


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
Traditional Worship 9:45 A.M. Sunday
Contemporary Worship 11:15 A.M. Sunday

FEBRUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

<p>FEBRUARY 1 <i>Fourth Sunday after Epiphany</i></p> <p>Scriptures: Mark 1:21-28 Sermon: <i>Power to Do</i></p> <p>Communion at Both Services</p> 	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M. <i>Installation of New Officers</i></p> <p>Liturgist: Bruce Keenen Greeter: Sharon Ritchie Usher: Roy Merkle Nursery: Sarah Herzog Coffee Hour: Rosemary Bechtel</p>	<p>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Jack Stephenson Greeters: Needed Graphics Operation: Vicky Masuga Coffee Hour: Rosemary Bechtel</p>
<p>FEBRUARY 8 <i>Fifth Sunday after Epiphany</i></p> <p>Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Sermon: <i>Free to Be a Slave</i></p>	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Kelly Bickley Greeters: The Bickley Family Ushers: Needed Nursery: Dianne Maringer Coffee Hour: Sarah Hayes</p>	<p>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Dan Masuga Greeters: Needed Graphics Operation: Rosemary Bechtel Coffee Hour: Sarah Hayes</p>
<p>FEBRUARY 15 <i>The Transfiguration</i></p> <p>Scriptures: 2 Kings 2:1-12 Sermon: <i>Up, Up and Away</i></p>	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Dale Hawk Greeters: Joyce Reed and Dianne Maringer Ushers: Needed Nursery: Ginny Oerkfitz Coffee Hour: Sarah Herzog</p>	<p>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Tom Gaumer Greeters: Needed Graphics Operation: Vicky Masuga Coffee Hour: Sarah Herzog</p>
<p>FEBRUARY 18 – ASH WEDNESDAY EVENING WORSHIP – 7:30 P.M.</p>		
<p>FEBRUARY 22 <i>First Sunday in Lent</i></p> <p>Scriptures: Psalm 25:1-10 Sermon: <i>Pathways</i></p> <p>----- Lenten Meal and Study at 6 P.M.</p>	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Sarah Hayes Greeter: Roy Merkle Ushers: Needed Nursery: Rosemary Bechtel Coffee Hour: Bev Wehr</p>	<p>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Barb Fraunfelder Greeters: Needed Graphics Operation: Rosemary Bechtel Coffee Hour: Bev Wehr</p>

ANNUAL REPORT BOOKLETS

Booklets are available in the Gathering Area. If you want a copy mailed to you, please call the church office at (440) 238-6697.



DIACONATE DAILIES

As January comes to a close, one month is already over for 2015, and a lot is happening at church. Pastor Becky started a new Journey in Faith class. Also, we had our Annual Meeting and election. I welcome our new Diaconate members and regretfully say goodbye to our off-going members: Cathy Hawk, Sarah Hayes, and Rachel Zielinski. Their dedication to our church is inspirational.

As February starts, many activities will be coming to life. We are already planning our Lenten and Easter services. If you would like to join one of our committees, we would love to have you. We have several committees with various duties including Acolytes, Altar, Coffee Hour, Funeral, Greeters, Membership, Special Events, Ushers, and Worship Team. To serve on or help with any of the committees, please see a member of the Diaconate.

We will be starting to look for volunteers to assist with upcoming coffee hours. We also are need ushers and greeters for both services. Please see the sign-up sheets in the Gathering Area or Pilgrim Hall. In addition, if you would like to help with Communion, please see Beth Giuliano. We are always happy to have you and your ideas!

Please watch for exciting things coming from the Diaconate in the coming months. We are planning some new ideas. Personally, I would like to thank everyone for their love and support during my pregnancy so far—especially to my fellow Diaconate members, who stepped up and took over my duties while I was hospitalized and on bed rest.

Thanks you!

Rachel Zielinski
Chairperson

INSTALLATION OF NEW CHURCH OFFICERS

Officers elected at the Annual Meeting on January 25 will be installed on Sunday, February 1, during the 9:45 a.m. worship service.

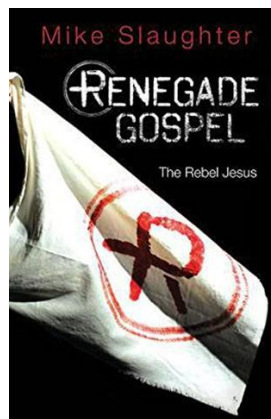


ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

We will begin the season of Lent on Wednesday, February 18, at 7:30 p.m. with a worship service in our sanctuary and the imposition of ashes. Nursery care will be available.

LENTEN STUDY

Pastor Becky will lead a Lenten Study on the book, Renegade Gospel, by Mike Slaughter on the Sundays of February 22 through March 29. We will enjoy a meal at church at 6:00 p.m., with the study following at 7:00 p.m. This book presents Jesus and his challenging message to inspire us during Lent, Easter, and throughout the year. Please contact Pastor Becky to sign up for the study.



NEW SIGN-UP CHARTS IN GATHERING AREA

The 2015 sign-up charts for Greeters, Ushers and Altar Flowers are now on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area. Please help in these areas if you can. Assistance is greatly appreciated!



For the Altar Flowers Chart – Please indicate how many vases you want that day. Our church typically has two vases on the altar on Sunday morning, but we will accommodate as many as requested. The cost is \$15 per vase. Additional information is on the flower form that is beneath the flower chart in the Gathering Area.

All are welcome.



IN SYMPATHY

Our love and prayers are extended in sympathy to three families:

To Margot James and family on the passing of her sister, Elizabeth Baar, on January 7, 2015.
The funeral took place January 15

To Kristine Fischer and family
on the passing of her brother-in-law, Dave Fischer,
on January 4, 2015.
The funeral was held on January 8.

To the family of Bob Herron on the occasion
of his passing on December 8, 2014.
Bob was our church custodian for many years.

KIDS FOR CHRIST CLUB

Penny Sundays – Thanks to the effort and determination of our youngest churchgoers and the generosity of our grown-ups, since Penny Sundays began in September we have been able to raise \$297.32 for the Strongsville Food Bank! WOW! Keep saving those pennies (and nickels, dimes, quarters, and dollars) so you have something to share with our little ones as they come around with their cans at our next Penny Sunday! They always are the LAST Sunday of the month. The next one is Sunday, January 25. Here are the rest of the Penny Sundays for the year:

- February 22
- March 29
- April 26
- May 31
- June 28
- July 26
- August 30
- September 27
- October 25
- November 29
- December 27



SOUPer Bowl Sunday Canned Soup Drive – Super Bowl Sunday is always a day filled with fun, food, and football! Let's make it even better this year by helping our neighbors in need. When you come to church on SOUPer Bowl Sunday, February 1, please bring a can (or two!) of soup to donate to the Strongsville Food Bank. This food will go far in helping those families in Strongsville who struggle month to month to make ends meet and keep healthy food in their pantries. K.F.C. Club members will be collecting the cans before and after services that day. If you will not be in church that Sunday, please feel free to bring your cans before that and give them to Kelly Bickley, Jamie-Lyn Habart, or any child of the church. You can also bring them to Pastor Becky and Jack's Super Bowl party that day! We'll be collecting them there as well :) **THANK YOU!**



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

On Sunday mornings:
GREET OR USHER

Sign-up sheets are in the Gathering Area.

HELP and / or PROVIDE BAKERY
for the

Roast Pork Dinner on February 28, 2015
The sign-up sheet is in Pilgrim Hall.

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.

Long-Term Care or Homebound Members:

Janet Kato at Western Reserve Masonic Community in Medina, Sandra Kornick at Falling Water, Betty Kovach at Parkside Villa, Debbie Krause, Connie Rebar, Erla Mae Schultz at Medina Village

Church Family: Rhea Clements at Parkside Villa, Charles Jannsohn at MetroHealth Medical Center, Vicky Masuga, Michele Mihlack, Ann Sullen at Parkside Villa, Rachel Zielinski

Extended Church Family: Ryan Brubeck, Bill Clements (brother of Rhea) at Parkside Villa, Zachary Crouse (grandson of Barbara Morgan), Rebecca Deeb (Godaughter of Lora Rung, Donna Fargo (mother of Sally Herzog), Ruth Fraley (relative of the Jannsohn family), Irene Hagemeyer (niece of Betty Craig), Phyllis Keenen (mother of Bruce), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Paul Mihlack (father of Allen) at Parkside Villa, Trudie Taylor (sister of Karen Morgan), Bob Tomko (cousin of Ed Sobek), Marilyn Woodward (mother of David and Carol)

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



THANK YOU

I would like to thank the congregation for their cards, thoughts and prayers on the death of my mom, Hallie Strine. I would also like to thank Pastor Becky and Betty Craig for attending Mom's calling hours in Ashland, Ohio. The expressions of sympathy and kindness have been greatly appreciated.

Barb Camp

A belated thank you to all for the Christmas cards given to my wife and me. I was absent from church in December because of illness and just got the cards recently. We appreciate your kindness. Thank you.

Don Kovach

*A **HUGE** Thank You to the Thrift Shop for paying for our new red carpeting in the sanctuary!*

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP CANDY MAKING

We will make candy for Easter on March 2, 6, 9 and 13. Help is needed for this project. Please tell Lola Millhoane or Betty Craig if you can help. Men and women are welcome to join in the fun!

MEN'S LUNCHEON New Meeting Day

From now on, the Men's Luncheon will take place on the

Fourth WEDNESDAY of the month

The next luncheon date is February 25 at 11:30 a.m. at the routine meeting place:



European's Best Restaurant
and Bakery
19608 West 130th Street
Strongsville, Ohio 44136

As always, all men are welcome!

Strongsville UCC

ROAST PORK, KIELBASA & SAUERKRAUT DINNER

Saturday – February 28, 2015

Seatings at 5:00 P.M. and 6:30 P.M.

Reservations Only: (216) 598-6198

Adults - \$10 Ages 6-12 - \$5 Under 6 – Free

The Thrift Shop will be open.

Help is needed. The signup sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. For safety reasons, no children under age 6 (with or without parent) can be helpers in any capacity during the serving hours of 5:00 to 7:15 p.m. Children who are 6 to 10 years old must have a parent helping them. Adult help is needed. If you will be donating bakery or helping, please sign up because we cannot assume your participation.

THE THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is stocked with lots of winter items: coats, jackets, and sweaters for the entire family. We also have a nice selection of Valentine's Day décor, cards, and clothing. We will be open Thursdays in February and during the church Roast Pork Dinner on Saturday, February 28.

Donations are always needed. Have any unwanted Christmas gifts? We will recycle them for you. Toys and children's clothing are always good sellers. Videos, especially DVDs, also sell quickly; but our best seller is jewelry.

Please think of The Thrift Shop when you are looking to recycle unwanted books, magazines, greeting cards, clothing, toys, music, fabric, puzzles, games, home décor, holiday items, shoes and boots, linens, jewelry and greeting cards.

Stop in on a Thursday between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to shop or visit.

STEEPLE LIGHTING

For the Week of January 11, 2015

*Kaylee, our beautiful Elkie mix,
we will see you at the Rainbow Bridge*
Claudia Bader and Jim Nicoulin

For the Week of January 18, 2015

Happy Birthday to Tony Tran on January 20
With love, Grammy

*To Celebrate Our January Birthdays—
Rachel on January 16, Kennedy on January 18, and
Chris on January 19*
The Chris Morgan Family

For the Week of January 25, 2015

*For Cathy Hawk, Sarah Hayes and Rachel Zielinski
for their service on the Diaconate*



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.

200TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK

As part of our church's 200th anniversary In 2017, Strongsville UCC will be printing a new, one-of-a-kind . . . cookbook! We would like to include old recipes passed down through generations from your families and friends. Also we want any new recipes you are currently loving! Please submit all recipes in an envelope with your name and phone number to Marty Winch, Dianne Maringer, or place under the church office door. Thank you.



WEDNESDAY FREE LUNCH PROGRAM



The program is in operation! 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. Doors open at 11:30 a.m., and lunch is served from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed. A signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area.

♪ ♪ **CHURCH MUSIC REHEARSALS** ♪ ♪

Wednesday Evening

Praise Band - 8:00 to 9:30 p.m.

Thursday Evening

Children's Choir - 6:30 to 7:15 p.m.

Children's Band - 7:15 to 8:00 p.m.

Bell Choir - 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Chancel Choir - 8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

If you'd like to be part of our church Music Ministry or
for more information, please contact:

Elena Taylor about Praise Band and Children's Music

Barb Fraunfelder about Bell Choir

Ken Mehalko (interim choir director) about Chancel Choir