



**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

(Congregational)  
13740 Pearl Road  
Strongsville, Ohio 44136

**SUNDAY – APRIL 23, 2017 – 10:00 A.M.**

Rev. Rebecca Stephenson, Pastor

**WELCOME!**

*We are grateful you chose to worship with us this morning.  
No matter who you are and where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here.*

*For questions about our church and ministries, you may call the church at (440) 238-6697. Please complete your Attendance Card and place it into the offering plate. We hope to see you again soon!*

\* Please stand as you are comfortable.

**PIANO PRELUDE** Joe Williams, Pianist

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Sing praise to our wonderful God,  
**People: Whose power brings new life out of death!**  
Leader: He immerses doubt and despair in the fountain of new birth.  
**People: Our visions and hopes are refreshed, made new!**  
Leader: For God has taken ordinary things  
**People: And made them extraordinary!**

\* **HYMN 209** *This Is the Day*

**SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**OUR LORD'S PRAYER** (in unison)  
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**CHOIR RESPONSE** *Ask, Seek, Knock* Lloyd Larson

**CHOIR ANTHEM** *Go Ye into All the World* Eugene Butler  
Dedicated to "P.B. & J."

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Cooper Erhardt Bell and Trevor Anton Bell

Erhardt and Denise Bell, Parents

Christian and Stacey Dabney Benjamin and Jill Zamostny  
Sponsors for Cooper Sponsors for Trevor

**CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT**

Pastor: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care for Cooper and Trevor as they live and grow in Christ?

**People: We promise them our love, support, and care.**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Leader: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

Leader: Do you believe in God?

**People: I believe in God.**

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**People: I believe in Jesus Christ.**

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

**HYMN**

*Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*

Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign;  
With this water God has sealed you, unto love and grace divine.

Child of love, our love's expression, love's creation, loved indeed!  
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits, into joy and laughter lead.

Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God's you are, from God you came.  
Back to God we humbly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name

Child of God your loving Parent, learn to know whose child you are.  
Grow to laugh and sing and worship, trust and love God more than all.

CCLI Song # 1727790 CCLI License # 11237335

**CHILDREN'S ANTHEM** *I'm Gonna Sit at the Welcome Table*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**THE OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY** *I Can Only Imagine* Bart Millard  
Sandy O'Shea, Vocalist

\* **DOXOLOGY 817** Tune: *Lamb of God*  
O bless the gifts our hands have brought;  
And bless the work our hearts have planned.  
Ours is the faith, the will, the thought;  
The rest, O God, is in your hand.

\* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**SCRIPTURE** Luke 24:18-24 New Testament, p. 78

**SERMON** *On the Road Again*

\* **HYMN 232** *God Be with You*

\* **BENEDICTION**

\* **CHOIR RESPONSE** *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* Lutkin

\* **POSTLUDE**

The flowers on the altar this morning are given—

*In Honor of Gary and Rachel Zielinski's Fifth Anniversary*

**Happy Birthday** today to Aimée Jannsohn!

**Happy Anniversary** today to Joe and Lisa Kovalsick!

**Celebration of Ministry Open House for**

**PASTOR BECKY STEPHENSON**

**on the occasion of her retirement**

**TODAY - 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.**

**in Pilgrim Hall**

**Appetizers and hors d'oeuvres will be served. All are welcome.**



The **tile floor** in Pilgrim Hall, kitchen, hallway, and walkways was stripped and waxed this past week.

**Official Board** will meet Tuesday, April 25, at 7:00 p.m.

**Men's Luncheon** will be held Wednesday, April 26, at 11:30 a.m.

**The Bell Choir will be recognized next Sunday, April 30**, during worship; and the Bell Choir will play for the service.

**Renewal of Wedding Vows** will take place during worship on April 30, Pastor Becky's last Sunday with us. There is no signup; all are invited. Pastor Becky will ask participating couples to come forward, and the couples will recite their vows. Special attire is not required—although anyone wishing to wear their wedding clothes may do so!

**Wing Nite is Friday, May 5, 2017**, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Grindstone Tap House, 826 Front Street in Berea. It is on one floor and includes pizza, pasta, wings, salad, 5 types of domestic beer, well drinks, and wine. Tickets are \$25 per person and can be purchased from any Diaconate member. To donate a basket to auction, please see the sign-up sheet in Pilgrim Hall.

**ARTS IN STRONGSVILLE and STRONGSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**CONCERT SERIES**

**SUNDAY – MAY 7, 2017 – 3:00 P.M.**

**The Venner Clarinet Choir**

*a 12-piece clarinet choir led by Ted Johnson,  
former clarinetist with the Cleveland Orchestra  
This is the choir's second appearance at our church.*



**The Baldwin Wallace Alumni Brass Collective**

*a brass quintet led by Jim Wonnacott*

**Freewill Offering ~ Reception Following Concert ~ All Are Welcome!**

*Donations of refreshments for the concert are appreciated.  
If you can bring something, please let Ingrid Dickson or Pam Keenen know. Thank you.*

**OFFERINGS RECEIVED**

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,865  
Weekly Offering Received 4/16/2017 \$4,814  
Difference \$949

**Adult Social Club** will visit the Cleveland Museum of Art on Sunday, May 21. A minimum of 10 people is required for a group, with a maximum of 25. Cost is \$25 per group. The cost is divided by the number of people that go. Anything above 25 people requires a new group. Two weeks' notice is needed for making reservations, so please sign up by Thursday, May 4, on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Thank you.

**200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cookbooks** – 45 cookbooks are still available at a cost of \$12.00 each. We also have six old church cookbooks from 2006 at a cost of \$10.00 each. If you got a cookbook and did not yet pay, please give payment to Joyce Reed or Dianne Maringer, or place payment under the church office door. Thank you!

**Mission Outreach** – Support for our child in India is covered for all months of 2017. Bev Wehr will remind our monthly donors. Please place cash or your check into an envelope marked *Child Sponsorship* and place it into the first weekly offering of your month. Please make your check payable to *Strongsville UCC*, with *Child Sponsorship* on the memo line. Sincere thanks to all of you for your support.

### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP TOTE BAGS PROJECT

Women's Fellowship Spring Project will be to fill about 60 Tote Bags for the Strongsville Food Bank children, ages 5 to 12. The finished bag is about 11" x 12". Donations of any of the items listed below or monetary donations, so we may purchase items, would be appreciated. Monetary donations should be put into an envelope marked "Tote Bag Project" and placed in the church office.

Collection will begin today and continues until Sunday, June 5. **The collection box is under the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall.** Travel size is best and can be found at Marc's or Target.

#### PLEASE DO NOT PROVIDE FAMILY-SIZE ITEMS.

soap (facial size or smaller)	small tissue packets
shampoo	small cars or trucks
body lotion	decks of cards
deodorant	activity books
tooth brushes	coloring books
toothpaste (small tubes)	small stuffed toys ( <i>no bigger than 8"</i> )
wash cloths	blowing bubbles (small bottles)
combs or brushes	sidewalk chalk
pencils	
crayons (16 or 24 count)	

#### SERVING TODAY

**Greeter:** Gina Cathcart  
**Morning Announcements:** Irene Joyce  
**Liturgist:** Ted Bickley  
**Coffee Hour:** Ed and Cheryl Sobek  
**Director of Music** – Elena Taylor  
**Bell Choir Director** – Barb Fraunfelder  
**Accompanist** – Joe Williams

#### SERVING NEXT SUNDAY – APRIL 30, 2017

**Greeters:** The Bickley Family  
**Morning Announcements:** Rachel Zielinski  
**Liturgist:** Greg Dickson  
**Ushers:** Ted and Kelly Bickley  
**Coffee Hour:** Allen and Michele Mihlack



### OUR PRAYER LIST

*Hospitals no longer provide names of members who are patients. If you or a family member would like a visit, please call the church at (440) 238-6697. Please provide updates for this list. Thank you.*

**Long-Term Care or Homebound:** Betty Bushea, Margot James, Ethyl Jeglie at Elmcroft of Sagamore Hills, Janet Kato at Western Reserve Masonic Community in Medina, Harvey Pincombe, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields, Doris Soucie

**Church Family:** Steve Herzog, Carol Lesiak, Martha Liebert, Pam Peacock, Jan Stough, Leah Tressa Forget, Kyle Woodward

**Extended Church Family:** Dylan Churnega (grandson of Ginny Churnega), Audrey Curry (mother of Pam Keenen), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Sue Mason, Jean Mlincek (sister of Joyce Reed), Debbie Morey (sister of Steve Herzog), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Keith Stewart (cousin of Carol Woodward), Frank Toth (father of Rob), Joe Valli (brother-in-law of Vicky and Dan Masuga)

**Thank You!**

*Thank you for all the birthday cards and well wishes. You are all very special to me. I have enjoyed being a member for over 70 years. God bless you all.*

Betty "Grammy" Craig  
 April 10, 2017

*A big "Thank You" to my dear church family for the beautiful, meaningful birthday card that you all signed. I can't believe you did this without me seeing it being done. It was totally a wonderful surprise. Thank you again for my making my 75th so special. I hope we are together for many more years. Bless You All.*

Linda Plain  
 April 20, 2017



### APRIL 2017

- 23 Sun Celebration of Ministry Reception for Pastor Becky, 12noon to 4pm in Pilgrim Hall  
Collection begins for Tote Bags Project
- 25 Tue Official Board Meeting, 7pm
- 26 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm,  
Men's Luncheon, 11:30am  
Fit Club, 7pm
- 30 Sun Bell Choir plays  
Bell Choir Recognition  
Renewal of Vows  
Pastor Becky's Last Sunday with us

### MAY 2017

- 2 Tue Women's Fellowship Meeting, 10am
- 3 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm  
Fit Club, 7pm
- 4 Thu Deadline to sign up to go to Art Museum with Adult Social Club
- 5 Fri Diaconate Wing Nite at Grindstone Tap House, 6:30-9:30pm
- 7 Sun Methodist Church uses Pilgrim Hall for Confirmation Breakfast, 7:30-10am  
Concert, 3pm with Reception in Pilgrim Hall afterwards
- 10 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm  
Fit Club, 7pm
- 14 Sun Mother's Day
- 16 Tue Advertising Committee Meeting, 7pm  
Diaconate Meeting, 7pm
- 17 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm  
Fit Club, 7pm  
Adult Social Club Meeting, 7pm
- 21 Sun Sunday School Ice Cream Party, after worship  
Adult Social Club visits the Art Museum
- 23 Tue Official Board Meeting, 7pm
- 24 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm,  
Men's Luncheon, 11:30am  
Fit Club, 7pm
- 31 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm,  
Fit Club, 7pm

### STRONGSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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