

## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

13740 Pearl Road  
Strongsville, Ohio 44136

Rev. Oommen Thomas, Guest Minister



**SUNDAY – JULY 16, 2017 – 10:00 A.M.**

### WELCOME!

**We are grateful you chose to worship with us this morning.  
No matter who you are and where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here.**

**For questions about our church and ministries,  
you may call the church at (440) 238-6697.  
Please complete your Attendance Card and place it  
into the offering plate. We hope to see you again soon!**

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

**PRELUDE** *Jesus, Lead Us to the Father* Sam Hargreaves

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Irene Joyce

† **CALL TO WORSHIP** Sharon Heinrich

L: How shall we live in the love of God?

**P: We will treat one another with fairness and dignity.**

L: How shall we witness God's forgiving love?

**P: We will reach out to others with compassion.**

L: Come, let us worship God, who has always loved us.

**P: Let our worship of God be reflected in our lives of hope and peace. Amen.**

† **HYMN 648** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

### SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

### THE PASTORAL PRAYER

**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.**

**RESPONSE** *Day by Day from Godspell* Stephen Schwartz

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *Put Your Hand in the Hand* Gene MacLellan

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** Mrs. Jamie Trinckes

### THE OFFERING

**OFFERTORY** *Try a Little Kindness* Bobby Austin and Curt Sapaugh

† **DOXOLOGY 815** Tune: *Old Hundredth*  
Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise Him, all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host.  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### † PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**SCRIPTURES** Matthew 5:38-48

**SERMON** *Tough Love* Rev. Oommen Thomas

† **HYMN 508** *Love Lifted Me*

### † BENEDICTION

† **RESPONSE** *May the Lord Mighty God* Traditional Tune of Edelweiss

† **POSTLUDE** *Season Suite, Summer*  
Music: John Denver, Mike Taylor, Dick Kniss  
Words: John Denver

**This morning's altar flowers** are given—

*In Celebration of  
George Reed's Birthday on July 15, Joyce's Birthday on July 16, and  
Granddaughter Alison's Birthday on July 17*

*In Honor of Grandma Karen's Birthday This Week.  
Love, Kennedy, Madison, Reagan, Penny and Oliver*

**Happy Birthday** today to Joyce Reed and to Mike Clotworthy!

**This morning we thank . . .**

**Rev. Oommen Thomas** (our guest minister) and his wife **Leela  
Gary Hackett** for his special vocal music  
**Mrs. Jamie Trinckes** for the Children's Message

**Our love and prayers are extended in sympathy** to the family of  
Zachary Williams on the occasion of his passing on July 5, 2017.  
A memorial service is tentatively planned at our church on Saturday,  
October 14, 2017. More information will be provided as the date draws  
near.

**Today is the deadline for the August Church Newsletter.** Please place  
articles in the church office. Thank you.



is Friday through Sunday, August 11-13,  
at Stanford House in Peninsula, Ohio.  
Thirty ladies are welcome to attend! The  
signup sheet is on the bulletin board in  
Pilgrim Hall. For more information,  
please see Cathy Hawk. **A planning  
meeting will be held next Sunday,  
July 23, after church.**

### UPDATE FROM YOUR PULPIT SEARCH COMMITTEE

We have been meeting every week to begin the multi-layered process in finding a new settled pastor for our church. There are specific procedures and guidelines set by the UCC, which we are following. The UCC dictates that the search may not even begin until the current pastor has totally vacated the position. The Diaconate is charged with placing an interim minister while the search process progresses.

One of the most important and time consuming steps in the procedure is the first big step: creating our church profile. We are on track to complete this phase of our mission by the end of July. Creating this profile involves prayerfully and carefully completing a very detailed and thorough series of essay questions and tables that will allow any perspective minister seeking a call to get a sense of who we are as a church, and if this place is a possible fit for him or her. Our church profile is a minimum of thirty pages long and requires quite a bit of research. This profile is very different than the one we completed over five years ago, so we aren't able to simply "cut and paste"! This document is extremely important and we are working hard to get it right! (To this end, we would very much appreciate your prompt return of your completed surveys, regarding our church's demographics.) Once all the information is gathered and collated, the profile can go out into the world for ministers to consider. If one is interested and believes that our church may be a fit, he or she sends us his or her profile, which is anywhere from twenty to forty pages in length. The committee will then carefully and prayerfully review each profile and discern whether or not this person may be a fit for us, and an interview is warranted. This process takes several months.

Your Pulpit Search Committee realizes that we are instruments of God's will and take our mission very seriously. We as a church must continue to be strong and carry out our mission of Christian love and extravagant welcome whilst the search continues. Most importantly, your prayers and support are needed and gratefully welcomed. Please do not hesitate to ask any one of us your questions pertaining to the call process or other concerns you may have.

Thank you!

#### Your Pulpit Search Committee

Ted Bickley, Judy Carte, Kristen Clotworthy,  
Jim Dettmer, Ingrid Dickson, Sally Herzog, Bill Schneider



**Strongsville Homecoming Parade** – Our church will have a float in the parade this Wednesday, July 19, 2017. The theme is our church's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On the day of the parade, we will meet at church at 5:00 p.m. and leave at 5:30 to line up on Progress Drive. We are in Section 1, Number 43 in the parade lineup. Please join us as a rider, walker or float decorator. For the parade, please wear your church t-shirt. All are welcome!

**Today after church we will decorate our church float for the parade.** You are invited to join in the fun! Your help would be greatly appreciated!

**Indians Baseball Game** – Because of lack of interest, the Adult Social Club will **NOT** attend the Indians game on Thursday, July 27.

**Mission Outreach** has received yet another letter from Strongsville Food Bank thanking our congregation for its strong support. Your continuing donations of food and money (Penny Sunday) are especially appreciated during the summer when their usual school group collections do not occur. Many thanks from our committee as well.

**To make past services easier to view on the web**, we started a YouTube channel. To access it, go to the <http://strongsvilleucc.com/> website. Click on WORSHIP and then SERVICE VIDEOS. Once you get to YouTube, search for the service you wish to see and click on it. Alternately, you can go directly to YouTube and search for “Strongsville UCC”. Most services from the beginning of 2017 have already been uploaded. To see an older service, please contact Jim Heinrich to see if it is available.

**The Garage Sale** is re-scheduled for Saturday, September 9, 2017. Please hold on to your treasures for a little while longer. We appreciate your patience and understanding. Thank you very much.

**Plastic grocery bags** are needed in the church kitchen.

**Coffee Hour** – Although the pastry, bagels, and breads are donated—the coffee, tea, creamers, sweeteners, butter, and cream cheese cost money, as do the napkins, plastic bags and carry-out containers. Please consider contributing to the cause. Thank you for your support.

**Summer Sunday School** – Parents, Grandparents, Uncles, Aunts: Please sign up to teach one Sunday during the months of June, July, and August. The signup sheet is posted on Pilgrim Hall’s bulletin board. No experience is necessary, and all materials are provided. Please see Irene Joyce if you have questions. **We thank Mrs. Joyce** for teaching the class today.

**Updating Our Website and TVs** – If you have updates for our church Website or TV screens at church, please inform:

Michele Mihlack 216-324-9799 or [m.mihlack@gmail.com](mailto:m.mihlack@gmail.com)

or

Irene Joyce 216-267-5043 or [ij3e@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ij3e@sbcglobal.net)

Thank you!

### OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,865  
Weekly Offering Received 7/9/2017 \$2,414  
Difference (\$1,451)



### SERVING TODAY

**Director of Music:** Elena Taylor

**Greeters:** Bev Wehr and Ken Mehalko

**Morning Announcements:** Irene Joyce

**Liturgist:** Sharon Heinrich

**Coffee Hour:** Cathy Hawk



Our church celebrates its 200th Anniversary this year. As part of that celebration, we are planning an **Anniversary Luncheon on October 15**, right after the church service that Sunday. The luncheon will be held at the Strongsville Recreation Center banquet room. If you plan to attend the luncheon, please sign up on Pilgrim Hall’s bulletin board, where you can indicate your preliminary attendance and number of guests coming. Thank you.  
The 200th Anniversary Committee

**Sponsoring Guests** – For our church’s 200th Anniversary celebration on Sunday, October 15, at Strongsville Recreation Center, we would like to invite several guests—public officials, past ministers and others who have supported or served our church over the years. We are asking for donations so these special people can eat and celebrate with us. If you wish to contribute or if you have questions, please contact Joyce Reed or Rachel Zielinski by Tuesday, August 15. Thank you.

**200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cookbooks** – 45 cookbooks are still available at a cost of \$12.00 each. We also have six old church cookbooks from 2006 at a cost of \$10.00 each. If you got a cookbook and did not yet pay, please give payment to Dianne Maringer or Joyce Reed, or place payment under the church office door. Thank you!

### 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 provide updates for this list. Thank you.*



**Long-Term Care or Homebound:** Betty Bushea, Margot James, Ethyl Jeglie at Elmcroft of Sagamore Hills, Janet Kato at Western Reserve Masonic Community in Medina, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

**Church Family:** Betty Babics, Steve Herzog, Bev Lane, Martha Liebert, Eileen Pincomb, Jan Stough, Leah Tressa Forget, Shirley Weinhold, Kyle Woodward, The Williams Family, Rachel Zielinski

**Extended Church Family:** Logan Churnega (grandson of Ginny Churnega), Audrey Curry (mother of Pam Keenen), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Diane Mason (friend of Lora Rung), Piper Masuga (granddaughter of Dan and Vicky and great-granddaughter of Lola Millhoane), Debbie Morey (sister of Steve Herzog), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Keith Stewart (cousin of Carol Woodward), Frank Toth (father of Rob), Joe Valli (brother-in-law of Vicky and Dan Masuga)

### JULY 2017

16 Sun Decorate Our Church Float, after church  
August Newsletter Deadline  
18 Tue Trustees Meeting, 7pm  
19 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm,  
Strongsville Homecoming Parade – Meet at church at 5pm  
23 Sun Planning Meeting for the Women’s Retreat, after church  
25 Tue Official Board Meeting, 7pm  
26 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm,  
Men’s Luncheon, 11:30am  
Fit Club, 7pm  
Adult Social Club Meeting, 7pm  
30 Sun Penny Sunday for Strongsville Food Bank  
Newsletter Pickup at church

### AUGUST 2017

2 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm  
9 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm  
11-13 Women’s Retreat at Stanford House in Peninsula, Ohio  
16 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm  
23 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm  
30 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm

### SEPTEMBER 2017

4 Mon Labor Day  
6 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-12:30pm – Notice new hours.  
9 Sat Church Garage Sale, 9am to 2pm  
10 Sun Rally Day for Sunday School

### STRONGSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Church Telephone** (440) 238-6697

**Website** [strongsvilleucc.com](http://strongsvilleucc.com)

**Email** [strongsvilleucc@gmail.com](mailto:strongsvilleucc@gmail.com)



### SERVING NEXT SUNDAY – JULY 23, 2017

**Greeter:** Lola Millhoane

**Morning Announcements:** Irene Joyce

**Liturgist:** Betty Craig

**Coffee Hour:** Cathy Hawk