

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 23, 2014

9:00 A.M.

† Those who are able may stand.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONGS

56 *Majesty*
64 *Praise You*
65 *Rejoice*

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Draw near to God's statutes, the Psalmist writes,

People: "So that we may observe them to the end."

Leader: Let us be led in the paths of God's commandments,

People: So that we may delight in the richness of God's life.

Leader: Worship God in honesty and forthrightness,

People: So that Christ's Spirit may perfect us for God's realm!

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

GATHERING SONG

54 *Lord, Be Glorified*

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE Psalm 119:33-40 Hebrew Scriptures, p. 530

OFFERING *The Potter's Hand*

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

SCRIPTURE Matthew 5:38-48 New Testament, p. 4

MEDITATION "Love your enemies"? In the midst of conflict?

CLOSING SONGS

57 *Make Us One, Lord*
53 *Let There Be Praise*
78 *The Mission*

† BENEDICTION

We welcome Dr. Peter Makari, who is with us for both services today and will provide the morning message. 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 speak 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 in the Parlor with those interested for a 45-minute question-and-answer period. Coffee, tea and snacks will be available.

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*.

Serving Today

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Music Director / Drummer | Andrew Purdum |
| Organist / Pianist | Susan Stevenson Tressa |
| Substitute Organist / Pianist | Jaclyn Ford |
| Guitarists | Leland Krause, Sean Patrick |
| Song Leaders | Sarah Keenen and Kyra Krause |
| Liturgist | Barb Fraunfelder |
| Graphics Operation | Vicky Masuga |
| Coffee Hour | Lora Rung |

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 23, 2014

11:00 A.M.

† *Those who are able may stand.*

PRELUDE

INTROIT

Come, Now to Worship the Lord

Besig

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Draw near to God's statutes, the Psalmist writes,

People: "So that we may observe them to the end."

Leader: Let us be led in the paths of God's commandments,

People: So that we may delight in the richness of God's life.

Leader: Worship God in honesty and forthrightness,

People: So that Christ's Spirit may perfect us for God's realm!

† HYMN 90

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

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.

PRAYER RESPONSE

Hear Us, O Lord

CHOIR ANTHEM

Down to the River to Pray

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.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 119:33-40

Hebrew Scriptures, p. 530

THE OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

† **DOXOLOGY** (No. 815)

† **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

† HYMN 428

In Christ There Is No East or West

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:38-48

New Testament, p. 4

SERMON

"Love your enemies"? *In the midst of conflict?*
Dr. Peter Makari

† HYMN 604

I Then Shall Live

† BENEDICTION

† **RESPONSE**

May the Lord Go with You

† **POSTLUDE**

We welcome Dr. Peter Makari, who is with us for both services today and is providing the morning message. 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 speak 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.

Serving Today

Director of Music

Organist / Pianist

Substitute Organist / Pianist

Liturgist

Greeter

Nursery

Coffee Hour

Ushers

Andrew Purdum

Susan Stevenson Tressa

Jaclyn Ford

Lynne McCray

Roy Merkle

Vicky Masuga

Lora Rung

Ha and Dick Bennett

ANNOUNCEMENTS – FEBRUARY 23, 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.

This morning's altar flowers are given—

*In Memory of Nadine Burnand
Her birthday is February 26, 1916. She would have been 98 this year!!
The Rothel Family*

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

*Happy Birthday to Larry Wentz on February 28
With love, Mom*

Happy Birthday today to Elizabeth Metivier!

Seminary Sunday is today, 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!

March Church Newsletter – For those who get paper copies, please pick up yours today in the Gathering Area. Thank you!

After the 11:00 a.m. service today, the **confirmation class and their parents will meet briefly in the sanctuary.**

Trustees will meet this morning after the 11:00 a.m. service.

The Youth Group will go tobogganing today and will meet at the church at 3:00 p.m. Come, and bring a guest!

Official Board will meet on Tuesday, February 25, at 7:30 p.m.

A Special Congregational Meeting will take place Sunday, March 2, at

10:00 a.m., when the Organ Restoration Committee will update the congregation on the organ restoration 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 Vision and our proposed Mission Statement:

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.

Stewardship Campaign – Thanks to all who pledged for our 2014 campaign. We received 95 pledges totaling \$132,579 for Ministries and Operations and Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM). We have an exciting year ahead of us—one filled with hope, adventure and new members!

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.

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.)

Thanks to your generosity, The Thrift Shop is now overstocked!

If possible, please hold your donations until further notice. Thank you for your cooperation. Also, when you do provide donations, please label them “Thrift Shop” to avoid confusion. Thank you!

Strongsville UCC

ROAST PORK, KIELBASA & SAUERKRAUT DINNER

Saturday – March 15, 2014 Seatings at 5:00 P.M. and 6:30 P.M.

Reservations Only: (440) 238-8192

Adults - \$9 Ages 6-12 - \$5 Under 6 years – Free

Help is needed. The signup sheet is 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.

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, Pat Jefferis, 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 – March 2, 2014

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| Liturgist | Betty Craig |
| Greeters | John and Maggie Struhar |
| Nursery | Rachel Zielinski |
| Coffee Hour | Cathy Hawk |
| Ushers | Dan Davis, Sharon Heinrich |

February 2014

- 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.
Trustees Meeting, after 11 a.m. worship
Lenten Meal 6 p.m. followed by Worship at 7 p.m.
- 10 Mon Moms Group Meeting, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
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.

To All My Church Friends,

A heartfelt thank you for all the cards, prayers, flowers, calls, and wishes and also for the calls and visits from Pastor Becky on my recent accident and being homebound for almost two months. You helped me a lot in my recovery.

With love and appreciation, Margot James

To the Church Family,

Thank you so much for your cards, visits, and caring thoughts during this recent illness of mine. Your prayers and concern mean a great deal to me, and encourage me. I miss church greatly, and feel blessed that I am recovering now, and will be back playing at church in the near future.

Susan Tressa