



JANUARY WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

January 1: Informal worship service in the Chapel, led by Kelly Brill and Mary Fancher, with Tim Schulz sharing some multimedia elements. Come as you are! Bring a motivational or inspirational quote for the new year, to share, if you like. (No nursery or child care this day.)

Worship and Sunday School at 9 and 11 AM

January 8: On this first Sunday of the month, we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Dr. Brill's communion meditation, based on Mark 1:4-11, is entitled, "New Beginnings." We will renew our baptismal vows as we read the story of Jesus' baptism.

January 15: I Samuel 3:1-10 is the story of the young boy Samuel hearing the call of God. Dr. Brill's sermon is entitled, "Called." At 11, we celebrate the baptism of Gianna Katherine Brannen.

January 22: Annual Meeting Sunday. During the morning sermon, Dr. Brill will reflect upon the year just past and look forward to the ministry and mission planned for 2012. Worshipers will see highlights of some of 2011's activities.

January 29: Worship and Sunday School at 9 and 11 AM. The sermon title is, "The Beginning of Wisdom", based on these scriptures: Psalm 111, I Corinthians 8:1-13 and Mark 1:21-28

PROGRESSIVE DINNER - SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 5:30 PM

Mark your calendar now for this evening of fun, food and fellowship!

The Board of Membership is organizing an all church (adults) Progressive Dinner on Saturday, January 28. Participants will gather at church at 5:30 PM for an appetizer and will proceed to a host home for a salad course, then to another home for a main course, and everyone will come back to church for dessert. You will be with different people at each home.

We hope you can attend and hosts will be needed for serving the 2nd and 3rd course at their home for approximately 8 - 10 people. Because of time constraints and driving, we are hoping to have all hosts within a 10 minute

January, 2012

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drive of church. Amongst those that are not hosting, we will need help with appetizers, dessert and coordinating (timing and maps). Reimbursement and recipes will be available for those preparing food.

Tickets, host registration and more details will be available Sunday, January 8. The Progressive Dinner is also the Parents with Young Children event for January!

HELP UNDECORATE THE CHURCH!

Help the Deacons take down the decorations Saturday, January 7, beginning at 8:30 AM!

A WORD FROM KELLY

Happy New Year! Here's my favorite quote for this time of new beginnings: "In Christ we are a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." (2 Corinthians 5:17.) I love that verse because it confirms that we are all capable of change, no matter how old we are, no matter what our life's circumstances are. Many people live as if they have given up on life. They feel resigned to their current situations. They think nothing can get better; they feel stuck in old habits. Numerous passages in the Bible contradict that negativity, though. God loves change, and God can help us make changes in our lives.

I begin this new year optimistic about what God is doing at and through Avon Lake UCC. This WILL be the year we open our new youth center, the Buoy. This WILL be the year we reduce our mortgage debt through a successful capital campaign. What else will we do? Only God knows...and I'm excited to find out!

If you are not currently receiving emails from the church, and would like to, please send me your email address. I send weekly email updates, and we can send the newsletter to you online as well; just let us know if you want to stop the paper mailing. My email address is pastor@thealucc.org.

Women: it's not too late to sign up for this year's Women's Retreat, which I am leading along with my friend, the Rev. Lois Annich. It's an overnight at the Jesuit Retreat Center, beginning with dinner on Friday, January 20, and ending the afternoon of January 21. Download a registration form here:

Invite friends, coworkers, relatives!

Inquirers' Classes for prospective members

Class I: February 5 at 12:15

Class II: February 19 at 12:15

To sign up or receive more information on ALUCC membership, contact
Tim Schulz at membership@thealucc.org

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, and a personal message from Senior Minister Kelly Brill. 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 with questions or to RSVP. Babysitting is offered upon request.

JANUARY DRUMMER DEADLINE is Monday, JANUARY 23. If you would like any information included in the next monthly newsletter, please send to the church office by email (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.)

CHRISTMAS THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who contributed to a wonderful Christmas at ALUCC! On Christmas Eve, we welcomed a record 1035 worshippers! Thank you to Valerie Tanzilli, office staff; Mary Pease and her custodial crew; our music staff: Mary Fancher, Ruth Williams, Fritz Schaufele and Sharon Dixon; Phil Cooper and Jason Forbes and all of the TV committee, David Dibbell and the board of Deacons, and all who read, sang, played, ushered, acolyted, greeted, and participated in any way!

NEWS FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

Highlights from the December meeting:

- Church Council approved a number of benevolent gifts, thanks to the wonderful volunteers and staff at the Good Neighbor Thrift Shop. The following gifts were made at the end of 2011: \$5,000 to the Christian Hospital in Mungeli, India; up to \$5,000 for the St. Paul's Community Church to update the electrical work in their kitchen; up to \$10,000 for construction work at the Buoy Youth Center; \$2,000 for the Parish Nurse Fund; \$1200 to purchase room dividers for the IHN/Family Promise Program; \$2,000 for the Stives' mission trip to the Dominican Republic, \$3,000 for Haven Center.
- Church Council approved a preliminary budget for 2011, which will be taken to the congregation for approval at the annual meeting on January 22, 2012. Budget increases include a change in hours for the Membership Coordinator, from 10 hours to 20 hours per week. Budget decreases were made in the area of custodial hours, including the amount of time spent on set-ups and take-downs. Groups that use the church will be asked to do more of their own set-ups and take-downs; more details to come in the next Drummer. As of this date, it looks as though the pledge goal of \$650,000 will not be met, but a balanced budget will be presented to the congregation.

PRIME TIMERS' SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 14, 6pm in the Gathering Space: Potluck at 6pm; Movie *The Help* @ 7pm. Sign up at the Welcome Center or with Reiches 440-930-5370 or bjreich@wowway.com

TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE. ALL PROGRAMS OPEN TO ALL - NO AGE RESTRICTIONS

PARENTS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

For the month of January, the Parents with Young Children group will be participating in the church Progressive Dinner. Please see related Drummer article and sign up as directed. The group will be eating dessert together at the last destination. Babysitting will be provided! This is a great opportunity to have a fun night with your church friends with babysitting to boot!

ALUCC WINTER RETREAT IS COMING!! Sign up now for the ALUCC Winter Retreat February 10-12, 2012. Join your church family for a weekend of fun and relaxation at beautiful Pilgrim Hills. Invite your friends, bring the entire family or just come yourself and gear up for some great fellowship and lots of fun! Registration packets available at the Welcome Center. Deadline to register is January 22. This is the perfect event to reconnect with your families, get back to nature and refuel your spiritual life. The time to do these things is now. Don't forget - the days may be long, but the years are short. Make memories with your families - memories are the longest lasting gifts of all!

CAREGIVER STRESS EXERCISES

The January meeting (Monday, January 2, at 7 PM) of the Stephen Ministers will begin with a session open to the congregation. Any member engaged or interested in care-giving is invited to attend. The session will begin promptly at 7 and will last approximately 30 minutes. Beverages and cookies will be provided.

Call Richard Turner (933-3822) if you wish to come, or call or email Judy Reich (930-5370, bjreich@wowway.com) or Bill Parsons (933-7090 or billpar@oh.rr.com). This is an unusual opportunity. The presenter will be Terry Williams of Lake Pointe Health Center.

**Avon Lake United
Church of Christ**

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*Growing People to
Serve God and Others*

We are on the Web:
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.

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.

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) to send an update or to add a name.

New on the Prayer List: Wesley Brown, (Loy Wiley's father & Jennifer Gould's grandfather)

Recuperating: Mary Elizabeth Schober. Werner Wittman, recuperating from surgery.

Receiving Hospice Care: Alice Bailey, Luanne Varndell

Members with Health Concerns: Joann Ames, Clara Gumble, Lois Hartsel, Krystal Holstein, Marilyn Luce, Ellie Mental, Eileen Zakel.

Members Receiving Treatment for Cancer: Linda Brown, Sherry Odle.

Friends and Relatives Receiving Treatment for Cancer: Linda Norman, Don Bayley, Karen Beech, Tom Brunner, Rita Flaim, Kristi Foster, Mary Harold, Bob & Nancy Hook, Kristie Jarrett, Kris McLeod, Dan McGough, Jim Neibes, Sharon O'Donnell, Michelle Peterlin, Heidi Peck, Joy Petit, Susan Porter (daughter of Ray & Betty Davis), Kelly Rashedi, Maura Roberts, Lynne Sarr, Emily Stephens, David Turner (son of Richard Turner), Sylvia Weaver, Elmer Wilhelm, Werner Wittman.

Friends and Relatives of Members: Jeter Ball, Mary Anne Berlot, Hayden Briggs, Alex Burbules, Kay Cracas, John Dase, Joyce Dorbish, Brandon Hiller, Mick Haddox, Cody Jones, Stella Klasch, Toni Kulma, David Mange, George Oechsle, Lillian Piggott, Thomas Trefts, Julie Weaver.

Sympathy to

- Gladys Kisselle & her family on the death of her husband, Ken, December 6
- Russ Reimer & his family on the death of his aunt, December 11
- Jodi Foley on the death of Stu Nelson
- Scot McNutt on the death of his mother, Ellen, December 12
- Katie Schulz on the death of her aunt, Jean Bates, December 19
- Elva Ludwig on the death of her son, Dennis, December 13
- The family and friends of Bill Farley who passed away December 21.
- Sandy Dibbell & her family on the death of her mother, Alice Bailey, December 26. There will be a service at Independence Village.

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!

SPRING CROSS TRAINING BEGINS NEXT MONTH: SAVE THE DATE!

CrossTraining is ALUCC's mid-week, twice-per-year programming that offers opportunities for members to become acquainted with other members as we eat together, worship together informally, and share in education and discussion. The dates for the spring 2012 CrossTraining programs are: February 29 - March 29. Dinner begins at 6, Informal Worship at 6:30 and Classes at 7. Stay tuned for more details about classes, but they will include Pre-Confirmation for 4th Graders, Senior High Youth Group, a class taught by Dr. Kelly Brill, a class taught by Dr. Scott Patterson, and an informational/support group on the topic of mental illness, for family members of those living with mental illness.

JACK & JILL REGISTRATION: Jack & Jill Nursery School will be accepting registrations for the 2012-2013 school year (classes beginning in September) from Church members and those families presently enrolled in the school on Monday, December 12th. Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis beginning December 12th in the school lobby from 6:00-7:30 PM. Classes are available for 3, 4, and 5 year old children. Open enrollment for the community will be held on January 12th in the evening. Some classes fill very quickly. If you have any questions, please call Melody Rice at 933-7946.

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 or 440-933-3833
- **Diabetic Support Group:** January 11 at 6:30 PM.

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

APOLOGIES FROM THE CHOIRS! You have probably noticed the new choir robes hanging in the hall (and taking up much coat hanging space), so the Music Committee would like to apologize for the inconvenience it has caused for those who like to leave their coats there. Because we purchased the robes used, we saved a lot of money, but, as a result, we had to order additional robes to meet our needs. So unfortunately, until all the robes are here, we will be leaving the new robes in the hall and wearing the old ones.

Thanks for your understanding!

ALUCC BOOK CLUB: The next meeting will be Tuesday January 24 at 7pm in the library. At that meeting, the ALUCC Book Club will be choosing our book selections for 2012, and discussing the book which we will read between now and then: *ZEITOUN* by David Eggers - a true account of one man's compassion, kindness and expression of justice and responsibility during Hurricane Katrina and the aftermath.

HOPE CALENDARS AVAILABLE: I am selling 2012 dog calendars for HOPE, Animal Assisted Crisis Response. The mission of HOPE is to provide comfort and encouragement in times of crisis or disaster. The calendars feature one of our local girls, Jetta. She is Miss October! This is an all volunteer organization. Volunteering includes travel (anywhere in the United States), training throughout the North/East region, supplies and being on call 24/7, 365 days. Cost of the calendars are \$15.00. If anyone would like to support this wonderful organization by purchasing a calendar, please email Chris Spaetzel at Cspaetzel@oh.rr.com or call 440-225-4321.

PAINTING? HELP YOURSELF AND YOUR CHURCH SIMULTANEOUSLY!

ALUCC is now enrolled in the Sherwin-Williams Neighbor-to-Neighbor program. This program offers you a 20% discount (5% off sale items) at Sherwin-Williams and ALUCC receives a cash back bonus. You do need a Neighbor-to-Neighbor card and they are available at the Welcome Center. Remember to take this card next time you shop for paint. Together you save, the church earns and we support a local business - it's a win win!

MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS: Seamstress Needed for Bell Choir: Due to the wonderful feedback about the sashes worn by the Bell Choir for the recent services, the choir members are wondering if there is anyone in the congregation with the skills to make 15 sashes for them. (The ones they wore were on loan) If you have the time and the talent, Sharon would love to hear from you! She can be contacted at: Sdixon0714@sbglobal.net. Thanks!