

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 26, 2014

9:00 A.M.

† Those who are able may stand.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONGS

16 *Days of Elijah*
7 *The Name of the Lord*
22 *Glorify Thy Name*

† CALL TO WORSHIP

(inspired by Psalm 27)

Leader: God is our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear?

People: **God is our shelter and refuge on the days of trouble, and our hope and joy on the days of celebration!**

Leader: Day after day, we seek God's face and the assurance of God's holy love:

People: **O God, do not turn from us or hide your face from us! Be our guide and our light instead!**

Leader: One thing we ask of God:

People: **That we may live in God's dwelling place all the days of our life, and never cease to behold the beauty of God's home.**

Leader: Beloved of God, enter this worship in thanksgiving, for God is among and within us!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

GATHERING SONG

54 *Lord, Be Glorified*

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

Our God
Tiffany Schmidt, Vocalist

† BRING GIFTS FORWARD 88 *We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise*

SCRIPTURE 1 Corinthians 1:10-25 New Testament, p. 145

MEDITATION

"God's Wisdom"

CLOSING SONGS

20 *Freely, Freely*
25 *Grace Alone*
10 *Carry the Light*

† BENEDICTION

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Songs are from the white *Contemporary Worship Songbook*.

Serving Today

Music Director / Drums

Andrew Purdum

Organist / Pianist

Susan Stevenson Tressa

Song Leader

Tiffany Schmidt

Bass Guitar

Jack Stephenson

Guitar

Sean Patrick

Sound System

Doug Thorn

Liturgist

Kenn Oerkfitz

Graphics Operation

Rosemary Bechtel

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (CONGREGATIONAL)

13740 Pearl Road, Strongsville, Ohio 44136

Rev. Rebecca Stephenson, Pastor Church (440) 238-6697

Website strongsvilleucc.com Email strongsvilleucc@gmail.com

January 26, 2014

11:00 A.M.

† *Those who are able may stand.*

PRELUDE *Simple Gifts* Burkhardt

INTROIT *Come Now to Worship the Lord* Besig

† **CALL TO WORSHIP** *(inspired by Psalm 27)*

Leader: God is our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear?

People: God is our shelter and refuge on the days of trouble, and our hope and joy on the days of celebration!

Leader: Day after day, we seek God's face and the assurance of God's holy love:

People: O God, do not turn from us or hide your face from us! Be our guide and our light instead!

Leader: One thing we ask of God:

People: That we may live in God's dwelling place all the days of our life, and never cease to behold the beauty of God's home.

Leader: Beloved of God, enter this worship in thanksgiving, for God is among and within us!

People: Thanks be to God!

† **HYMN 435** *God of Grace and God of Glory*

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.

PRAYER RESPONSE *Hear Us, O Lord*

CHOIR ANTHEM *There's a Quiet Understanding* Tedd Smith

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE
If you are seated in the alcove and would prefer sitting in the sanctuary, please feel free to move to the sanctuary after the Children's Sermon.

THE OFFERINGS
OFFERTORY *Simple Gifts* (continued) Burkhardt

† **DOXOLOGY** (No. 815)
† **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

† **HYMN 184** *Thy Word*

SCRIPTURE 1 Corinthians 1:10-25 New Testament, p. 145

SERMON *"God's Wisdom"*

† **HYMN 562** *Be Thou My Vision*

† **BENEDICTION**

† **BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *May the Lord Go with You*

† **POSTLUDE** *Simple Gifts* (conclusion) Burkhardt

SERVING TODAY

Director of Music	Andrew Purdum
Organist / Pianist	Susan Stevenson Tressa
Substitute Organist	Sharon Heinrich
Liturgist	Kenn Oerkfitz
Nursery	Sarah Hawk

ANNOUNCEMENTS – JANUARY 26, 2014

Welcome, visitors! We are so glad you have chosen to worship with us this morning. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. **Members, please wear your nametags** to assist visitors, our minister, and other members to get to know you.

Today's altar flowers are given by Bill and Dorothy Ritchie—

*Happy Birthday, Sharon
Love, Mom and Dad*

Happy Birthday today to Roy Merkle!

The Sunday Morning Discussion Group, which was meeting during coffee hour, is now on hiatus and will not meet until further notice.

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place today at about 12:45 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall and will be preceded by the traditional Pancake Breakfast. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Annual reports booklets are on the greeters' table in the Gathering Area. Booklets will not be mailed. To have a copy mailed to you, please call the church office, (440) 238-6697. **Officers elected today will be installed next Sunday.**

Official Board will meet Tuesday, January 28, at 7:30 p.m.

Membership Class – Pastor Becky is teaching a 12-week membership class entitled *Journey in Faith*. The class began on Thursday, January 16, but members, as well as potential members, are still welcome to join the class. (This Thursday is the last class that newcomers are welcome.) Class dates are Thursday evenings— January 16, 23, 30; February 6, 13, 20, 27; March 6, 13, 20, 27; April 3. The class is held in the Parlor from **7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** Please call the church office at (440) 238-6697 to enroll.

From the Mission and Outreach Committee – Clay Williams has brought to our attention a special project called "The Eliminate Project". Kiwanis is partnering with UNICEF to eliminate maternal/neonatal tetanus, a highly preventable disease that kills one baby every nine minutes. Our committee is making a donation to this worthy cause and encourages members of our congregation, who are interested in helping, to make a donation. Donations can be made with a check payable to the "Kiwanis International Foundation" and writing "The Eliminate Project" on the memo line. The check can be inserted in a plain envelope or a pew envelope marked "The Eliminate Project" and placed in the offering plate. Thank you for your support.

Memorial Fund Donations for Music Chairs – The new chairs in the sanctuary were recently purchased after a search by Music Committee members. These 30 chairs are needed for the choir on a routine basis, for special programs, and can be used for extra sanctuary seating. Some key features are the neutral color, stackability (with a book rack in place), and comfort. The chairs are being paid for by the Memorial Fund and by contributions. \$50 supports the purchase of a chair. If you would like to help, please write a check to the *Strongsville UCC Memorial Fund*, and forward it to Greg Dickson, along with the information if you're purchasing it in memory of or in honor of someone. The Committee is investigating a way to label the chairs to recognize individual donations.

Paper Recycling – The paper bin from River Valley Paper Company is in our church parking lot. **Please break down boxes before putting them into the bin.** **Acceptable items:** brown paper bags, cardboard, catalogs, hard and soft bound books, magazines, mail, newspapers, office and school paper, phone books **Unacceptable items:** aluminum, glass, metal, plastic of any type, styrofoam, trash

Altar Flower Chart for 2014 is posted in Pilgrim Hall. Please indicate whether you want one or two vases on the date(s) you select. Thanks!

Greeter Chart for the 11 a.m. service and other special services is also posted in Pilgrim Hall. Please help if you are available. (The 9 a.m. service is casual worship and has no sign-up.)

Ushers are really needed and appreciated for Sunday worship at 11:00 a.m. Please sign up on the board in the Gathering Area. Thank you! (The 9 a.m. service is casual worship and has no sign-up.)

The Stewardship Committee invites you to a "Tailgate Party Potluck" to wrap up our stewardship campaign. Please join us Sunday, February 9, in Pilgrim Hall after the 11 a.m. worship service for food, fun, and games. Please see the sheet in Pilgrim Hall for a list of what we're providing as well as suggested tailgate munchies you can sign up to bring. We're going to have a great time! Everyone is welcome. "Sporty" attire is encouraged, so get that Browns jersey out of storage!

Next month is our church's annual winter retreat at a new location: Pilgrim Hills in Brinkhaven, Ohio. Pilgrim Hills is about 90 minutes south of Strongsville. The retreat will take place Friday, February 14 (arrive after 6pm) through Sunday, February 16 (departure at 2pm). We're happy to announce that the costs to attend will remain the same for the fourth year in a row:

Adults: \$65 Children ages 9-12: \$20 Children ages 3-8: \$10
Children ages 2 and under: Free

These costs include 2 nights' lodging and 5 meals. The sign-up sheet is posted in Pilgrim Hall. Please sign up ASAP. Sleeping accommodations are as follows:

1] 4 double cabins (Boardwalk Cabins 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8) with 6 bunk beds and 1 single bed each. (Bunk beds do not have to be used as bunk beds.)

2] Fellowship Cabin, which has 6 separate rooms with 2 beds each and 1 larger room with 5 beds.

Both cabins are about a 2-minute walk from the main lodge where we will have meals and do our group activities. Be sure to join us for a semi-brief planning meeting on Sunday, February 9, in the sanctuary immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service. Although we held the previous 33 retreats at the same location, let's consider this a new adventure! Pilgrim Hills is larger (by 100 acres) than Temple Hills and has more activities, indoor and out. And the staff is super-friendly and accommodating already! Questions? Please call Charles and Aimée Jannsohn at (440) 895-1858 or email: jannsohn@cox.net. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to relax and spend quality time with church family and friends!

Old Sweaters – We are collecting old sweaters for our craft at the Church Retreat in Pilgrim Hills. Do you have an old sweater that we can have? We will take any sweater, but any that have wool would be best! We will model our craft when we return from the retreat. Please give sweaters to Karen Morgan or Rachel Zielinski or leave in the church office with our names on them. Thanks!

Strongsville UCC
SWISS STEAK DINNER

Saturday – February 1, 2014

Seatings at 5:00 and 6:30 P.M.

Reservations Only: **(440) 238-8192 – Notice New Number !**

Adults \$9.00 Ages 6-12 \$5.00 Under 6 years Free

Help is needed. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. 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 who are 6 to 10 years old must have a parent helping them. The Thrift Shop will be open during the dinner.

Serving Next Sunday – February 2, 2014

Liturgist	Lora Rung 9 a.m.	Dale Hawk 11 a.m.
Greeter		Jim Studer
Nursery		Gina Cathcart
Coffee Hour		Sharon Heinrich
Ushers		Volunteers Needed

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 inform the church of updates to this list.

Long-Term Care or Homebound Members: Bill Betz at Chapel Hill Community in Canal Fulton, Edith Graves at Century Oak Care Center, Betty Kovach at Emeritus at Brookside Estates (15435 Bagley Road), Debbie Krause, Connie Rebar, Erla Mae Schultz at Medina Village

Church Family: Dan Davis, Holly Elkins, Margot James, Janet Kato at ManorCare of Parma, Dolores Matchett, Barbara Morgan, Joyce Reed, Susan Tressa

Extended Church Family: June Brewer (niece of Ed Powers), Logan Churnega (grandson of Ginny Churnega), Audrey and Gene Curry (parents of Pam Keenen), Zachary Crouse (grandson of Barbara Morgan), Tom Davern (relative of the Woodwards), Rebecca Deeb (Goddughter of Lora Rung), Victor DiChiro (father-in-law of Rob Wentz), Donna Fargo (mother of Sally Herzog), Ruth Fraley (relative of the Jannsohn family), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Irene Hagemeyer (niece of Betty Craig), Kate Heisler (friend of Lora Rung), Janine Kaltenstein (cousin of Vicky Masuga), Phyllis Keenen (mother of Bruce), Erik Kratky (friend of Sarah Hawk), Rick Mahon (friend of the Woodwards), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Barbara Sommers (mother of Sheri Martin), Trudie Taylor (sister of Karen Morgan), Bob Tomko (cousin of Ed Sobek), Marge Tressa (mother of Rich)

January 2014

28 Tue Official Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
30 Thu Men's Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at European's Best Restaurant Journey in Faith Class, 7 p.m.
31 Fri Prepare for Swiss Steak Dinner in Pilgrim Hall Memorial Service in Sanctuary, 11:30 a.m. / Coffee in Parlor

February 2014

1 Sat Swiss Steak Dinner
2 Sun Communion, install church officers, Christian Ed Meeting
6 Thu Journey in Faith Class, 7 p.m.
9 Sun Retreat Planning Meeting, after 11 a.m. worship
10 Mon Mom's Group Meeting, 9:30-11 a.m.
11 Tue Diaconate Meeting, 7 p.m.
12 Wed Mission and Outreach Comm. Meeting, 6 p.m. at Hoolihan's
13 Thu Journey in Faith Class, 7 p.m.
14-15-16 Winter Retreat at Pilgrim Hills
20 Thu Journey in Faith Class, 7 p.m.
21 Fri Wedding Rehearsal
22 Sat Wedding
23 Sun Guest speaker - Dr. Peter Makari
25 Tue Official Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

27 Thu Journey in Faith Class, 7 p.m.

Our Proposed Vision . . .

A world filled with God's love, where all are welcome at God's table.

Our Proposed Mission Statement . . .

Wherever you are on life's journey, the Strongsville United Church of Christ (Congregational) welcomes all to become passionate followers of Christ through Unconditional Love with Justice and Peace † Meaningful Prayer † The Celebration of Worship † Uplifting Music † Mutual Support † Joy of Service † Honoring Creation † the Giving Spirit, where all are welcome at God's table.