

**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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## JULY 2013 NEWSLETTER

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### From the Pastor's Desk

Over the past eight months, you have heard me say again and again that the only offering that is acceptable to the Lord is one given from a thankful heart. I truly believe that when we give a gift to the Lord, we must do so with joy and thankfulness for all the Lord has given to us.

Since I have arrived, I have learned many things about our community. One is that there are many who truly love the church and are working very hard to see that we are continuing to be a vital community for Christ in our area. I have also become aware that there are many who generously give to the work of the church. Thanks for all you continue to do.

I have also learned that there is a sharp decrease in offering during the summer that is directly related to attendance. When this happens, the trustee must ask our church committees to contribute to the general operating fund to be able to meet the expenses of operation. This practice has been going on for many years and has helped keep the church afloat.

This practice, while may be necessary, is not the best practice. When we draw money from the committees of the church, we take away their opportunities to do new ministries that will help our church to grow. When we use these funds to meet bills, we short the programs that help bring new family members into the church and that will ultimately increase the offering.

I am hoping that the boards and committees will follow the Holy Spirit and do new and exciting things that will touch people's lives. But this can't happen without funds. So I am asking you not to forget your offering to the church this summer. If possible, I am asking you to make a second-mile love gift for the operation of the church during this season. While I don't know the exact amount, I believe that a second-mile offering totaling around \$4,000 will help carry us through the summer. If you would like to help, please use the enclosed envelope and note that you are giving a second-mile offering.

Jack and I will be making a contribution and hope you will consider joining us.

Pastor Becky

### Hooray! Summer is here!



The long winter is over, and we can again enjoy all of God's outdoor blessings. Walks in the park, bike rides, the zoo, fishing, gardening and all the other summer fun activities make this a great time of year. This is the time of the year for vacations, too. Some of us will travel long distances to visit exotic places, while others will travel to see family and friends. Regardless of what we do or where we go the weekends, these are times to get out and enjoy God's creation.

In the past our church has gone into summer mode during this time of year. This means that the choir takes a well-deserved break, Sunday school has a combined class, and many of the church committees don't meet. We also hold special events like the all-church picnic and have special guests who provide music during worship.

However, this year we are going to try something new. This year we are planning many new and exciting worship experiences for the summer. There are already scheduled many fine musicians, who will lead us with wonderful, creative music during worship. We will have a contemporary worship service one Sunday each month, that will be reflective of the fun we all had during the Lenten season.

There will be special Sundays, too. We will also go to the baseball game and enjoy an afternoon watching our team win. Later this summer we may even hold an old-fashioned Tent REVIVAL on the front lawn of the church. I can just hear the town's people saying, "What the heck is going on over there?" How awesome will that be. I will be doing many creative sermons this summer in ways that will surprise you. Look for a special guest to attend, too. This summer is going to be a blast!

Also this August we will hold our first Women's Retreat weekend. This is a time for all women to have a spiritual gathering that is designed especially for us. Naturally there will be lots of great food, as always, but we will also spend time looking at the direction of the Spirit for our lives. We will hear each other's journeys and build new friendships. I encourage you to sign up today and reserve your spot. Financial help is available.

This year I have asked the committees not to take a summer recess because there are sooo many

new things coming in the fall that we must prepare in advance. If we don't do what we need to do this summer, we will not be able to accomplish all the wonderful new programs next year.

When you do go away on vacation, remember that God is still with you and that God NEVER takes a vacation from you. When you're away, find a place to worship. Try something new, and please bring back a bulletin and ideas that you have experienced. If there is no place to worship, get up a bit early and go to a place where you feel Christ's presence. Maybe it's the seaside or a river bank or a mountain. Spend some time in reflection and prayer communing with your Father in Heaven, and please pray for all of us back home. Enjoy this summer that God has given us.

Pastor Becky

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### TREASURER / FINANCIAL SECRETARY NEWS

Claudia Bader, our church Treasurer and Financial Secretary, is transitioning her responsibilities to church members Kenn Oerkfitz and Barb Fraunfelder. Kenn will be our new Treasurer and Barb the Financial Secretary. They are in training during the month of July and plan to begin their responsibilities in August.

As a result of this transition, the bi-annual financial statements will be coming out mid-July. They will be available for two Sundays at church to be picked up. If they are not picked up they will be sent U.S. mail. (We are doing it this way to save on expenses!)

More details will be provided in the August newsletter and our Sunday bulletins with explanations on who to call for your church financial questions and concerns once the transition is complete. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we make this transition.

And a special THANK YOU to Claudia for her nine years as our Treasurer and Financial Secretary. She's done an outstanding job; and as Kenn and Barb are learning, it is a complex job!



## WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### SUNDAY – JULY 7, 2013 – 10:00 A.M.

*The Sacrament of Communion will be celebrated.*

**Sermon:** "Star Wars" – Power and Force

**Scriptures:** 1 Corinthians 2.6-16

**Liturgist:** Rich Tressa

**Greeter:** Linda Plain

**Nursery:** Lora Rung

**Coffee Hour:** Vicky Masuga

**Summer Sunday School Teacher:** Ingrid Dickson

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### SUNDAY – JULY 14, 2013 – 10:00 A.M.

**Sermon:** "Who Is My Neighbor?"

**Scriptures:** 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

**Liturgist:** Jack Stephenson

**Greeter:** Jim Studer

**Nursery:** Gina Cathcart

**Coffee Hour:** Marty Winch

**Summer Sunday School Teacher:** Evan Joyce

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### SUNDAY – JULY 21, 2013 – 10:00 A.M.

*Contemporary Worship Service*

**Sermon:** "The Better Way"

**Scriptures:** Luke 10:38-42

**Liturgist:** Betty Craig

**Greeter:** Volunteer Needed

**Nursery:** Rachel Zielinski

**Coffee Hour:** Dianne Maringer

**Summer Sunday School Teachers:** Cathy Hawk, Dan Davis

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### SUNDAY – JULY 28, 2013 – 10:00 A.M.

*Team Building Theme*

**Sermon:** "Take Me Out to the Ball Game"

**Scriptures:** 1 Corinthians 12:4-31

**Liturgist:** Dale Hawk

**Greeter:** Volunteer Needed

**Nursery:** Cathy Hawk

**Coffee Hour:** Doug Thorn

**Summer Sunday School Teachers:** Erik Joyce

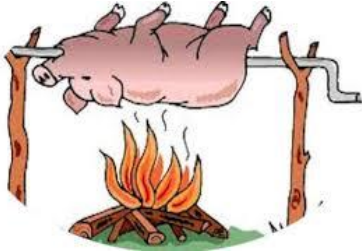
*Those interested will attend the baseball game at 1:05 p.m., when our Cleveland Indians play the Texas Rangers. Tickets are available for \$28 each, which includes all-you-can-eat Stadium food. Please contact Pastor Becky to purchase your ticket now!*



## NEWS FROM THE DIACONATE

The Diaconate is busy planning the following events, and hopes that you will join us!

Diaconate  
**PIG ROAST and BEEF ROAST**  
Saturday – July 20, 2013 – 5:00 P.M.



at the home of  
**Chris and Karen Morgan**  
15085 South Boone Road in Columbia Station

Roast Pork – Roast Beef – Baked Potato Bar – Salad  
Hot Dogs for the Kids  
Coffee – Iced Tea – Lemonade – Punch  
(BYOB if you want something different!)  
Assorted Desserts and S'mores

Bonfire – Marshmallow Roasting  
Gator Rides – Hay Rides

\$15 donation for Adults  
\$5 donation for 12 years and under

All profit goes to the Diaconate  
for its ministries within our church.

Tickets are on sale after church on Sunday mornings.

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**VESPER SERVICE AT GREENBRIER LAKE**  
**Saturday – August 10, 2013 – 5:00 P.M.**

Hamburgers and Hot Dogs Provided  
Please bring a side dish and/or dessert to share.  
More Details Later



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**USHERS NEEDED ON SUNDAY MORNINGS!**  
Please help by signing up on Gathering Area board.  
Thank you!

## GARAGE SALE REPORT 2013

This year's Garage Sale was a rousing success, thanks to the efforts of everyone who donated, sorted, priced, organized, and bought items. We had outstanding help this year, and the result was a week of fellowship and fun. Our sale received many positive comments from the customers about how well-organized and clean our merchandise was!

Special thanks to Irene Jannsohn and Karen Morgan for agreeing to chair the Garage Sale for "one more year" and to Sally Herzog for lining up the plentiful and dedicated volunteers. We had a terrific crew which included: (Apologies if we missed anyone!)

### Pricers/Unpackers/Packers/Cashiers/Sellers/Sorters/

Buyers: Claudia Bader and Jim Nicoulin; Ha Bennett; Barb Bridle; Betty Bushea; Betty Craig; Ingrid Dickson; Barb Fraunfelder; Brandi Garsteck; Amanda, Cathy, Dale and Sarah Hawk; Kris and Michael Fischer; Jim and Ryan Heinrich (who fixed and cleaned up items for sale and put forth extra effort removing unsold merchandise in time for Flo Suttle's memorial service); Sharon Heinrich; Sally and Steve Herzog; Sarah Herzog and Dale Toth; Aimee (who arranged the ads), Isabella, Nina, and Charles Jannsohn; Evan Joyce and Marisa Weineke; Irene, Erik, Elena and Jim Joyce; Sarah Keenen; Kim McKenzie; Lola Millhoane; Chris Morgan; Mary Mortus; Sandy O'Shea (who diligently organized the tables each day during the week); Sandy Pogozelski; Barbara Purdum; Joyce Reed; Lora Rung; Jack and Becky Stephenson; Gino Tosi; Rachel Zielinski

We made nearly \$1,600.00, with the Thrift Shop making around \$150, and the Sunday School Bake Sale making \$471.00. Thank you also to everyone who baked and bought for the bake sale! Thanks to the Hawks for donating Sunday's pizza, to Irene Jannsohn for Monday's tuna casserole and Friday's stew, to Steve Herzog for Tuesday's ziti, to Karen Morgan for Wednesday's sloppy joes, and to Irene Joyce for Thursday's fried chicken dinner. In addition, thank you to those of you who supported the sale with a monetary donation.



A Women's Retreat will be held August 23 to 25, 2013, at Temple Hills. The cost is \$93.60 per person and includes 2 nights, 3 meals on Saturday, and 2 meals (breakfast and lunch) on Sunday. We will be in Memorial Hall, and meals will be in Skipper. If you are interested to attend but have not yet signed up, please email Kim McKenzie at [davekimmckenzie@cox.net](mailto:davekimmckenzie@cox.net) or call her at (216) 401-8738.

**MISSION OUTREACH**

**Community Compassion Contribution** – The money collected goes into the minister's discretionary fund, which is used to assist people who come into the church looking for help. Just look for our "crazy" green and silver striped can in the Gathering Area each week after the worship service to make your contribution. Thank you for helping us reach out to our community!

**Serving Meals at Zion UCC** – Our church members and friends continue to serve meals on Cleveland's west side at Zion UCC on the first Saturday of each month. For this month, the date is **Saturday, July 6**. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area; and to carpool, coordinate with others going on the same day.

**Strongsville Food Bank** – Although all nonperishable items are needed, the food bank now especially needs **tuna, spaghetti sauce, canned meats, canned chili, canned vegetables, beverages (tea, coffee), toilet paper, peanut butter and jelly**. You may place donations in (or by) the box under the coat rack by Pilgrim Hall. Thank you for your support.

Mission and Outreach Committee

**THE THRIFT SHOP**

Summer in The Thrift Shop is a very busy time. Many people who frequent garage sales stop in the shop for bargains. If you haven't been in The Thrift Shop for a while, stop in to see what we sell.

We can always use donations of greeting cards—with or without envelopes, toys, games, puzzles, books, DVDs, craft items, fabric, sewing notions, linens, and magazines. Clothing for the entire family is always a welcome donation. Tax receipts are available.

**We will be closed on Thursday, the Fourth of July**, because of the holiday. We will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 11. The rest of the Thursdays in July our hours will be 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We hope you can stop in to visit, shop, and/or donate.



**STRONGSVILLE UCC T-SHIRTS**



For those who ordered t-shirts, the orders are expected to arrive in mid-July, hopefully in time for the Strongsville Homecoming Parade. For questions, please contact Rachel Zielinski, (440) 864-3209.

**FOLDING CHAIRS MISSING FROM PILGRIM HALL**

If you or someone you know borrowed them, please return them to the church. We need them! Thank you.



**NEEDED:**

**Old, working, hand-held hair dryers for Arts in Strongsville.**

Hair dryers will NOT be returned.

Please contact Linda Plain at (440) 668-4848.



*Thank you to everyone for their cards and telephone get-well wishes during my recovery from surgery. Thank you also for the handmade shawl blanket from Women's Fellowship.*

*Dianne Maringer*

*A special thank you to all who sent cards and made gifts to the Organ Restoration Fund in remembrance of Florence. It's nice to know that there are still people who took the time to attend the memorial service for her birthday and her life.*

*God bless all of you.*

*Love, The Family of Florence Suttle*



**STEEPLE LIGHTING**

**Week of June 2, 2013**

*Happy Anniversary to  
Patti and Nate Johnson on June 3  
With love, Mom*



**The Sunday School Scholarship** was awarded to Alex Krause on Sunday, June 9. Congratulations, Alex!

**Summer Sunday School** - Thank you to our volunteer teachers.

- June 2 – Sue Gigliotti
- June 9 – Sue Gigliotti
- June 16 – Elena Joyce
- June 30 – Irene Joyce
- July 7 – Ingrid Dickson
- July 14 – Evan Joyce
- July 21 – Cathy Hawk and Dan Davis
- July 28 – Erik Joyce
- August 4 – Volunteer Needed
- August 11 – Volunteer Needed
- August 18 – Sharon Heinrich
- August 25 – Charles and Aimée Jannsohn
- September 1 – Rachel Zielinski

**Week of June 9, 2013**

*Congratulations to our granddaughter, Brittany Holmes,  
who graduated Magna Cum Laude  
from Valley Forge High School this week!  
Rich and Susan Tressa*

*Happy Anniversary to Dan and Vicky Masuga on June 6  
Love, Mom a.k.a. Banny*

*In Memory of Our Friend, Ruthe Wolfcale,  
whose birthday was June 9  
Miss you, Bill and Dorothy Ritchie*

*Happy Birthday to my granddaughter, Kyleen Masuga,  
on June 13  
Love ya, Banny*

*Happy Birthday to Dan Sauter on June 14  
With love, Gram*

**Week of June 16, 2013**

*In Honor of Our Mother and Grammy, Betty Babics',  
81<sup>st</sup> Birthday—We love you!  
The Gigliotti and Kubancik Families*

*Congratulations to Katie Lett and Matt Rower  
on Their Engagement  
With love, Gram*

**To volunteer to teach Summer Sunday School,** please sign up on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. No experience is needed, and all materials are provided. Please see Irene Joyce for more details.

**Bake Sale** – Thank you to all who donated and/or purchased goods at the Sunday School Bake Sale on Saturday, June 8, at the Garage Sale. The Bake Sale made \$471.00 for our Sunday School programs.

**Rally Day** is Sunday, September 8, when a new year will begin for our Sunday School.

**Week of June 23, 2013**

*In Loving Memory of Bill Fraunfelder,  
Happy Anniversary to Beth and Harold Lewis, and  
Happy Birthday to My Granddaughter, Ruby  
Barb Fraunfelder*

*Happy Anniversary to Rob and Sandra Wentz  
on June 27  
With love, Gram*

**STRONGSVILLE HOMECOMING PARADE**

**July 17, 2013**

Our church will again this year sponsor a float in the Strongsville Homecoming Parade. This year the date is Wednesday, July 17, 2013. Details about float-making will follow in the Sunday bulletins. For more information, please contact Rachel Zielinski at (440) 864-3209 or (330) 483-1133.

**Week of June 30, 2013**

*Happy Birthday Today to Joshua Sauter  
With love, Grammy*

*Happy Birthday to my Granddaughter, Emma  
Barb Fraunfelder*

*In honor of John Struhar's "85<sup>th</sup>" birthday  
Maggie Struhar*



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 are accepted. **Thank you to all who light our steeple!**

## 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, Edith Graves at Century Oak Care Center, Debbie Krause, Louetha Rieth at Sunrise Assisted Living of Dresher in PA, Erla Mae Schultz

**Church Family:** Gary Fischer at Cleveland Clinic, Hank Klink, John Maringer at Southwest General, the Purdum family, Elizabeth Snook, Ann Sullen, Keith Sullen

**Extended Church Family:** Dolores Banach (friend of Betty Craig), Betty Berk (mother of Mary Mortus), June Brewer (niece of Ed Powers), Zachary Crouse (grandson of Barbara Morgan), Audrey and Gene Curry (parents of Pam Keenen), Victor DiChiro (father-in-law of Rob Wentz), Tom Davern (relative of the Woodwards), Donna Fargo (mother of Sally Herzog), Ruth Fraley (relative of the Jannsohn family), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Shirley Gerecke (friend of Frank and Pat Jefferis), Irene Hagemeyer (niece of Betty Craig), Mary Joyce-Smith (mother of Jim Joyce) at St. Vincent Charity Hospital, Janine Kaltenstein (cousin of Vicky Masuga), Phyllis Keenen (mother of Bruce), Erik Kratky (friend of Sarah Hawk), Cyrila Kribel (friend of Betty Craig), Rick Mahon (friend of the Woodwards), Rick Pfuhl (former custodian of Strongsville UCC), James Smith (brother of Katie Renfro), Barbara Sommers (mother of Sheri Martin), Trudie Taylor (sister of Karen Morgan), Bob Tomko (cousin of Ed Sobek)

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



## *In Sympathy*

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

To Grace Koch and family on the passing of her brother,  
Rev. Marcus Buehrer, on May 25, 2013.

Rev. Buehrer served as pastor of St. John UCC  
in Mansfield, Ohio.

The funeral was held on May 30 in Mansfield.

To Ray Suttle and family  
on the passing of his wife Florence on June 5, 2013.  
A memorial service was held in our sanctuary June 15.

To Andrew Purdum and family  
on the passing of his grandfather, Norman Purdum,  
on June 4, 2013.

## PAPER RECYCLING

Please help the church raise funds while helping our environment. We continue to have a "Paper Retriever" recycling bin in our parking lot. You can bring your old newspapers, magazines, catalogs, general office paper, and junk mail and turn them into cash for our UCC.

Paper may contain staples but should not include bindings (hard cover books, spiral binding, etc.)

Every time we fill the recycling bin (and it holds up to 2 tons of paper), we save 34 trees or 2 barrels of oil and put 3.3 cubic yards less into our landfills. So keep saving! Thank you!



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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Serve a Meal for the Poor at Zion UCC  
on the First Saturday of the Month**  
Please see page 4 of this newsletter.

**Help in the Thrift Shop on Thursdays**  
Please see Lola.

**Teach a Summer Sunday School Class**  
Please see page 5 of this newsletter.

**Be a Greeter on Sunday Morning**  
Please sign up on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall.

**Be an Usher on Sunday Morning**  
Please sign up on the bulletin board in the  
Gathering Area

