

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
13740 Pearl Road
Strongsville, Ohio 44136
Rev. Rebecca Stephenson, Pastor



Church Telephone: (440) 238-6697
Email: StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com
Website: www.strongsvilleucc.com
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Worship at 10:00 A.M. on Sunday

APRIL 2017 NEWSLETTER

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – APRIL 2 – 10:00 A.M.

Scriptures: Ezekiel 37:1-14
Sermon: *Flesh and Bone*

Liturgist: Bill Schneider

Greeter: Linda Plain

Usher: Linda Plain

Coffee Hour: Ed and Cheryl Sobek

PALM SUNDAY – APRIL 9 – 10:00 A.M.

*Children's Palm Processional,
Reception of New Members, Sacrament of Communion*

Scriptures: Luke 19:28-40
Sermon: *The Stones Will Sing*

Liturgist: Bruce Keenen

Greeter: Cathy Hawk

Ushers: Volunteers Needed

Coffee Hour: Cathy Hawk

MAUNDY THURSDAY – APRIL 13 – 7:00 P.M.

*A meal will be served, and the Sacrament of Communion
will be celebrated, with monologues by the disciples
and others in The Upper Room.*

**Reservations are needed so food quantities can be
planned. Please call the church at (440) 238-6697.**

Greeter: Gina Cathcart

GOOD FRIDAY – APRIL 14 – 7:30 P.M.

Tenebrae Service, reflecting on the Crucifixion
in the Sanctuary

Greeter: Kristen Clotworthy

Liturgists: Greg Dickson, Michele Mhlack,
Kenn Oerkfritz, Kelly Bickley, Barb Fraunfelder,
Jack Stephenson

Ushers: Bobbie Krisak, Serena Abruzzino



EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 16

Scriptures: John 20:1-10 and John 20:11-18
Sermon: *He Has Risen!*

Sunrise Service – 6:30 A.M.

Worship Outdoors (weather permitting)
in our Worship Garden

*Between the two services, an Easter Breakfast of
scrambled eggs and ham will be served in Pilgrim Hall.*

Traditional Easter Worship – 10:00 A.M.
in the Sanctuary

Liturgists: 6:30 Betty Craig, 10:00 Jim Studer
Greeters: 6:30 Gina Cathcart, 10:00 Kovatich Family
Ushers: 10:00 Bobbie Krisak, Serena Abruzzino

*Enclosed is an envelope for your Easter offering. Unless
you indicate otherwise, your offering will be used for the
operating expenses of our church. Thank you.*

SUNDAY – APRIL 23 – 10:00 A.M.

Scriptures: Luke 24:18-24
Sermon: *On the Road Again*

Liturgist: Ted Bickley

Greeter: Volunteer Needed

Ushers: Volunteers Needed

Coffee Hour: Ed and Cheryl Sobek

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY

Open House Honoring Pastor Becky
12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall
All are welcome – Please see page 2.

SUNDAY – APRIL 30 – 10:00 A.M.

Pastor Becky's Last Sunday with Us

Bell Choir Recognition

Renewal of Wedding Vows – Please see page 4.

Scriptures: John 21:1-14

Sermon: *Gone Fishing*

Liturgist: Greg Dickson

Greeters: The Bickley Family

Ushers: Ted and Kelly Bickley

Coffee Hour: Allen and Michele Mhlack

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

To my brothers and sisters in Christ at Strongsville UCC,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

I am writing to you today as the time of my retirement draws near. Soon Jack and I will be moving south to warmer weather. But before I go, I would like to sincerely thank each and every one of you for the love and support over the past 4½ years. Jack and I truly feel all the love and will greatly miss everyone.

There are so many memories we have of our time with you that we will spend the remainder of our time on earth sharing those great experiences with others in hopes that they might see how a Christian family lives—memories of great services and wonderful music; memories of celebrations and parties, of weddings and baptisms. We will also remember all who have gone home before us and what they meant to our church family. We will remember the retreats and the parades, the revival and the community Thanksgiving service. You all have done well.

As I move on, I have but one concern. That concern is that all those wonderful things we do may somehow stop. It would be a tragedy to see the Wednesday Lunch program stop or the community Concert Series program stop. It would be disheartening if the congregation reverted back to operating from a growth mode to a survival mode that once existed. Strongsville UCC has become a growing, living church that is recognized in our community, not a church once thought to be almost closed. Please do not fall back, but trust in the Lord and let the Holy Spirit guide you to seek to do more and more to spread the Gospel.

Soon Jack and I will move to a new land and a new community. We will do our best to help the Kingdom of God grow by taking every opportunity to share the Gospel.

As I look back over the last 35 years of ministry, I can truly say that God has blessed me and used me to show His love and that my time here has brought Him glory through you. We are truly thankful for you and will miss you a lot.

God's peace.

Your servants in Christ,
Pastor Becky and Jack



HEADLINE NEWS

First Addition of Church 1912



The first addition of the church began south of the sanctuary with the purpose of serving as a primary department for the Sunday School. A year later, the church interior was redecorated. Of this remodeling it is said: "The raised seats near the vestibule were removed. The choir loft was enlarged, and new seats were purchased. One of the older members objected to having the old straight-back chairs removed with the plea that better men and women have sat in these seats than were in the church at that time."

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY Open House

for

PASTOR BECKY STEPHENSON

on the occasion of her retirement

Sunday - April 23, 2017

12:00 Noon to 4:00 P.M.

at

Strongsville United Church of Christ

Appetizers and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

All are welcome.



OFFICIAL BOARD

The profit from the Roast Pork Dinner on March 4 was \$1,108.58. Thanks again to all who supported the dinner in any way.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship will meet on Tuesday, April 4, at 10:00 a.m. Strongsville Police Department will present a program on phone scams. Please bring a lunch; dessert and coffee/tea will be provided.



OUTDOOR WORSHIP GARDEN

I am finally wrapping up my Girl Scout Gold project of the outdoor garden/worship area. If you haven't already done so, please take a minute to check out what was done last fall. My project included leveling the area, laying stones and pavers. There is also a cross I have put in the center of the area. So far, my project has totaled \$899.02. With what I made from last year's bake sale, as well as a few other donations, I am still \$405.02 over my budget. Because I am only able to do one fundraiser for this project, I will be asking for donations. I would also like to add ground cover and flowers as well (once the weather allows), which would mean an additional cost. If you are able to help me out in any way, please let me know.

Also, because Rev. Becky has supported me throughout this project, I was hoping we could dedicate it prior to her leaving. Therefore, the Easter Sunday Sunrise Service will be held in the worship area.

Thank you to everyone who has supported me during this. If you are able to donate, please contact me at gina_gigliotti@yahoo.com or 330-687-1489. Thank you very much.

Gina Gigliotti



MASTER'S RECITAL



Our wonderful choral accompanist, Joe Williams, will hold his final Master's recital, and all are invited! It will be Wednesday, April 5, at 6:30 p.m. in Drinko Hall at Cleveland State University. If you attend, the school will reimburse parking fees from the garage on 21st Street nearby. Please see Joe for more details.

STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of March 19, 2017

*In Loving Memory of Edith Graves
Roberta and Dan Carpenter*

Week of March 26, 2017

*Happy Birthday to Rob Wentz on April 1
With love, Grammy*

To light the steeple, the minimum donation is \$5.00. Donation forms are on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Multiple donations for the same week will be accepted. For questions, please call the church, (440) 238-6697. Thank you for lighting the steeple.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



On Palm Sunday, April 9, the children will process with palms and sing "Hosanna! Jesus is the Rock." The children will meet in Pilgrim Hall at 9:45 a.m. to prepare for the processional.

On Easter Sunday, April 16, the children will have class and also enjoy an Easter Egg Hunt, which is sponsored by the Sunday School.



Can you help? The Sunday School needs 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!

HELP NEEDED

The charts for Greeters, Ushers, Altar Flowers, and Coffee Hour still have openings for helping! The charts are on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Please sign up if you are able to assist in these areas.

Thank you for your help.

ALTAR FLOWERS

You may provide flowers on any Sunday you wish because multiple vases are accepted on Sunday mornings. The cost is \$15 for one vase, \$30 for two vases.

As of this printing, the following are dates when vases are still needed so that two vases on the altar for Sunday worship:

April 1 – 1 vase
April 9 – 2 vases
April 23 – 1 vase
April 30 – 1 vase
May 7 – 2 vases
May 21 – 1 vase
June 11 – 1 vase
July 9 – 2 vases
July 23 – 2 vases
August 6 – 2 vases
August 13 – 1 vase
August 27 – 1 vase
September 3 – 2 vases
September 10 – 1 vase
October 1 – 2 vases
October 8 – 2 vases
October 15 – 2 vases
October 22 – 2 vases
October 29 – 2 vases
November 5 – 2 vases
November 19 – 1 vase
November 26 – 2 vases
December 10 – 1 vase

The signup chart for altar flowers is on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Below the chart are forms and envelopes for submitting your bulletin information and payment to the church office.



DIACONATE NEWS

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 NOW from any Diaconate member.



We are looking for donations of theme-based baskets to auction at this event. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall for you to write your name and the type of basket you will provide. Thank you for your support of this fundraiser.

NEWS FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY Adria Bond

The following monthly report lists the budget income we need to receive from Pledges and Offerings and the amount actually received. This information also appears weekly in our Sunday bulletin.

For February 26 through March 19

Offering Needed \$15,460
Received: February 26 through March 19 11,429
Difference (\$4,031)



RENEWAL OF WEDDING VOWS

Renewal of Wedding Vows will take place during Sunday worship on April 30, 2017. There is no signup; all are invited. Pastor Becky will ask participating couples to come forward, and the couples will recite their vows. Special attire is not required—although anyone wishing to wear their wedding clothes may do so!



200TH ANNIVERSARY CHURCH COOKBOOKS

Please see Dianne Maringer to get your copy. Price per book is \$12; mailing the book is an additional \$3.



THE THRIFT SHOP

April is an exciting time in the shop because everything will be new. Our new spring line of merchandise will be on the sales floor starting Thursday, April 6. We'll have lots of spring clothing, shoes and purses along with household items and décor. We'll be open every Thursday in April from 10 to 4 and hope to see you in the shop.

By the way, when you are doing your spring cleaning, please remember the Thrift Shop as a place to recycle clothing and items you no longer need. We'll find a new home for everything!

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 in Hospice, Steve Herzog, Carol Lesiak, Martha Liebert, Michele Mihlack, Pam Peacock, Denzil Richards, Lora Rung, Melinda Slavik, Jan Stough, Leah Tressa Forget, Kyle Woodward

Extended Church Family: Bri Brostek (friend of Gina Cathcart), Dylan Churnega (grandson of Ginny Churnega), 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), Sue Mason, Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Jean Mlincek (sister of Joyce Reed), 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)



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 Co-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*

Diaconate
 Jennifer Barry* Kelly Bickley* Adria Bond
 Barbara Camp* Gina Cathcart* Ginny Oerkfitz
 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*

