

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
Blended Worship 11:15 A.M. Sunday

FEBRUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

FEBRUARY 7

The Transfiguration

Scriptures: Ephesians 34:29-35

Sermon:
When We See God's Face

Communion at Both Services

TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M.

**Installation of New Church Officers
Retreat Meeting after Worship**

Liturgist: Bruce Keenen

Morning Announcements:
Kim McKenzie

Greeter: Linda Plain

Coffee Hour: Dianne Maringer

BLENDED 11:15 A.M.

Installation of New Church Officers

Liturgist: Bill Schneider

Morning Announcements:
Kim McKenzie

Graphics Operation:

Lori Kovatich

ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 10

EVENING WORSHIP AT 7:30 P.M.

Liturgist: Jack Stephenson

Greeter: Volunteer Needed

FEBRUARY 14

*First Sunday in Lent
(Retreat Weekend)*

Scriptures:
Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Mark 1:14-20

Sermon:
Getting Your Just Desserts

TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M.

Morning Announcements:
Irene Joyce

Greeter: Ginny Dangelo

Coffee Hour: Ginny Oerkfitz

BLENDED 11:15 A.M.

Liturgist: Lora Rung

Morning Announcements:
Irene Joyce

Graphics Operation:

Sharon Heinrich

FEBRUARY 21

Second Sunday in Lent

Scriptures: Luke 9:37-43a

Sermon: *Casting Out Demons*

Lenten Study 5pm in Pilgrim Hall

TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M.

Liturgist: Lynne McCray

Morning Announcements:
Natalie Daniels

Greeter: Volunteer Needed

BLENDED 11:15 A.M.

Liturgist: Kenn Oerkfitz

Morning Announcements:
Natalie Daniels

Graphics Operation:

Adria Bond

FEBRUARY 28

Third Sunday in Lent

Scriptures: Luke 13:1-9

Sermon: *Bear Fruit*

Lenten Study 5pm in Pilgrim Hall

TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M.

Liturgist: Ted Bickley

Morning Announcements:
Denise Bell

Greeters:
Jim Nicoulin, Claudia Bader

BLENDED 11:15 A.M.

Liturgist: Michele Mihlack

Morning Announcements:
Denise Bell

Graphics Operation:

Adria Bond

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

This past Sunday, January 31, was one of the most important days in the life of Strongsville UCC. This past Sunday we, as a church, agreed to take a giant step in faith and hire an Associate Pastor of Families and Youth. I don't know if we have ever had an Associate Pastor; but beginning today, we are actively engaged in seeking a Christ-centered leader who will help us reach out to families and youth.

While we all agreed to hire this person, we must never think that by having a staff person we are off the hook with putting a strong effort to reach out to others. On the contrary, we are all called to double our efforts to support families and youth.

Our first job will be to gather a Search Team to continue developing the job description for the position. The team will then actively search for a new Associate Pastor. This process will be a grueling one that will take time and prayer. I believe many candidates will be interviewed before God directs us on which one to choose.

Secondly, we will need a team of persons to become the Advisory/Support Team for this person. This team will be actively involved with the new Associate Pastor, and will find ways to help reach out to the community. They will help the new Associate Pastor get involved both within and outside the church with things like ideas for activities, transportation, and fund raising. They will help secure the funding for this position and, I believe, will be a great help for the church to grow.

Lastly, we all will need to go the extra mile with our giving and support for the new Associate Pastor. I believe that each staff person has a responsibility not only to maintain our current congregation, but also to promote church growth. I expect that each staff person will help our church in some manner to reach new family members for Christ Jesus.

We are about to make a great stride for Christ in our community. We must all be renewed in whatever area we are called to serve so that together we can be the body of Christ in Strongsville.

If you would like to be part of the Search Team or the Advisory/Support Team for the new Associate Pastor of Families and Youth, please let Kim McKenzie or me know.

Pastor Becky



ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

We will begin the season of Lent on Wednesday, February 10, at 7:30 p.m. with a worship service in our sanctuary and the imposition of ashes.

CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2016

*Officers elected on January 31, 2016,
have an asterisk* by their names.*

Moderator	Kim McKenzie
Vice Moderator	Sally Herzog
Clerk	Karen Morgan

SS Superintendents Jamie Habart, Irene Joyce

Board of Trustees

Ed Bond*	Bob Kovatich*
Lloyd Bridle	Ken Mehalko*
Jim Dettmer	Melinda Slavik
Bill Giuliano*	Ray Suttle
Sarah Hayes	Rachel Zielinski

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson*	Irene Jannsohn*
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Diaconate

Ginny McKenzie Basenback	Dan Davis*
Denise Bell	Kris Fischer*
Adria Bond*	Dianne Maringer
Gina Cathcart	Michele Mihlack
Ginny Churnega Oerkfitz*	Cheryl Sobek*
Ginny Dangelo	

Christian Education Committee

Jamie Habart	Joyce Reed
Sharon Heinrich	Lora Rung
Irene Joyce	

Music Committee

Ingrid Dickson	Pam Keenen*	Elena Taylor
Barb Fraunfelder	Ken Mehalko	Claire Wills

Stewardship Committee

Rosemary Bechtel*	Gina Gigliotti	Chris Minnick
Barbara Bridle	Sue Gigliotti	Linda Plain
Natalie Daniels	Laurie Meister	Darla Wickline

Mission and Outreach Committee

Claudia Bader	Greg Dickson	Lora Rung*
Judy Carte	Jim Nicoulin	

A special thank you to all persons who served the church and completed their terms of office.

SIX-WEEK LENTEN STUDY

Pastor Becky will lead a study on Adam Hamilton's book, John – The Gospel of Light and Life. Encounter the Gospel of John and experience a season of spiritual growth and life-changing renewal, while exploring the major themes of the Gospel. Along with Hamilton's comments, the book includes the entire text of the Gospel of John, divided into six parts for ease of reading and study. Two study times are offered: **Sunday evening at 5 p.m.** on February 21 and 28, March 6, 13 and 20, April 3; and **Tuesday daytime at 12 noon** on February 23, March 1, 8, 15 and 22, April 5. Both studies include soup and sandwich. All are welcome.

THE STRONGSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST RECITAL SERIES

Sunday – March 13, 2016 – 4:00 P.M.

featuring the music of

**The Venner Clarinet Choir
and
Rebecca Konow, Cellist
Joshua Konow, Pianist**

Freewill Offering

All are welcome!



NEWS FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY Barb Fraunfelder

The following is a monthly report listing the budget income we need to receive from Pledges and Offerings and the amount received from December 20, 2015, through January 17, 2016. This information also appears on a weekly basis in our worship bulletin.

Offering Needed for 5 Sundays:	\$15,950
Offering Received (Dec. 20 through Jan. 17)	\$22,892
Traditional: \$16,444 Contemporary: \$6,448	
Difference	\$6,942



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 7, 2016



KFC (Kids for Christ) are collecting cans of soup through Sunday, February 7. This is a great project for the children and one we can all easily support. A special collection area is in our Gathering Area, or the cans be placed in the Food Bank container in Pilgrim Hall.

COMMUNION DURING LENT



At our 11:15 a.m. worship service, we will celebrate the Sacrament of Communion every Sunday during Lent.

WINTER RETREAT

The annual All-Family Winter Retreat will take place on President's Day weekend: February 12, 13 and 14. Unfortunately, all rooms have been reserved and we cannot accept any more reservations. However, Saturday is our "Fun Day" and if you would like to join the group for Saturday only, you can still do so. The cost is \$5 for lunch and \$10 for dinner. This is a good opportunity for those that may not want to spend the night or perhaps find out why we do this every year. Please contact Aimée or Charles Jannsohn if you'd like to be a "Saturday-only" guest. Thank you!

The Retreat planning meeting at church will take place on Sunday, February 7, after the Traditional Service in the pre-school Sunday School classroom.

CHILD SPONSORSHIP

Our church continues to sponsor young Caroline Y from the Family Village Farm and School in Vellore, India. If you would like to sponsor her for a month, please sign up on the new chart for 2016 on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Please make you check payable to **Strongsville United Church of Christ** and on the memo line and/or the envelope write: **Child Sponsorship** and the **month** you are sponsoring her. Please place your donation into the offering plate. Your \$30 a month gift will cover her tuition, fees, textbooks and other expenses. 100% of your gift goes directly toward her expenses at the school.

We thank our sponsors in 2015: Sunday School, Erv and Grace Koch, Gina Cathcart, Tiffany and Nicole Ashforth, Claudia Bader and Jim Nicoulin, Judy Carte, the Bickley Family, Doug Thorn, Doris Soucie, Bill and Dorothy Ritchie, Ingrid Dickson and Irene Joyce, and Ray Suttle.

This program is part of Global Ministries, United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ Churches. We rejoice in your gift sent to undergird Christ's mission in the world. Along with your giving, we covet your prayers that the deepest needs of all God's children will be met. Thank you.

The Mission and Outreach Committee



GREETINGS FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE!

This year's campaign wraps up February 6. If you have not yet pledged or have questions regarding Stewardship, please stop by the Stewardship table. As of mid-January, the committee is only halfway to its goal of 125 pledges. If you have not yet pledged, please take the time to think about your giving, your relationship to the church, and all of the great things the church does for its members and the community. Remember that these things are possible through the gifts given by church members. Thank you and God Bless!

Natalie Daniels, Stewardship Chair
Danielsnatalie1@gmail.com

GIRL SCOUT GOLD PROJECT AWARD

I am currently a Senior Girl Scout working on my Gold Project award. I am planning on completing my project this upcoming spring/summer. I would like to build an outdoor worship area along with a labyrinth on the church property adjacent to the parking lot. In order to do my project, I need to raise funds of approximately \$300-\$400. To do this, I will have a bake sale in conjunction with the February 6 Swiss Steak Dinner. Please consider stopping by and purchasing my baked goods to help fund my project. I appreciate your support.

Gina Gigliotti

STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of January 10, 2016

Thank you to everyone for your prayers and thoughts while Michele was recuperating, and Thank you to Pastor Becky and Jack for their accommodations while Michele was recuperating in their home Michele and Allen Mhlack

Week of January 17, 2016

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

*Celebrating Sharon's Birthday on January 18
Love, Mom, Dad and Gina*

Week of January 24

In Memory of Ruth Saylor

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 details, please call the church, 440-238-6697. Thank you to all who light the steeple.



THE THRIFT SHOP

The shop is filled with clothing to keep you warm this winter. We also have a nice selection of Valentine's Day items.



We will have a sale every Thursday in February. Sign up for our email alerts and you will know the sale each week. Thursday, February 11, will be our RED sale, where everything that's red will be half price. This sale is lots of fun. Everyone searches for red items and clothing and lots of bargains are found.

Donations are always welcome and tax receipts are available. Items that always sell well are children's clothing, jewelry and greeting cards, with or without envelopes.

Please remember if the Strongsville schools are closed due to weather conditions, the Thrift Shop will also be closed.

MEN'S LUNCHEON

Just a reminder that Men's Luncheon is **the fourth WEDNESDAY of the month**. The next luncheon is **February 24** at 11:30 a.m. at their usual meeting place:



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

As always, all men are welcome!

IN SYMPATHY

Our love and prayers are extended in sympathy to the family of our church member, Jack Wood, on the occasion of his passing on February 4, 2016. (Jack was the brother-in-law of our member, Betty Craig.) Visitation is Sunday, February 7, from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. at Jardine's Funeral Home. The funeral is Monday, February 8, at 10:00 a.m. at Jardine's. Interment is at Sunset Memorial Park, and a luncheon will take place at our church in Pilgrim Hall.



PRAYER CONCERNS

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. To keep someone on the list, please call the church at (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, Connie Rebar, Erla Mae Schultz at Medina Village

Church Family: Betty Craig, Jim Davis at Falling Water, Betty Kircher, Eileen Pincombe, Denzil Richards, Sharon Ritchie, Barb Stayrook, Pastor Becky Stephenson, Keith Sullen, Judy Thurn, Leah Tressa Forget

Extended Church Family: Elizabeth Arendt (granddaughter of Bev Wehr), Ryan Brubeck, Emelyn Carels (sister of Irene Jannsohn), Dylan Churnega (grandson of Ginny Churnega Oerkfitz), Zachary Crouse (grandson of Barbara Morgan), Audrey Curry (mother of Pam Keenen), Rebecca Deeb (Goddaughter of Lora Rung), Angie Dickinson (friend of Lola Millhoane), Donna Fargo (mother of Sally Herzog), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Kay Gritti (friend of Lola Millhoane), Irene Hagemeyer (niece of Betty Craig), Amanda Hover (granddaughter of Betty Kircher), Phyllis Keenen (mother of Bruce), Pat Kolba (mother of Kelly Bickley), Jessica Lane (granddaughter of Len and Bev), Lily (student of Lora Rung), Maggie (friend of the Bickleys), Sue Mason, Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Dolores Mhlack (mother of Allen) at Southern Hills, Debbie Morey (sister of Steve Herzog), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Keith Stewart (cousin of Carol Woodward), Trudie Taylor (sister of Karen Morgan), Bob Tomko (cousin of Ed Sobek), Kathleen Wickline (mother of Darla)

Strongsville UCC

ROAST PORK, KIELBASA & SAUERKRAUT DINNER

Saturday – March 5, 2016

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS

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

March 6 – 2 vases
March 13 – 2 vases
April 3 – 2 vases
April 10 – 2 vases
April 17- 1 vase
May 1 – 1 vase
May 15 – 2 vases
May 29 – 1 vase
June 5 – 2 vases
June 12 – 1 vase
July 3 – 1 vase
July 10 – 2 vases
July 17 – 1 vase
July 24 – 1 vase
August 7 – 1 vase
August 28 – 2 vases
September 4 – 2 vases
September 11 – 1 vase
September 18 – 2 vases
September 25 – 1 vase
October 2 – 2 vases
October 9 – 1 vase
October 23 – 2 vases
October 30 – 2 vases
November 6 – 1 vase
November 13 – 2 vases
November 20 – 2 vases
November 27 – 2 vases
December 4 – 2 vases
December 11 – 2 vases

Please note: If you only attend the 9:45 a.m. service, you are welcome to take your flowers after that service. The 11:15 Blended 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.



Strongsville UCC

SWISS STEAK DINNER

Saturday – February 6, 2016

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

Reservations Only: (216) 598-6198

Adults \$13.00 Ages 6-12 \$5.00
Under 6 years Free

Help is needed. The sign-up sheet is on Pilgrim Hall's board. 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 7:00 p.m. Children 6 to 10 must have a parent helping them.

The Thrift Shop will be open.

At the Swiss Steak Dinner on February 6, a Bake Sale will be set up in the Sunday School room across from the Parlor to raise money for my Girl Scout Gold Award project. Later this year I plan to build a worship garden for the church with the money I earn. I appreciate the support.
Gina Gigliotti