

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
+ + +
Worship at 10:00 A.M. on Sunday

FEBRUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 5 – 10:00 A.M.

*Installation of New Church Officers
The Sacrament of Communion*



Scriptures: Matthew 5:13-20
Sermon: *Salt of the Earth*
Liturgist: Lora Rung
Greeter: Linda Plain
Usher: Linda Plain
Coffee Hour: Cathy Hawk

SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 12 – 10:00 A.M.

Retreat Meeting after Worship

Scriptures and Sermon: *To Be Determined*

Liturgist: Pam Keenen
Greeter: Cathy Hawk
Ushers: Volunteers Needed
Coffee Hour: Allen and Michele Mihlack

SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 19 – 10:00 A.M.

Many members will be attending the Retreat in Pilgrim Hills.

Scriptures and Sermon: *To Be Determined*

Liturgist: Jim Studer
Greeter: Peg Weakley
Ushers: Volunteers Needed
Coffee Hour: Allen and Michele Mihlack

SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 26 – 10:00 A.M.

Scriptures: Exodus 33:18-23 and 34:29-35
Sermon: *The Glow of the Spirit*

Liturgist: Bill Schneider
Greeters: Ken Mehalko and Bev Wehr
Ushers: Volunteers Needed
Coffee Hour: Volunteer Needed

HEADLINE NEWS

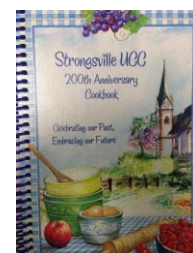
Charges Brought Against Church Member

The life of the congregation during the late 1820's and 1830's spent the greater part of their collective energies upon moral correctness. It was typical of the time period that members would stand and express their personal sins to the congregation. One case, in May 1839, was brought against John Fuller. The first charge was that he belonged to a secret society not consistent with the gospel. Secondly, that he had gone to Canada to aid in an insurrectionary movement. Thirdly, that he had transferred rifles belonging to the United States government to Canada to aid the movement. The fourth charge was that he was seen at a late hour at a tavern with improper persons at a New Year's Ball. And finally, that he had violated his temperance pledge. The incident occupied much of the year and could not be settled by the church. A 'mutual council' of other churches was held before the matter could be resolved.



200TH ANNIVERSARY CHURCH COOKBOOKS

Please see Dianne Maringer to get your copy.
Price per book is \$12; mailing the book is an extra \$3.



SWISS STEAK DINNER

Saturday – February 4, 2017

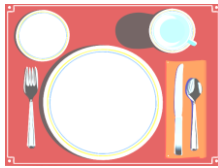
Seatings at 5:00 and 6:30 P.M.

Reservations Only: (216) 598-6198

Adults \$15.00 Ages 6-12 \$6.00 Under 6 Free
Tickets are available for purchase Sunday morning

Help is needed – especially on Friday for browning meat at 9:30 a.m. The sign-up sheet is posted 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.



STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of January 15, 2017

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

Week of January 22, 2017

In Memory of Our Mother, Dolores Mhlack—
Happy Birthday on January 27
Allen and Michele

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow
Barb Fraunfelder

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



IN SYMPATHY

Our love and prayers are extended in sympathy to two families on their recent losses:

To Adria Bond and family on the death of her father, Albert Solderitsch, on December 28. The funeral was held on January 4 in Avon Lake.

To Allen Mhlack and family on the passing of his mother Dolores on December 31. The funeral was held on January 5 at Baker Funeral Home in Berea.



SIGN-UP CHARTS FOR 2017



The charts for Greeters, Ushers, Altar Flowers, and Coffee Hour are on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Help is greatly needed! Please sign up if you are able to assist.

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, (440) 238-6697. Please provide updates for this list. Thank you.

Long-Term Care or Homebound Members: Eric Brand, Betty Bushea, Margot James, Ethyl Jeglie at Elmcroft of Sagamore Hills, Janet Kato at Western Reserve Masonic Community in Medina, Harvey Pincombe, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields, Doris Soucie

Church Family: Shirley Brand, Betty Craig, Steve Herzog, Michele Mhlack, Pam Peacock, Denzil Richards, Melinda Slavik, Leah Tressa Forget, Sharon Wilson, Kyle Woodward

Extended Church Family: Bri Brostek, Thom Cerny, Dylan Churnega, Zachary Crouse, Audrey Curry, Edie Deitcher, Hollie Paine Dodge, Kim Filiatraut, Elizabeth Fulford, Matthew Geletka, Dan Karoly, Sue Mason, Pat Masuga, Debbie Morey, Tonette Putrino, Carrol Riley, Keith Stewart, Frank Toth, Joe Valli

CHOIR ROBE UPDATE



Thanks to the generous response from church members and friends past and present, all of the choir robes have been purchased and have arrived! These lightweight, maroon robes are awaiting steaming, as they arrived folded and boxed. Two sets of stoles were also purchased and are being embroidered at present. When complete, they will be reunited with the robes; and the choir and bell choir members will be sporting them as soon as they are ready. The Music Committee is profoundly grateful for the support of the congregation in making this project happen. Any excess funds will be used for our Music Ministry, including refurbishing the tonechimes and the handbells at some point. For a list of donors and recipients of memorials/honorariums, please refer to the Endowment/Memorial Fund report in your Annual Report for 2016.

SEEKING CHOIR ACCOMPANIST

The Music Committee is seeking a pianist/organist to join our music ministry program. If you or someone you know would like to audition for the position, please contact Elena Taylor, Music Director or any member of the Music Committee (Ingrid Dickson, Pam Keenen, or Ken Mehalko). Many thanks to Sharon Heinrich who had been serving in this capacity so skillfully for the past few months.



ENDOWMENT AND MEMORIAL FUND COMMITTEE NEWS

On behalf of our congregation, we wish to extend our sincerest appreciation to Lloyd and Barbara Bridle for their generous donation to our church Endowment Fund. Their legacy gift will provide current and future generations with the ability to serve our congregation and community. In addition, we are happy to report we have met and exceeded our goals for new choir robes and stoles by raising \$3,430. Any funds remaining will be combined with other memorial funds to make much needed repairs to the tonechimes. Please see a member of the committee or contact the church for information on memorial gifts, estate planning or other legacy gifts to our congregation. Thank you for your continued support.

ADULT SOCIAL CLUB

We are planning to go to the Rocksino in Northfield, Ohio, on Sunday, February 26. Details will follow.

The club meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the church. Our next meeting is Wednesday, February 15. All adults are welcome.

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Journey in Faith Mini-series class will be held on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. at the church. The first class is on Ash Wednesday, March 1, and will be held after the 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday service. The mini-series will conclude on April 5. New members will be received into the church on Palm Sunday, April 9.

LENTEN STUDY

Jesus and the Movies II is a Lenten Study on Sunday evenings that includes a light meal of soup and bread. The study begins on March 5 at 5:30 p.m. Together we will explore the life of Jesus as portrayed in the movies. We will compare the movies with the Gospel accounts and our life experiences. Possible movies include *Ben Hur*, *The Young Messiah*, *Risen*, *Godspell*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Jesus of Nazareth* (selected sections), *Last Temptation*, or others. Movie suggestions are welcome.

CAN YOU HELP?

The Sunday School is looking for a few items for our costume stash:

- Old graduation gowns--any color, any size
- Striped/earth-tone skinny ties (from the 80's)
- Pieces of soft rope for belts (about 2 feet long)
- Winter scarves--plain or with rustic/earth-tone patterns/stripes

Please bring your items to Irene Joyce when you have a chance.

Thanks for cleaning out your closets to benefit the Sunday School!

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

The United Church of Christ denomination historically has opposed capital punishment and has postcards opposing the state's use of the death penalty. The postcards will be mailed to Ohio governor, John Kasich. For those wishing to support this belief, the postcards are on the rectangular table in the Gathering Areas and require your printed name and your city of residence. The church will mail your card if you slide it under the church office door.



A reminder that GFS gives the church a rebate on purchases. When you check out, just tell them you are from Strongsville United Church of Christ (*not to be confused with Strongsville United Methodist Church*).

DIACONATE NEWS

WING NITE

Wing Nite has a new venue! It will be held Friday, May 5, 2017 at the Grindstone Tap House at 826 Front Street in Berea. It is on one floor (no steps to a dark basement), and will include pizza, pasta, wings, salad, 5 types of domestic beer, well drinks, and wine. Tickets are \$25 per person and can be purchased from any Diaconate member.

We are also looking for anyone interested in donating a theme-based basket to auction at this event. If you would like to make a basket, there is a sign-up sheet in Pilgrim Hall for you to write your name and the type of basket you will be providing.

DIACONATE "SHOW AND TELL"

The Diaconate will have a "Show and Tell" at their March 14 meeting at 7:00 p.m. to see what their duties are. Anyone interested may attend.

COFFEE HOUR



Please see a Diaconate member if you are interested in learning how to do coffee hour. You do not have to be a Diaconate member to do this. We can train you after church on the Sunday of your choice.



Many have followed the path of Beth Fraunfelder Lewis on her journey to motherhood. She and her husband, Harold, are happily expecting a baby at the end of May! If you are interested, a Baby Shower will be held for them on Sunday, March 12, 2017, in Pilgrim Hall at 1:30 p.m. They are registered at Target and Amazon.com. Please R.S.V.P. to Barb Fraunfelder, 440-227-9051.

2017 ANNUAL ALL-FAMILY CHURCH WINTER RETREAT AT PILGRIM HALLS

The Church's Annual All-Family Winter Retreat at Pilgrim Hills on President's Day 2017 weekend (February 17, 18, and 19) is full. Sign-up is closed, as we have reservations for our allotted 8 cabins and the Fellowship house, which sleeps around 17. Sign-up sheet for things to bring and to volunteer is still posted in Pilgrim Hall and those attending are once again encouraged to sign up before our planning meeting. The planning meeting is Sunday, February 12, 2017, after the service in the sanctuary.

Please contact Charles Jannsohn if you have any questions.

OHIO CONFERENCE OUTDOOR MINISTRY UPDATE ON PILGRIM AND TEMPLED HILLS

Back in November, I reported about the Ohio Conference Board of Directors' plan to keep both Pilgrim and Templed Hills open, and to use both camps for the upcoming camp season. The Board met in December, and, probably to no one's surprise, that plan has changed once again.

The loss of OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) support has decreased severely in the last two years and shows no sign of reversal. The Board, even with the expertise of the UCCR, has decided to go with an earlier proposal to use only one camp site. This is in direct contrast with the Treasurer's report from November that reported a plan to maintain and use both camps after turning a modest profit last year. A second task force has been formed that will review both Templed Hills and Pilgrim Hills and make a recommendation in February as to which camp site is more feasible for the Conference to maintain.

So while it appears that our church will be able to continue having our All-Family Winter Retreat at one of the camps we've used in the past, at this point we don't know which location that will be in 2018. We most certainly will not have our choice of camps either.

I will continue to keep the congregation and Retreat goers updated as news is reported to me.

Charles Jannsohn

NEWS FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Lori Kovatich

Giving Statements for 2016 were handed out on Sunday, January 29. The remainder will be mailed this month. If you do not receive a statement by March 1 and believe you should have one, please contact me.

+ + +

Below is a monthly report listing the budget income we need to receive from Pledges and Offerings and the amount received from **January 1 through January 22, 2017**. This information also appears on a weekly basis in our worship bulletin.

Offering Needed \$15,600 for 4 Sundays @ \$3,900/week
Offering Received 14,503
Difference - \$ 1,097

