

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

Rev. Rebecca Stephenson, Pastor

**SUNDAY – MARCH 19, 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** *The River Is Here* Andy Park

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: O come, let us sing to our GOD;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

**People: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving,  
singing joyful songs of praise!**

One: Our God is great, sovereign above all powers and  
principalities.

**People: The sea, the depths of the earth, the heights of the  
mountains, indeed all of creation were made by God  
and belong to God.**

One: O come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the HOLY ONE, our Maker!

† **HYMN** *Holy Ground – two tunes combined*

This is holy ground; We're standing on holy ground,  
for the Lord is present and where He is is holy.  
This is holy ground; We're standing on holy ground,  
for the Lord is present and where He is is holy.

We are standing on holy ground,  
and I know that there are angels all around.  
Let us praise Jesus now.

We are standing in His presence on holy ground.

These are holy hands; He's given us holy hands.  
He works through these hands and so these hands are holy.  
These are holy hands; He's given us holy hands.  
He works through these hands and so these hands are holy.

We are standing on holy ground,  
and I know that there are angels all around. *Continues on next page . . .*

Let us praise Jesus now.  
We are standing in His presence,  
We are standing in His presence,  
We are standing in His presence on holy ground.

CCLI Song #19526 and CCLI Song #21198 CCLI License #11237335

**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** *Create in Me a Clean Heart* Carl F. Mueller

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Izabella Abruzzino, Serena Abruzzino, Christopher Dragony,  
McKenzi Dragony, Rowan Garcia, Kenneth Krisak,  
Roberta Krisak, Christian Scott

**CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT**

Pastor: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and  
to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who  
witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love,  
support, and care for these persons as they live and grow  
in Christ?

**People: We promise them our love, support, and care.**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Leader: Let us unite with the church in all times and places  
in confessing our faith in the triune God.

Leader: Do you believe in God?

**People: I believe in God.**

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**People: I believe in Jesus Christ.**

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

**HYMN** *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*

Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign;  
With this water God has sealed you, unto love and grace divine.

Child of love, our love's expression, love's creation, loved indeed!  
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits, into joy and laughter lead.

Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God's you are, from God you came.  
Back to God we humbly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name

Child of God your loving Parent, learn to know whose child you are.  
Grow to laugh and sing and worship, trust and love God more than all.

CCLI Song # 1727790 CCLI License # 11237335

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**THE OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** *Give Thanks* Henry Smith

† **DOXOLOGY 817** 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** Matthew 3:1-6 and 11-17

**SERMON** *One Baptism*

† **HYMN 418** *Make Us One*

† **BENEDICTION**

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

† **POSTLUDE**

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This morning's altar flowers are given—

*In Memory of Richard Craig and Bernard Roub  
With love, Betty Craig*

*In Loving Memory of Our Loving Family and Friends  
who cannot join us this special day  
The Krisak – Abruzzino Family*

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**ARTS IN STRONGSVILLE and STRONGSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**PERFORMING ARTS SERIES**

*presents*

**The Satori Winds** (4 Guys with 4 Clarinets and 4 Saxes) and

**Broadway Bound** featuring BW Music Theatre Majors—

Gillian Han, Jason Goldston and Alyssa Kay Thompson

**TODAY – March 19, 2017 – 3:00 P.M.**

*Freewill Offering ~ Reception after Concert*

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**LILY ORDERS ARE DUE TODAY.** To place a lily on the altar for Easter  
Sunday, please complete a form from the table in the Gathering Area and  
slide your order with payment under the church office door today.

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**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**

Appetizers and hors d'oeuvres will be served. All are welcome.



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**OFFERINGS RECEIVED**

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,865  
Weekly Offering Received 3/12/2017 **\$3,665**  
Difference -\$200

**The Thrift Shop** thanks you for your support through donations and purchases. The bag sales are over. After church today, anyone who would like is invited to go downstairs and fill a bag (excluding jewelry, cards and Easter items) for free for yourself, for someone else, or for charity. The Thrift Shop will be closed on the Thursdays of March 23 and 30 for cleaning the shop and for the changeover of merchandise to the spring/summer line.

**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. Please sign up on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall if you plan to attend. All are welcome.

**Master's Recital** – Our wonderful choral accompanist, Joe Williams, will hold his final Master's recital Wednesday, April 5, at 6:30 p.m. in Drinko Hall at Cleveland State University. All are invited! The school will reimburse parking fees from the garage on 21st Street nearby. Please see Joe for details.

**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 and includes 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. To donate a basket to auction, please see the sign-up sheet in Pilgrim Hall.

#### 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), 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 Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Matthew Geletka (grandson of Barbara O'Boyle), 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)

#### SERVING TODAY

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

**One Great Hour of Sharing Offering** – The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehab. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. This offering is being received at our church throughout the month of March. Offering envelopes are in the pew racks.

#### 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 TODAY, 3/19, at 11:30 a.m. and tomorrow—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 full dinner)* –  
**Reservations required** – Please sign up or call the church (440) 238-6697.  
**Good Friday** – Tenebrae Service at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary  
**Easter Sunrise Service** – 6:30 a.m. outdoors in Worship Garden—when the garden will be dedicated  
*Easter breakfast of scrambled eggs and ham will be served in Pilgrim Hall.*  
**Easter Traditional Service** – 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

#### SERVING NEXT SUNDAY – MARCH 26, 2017

Greeter – Gina Cathcart	Morning Announcements – Irene Joyce
Liturgist – Tom Gaumer	Ushers – Volunteers Needed
Coffee Hour – Ginny Churnega and Kenn Oerkfitz	

**Reservations are needed for Maundy Thursday's dinner**  
at church on April 13. Please sign up or call the church, (440) 238-6697.

#### MARCH 2017

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| 19 Sun | Baptism Sunday during worship<br>Transition Team Meeting with congregation, 11:30am<br>Concert, 3pm with reception afterward in Pilgrim Hall<br>Lenten Study, 5:30pm |
| 20 Mon | Transition Team Meeting with congregation, 11am  |
| 21 Tue | Advertising Committee Meeting, 7pm<br>Diaconate Meeting, 7pm   |
| 22 Wed | Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm,<br>Fit Club, 7pm<br>Journey in Faith Class, 7pm   |
| 23 Thu | Thrift Shop CLOSED for cleaning and changeover<br>Bell Choir 7pm, Chancel Choir 8pm  |
| 26 Sun | Trustees Meeting, 11:30am<br>Lenten Study, 5:30pm  |
| 28 Tue | Official Board Meeting, 7pm  |
| 29 Wed | Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm,<br>Fit Club, 7pm<br>Journey in Faith Class, 7pm   |
| 30 Thu | Thrift Shop CLOSED for cleaning and changeover<br>Bell Choir 7pm, Chancel Choir 8pm  |

#### APRIL 2017

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

#### STRONGSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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