

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

September 7, 2014 10:00 A.M. Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

† *Those who are able may stand.*

PRELUDE Ave Maria Bach-Gounod

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT Song Make Us One

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Praise God!

People: Sing to God a new song!

Leader: Give thanks to our Maker.

People: We rejoice in our sovereign God.

Leader: Let us praise God with dancing and music.

People: Let the faithful sing for joy as we praise God together!

† HYMN 669 Make Me a Servant

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Pastor: Let us, the members of Strongsville United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

People: We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

PRAYERS OF CONSECRATION

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.

PIANO RESPONSE *Change My Heart, O God* Eddie Espinosa

ANTHEM *Here I Am* Allen Pote

RALLY DAY INTRODUCTIONS Irene Joyce
Sunday School Superintendent

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 *Thine the Glory* Georges Bizet

† DOXOLOGY (No. 815)

† PRAYER OF DEDICATION

† HYMN 597, verses 1, 5, 6 Take My Life

SCRIPTURE Exodus 12:1-14 Hebrew Scriptures, p. 54

SERMON "The Sign of the Covenant"

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

All are welcome to come forward to partake of the Lord's Supper, or Pastor Becky will come to you, if you wish.

† SONG Shout Hallelujah

† BENEDICTION

† RESPONSE

† POSTLUDE *A Mighty Fortress Is Our Lord* Martin Luther

We welcome back the Chancel Choir after their summer hiatus, and we thank the Chancel Choir and the Praise Band for their music this morning.

Thank you to all who gave to our Tote Bag Project. It was a big success, and we filled 61 bags. We were able to donate to Brookside and to our own Strongsville Food Bank.
 Betty Craig
 Women's Fellowship

ANNOUNCEMENTS – SEPTEMBER 7, 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 others to get to know you.

This morning's flowers are given—

*To Celebrate Our 59th Wedding Anniversary on September 9, 2014
 Lloyd and Barbara Bridle*

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

*Happy Birthday to Stacie Sauter on September 9 and
 Happy Birthday to Eli Sauter on September 12
 With love, Grammy*

A special offering for Sunday School will be received this morning.

Today after the worship service, our Sunday School will host a Box Lunch Auction fundraiser in Pilgrim Hall. All are welcome to join in the fun! Feel free to enjoy lunch here, or take it home for later!

Diaconate meets on Tuesday, September 9, at 7:00 p.m.

Church Luncheon (formerly "Women's Luncheon") will take place at Santo's Italian Restaurant, 7565 Pearl Road in Middleburg Heights, on Wednesday, September 10, at 11:30 a.m. The name changed because now both women and men attend! We will meet at the church at 11:00 a.m. to carpool. Drivers are needed. All are welcome. Please contact Lola to make your reservation, (440) 238-3037.

September 2014

- 7 Sun ONE WORSHIP SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.**
 Communion, Take in New Members, Rally Day for Sunday School, Box Lunch Auction for Sunday School
- 8 Mon Bereavement Outreach Network Group, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- 9 Tue Children's Instruments Rehearsal, 6:00 p.m.
 Children's Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m.
 Diaconate Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 11 Thu Thrift Shop Re-opens, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- 12 Fri Wine Tasting Fundraiser, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Parsonage
- 13 Sat Strategic Planning Meeting at church, 9:00 to 12:00 noon

14 Sun NEW WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS:
 9:45 a.m. – Traditional Worship
 11:15 a.m. – Contemporary Worship

- 15 Mon Church Newsletter Deadline
 Women's Prayer Group Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 16 Tue Children's Instruments Rehearsal, 6:00 p.m.
 Children's Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m.
 Advertising Team Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 23 Tue Children's Instruments Rehearsal, 6:00 p.m.
 Children's Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m.
 Official Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- 28 Sun ORC Pancake Breakfast
 Kindred Spirit Singles Meeting, 2:00 p.m.
- 29 Mon Stewardship Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 30 Tue Children's Instruments Rehearsal, 6:00 p.m.
 Children's Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m.

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 14, 2014

New Worship Schedule

9:45 a.m. Traditional 11:15 a.m. Contemporary

Liturgist	9:45 a.m. Betty Craig	11:15 a.m. Dan Masuga
Greeter for 9:45 a.m.		Linda Plain
Nursery for 9:45 a.m.		Sarah Hayes
Coffee Hour		Beth Giuliano

Next Sunday, September 14, a new worship schedule begins:
 9:45 a.m. Traditional 11:15 a.m. Contemporary

SERVING TODAY

Director of Music	Andrew Purdum
Worship Accompanist	Elena Taylor
Liturgist	Kenn Oerkfitz
Greeter	Lola Millhoane
Nursery	Sarah Herzog
Coffee Hour	Cathy Hawk

Strongsville United Church of Christ will present a **Wine Tasting Fundraiser on Friday, September 12, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the parsonage.** Reservations are needed. The requested donation is \$40 per person. Tickets are available for purchase after the worship service.

Strategic Planning – Saturday, September 13, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at church is a follow-up meeting for those who attended the Visioning Retreat last year, for those who are Board or Committee members, and for those who are interested in helping the church grow. The meeting's intent is to review the status of all Strategic Goals/Objectives that each committee is working on for this year. If there are any problems in meeting these Goals/Objectives, we will discuss what is needed in order to complete each Goal or Objective. We will also discuss how things are going in the church and if other needs should be addressed. Please plan on attending, even if you were not at the retreat last year, but you have an interest in helping the church meet its goal of "Growing our Membership." **If you plan to attend, please sign up on the sheet in Pilgrim Hall, so we know how much food to prepare for brunch.**

Our Mom's Group would like to announce a transition from morning to evening meetings and a new focus! We invite all woman of the church to come to a monthly prayer and support group. We will meet the third Monday evening of every month, and we will be called the **Women's Prayer Group.** Our first meeting will be on **September 15 at 7:00 here at the church.** Topics to be explored and discussed include courage, loyalty, gratitude, trusting God, worry, and service, among others. The group can offer friendship and support no matter what season of life you're in. Future meeting dates are October 20, November 17, December 15, January 12, February 16, March 16, April 20, and May 18. Please join us!

Communications – On Sunday, **October 19,** there will be a **Congregational Meeting to discuss plans/costs for installing an electronic message sign** in front of the church. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending, for your input is important in resolving and moving forward with this project. More details will be forthcoming.

A Facilities Visioning Team is being formed. This team will begin the process of visioning what our church facilities might look like in the future. Perhaps it will include expanded parking, new Sunday School rooms, more storage space or a larger sanctuary. If you're interested in being part of the Facilities Visioning Team, please talk with Pastor Becky.

The Thrift Shop – After a thorough cleaning and re-stocking, **The Thrift Shop will re-open this Thursday, September 11, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Why not take a moment to stop by?

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Fundraiser for the Pipe Organ Restoration Fund
Sunday – September 28, 2014 – 8:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

All You Can Eat

Pancakes, Sausage, Scrambled Eggs,
Coffee, Tea, Milk, Juice

\$8.00 Adult – ages 13 and over

\$5.00 – ages 6-12

Free – Children under 6 years



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: Janet Kato at Western Reserve Masonic Community in Medina, Betty Kovach at Parkside Villa, Debbie Krause, Connie Rebar, Erla Mae Schultz at Medina Village

Church Family: Margot James, Dolores Matchett, Barbara Morgan

Extended Church Family: Marianne Allwood (niece of Dale Hawk), June Brewer (niece of Ed Powers), Ryan Brubeck, Audrey Curry (mother of Pam Keenen), Zachary Crouse (grandson of Barbara Morgan), Rebecca Deeb (Goddaughter of Lora Rung), Victor DiChiro (father-in-law of Rob Wentz), Pam Doubell (friend of Sue Gigliotti), Donna Fargo (mother of Sally Herzog), Ruth Fraley (relative of the Jannsohn family), Irene Hagemeyer (niece of Betty Craig), Phyllis Keenen (mother of Bruce), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Barbara Sommers (mother of Sheri Martin), Trudie Taylor (sister of Karen Morgan), Bob Tomko (cousin of Ed Sobek), Donna Wadden (friend of Gayle Sperber), Marilyn Woodward (mother of David and Carol)

IF YOU LIKE TO SING IN THE SHOWER OR IF YOU'VE BEEN WONDERING . . .

Can I be in the Choir, Bell Choir or Praise Band?

YES, you can be in any or all of these ensembles!

Do I have to be able to read music?

NO, you don't have to know how to read music!

***If I'm a little rusty – or – if I've not been involved
in performing music, can I get some help?***

YES, we will help you!

Do I have to buy my own choir robe?



NO! Plus—a nice, comfortable choir chair is provided!!!!

Can children be in Praise Band on Sunday mornings?

Yes! Beginning Tuesday, September 9, at 6:00 p.m. before the Children's Choir rehearsal, Elena will work with children who want to play instruments with Praise Band.

If you'd like to participate in Strongsville UCC's Music Ministry, we'd love to have you! Please see our Music Director, Andrew Purdum, or our Worship Accompanist, Elena Taylor, after church today for more information.

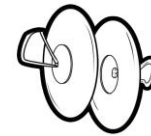
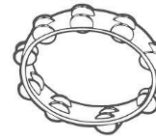
Strongsville UCC's Music Ministry welcomes and wants YOU!



ATTENTION CHILDREN!

A new Children's Choir is being formed. Rehearsals begin Tuesday, September 9, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. All children are welcome and encouraged to join in the fun! To participate or for more information, please see our Worship Accompanist, Elena Taylor, after church today!

Also—children can play instruments with the Praise Band on Sunday mornings! Elena will work with those interested beginning on Tuesday, September 9, at 6:00 p.m. before the Children's Choir rehearsal.



ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS – SEPTEMBER 7, 2014

Our steeple will light the sky this week also—

*In loving memory of our son, Ed Munger, on
his birthday, September 9.*

*Ed served in the Navy for 30 years, and
he is the brother of Alan (Renee) Jacobson.
Love, Mom and Dad*

To warmly welcome our new members—

*Jim and Linda Dettmer, Christine Martinovich, Laurie Meister,
Ginger Rothel, and Melinda Slavik*

Mission and Outreach – A beautiful **quilt**, hand-made by Ha Bennett, will be raffled off on Sunday, **November 16**. Proceeds from ticket sales will be used by the Mission and Outreach Committee (of which Ha is a member) for a variety of programs we are supporting in mission work locally and globally. Raffle tickets (\$10 for one, \$15 for two) are available from members of the Committee: Kelly Bickley, Lora Rung, Elizabeth Snook, Erv Koch, and Pastor Becky. Tickets are also available in the Church Office. The queen-size quilt will be on display each Sunday morning.

Mission and Outreach Committee – If you could find time in your busy schedule to serve on the Mission and Outreach Committee, you would be appreciated! There are just four now, and two more would make a difference. The Committee meets the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Please speak with Kelly Bickley, chair, (330) 461-4624 or Lora Rung, secretary, (440) 823-1703 if you are interested or have questions. *“The Church doesn’t have ‘missions.’ It IS mission.”* Thanks!

