

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 16, 2014

9:00 A.M.

† Those who are able may stand.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONGS

26 *Great Is the Lord*
3 *Almighty*

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O lilies of the field, we of all colors and all varieties,
GOD calls us to hear the Word.

People: **As those who have been planted in faith,
we turn our flower faces to you, O GOD.**

Leader: O people of the plains, the cities and the
mountains, we of all colors, theologies and life
choices, we are God's field. Come into God's
sanctuary with joy!

People: **You have cultivated us, O GOD. Let us vine and
blossom and bear the fruit of your integrity.**

Leader: O, we of mustard seeds and wheat, we of little faith
and great, we come.

People: **We come to the Living Waters, to the Sun of
love and light. We will drink of your ways, O
GOD, and we will sow your seeds.**

Leader: O, all who are of the world, come and see what
GOD has grown.

People: **We come to worship you. We stand in the
sunshine of your living word. We prosper in
your paths, O GOD, as the lilies of your field.**

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

GATHERING SONG

54 *Lord, Be Glorified*

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

El Shaddai

† **BRING GIFTS FORWARD 88** *We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise*

SCRIPTURE 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 New Testament, p. 151

MEDITATION "*Christian Olympics*" Kenn Oerkfitz

CLOSING SONGS 48 *Jesus, Name Above All Names*
55 *Lord, I Lift Your Name on High*

† BENEDICTION

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are
welcome here.

Songs are from the white *Contemporary Worship Songbook*.

We thank Kenn Oerkfitz for leading us in worship this morning,
while Pastor Becky is attending the Annual Retreat in Pilgrim Hills.

Serving Today

Music Director / Drummer	Andrew Purdum
Organist / Pianist	Susan Stevenson Tressa
Substitute Organist / Pianist	Jaclyn Ford
Guitarist	Leland Krause
Song Leaders	Tiffany Schmidt, Kyra Krause
Graphics Operation	Sharon Heinrich
Liturgist	Tom Gaumer
Coffee Hour	Gina Cathcart

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

February 16, 2014

11:00 A.M.

† *Those who are able may stand.*

PRELUDE

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: O lilies of the field, we of all colors and all varieties, GOD calls us to hear the Word.

People: As those who have been planted in faith, we turn our flower faces to you, O GOD.

Leader: O people of the plains, the cities and the mountains, we of all colors, theologies and life choices, we are God's field. Come into God's sanctuary with joy!

People: You have cultivated us, O GOD. Let us vine and blossom and bear the fruit of your integrity.

Leader: O, we of mustard seeds and wheat, we of little faith and great, we come.

People: We come to the Living Waters, to the Sun of love and light. We will drink of your ways, O GOD, and we will sow your seeds.

Leader: O, all who are of the world, come and see what GOD has grown.

People: We come to worship you. We stand in the sunshine of your living word. We prosper in your paths, O GOD, as the lilies of your field.

† **HYMN 209**

This Is the Day

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 PRAYER RESPONSE

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

† **DOXOLOGY** (No. 815)

† **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

† **HYMN 597**

Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 New Testament, p. 151

SERMON

"Christian Olympics"

Kenn Oerkfitz

† **HYMN 562**

Be Thou My Vision

† **BENEDICTION**

† **POSTLUDE**

We thank Kenn Oerkfitz for leading us in worship this morning, while Pastor Becky is attending the Annual Retreat in Pilgrim Hills.

Serving Today

Director of Music

Andrew Purdum

Organist / Pianist

Susan Stevenson Tressa

Substitute Organist / Pianist

Jaclyn Ford

Liturgist

Tom Gaumer

Greeters

Betty Craig and Ginny Oerkfitz

Nursery

Beth Giuliano

Coffee Hour

Gina Cathcart

ANNOUNCEMENTS – FEBRUARY 16, 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.

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

*Happy Birthday to Barbara Craig on February 18 and
Happy Birthday to Pam Craig on February 22
With love, Mom*

Our love and prayers are extended in sympathy—

To Bonnie Khavaran and family on the passing of her brother, Judd Deutsch, on January 26. The funeral was held on January 31 in Easton, Pennsylvania.

To our church friend, Melinda Slavik, and her family on the passing of her husband, Richard, on February 2. The funeral was held on February 7 at Jardine's.

Many members and friends of our church are attending the Annual Church Retreat in Pilgrim Hills this weekend. **We thank Brigitte and Dave Matchett** for teaching Sunday School this morning.

Worship Team will meet Wednesday, February 19, at 9:00 a.m.

Seminary Sunday is next Sunday, when a special offering will be received for our three CUE seminaries—Chicago, United and Eden—which train men and women for church-related vocations. Our ongoing support makes it possible for these Midwestern schools to attract students who will become tomorrow's church leaders, support the first-class faculties who teach them, and maintain their historic campuses in Chicago, the Twin Cities area (United), and St. Louis (Eden) – CUE. They are grateful for our support because it helps sustain and expand programs that meet the needs of the Church today and tomorrow. If you wish to give today, please use the white and blue CHICAGO UNITED EDEN envelope in the pew racks. We are a "Six for Six" *Special Offering Congregation*, which is something special. Thank you!

Dr. Peter Makari will be with us for both services next Sunday. He serves both the UCC and Disciples of Christ – Christian Church as Area Executive for the Middle East and Europe, Board for Global Ministries of the denominations with offices here in Cleveland. (He and his family belong to Olmsted Community UCC.) Dr. Makari earned an M.A. in Middle East Studies from the American University in Cairo, and a Ph.D. in Politics and Middle East Studies from New York University. He will

speaking about the difficulties and challenges of our Christian brothers and sisters in that part of our troubled world, and the role our missionaries are playing in the 80 countries where they serve. After the 9:00 a.m. worship service, Dr. Makari will meet with those interested for a 45-minute question-and-answer period. Coffee, tea and snacks will be available.

From the Organ Restoration Committee: A congregational meeting will take place Sunday, March 2, at 10:00 a.m. to update the congregation on our progress. To date we have raised \$138,000 and have completed half of the restoration (electronics and Great division). We still have the Swell and Choir divisions to complete and will update you on our plans on March 2.

Also for the Congregational Meeting on March 2 at 10:00 a.m., we will approve our proposed Mission Statement and our proposed Vision.

From the Mission and Outreach Committee – Clay Williams has brought to our attention "The Eliminate Project". Kiwanis is partnering with UNICEF to eliminate maternal/neonatal tetanus, a highly preventable disease that kills one baby every nine minutes. Our committee is making a donation to this worthy cause and encourages members of our congregation, who are interested in helping, to make a donation. Donations can be made with a check payable to the "Kiwanis International Foundation" and writing "The Eliminate Project" on the memo line. The check can be inserted in a plain envelope or a pew envelope marked "The Eliminate Project" and placed in the offering plate. Thank you for your support.

Memorial Fund Donations for Music Chairs – The new chairs in the sanctuary were purchased after a search by Music Committee members. These 30 chairs are needed for the choir on a routine basis, for special programs, and can be used for extra sanctuary seating. Some key features are the neutral color, stackability (with a book rack in place), and comfort. The chairs are being paid for by the Memorial Fund and by contributions. \$50 supports the purchase of a chair. If you would like to help, please write a check to the *Strongsville UCC Memorial Fund*, and forward it to Greg Dickson, along with the information if you're purchasing it in memory of or in honor of someone. The Committee is investigating a way to label the chairs to recognize individual donations.

Greeters and ushers are needed for 11:00 a.m. worship. Please help if you are available. The signup sheets are now on the Gathering Area bulletin board. (The 9:00 a.m. service is casual and has no sign-up for greeters and ushers.)

Paper Recycling – The paper bin from River Valley Paper Company is in our church parking lot. **Please break down boxes before putting them into the bin.** **Acceptable items:** brown paper bags, cardboard, catalogs, hard and soft bound books, magazines, mail, newspapers, office and school paper, phone books. **Unacceptable items:** aluminum, glass, metal, plastic of any type, styrofoam, trash.

Due to your generosity, The Thrift Shop is overstocked right now! If you could, please hold your donations until further notice. Thank you for your cooperation. However, when you do provide donations, please label them “Thrift Shop” to avoid confusion. Thank you!

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: Bill Betz at Chapel Hill Community in Canal Fulton, Edith Graves at Century Oak Care Center, Betty Kovach at Emeritus at Brookside Estates (15435 Bagley Road), Debbie Krause, Connie Rebar, Erla Mae Schultz at Medina Village

Church Family: Judy Carte, Holly Elkins, Margot James, Janet Kato at ManorCare of Parma, Dolores Matchett, Barbara Morgan, Joyce Reed, Susan Tressa

Extended Church Family: June Brewer (niece of Ed Powers), Ryan Brubeck, Logan Churnega (grandson of Ginny Churnega), Megan Craig (granddaughter of Rev. Larry and Christina Craig), Audrey and Gene Curry (parents of Pam Keenen), Zachary Crouse (grandson of Barbara Morgan), 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), Barbara Sommers (mother of Sheri Martin), Trudie Taylor (sister of Karen Morgan), Bob Tomko (cousin of Ed Sobek), Marge Tressa (mother of Rich)

Serving Next Sunday – February 23, 2014

Liturgist	9:00 a.m. Barb Fraunfelder	11:00 a.m. Lynne McCray
Greeter		Roy Merkle
Nursery		Vicky Masuga
Coffee Hour		Lora Rung
Ushers		Volunteers Needed

February 2014

- 14-15-16 Winter Retreat at Pilgrim Hills
- 19 Wed Worship Team Meeting, 9:00 a.m.
- 20 Thu Journey in Faith Class, 7 p.m.
- 23 Sun Guest speaker - Dr. Peter Makari
Seminary Sunday – CUE offering received
Youth Group Meeting, 3 p.m.
- 25 Tue Official Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- 27 Thu Journey in Faith Class, 7 p.m.

March 2014

- 2 Sun Sacrament of Communion at both services
Congregational Meeting about Organ Restoration and approving our Mission and Vision statements, 10 a.m.
Youth Group Meeting, 3 p.m.
- 5 Wed Worship Team, 9 a.m.
Ash Wednesday Worship, 7:30 p.m.
- 6 Thu Journey in Faith Class, 7 p.m.
- 8 Sat Executive Team Meeting, 9 a.m. at the parsonage
- 9 Mon Youth Group Meeting, 3 p.m.
Lenten Meal 6 p.m. followed by Worship at 7 p.m.
- 10 Mon Lenten Bible Studies – 12 noon and 7 p.m.
- 11 Tue Diaconate Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 13 Thu Journey in Faith Class, 7 p.m.
- 14 Fri Prepare for Roast Pork Dinner in Pilgrim Hall, 9 a.m.
- 15 Sat Roast Pork Dinner
- 16 Sun Youth Group Meeting, 3 p.m.
Lenten Meal 6 p.m. followed by Worship at 7 p.m.
- 17 Mon Lenten Bible Studies – 12 noon and 7 p.m.
- 19 Wed Worship Team, 9 a.m.
Women’s Fellowship Candy Making, 9 a.m.
- 20 Thu Journey in Faith Class, 7 p.m.
- 21 Fri Women’s Fellowship Candy Making, 9 a.m.
- 23 Sun Youth Group Meeting, 3 p.m.
Lenten Meal 6 p.m. followed by Worship at 7 p.m.
- 24 Mon Women’s Fellowship Candy Making, 9 a.m.
Lenten Bible Studies – 12 noon and 7 p.m.
- 25 Tue Official Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- 26 Wed Women’s Fellowship Candy Making, 9 a.m.
- 27 Thu Journey in Faith Class, 7 p.m.
- 28 Fri Women’s Fellowship Candy Packaging, 10:30 a.m.
- 29 Sat Youth Group Spaghetti Dinner
- 30 Sun One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
Women’s Fellowship Candy Sale during coffee hour
Youth Group Meeting, 3 p.m.
Lenten Meal 6 p.m. followed by Worship at 7 p.m.
- 31 Mon Lenten Bible Studies – 12 noon and 7 p.m.

Our Proposed Vision . . .

A world filled with God's love, where all are welcome at God's table.

Our Proposed Mission Statement . . .

Wherever you are on life's journey, the Strongsville United Church of Christ (Congregational) welcomes all to become passionate followers of Christ through Unconditional Love with Justice and Peace † Meaningful Prayer † The Celebration of Worship † Uplifting Music † Mutual Support † Joy of Service † Honoring Creation † the Giving Spirit, where all are welcome at God's table.