

**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  
**Contemporary Worship 9:00 A.M. Sunday**  
**Traditional Worship 11:00 A.M. Sunday**

## D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 3 N E W S L E T T E R

### WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DECEMBER 1</b></p> <p><b>First Sunday of Advent</b>  <b>Hanging of the Greens</b>  <b>Women's Fellowship Candy Sale</b>            During Coffee Hour</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP 9 A.M.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Liturgist:</b> Lora Rung</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Coffee Hour:</b> Marty Winch</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TRADITIONAL WORSHIP 11 A.M.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sacrament of Baptism</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Liturgist:</b> Jim Studer  <b>Nursery:</b> Cathy Hawk  <b>Greeter:</b> Lola Millhoane</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DECEMBER 8</b></p> <p><b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>  <b>Communion at Both Services</b>  <b>Sermon:</b> <i>Mary's Song</i>  <b>Scripture:</b> Luke 1:46-55  <b>Dedication of Mitten Tree</b>  <b>Deadline for Poinsettia Orders</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP 9 A.M.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Liturgist:</b> Charles Jannsohn</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Communion Servers:</b>            Cathy Hawk, Lora Rung</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Coffee Hour:</b> Rachel Zielinski</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TRADITIONAL WORSHIP 11 A.M.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Liturgist:</b> Charles Jannsohn</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Communion Servers:</b>            Beth Giuliano, Vicky Masuga,            Bev Wehr</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Nursery:</b> Sarah Hayes  <b>Greeter:</b> Jim Studer</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DECEMBER 13</b></p> <p><b>Special Friday Evening Worship</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP</b>  <b>7:30 P.M.</b></p>	<p>The Blue Christmas Service is a worship service of remembrance and hope, remembering those who have passed away, while seeking hope for all of us as we enter this Christmas season.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DECEMBER 15</b></p> <p><b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>  <b>"The View"</b>  <b>Dedication of Remembrance Tree</b>  <b>Diaconate Cookie Sale</b>            during Coffee Hour  <b>Christmas Gathering at the Parsonage</b>            beginning at 3:00 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP 9 A.M.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Liturgist:</b> Tom Gaumer</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Coffee Hour:</b> Doug Thorn</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TRADITIONAL WORSHIP 11 A.M.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Liturgist:</b> Tom Gaumer  <b>Nursery:</b> Beth Giuliano  <b>Greeters:</b> Volunteers Needed</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DECEMBER 22</b></p> <p><b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>  <b>Sermon:</b> <i>He's on His Way</i>  <b>Scripture:</b> Matthew 1:18-25</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP 9 A.M.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Liturgist:</b> Sarah Hayes</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Coffee Hour:</b> Cathy Hawk</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TRADITIONAL WORSHIP 11 A.M.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Liturgist:</b> Sarah Hayes  <b>Nursery:</b> Dianne Maringer  <b>Greeters:</b> Volunteers Needed</p>

<p><b>DECEMBER 22 - 5 P.M.</b></p> <p><b>Children's Pageant and Christmas Potluck Meal</b></p>	<p><b>PAGEANT</b></p> <p>We will gather in the Sanctuary at 5:00 p.m. and sing carols, while the children prepare for the pageant.</p> <p>The children will present their pageant at about 5:30 P.M.</p>	<p><b>CHRISTMAS POTLUCK MEAL</b></p> <p>After the Pageant, we will enjoy a potluck meal and festivities in Pilgrim Hall.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Please bring your own table service, a main dish to share, plus either a side dish, salad or dessert to share.</p>
<p><b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b></p> <p><b>Tuesday Evening Worship</b></p> <p>Fellowship and appetizers will be in Pilgrim Hall between the two services. Donations of light hors d'oeuvres are welcome. For questions, please contact Cathy Hawk.</p>	<p><b>FAMILY WORSHIP 7:30 P.M.</b></p> <p><b>Liturgist:</b> Jack Stephenson</p> <p><b>Greeters:</b> Volunteers Needed</p>	<p><b>CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP 11 P.M.</b></p> <p><b>Liturgist:</b> Jack Stephenson</p> <p><b>Greeters:</b> Volunteers Needed</p>
<p><b>DECEMBER 29</b></p> <p><b>First Sunday after Christmas</b></p> <p><b>Sermon:</b> <i>Off to Egypt</i> <b>Scripture:</b> Matthew 2:13-23</p>	<p><b>CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP 9 A.M.</b></p> <p><b>Liturgist:</b> Barb Fraunfelder</p> <p><b>Coffee Hour:</b> Lora Rung</p>	<p><b>TRADITIONAL WORSHIP 11 A.M.</b></p> <p><b>Liturgist:</b> Barb Fraunfelder <b>Nursery:</b> Sharon Heinrich <b>Greeters:</b> Volunteers Needed</p>

**OFFICIAL BOARD NEWS**

Reports of each committee's activities are listed in the Official Board Minutes posted in Pilgrim Hall. Please take a few moments on Sunday to look at those for a snapshot picture of all the activities of the various committees, boards or groups in the church.

Official Board members and their respective committees have been busy working on upcoming events for the month of December. A list of all these events/activities is available on the Greeters' table in the Gathering area.

The Board is in the process of identifying who will serve on both the Auditing and the Nominating Committees for 2013. We thank those who have already agreed to be on these committees.

In 2014 Confirmation Sunday will be on June 8. Please mark your calendars for the new date.

Joyce Reed  
Moderator

**SERVING MEALS FOR THE POOR**

Our congregation continues to serve meals for the poor at Zion UCC on Cleveland's West Side on the first Saturday of the month. For this month the date is **Saturday, December 7, 2013**. To participate, please sign up on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area and then coordinate with others to carpool.

**CHURCH CHRISTMAS MAIL BOX**

For those who wish to send Christmas greetings to fellow members, the annual "mail box" is again available in Pilgrim Hall. Please remember to check the box for greetings you have received.



**CHRISTMAS CAROLING**

Save the date! Plan on spreading some holiday cheer on Saturday, December 7. Details are being finalized for Christmas caroling at local nursing homes and the Transitional House in Cleveland. We hope you can join in this fun and rewarding experience. More information to come!



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

WOW! The Advent season has come, and before long Christmas will be upon us. Advent is a very special time of year. It is the beginning of the church year and the time when we focus on the coming of the Christ Child.

In worship we begin the season with the hanging of the greens, when we decorate the church with all sorts of greenery that represent the everlasting and eternal nature of God.

We begin to light candles on our Advent wreath. Each candle represents another component in the Christmas story. Sometimes the candles are called Peace, Joy, Hope and Love. Other times they are called Bethlehem, Prophet, Angel and Shepherd. However, the large candle we light on Christmas Eve is the Christ Candle, which symbolizes the entrance of the Light of Christ into the world filled with darkness—a light that can be seen no matter how dark it gets. It is our mission to spread the Light of Christ to the world.

Since last Christmas we have moved forward in a focused way to help spread the Light of Christ to the entire world. We have accomplished a great deal. We have cast a vision and began a new worship service. We gathered together enough food to provide 50 families with food baskets for Thanksgiving, and we have begun to look outward to new mission fields. We have continued to grow, as can be seen by the growing number of children that attend the church. On Sunday, November 17, almost 25 children gathered with me for the Children's Message.

Still, we have not been as inviting as we could be. Many of us still don't invite our family and friends to worship. Few of us invite people outside our comfort zone to join us for worship. This is the time of year when many are longing to find a relationship with the Lord. All we need to do is invite others. Let Christ's light shine through you so that they may find their way.

I invite you to join with me in celebrating the Advent Season and Christmas with me. I especially encourage you to attend Christmas Eve Services with your church family. We will be worshipping at 7:30 p.m. and at 11:00 p.m.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Becky



## ADVENT CLASSES

The following two Advent classes will be offered this year, beginning in December. A sign-up sheet is in Pilgrim Hall.

**Dates/Time:** Mondays – December 2, 9, 16 and 23 from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 p.m.

**Leader:** Pastor Becky

**Location:** Parlor

**Topic:** Come and be surprised!

**Other Details:** All participants are asked to bring a lunch. Beverages will be provided.

Childcare is available. Please indicate on the signup sheet how many children will be coming.



**Dates/Time:** Mondays – December 2, 9, and 16 only from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

**Leader:** Pat Jefferis

**Location:** Parlor

**Topic:** Prepare for Christmas with "new eyes" and a "new heart": *Study the Gospel accounts of Jesus' birth. Reflect on the Advent season with some special meditations.*

**Other Details:** Light refreshments will be provided.

Please bring your Bible and a friend to these informal classes.

(Have a couple of "old" Christmas cards from last year? Bring them, too!)

Childcare is available. Please indicate on the signup sheet how many children will be coming.

## THANK YOU

*Thank you all for your prayers and support during my mother's long illness. Your prayers, cards and words of condolence were comforting at this time of her passing.*  
Mary Mortus

*A HUGE thank you to the Thrift Shop for paying for the cleaning and scotch-guarding of the carpeting in the Gathering Area, Parlor, classrooms, nursery, and on the steps going upstairs.*

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## THE REMEMBRANCE TREE

The Remembrance Tree is a blue spruce tree that was recently planted on the front lawn of the church. We thank:

- The Thrift Shop for purchasing the tree in honor of the founders of The Thrift Shop
- Chris Morgan for procuring the tree and coordinating its planting
- Jim and Ryan Heinrich for preparing the ground for planting
- Chase Masuga (son of Dan and Vicky) for planting the tree

The tree will be decorated during the holidays and at special times in memory of loved ones. It will be dedicated on Sunday, December 15.



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## 2014 ANNUAL CHURCH RETREAT

Last month we learned that Temple Hills will be going on "sabbatical" as of January 1, 2014. But that won't put a damper on our annual retreat in February. We'll be having it at the lovely Pilgrim Hills instead! Mark your calendar now for the weekend of February 14-16, 2014. We'll have more details in the coming weeks; but in the meantime, if you have any questions, call Charles or Aimee Jannsohn at (440) 895-1858. You can also join our Facebook group called 2014 Strongsville UCC All-Family Retreat.



## THE CHRISTMAS FUND FOR THE VETERANS OF THE CROSS

Like the Magi of old, we can honor the Christ Child by bringing a gift that will be used to support and honor those who have served and are serving our beloved United Church of Christ. The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross – retired pastors and spouses and lay employees who have served the UCC through the years but whose pension income is very small – is used to provide four programs of financial support. Approximately 1,600 UCC ministers, lay employees and their families have received assistance this past year.

- \* Emergency Grants
- \* Yearly Christmas Gift Checks
- \* Pension Supplementation
- \* Health Supplementation

The enclosed envelope can be brought to church during the Advent season. Thank you for remembering.

The Mission and Outreach Committee

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## THE THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is filled with Christmas décor and cards. Stop in Thursdays—December 5, 12 and 19. We'll be having fabulous sales on everything Christmas.

We will be closed December 26 and January 2. Regular hours will resume on January 9, 2014.

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## PAPER RECYCLING

The church's new paper recycling bin from River Valley Paper Company is now in our church parking lot -- in the same location as the old bin.

### Acceptable Items:

Brown Paper Bags  
Cardboard  
Catalogs  
Hard and Soft Bound Books  
Magazines  
Mail  
Newspapers  
Office and School Paper  
Phone books

### Not Accepted Items:

Aluminum  
Glass  
Metal  
Plastic - any type  
Styrofoam  
Trash

## HOLIDAY COOKIE SALE

Too busy to bake for the holiday season? The Diaconate will hold its seventh annual Holiday Cookie Sale on Sunday, December 15, at 10:00 a.m. Come prepared to buy all your favorite cookies. To provide bakery, please sign up on the sheet posted in Pilgrim Hall and bring your treats in half-dozen or dozen packages. All are welcome to participate!! For questions, please contact Dianne Maringer, (440) 243-3635.

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## OFFICIAL BOARD

The profit from the Turkey Dinner on November 2 was \$2,460.71. Thank you to all who supported the dinner in any way.



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## MITTEN TREE AND FAMILY OF FAITH TREE

The Mitten Tree will be in the Gathering Area from until December 8 for collecting hats, gloves, mittens and scarves for Brookside Center. On December 8 the Mitten Tree items will be removed. The tree will become the Family of Faith Tree, which we will decorate with Christmas ornaments from all of us.

Each family or household is requested to celebrate their family by donating one ornament representative of themselves. If you did not provide an ornament last year or you would like to provide an additional ornament this year, please bring your ornament to the church office in early December and include your name. Official Board will prepare a tag with your name, attach the tag to your household ornament, and then hang the ornament on the Family of Faith Tree.

Please understand that **the Christmas ornament you bring will NOT be returned to you**, but it will become part of the Christmas decorations each year. It is recommended that you **do not bring expensive heirloom ornaments**. Thank you for celebrating with your church family in the Family of Faith Tree!

Thank you for celebrating with your church family in both the Mitten Tree and the Family of Faith Tree!



## DIACONATE DAILIES

As Advent begins on Sunday, December 1, we invite you to continue to join us for the joyful season of the birth of Christ. Our Contemporary Service at 9 a.m. is doing very well. The service has a casual feel and is more laid back than the Traditional Service. Our Traditional service at 11 a.m. is going strong and growing. We encourage you to help spread the word about the great things going on at the church and encourage people to join us this Advent season.

We will again have our two Christmas Eve services: the Family Service at 7:30 p.m. and the Candlelight Service at 11 p.m. We hope you will join us for one of the services. We thank everyone who decorated the church. We greatly appreciate your help.

The Diaconate thanks everyone for their donations for our Thanksgiving baskets. Please see the Sunday bulletins for the final count of baskets. We also thank those who assisted with moving our collected food and assembling the baskets. Without all of your help, this successful program would not be possible. We look forward to continuing this program in the coming years.

Also, our Membership Committee sent Christmas cards to those members we have not seen recently to wish them a joyful holiday season. For the home-bound and ill members, we will be giving them small poinsettias. If you would like to visit someone this season, please see Pastor Becky or Rachel Zielinski.

On December 13 we will host a Blue Christmas Service for those who have lost someone this past year. We are inviting members of the community and will have a small reception after the service. If you can donate baked goods or help with the reception, please see the posted sign-up sheet in Pilgrim Hall.

Come, one and all, to our annual Diaconate Cookie Sale on December 15. This is one of our big fundraisers for the year! Please see the announcement in this newsletter for information, or see Dianne Maringer.

With the year coming to an end, many groups in the church will be looking for new members to serve on their boards. If you are interested in serving on the Diaconate, please see a member of the Nominating Committee or Rachel Zielinski. If you would just like to help with an event, please see any member of the Diaconate.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas!

Rachel Zielinski  
Diaconate Chairperson



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Christmas Pageant will be presented on Sunday, December 22. We will gather at the church at 5 p.m., and sing Christmas carols in the sanctuary, while the children prepare for the pageant. The pageant will begin at approximately 5:30 p.m. Following the pageant, we will enjoy a Christmas Potluck meal in Pilgrim Hall and then Christmas festivities! All are welcome.



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## OUR PRAYER LIST

*Hospitals no longer provide churches with names of members who are patients. If you or a family member would like a visit while hospitalized, please call the church office, (440) 238-6697.*

**Long-Term Care or Homebound Members:** Bill Betz at Chapel Hill Community in Canal Fulton, Edith Graves at Century Oak Care Center, Debbie Krause, Connie Rebar, Louetha Rieth at Sunrise Assisted Living of Dresher in PA, Erla Mae Schultz at Medina Village

**Church Family:** Holly Elkins, Janet Kato at Century Oak Care Center, Betty Kovach at Parkside Villa, Dolores Matchett, Marjorie Morrison and parents, Katie Renfro, Bill Ritchie, Doris Soucie, Rich 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 (Goddaughter 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), Kerrin Shafer (friend of Irene Jannsohn), James Smith (brother of Katie Renfro), Barbara Sommers (mother of Sheri Martin), Trudie Taylor (sister of Karen Morgan), Bob Tomko (cousin of Ed Sobek), Marge Tressa (mother of Rich)

*Please call the church with updates (440) 238-6697.*

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship will sell candy during Coffee Hour on Sunday, December 1.

*A reminder to the ladies who made their reservations—*

**Strongsville UCC Christmas Tea**  
Wednesday – December 4, 2013  
11:30 A.M. at Our Church

Please bring a sandwich to share. Your sandwich will be cut into quarters, so everyone can share samples of sandwiches they like. Tea, coffee, and Christmas cookies will be provided.

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## SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CHORUS CONCERT

The Southwest Community Chorus and the Chamber singers will present their 2013 Christmas concert, *Holiday Choral Fantasy*, on Sunday, December 1, at 3:00 in the Berea United Methodist Church at 170 Seminary Street in Berea. The chorus is directed by Thomas Foley, is accompanied by Carol Konet, and includes church members—Pam Keenen, Bruce Keenen and Frank Jefferis. Tickets are \$7.00 for adults; children under 12 are free. Please see Pam, Bruce or Frank for tickets. The DFS singers, who sing at our annual Open House, and other guest singers in our church are members of the SWCC chorus and Chamber singers. The group works very hard to put on a great show for their audience, and we think you'll enjoy the program. You will leave the concert in a great Christmas mood! Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

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**Strongsville UCC**



**HAPPY NEW YEAR'S DAY**

**Wednesday – January 1, 2014 – 8 P.M. to 10 P.M.**



**MOONROCK BOWLING**

**Only \$9.95 per person for  
ALL-YOU-CAN-BOWL & SHOE RENTAL**

**See Dale Hawk or Irene Joyce  
for more information.**



**PLEASE JOIN YOUR CHURCH FRIENDS  
AT FAIRVIEW LANES  
21347 Lorain Road in Fairview Park  
FOR LIGHTS, MUSIC & FUN !**

**SPONSORED BY THE YOUTH GROUP**

## FROM THE ORGAN RESTORATION COMMITTEE

What a wonderful time of the year! Christmas is coming, and the air is becoming filled with beautiful music. Carols are beginning to be sung in church, and our pipe organ fills our sanctuary with rich, magnificent sounds. How amazing it is to hear the organ being played to such beloved songs as *Hark the Harold Angels Sing*, *Angels We Have Heard on High* and, of course, *Silent Night*.

We are so blessed that our majestic pipe organ has been partially healed to its former grandeur. Two phases of the restoration have now been completed, and the heart of the organ is now strong and stable. The organ is beginning to sound wonderful. The organist is now able to make quality music for worship. However, the healing is not complete. There remains a great deal of work to be done to bring the organ to full life. Perhaps we might think of it this way: Our organ was very ill in the past. The two phases we have finished have taken the organ off the critical list and have stabilized our patient. While it appears to our untrained ears that things seem to be better, there are still other issues that need to be addressed to continue the healing process and to prevent a relapse. Afterwards, we will need to continue the rehab process until our organ is fully healed.

Phase Three will begin early in 2014 after the Easter season. This phase will include work on the bellows, or lungs, of the organ. It will also include work on the voicing, so the organ will sing like Enrico Caruso, rather than Pastor Becky. Still, all the work will not be accomplished with Phase Three; and Phase Four will follow, when we are able to gather the funds for the treatment. We wish that our organ had health insurance; but since it doesn't, we will work together to get her well soon.

As in all healing processes, there are some surprises—both good and bad—that will come. So far, we have been blessed that only some minor issues have come forward. As of today, we are very close to moving forward with Phase Three. The cost for Phase Three is \$37,000; and if we are able, we can include some additional work needed to bring the cost to \$59,000. Including the additional work in Phase Three will ultimately save us about \$8,000 because we won't need to re-open the organ to do the work later—like having your appendix out when the surgeon is repairing a hernia. However, this depends on our ability to gather the funds for the work.

Pastor Becky is supportive of our work. She has suggested that we look into new ways to raise funds. Rather than lots of small fundraisers, Pastor Becky recommends a couple larger ones each year. In addition, Jack and Pastor Becky plan to make a pledge over a couple years to help the process.

Lastly, if you would like to give a special gift to someone, please consider giving an Organ Stop Key Chain. The cost is \$1,000 per stop key and is a unique gift that will keep on giving for many years. Merry Christmas!

## Swingin' Carols of Christmas!

presented by  
**Strongsville City Jazz Swing Band**  
*Ken Mehalko and Jim Wonnacott*  
Co-Directors

Also Featuring  
**The Kyrie Singers**



**at Strongsville UCC**

**A Concert Fundraiser for Strongsville UCC's  
Pipe Organ Restoration**

**Sunday – December 8, 2013 – 3:00 p.m.**

### Tickets

\$15 Adults (13 and older)

\$7 Ages 6-12

Free for Children 5 and under

For tickets, please call (440) 826-0960.  
In addition, tickets may be purchased on Sunday mornings.

Nursery care will be available.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BENEFIT CONCERT

The ORC is looking for help to staff the nursery during the jazz concert. Please see Sandy O'Shea or any member of the ORC.

The ORC also needs donations of cookies or snacks for the reception following the concert.

To help, please contact any member of the Organ Restoration Committee:

Judy Gaumer, Sharon Metivier, Jim Heinrich,  
Bruce Keenen, Pam Keenen, Sarah Keenen,  
Frank Jefferis, Sandy O'Shea,  
Pastor Becky Stephenson, Susan Tressa

Thank you for your support of this endeavor.







## ANNUAL REPORTS

Chairmen of church organizations: Annual reports are due in the church office on December 31.



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## ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place Sunday, January 26, 2014, and will be preceded by the traditional Pancake Brunch. All are encouraged to attend this meeting.

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## ANNUAL REPORT BOOKLETS

After they are printed and assembled, the booklets will be available for pickup at the church. **If you want a copy mailed to you, please call the church office at (440) 238-6697.**

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## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Many offices in the church will be available for the coming year. Please consider saying yes when a member of the Nominating Committee asks you to serve. Some of the positions that are available include serving on the:

**Diaconate**, which oversees the worship operations and church services. The committees of the Diaconate are Acolytes, Altar, Coffee Hour, Funeral, Greeters, Membership, Nursery, Pastoral Relations, Special Events and Ushers.

**Board of Trustees**, which oversees the finances and physical plant of the church. The committees of the Trustees are Building and Grounds, Finance, and Long-Range Planning.

Remember the old but true saying, *Many hands make light work*. Plan to be a part of one of these boards or committees. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

## FINANCIAL OFFICERS OF CHURCH GROUPS:

Please turn in your financial statements to the Auditing Committee through the church office by December 31. It is extremely important that all books be audited before the Annual Meeting on January 26, 2014. All organizations are required to submit:

1. ALL bank books (savings and/or checking)
2. ALL bank statements for each month for each account. Checking accounts statements should show completed reconciliation on the back.
3. ALL monthly recap forms
4. ALL bank deposit slips, withdrawal slips and bank check receipts (if received), attached to monthly recap forms
5. ALL receipts and bills paid
6. Copy of Annual Financial Report (original provided to church office for Annual Report)

Thank you for your cooperation.

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## THREE ATTEND ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

The Western Reserve Association Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, November 2, at St. Paul's UCC in Elyria with three delegates from our church attending—Lloyd Bridle, Ray Suttle, and Erv Koch. Dr. Rita Root now serves as Association General Minister for both Western Reserve and Eastern Association, making it the largest “experiment” in the UCC.

As a result of the merger, significant savings were achieved, and there is finally a fairly healthy balance in the treasury, with more being able to be sent to support both the Ohio Conference and the denomination (OCWM), as well as continue active programs in both Associations. The Adopted Budget for 2014 calls for expenditures of \$665,266.

Two historic UCC churches in the WRA were closed during the past year—St. Luke's UCC in Old Brooklyn and Liberation UCC in Lakewood. Christina Kukuk, organizer of the new church start, Embody UCC in Cleveland Heights, spoke about that enthusiastic group now meeting. The Rev. Dr. Linda Jaramillo, Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries, also gave an interesting, informative talk. There were over 150 delegates in attendance. We're “alive and well!”



## STEEPLE LIGHTING

December 2013

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.



### Week of November 3, 2013

*In Memory of Richard Dickinson,  
brother of our member Don—Miss Ya  
Love, Lola*

*In Honor of My Grandson, Chase Masuga, who is always  
there when I need him, and for helping plant the church's  
Remembrance Tree—Love Ya, Chase  
Love, Banny*

*In Remembrance of My Parents—  
my father Nicholas, who passed away  
on November 5, 1994, and my mother Peggy,  
who passed away on November 5, 2002  
Gary Paul*

### Week of November 10, 2013

*Happy Birthday to Zach Craig on November 13  
With love, Grammy*

*In Memory of Our Special Friends,  
Dick and Ruth Saylor—Miss You Both  
Len and Bev Lane*

### Week of November 17, 2013

*Celebrating Our 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
John and Maggie Struhar*

### Week of November 24, 2013

*Happy 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to Debbie and Larry Wentz  
on November 24  
Happy Birthday to Steve Popovich on November 28  
With love, Mom and Grammy*

*Happy Birthday to My Grandson, Oscar  
Barb Fraunfelder*

*Prayers for those in Washington and  
Special Prayers of Thanksgiving for  
Leaving the Sander Family Unscathed*

Dear Santa,

*It's your old friend, Pastor Becky. First, I really appreciate the lump of coal you brought me last year. It has reminded me all year to be good.*

*Today I'm writing you to ask for your help. Every year some of my friends in the church ask me what they can give the church for Christmas. Naturally I tell them:*

*First, give to those outside the church who are in most need, especially the children. You have taught me that it very important to bring a bit of hope and joy to everyone, especially at Christmas and especially to the children.*

*Then I encourage them to include others in their Christmas celebrations, especially those who might be alone. By the way, there is always room at the Parsonage especially on Christmas morning. Jack and I really enjoy having friends for dinner on Christmas Day. If you're available, stop by and bring the Mrs. and the elves, too.*

*Even after giving these suggestions, there are some who wish to do more. There are some who wish to give Christ's Church a gift. After asking around the church, here are a few ideas:*

*New keyboard for contemporary worship - \$1,200*

*Wireless mikes for contemporary service  
(need 3) - \$400 each*

*Choir chairs - \$100 each*

*Case of paper for office - \$20*

*Refillable altar candles - \$300*

*Camel for manger - \$1,500*

*Organ restoration - \$60,000 – You can make a donation of \$1,000 and get an Organ Stop Key Chain to give to a friend, or to hang on your Christmas tree.*

*So in case anyone asks, please let them know what's on the list. Speaking of lists, I hope I made it to the Nice List this year. Also, if you come Christmas day, just look for the house with all the Christmas trees in the yard. Feel free to park your sleigh anywhere you like.*

*Your servant in Christ,*

*Pastor Becky*

