

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
13740 Pearl Road
Strongsville, Ohio 44136

Rev. Rebecca Stephenson, Pastor

March 12, 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 *How Majestic Is Your Name* Michael W. Smith

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: O God, you send us out, like Abram and Sarai.

People: We travel by day, in confidence.

Leader: You draw us close, like Nicodemus.

People: We travel by night, with questions.

Leader: With our hopes and our doubts,

People: We embark on our journeys of faith.

Leader: With the saints of every age,

People: We seek the way that leads into your love.

Leader: We pause on our journey to praise you,

All: And rejoice to find you with us, guiding every step.

† **HYMN 225** *Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

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 *Amen* John Carter

CHORAL ANTHEM *How Great the Love* Mary Kay Beall

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *All Hail King Jesus* Dave Moody

† **DOXOLOGY 87** Tune: *Lamb of God*

O bless the gifts our hands have brought;
And bless the work our hearts have planned.
Ours is the faith, the will, the thought;
The rest, O God, is in your hand.

† **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SCRIPTURES John 3:1-17

SERMON *Must Be Made New*

† **HYMN 669** *Make Me a Servant*

† **BENEDICTION**

† **RESPONSE** *Spirit of the Living God* Daniel Iverson

† **POSTLUDE** *Take the Name of Jesus with You* William H. Doane

This morning's altar flowers are given—

*In Remembrance of Our Mothers on Their Birthdays—
Carmella Norris on February 19 and Nadine Burnand on February 26
Ginger and Ron Rothel*

Belated birthday wishes to Allan Haberkorn and Samuel Cuyler last
Sunday, March 5.

Jesus and the Movies II is a Lenten Study on Sunday evenings at
5:30 p.m. that includes a light meal of soup and bread. The study continues
TODAY and goes through April 9. Together we are exploring the life of
Jesus as portrayed in the movies. We are comparing the movies with the
Gospel accounts and our life experiences. All are welcome.

Deadline for the April Church Newsletter is this Wednesday, March 15.
You may want to leave your article(s) in the church office today.

The profit from the Roast Pork Dinner on March 4 was \$1,108.58.
Thanks again to all who supported the dinner in any way.

The Thrift Shop

END-OF-WINTER 2017 BAG SALE

Thursday – March 16 – \$6 / bag – 10am to 4pm

Closed March 23 and 30, 2017 Reopen April 6, 2017

Fill a Brown Paper Bag, which we will supply, with merchandise of your
choice. **Overfill will be charged \$1.00 extra.**

Excluded are jewelry, cards, St. Patrick's Day items and Easter items.



ARTS IN STRONGSVILLE and STRONGSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

Next Sunday – March 19, 2016 – 3:00 P.M.

presents

The Satori Winds

4 Guys with 4 Clarinets and 4 Saxes
and

Broadway Bound

Featuring BW Music Theatre Majors—
Gillian Han, Jason Goldstone and Alyssa Kay Thompson
Freewill Offering ~ Reception Following the Concert



Women's Fellowship will not make candy for Easter because of the lack
of help.

Easter Lilies – Orders are due next Sunday, March 19. Order forms are on
the table in the Gathering Area. Please slide your order with payment
under the church office door. Thank you.

Next Sunday, March 19, is Baptism Sunday. If you want to be baptized
before Pastor Becky retires, please inform Pastor Becky or call the church
office at (440) 238-6697.

Celebration of Ministry Open House

for

PASTOR BECKY STEPHENSON

on the occasion of her retirement

Sunday - April 23, 2017 - 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.

at

Strongsville United Church of Christ

13740 Pearl Road in Strongsville, Ohio (Northwest Corner of Pearl and Royalton Roads)

Appetizers and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

All are welcome.



SERVING TODAY

Greeter – Roy Merkle

Morning Announcements – Irene Joyce

Liturgist – Pam Keenen

Director of Music – Elena Taylor

Accompanist – Joe Williams

The Chancel Choir

Clarinet/Native American Flute/Saxophone – Ken Mehalko

Acoustic Guitar – Gary Hackett

Bass Guitar – Jack Stephenson

Electric Guitar – Jake Williams

Mallet Percussion – Rob Toth

Drum Set – Mike Soltis

Sound System – Jim Heinrich

Wing Nite is Friday, May 5, 2017, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Grindstone Tap House, 826 Front Street in Berea. It is on one floor (no steps to a dark basement) and will include pizza, pasta, wings, salad, 5 types of domestic beer, well drinks, and wine. Tickets are \$25 per person and can be purchased from any Diaconate member. We are also looking for anyone interested in donating a theme-based basket to auction at this event. If you will make a basket, a sign-up sheet is posted in Pilgrim Hall to write your name and the type of basket you will provide.

Can you help? The Sunday School is looking for a few items for our costume stash:

- Old graduation gowns--any color, any size
- Striped/earth-tone skinny ties (from the 80's)
- Pieces of soft rope for belts (about 2 feet long)
- Winter scarves--plain or with rustic/earth-tone patterns/stripes

Please bring your items to Irene Joyce when you have a chance. Thanks for cleaning out your closets to benefit the Sunday School!

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: Eric Brand, Betty Bushea, Margot James, Ethyl Jeglie at Elmcroft of Sagamore Hills, Janet Kato at Western Reserve Masonic Community in Medina, Harvey Pincombe, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields, Doris Soucie

Church Family: Shirley Brand, Steve Herzog, Don Kovach, Carol Lesiak, Martha Liebert, Michele Mhlack, Pam Peacock, Denzil Richards, Lora Rung, Melinda Slavik, Jan Stough, Leah Tressa Forget, Kyle Woodward

Extended Church Family: Bri Brostek (friend of Gina Cathcart), Dylan Churnega (grandson of Ginny Churnega Oerkfitz), Zachary Crouse (grandson of Barbara Morgan), Audrey Curry (mother of Pam Keenen), Edie Deitcher (friend of Barbara O'Boyle), Hollie Paine Dodge (friend of Betty Craig), Kim Filiautraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Matthew Geletka (grandson of Barbara O'Boyle), Dan Karoly (friend of The Thrift Shop ladies), Sue Mason, Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Jean Mlincek (sister of Joyce Reed), 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)

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed	\$3,865
Weekly Offering Received 3/5/2017	<u>\$3,505</u>
Difference	-\$360

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY – MARCH 19, 2017

Greeter – Kristen Clotworthy
 Morning Announcements – Irene Joyce
 Liturgist – Jim Nicoulin
 Ushers – Bobby Krisak and Serena Abruzzino
 Coffee Hour – Volunteer Needed

STRONGSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church Telephone (440) 238-6697
Website strongsvilleucc.com
Email strongsvilleucc@gmail.com

MARCH 2017

- 14 Tue Rehearsal for Maundy Thursday Service, 7pm
 15 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm
 Men's Luncheon, 11:30am
 Fit Club, 7pm
 Journey in Faith Class, 7pm
 April Newsletter Deadline
- 16 Thu Thrift Shop, 9am-4pm
 Bell Choir 7pm, Chancel Choir 8pm
- 19 Sun Baptism Sunday during worship
 Transition Team Meeting with congregation, 11:30am
 Concert, 3pm with reception afterward in Pilgrim Hall
 Lenten Study, 5:30pm
- 20 Mon Transition Team Meeting with congregation, 11am
- 21 Tue Advertising Committee Meeting, 7pm
 Diaconate Meeting, 7pm
- 22 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm,
 Fit Club, 7pm
 Journey in Faith Class, 7pm
- 23 Thu Thrift Shop CLOSED
 Bell Choir 7pm, Chancel Choir 8pm
- 26 Sun Trustees Meeting, 11:30am
 Lenten Study, 5:30pm
- 28 Tue Official Board Meeting, 7pm
- 29 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm,
 Fit Club, 7pm
 Journey in Faith Class, 7pm
- 30 Thu Thrift Shop CLOSED
 Bell Choir 7pm, Chancel Choir 8pm

APRIL 2017

- 1 Sat Rehearsal for Maundy Thursday Service, 9am
 2 Sun Worship Committee Meeting, after church
 Lenten Study, 5:30pm
- 4 Tue Rehearsal for Maundy Thursday Service, 7pm
- 5 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm
 Fit Club, 7pm
 Journey in Faith Class, 7pm
- 6 Thu Thrift Shop REOPENS, 10am to 4pm
- 9 Sun Palm Sunday
 New Members Received, Communion
 Lenten Study, 5:30pm
- 12 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm
 Fit Club, 7pm
- 13 Thu Thrift Shop, 9am-4pm
 Maundy Thursday Worship, 7pm
- 14 Fri Good Friday Worship, 7:30pm
- 16 Sun Easter Sunday
 Sunrise Service, 6:30am
 Easter Breakfast of scrambled eggs and ham
 Traditional Easter Worship, 10am
- 18 Tue Advertising Committee Meeting, 7pm
 Diaconate Meeting, 7pm
- 19 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm,
 Men's Luncheon, 11:30am
 Fit Club, 7pm
- 23 Sun Celebration of Ministry Reception for Pastor Becky,
 12noon to 4pm in Pilgrim Hall
- 25 Tue Official Board Meeting, 7pm
- 26 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm,
 Fit Club, 7pm

TRANSITION TEAM MEETINGS – STRONGSVILLE UCC – 2017

The first step in the process of transitioning to a new pastor is meeting with the Transition Team to help the Team prepare and define our profile for the Pastoral Search Committee. This team of 6 members (Kelly Bickley, Lloyd Bridle, Ginny Churnega, Tom Gaumer, Cathy Hawk, and Lora Rung) is charged with the following task and purpose:

1. To assess and report the culture, dynamics, and ethos of the congregation at this point in time (strengths, weaknesses, how decisions are made and implemented, how various people fit into the structure, etc.).
2. To discern and report the hopes and desires of the congregation regarding its vision and mission as it moves forward through this time of transition into the future.
3. To allow the congregation to know that there is a plan of transition in place, that qualified and capable people are carrying it out, and that with God's help and guidance we will move together through this time and come out okay on the other side.

Several meetings are being held with all groups in the church and also general congregational gatherings. **The general congregational gatherings are for any members not attending a group or committee gathering. They are being held at the church and are scheduled for next Sunday, 3/19, at 11:30 a.m. and Monday, 3/20, at 11:00 a.m. You only need to attend one session.**

The following are the questions that are being asked to help the discussions arrive at the input the Transition Team needs:

1. In your life at Strongsville UCC, what has been the most meaningful to you?
2. In your life at Strongsville UCC, has there been anything that has caused you discomfort or stress, and if so, what?
3. What keeps you coming back?
4. What do you understand is our mission and how might we better accomplish it?
5. What would the community lack if we closed our doors?
6. Is there an identifiable demographic in our community with whom we are not involved, or could be involved with more?
7. Is there anything we're doing that you wish we weren't?
8. Is there anything we're not doing that you wish we were?

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Palm Sunday – 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary
Maundy Thursday – 7:00 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall (*includes dinner*)
Good Friday – Tenebrae Service at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary
Easter Sunrise Service – 6:30 a.m. outdoors, weather permitting
Easter breakfast of scrambled eggs and ham will be served in Pilgrim Hall; donations of baked goods would be appreciated.
Easter Traditional Service – 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary