THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (Congregational) 13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136



Church Telephone: (440) 238-6697 Email: StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com Website: www.strongsvilleucc.com

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall Pastor

Worship at 10:00 A.M. on Sunday

# APRIL 2019 NEWSLETTER

# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven. –The Book of Ecclesiastes, a temple teacher

#### Finding balance.

Life is crazy busy, isn't it? Sometimes it seems we are spinning our wheels, stuck in place while travelling ninety miles an hour. Balance? Equilibrium? I vaguely remember the *concept*, but the practice? Hardly. Even during Lent, when we seek to focus on that which keeps us grounded and whole, balance can be hard to find. Here are some "notes to self" from a friend that I find helpful, and hope you might find helpful, too:

- Practice silence regularly, even if only for a minute or two. During that silence, listen for God.
- If you don't already, begin a daily devotional practice. Upper Room is a good place to start.
   Focus on the Scripture, as well as the meditation. End with prayer.
- Look for the positive all around you, not in a Pollyanna-ish way, but focusing on the *truth* that Creation is good because God is good. Leave negativity behind (in thoughts and those who lead you to such thoughts).
- Relax. Instead of stressing for solutions, pause and breathe. In those d-e-e-e-p, deliberate breaths, ask God's Spirit to lead you. Repeat as often as necessary. (You won't hyperventilate on the Spirit!)
- Practice gratitude. So what if you wanted to lose ten pounds but only lost three? You lost three pounds! Break the "yes—but ..." habit.
- Be gentle on yourself. It's nearly impossible to genuinely love others if you struggle to be kind to yourself.
- Finally, open your eyes! God is so busy, all around us. Take regular breaks and look for God's fingerprints in answers to prayer you didn't realize you had even prayed. Be a blessing.
   Smile more; gripe less. Laugh more; complain less. Hug more; love more; criticize less.

Consider cutting this message out and taping it in a conspicuous place, until things become habit. Change your mind. Change your life. Change the world. One baby step at a time.

Peace, Pastor Heidi



# CONTINUING THROUGH APRIL 14...Lenten Study with Pastor Heidi.

Interfaith: Being Love in the World, beginning at noon. A light lunch will be provided each Sunday for those who

attend the studies. It's not too late to join us for the last few sessions of the series..



# WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY – APRIL 7 – 10:00 A.M. Fifth Sunday of Lent Sacrament of Communion



Liturgist: Judi Pavisich Greeter: Linda Plain Ushers: Volunteers needed Coffee Hour: Elaine Coffey and Teri Barbish Special Music: Chancel Choir and Band

# SUNDAY - APRIL 14 - 10:00 A.M.

Palm Sunday

Liturgist: Pam Keenen Greeter: Billie Cantrell **Ushers:** Volunteers needed Coffee Hour: Jim & Linda Dettmer Special Music: SUCC Children's Choir, Choir and Band







A Quiet, Contemplative Service with Communion offered. Greeters: Volunteers Needed

FRIDAY – APRIL 19 – 8:15 P.M. Good Friday GOOD FRIDAY

# **Ecumenical Tenebrae Service** at Columbia United Methodist Church

25453 Royalton Road in Columbia Station (Southeast Corner of Royalton + West River Roads)

Our Chancel Choir will sing in the combined choir with orchestra for the presentation of the cantata, "Song of the Shadows."

A reception will follow the service.

Please note: Our congregation will join our friends at Columbia United Methodist Church. There will be no Good Friday service at Strongsville UCC.

SUNDAY - APRIL 21 - 7:00 A.M. Easter Sunday **Sunrise Service** 



ituraist: Greeters: Dan and Linda Ponstingle Usher: Volunteer needed Easter Breakfast: Dale Hawk & Crew Special Music: Tom Foley, Ken Mehalko, Mike Elkins

SUNDAY - APRIL 21 - 10:00 A.M. Easter Sunday **Traditional Worship** 

Liturgist: Dave Williams Greeter: Betty Craia Usher: Volunteer needed Easter Breakfast: Dale Hawk & Crew Special Music: Brass, SUCC Choir, & Band

SUNDAY - APRIL 28 - 10:00 A.M. Second Sunday of Easter **Baptism of Owen Woodward Penny Sunday** Liturgist: Betty Craig Greeter: The Rolland Family **Usher:** Volunteer needed Coffee Hour: Volunteer needed Special Music: SUCC Choir & Band

# CHURCH MEMBERSHIP



Are you interested in joining our family of fellowship by becoming a member of the Strongsville UCC? Please contact Pastor Heidi or the church office if you would like to be a part of the new class of members or indicate your interest on

your attendance card and place it in the offering plate.





Our deepest condolences to **Rob Toth** on the passing of his father, **Frank Toth**, on March 3, 2019. A memorial service was held on Thursday, March 7 at Busch Funeral Home in Parma.

#### **† † †** Our love and prayers of sympathy are extended to Jennifer Barry, Myron Costin, and Clara Barry

on the death of Jen's mom,



Margaret Haught on Friday, March 8, 2019. Her funeral was on March 14. † † † † †

We have learned that the **Rev. Audrey Miller** passed away on March 7. Audrey served our church along with Reverend Morris in the early 2000's. A memorial service for her was held in Pennsylvania on March 16, 2019.

† † † †

Sending our sympathy also to **Eileen Pincombe**, on the passing of **Harvey Pincombe**, a member of our congregation since 2013. Harvey went home to the Lord on March 8, 2019 after a long illness. His funeral was March 16 at Busch Funeral Home.



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Our heartfelt sympathy also goes out to Jim, Irene, Erik, Evan, and Elena Joyce on the death on Jim's mom, Mary Joyce-Smith on March 14. The funeral was at St. Malachi Catholic Church and burial at Holy Cross Cemetery.

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### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Southwest General Hospital will be hosting a seminar on **Health Care Power of Attorney/ Advance Directives**, on Thursday, April 4, 2:00-4:00 p.m. If you are interested in attending, please contact **Chaplain Charissa Prunty**, 440-816-8648.

### WELCOME, BABIES!

Ginny Churnega and Kenn Oerkfitz became greatgrandparents on March 26, 2019-- twice!

 Allison Nicole was born to Kyra Krause & Justin Sieving. Grandparents are Debbie & Lee Krause.



 Carson Jace was born to Jenny Wahl and Dallas Brammer. Grandparents are Cheryl & Ed Sobek.

# CHILD SPONSORSHIP

The Mission and Outreach Committee, through the Child Sponsorship Program, Global Ministries, sponsors Caroline Y, from the King's Matriculation Higher Secondary School in Vellore, India. With our congregation maintaining this sponsorship, Caroline will continue her studies and escape a life of poverty.



# Thank you to everyone who signed up for 2019:

January—The Sunday School February—Bev Wehr March—Dorothy & Bill Ritchie April—Mary Densmore May—Gina Cathcart June—The Hawk Family July—Doug Thorn September—Bill Robinson October—Judy Carte November--Linda Plain December--The Hawk Family Please place your payment in the offering plate with "Child Sponsorship" on the envelope or in the memo line of the check. The cost is \$30.

The Child Sponsorship Program is a part of Global Ministries, United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ (Christian) Churches.



### PLEASE SAVE YOUR PLASTIC BOTTLE CAPS!

A friend of Amanda Hawk is making a memorial bench constructed of plastic bottle caps. A container to collect them is located in Pilgrim Hall by the coffee pots.

# **UNSUNG HEROES**

Did you know that **Serena Abruzzino** stepped in at the last minute to teach all of the Sunday School kids on March 24? Thanks for filling in when needed, Serena!





Did you know that **Sarah Hayes and Rachel Zielinski** noticed that someone had piled bags and boxes in front of our Royalton Road door offered to help bring all that stuff down to the Thrift Shop, despite the door being blocked? Thanks a million, Sarah and Rachel!

# PLEASE DON'T EVER BLOCK EXITS!



Are you an online shopper? If so, why not benefit the church while you make your purchases from Amazon? It's incredibly easy! Here's what you do:

1. Instead of typing amazon.com into your search bar, type in **smile.amazon.com**.

2. Select United Church of Christ Congregational Strongsville by clicking this link: <u>https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-1298100</u>

3. Shop as you would normally—that's it! Your addresses, billing information, and shopping cart are still saved and your Prime membership privileges still apply. A small percentage of your purchase price will go toward supporting the church. We've made \$45.35 through December 2018!

And since you're in a shopping mood...you can benefit the church even more by buying Amazon (or many other) **gift cards** from Jim Joyce in Pilgrim Hall prior to whipping out that credit card. **Please keep us in mind for your upcoming shopping needs!** 



### ALTAR FLOWERS March altar flowers were given



March 3 – Happy Birthday to Mike Elkins on February 29! Love, Linda

Happy Birthday to Elena Joyce Love your family

March 10 – In honor of the Thrift Shop volunteers

The Ritchie/Cathcart family

March 17 – Happy Birthday to Natalia and Mia Hill!

With love, Grammy **March 24** – In loving memory of James Habart on the anniversary of his death, from his family who misses him and loves him dearly.

Jamie, Josh, and Christian March 31 – Happy 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Diane Kuzmickas on March 25. – Sarah, Pam & Bruce Keenen

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. Near the flower chart in Pilgrim Hall are forms for submitting your bulletin information and envelopes for enclosing your payment to the church office. Thank you for placing flowers on the altar.

2019 Flower sign-up chart is posted and several Sundays are still available for this year!

# SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Penny Sunday –Thanks again to the Post-Confirmation class for sorting the coins and especially to Jan Stough for counting them!

February's Penny Sunday collection was for St. Herman House of Hospitality in Cleveland: We collected \$144.71.

Thank you to everyone who generously supports our Penny Sunday collections. The collection on March 31<sup>st</sup> will go to help provide assistance to flood victims in Nebraska and the Midwest through the **United Church** of Christ Disaster Ministries.



United Church of Christ

The April Penny Sunday will go to Laura's Home for Women and Children through the City Mission.



At Laura's Home, women & children find rest and restoration. For women and children, **Laura's Home** is a bridge from crisis to stability and self-sufficiency. With 166 beds and 55 rooms, Laura's Home offers specialized, wraparound services designed to empower families and individuals to live healthy lives. Their hope is that in the near future, life-changing meaningful solutions will be offered to the women and children of Cleveland who need lasting change, not simply for them, but for generations to come.



# DID YOU KNOW?

Our church supports the

Strongsville Emergency Food Bank. They are especially in need of peanut butter & jelly, soup, and family meals. Please bring donations of nonperishable food items and place them in the collection box nestled in the corner of Pilgrim Hall next to the bulletin board. Thank you to Sharon and Karl Kuhlenschmidt for delivering the donations to the Food Bank each week.

#### **OUR PRAYER LIST**

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Betty Bushea at



Danbury Senior Living in Brunswick, Janet Kato at Kemper House, Martha Liebert, Marge McKinney, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

**Church Family:** Betty Babics, Rev. Larry and Christina Craig, Danny Davis, Steve Herzog, Elena Joyce, Bobbie Krisak, Karl and Sharon

Kuhlenschmidt, Phyllis Kurz (mother of Karen Morgan Fred and Kathe Lombardo, Lacey Marshall (daughter of Amanda and John), Laurie Meister, Michele Mihlack, Karen Morgan, Joyce Reed, Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, Linda Stepan, Sally Vetovitz, Kyle Woodward

**Extended Church Family**: Amy Carroll (sister of Marty Winch), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Joyce Freeman (sister of Carol Woodward), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Sam Harteis (friend of Reeds), Rev. Erv Koch, Diane Mason (friend of Lora Rung), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Zachary McKeever (greatnephew of Pastor Heidi and Chuck), Jeff Perrin (cousin of Barb Fraunfelder), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Joe Valli (brother-in-law of Vicky and Dan Masuga), Brad Williams (friend of Judi Pavisich)

#### Our church has an e-mail prayer chain. Please see Pastor Heidi if you would like to be added.



# DIACONATE WING NIGHT

Mark your calendar for a terrific night of filling food, refreshing suds, basket raffles, side boards, and hanging out with the coolest folks around! **Friday, May 3**, **2019** is the date. 6:30 p.m. will

be the time. Grindstone Tap House in Berea will be the place. More information on tickets will be coming soon. As always, many volunteers will be needed for Wing Night to be successful and the committee will be recruiting helpers.
In the meantime, please be thinking of a themed basket you might like to donate to the event. Any and all donations will be gratefully accepted! Please watch your newsletters and bulletins for more information in the coming months. Thank you in advance for supporting this important fundraiser for the Diaconate, which supplies all of the worship needs of our church.

Tickets are on sale now and are only \$25!

# ANSHE CHESED FAIRMOUNT TEMPLE

### INTERFAITH FIELD TRIP

Members of our church are attending the annual Interfaith Passover Seder at Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple (23737 Blvd Beachwood on **Tuesday April 9** 

Fairmount Blvd. Beachwood, on **Tuesday, April 9**.

# THANK YOU NOTES RECEIVED

Dear Strongsville UCC family,

Thank you all for preparing such delicious food for Grandpa's service. It was so very thoughtful of you and



we appreciate your kindness more than we can ever express in words. Special thanks to **Barb Camp** for overseeing everything. Thank you for being such an important part of Grandma and Grandpa's lives for so many years. You all meant so much to both of them, I know you will miss them as much as we do. God Bless! From Our Hearts, Christina and the **Ray Suttle** Family

Words cannot adequately express our gratitude for the love and support of our Strongsville UCC family. Your cards, messages, visits, and prayers have really helped us through the difficult weeks after Jim's mom's stroke and subsequent passing. We are truly blessed to be a part of this wonderful congregation. Thank you again! Jim, Irene, Erik, Evan, and Elena Joyce

CHURCH SECURITY Friendly reminder: If you are the last

person to leave the building, please



make sure doors are locked and lights are turned out. Also, please push or pull on the doors to make sure they are secure. Thanks!

# FREE LUNCH FOR ALL! WEDNESDAYS 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.



Living Water Association Minister, **Rev. Nayiri Karjian**, joined us for lunch on March 20<sup>th</sup>! Thank you to **Brian Kohler** and **Papa John's Pizza Strongsville** for generously donating pizza for our Free Lunch for All on March 27<sup>th</sup>.



Papa John's Strongsville is committed to serving folks in our area and being a contributing member of the Strongsville community. <u>https://www.facebook.com/PJStrongsville/</u>

# FROM THE KITCHEN:

If you have any large plastic serving trays with domed covers, round or rectangular, that you do not need, please donate them to the kitchen for our Coffee Hour pastries. Also, we could use empty, clean large sour



cream/cottage cheese/yogurt containers for the Altar Flowers.



# STEWARDSHIP As of this writing, we have received 76 pledges totaling \$129,432.00.

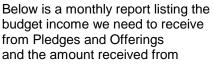
Thanks to all who already submitted their cards. Please know that the church will accept Estimate of Giving cards at any time, and additional Estimate of Giving cards are on the greeters' cabinet in the Gathering Area, where the bulletins are distributed.

#### **GIVING OPTIONS**

If you are interested in giving electronically, Here's how: You can customize your giving based on how, when, and how much through **E-Offering**. Log on to our church website at <u>www.strongsvilleucc.com</u> and click "Donate Now". You will be taken to the church's myEoffering page. Simply click on the "Sign-up" button and you will then fill in your personal information and "Register". Follow the prompts to set up your payment, one-time or ongoing. You can also set up your giving through Bill Pay on your bank's website.

### NEWS FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Adria Bond





#### February 10 through March 10, 2019.

This information also appears on a weekly basis in our worship bulletin.

Offering Needed \$18,246.60 for 5 Sundays <u>Offering Received 15,921.75</u> Difference (- \$ 2,324.85)

Have you been noticing that we are showing negative numbers a lot of weeks? It's true, our giving is behind, but if we all pull together, we will be able to pay our bills. Thanks for supporting your church!

MEN'S LUNCH BUNCH All men are invited the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 11:30 a.m. to Gourmé Deli & Restaurant. (15315 Pearl Road in Strongsville)



#### APRIL 2019 DATES TO REMEMBER

- 2 Tues Trustee Meeting 7pm
- 3 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am to 12:30pm Fit Club, 7:15pm Band Rehearsal 8pm
- 4 Thurs Thrift Shop CLOSED for change over Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal at CUMC 7:45pm
   7 Sun Worship 10am
  - Sun Worship 10am Communion Worship Team Meeting 11:30am Children's Choir
- 9 Tues Interfaith Field Trip Passover Seder
- 10 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am to 12:30pm Adult Social Club Meeting 7pm Fit Club, 7:15pm Band Rehearsal 8:15pm
- 11 Thurs Thrift Shop 10am-4pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8pm
- 14 Sun Worship 10am Palm Sunday Children's Choir
- 16 Tues Diaconate Meeting, 7pm
- 17 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am-12:30pm Band Rehearsal 8pm
- 18 Thurs Thrift Shop 10am-4pm Maundy Thursday Worship 7pm
- 19 Fri Good Friday Worship 8:15pm "Song of the Shadows" at Columbia United Methodist Church
- 21 Sun Sunrise Easter Service 7am Easter Breakfast 8am Traditional Easter Worship 10am
- 23 Tues Official Board Meeting 7pm
- 24 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am-12:30pm Adult Social Club 7pm Fit Club 7:15pm Band Rehearsal 8pm
- 25 Thurs Thrift Shop 10am-4pm Men's Lunch Gourmé Restaurant 11:30am Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8pm
- 28 Sun Worship 10am--Penny Sunday Children's Choir



# FIT CLUB

Our group is small, but enthusiastic. We welcome any new participants, of any age or fitness level to join us and get moving on most Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m. Plus, once a month, we have a field trip al In March, we went to see *The Rake's Progress* 

to the Opera! In March, we went to see *The Rake's Progress* at Baldwin Wallace University. Please join us for more fellowship, exercise, and opera!

# HOW CAN YOU HELP OUT?

Sign-up sheets in Pilgrim Hall are waiting for **your name** to be added as a communion server, greeter, usher, coffee hour helper, or nursery helper! No experience is needed and everyone is welcome to be a part of our church life.





THRIFT SHOP The Thrift Shop is will be closed for spring changeover on April 4, but then resume our normal schedule on Thursdays, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., with a bonus

Free Lunch for All sale day on Wednesdays once a month from 11 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. WE NEED HELP! If you can spare a few hours on Thursdays to volunteer in our Thrift Shop, please consider helping at the Thrift Shop. We are grateful for your donations of usable items to the Thrift Shop. However, it is very important that you do not place bags, boxes, or items in the stairwells. Doing so is a safety hazard. Thank you for your cooperation.

# STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of March 3, 2019 Happy Birthday to Eddy Bond on March 1! From Your Church Family

# Week of March 10, 2019

In memory of Frank Toth from the Music Ministry

Week of March 17, 2019 Happy Birthday today to Natalia and Mia Hill With love, Grammy In memory of Edith Graves in honor of her birthday on March 19 From Roberta Carpenter Week of March 24, 2019

Thank you to our church family for their love and support Jim, Irene, Erik, Evan, and Elena Joyce

### Week of March 31, 2019

Happy Birthday to Rob Wentz on April 1<sup>st</sup> 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 to all who light the steeple.





#### SWISS STEAK DINNER

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED THE SWISS STEAK DINNER ON MARCH 2, 2019! We had our 2<sup>nd</sup> highest profit in 31 years of hosting the dinner: \$1,963.82. If you dredged, browned, set up, served, donated desserts, cleaned up, sold tickets, bought tickets or ate—**THANK YOU**!

### **CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2019**

Officers elected on Jan. 27, 2019, have an asterisk\* by their names. \*\* = appointed by the Official Board



Moderator Vice-Moderator Treasurer Clerk Rachel Zielinski\* Rob Toth\* Sally Herzog\* Karen Morgan\*

Sunday School Superintendent Kristen Clotworthy\*

#### Board of Trustees

Greg Dickson\* Mike Clotworthy Myron Costin Tom Gaumer Bill Giuliano\* Dale Hawk\* Bob Kovatich Sandy Pogozelski\* Ed Sobek\* Linda Stepan\* Rob Stepan\*

> Endowment Fund Subcommittee Irene Jannsohn\* Jovce Reed \*

Diaconate

Serena Abruzzino Jennifer Barry\* Eddy Bond\* Barbara Camp\* Kristen Clotworthy\* Judy Gaumer Cathy Hawk Sarah Hayes\*

Linda Plain\* Linda Ponstingle\*\* Nicole Rachid\* Dawn Rolland Marty Winch\*

#### Christian Education Committee

Kristen Clotworthy Mary Densmore\* Linda Elkins\* Suzi Foley\* Sandy O'Shea\* Lora Rung\*

**Music Committee** 

Ingrid Dickson\* Ken Mehalko\* Pam Keenen Tom Foley Mike Elkins

#### Stewardship Committee

Rosemary Bechtel Sue Gigliotti\* Beth Giuliano Bill Schneider\*\*

#### Mission and Outreach Committee

Judy Carte\* Bobbie Krisak\* Tony Koussa\*\* Michele Mihlack\* Gary Paul\* Lora Rung Bev Wehr\*



# From our friends at St. John Neumann Catholic Church:

They will be hosting Fish Frys every Friday through April 12<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds from these meals will help the needy in El Salvador and support St. John Neumann's Hope Fund. Their address is 16271 Pearl Road in Strongsville and the Fish Frys will be held in their Activity Center. For times and prices, please call 440-238-1770 or check www.sjnohio.com



**KEEP RECYCLING YOUR PAPER GOODS!** Four times a year, River Valley has bonus weeks, which earn even more money for our church. The next bonus week will be April 14-20, 2019. Thank you to everyone who deposits their paper, flattened cardboard, magazines, and newspapers in our bin!

# **MUSIC NOTES**

The Strongsville Community Band Concert on Sunday May 19, "Swinging With SCB" will feature music from the Big Band Era complete with iitterbuggers. Concert is at the Ehrnfelt Senior/Rec Center at 3:00 pm.



A CD of Native American Flute, "Love And Tranquility" will be released in late April. Music will feature Ken Mehalko on Native Flute. Mike Elkins on keyboards and other musicians affiliated with our church.

Sales will benefit our music ministry program. **STAY TUNED!** 

#### MUSIC REHEARSAL CHANGES

The Bell Choir will rehearse at 7 p.m. and the Chancel Choir will rehearse at 8 p.m. on Thursday Evenings. Church. On April 4, The Bells will practice at 6:30 p.m. and the Chancel Choir will meet at 7:45 p.m. at Columbia UMC.





# THANKS TO OUR FRIENDS AT **SOLAR WINDOWS AND MORE!**

A.J Jaffary and his company Solar Windows and More installed new windows in our sanctuary a year ago and continue to support our church.

He made a donation to us in conjunction with the Strongsville Homecoming and now is making a donation for using our church as a backdrop in a photo accompanying an article about his business in the Strongsville Post. Watch for that article in an upcoming edition of the Post. Several of our church members recommend this company for windows, siding, or other home improvements.

www.solarwindowsandmore.com/

### **TEMPLED HILLS IS HAVING AN OPEN HOUSE!** Saturday, April 13th

