

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
(Congregational)  
13740 Pearl Road  
Strongsville, Ohio 44136  
**Rev. Rebecca Stephenson, Pastor**



Church Telephone: (440) 238-6697  
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[www.strongsvilleucc.com](http://www.strongsvilleucc.com)

Worship at 10:00 A.M. on Sunday

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## MARCH 2013 NEWSLETTER

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### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Today I am writing to you just before the congregational meeting where we will decide whether to go forward with the purchase of a piece of property and house that adjoins the church. I don't know how the vote will go. I hope that it will go well and we will secure this parcel for the future of the church. I truly believe that the Lord is about to do something wonderful with us and we are called to make a great Faith step towards the future.

This past Sunday we began the Lenten evening services with a dinner at 6:00 and service at 7:00. The church supplies the main course for the dinner each week, and everyone is invited to bring a side or dessert. Sunday is a FREE day for all who have decided to give something up for Lent. I look forward to indulging on all the chocolate and other goodies missed during the week.

The evening service is very different. Together we join in uplifting songs led by the newly formed Strongsville UCC band, and we see plays performed by our members. The message for the evening is very laid back, yet addresses some important aspect of our walk as followers of Christ in today's world. The services are lively and welcoming to all.

I am also looking forward to the Maundy Thursday service. This year we will be gathering in a setting where we will share in some of the traditional Passover foods as we hear from several of the women who were Disciples of Jesus. You are invited to taste traditional foods and experience what it may have been like to be in the upper room. Holy Communion will be part of the evening service, as will be a foot washing for those who wish to participate. This will be a wonderful event to bring a friend.

We will also be celebrating Good Friday with a traditional service of candlelight as we remember the sacrifice that the Lord made for us. This solemn service will bring us to a time of waiting for the glorious events that happen on Easter

This year I hope you will join me as we gather together at 7:00 a.m. for a Sunrise service at the church. Together we will greet the rising Son as he defeats death. I can't wait for the service that will be filled with happiness and excitement. After the service we will share a wonderful breakfast before we gather again in the sanctuary to celebrate the Resurrection.

Pastor Becky

### WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

#### THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT – MARCH 3

##### **Traditional Worship at 10:00 A.M. in the Sanctuary**

**Sermon:** *Get Out of that Tree*

**Scriptures:** Luke 19:1-10

**Liturgist:** Betty Craig

**Acolytes:** Gina Gigliotti and Aylah Purdum

**Greeter:** Linda Plain

**Nursery:** Rachel Zielinski

**Coffee Hour:** Cathy Hawk

##### **Potluck Meal at 6:00 P.M. in Pilgrim Hall**

*Chicken and Biscuits will be provided;  
please bring a dish or dessert to share, if you can.*

##### **Informal Worship at 7:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary**

*"Pearl of Great Price" Play  
Contemporary music with piano, drums, guitar,  
bass guitar, and lead singer*

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#### FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT – MARCH 10

##### **Traditional Worship at 10:00 A.M. in the Sanctuary**

*One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be received.*

**Sermon:** *The Lost Son*

**Scriptures:** Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

**Liturgists:** Lynne McCray and Barb Fraunfelder

**Acolytes:** Jenna Miller and Michael Fischer

**Greeter:** Sharon Heinrich

**Nursery:** Gina Cathcart

**Coffee Hour:** Dianne Maringer

##### **Potluck Meal at 6:00 P.M. in Pilgrim Hall**

*Ham will be provided;  
please bring a dish or dessert to share, if you can.*

##### **Informal Worship at 7:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary**

*"The Mustard Seed" Play  
Contemporary music with piano, drums, guitar,  
bass guitar, and lead singer*



*Worship Opportunities continue on next page.*

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT – MARCH 17**

**Traditional Worship at 10:00 A.M. in the Sanctuary**

**Sermon:** *Come Out*

**Scriptures:** John 11:1-16

**Liturgist:** Tom Gaumer

**Acolytes:** Lauren Knotts and Jordyn Miller

**Greeters:** John and Dianne Maringer

**Nursery:** Cathy Hawk

**Coffee Hour:** Bev Wehr and Vicky Masuga

**Potluck Meal at 6:00 P.M. in Pilgrim Hall**

*Corned Beef and Cabbage will be provided; please bring a dish or dessert to share, if you can.*

**Informal Worship at 7:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary**

*“The Sower” Play*

*Contemporary music with piano, drums, guitar, bass guitar, and lead singer*

**PALM SUNDAY – MARCH 24**

**Traditional Worship at 10:00 A.M. in the Sanctuary**

**Sermon:** *Hosannah*

**Scriptures:** Luke 19:28-40

**Liturgist:** Barb Fraunfelder

**Acolytes:** Alex Metivier and Lisa Pogozeleski

**Greeter:** Gina Cathcart

**Nursery:** Sarah Hawk

**Coffee Hour:** Beth Giuliano



**Potluck Meal at 6:00 P.M. in Pilgrim Hall**

*Spaghetti and Meatballs will be provided; please bring a dish or dessert to share, if you can.*

**Informal Worship at 7:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary**

*Contemporary music with piano, drums, guitar, bass guitar, and lead singer*

**MAUNDY THURSDAY – MARCH 26**

**Worship at 7:30 P.M. in Pilgrim Hall with Communion**

*“Women of the Last Supper – We Were There, Too”*

**Greeters:** Allan Haberkorn and Betty Yarnell

**Nursery:** Karen Morgan



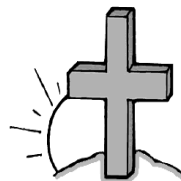
**GOOD FRIDAY – MARCH 27**

**Tenebrae Service at 7:30 P.M.  
in the Sanctuary**

**Greeters:** Beth Giuliano and Nicole



**EASTER SUNDAY – MARCH 31**



**Sunrise Service**

**at 7:00 A.M. Outdoors**

**Liturgist:** Jack Stephenson

**Greeter:** Cathy Hawk

**Nursery:** Rachel Zielinski

**Traditional Worship at 10:00 A.M. in the Sanctuary**

**Liturgist:** Rich Tressa

**Acolytes:** Elizabeth Metivier and Aylah Purdum

**Greeter:** Barb Fraunfelder

**Nursery:** Beth Giuliano

**Church Variety Show!**

**Come for a fun evening of fabulous acts  
starring your church friends!**

**Saturday ~ March 2, 2013  
6:30 P.M.**



**UCC CAMP FOR CHILDREN**



Information and registration forms are on the table beneath the display in Pilgrim Hall. However, the camp encourages online registration at [www.ocucc.org](http://www.ocucc.org)

For those not registering online, the registration form must be completed and signed by a parent. If you register online or mail in your registration to be post marked by March 31, you will receive an Early Registration Discount of \$15 off the standard camp price. For questions, please contact Dianne Maringer at (440) 243-3635.

## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

On Sunday, March 10, we will be collecting the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. For 65 years, Christians in North America have changed lives with their gifts to this very special offering. Administered by Wider Church Ministries, One Great Hour of Sharing channels resources for international programs in health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response. By sharing our resources, we share God's love and blessing, bringing joy to thousands of God's children. Imagine the joy when your gift changes someone's life! We can be the channel through which God satisfies the hungry, comforts the distressed, and brings hope to the hurting.

*"God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work."*  
2 Corinthians 9:8

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## MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Mission and Outreach Committee is transitioning the Dominican Project and our sponsorship of Carlos to a new outreach program. The Dominican Project is dissolving due to the health issues of key individuals involved in the program and the disbanding of their Board of Directors. Our almost five-year sponsorship of Carlos has been successful and very much appreciated. The Committee instead voted to commit \$30 per month to the child sponsorship program of the Global Ministries, which is administered by our UCC national church and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). 100% of this money goes toward supporting the child. The Program will help a child in the Family Village Farm near the town of Vellore, India. The Center provides food, clothing and a shelter for the 260 poor or orphaned children who live in family groups with a surrogate mother. Information about the child we will be sponsoring and a sign-up sheet will be available in the very near future. We look forward to helping another child in need and making a difference in his/her life!

Sincerely,  
Mission and Outreach Committee

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## SERVING MEALS FOR THE POOR

Our church members continue to serve meals at Zion UCC on the fourth Saturday of the month. This month the date is **March 23, 2013**. We typically meet at the church at 3:15 p.m. and return by about 6:30 p.m.

A signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area. Please coordinate carpooling with others going on the same day.

## WHAT IS A GLOBAL MISSION CHURCH?

The Mission and Outreach Committee has been asking that question over the past several months, exploring what it means via literature, Committee discussions, and phone conversations with other churches in the program. Two of us, Rev. Becky Stephenson and Erv Koch, recently spent a day in Cleveland attending a large Mission Works gathering of UCC-Disciples of Christ-Christian missionaries and staff from around the world, as well as two of us, including Lora Rung, meeting with an executive of the Global Ministries Program in downtown Cleveland.

Seventeen years ago, the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) affirmed their commitment to *Be a Global Mission Church*, a partnership unique in Christendom. The two denominations engaged in God's mission beyond our national boundaries, walking with our international partners in hundreds of cooperative efforts—programs carefully designed to do the maximum good with the limited resources available, in countries which are desperately poor.

Two scriptures come to mind: Jesus' question from his parable of the Good Samaritan, "*Who is my neighbor?*"; and "*Go into all the world, making disciples...*"—Jesus' last command to his followers. A living, active church always has one eye open for opportunities of compassion and healing right in *one's own neighborhood*—food banks, soup kitchens, poor and needy children in our schools, families struggling to keep heads above water. The other eye is trained to discover similar opportunities in places that are different from our familiar surroundings. In so doing, we expand the definition of "neighborhood" and grow in our understanding of the world.

Thus, a GLOBAL MISSION CHURCH is one which might form a partnership with a mission or missionary in another country, sharing our prayers, resources, minds and hearts, with a "neighbor far away." We are beginning to do so through our recent partnership with a child from the Family Village Farm in Vellore, India, sponsoring one for \$30 per month through the Child Sponsorship program of Global Ministries. We'll keep you informed as we continue to explore this challenge.

Mission and Outreach Committee



## CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2013

*Officers elected on January 27, 2013,  
have an asterisk \* by their names.*

**Moderator** – Joyce Reed\*

**Vice Moderator** – Sally Herzog\*

**Clerk** – Karen Morgan\*

**Sunday School Superintendent** – Irene Joyce\*

### **Board of Trustees**

Dale Hawk*	Barbara Purdum
Jim Heinrich*	Ed Sobek*
Dan Masuga*	Linda Stepan
Kathleen Paul	Rob Stepan

(1 position unfilled)

### **Endowment Fund Subcommittee**

Irene Jannsohn*	Chris Renfro*
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### **Diaconate**

Gina Cathcart	Dianne Maringer*
Beth Giuliano	Vicky Masuga
Cathy Hawk*	Lora Rung
Sarah Hawk*	Bev Wehr
Sharon Heinrich	Rachel Zielinski*

(2 positions unfilled)

### **Christian Education Committee**

Judy Carte*	Linda Plain*
Irene Joyce	Katie Renfro*

### **Music Committee**

Ingrid Dickson*	Andrew Purdum
Frank Jefferis*	Susan Tressa
Pam Keenen	

### **Stewardship Committee**

Aimee Jannsohn*	Irene Jannsohn*
Sarah Keenen*	

### **Mission and Outreach Committee**

Ha Bennett	Erv Koch
Judy Gaumer	Sandy Pogozelski
Tom Gaumer	Lora Rung

*A special thank you to all persons who served the church  
this past year and who completed their terms of office.*

## NEW FINANCIAL SECRETARY

The Board of Trustees officially welcomes Gary Paul as our new church Financial Secretary.

Claudia Bader recently retired, and we thank her very much for her devotion during her years of service.

## FROM OUR PASTOR

On Tuesday, February 12, Victor Rak went home to be with our God in heaven. Victor was a faithful member of Strongsville UCC for many years. During his time with us, Victor participated in many ministries of the church including serving on the Diaconate, as an usher, and most notably, as church treasurer for seven years. Victor had been lovingly cared for by Karen, his devoted wife of many years. I am impressed and thankful for Karen's devotion to Victor throughout his life.

Over the past several months I have had the pleasure of visiting Victor on several occasions but have come to know him best by all the wonderful memories you have shared with me. I can honestly say, "Well done, good and faithful brother, receive the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. I am sure that we will meet again someday in that kingdom."

Karen has graciously requested that any contributions in memory of Victor be directed to the Strongsville UCC Organ Restoration Fund.



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## SPRING PLANT SALE 2013

It's time to start planning for our Spring Plant Sale! Before we know it, spring flowers will be blooming! What a beautiful sight to look forward to! So as you begin to think about your yard and what you may plant, please keep this fundraiser in mind.

We are planning to have the same flowers as last year—flats of Begonias, Impatiens, Marigolds, and Petunias. We'll add Geraniums, sold in six to a pack. The 10" hanging baskets, Begonias, Impatiens, Fuchsias, Boston Ferns will again be available along with Geraniums. There will be 4" pots of Geraniums, and 5" pots of Gerber Daisies and New Guinea Impatiens. Delivery by Maria Gardens to our church will be in mid-May.

More details will be in the April newsletter along with a pre-order form. **Please consider purchasing your spring flowers from our sale and supporting our church.** Also, pass along the idea to family and friends! The flowers are very colorful and will look nice in individual pots or planted in beds around your home or trees.

The profit is spent on church expenses as decided by the Official Board. Last year our profit was \$556.75!

If you have questions, please contact Barb Fraunfelder at (440) 331-3673.

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP CANDY SCHEDULE

### Make Candy at 9:00 A.M.

Friday – March 1  
Monday – March 4

### Package Candy at 10:30 A.M.

Friday – March 8

### Sell Candy after Church

Sunday – March 10  
Sunday – March 17

*All ladies are welcome to join the fun!*



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## ALTAR FLOWERS

As of this writing, altar flower vases are still available for purchase on the following Sundays:

March 10 – 2 vases  
March 24 – 1 vase  
April 28 – 1 vase  
May 5 – 1 vase  
May 12 – 1 vase  
May 19 – 1 vase  
June 2 – 1 vase  
June 9 – 2 vases  
June 30 – 1 vase  
July 7 – 2 vases  
August 11 – 1 vase  
September 8 – 1 vase  
October 6 – 1 vase  
October 20 – 1 vase  
October 27 – 1 vase  
November 3 – 1 vase  
November 17 – 2 vases  
December 1 – 2 vases  
December 15 – 2 vases  
December 22 – 1 vases

The signup chart and flower forms are on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. The cost is \$15 for one vase, \$30 for two. The church office now requests payment before you take your flowers on Sunday morning. Please put your payment into the church office, so it can be recorded. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for purchasing altar flowers.



## 2013 STRONGSVILLE UCC ALL-FAMILY WINTER RETREAT RECAP

The Church's annual Winter Retreat once again took place at Templd Hills camp in Bellville, Ohio. We had 56 overnight guests, plus day visits by Doug Thorn, Gino Tosi, Erv Koch, Bruce Keenen, and Roy and Carol Merkle.

Friday night started with a game called "Where Can You Find Me In Skipper Lodge?" that had 18 close-up photos of various items in Skipper Lodge that needed to be identified. However, it didn't prove all that tough for the 7 people that completed it.

Saturday morning gave us a requested breakfast of scrambled eggs and hash brown patties. After breakfast, a group of 23 (perhaps our largest group ever!) hiked up to South Hill. After lunch, some folks ventured into town for their annual antiquing excursion, unearthing a vintage 1977 Star tabloid with Charlie's Angels on the cover! Just before dinner, Pastor Becky led us in a spirited discussion about sin and forgiveness. After dinner, we, of course, played cRaZy BiNgO with our 3 different versions, including kids, young adults and adults. We quite possibly had the largest pile of adult gifts in the history of our retreats! After dinner, there was a word search contest won by Sarah Herzog and 2 candy guessing containers that went to winners, Gary Zielinski and Aylah Purdum. Also on Saturday night, we introduced a new game called "The Best Game" that really lived up to its name! We divided into groups and points were awarded for being the "best" at various things with each member of the winning team receiving a Target gift card. The game ended up being so popular, we will definitely do it again next year with a whole new batch of questions and challenges. We wrapped up the night with a Trivia game led by Rachel and Gary Zielinski, where fun was once again had by all.

On Sunday, Dale Hawk led a sunrise service that was attended by 14 people (also possibly a new record) and focused on the topic "Who Inspires You?" Not many dry eyes with that one. Our regular Sunday service had the message from Irene Joyce, "We Worship Together," with accordion accompaniment by Jack Stephenson. As always, Irene inspired the group with her positive message and love of the retreat. And Jack's accordion was a nice new touch for our hymns. We closed out the retreat with a lunch in which a new item was served that may take the place of Ham Loaf as the all-time disliked food item: garlic bread with Miracle Whip. Still, garlic bread with Miracle Whip doesn't have the same ring to it as "Ham Loaf."

Thanks again to everyone that came and especially those that helped clean up Skipper Lodge before we called it a weekend. See all of you (and more!) next year.

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

**Church Family:** Nancy Cochran at Southwest General, Gary Fischer, Michael Fischer, Janet Kato, Betty Kovach at Parkside Villa, Bill Ritchie, Elizabeth Snook

**Extended Church Family:** Betty Berk (mother of Mary Mortus), Zachary Crouse (grandson of Barbara Morgan), Audrey and Gene Curry (parents of Pam Keenen), Victor DiChiro (father-in-law of Rob Wentz), Donna Fargo (mother of Sally Herzog), Ruth Fraley (relative of the Jannsohn family), Shirley Gerecke (friend of Frank and Pat Jefferis), Janine Kaltenstein (cousin of Vicky Masuga), Phyllis Keenen (mother of Bruce), Erik Kratky (friend of Sarah Hawk), Cyrila Kribel (friend of Betty Craig), Judy Mackin (friend of Len and Bev Lane), Rick Pfuhl (former custodian of Strongsville UCC), James Smith (brother of Katie Renfro), Barbara Sommers (mother of Sheri Martin), Sarah Spiegler (niece of Betty Craig), Trudie Taylor (sister of Karen Morgan), Mike Thutt (friend of Louie Gigliotti), Bob Tomko (cousin of Ed Sobek), Bob Wentz (father of Larry)

Please call the church with updates, 440-238-6697.

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## FROM THE ORGAN RESTORATION COMMITTEE

The ORC has a new Facebook page! Follow us online to view pictures, videos and information about the restoration. "Like" Strongsville UCC Organ Restoration or go to [www.facebook.com/OrganRestoration](http://www.facebook.com/OrganRestoration). Thank you!

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## *Our Congratulations to*

Tina and Jim Sneed, who were married on Valentine's Day 2013 in our sanctuary!



## STEEPLE LIGHTING

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 our steeple!



### Week of February 17, 2013

*Happy Birthday to Barbara Craig on February 18 and  
Happy Birthday to Pam Craig on February 22  
With love, Mom*

### Week of February 24, 2013

*Happy Birthday to Larry Wentz on February 28 and  
Happy Birthday to Mikey Craig on March 2  
With love, Mom and Grammy*

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## THANK YOU

*A deep and heartfelt thank you for all the calls, prayers and cards during my illness. Thank you to the Women's Fellowship for the beautiful prayer shawl, which is keeping me warm every night; and thank you to everyone for the warm welcome back.*

*Irene A. Jannsohn*

*Thank you so much to Brigitte and Dave Matchett for teaching the combined Sunday School class on Sunday, February 17, while many members and friends were attending the annual retreat in Templd Hills.*

## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP – 2013

**March 24 – Palm Sunday**  
10:00 A.M. in the Sanctuary

**March 28 – Maundy Thursday**  
7:30 p.m. Service in Pilgrim Hall  
with Communion

**March 29 – Good Friday**  
Tenebrae Service at 7:30 p.m.  
in the Sanctuary

**March 31 – Easter Sunday**  
7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service Outdoors  
10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship  
in the Sanctuary