

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)
13740 Pearl Road
Strongsville, Ohio 44136

Rev. Oommen K. Thomas
Guest Minister

AUGUST 27, 2017 – 10:00 A.M.
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost



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.

PRELUDE *Change My Heart, O God* Eddie Espinosa

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rachel Zielinski

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, walk in green pastures.

People: We follow the Shepherd.

Leader: Come, lie down in green pastures.

People: We trust the Shepherd.

Leader: Come, dine at the table of abundance.

People: We are fed by the Shepherd.

Leader: Come, dwell in God's house.

People: We live in the Shepherd's care.

† **HYMN 655** *Sanctuary* Sing 3 times.

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

RESPONSE Amen

SPECIAL MUSIC *The Ninety and Nine* Ira Sankey

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Irene Joyce

THE OFFERING *Give Me Jesus* Spiritual, arr. Harlan

† **DOXOLOGY 815** Tune: *Old Hundredth*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him, all creatures here below.

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host.

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

† PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN OF PREPARATION 548 *As the Deer*

SCRIPTURES Psalm 23

SERMON Rev. Oommen K. Thomas

† **HYMN 139** *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

† BENEDICTION

† **RESPONSE** *Let There Be Peace on Earth* Miller and Jackson

† **POSTLUDE** *Blessed Be the Name of the Lord* Don Moen

This morning's altar flowers are given—

To my church family in appreciation for my get well wishes and prayers
Irene Jannsohn

In loving memory of our Aunt Rhea Clements
Becky and Bill Robinson

The steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy 90th Birthday Today to Betty Bushea
Barb Fraunfelder

In appreciation to Sarah Keenen
who is always willing to share her talents with us

Happy Birthday today to Betty Jacobson, Betty Bushea, and Dave Matchett!

This morning we thank Rev. Thomas for leading us in worship this morning, and we welcome back his wife **Leelah**. **We also thank Bruce, Pam and Sarah Keenen** for their special vocal music this morning and **Irene Joyce** for her Children's Message.

SERVING TODAY

Director of Music: Elena Taylor

Greeters: The Rolland Family

Liturgist: Sharon Heinrich

Summer Sunday School: Tom Gaumer

Coffee Hour: Joyce Reed

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,865

Weekly Offering Received 8/20/2017 **\$3,900**

Difference \$ 35



TODAY'S ANTHEM: "THE NINETY AND NINE"

Luke: 15: 3-7 **3** So He told them this parable, saying, **4** "What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? **5** "When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. **6** "And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' **7** "I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

"The Ninety and Nine" was written by Scottish poet Elizabeth C. Clephane of Melrose, Scotland in 1868, the year before her death at age 39. Six years later, in 1874, Ira D. Sankey, a song leader for famed evangelist D. L. Moody who was traveling with him through Scotland, cut the poem out of a newspaper and put it in his pocket. At that evening's revival meeting in Edinburgh, Moody's sermon was about The Good Shepherd. When he turned to Ira and asked him to sing an appropriate hymn, Ira could only think of the poem in his pocket, even though he had no music for it. Ira later stated: "I lifted my heart in prayer, asking God to help me. Laying my hands upon the organ, I struck the key of A-flat and began to sing. Note by note the tune was given..." By the end of the song, Moody and Sankey were both in tears, and the audience was profoundly moved. Sankey later learned that one of Elizabeth Clephane's sisters was in the congregation at that service. Although this hymn is not found in many hymnals today, it is still carries a timeless and meaningful message.

Strongsville UCC

GARAGE SALE – THRIFT SHOP – SUNDAY SCHOOL BAKE SALE **Saturday, September 9, 2017, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Help is needed! Please sign up on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall.
Donations for the Garage Sale are now being accepted.

The memorial service for our church member, Dolores Matchett, will be held on Saturday, September 9, 2017, at 4:00 p.m. in our sanctuary.

To make past services easier to view on the web, we started a YouTube channel. To access it, go to the <http://strongvilleucc.com/> website. Click on WORSHIP and then SERVICE VIDEOS. Once you get to YouTube, search for the service you wish to see and click on it. Alternately, you can go directly to YouTube and search for "Strongsville UCC". Most services from the beginning of 2017 have already been uploaded. To see an older service, please contact Jim Heinrich to see if it is available.

WEDNESDAY FREE LUNCH PROGRAM

NEW SERVING HOURS begin next month on **SEPTEMBER 6, 2017**

Lunch will be served from 11:30 A.M. to **12:30** P.M.

Updating Our Website and TVs – If you have updates for our church Website or TV screens at church, please inform:

Michele Mihlack 216-324-9799 or m.mihlack@gmail.com or
Irene Joyce 216-267-5043 or ij3e@sbcglobal.net

HELP WANTED – Sunday School Teacher Position Available! Some adorable little girls (Kindergarten-1st Grade) are in need of a teacher for their Sunday School class on Sunday mornings. Won't you be the one to love them and help them learn about Jesus each week? Curriculum is provided. Please see Irene Joyce or Jamie Trinckes if you are willing to be that someone special.

THRIFT SHOP BAG SALES

Thursday – August 31 – \$7 / bag – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursday – September 7 – \$6 / bag – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday – Sept. 9 – Garage Sale – \$6 / bag – 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
September 14 – CLOSED September 21 – REOPEN

Fill a Brown Paper Bag, which we will supply, with merchandise of your choice. **Overfill will be charged \$1.00 extra.**

Excluded are jewelry, cards, and dolls.

Adult Social Club Trip to CLEVELAND METROPARKS ZOO Sunday – September 10, 2017

We will carpool and leave after worship.
Adults \$13.25 Seniors (age 62 and over) \$11.95
Tram makes two stops—at top of hill and at bottom of hill.
Please sign up on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall.



Mission and Outreach Committee has several baskets ready for our upcoming "Around the World" silent auction on October 22. You will soon be seeing them on the TVs in Pilgrim Hall and the Gathering Area in the lobby. It has been interesting sharing our ideas. If you have a cultural heritage that you would like to share, let us know. It is an opportunity to share with your family as well. The minimum value is only \$25. Thus far, we have baskets for Poland, Germany, Mexico, Great Britain, China, Italy, and Czechoslovakia. We plan to have two baskets for the children also.

A half-day Stephen Ministry Introductory Workshop will be held on Saturday, September 9, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 P.M. at Avon Lake United Church of Christ, 32801 Electric Boulevard, Avon Lake, Ohio 44012. Check-in and on-site registration begin at 8:00 a.m. If you wish to attend, please see the signup sheet and more information on Pilgrim Hall's bulletin board. Cost is \$15 per person, or \$50 per congregation (for four or more people). Your cost will depend upon how many people attend from our church. This workshop will feature three sessions: 1) ministering to those experiencing grief, 2) an introduction to Stephen Ministry, 3) how to care in a distinctively Christian way.

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 3, 2017

Liturgist: Bill Schneider
Greeter: Linda Plain
Usher: Linda Plain
Summer Sunday School: Sharon Heinrich
Coffee Hour: Myron Costin

STRONGSVILLE UCC 200th ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

Sunday, October 15, 2017, 1:00 p.m. at the Strongsville Rec Center

Tickets are available for purchase in Pilgrim Hall on Sundays from either Joyce Reed or Dianne Maringer through September 10. Ticket prices are \$15 for Adults and \$10 for Children (6-12 years).

*Because of limited seating,
we recommend you get your tickets as soon as possible.*

LUNCHEON MENU

Carved Roast Beef, Chicken Marsala with Sauce,
Penne Pasta with Marinara Sauce,
Roasted Red Potatoes, Au Gratin Potatoes,
Green Beans Almondine, Tossed Salad, Cake

What the Church Means to Me! The Anniversary Committee is asking everyone to fill out a paper with what the Strongsville United Church of Christ means to them. Please pick up a sheet in the Gathering Area. We are planning on displaying these prior to the Anniversary Sunday and at the Luncheon. They will also be placed in our time capsule. Please take the time to fill one out and leave in the basket in the Gathering Area. If you have any questions, please speak with Rachel Zielinski. Thank you.

200th Anniversary Cookbooks – We still have cookbooks available for purchase. They make great gifts, and your purchase helps support the Anniversary celebration. The current cookbook costs \$12, but we also have some cookbooks from 2006 for \$10 each. Please contact either Dianne Maringer or Joyce Reed if you are interested in purchasing one or more of these books. Thank you!

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, Janet Kato at Kemper House, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

Church Family: Betty Babics, Tom Gaumer, The Grabski/Williams Family, Steve Herzog, Martha Liebert, Michele Mihlack, Eileen Pincomb, Jan Stough, Leah Tressa Forget, Shirley Weinhold, Kyle Woodward

Extended Church Family: Logan Churnega (grandson of Ginny Churnega), Audrey Curry (mother of Pam Keenen), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Diane Mason (friend of Lora Rung), Piper Masuga (granddaughter of Dan and Vicky and great-granddaughter of Lola Millhoane), 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)

UPDATE FROM YOUR PULPIT SEARCH COMMITTEE

Your Pulpit Search Committee has continued to meet weekly and finished our church profile. Thank you to all who completed the demographic survey; we received responses from approximately 68 family units. These responses have been tabulated and incorporated into the church profile. The Committee presented the completed profile for final review to the Official Board at its July meeting, and it was approved to send on to the UCC Conference. We will continue the process.

This process will be ongoing for many months and we would ask to renew our request for prayers as we diligently proceed in searching out God's will and finding our new minister to lead us. We are grateful for the support the congregation has shown us for the very important task to which we have been entrusted. Our church continues to be strong and vibrant even in this time of transition, our deepest gratitude to all for being a part of that.

Please do not hesitate to bring any questions or concerns to any one of us.

Your Pulpit Search Committee

Ted Bickley, Judy Carte, Kristen Clotworthy,
Jim Dettmer, Ingrid Dickson, Sally Herzog, Bill Schneider

AUGUST 2017

27 Sun Penny Sunday
30 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm
Fit Club, 7pm
Rehearsals resume for Children's Choir, 7:30-8:00pm
Band Rehearsal, 8pm
31 Thu **Rehearsals resume for Bell Choir, 6:45-7:45pm**
Chancel Choir, 8:00-9:30pm

SEPTEMBER 2017

3 Sun Worship with Communion
4 Mon Labor Day
6 Wed Women's Fellowship Meeting, 10am
Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-12:30pm – Notice new hours.
9 Sat Church Garage Sale and Thrift Shop Open, 9am to 2pm
Memorial Service for Dolores Matchett, 4pm in the sanctuary
10 Sun Rally Day for Sunday School
Special Offering for Sunday School
Chancel Choir sings for worship.
Deadline to purchase Anniversary Luncheon tickets
15 Fri October Newsletter Deadline
17 Sun Children's Choir sings for worship.
24 Sun Bell Choir rings for worship.

OCTOBER 2017

15 Sun Strongsville UCC's 200th Anniversary Luncheon, 1pm at the Strongsville Recreation Center Banquet Hall
22 Sun Mission and Outreach "Around the World" Silent Auction

STRONGSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church Telephone (440) 238-6697

Website strongsvilleucc.com

Email strongsvilleucc@gmail.com