




AUGUST 2015 NEWSLETTER

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

<p>AUGUST 2 <i>Tenth Sunday after Pentecost</i> Scriptures: 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a Sermon: <i>Nathan Tells It Like It Is</i> Communion at Both Services</p> 	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M. Liturgist: Jim Studer Greeter: Linda Plain Ushers: Natalie Daniels, Linda Plain Coffee Hour: Ginny Dangelo</p>	<p>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M. Liturgist: Sarah Hayes Greeter: Linda Plain Coffee Hour: Ginny Dangelo Graphics Operation: Vicky Masuga</p>
<p>AUGUST 9 <i>Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost</i> Scriptures: Ephesians 4:17–5:2 Sermon: <i>Christian Living</i></p>	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M. Liturgist: Ted Bickley Greeters: The Bickley Family Ushers: Lola Millhoane Coffee Hour: Dianne Maringer</p>	<p>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M. Liturgist: Michele Mihlack Greeters: The Bickley Family Coffee Hour: Dianne Maringer Graphics Operation: Rosemary Bechtel</p>
<p>AUGUST 16 <i>Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost</i> Scriptures: Genesis 2:15-18; 3:1-7 Matthew 4:1-11 Sermon: <i>Who Told You You Were Naked?</i></p>	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M. Liturgist: Tom Gaumer Greeter: Roy Merkle Ushers: Needed Coffee Hour: Rosemary Bechtel</p>	<p>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M. Liturgist: Jack Stephenson Greeter: Roy Merkle Coffee Hour: Rosemary Bechtel Graphics Operation: Rosemary Bechtel</p>
<p>AUGUST 23 <i>Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i> Scriptures: 1 Kings 8:1, 6, 10-11, 22-30 Sermon: <i>Indiana Jones</i></p>	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M. Liturgist: Betty Craig Greeters: Lloyd and Barbara Bridle Ushers: Needed Coffee Hour: Tom Gaumer</p>	<p>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M. Liturgist: Betty Craig Greeters: Lloyd and Barbara Bridle Coffee Hour: Tom Gaumer Graphics Operation: Michele Mihlack</p>

Worship Opportunities continue on page 2.

<p>AUGUST 30 <i>Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i></p> <p>Scriptures: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23</p> <p>Sermon: <i>What Defiles Us</i></p>	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Lynne McCray Greeter: Ginny Dangelo Ushers: Needed Coffee Hour: Dianne Maringer</p>	<p>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Jim Nicoulin Greeter: Ginny Dangelo Coffee Hour: Dianne Maringer</p>
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TENT REVIVAL and FAMILY FUN DAY

After much prayer and conversation, we will postpone the Tent Revival until the summer of 2016. I do this in order to give time for me to heal from the heart attack and to rejuvenate for the coming year. I appreciate all the work everyone has done and intend to keep the Revival Team going and focusing on 2016, with the goal of having a better, more lively community Revival next summer. We will call the Revival Team together again next month—in September 2015.

Family Fun Day, however, will still take place this year on Saturday, August 22, 2015, with free activities and food for the children, families and everyone! All are welcome to attend Free Family Fun Day. Please call the church at (440) 238-6697 if you are interested to help.

Pastor Becky

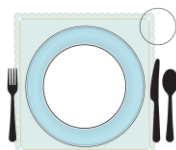


WEDNESDAY FREE LUNCH PROGRAM

The program continues every Wednesday, when lunch is served from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall. All are welcome to attend this free weekly lunch.

Volunteers who prepare meals are asked to be at the church no later than 9:00 a.m. Servers can arrive at 10:00 a.m.

Volunteers are needed – please talk with Pastor Becky or call the church, 440-238-6697.



THE THRIFT SHOP

August is sale time in The Thrift Shop. We will be holding half-price sales and then our twice-a-year Bag Sale, which is always lots of fun.

Our bag sales will be:

Thursday, August 20, with \$6 bags;
Thursday, August 27 with \$6 bags; and
Thursday, September 3 with \$5 bags.



We supply the bags, which are usually Heinen's brown paper bags. By the way, if you have any extra bags, please drop them off for us. Anything too large to fit into a bag is half price.

We are open Thursdays from 10 to 4 and would love for church members and friends to stop in to visit, shop, or drop off donations. Tax receipts are always available when the shop is open.

PURSE, BAG AND TOTE BAG SALE

This Diaconate fundraiser will take place the day of our Turkey Dinner—Saturday, November 7, 2015. If possible, please bring your donations to the church now so we can plan the space needed. However, we will accept donations until Sunday, November 1. Thank you for your donations.

Pricing for regular size purses will begin at \$5.00. For additional information, please see Joyce Reed or Dianne Maringer.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Summer Sunday School continues in session. Parents, Grandparents, Uncles, Aunts: Please sign up to teach one Sunday this summer. **August 16, August 30, and September 6 are still available.** The signup sheet is posted on Pilgrim Hall's bulletin board. No experience is necessary, and all materials will be provided. See Sunday School Superintendent Irene Joyce if you have questions.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

Saturday – **August 22** – Free Family Fun Day
Sunday – **September 13** – Rally Day



SPECIAL OFFICIAL BOARD MEETING

Thursday – August 6 – 7:00 P.M.

A special Official Board meeting will take place on Thursday, August 6, at 7:00 p.m., when all church group representatives will share their ideas for accomplishing the goal of the "Year of the Child." Members of the Congregation are welcome to attend this special meeting also.



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Peter writes, "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received" (1 Peter 4:10 NRSV). This verse brings to mind some questions:

- ✂ With what gifts are you graced?
- ✂ How have you shared these through the summer?
- ✂ What are your plans for the second half of 2015?

Although the stewardship campaign is not yet underway, the church season and the church's work do not take a break, nor does it wait for a campaign. After all, God's grace is constant, and so should the church's mission. The campaign is simply a way to renew and encourage the spirit of giving.

In that spirit, the Stewardship Committee is in the process of planning the annual campaign. We hope you keep the above questions in mind as we near the campaign's kickoff! We also have some exciting projects designed to help the congregation grow in their stewardship year round! Please stay tuned for updates and announcements from the committee on the exciting things to come!

ALTAR FLOWERS

You may provide flowers on any Sunday you wish because multiple vases are accepted on Sunday mornings. As of this writing, the following are dates when vases are still needed in order to have two vases on the altar for Sunday worship:

September 6 – 1 vase
October 25 – 2 vases
November 29 – 1 vase
December 13 – 1 vase

Please note: If you only attend the 9:45 a.m. service, you are welcome to take your flowers after that service. The Contemporary Service is casual, and it is okay if flowers are not on the altar.

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.

Thank you very much for providing flowers for our worship services.



PENNY SUNDAYS

Penny Sunday collections from February through June 2015 have raised \$341.70 for the Food Bank! Thank you for your support.

Penny Sunday dates for the remainder of the year are:
August 30, September 27, October 25,
November 29, and December 27.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Thank you to all who donated to the "Tote Bag Project." We were able to give 60 bags to Strongsville Food Bank, where the bags will be distributed to children.



Betty Craig, Chairman
Women's Fellowship Project

COFFEE HOUR FUND

Thank you to all who contribute to the Coffee Hour Fund. Besides Coffee Hour, these contributions now also provide supplies for the Wednesday Free Lunch Program. Your support is greatly appreciated.



IN SYMPATHY

Our love and prayers are extended in sympathy to the family of our church member, Sandra Kornick, on the occasion of her passing on July 3, 2015. The funeral took place on July 8 at Tomon & Sons Funeral Home in Middleburg Heights.



STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of July 5, 2014

*In Honor of Elena Taylor
for all her musical efforts at our church--
especially with the children
The Morgan Family*

Week of July 12, 2015

*Happy Birthday on July 12 to Matt Rower and
Happy Anniversary on July 14 to Joe and Barbara Craig
With love, Grammy and Mom*

To light the steeple for a week, the minimum donation is \$5.00. Information and donation forms are on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Multiple donations for the same week will be accepted. Thank you to all who light the steeple.

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. This list is updated weekly. If you wish someone to remain on the list, please call the church, (440) 238-6697.

Long-Term Care or Homebound Members:

Ethyl Jeglie at Elmcroft of Sagamore Hills, 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: Nancy Cochran at Pearlview Rehab and Wellness, Holly Elkins, Pam Peacock, Denzil Richards, Barb Stayrook, Keith Sullen, Pastor Becky Stephenson, Leah Tressa Forget, John Wood

Extended Church Family: Ryan Brubeck, Emelyn Carels (sister of Irene Jannsohn), Dylan Churnega (grandson of Ginny Churnega Oerkfitz), Zachary Crouse (grandson of Barbara Morgan), Rebecca Deeb (Goddaughter of Lora Rung), Angie Dickinson (friend of Lola Millhoane), Donna Fargo (mother of Sally Herzog), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Irene Hagemeier (niece of Betty Craig), Phyllis Keenen (mother of Bruce), Pat Kolba (mother of Kelly Bickley), Dorothy Kovatich (mother of Bob), Lily (student of Lora Rung), Maggie (friend of the Bickleys), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Debbie Morey (sister of Steve Herzog), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Trudie Taylor (sister of Karen Morgan), Bob Tomko (cousin of Ed Sobek), Kathleen Wickline (mother of Darla), Marilyn Woodward (mother of David and Carol)

STRONGSVILLE FOOD BANK

The Food Bank has a hard time during the summer months with donations. Please think of what you can bring to our church to help. Right now they are requesting canned fruit, but any and all donations are greatly appreciated.



SOUTHWEST GENERAL'S COURTESY VAN SERVICE

Volunteer Lift Van Drivers are needed for Southwest General's Courtesy Van Service. Drivers work one four-hour shift per week and must have a clean driving record and current driver's license. They need to be patient, kind and caring as they transport our frail, elderly and wheelchair-bound patients to their various health care appointments.

If you are interested in this very rewarding service opportunity, please call Lenita Harsch at (440) 816-4046.



GREETERS AND USHERS NEEDED

Greeters and ushers are needed on Sunday mornings. Please help in these areas if you can. The signup sheets are on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall.

If greeting and/or ushering is new to you, please call the church office, 440-238-6697, and we will arrange for someone to help you learn the responsibilities involved.



JOIN OUR STRONGSVILLE UCC MUSIC MINISTRY

Do you get goosebumps when you hear beautiful music? Do you feel inspired when you move to toe-tapping rhythms and soaring notes?

Have you been feeling estranged from your artistic self? Would you like to be part of a team creating great music?

Our music ministry is an important part of our worship, and we would love for you to be part of it.

We have three main adult musical groups in our church. Our Chancel Choir (director, Joshua Konow) and Bell Choir (director, Barb Fraunfelder) rehearse on Thursday evenings and usually provide music at the traditional service. Rehearsals for the Chancel Choir begin on September 3, and their first Sunday back is Rally Day, September 13. Our Praise Band (director, Elena Taylor) rehearses on Wednesday evenings and provides music at the contemporary service. In addition, we enjoy music from instrumentalists, both members and guests, and many soloists and vocal and instrumental ensembles. These groups practice and participate with a variable schedule. We also have a growing children's choir directed by Elena Taylor.

If you're thinking about being part of our music program, please join us at our **"kickoff" music party at the parsonage on Saturday, September 12, at 2:00 p.m.** Also, feel free to ask our directors any questions you have.

So go ahead and channel your inner Amy Grant, or Luciano Pavarotti, or Carrie Underwood, or Ed Sheehan, or Celine Dion, or John Legend, or Mahalia Jackson, or Alan Jackson, or Itzhak Perlman, or Wynton Marsalis, or whomever, and, as LeBron would say, "bring your talents" to Strongsville UCC.

Music is an enriching and joyful experience. **I**  

