

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

13740 Pearl Road
Strongsville, Ohio 44136

Rev. Rebecca Stephenson, Pastor

February 26, 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 *Mighty Is Our God* Eugene Greco

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Look! Moses is coming down from the mountain

People: His face shines like the sun.

Leader: Look! Jesus is coming down from the mountain.

People: He is all aglow, brighter than the sun.

Leader: Let us go to the mountain and worship our God.

People: Let us glow like the SON by the power of the Holy Spirit.

† HYMN 392 *Holy Spirit, Light Divine*

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 *Lead Me, Lord* Wayne Goodine

BELL ANTHEM *We Will Glorify* Twila Paris

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Cole Alexander Johnson

Parents: Chad and Brittany Johnson

Sponsors: Heather Garsteck and Cory Johnson

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 to Cole, as he lives and grows in Christ?

People: We promise Cole 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.

CHILDREN'S ANTHEM *I Shall Not Be Moved* Traditional

The Children's Choir

Teddy Bickley, Russell Bickley, Anna Bickley,
Rowan Garcia, Luke Giuliano, Christian Habart-Scott

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Find Us Faithful* John 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 Exodus 33:18-23 and 34:29-35

SERMON *The Glow of the Spirit*

† HYMN 384 *Spirit Song*

† BENEDICTION

† BELL RESPONSE *Breathe on Me, Breath of God* Robert Jackson

† POSTLUDE *Spirit of the Living God* Daniel Iverson

This morning's altar flowers are given—

In Honor of Penny's and Ollie's Second Birthdays

*In Celebration of the Wedding of Kyleen Masuga and Joseph Abromovich
on Saturday, February 25, 2017 – Congratulations!*

Love, Mom, Dad and Banny

Kyleen is the daughter of Dan and Vicky and granddaughter of Lola.

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthday to Larry Wentz on February 28

and to Mikey Craig on March 2

With love, Grammy

We welcome back Pastor Becky and Jack Stephenson and the small group from our church who traveled to Israel.

Adult Social Club canceled their trip to the Rocksino today, because so many people could not go.

Trustees will meet today after the worship service.

Ash Wednesday worship is at 7:00 p.m. in our sanctuary this Wednesday, March 1, when the season of Lent begins.

Journey in Faith Mini-series Membership Class will be held on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. at the church. The first class is Ash Wednesday, March 1, and will be held after the 7:00 p.m. service. The mini-series will conclude on April 5. (All other classes will be 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the church.) New members will be received into the church on Palm Sunday, April 9. Please sign up on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall if you plan to attend.

Jesus and the Movies II is a Lenten Study on Sunday evenings at 5:30 p.m. that includes a light meal of soup and bread. The study begins on March 5 and goes through April 9. 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. Please sign up on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall if you plan to attend.

Women's Fellowship Candy Sale – Tentative candy-making dates are: Monday, March 13; Friday, March 17; Monday, March 20; and Friday, March 24, from 9:00 a.m. until lunch or cleanup is done. Tentative sale dates are the Sundays of March 26 and April 2. 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

Wing Nite is 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 will make a basket, a sign-up sheet will be posted in Pilgrim Hall to write your name and the type of basket you will provide.

SERVING TODAY

Greeters – Ken Mehalko and Bev Wehr

Morning Announcements – Irene Joyce

Liturgist – Bill Schneider

Coffee Hour – Gina and Maria

Director of Music – Elena Taylor

Worship Accompanist – Joe Williams

Clarinet/Native American Flute/Saxophone – Ken Mehalko

Sound System – Jim Heinrich

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.

CHILD SPONSORSHIP

Our church continues to sponsor Caroline Y from the Family Village Farm and School in Vellore, India. If you would like to sponsor her for a month, please sign up on the new chart for 2017 on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Please make your check payable to **Strongsville United Church of Christ** and on the memo line and/or the envelope write: **Child Sponsorship** and the **month** you are sponsoring her. Please place your donation into the offering plate. Your \$30 a month gift will cover her tuition, fees, textbooks and other expenses. 100% of your gift goes directly toward her expenses at the school.



We thank our sponsors in 2016: Claudia Bader and Jim Nicoulin, Sunday School, Irene Joyce and Ingrid Dickson, Judy Carte, Gina Cathcart, the Gigliotti family, Bill and Dorothy Ritchie, Barbara O'Boyle, Doris Soucie, Schyler and Devin Thorn, Linda Plain, Erv and Grace Koch.

This program is part of Global Ministries, United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ Churches. We rejoice in your gift sent to undergird Christ's mission in the world. Along with your giving, we covet your prayers that the deepest needs of all God's children will be met. Thank you for your support. The Mission and Outreach Committee

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH

February

28 Tue Official Board Meeting, 7pm

March

- 1 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm
Ash Wednesday Worship 7pm
Journey in Faith Mini-series Class, after worship
- 2 Thu Thrift Shop, 10am-4pm
Bell Choir, 7pm
Chancel Choir, 8pm
- 3 Fri Roast Pork Dinner Preparation
- 4 Sat Roast Pork Dinner

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed	\$3,865
Weekly Offering Received 2/19/2016	\$1,044
Difference	-\$2,821

STRONGSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church Telephone (440) 238-6697

Website strongsvilleucc.com

Email strongsvilleucc@gmail.com

Thrift Shop Bag Sale

END-OF-WINTER 2017 BAG SALE

Thursday – March 2 – \$7 / bag – 10am to 4pm

Saturday – March 4 – during the Pork Dinner – \$7 / bag – 4:30 to 7:30pm

Thursday – March 9 – \$7 / bag – 10am to 4pm

Thursday – March 16 – \$6 / bag – 10am to 4pm

Closed March 23 and 30, 2017 Reopen April 6, 2017

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, St. Patrick's Day and Easter items.

Thank You! As many of you know, the Thrift Shop here at SUCC is a great place to find great deals! The ladies that work here are wonderful. They put in many hours going through donations, putting up displays and helping customers. They are here every Thursday from 10-4 plus other days getting ready for seasonal change-overs and special sales. Some of these ladies are members and some are just volunteers/friends of our church. In the past year these ladies have funded many projects here at the church. They paid for half of the parking lot repairs, to have trees removed from the lot on Royalton Road, and for various other things. After our annual meeting this past January, these ladies came forward and are giving us \$7,000 toward our ADA bathroom project. This amount will pay for half of the projected cost. We cannot say enough about these wonderful ladies. Please stop and see them on a Thursday or during a dinner. They have helped the church in numerous ways over the last 35 years. As the moderator and an outgoing trustee, I want to say a HUGE thank you to them for everything!
Rachel Zielinski, Moderator, SUCC

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: 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, Doris Soucie

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

Extended Church Family: Bri Brostek (friend of Gina Cathcart), Dylan Churnega (grandson of Ginny Churnega Oerkfitz), 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 (brother-in-law of Vicky and Dan Masuga)

MARCH 2017

- 5 Sun Worship Team Meeting, after church
Transitional Team Meeting with congregation, 11:30am
First Lenten Study, 5:30pm
- 6 Mon Transitional Team Meeting with congregation, 11am
- 11 Sat Memorial Service for Susan Stevenson Tressa, 4pm at Middleburg Heights Community Church

TRANSITION TEAM MEETINGS – STRONGSVILLE UCC – 2017

The first step in the process of transitioning to a new pastor is meeting with the Transition Team to help the Team prepare and define our profile for the Pastoral Search Committee. This team of 6 members (Kelly Bickley, Lloyd Bridle, Ginny Churnega, Tom Gaumer, Cathy Hawk, and Lora Rung) is charged with the following task and purpose:

1. To assess and report the culture, dynamics, and ethos of the congregation at this point in time (strengths, weaknesses, how decisions are made and implemented, how various people fit into the structure, etc.).
2. To discern and report the hopes and desires of the congregation regarding its vision and mission as it moves forward through this time of transition into the future.
3. To allow the congregation to know that there is a plan of transition in place, that qualified and capable people are carrying it out, and that with God's help and guidance we will move together through this time and come out okay on the other side.

Several meetings are being held with all groups in the church and also general congregational gatherings. **The general congregational gatherings are for any members not attending a group or committee gathering. They are being held at the church and are scheduled for two Sundays, 3/5 and 3/19, at 11:30 a.m. and two Mondays, 3/6 and 3/20, at 11:00 a.m. You only need to attend one session.**

The following are the questions that are being asked to help the discussions arrive at the input the Transition Team needs:

1. In your life at Strongsville UCC, what has been the most meaningful to you?
2. In your life at Strongsville UCC, has there been anything that has caused you discomfort or stress, and if so, what?
3. What keeps you coming back?
4. What do you understand is our mission and how might we better accomplish it?
5. What would the community lack if we closed our doors?
6. Is there an identifiable demographic in our community with whom we are not involved, or could be involved with more?
7. Is there anything we're doing that you wish we weren't?
8. Is there anything we're not doing that you wish we were?

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY – March 5, 2017

Greeter – Barbara Bridle
Morning Announcements – Irene Joyce
Liturgist – Lora Rung
Ushers – Volunteers Needed
Coffee Hour – Ed and Cheryl Sobek

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 Oerkfitz*
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 Mhlack*
Gary Paul*	Lora Rung	Bev Wehr*
