


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
 Traditional Worship 9:45 A.M. Sunday
 Contemporary Worship 11:15 A.M. Sunday

JUNE 2015 NEWSLETTER

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

<p>JUNE 7 <i>Second Sunday after Pentecost</i></p> <p>Scriptures: John 3:1-17</p> <p>Sermon: <i>Does God Need To Be Born Again?</i> <i>Rev. Mendle Adams will lead worship.</i></p> <p>Communion at Both Services</p> 	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Kelly Bickley</p> <p>Greeters: Lloyd and Barbara Bridle</p> <p>Ushers: Lloyd and Barbara Bridle</p> <p>Coffee Hour: Dianne Maringer</p>	<p>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Barb Fraunfelder</p> <p>Greeter: Needed</p> <p>Coffee Hour: Dianne Maringer</p> <p>Pricing Party for the Garage Sale will take place after worship. Pizza will be provided</p>
<p>JUNE 14 <i>Third Sunday after Pentecost</i></p> <p>Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 5:6-17</p> <p>Sermon: <i>Living for Jesus</i></p>	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Jim Nicoulin</p> <p>Greeters: Bickley Family</p> <p>Ushers: Needed</p> <p>Coffee Hour: Rosemary Bechtel</p>	<p>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Sarah Hayes</p> <p>Greeter: Needed</p> <p>Coffee Hour: Rosemary Bechtel</p>
<p>JUNE 21 <i>Father's Day and Fourth Sunday after Pentecost</i></p> <p>Scriptures: Ephesians 6:1-9</p> <p>Sermon: <i>Armor of God</i></p>	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Lynn McCray</p> <p>Greeter: Needed</p> <p>Ushers: Needed</p> <p>Coffee Hour: Beth Giuliano</p>	<p>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Betty Craig</p> <p>Greeter: Needed</p> <p>Coffee Hour: Beth Giuliano</p>
<p>JUNE 28 <i>Fifth Sunday after Pentecost</i></p> <p>Scriptures: Mark 5:21-43</p> <p>Sermon: <i>Healing Power</i></p>	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M. <i>Graduates' Recognition</i></p> <p>Liturgist: Ted Bickley</p> <p>Greeters: Needed</p> <p>Ushers: Needed</p> <p>Coffee Hour: Gina Cathcart</p>	<p>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Michele Mhlack</p> <p>Greeter: Needed</p> <p>Coffee Hour: Gina Cathcart</p>

UPDATE ON PASTOR BECKY

On Wednesday morning, May 20, Pastor Becky had a heart attack in Amsterdam. The clot in the heart was removed by cardiac catheterization, and a stent was implanted.

On Saturday morning, May 23, Pastor Becky had a cardiogram. Everything looked fine, and she was released from the hospital to go to her hotel room. Pastor Becky had long goodbyes with all the hospital staff that helped her—they were all very friendly and helpful.

The doctors do not want Pastor Becky to fly until June 3, so she and Jack will fly back on June 3. Their return flight is to Washington, D.C.; and Jack will drive them home. Then Pastor Becky will have another week or two to get back to full speed.

Hospital staff recommended that Pastor Becky and Jack spend their remaining time in Amsterdam seeing the sights, which is what they are doing—as of the printing of this newsletter.

Pastor Becky continues to call the church office daily to “check in.” She sounds great and is in good spirits. She and Jack extend their appreciation to everyone for their thoughts, concerns, and prayers.

Regarding Pastor Becky's niece Denise and her pregnancy, the doctors are concerned about the neurological development of the fetus. In addition, we are mindful of Erhardt's recent back surgery and that he is still recuperating.

Please keep Pastor Becky, Jack, Denise and Erhardt in your prayers. Thank you.



SAVE THESE DATES!

Thursday, July 2 – Logansport Children's Choir Concert
7:00 p.m. at Our Church – All are welcome!

Saturday, July 11 – Jack Stephenson's Retirement Party
at the Parsonage – All are welcome!

TENT REVIVAL and FAMILY FUN DAY

Our church will host an Outdoor Ecumenical Tent Revival from Monday, August 17, through Friday, August 21, 2015, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. We are encouraging other Strongsville churches, their clergy, and choirs to participate one evening during the week. Mark these dates on your calendar now and plan to be a part of this fun celebration with inspiring sermons and music!

A used tent was purchased with private donations and will be utilized for future church events also. Tent size is 40 feet by 80 feet, and it will be set up on our side lot on Royalton Road.

In addition, the week will conclude on Saturday with our annual Family Fun Day, with free activities and food for the kids, families and everyone!

We invite you to join us for an exciting week at Strongsville UCC – August 17 through 22!

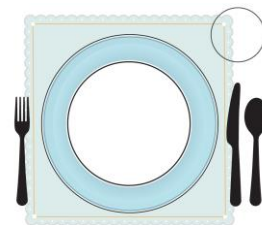


WEDNESDAY FREE LUNCH PROGRAM

The program continues every Wednesday, when lunch is served from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall. All are welcome to attend this free weekly lunch.

Volunteers who prepare meals are asked to be at the church no later than 9:00 a.m. Servers can arrive at 10:00 a.m.

Volunteers are needed – please talk with Pastor Becky or call the church, (440) 238-6697.





C H U R C H
GARAGE SALE
 and
SUNDAY SCHOOL
BAKE SALE

SATURDAY – JUNE 13, 2015 – 9 A.M. to 2 P.M.

We are now accepting items (no hazardous materials or liquids). The Pricing Party will take place following worship on Sunday, June 7; and pizza will be provided. Folks are invited to help price items each evening that week from around 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Donations of baked goods for the Sunday School can be delivered on Friday, June 12, or the morning of the Garage Sale before 9:00 a.m.

The Thrift Shop will be open on the day of the Garage Sale.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Summer Sunday School begins June 7. Parents, Grandparents, Uncles, Aunts: Please sign up to teach one Sunday during the months of June, July, and August. The sign-up sheet is posted on Pilgrim Hall's bulletin board. No experience is necessary, and all materials will be provided. See Sunday School Superintendent Irene Joyce if you have questions.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

- June 7 – Summer Sunday School begins.
- June 13 – Sunday School Bake Sale at the Garage Sale
- June 21 – Father's Day
- June 28 – Graduates' Recognition, when the Sunday School Scholarship will be awarded
- August 22 – Free Family Fun Day
- September 13 – Rally Day



STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING

The Strategic Planning Meeting will take place at the church on Saturday, **June 20, at 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast will be provided. **We strongly encourage you to attend this meeting. Your opinion and ideas do count and will help the church to carry forward with goals to succeed!**



Calling All Women! The third annual Women's Retreat will be held August 14 through 16, 2015 (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) at Pilgrim Hills. Please join in for a GREAT weekend! **Cost is \$93.60 and is due by Sunday, June 14, 2015.**

If you have any questions or want to sign up, please email Kim McKenzie at davekimmckenzie@cox.net or call Kim at (216) 401-8738. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall.

CHURCH MUSIC REHEARSALS

Wednesday Evening

- Children's Band – 7:30 p.m.
- Praise Band – 8:00 to 9:30 p.m.

Thursday Evening until June 11, 2015

- Chancel Choir – 8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Children's Choir and Band

The Children's Choir is now on hiatus. Rehearsals will resume at the end of August. Thank you to all children who participated in the choir! Children who would like to participate in the Band are welcome to come to rehearsals on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., before Praise Band rehearsal. For more information about the children's music programs at our church, please contact our Worship Accompanist and Praise Band Director, Elena Taylor.



IN SYMPATHY

Our love and prayers are extended in sympathy to Rich Tressa and family on the passing of his mother, Marjorie, on April 29, 2015. A memorial service will be held at our church on Saturday, June 27, at 2:00 p.m. A funeral luncheon will follow the service. All are welcome.



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Referring to the bearing of work and responsibility, Paul writes, "So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith" (Galatians 6: 9-10 NRSV). Although summer is on our heels, the church's work is never done!

With the onset of summer, please keep in mind our ministry continues through all four seasons, and it needs help in order to do so. During the offering on Mother's Day, Pastor Becky presented the church with some facts about what happens to a church's offering during the summer months. This begs the question, what can each of us do to ensure this year is different?

This year, even if you're away, please remember the church. Continue to give an offering, even if you are not present. Church offerings can be made via mail, before you go on vacation, or you can ask your bank to send a check. Whatever you choose to do, remember to do it from the heart.

If you are still looking for ways to increase your stewardship throughout the summer, please feel free to ask!

ALTAR FLOWERS

You may provide flowers on any Sunday you wish because multiple vases are accepted on Sunday mornings. As of this writing, the following are dates when vases are still needed in order to have two vases on the altar for Sunday worship:

July 5 – 1 vase
September 6 – 1 vase
October 25 – 2 vases
November 29 – 1 vase
December 13 – 1 vase

Please note: If you only attend the 9:45 a.m. service, you are welcome to take your flowers after that service. The Contemporary Service is casual, and it is okay if flowers are not on the altar.

The signup chart for altar flowers is on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Below the chart are forms and envelopes for submitting your bulletin information and payment to the church office.

Thank you very much for providing flowers for our worship services.



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. This list is updated weekly. If you wish someone to remain on the list, please call the church, (440) 238-6697.

Long-Term Care or Homebound Members: Ethyl Jeglie at Elmcroft of Sagamore Hills, Janet Kato at Western Reserve Masonic Community in Medina, Sandra Kornick at Falling Water, Betty Kovach at Parkside Villa, Debbie Krause, Connie Rebar, Erla Mae Schultz at Medina Village

Church Family: Denise Bell, Erhardt Bell, Michele Mihlack, Pam Peacock, Denzil Richards, Keith Sullen, Pastor Becky Stephenson, Leah Tressa Forget *

Extended Church Family: Ryan Brubeck, Emelyn Carels (sister of Irene Jannsohn), Dylan Churnega (grandson of Ginny Churnega Oerkfitz), Zachary Crouse (grandson of Barbara Morgan), Rebecca Deeb (Godaughter of Lora Rung), Angie Dickinson (friend of Lola Millhoane), Donna Fargo (mother of Sally Herzog), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Irene Hagemeier (niece of Betty Craig), Phyllis Keenen (mother of Bruce), Pat Kolba (mother of Kelly Bickley), Dorothy Kovatich (mother of Bob), Lily (student of Lora Rung), Maggie (friend of the Bickleys), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Trudie Taylor (sister of Karen Morgan), Bob Tomko (cousin of Ed Sobek), Kathleen Wickline (mother of Darla), Marilyn Woodward (mother of David and Carol)



200TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK



As part of our church's 200th anniversary in 2017, Strongsville UCC will print a new, one-of-a-kind cookbook! We would like to include old recipes passed down through generations from your families and friends. Also, we want any new recipes you currently love! Please submit all recipes in an envelope with your name and phone number to Marty Winch or Dianne

Maringer, or place the envelope under the church office door. Thank you!

MISSION AND OUTREACH NEWS

“Unexpected Places” – General Synod 2015 –

Every two years, General Synod brings together thousands of faithful members of the United Church of Christ for formal church witness, inspirational worship, and fellowship with friends (new and old). From June 26 through 30, 2015, thousands from across the country (and abroad) will gather for General Synod 30 in Cleveland, Ohio — the birthplace of the United Church of Christ.

The Mission and Outreach Committee is looking for volunteers to help at General Synod! The registration fee for a volunteer is \$60. **The Mission and Outreach Committee will pay for half of any volunteers’ registration fee, so you need only pay \$30, not \$60.** We will provide funds for 5 volunteers. Since Synod is right in our backyard, let’s graciously offer our time and money June 26-30!! Please talk to Kelly Bickley to volunteer!

MEN’S LUNCHEON

Men’s Luncheon takes place on the **Fourth WEDNESDAY of the month.**

The next Men’s Luncheon is **June 24 at 11:30 a.m.** at the usual meeting place:

European’s Best Restaurant and Bakery

19608 West 130th Street
Strongsville, Ohio 44136

As always, all men are welcome!

FROM THE DIACONATE

The Diaconate thanks all who supported Wing Nite on May 1. The profit from tickets, raffles, and basket sales was \$2,768.01. Thanks again!



CHURCH FLOWER BEDS

The flower beds are blooming, but they need some help during the summer with watering and deadheading (removing dead blooms)—especially the petunias. To help, please sign up on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. We are scheduling help on Fridays at 12 noon. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated. For more information, please contact Melinda Slavik, (440) 783-1148. Thank you.



WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP

Meeting – Women’s Fellowship will meet on Wednesday, June 3, at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor. Please bring a white elephant. This meeting will be a Fun and Game morning, and then we will have lunch in Pilgrim Hall at the Free Lunch Program. As always, all ladies are welcome to this meeting and lunch!



Tote Bags – Women’s Fellowship Spring Project will be to fill about 60 Tote Bags for the Strongsville Food Bank children, ages 5 to 12. The finished bag is about 11” x 12”. Donations of any of the items listed below or monetary donations, so we may purchase items, would be appreciated. Monetary donations should be put into an envelope marked “Tote Bag Project” and placed in the church office. Collection is now until Sunday, June 14. **The collection box is under the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall.** Travel size is best and can be found at Marc’s or Target.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING IN FAMILY SIZE ITEMS.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| soap (facial size or smaller) | small tissue packets |
| shampoo | small cars or trucks |
| body lotion | decks of cards |
| deodorant | activity books |
| tooth brushes | coloring books |
| toothpaste (small tubes) | small stuffed toys (<i>no bigger than 8”</i>) |
| wash cloths | blowing bubbles (small bottles) |
| combs or brushes | sidewalk chalk |
| pencils | |
| crayons (16 count) | |



THANK YOU

Dear Church Friends,

Thank you so much for the prayers and good wishes before, during, and after my recent surgery and hospital stay. I am on the mend and feeling better each day. I truly believe that prayer works. Jim Joyce

Thank you for your prayers during my tonsillectomy and recovery. Thanks to Women’s Fellowship for the card. It means a lot to know that people care. Erik Joyce

STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of May 3, 2015

*Happy Birthday on May 7 to Hayley Craig
Happy Birthday on May 9 to Debbie Wentz
With love, Grammy and Mom*

Week of May 10, 2015

*Happy Birthday on May 11 to Patti Johnson, and
In Memory of Cousin Ron
With love, Mom and Betty*

*In Honor of My Wife Dorothy – Happy Birthday!
Love, Bill*

Week of May 17, 2015

*Happy Birthday on May 22
to Ryan Craig and to Tracey Hill
With love, Grammy*

*Congratulations to Granddaughter Kyra Masuga on
Receiving Her Masters in Education
from the University of South Carolina on May 15, 2015 –
Good Luck – Love Ya
Love, Banny*

*Special thanks to Elena Taylor
for so capably directing the Chancel Choir
for three Sundays!*

Week of May 24, 2015

*Happy Anniversary on May 25 to
Adam and Kristina Craig and to
Stacie and Dan Sauter, and
Happy Birthday on May 28 to Sandra Wentz
With love, Grammy*

Week of May 31, 2015

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

*In Honor of the High School Graduation Today of
Nicole Giuliano and all the 2015 Graduates
Mom, Dad and Luke*

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.



NEWS FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY Barb Fraunfelder

This is a monthly report listing the budget income we need to receive from Pledges and Offerings and the amount actually received from April 26 through May 17, 2015. This information is also appearing on a weekly basis in our worship bulletin.

Offering Needed: \$12,760

Offering Received: (April 26 through May 17) 11,229
Traditional: \$9,514 Contemporary: \$1,715

Difference: (\$1,531)

Giving statements were prepared reflecting donations from January 1, 2015, through May 4, 2015. They were handed out on Sunday mornings, May 17 and May 24, or placed in the U.S. mail by the end of the month.

The ACCOUNTS listed on the left side of the page identify where you wanted the money placed, e.g., Pledge / Offerings – Ministries/Operations and the column AMT. GIVEN gives the dollar amount given. If you have pledged for 2015, the PLEDGED, AMT./FREQ., FREQ and OVER/UNDER columns are also filled in. If you see a negative number in the OVER/UNDER column do not worry! It's looking at the whole year of 2015 and sees you UNDER the total amount pledged. You'll need to calculate if you are really under at this time. If you wish assistance or have any questions or concerns on your statement, please contact me.

If you need an alternative way to give to the church, you may want to consider dropping off your offering / donation during the week at the church office, sending it through the U.S. Mail, or setting up ONLINE Banking with your bank. The bank will send a payment (one time or ongoing) directly to the church. Request the check be made out to Strongsville United Church of Christ and mailed to 13740 Pearl Road, Strongsville, OH 44136, phone number 440-238-6697. Also note your envelope number, if possible, and how to direct the giving if it is not all going to Ministries and Operations (MO), e.g., \$10 MO, \$10 OCWM. If there are no instructions on the check, the total amount will be directed to Ministries and Operations.

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee and the Trustees, I thank you for your continued support of our church. Please consider that the summer months are now upon us and we often are not in church. However, the church is always there for us when we do come or need some assistance. So help us keep our bills current and our salaries paid with your continual monetary support! May God shine upon us and give us his grace.

Barb Fraunfelder
Home: 440-331-3673
Email: bfraunfelder@ameritech.net

RECYCLING

We now have recycling containers in our church kitchen. Please use them for recycling glass, cans, plastic, paper and cardboard. Also, please **keep these containers in the kitchen so they are visible for all to use.**

Thank you for recycling!

LOGANSPORT CHILDREN'S CHOIR CHORAL CONCERT July 2, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.

**No Admission Fee —
Free Will Offering for the Organ Restoration Project**

On Thursday, July 2, 2015, we will host a youth concert at our church, presented by the Logansport Children's Choir. The group is a community choir with members from schools in and near Logansport, Indiana. The Choir is in its 27th season, and has given performances and participated in Children's Choir Festivals in the United States, England and Europe. The Chamber Choir, which is giving this concert, is a subgroup that is comprised of older members who are wrapping up a tour in Canada and the northeastern United States.

The concert starts at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to a "meet and greet" reception in Pilgrim Hall before the concert, starting at 6:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served, and we will have a chance to meet the choir members and their director.

Please join us in welcoming this talented group of young people as they share their music with us.



COFFEE HOUR FUND

Thank you to all who contribute to the Coffee Hour Fund. Besides Coffee Hour, these contributions now also provide supplies for the Wednesday Free Lunch Program. Your support is greatly appreciated.



FACILITIES VISIONING TEAM

The team will meet Monday, June 15, at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.

GREETERS AND USHERS NEEDED

Greeters and Ushers are needed on Sunday mornings. Please help in these areas if you can. The signup sheets are on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall.

HELP KIWANIAN'S SAVE LIVES Donate Your Shoes Today!

Shoes for H.O.P.E. is an exciting program that is making a POSITIVE IMPACT around the world. Businesses, schools, organizations, and individuals are getting involved. Missions in Motion International Ministries and PraiseFest Ministries have teamed up to collect 2,500,000 pairs of shoes nationally! We are collecting new and used shoes for people who do not have shoes. According to a 2011 poll:

- The average woman owns about 17 pairs of shoes.
- The average woman wears 3 pairs of shoes regularly; the rest sit in her closet.
- Half of the world lives on \$2.50 a day.
- 3 billion people cannot afford food, clothing, or housing.
- People die every day from diseases contracted from not having shoes to wear.

Your generous donation of new and used shoes can make a difference in the lives of people everywhere, and possibly save lives. People die every day from diseases caused by soil transmitted parasitic infections, simply from not having shoes to wear. Approximately two billion people worldwide suffer with parasitic diseases that could be prevented by wearing shoes. All donated shoes will be redistributed through microenterprise partners and used in developing nations for impoverished people to start, maintain, and grow an enterprise to feed, clothe, and house their families.

Here are the shoes we want:

Any SHAPE Any STYLE And SIZE Any CONDITION

A shoe collection box is in Pilgrim Hall by the bulletin board. Please see Clay Williams if you have any questions.

