

**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  
**Contemporary Worship 9:00 A.M. Sunday**  
**Traditional Worship 11:00 A.M. Sunday**

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## MARCH 2014 NEWSLETTER

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### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Well it's been a hard, cold winter; and for one I am really looking forward to the spring. Even though it's been cold, we have done well this winter.

This year we challenged ourselves to become givers by pledging to the work of the Lord through our Church. We then celebrated by having a great tail gate party. Thanks to all who worked so hard on the campaign and the party. I believe we have positioned ourselves to be a great church for the Lord as we move into the future.

Even as the cold wind blew and the snow fell, many of us found our way to worship. While we missed some who were unable to come out in the weather, we did have an increase in attendance over the past two years. We also called and offered care for those who were unable to make it to church. We remember that our church is a family where we care for each other.

Soon Lent will begin, and we will focus on the coming of Easter. This year we will have two Lenten Bible Studies going at the same time. On Mondays at noon we will gather together and view the movie "Peter and Paul". We will enjoy lunch together and then discuss how the movie tells the story of the early church. We will look backward to times past but also forward to what God is doing in our world today and what we might do in God's world tomorrow. We will serve soup, so bring a sandwich and join the study.

The second Lenten Bible Study will take place Monday evenings beginning at 7 p.m. This study's title is "Jesus and the Movies". Together we will view several modern movies and then have a spirited discussion on the value of each of the movies. We will be watching two musicals and two dramas. Also, everyone is invited to join Jack and me for two afternoons at the movies to see "Son of God" and "Noah", followed by a discussion time at the parsonage. Movie and popcorn, I'm in!

We will also be starting up the Youth Group with weekly meetings on Sundays at 3 p.m. and monthly activities. I will be leading the Youth Group and would love some help. I'm not as young as I once was so I could really use some help. The Youth Group is desperately needed and will be a key in growing our church in the future. Also, our children need us to be there for them; and they need a safe place to grow in their Christian Faith.

On the first weekend in April, I will have the pleasure of helping lead a confirmation/youth retreat to Washington, D.C. There we will explore many of our nation's most sacred religious places including The National Cathedral and Franciscan Monastery. This experience is part of confirmation class, and we hope to induct five new confirmands into membership in June. There will be a Spaghetti Dinner on March 29 to help offset the cost of the trip. If you would like to help with the cost for a child, please let me know.

I can't wait for spring and the renewal of life. Come, celebrate Jesus with me.

Pastor Becky

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### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On Sunday, March 2, we will have a Congregational Meeting at 10:00 a.m. The purpose is two-fold:

The Organ Restoration Committee will update the congregation on the pipe organ's restoration progress. To date we have raised \$138,000 and have completed half of the restoration (electronics and Great division). We still have the Swell and Choir divisions to complete.

Also at this meeting, we will approve the following:

#### ***Our Proposed Vision . . .***

*A world filled with God's love, where all are welcome at God's table.*

#### ***Our Proposed Mission Statement . . .***

*Wherever you are on life's journey, the Strongsville United Church of Christ (Congregational) welcomes all to become passionate followers of Christ through Unconditional Love with Justice and Peace † Meaningful Prayer † The Celebration of Worship † Uplifting Music † Mutual Support † Joy of Service † Honoring Creation † the Giving Spirit, where all are welcome at God's table.*



# MARCH 2014 WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

## CONTEMPORARY SERVICES

## TRADITIONAL SERVICES

## LENTEN EVENING SERVICES

<p><b>Sunday – March 2 – 9:00 AM</b>  <i>The Transfiguration – Communion</i>  <i>One Great Hour of Sharing Offering</i></p> <p><b>Sermon:</b> <i>Mountaintop Experiences</i>  <b>Scripture:</b> Matthew 17:1-13</p> <p><b>Liturgist:</b> Betty Craig  <b>Graphics Operation:</b> Rosemary Bechtel  <b>Coffee Hour:</b> Cathy Hawk</p> <p><b>Congregational Meeting – 10:00 AM</b></p>	<p><b>Sunday – March 2 – 11:00 AM</b>  <i>The Transfiguration – Communion</i>  <i>One Great Hour of Sharing Offering</i></p> <p><b>Sermon:</b> <i>Mountaintop Experiences</i>  <b>Scripture:</b> Matthew 17:1-13</p> <p><b>Liturgist:</b> Betty Craig  <b>Nursery:</b> Rachel Zielinski  <b>Greeters:</b> John and Maggie Struhar</p>	<p><b>Ash Wednesday – March 5 – 7:30PM</b>  <i>Imposition of Ashes</i></p> <p>(No Communion)</p> <p><b>Sermon:</b> <i>Create in Me a Clean Heart</i>  <b>Scripture:</b> Psalm 51:1-17</p> <p><b>Liturgist:</b> Jack Stephenson  <b>Nursery:</b> Rachel Zielinski</p>
<p><b>Sunday – March 9 – 9:00 AM</b>  <i>First Sunday in Lent</i></p> <p><b>Sermon:</b> <i>Out of the Garden</i>  <b>Scripture:</b> Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7</p> <p><b>Liturgist:</b> Dale Hawk  <b>Graphics Operation:</b> Barb Fraunfelder  <b>Coffee Hour:</b> Bev Wehr</p>	<p><b>Sunday – March 9 – 11:00 AM</b>  <i>First Sunday in Lent</i></p> <p><b>Sermon:</b> <i>Out of the Garden</i>  <b>Scripture:</b> Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7</p> <p><b>Liturgist:</b> Lynne McCray  <b>Nursery:</b> Beth Giuliano  <b>Greeter:</b> Ray Suttle</p>	<p><b>Sunday – March 9 – 7:00 PM</b>  <i>First Sunday in Lent</i></p> <p><i>At 6 PM a potluck meal will be served in Pilgrim Hall. The main dish will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Informal worship in the Sanctuary will follow at 7 PM.</i></p>
<p><b>Sunday – March 16 – 9:00 AM</b>  <i>Second Sunday in Lent</i></p> <p><b>Sermon:</b> <i>Choose a Side</i>  <b>Scripture:</b> Luke 11:14-23, 27-28</p> <p><b>Liturgist:</b> Barb Fraunfelder  <b>Graphics Operation:</b> Sharon Heinrich  <b>Coffee Hour:</b> Beth Giuliano</p>	<p><b>Sunday – March 16 – 11:00 AM</b>  <i>Second Sunday in Lent</i></p> <p><b>Sermon:</b> <i>Choose a Side</i>  <b>Scripture:</b> Luke 11:14-23, 27-28</p> <p><b>Liturgist:</b> Barb Fraunfelder  <b>Nursery:</b> Sarah Hayes  <b>Greeters:</b> The Bickley Family</p>	<p><b>Sunday – March 16 – 7:00 PM</b>  <i>Second Sunday in Lent</i></p> <p><i>At 6 PM a potluck meal will be served in Pilgrim Hall. The main dish will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Informal worship in the Sanctuary will follow at 7 PM.</i></p>
<p><b>Sunday – March 23 – 9:00 AM</b>  <i>Third Sunday in Lent</i></p> <p><b>Sermon:</b> <i>Walls</i>  <b>Scripture:</b> Romans 8:31-39</p> <p><b>Liturgist:</b> Lora Rung  <b>Graphics Operation:</b> Vicky Masuga  <b>Coffee Hour:</b> Ginny Oerkfitz</p>	<p><b>Sunday – March 23 – 11:00 AM</b>  <i>Third Sunday in Lent</i></p> <p><b>Sermon:</b> <i>Walls</i>  <b>Scripture:</b> Romans 8:31-39</p> <p><b>Liturgist:</b> Jim Studer  <b>Nursery:</b> Sarah Herzog  <b>Greeters:</b> Claudia Bader, Jim Nicoulin</p>	<p><b>Sunday – March 23 – 7:00 PM</b>  <i>Third Sunday in Lent</i></p> <p><i>At 6 PM a potluck meal will be served in Pilgrim Hall. The main dish will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Informal worship in the Sanctuary will follow at 7 PM.</i></p>
<p><b>Sunday – March 30 – 9:00 AM</b>  <i>Fourth Sunday in Lent</i></p> <p><b>Sermon:</b> <i>Am I Blind?</i>  <b>Scripture:</b> John 9:1-17</p> <p><b>Liturgist:</b> Rachel Zielinski  <b>Graphics Operation:</b> Rosemary Bechtel  <b>Coffee Hour:</b> Tom Gaumer</p>	<p><b>Sunday – March 30 – 11:00 AM</b>  <i>Fourth Sunday in Lent</i></p> <p><b>Sermon:</b> <i>Am I Blind?</i>  <b>Scripture:</b> John 9:1-17</p> <p><b>Liturgist:</b> Rachel Zielinski  <b>Nursery:</b> Dianne Maringer  <b>Greeters:</b> Volunteers Needed</p>	<p><b>Sunday – March 30 – 7:00 PM</b>  <i>Fourth Sunday in Lent</i></p> <p><i>At 6 PM a potluck meal will be served in Pilgrim Hall. The main dish will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Informal worship in the Sanctuary will follow at 7 PM.</i></p>

# TWO LENTEN BIBLE STUDIES

## “PETER AND PAUL”

Monday Afternoons – 12:00 Noon to 1:00 p.m. in the Parlor – Beginning March 10, 2014

During Lent, Adult Education will offer a six-week film series, based on the TV mini-series, “Peter and Paul”. The film follows the two leaders, together and separately, over a period of three decades as they travel to spread the word of Christ. This award-winning film, made in 1981, stars Anthony Hopkins as Peter and includes many well-known actors from that period.

This study will be offered on Mondays, starting March 10 and ending April 14. **Bring your own sandwich, and a soup will be provided.** The film will be shown on a screen in the Parlor using our projector.

A sign-up sheet is in Pilgrim Hall. Please indicate if you are bringing a friend or neighbor.

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## JESUS AND THE MOVIES

Monday Evenings – 7:00 p.m. – Beginning March 10, 2014

**Purpose:** The purpose of this study is to examine the ways in which Jesus has been portrayed in modern movies in comparison to the accounts in the Bible.

**Process:** The class will view a movie each week for the first two weeks. On the third week the class will discuss the two movies. This will happen again for the last three weeks. Dessert and coffee will be available, and childcare will be provided.

**Special:** In addition to the four movies that will be shown at the church, the class is invited to join Pastor Becky for a trip to the movie theater to see “**Son of God**” and “**Noah**”, followed by dessert and discussion at her home.

### Section I – Musicals

*Sessions held at 7:00 p.m. at the church with childcare, coffee and dessert available*

Monday, **March 10** – view “**Jesus Christ Superstar**”

Monday, **March 17** – view “**Godspell**”

Monday, **March 24** – discuss “**Jesus Christ Superstar**” and “**Godspell**”

### Section II – Drama

*Sessions held at 7:00 p.m. at the church with childcare, coffee and dessert available*

Monday, **March 31** – view “**The Last Temptation of Christ**”

Monday, **April 7** – view “**The Passion of the Christ**”

Monday, **April 14** – discuss “**The Last Temptation of Christ**” and “**The Passion of the Christ**”

### Special Trips to the Movies

*at Movies Regal Medina Stadium 16, 200 West Reagan Parkway in Medina – **times to be determined***

Saturday, **March 22** – view “**Son of God**”, followed by dessert and discussion at Pastor Becky’s home

Saturday, **April 12** – view “**Noah**”, followed by dessert and discussion at Pastor Becky’s home



## DIACONATE DAILIES!!

As we move into the season of Lent this month, we have lots planned! We will be having Lenten evening services with dinner each Sunday. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m., and the service is at 7:00 p.m. We will be providing the main course for each dinner and ask that you bring a side or dessert. Also, we will be having an Ash Wednesday service on March 5 at 7:30 p.m. We are hoping you will join us for this service. We will be offering childcare for all the services this year, so bring the kids and yourself.

Also, the Diaconate kicked off its new year with the election of officers. Rachel Zielinski will be our Chairperson and Cathy Hawk our Vice-Chairperson. Ginny Oerkfitz was elected Treasurer, and Cheryl Sobek was elected Secretary. We also welcomed new members Rosemary Bechtel, Dan Davis, Tom Gaumer, and Sarah Herzog. We greatly thank our off-going members—Gina Cathcart, Sharon Heinrich, Vicky Masuga, and Lora Rung. Their work on our board will be missed, but they have agreed to help us when needed. Please give them a sincere thank you for all their hard work.

This year the Diaconate has renamed their committees to teams. We have also combined some of the old committees. We are always looking for help on these teams, and don't be surprised if someone comes and asks you to join them on a team. We will be working in our teams on our goals we have chosen for the coming year.

The following are the teams and team members:

- **Advertising** – Rosemary Bechtel, Tom Gaumer, Bev Wehr, Rachel Zielinski
- **Acolytes and Altar** – Dan Davis, Beth Giuliano, Cathy Hawk
- **Coffee Hour and Greeters** – Rosemary Bechtel, Dianne Maringer
- **Funeral Committee** – Ginny Oerkfitz, Beth Giuliano, Cathy Hawk, Cheryl Sobek, Rachel Zielinski
- **Membership** – Cathy Hawk, Tom Gaumer, Bev Wehr
- **Nursery** – Sarah Herzog, Sarah Hayes
- **Special Events** – Ginny Oerkfitz, Cheryl Sobek, Beth Giuliano
- **Official Board Rep** – Rachel Zielinski, Cathy Hawk
- **Pastoral Relations** – Rachel Zielinski, Rosemary Bechtel
- **Ushers** – Cathy Hawk
- **Worship** – Rachel Zielinski, Bev Wehr

We will be working on implementing our goals for the coming year. Please watch for new things in the coming months. The following are the goals the Diaconate has chosen for 2014:

- Increase youth participation in the worship service.
- Begin a visitor follow-up program.
- Design a process of offering every person an “extravagant” welcome.
- Increase advertising including mailings, newspapers, TV or radio.
- Expand coffee hour.

We are looking forward to the coming year and hope that with new programs implemented this year, we can grow the church and welcome new members and continue to offer new activities for all.

Respectfully yours,  
Rachel Zielinski, Diaconate Chairperson



## JUST HOW VALUABLE IS U.S. FOOD AID?

Have you ever wondered what happens to the money we give to help the hungry and poor in the world, through both federal tax dollars earmarked for international development and similar church-related programs? An article in a recent Bread for the World brochure throws light on the question. The agency is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision-makers to end hunger at home and abroad.

The devastations wrought by major international disasters in recent years, such as last year's typhoon in the Philippines, 2010's massive earthquake in Haiti, and the on-going crisis in Syria, shows how valuable U.S. food aid is in addressing humanitarian emergencies around the world. Our church has responded to each of these through special offerings and One Great Hour of Sharing, as has our government.

The response to these disasters is usually immediate. In the case of the Philippines, the U.S. Agency for International Development committed \$10 million to the World Food Program to be used to purchase food there. 50 tons of nutritious emergency food was rapidly airlifted from the United States. 100 tons of rice, stored in Sri Lanka just for an emergency, arrived within a month after the disaster. It would have taken 3 months, otherwise. Recently a member of our Mission and Outreach Committee heard an Area Executive of Global Missions give an eye-witness account of his visit to that devastated country and the aid which came from Church World Service and other U.S. religious relief agencies, amounting to millions of dollars.

For more than 30 years, U.S. food aid has been an effective response to humanitarian crises caused by conflict, famine, and natural disasters. Food aid has benefitted more than 3 billion hungry and malnourished people in more than 130 countries over the years.

Today our country is the largest provider of food aid, and we are needed now more than ever. U.S. food aid has played a significant role in preventing hunger and starvation.



**Please remember to give to ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING on March 30. Enclosed with this newsletter are a brochure and offering envelope.**

Our gifts translate into new life for thousands of the Hungry and poor of the world.

Mission and Outreach Committee

## CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2014

*Officers elected on January 26, 2014, have an asterisk \* by their names.*

**Moderator** – Joyce Reed

**Vice Moderator** – Sally Herzog

**Clerk** – Karen Morgan

**Sunday School Superintendent** – Irene Joyce

### Board of Trustees

Greg Dickson	Ken Mehalko*
Bill Giuliano*	Gary Paul*
Dale Hawk	Kathie Paul*
Jim Heinrich	Ed Sobek
Dan Masuga	

### Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson*	Irene Jannsohn*
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### Diaconate

Rosemary Bechtel*	Sarah Hayes
Dan Davis*	Sarah Herzog*
Tom Gaumer*	Dianne Maringer
Beth Giuliano*	Bev Wehr*
Cathy Hawk	Rachel Zielinski

(2 positions unfilled)

### Christian Education Committee

Judy Carte	Linda Plain
Irene Joyce	

### Music Committee

Ingrid Dickson	Andrew Purdum
Frank Jefferis	Susan Tressa
Pam Keenen*	

### Stewardship Committee

Kris Fischer*	Irene Jannsohn
Aimée Jannsohn	Sarah Keenen

### Mission and Outreach Committee

Ha Bennett*	Erv Koch*
Kelly Bickley*	Lora Rung

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



## 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 more information, please contact Dianne Maringer at (440) 243-3635.

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## WORSHIP TEAM

Our team was snowed out for our first meeting this month on February 5, but then met on Wednesday mornings, February 12 and 19. The team focused on the upcoming Lenten season which will begin with a 7:30 p.m. service on Ash Wednesday, March 5. Sunday night dinners and services will begin on March—dinner at 6:00 and service at 7:00. Attendees will again be divided into two competitive teams. Our Praise Band will lead the music. Plan to join us for evenings of fun and fellowship.

Also, Pastor Becky will lead two Lenten Bible Study groups on Mondays during Lent: one at noon and one at 7:30 p.m. Details on the Lenten Bible Study groups are on page 3 of this newsletter.

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## SERVING MEALS FOR THE POOR

We will soon be ending the program to serve meals at Zion UCC Church in Tremont, as the Food Bank is no longer using that church. Folks at Zion report that the program will end as soon as Zion uses all the food it has obtained from the Cleveland Food Bank. Our church will be helping out the first Saturday in March, but whether we help in April depends on whether the church still has food. We will let our congregation know as the situation becomes clearer. Our church has been helping serve meals for more than two years.

Tom Gaumer



## MUSIC COMMITTEE UPDATE

Members of the Chancel and Bell Choirs are practicing music for Lent and Holy Week. The Chancel Choir will sing on Ash Wednesday. The Worship Team is working on music for the Lenten Sunday evening services.



A new state-of-the-art keyboard has been purchased (thank you so much to the Official Board). It will be used for the Praise Band at the early Sunday service and for other special music.

We are excited to welcome Susan Tressa back after her recovery. We would like to thank Peter, Sharon Heinrich, and Jaclyn Ford for accompanying our services during her absence.

We would like to invite everyone to join one of the choirs – even if just for the Lenten season. It would be a great opportunity to experience being part of our music ministry.

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## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

### CANDY SCHEDULE

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

Wednesday – March 19  
Friday – March 21  
Monday – March 24  
Wednesday – March 26

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

Friday – March 28

#### Sell Candy during Coffee Hour

Sunday – March 30  
Sunday – April 6

*All ladies are welcome to join the fun!*



## NEWS FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Pledge Campaign concluded on February 9 with a fantastic Tail Gate Party! There was a ton of food, lots of fun, and great fellowship with family and friends. We received 95 pledges from various members and non-members of the church! It was a huge success, even though we didn't quite reach our goal of 128 pledges. We had 64 pledges in 2013 so it was almost a 50% improvement!

The commitment pledged for 2014 totaled \$132,579 –

Ministries and Operations \$126,209 and  
Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) \$6,370.

Thank you to all who pledged and made a commitment to the church for 2014. We have an exciting year ahead of us – one filled with hope, adventures and new members!

Committee Members:

Aimée Jannsohn, Irene Jannsohn, Sarah Keenen, Kenn Oerkfitz, Pastor Becky Stephenson, Barb Fraunfelder



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## 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 9, 2014

*Happy Birthday to My Daughters "A" and "B" –  
Valerie and Vicky – on February 14 – Love You Guys!  
Love, Mom*

### Week of February 16, 2014

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

### Week of February 23, 2014

*Happy Birthday to Larry Wentz on February 28  
With love, Mom*

## NEWS FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

**GIVING STATEMENTS** – All contribution statements for the year 2013 have been hand delivered or mailed by U.S. mail. If you have not received one, please contact Barb Fraunfelder.

**STRIVE for 5** (Royalton Road Property) – If possible, **please write a separate check or give cash for your donation.** It can be placed in your regular giving envelope with a note on the outside of the envelope, *Strive for 5*, so that the donation is recorded correctly.

**YOUR GIVING** – Contributions may be in the form of cash, check, or through your bank. This is something you set up directly with your bank, directing your payment 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 and how to direct the giving, e.g., \$10 operations and \$10 OCWM. If there are no instructions, the total amount will be directed to ministries and operations. Each person's giving pledge is not looked up before the donation is posted.

**YOUR GIVING ENVELOPES** – The church envelopes have a box for designating the direction of your giving - Ministries and Operations and / or OCWM. Your notations on the envelope directs how the giving should be recorded. If there is no entry, the full amount goes under Ministries and Operations. If you are concerned about showing any dollar figures on the envelope, at least show what should be directed to OCWM. Then the balance will go to Ministries and Operations. If there are no notations, it will be recorded as Ministries and Operations.

If you have any questions or concerns about this information or about your specific giving, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,  
Barb Fraunfelder, Financial Secretary  
Phone - (440) 331-3673  
Email - [bfraunfelder@ameritech.net](mailto:bfraunfelder@ameritech.net)

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## *In Sympathy*

Our love and prayers are extended in sympathy—  
to Bonnie Khavaran and family  
on the passing of her brother, Judd Deutsch,  
on January 26. The funeral was held on January 31  
in Easton, Pennsylvania,  
and also  
to Melinda Slavik, and family  
on the passing of her husband, Richard, on February 2.  
The funeral took place on February 7 at Jardine's.

## ALTAR FLOWERS

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

March 9 – 2 vases  
March 16 – 2 vases  
March 30 – 1 vase  
May 25 – 1 vase  
June 1 – 1 vase  
August 17 – 1 vase  
August 24 – 1 vase  
August 31 – 2 vases  
September 7 – 1 vase  
September 28 – 1 vase  
October 5 – 1 vase  
November 9 – 2 vases  
November 16 – 2 vases  
November 30 – 1 vase  
December 7 – 1 vase  
December 14 – 1 vase



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 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.

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## THANK YOU

*Special thanks to everyone for their cards, calls, visits, and other get well wishes. I was quite surprised by the amount of support and prayers that were offered to me. I truly appreciate all the concern. Please keep me in your prayers. I am trying to get well so I can be back at church as soon as possible.*

*Sincerely,  
Joyce Reed*

*To All My Church Friends,  
A heartfelt thank you for all the cards, prayers, flowers, calls, and wishes and also for the calls and visits from Pastor Becky on my recent accident and being homebound for almost two months. You helped me a lot in my recovery.*

*With love and appreciation,  
Margot James*

*To the Church Family,  
Thank you so much for your cards, visits, and caring thoughts during this recent illness of mine. Your prayers and concern mean a great deal to me, and encourage me. I miss church greatly, and feel blessed that I am recovering now, and will be back playing at church in the near future.*

*Susan Tressa*

## RE-CAP OF 2014 ALL-CHURCH FAMILY WINTER RETREAT AT PILGRIM HILLS

The 34th Annual Church Retreat took place President's Day weekend (Feb. 14 – Feb. 16) at Pilgrim Hills. After 33 consecutive years at Temple Hills, we had to move our event to Pilgrim Hills due to Temple Hills camp being put on sabbatical. We utilized 3 different facilities at Pilgrim Hills: the Boardwalk Cabins and Fellowship House for sleeping and Babcock Lodge for activities and meals. There were 49 total in attendance for the weekend, with 8 first-timers (including the entire Bickley family). We were also joined by Roy and Carol Merkle, Erv Koch, Lola Millhoane, Beth and Luke Giuliano and Bruce Keenen for the day on Saturday.

We played new games and old games (Crazy Bingo, of course), made mittens out of old sweaters (thanks, Karen and Rachel!), hiked through the snow, walked on the frozen lake (Sandy and Sarah), went sledding, held turtles and frogs at the Nature Center, played the tone chimes, had an activity scavenger hunt and grazed on a fully-stocked snack table all weekend long. On Sunday morning, Dale Hawk led a Sunrise discussion group with 11 people; and Irene Joyce, Pastor Becky and Jack Stephenson and his accordion provided a wonderful and spiritual worship service complete with communion. Pastor Becky managed to serve communion standing on the ground and not perched at the top of a rickety ladder.

The MVP of the weekend was Sarah Herzog, who was the grand-prize winner in 4 separate activities.

Special thanks to everyone that helped contribute to make our first retreat at Pilgrim Hills a complete success, including Rachel Zielinski, Cathy Hawk, Dale Hawk, Pastor Becky, Jack Stephenson, Irene Joyce, Evan Joyce, Elena Joyce, Karen Morgan, Sally Herzog, Ingrid Dickson and Nina Janssohn.

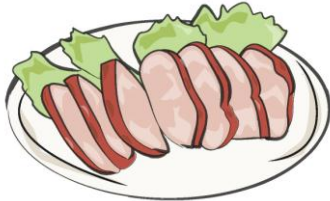
We can't wait to go back next year and hope more of you can join us for our new adventures at Pilgrim Hills.





Strongsville UCC

## ROAST PORK, KIELBASA & SAUERKRAUT DINNER



**Saturday – March 15, 2014**

**Seatings at 5:00 P.M. and 6:30 P.M.**

**Reservations Only: (440) 238-8192**

**Adults - \$9      Ages 6-12 - \$5  
Under 6 years – Free**

**The Thrift Shop will be open.**

Help is needed. The signup sheet is on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. For safety reasons, no children under age 6 (with or without parent) can be helpers in any capacity during the serving hours of 5:00 to 7:15 p.m. Children who are 6 to 10 years old must have a parent helping them. Adult help is needed. If you will be donating bakery or helping, please sign up because we cannot assume your participation.

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*Let no one ever come to you  
without leaving better and happier.  
Be the living expressions of God's kindness:*

*Kindness in your face,*

*Kindness in your eyes,*

*Kindness in your smile.*

*~ Mother Theresa*

## FROM THE MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Clay Williams has brought to our attention "The Eliminate Project". Kiwanis is partnering with UNICEF to eliminate maternal/neonatal tetanus, a highly preventable disease that kills one baby every nine minutes. Our committee is making a donation to this worthy cause and encourages members of our congregation, who are interested in helping, to make a donation. Donations can be made with a check payable to the "Kiwanis International Foundation" and writing "The Eliminate Project" on the memo line. The check can be inserted in a plain envelope or a pew envelope marked "The Eliminate Project" and placed in the offering plate. Thank you for your support.

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### 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:** Bill Betz at Chapel Hill Community in Canal Fulton, Edith Graves at Century Oak Care Center, Betty Kovach at Emeritus at Brookside Estates (15435 Bagley Road), Debbie Krause, Connie Rebar, Erla Mae Schultz at Medina Village

**Church Family:** Judy Carte, Holly Elkins, Pat Jefferis, Janet Kato at ManorCare of Parma, Dolores Matchett, Barbara Morgan, Joyce Reed, Susan Tressa

**Extended Church Family:** June Brewer (niece of Ed Powers), Ryan Brubeck, Logan Churnega (grandson of Ginny Churnega), Megan Craig (granddaughter of Rev. Larry and Christina Craig), Audrey and Gene Curry (parents of Pam Keenen), Zachary Crouse (grandson of Barbara Morgan), Rebecca Deeb (Goddughter of Lora Rung), Victor DiChiro (father-in-law of Rob Wentz), Donna Fargo (mother of Sally Herzog), Ruth Fraley (relative of the Jannsohn family), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Irene Hagemeyer (niece of Betty Craig), Kate Heisler (friend of Lora Rung), Janine Kaltenstein (cousin of Vicky Masuga), Phyllis Keenen (mother of Bruce), Erik Kratky (friend of Sarah Hawk), Rick Mahon (friend of the Woodwards), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Barbara Sommers (mother of Sheri Martin), Trudie Taylor (sister of Karen Morgan), Bob Tomko (cousin of Ed Sobek), Marge Tressa (mother of Rich)

