

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  
www.strongsvilleucc.com

Worship at 10:00 A.M. on Sunday

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## JANUARY 2013 NEWSLETTER

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### WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

#### EPIPHANY SUNDAY – JANUARY 6, 2013 – 10:00 A.M.

*The Sacrament of Communion will be celebrated.  
New members will be received into the congregation.*

**Sermon:** “Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh”  
**Scriptures:** Matthew 2:1-12



**Liturgist:** Barb Fraunfelder  
**Acolytes:** Lisa Pogozeleski and Aylah Purdum  
**Greeter:** Linda Plain  
**Nursery:** Sharon Heinrich  
**Coffee Hour:** Barb Fraunfelder

#### SUNDAY – JANUARY 27, 2013 – 10:00 A.M.

##### **Annual Meeting of the Congregation**

**Sermon:** “The Prophecy Fulfilled”  
**Scriptures:** Luke 4:14-21  
**Liturgist:** Tom Gaumer  
**Acolytes:** Lauren Knotts and Jordyn Miller  
**Greeters:** Aimée and Charles Jannsohn and Family  
**Nursery:** Sharon Heinrich

*Our traditional Pancake Breakfast in Pilgrim Hall  
will precede the Annual Meeting.*

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#### SUNDAY – JANUARY 13, 2013 – 10:00 A.M.

**Sermon:** “Beginning”  
**Scriptures:** Luke 3:15, 21-22

**Liturgists:** Lynne McCray and Sharon Heinrich  
**Greeter:** Roy Merkle  
**Acolytes:** Gina Gigliotti and Michael Fischer  
**Nursery:** Vicky Masuga  
**Coffee Hour:** Cathy Hawk

Strongsville UCC

### **SWISS STEAK DINNER**

**Saturday – January 19, 2013**

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

Reservations Only: **(440) 236-8025**

**Adults \$9.00    Ages 6-12 \$5.00    Under 6 years Free**

#### **Help is needed.**

The sign-up 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 7:00 p.m.

Children who are 6 to 10 years old  
must have a parent helping them.

**The Thrift Shop will be open during the dinner.**

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#### SUNDAY – JANUARY 20, 2013 – 10:00 A.M.

**Sermon:** “Water to Wine”  
**Scriptures:** John 2:1-11

**Liturgist:** Rachel Zielinski  
**Acolytes:** Jenna Miller and Alex Metivier  
**Greeter:** Jim Studer  
**Nursery:** Cathy Hawk  
**Coffee Hour:** Rachel Zielinski



## NEWS FROM DIACONATE

**THANK YOU** for your participation in the many Diaconate activities in December:

- decorating our church for Christmas
- participating in the holiday potluck (Official Board sponsored this) and program. A special thank you to Santa and his elves for sharing their time with us and to all the helpers—kitchen staff, leading and accompanying our Christmas caroling, crafters—to name a few!
- assisting our annual Holiday Cookie Sale by donating cookies or buying cookies. Our proceeds of \$201.00 will go to the Diaconate for their future projects.

### What Can You Do To Help?

As you may know, the Diaconate is a very productive, busy committee handling a multitude of tasks. The Diaconate “oversees the worship operations and church services”. Have you considered how you might help? Here again are our 10 committees:

Acolytes	Altar
Coffee Hour	Funeral
Greeters	Membership
Nursery	Pastoral Relations
Special Events	Ushers

Are you willing to serve on this board? Please give it thoughtful consideration. You may volunteer by contacting a member of the Nominating Committee or a member of the Diaconate. Or, you may be approached in the near future and asked to serve on the Diaconate. This involves attending monthly meetings and working with the other board members and the minister in making decisions about our worship.

If you are not able to take a position on the Diaconate, will you help on one of the committees? We wish to have greater participation of our congregation and share the work load and joy!

If you would like more information or have any questions, please contact one of the following:

#### **Diaconate:**

Barb Fraunfelder - Chairperson, Gina Cathcart, Dan Davis, Beth Giuliano, Cathy Hawk, Sarah Hawk, Sharon Heinrich, Vicky Masuga, Lora Rung, Bev Wehr, Marty Winch

#### **Nominating Committee:**

Barb Fraunfelder, Irene Joyce, Rachel Zielinski



*Our congratulations to  
Devan Maringer and Lindsay Hunt,  
who were married on December 1, 2012.*

### 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:

Bill Betz at Chapel Hill Community in Canal Fulton, Nadine Burnand, Edith Graves at Century Oak Care Center, Victor Rak at Falling Water, Louetha Rieth at Sunrise Assisted Living of Dresher in PA, Erla Mae Schultz

**Church Family:** Logan Churnega (grandson of Ginny and Kenn Oerkfitz), Sarah Herzog, Irene Jannsohn, Janet Kato at Manor Care in Parma, Elizabeth Snook

**Extended Church Family:** Betty Berk (mother of Mary Mortus), Zachary Crouse (grandson of Barbara Morgan), Audrey and Gene Curry (parents of Pam Keenen), Victor DiChiro (father-in-law of Rob Wentz), Angie Dickinson (friend of Lola Millhoane), Donna Fargo (mother of Sally Herzog), Ruth Fraley (relative of the Jannsohn family), Shirley Gerecke (friend of Frank and Pat Jefferis), Anne Hohan (friend of Len and Bev Lane), Janine Kaltenstein (cousin and best friend of Vicky Masuga), Phyllis Keenen (mother of Bruce), Erik Kratky (friend of Sarah Hawk), Cyrila Kribel (friend of Betty Craig), Rick Pfuhl (former custodian of Strongsville UCC), James Smith (brother of Katie Renfro), Barbara Sommers (mother of Sheri Martin), Sarah Spiegler (niece of Betty Craig), Trudie Taylor (sister of Karen Morgan), Mike Thutt (friend of Louie Gigliotti), Bob Tomko (cousin of Ed Sobek), Bob Wentz (father of Larry)

*Please inform the church of updates, (440) 238-6697.*

*Our love and prayers are extended in  
sympathy to Mona Benn and family  
on the passing of her mother  
on November 19, 2012.*



## THE THRIFT SHOP

It is a new year, and there are lots of new bargains in the Thrift Shop. Stop in for fun shopping. We'll be open every Thursday and also during church dinners. We will have lots of sales. Remember, when we have a "Buy One Get One Free Sale", the FREE item is mandatory!

Don't know what to do with all those Christmas gifts you don't want or need? Donate them to the Thrift Shop and we will see that they are all recycled.

If you need a tax receipt, please see one of our volunteers. We are happy to help you and appreciate your donations.

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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Collate Annual Reports in Pilgrim Hall**  
Sunday – January 13, 2013 – after worship

**Serve Meals for the Poor**  
**The Fourth Saturday of Each Month**  
Please sign up on the bulletin board  
in the Gathering Area

**Help and Provide Bakery Donations**  
**for the Swiss Steak Dinner on January 19, 2013**  
Please sign up on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall.

*Thank you for your support!*

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## FORMATION OF SOFTBALL LEAGUE

The Strongsville United **Methodist** church is looking to form either a women's softball league or a coed softball league. If anyone is interested in becoming part of either these options, please let Joyce Reed know; and she will contact the Strongsville United Methodist church.

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## NEW SIGNUP CHARTS IN PILGRIM HALL

The 2013 signup charts for Greeters and Altar Flowers are now on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Please help in these areas if you can. Your assistance is needed and greatly appreciated!



For the Altar Flowers chart – when you sign your name, please indicate how many vases you want that day. Our church typically has two vases on the altar on Sunday morning for worship, but we can accommodate up to four vases. The cost is \$15 per vase. Additional information is on the flower forms that are beneath the flower chart in Pilgrim Hall.

## ANNUAL CHURCH RETREAT

Next month is our church's annual winter retreat at Temple Hills. It will take place Friday, February 15, through Sunday, February 17.

As usual, we're limited to 64 guests, so please sign up ASAP on the sheet in Pilgrim Hall to indicate you're coming and reserve your favorite room. (Sign-up sheet will be posted on January 6.)

We're happy to announce that the costs to attend will remain the same for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row:

Adults: \$65  
Children ages 9-12: \$20  
Children ages 3-8: \$10  
Children ages 2 and under: Free

These costs include 2 nights' lodging and 5 meals.

Be sure to join us for a brief planning meeting on Sunday, February 10, in the sanctuary immediately following the worship service.

Questions?

Call Charles and Aimée Jannsohn at (440) 895-1858  
or email at [jannsohn@cox.net](mailto:jannsohn@cox.net).

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to relax and spend quality time with our church family and friends!

Aimée Jannsohn

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## THANK YOU

*To my church family,  
Thank you for all the cards, phone calls, and prayers.  
They have made my days easier. The Sunday bulletin  
keeps me informed of happenings at the church. I loved  
the thinking-of-you card from the sixth grade Sunday  
School class. Thank you for everything.*

*Nadine Burnand*

*Thank you to everyone who donated cardboard tubes for  
the nativity craft. Those who participated on the  
December Sundays after church had fun! Special thanks  
to Mary Mortus for her time and kindness to help.  
Sharon Heinrich for the Diaconate*

*Thank you to all who helped to make our Candy Sale a  
success. Our profit was \$421.80  
Betty Craig for Women's Fellowship*

*Thanks to everyone who supported the Diaconate  
Holiday Cookie Sale on December 16. The profit was  
\$201.00.*

## SCHEDULE FOR ANNUAL REPORTS

**December 31** – Annual Reports are due in the church office.

**January 2-4** – Annual Reports booklets are prepared.

**January 7-11** – Annual Reports are printed.

**January 13** – Annual Reports are collated in Pilgrim Hall, after church. Volunteers are needed.

**Beginning January 13** – Members are requested to pick up their Annual Reports booklets at the church. If you need a copy mailed to you, please call the church office at (440) 238-6697.

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## FINANCIAL OFFICERS OF CHURCH GROUPS:

Please turn in your financial statements to the Auditing Committee through the Church office now. It is extremely important that all books be audited before the Annual Meeting on January 27, 2013. All organizations are required to submit:

1. ALL bank books (savings and/or checking).
2. ALL bank statements for each month for each account. Checking accounts statements should show completed reconciliation on the back.
3. ALL monthly recap forms.
4. ALL bank deposit slips, withdrawal slips and bank check receipts (if received), attached to monthly recap forms.
5. ALL receipts and bills paid.
6. Copy of Annual Financial Report (original provided to church office for Annual Report).

Thank you for your cooperation! For questions or concerns, please call the church office, (440) 238-6697.

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## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Many offices in the church are available for this year. Please consider saying yes when a member of the Nominating Committee asks you to serve. Some of the positions available include:

**Diaconate** is the board that oversees the worship operations and church services.

The committees of the Diaconate are Acolytes, Altar, Coffee Hour, Funeral, Greeters, Membership, Nursery, Pastoral Relations, Special Events, and Ushers.

**The Board of Trustees** oversees the finances and physical plant of the church.

The committees of the Trustees are Building and Grounds, Finance, and Long Range Planning.

Remember the old but true saying "Many hands make light work" and plan to be a part of one of these boards or committees.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.



## MISSING FOLDING CHAIRS

About 20 folding chairs are missing from Pilgrim Hall. If you or anyone you know has borrowed them, please return them as soon as possible. We need them. Thank you.

The Board of Trustees



## SERVING MEALS FOR THE POOR

Our congregation continues to serve meals for the poor at Zion UCC on Cleveland's West Side, and this month the date is **Saturday, January 26, 2013.**

To participate, please sign up on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area and coordinate carpooling with others who are serving on the same Saturday. Thank you.

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**Strongsville UCC**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR'S DAY 2013**

## MOONROCK BOWLING

**Tuesday - January 1 - 8 PM to 10 PM**

**Only \$9.95 per person for  
ALL-YOU-CAN-BOWL & SHOE RENTAL**

**Please see Dale Hawk or Irene Joyce  
for more information.**

**PLEASE JOIN YOUR CHURCH  
FRIENDS AT FAIRVIEW LANES  
21347 Lorain Road in Fairview Park  
FOR LIGHTS, MUSIC & FUN !**

**SPONSORED BY THE YOUTH GROUP**



## STEEPLE LIGHTING

### For the Week of December 2, 2012

*In Remembrance of Jane C. Graves on Her Birthday,  
December 4*

Edith Graves and Roberta Carpenter

*Merry Christmas to Everyone*  
Corrine Jackson

### For the Week of December 9, 2012

*With thanks to Ken Mehalko and Jim Wonnacott  
for the Strongsville City Jazz Swing Band's wonderful  
Christmas Concert at Strongsville UCC on December 2!*

*Warmest applause and appreciation to the Kyrie Quartet  
for beautifully singing at our church Open House and  
at the Christmas Concert on December 2—  
Sandy O'Shea, Sarah Keenen, Craig Hardy, Bill Scheible*

*Happy 4th Birthday to our beloved Mandy Tressa!  
Susan and Rich Tressa*

### For the Week of December 16, 2012

*Christmas Blessings to All*  
Nadine Burnand

*Happy Birthday on December 17 to Bill Craig*  
With love, Mom

*In Loving Memory of Charlie Garner  
and the light he brought into all of our lives*

### For the Week of December 23, 2012

*In Loving Memory of Alfred Graves  
during the Holidays and Always*  
Edith Graves

*In Memory of Baby Clare Rose Molnar*  
Dianne Maringer

*For Lindsay and Devan Maringer as They Celebrate  
Their First Christmas Together As Newlyweds*  
Mom and Dad Maringer      Mom and Dad Hunt

*Wishing My Church Family and Friends a  
Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year  
Filled with Bounty, Good Health and Much Happiness!  
God Bless You All*  
Love, Lola

## FROM THE ORGAN RESTORATION COMMITTEE

On the weekend of December 2, Strongsville UCC once again came together to rally support for the Organ Restoration cause. Everyone in the ORC is extremely grateful for the support of the entire church, but the following email from Susan Tressa articulated it beautifully. On behalf of the ORC, we want to thank everyone involved in not only assisting with and patronizing events, but also supporting this and so many other causes. We feel blessed to be part of such a caring and supportive congregation. Thank you.

From Susan Tressa's email of December 2, 2012—

*Today we had a fun and joyous concert, the music was awesome, and thanks are certainly due to all of the musicians who gave their time and talents to make it happen.*

*But I believe the greater success today was the church all working together to put on such a benefit concert event. It's the sponsoring and behind-the-scenes concert production that makes benefits like today get off the ground, have planning done, make it happen, and the church pulled together so beautifully to do all of that. Certainly the Organ Committee was the sponsoring group, and the catalyst for keeping decisions moving forward from the initial idea into advertising, marketing, tickets, promotion, reception, greeters, and bringing others on board to help with those many vital tasks. But to see so many church folks also helping out in the kitchen, taking tickets, being in the audience, and just doing whatever was needed to make it work today – that is the true far reaching success of today for the church.*

*Strongsville UCC proved today that we can work together to sponsor new and exciting benefit events such as this, open our doors and fill the sanctuary with community and church family to support it. That is truly the Hallelujah Moment of today!*

*I look forward to such benefit events as this not just for the pipe organ, but far beyond that in support of Strongsville UCC and all its ministries.*

*Thank you so much to each and every one of you!*

Susan Tressa

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.

