

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (CONGREGATIONAL)**

13740 Pearl Road, Strongsville, Ohio 44136

Rev. Rebecca Stephenson, Pastor Church (440) 238-6697

Website strongsvilleucc.com Email strongsvilleucc@gmail.com

**March 15, 2015 9:45 A.M. Fourth Sunday in Lent**

† *Those who are able may stand.*

**PRELUDE** *Grace, Love, and Fellowship* Tom Fettke

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PLAYLET** *On the Road with Jesus* Fourth Sunday in Lent

† **HYMN 344** *Grace Greater than Our Sin* Verses 1 and 4

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Brothers and sisters in Christ, why have you come to worship this morning?

**All: We come to celebrate the love of God in the form of Jesus Christ.**

One: This love reaches through the darkness of our lives to embrace us. Our challenge is to trust the light of God's love in the midst of our struggles.

**All: We come to celebrate the light of God in Jesus who offers love and acceptance, not judgment and rejection.**

One: If only we will trust, Jesus leads us in the way of light and love.

**All: We come to celebrate our God who loved and loves us so much.**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**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** *With All My Heart* Babbie Mason

**ANTHEM** *He Never Said a Mumbalin' Word* William Schoenfeld

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**THE OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY** *Lamb of God* Twila Paris

† **DOXOLOGY** (No. 815)

† **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**SCRIPTURES** Ephesians 2:1-10 New Testament, p. 170

**SERMON** *Grace*

† **HYMN 343** *Amazing Grace* Verses 1, 2, 4

† **BENEDICTION**

† **RESPONSE** *Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing* Tattersall's Psalmody

† **POSTLUDE** *By His Grace* Helen Lemmel

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No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

**SERVING TODAY**

Worship Accompanist  
Interim Choir Director  
Bell Choir Director  
Liturgist  
Greeter  
Usher  
Coffee Hour

Elena Taylor  
Ken Mehalko  
Barbara Fraunfelder  
Lynne McCray  
Denise Bell  
Sharon Heinrich  
Cheryl Sobek, Ginny Dangelo



**March 2015**

- 15 Sun One Great Hour of Sharing Offering  
Women's Fellowship Candy Sale, during Coffee Hour  
Church Newsletter Deadline  
Lenten Meal and Study, 6:00 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall
- 17 Tue Advertising Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 18 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- 19 Thu Journey in Faith Class, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- 22 Sun KFC CROP Walk skits and demonstrations, during Coffee Hour  
Women's Fellowship Candy Sale, during Coffee Hour  
Lenten Meal and Study, 6:00 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall
- 24 Tue Official Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- 25 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Men's Luncheon at European's Best Restaurant, 11:30 a.m.
- 26 Thu Journey in Faith Class, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- 29 Sun Palm Sunday – Communion at both services  
Reception of New Members at both services  
Penny Sunday  
Lenten Meal and Study, 6:00 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall

**HOLY WEEK WORSHIP**

**Palm Sunday** – Traditional 9:45 a.m., Contemporary 11:15 a.m.  
with Communion and Reception of Members at both services

**Maunder Thursday** – Communion Service – 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

**Good Friday** – Tenebrae Service – 7:30 p.m.

**Easter Sunrise** – Outdoors, Weather Permitting – 6:30 a.m.

*Easter Breakfast of Scrambled Eggs and Ham – 7:30 to 9:15 a.m.  
(Donations of baked goods are requested.)*

**Easter Sunday Worship** – 9:45 a.m.  
*(No Service at 11:15 a.m.)*

**SERVING NEXT SUNDAY – MARCH 22, 2015**

- |                      |                        |                       |
|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Liturgist            | 9:45 a.m. Jim Nicoulin | 11:15 a.m. Dan Masuga |
| Greeters             |                        | Tom and Judy Gaumer   |
| Ushers for 9:45 a.m. |                        | Needed                |
| Coffee Hour          |                        | Ginny Basenback       |

**ANNOUNCEMENTS – MARCH 15, 2015**

**Welcome, visitors!** We are so glad you have chosen to worship with us this morning. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. **Members, please wear your nametags** to assist others to get to know you.

**This morning's altar flowers** are from the McKenzie family in celebration of Kevin's 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

**Our steeple will light the sky this week—**

*Happy Birthday on March 17 to Natalia Hill's daughter, Mia  
With love, Grammy*

*In Memory of Edith Graves  
Betty Craig*

*In Loving Memory of Edith Graves  
Dan and Roberta Carpenter*

**Happy Birthday** to Dorothy Evert, Dan Masuga, and Kevin McKenzie!

**Our love and prayers are extended in sympathy** to Allen and Michele Mihlack on the passing of Allen's father Paul on Thursday, March 12. Visitation is today from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Baker Funeral Home, 206 Front Street in Berea. Funeral mass will take place tomorrow, March 16, at Holy Martyr Church, 3000 Old Weymouth Road in Medina.

Weekly Offering Needed	\$3,190
Offering Received 3/8:	Traditional \$2,873    Contemporary \$482    3,355
	Difference    \$165

**Lenten Study** – Pastor Becky continues to lead a Lenten study on the book, Renegade Gospel, by Mike Slaughter on the Sundays during Lent through March 29. We will enjoy a meal at the church at 6:00 p.m., and the study will follow at about 7:00 p.m. The book presents Jesus and his challenging message to inspire us during Lent, Easter, and through the year. For the meal, the main course will be provided; please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share. Thank you.

**Candy Sale** – Women's Fellowship will sell candy in Pilgrim Hall between the two services this morning.

**One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be received this morning.** As one of the most important and largest efforts by the United Church of Christ, we ask that you give from the heart. These funds are used to:

- support self-help programs in more than 80 nations to build sustainable communities, enabling them to stand against and rise above hunger, disease, illiteracy, and other forces of injustice that deny and destroy dignity.
- provide emergency and long-term assistance to people in the aftermath of natural or human-caused events.
- respond with help, hope, and hospitality for people who have been uprooted from their homes. More than 30 million of the world's people are uprooted at any given time.

Providing monetary assistance for others is not an easy thing to do. But we can share what we can, knowing that we are helping others, changing lives, sharing joy . . . the foundation of our Christian faith. Offering envelopes are in the pew racks this morning.

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

**Today is the deadline for the April Church Newsletter.** You may leave your article(s) in the church office today. Thank you!

**Advertising Team** will meet on Tuesday, March 17, at 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday Free Lunch Program is in operation.** All are welcome to attend this free weekly lunch, which is served 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**CROP WALK on Saturday, April 25** – On Sunday, March 22, be sure to stick around for or come early to Coffee Hour! The KFC Club (and helpers) will be performing short skits and putting on a demonstration to teach about Crop Walk and why we "Walk Because They Walk". Our fund-raising goal for the walk is \$1,000. Sponsored by Church World Service, CROP Hunger Walk is the oldest hunger-fighting fundraising event in the U.S. It involves more than 1,600 communities each year – a mix of faiths, community groups, individuals and schools. Around 25 percent of the money raised fights hunger in each of those communities, with the remainder supporting the life-saving work of CWS – helping people around the world have enough food to eat and clean water to drink – and allowing children to have the best start at life possible.

**Sign up to be a walker or donate on our Team Page:**

<http://hunger.cwsglobal.org/goto/UCCCongregational>

**There is also a sign up in the Gathering Area.**

*Diaconate Sponsored Fundraiser*

## **WING NITE**

**Friday – May 1, 2015 – 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at**

**Sidelines Sports Bar & Grill**

1165 Pearl Road

Brunswick, Ohio



**\$20.00 per person** includes wings, penne pasta with marinara sauce, garden salad, hot dogs, pop, draft beer. Cash bar also available.

Additional fun events for the evening:

Chinese Auction, Side Boards / 50/50, Heads / Tails game

Tickets for this event will be available for purchase on Sunday mornings from Diaconate members. Anyone willing to provide theme baskets/gifts for the auction, please sign up on the board in Pilgrim Hall. Thank you!

**Weekly Food Bank Donations** – Judy Carte continues to be our liaison to the Strongsville Food Bank, and you will see that she lists items that the Food Bank needs most. We will be starting a weekly rotation of donations on the first through fourth Sundays of the month. The donation box will be located in the foyer as you walk in for services. This will allow our church to more consistently give the Food Bank what they most need for the people who utilize it. The schedule will be as follows for now, until needs change. (We will notify you accordingly when they do.)

First Sunday	Canned fruit
Second Sunday	Pork and beans
Third Sunday	Family meals (such as chili, beef stew, ravioli)
Fourth Sunday	Toiletry items

**Vehicle Needed** – Our Mission and Outreach Committee has adopted two families, who were recommended by Kelly Kling, the Strongsville Food Bank administrator. One family needs a vehicle. If you have an old car or van that you are thinking of donating to a charity, you can donate your vehicle through our church. Our church will provide a tax donation receipt to the donor. For more information, please contact Judy Carte, Mission and Outreach Committee liaison for the adopted families, or Kenn Oerkfitz, Church Treasurer.



Orders are now being accepted. Please complete this form and place it in the offering plate or Church Office with your cash or check payment by the deadline of **TODAY**. The cost is **\$7.00**.

Wording for bulletin: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of plants: \_\_\_\_\_

I will take my plant(s).  I will leave my plant(s) for someone who needs some cheer.

Please make your check payable to **Strongsville United Church of Christ**, and place your order (with payment) in the church office, or mail it to:

**The United Church of Christ  
13740 Pearl Road  
Strongsville, OH 44136**



*Thank you for placing a lily on the altar on Easter Sunday morning.*

Additional lily order forms **and envelopes** are available on the rectangular table in the Gathering Area at the church.

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**For Church Records**

**2015 Easter Lily**

Total number of plants: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Offering envelope number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash/Check No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Order deadline is **TODAY, March 15, 2015**.*

**ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS – MARCH 15, 2015**

**Help is needed on Sunday mornings with greeting, ushering, and serving at coffee hour.** To help in these areas, please sign up on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area. If you are new to a task, we will arrange for a Diaconate member to assist you. Thank you for volunteering to help.

**THRIFT SHOP EVENTS**

- March 19 BAG SALE – all bags \$6
- March 26 BAG SALE – all bags \$6
- April 2 FINAL BAG SALE – all bags \$5
- April 9 Thrift Shop Closed for Changeover

*The Thrift Shop is open on Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

**Please hold your donations until April 16. Thank you!**

**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 due by Sunday, June 14, 2015. If you have any questions or want to sign up, please email Kim McKenzie at [davekimmckenzie@cox.net](mailto:davekimmckenzie@cox.net) or call Kim at (216) 401-8738. Look for the sign-up sheet in April.

**Strategic Planning Meeting** – Please join in for the Strategic Planning Meeting on Saturday, April 25, 2015, at noon in Pilgrim Hall at the church. Your opinion and ideas do count and will help the church to carry forward with goals to succeed!

**Healthcare** – I was asked to introduce myself, Beth Ann Beck with Health Markets. I have been a resident of Strongsville for over 15 years, and I am an agent here locally. I specialize in major healthcare and complete benefit packages based on your needs and budget. I can answer questions you might have in regards to the Affordable Care Act and how it affects you. If you were not aware, the government just created another special enrollment period – so it’s not too late to get coverage. If you have questions or concerns please call me [440-212-0831](tel:440-212-0831). I can help.

**CHURCH MUSIC REHEARSALS**

**Wednesday Evening:** Praise Band - 8:00 to 9:30 p.m.

**Thursday Evening:**

- Children’s Choir - 6:30 to 7:15 p.m.
- Children’s Band - 7:15 to 8:00 p.m.
- Bell Choir - 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- Chancel Choir - 8:00 to 9:30 p.m.

**An Ecumenical Softball Team** is being formed. If you are interested to play on the team, please circle Softball Team on your Attendance Card; call the church office, (440) 238-6697; or tell Pastor Becky. Thank you!

**Prayer Chains** – If you wish to be part of an Email Prayer Chain or a Telephone Prayer Chain, please call the church office, (440) 238-6697. To request prayers from the Email Prayer Chain and the Telephone Prayer Chains, please call the church or Pastor Becky.

## 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 inform the church of updates to this list.*

**Long-Term Care or Homebound Members:** 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:** Betty Bushea, Rhea Clements, Charles Jannsohn, Irene Jannsohn, Jim Joyce, Carol Lesiak, Chris Morgan, Sandy Pogozelski, Denzil Richards, Melinda Slavik, Doris Soucie, Ann Sullen, Leah Tressa Forget \*

**Extended Church Family:** Ryan Brubeck, Marie Bury, Zachary Crouse (grandson of Barbara Morgan), Rebecca Deeb (Goddaughter of Lora Rung), Donna Fargo (mother of Sally Herzog), Ruth Fraley (relative of the Jannsohn family), Brian Gogerty (friend of the Heinrichs), Irene Hagemeyer (niece of Betty Craig), Phyllis Keenen (mother of Bruce), Wilson Lansell (brother of Dorothy Ritchie), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Trudie Taylor (sister of Karen Morgan), Bob Tomko (cousin of Ed Sobek), Marjorie Tressa (mother of Rich), Shirley Wilson (mother of Sue Hawk), Marilyn Woodward (mother of David and Carol)

\* If you wish to send Leah a card, her address is: Leah Forget  
1604 Brentwood Street  
Middletown, OH 44054

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



You may provide flowers on any Sunday you wish because multiple vases are accepted on our altar on Sunday mornings. However, the following are dates when vases are still needed for Sunday worship:

March 29 - 1 vase  
May 17 – 1 vase  
May 24 – 1 vase  
May 31 – 1 vase  
June 7 – 2 vases  
June 21 – 2 vases  
July 5 – 2 vases  
August 9 – 2 vases  
August 16 – 2 vases  
September 6 – 1 vase  
October 4 – 1 vase  
October 25 – 2 vases  
November 8 – 1 vase  
November 29 – 2 vases  
December 13 – 2 vases  
December 20 – 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 the Gathering Area. 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.