 19 at 3 p.m. at First Church, Oberlin, U.C.C. Concert admission is free. Donations will be invited to benefit homeless families through Family Promise of Lorain County and the Interfaith Hospitality Network. A catered reception will follow. Family Promise is very much indebted to these first rate professional musicians for giving of their time and talents and hopes every church will be represented in the audience of this exciting event.

**Buy One Give One:** The Company Store will match each purchase of a comforter with a donation of one to a homeless child served by Family Promise. And you get 20% off! Visit [familypromiselorainco.org](http://familypromiselorainco.org) for more information.

## **CHAUTAUQUA/LAKESIDE**

Mark your calendar! Lakeside will feature a Chautauqua experience at Wesleyan Senior Living on **Friday, March 2, 2012 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.** The presentation will take place in Cascade Hall located at Wesleyan Village in Elyria, Ohio. We will be touching on the Chautauqua pillars with an educational seminar, religious lecture and cultural arts performance during the afternoon. The Chautauqua presentation will renew and enrich your spirit intellectually, spiritually and culturally.

### ***Event Schedule for Lakeside Chautauqua on the Road***

1:00– 1:45 p.m.

Educational Seminar: The History of Lakeside and the Chautauqua Movement: Presented by Lakeside Chautauqua President/CEO, Kevin Sibbring.

2:00 - 2:45 p.m.

Religious Lecture: Renewing Heart, Soul, Mind and Strength: Presented by Lakeside Chautauqua Director of Religious Life and Church Outreach, Dr. Ned Dewire.

3:00–3:45 p.m.

Cultural Arts Presentation: Led by Steve Ostrow, Lakeside Symphony Orchestra member.

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Arts & Craft Fair, Taft Lounge, Wesleyan Village

**Location:** Wesleyan Village, Cascade Hall, 807 West Avenue, Elyria, OH 44035. No admission charge.

**Information:** visit [www.lakesideohio.com/events](http://www.lakesideohio.com/events) or [www.villageliving.org/directions](http://www.villageliving.org/directions)

## **HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Hospice of the Western Reserve addresses the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of seriously ill people and their families. Committed and passionate volunteers allow us to care for thousands of patients and their families. A few hours of your time will make a world of difference. Our next volunteer education will take place at Hospice of the Western Reserve, 29101 Health Campus Drive, Suite 400, in Westlake, on Fridays from 1-4 PM. This seven-class series runs from February 3-March 23 (except no class on February 10.) For more information or to register for the series, please call the Volunteer Administration Office at 216-388-3731 or 216-383-3742.

## **GOLDEN VALENTINE DANCE**

Couples who have been married fifty years or more are invited to the Golden Valentine Dance, Saturday, February 11, 2012, 3:00 - 7:00 PM, at the Jenkins Funeral Chapel in Westlake. The event is free; the deadline for reservations is February 6. Call 440-871-0711.