

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)
13740 Pearl Road
Strongsville, Ohio 44136

Rev. Rebecca Stephenson, Pastor

February 12, 2017 – 10:00 a.m.



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 *How Excellent Is Thy Name* Dick Tunney

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Rejoice, for the power of God has come---

People: The same transforming power in the risen Christ.

Leader: Promising to the poor the realm of heaven.

People: Promising to the hungry a time of satisfaction.

Leader: Promising to the weeping a life of happiness.

People: Promising to the rejected the gift of acceptance.

**ALL: Rejoice, O people of God, the transforming power of
the Christ is here!**

† HYMN 605 *Living for Jesus*

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* Charles Yannerella

CHORAL ANTHEM *Song of Peace* Mary Donnelly
A Partner Song with *Dona Nobis Pacem*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Find Us Faithful* Jon Mohr

† DOXOLOGY 166 Tune: *Lasst uns erfreuen*
Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

† PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SCRIPTURES Deuteronomy 30:15-20

SERMON *Today I Am Giving You a Choice* Rev. Joseph Santomen

† HYMN 591 *Have Thine Own Way, Lord*

† BENEDICTION

† RESPONSE *Thank You, Lord* Seth and Bessie Sykes

† POSTLUDE

This morning's altar flowers are given—

*In Loving Appreciation and Celebration of the Life of
Susan Stevenson Tressa
The Jannsohn, Joyce and Dickson Family*

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

*Happy Birthday to Barbara Craig on February 18
With love, Mom*

*Happy Birthday on February 14 to
Daughter "A" Valerie Hopkins and Daughter "B" Vicky Masuga
Love, Mom*

The Music Ministry joyfully welcomes Joe Williams as our worship
accompanist.

SERVING TODAY

Greeter – Cathy Hawk

Morning Announcements – Irene Joyce

Liturgist – Greg Dickson

Ushers – Bobbie Krisak and Serena Abruzzino

Coffee Hour – Allen and Michele Mihlack

Director of Music – Elena Taylor

Bell Choir Director – Barb Fraunfelder

Worship Accompanist – Joe Williams

The Chancel Choir

Clarinet/Saxophone – Ken Mehalko

Acoustic Guitar – Gary Hackett

Electric Guitar – Jake Williams

Mallet Percussion – Rob Toth

Drum Set – Mike Soltis

Sound System – Doug Thorn

Pastor Becky and Jack Stephenson are part of small group from our church who are in Israel, so we welcome back Rev. Joseph Santomen and his wife Betsey. We thank Rev. Santomen for leading us in worship today. Rev. Santomen is the retired minister from Strongsville United Methodist church, where he served for 10 years. Rev. Santomen has been retired 21 years; this is the 55th year of ordination in the United Methodist Church. For the past 19 years, Rev. Santomen has been preaching in the Adirondacks at Caroga Lake, New York. In addition, Rev. Santomen is a long-time Rotarian; he is the president of the Strongsville Food Bank Board; and for the past four years has been teaching the Bible Study class at the Strongsville United Methodist Church. This past September 6, Rev. and Mrs. Santomen celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary.

2017 All-Family Winter Retreat at Pilgrim Hills – Those attending next weekend's Annual All-Family Winter Retreat at Pilgrim Hills should gather in the Sanctuary after the worship service for our planning meeting. Please note the change in location of the meeting. We will discuss the details of the weekend and finalize plans for what to bring. Thank you!

Last week's Swiss Steak Dinner profit was \$1,586.88. Thanks again to all who helped with, attended, provided desserts, served at, or supported the dinner in any way.

Church Sign-up Charts for 2017 are posted on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Please sign up to greet, prepare/serve at coffee hour, provide altar flowers, or usher if you are able. Volunteers are needed!

Altar Flowers – You may provide flowers on any Sunday you wish because multiple vases are accepted on Sunday mornings. As of this printing, the following are dates within the next few months when vases are needed so two vases are on the altar for Sunday worship: February 19 – 2 vases, March 12 – 2 vases, March 26 – 1 vase, April 2 – 1 vase, April 9 - 2 vases. The signup chart is on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. You may purchase 1 vase if you wish; you do not have to purchase 2 vases. Thank you very much for providing fresh flowers on the altar.

Can you help? The Sunday School is looking for a few items for our costume stash:

- Old graduation gowns--any color, any size
- Striped/earth-tone skinny ties (from the 80's)
- Pieces of soft rope for belts (about 2 feet long)
- Winter scarves--plain or with rustic/earth-tone patterns/stripes

Please bring your items to Irene Joyce when you have a chance.

Thanks for cleaning out your closets to benefit the Sunday School!

Wing Nite has a new venue! It will be held Friday, May 5, 2017, at the Grindstone Tap House at 826 Front Street in Berea. It is on one floor (no steps to a dark basement) and will include 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. We are also looking for anyone interested in donating a theme-based basket to auction at this event. If you would like to make a basket, a sign-up sheet will be posted in Pilgrim Hall for you to write your name and the type of basket you will be providing.

Journey in Faith Mini-series – This membership class will be held on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. at the church. The first class is on Ash Wednesday, March 1, and will be held after the 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday service. The mini-series will conclude on April 5. (All other classes will be at 7:00 p.m.) New members will be received into the church on Palm Sunday, April 9.

Women's Fellowship Candy Sale – The sign-up sheet for making candy is posted in Pilgrim Hall. Right now there are not enough helpers to accomplish the task. Please sign up now if you will help with this project. Thank you. Women's Fellowship

Jesus and the Movies II is a Lenten Study on Sunday evenings that includes a light meal of soup and bread. The study begins on March 5 at 5:30 p.m. Together we will explore the life of Jesus as portrayed in the movies. We will compare the movies with the Gospel accounts and our life experiences. Possible movies include *Ben Hur*, *The Young Messiah*, *Risen*, *Godspell*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Jesus of Nazareth* (selected sections), *Last Temptation*, or others. Movie suggestions are welcome.

Capital Punishment – The United Church of Christ denomination historically has opposed capital punishment and has postcards opposing the state's use of the death penalty. The postcards will be mailed to Ohio governor, John Kasich. For those wishing to support this belief, the postcards are on the rectangular table in the Gathering Areas and require your printed name and your city of residence. The church will mail your card if you slide it under the church office door.

200th Anniversary Church Cookbooks – Please see Dianne Maringer to get your copy. Price per book is \$12; mailing the book is an extra \$3.

Gordon Food Service – A reminder that GFS gives the church a rebate on purchases. When you check out, just tell them you are from Strongsville United Church of Christ (*not to be confused with Strongsville United Methodist Church*).

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH

February

12 Sun Retreat Planning Meeting in Sanctuary, after worship
 15 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm
 Fit Club, 7pm
 Adult Social Club Meeting, 7pm
 17-18-19 Friday through Sunday – Winter Retreat at Pilgrim Hills

Diaconate will now meet on the third Tuesday of the month, so their next meeting is not this Tuesday, but rather the following Tuesday, February 21, at 7:00 p.m.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed	\$3,865
Weekly Offering Received 2/4/2016	<u>\$3,770</u>
Difference	-\$95

Special thanks to those who have given their pledge a year in advance.

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 19, 2017

Greeter – Peg Weakley
 Morning Announcements – Irene Joyce
 Liturgist – Jim Studer
 Usher – Bobbie Krisak
 Coffee Hour – Allen and Michele Mihlack

Strongsville UCC

ROAST PORK, KIELBASA & SAUERKRAUT DINNER

Saturday – March 4, 2017 – Seatings at 5:00 and 6:30 P.M.

Reservations Only: (216) 598-6198

Adults \$10.00 Ages 6-12 \$5.00 Under 6 Free

Tickets are available to purchase after church.

Help is needed. The sign-up sheet is posted on Pilgrim Hall's board.

For safety reasons, no children under age 6 (with or without parent) can be helpers in any capacity during the serving hours of 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Children 6 to 10 must have a parent helping them.

The Thrift Shop will be open.

CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2017

Officers elected on January 29, 2017, have an asterisk by their names.*

Moderator	Rachel Zielinski*
Vice-Moderator	Bill Schneider*
Treasurer	Kenn Oerkfritz*
Clerk	Karen Morgan*
Sunday School Superintendents	Jamie Habart*, Irene Joyce*

Board of Trustees

Ed Bond	Lloyd Bridle*	Jim Dettmer*
Greg Dickson*	Bill Giuliano	Dale Hawk*
Jim Heinrich*	Bob Kovatich	Ken Mehalko
Ed Sobek		

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Irene Jannsohn*	Joyce Reed*
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Diaconate

Jennifer Barry*	Kelly Bickley*	Adria Bond
Barbara Camp*	Gina Cathcart*	Virginia Churnega
Kristen Clotworthy*	Dan Davis	Cathy Hawk
Sarah Hayes*	Linda Plain*	Cheryl Sobek
Marty Winch*		

Christian Education Committee

Kelly Bickley*	Jamie Habart	Irene Joyce
Sandy O'Shea*	Lora Rung*	

Music Committee

Ingrid Dickson*	Pam Keenen	Elena Taylor
Barb Fraunfelder	Ken Mehalko*	

Stewardship Committee

Rosemary Bechtel	Barbara Bridle*	Sue Gigliotti*
Laurie Meister*		

Mission and Outreach Committee

Judy Carte*	Brandi Garsteck*	Michele Mihlack*
Gary Paul*	Lora Rung	Bev Wehr*

STRONGSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church Telephone (440) 238-6697

Website strongsvilleucc.com

Email strongsvilleucc@gmail.com

Adult Social Club will meet this Wednesday, February 15, at 7:00 p.m. to set plans for the next few months. All ideas are welcome. We will go to the Rocksino on Sunday, February 26, after church. If you plan to go to the Rocksino, please email ad.bond@sbcglobal.net or call us at 440-572-5871 by Sunday, February 19. If we get enough people, we will look into getting a bus. Thank you!
 Eddy and Adria

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 Members: Eric Brand, 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, Jan Stough, Doris Soucie

Church Family: Shirley Brand, Steve Herzog, Michele Mihlack, Pam Peacock, Denzil Richards, Melinda Slavik, Leah Tressa Forget, Sharon Wilson, Kyle Woodward

Extended Church Family: Bri Brostek (friend of Gina Cathcart), Dylan Churnega (grandson of Ginny Churnega Oerkfritz), Zachary Crouse (grandson of Barbara Morgan), Audrey Curry (mother of Pam Keenen), Edie Deitcher (friend of Barbara O'Boyle), Hollie Paine Dodge (friend of Betty Craig), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Matthew Geletka (grandson of Barbara O'Boyle), Dan Karoly (friend of The Thrift Shop ladies), Sue Mason, Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), 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, Kathleen Wickline (mother of Darla)

FEBRUARY 2017

21 Tue Advertising Committee Meeting, 7:30pm
 Trustees Meeting, 7pm
 Diaconate Meeting, 7pm
 22 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm,
 Fit Club, 7pm
 26 Sun Adult Social Club trip to Rocksino
 28 Tue Official Board Meeting, 7:30pm
 20 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm,
 Fit Club, 7pm

MARCH 2017

1 Wed Ash Wednesday Worship, 7:00 p.m.
 Journey in Faith Mini-series, after Ash Wednesday worship
 5 Sun First Lenten Study, 5:30pm

MUSIC REHEARSALS DURING THE WEEK

Children's Choir - 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays
 Band (for adults and children) – 8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays
 Bell Choir – 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays
 Chancel Choir – 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays