

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
 Traditional Worship 9:45 A.M. Sunday
 Contemporary Worship 11:15 A.M. Sunday

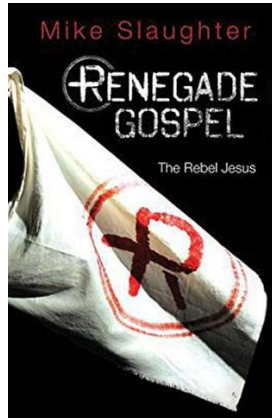
MARCH 2015 NEWSLETTER

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

<p>MARCH 1 <i>Second Sunday of Lent</i></p> <p>Scriptures: Mark 9:2-9 Sermon: <i>Robes of White</i></p> <p>Communion at Both Services</p> <p>----- Lenten Meal and Study at 6 P.M.</p>	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Tom Gaumer Greeter: Linda Plain Ushers: Needed Coffee Hour: Ginny Oerkfitz</p>	<p>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Lora Rung Greeters: Needed Coffee Hour: Ginny Oerkfitz</p>
<p>MARCH 8 <i>Third Sunday of Lent</i></p> <p>Scriptures: John 2:13-22 Sermon: <i>Zeal for the Lord</i></p> <p>----- Lenten Meal and Study at 6 P.M.</p>	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Barb Fraunfelder Greeters: Dan and Vicky Masuga Ushers: Needed Coffee Hour: Gina Cathcart</p>	<p>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Jack Stephenson Greeters: Needed Coffee Hour: Gina Cathcart</p>
<p>MARCH 15 <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i> One Great Hour of Sharing Offering</p> <p>Scriptures: Ephesians 2:1-10 Sermon: <i>Grace</i></p> <p>----- Lenten Meal and Study at 6 P.M.</p>	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Lynne McCray Greeter: Denise Bell Ushers: Needed</p>	<p>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Michele Mhlack Greeters: Needed</p>
<p>MARCH 22 <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i></p> <p>Scriptures: John 12:20-33 Sermon: <i>The Time Is Coming</i></p> <p>----- Lenten Meal and Study at 6 P.M.</p>	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Jim Nicoulin Greeters: Needed Ushers: Needed</p>	<p>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Dan Masuga Greeters: Needed</p>
<p>MARCH 29 <i>Palm Sunday - New Members Received</i></p> <p>Scriptures: Mark 11:1-11 Sermon: <i>Here He Comes</i></p> <p>Communion at Both Services</p> <p>----- Lenten Meal and Study at 6 P.M.</p>	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Ted Bickley Greeter: Ray Suttle Ushers: Needed</p>	<p>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Kenn Oerkfitz Greeters: Needed</p>

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 p.m., and the study will follow at about 7 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.



NEW SIGN-UP CHARTS IN GATHERING AREA

The 2015 sign-up charts for Greeters, Ushers and Altar Flowers are now on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area. Please help in these areas if you can. Assistance is greatly appreciated!



For the Altar Flowers Chart – Please indicate how many vases you want that day. Our church typically has two vases on the altar on Sunday morning, but we will accommodate as many as requested. The cost is \$15 per vase. Additional information is on the flower form that is beneath the flower chart in the Gathering Area.

All are welcome.

IN SYMPATHY

Our love and prayers are extended in sympathy to . . .

the family of Dan Munson on the occasion of his unexpected passing on January 26, 2015, in Plain City, Ohio (near Columbus). A former member of Strongsville UCC, Dan was confirmed in our church in 1972. A private funeral service was held on February 2. Dan was 57 years old.



Our condolences also to . . .

Don and Laurie Meister on the passing of Don's brother Robert on February 2, 2015. The funeral was held on February 9 in Middleburg Heights.

AUDIT OF CHURCH BOOKS

The Audit Committee completed their audit of all the accounts and found them to be in good standing. Thanks to the members of this year's Committee: Sarah Hayes, Sarah Herzog, Kim McKenzie, and Sally Herzog.

OFFICIAL BOARD

The profit from the Swiss Steak Dinner on January 31 was \$1,560.75. Thank you to all who supported the dinner in any way.

ECUMENICAL SOFTBALL TEAM

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



Diaconate Sponsored Fundraiser

WING NIGHT

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 on sale Sunday mornings from any Diaconate member.

Anyone willing to provide theme baskets/gifts for the auction, please sign up on the board in Pilgrim Hall.
Thank you!



CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2015

Officers elected on January 25, 2015,
have an asterisk* by their names.

Moderator Kim McKenzie*
Vice Moderator Sally Herzog*
Clerk Karen Morgan*

SS Superintendents Jamie Habart*, Irene Joyce*

Board of Trustees

Lloyd Bridle*	Gary Paul
Jim Dettmer*	Kathie Paul
Bill Giuliano	Melinda Slavik*
Sarah Hayes*	Ray Suttle*
Ken Mehalko	Rachel Zielinski*

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson* Irene Jannsohn*

Diaconate

Ginny McKenzie Basenback*	Tom Gaumer
Rosemary Bechtel	Beth Giuliano
Denise Bell*	Sarah Herzog
Gina Cathcart*	Dianne Maringer*
Ginny Churnega Oerkfitz	Michele Mhlack*
Ginny Dangelo*	Cheryl Sobek
Dan Davis	Bev Wehr

Christian Education Committee

Jamie Habart	Joyce Reed*
Sharon Heinrich*	Lora Rung*
Irene Joyce	

Music Committee

Ingrid Dickson*	Pam Keenen	Elena Taylor
Barb Fraunfelder	Ken Mehalko*	Claire Wills—
	Rob Stepan	<i>appointed</i>

Stewardship Committee

Natalie Daniels*	Laurie Meister*
Kris Fischer	Linda Plain*

Mission and Outreach Committee

Claudia Bader*	Greg Dickson *	Lora Rung
Ha Bennett	Irene Jannsohn*	Elizabeth Snook
Kelly Bickley	Jim Nicoulin*	Judy Carte—
		<i>liaison for adopted families</i>

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

2015 RETREAT RE-CAP

Despite extremely cold temperatures, the 2015 retreat was a success. The attendees were troopers—a couple cabins had furnace issues, and ice-cold showers were experienced by a few people due to a pilot light going out. But everything was resolved and restored, and a good time was had by all. In fact, a number of folks even ventured outside for a Saturday morning hike and an afternoon visit to the nature center. Warm and cozy indoor activities included fireside naps and chats, kids' floor hockey, crafts, board and card games, and all-ages yoga sessions. There was something for everyone to enjoy.

Thank you to everyone who completed a survey. All answers were used for the "Survey Says" game created especially for the retreat. Congratulations to the MVP again this year, Sarah Herzog, who was on the winning team of "Survey Says," AND the only person to complete all activities listed on the scavenger hunt. Way to go, Sarah!

The meals prepared by the camp staff were delicious, and so was the bounty of goodies that graced our "snack table." Talk about non-stop grazing!

The Sunday morning worship brought each and every attendee together at one time, but the spirit of fellowship prevailed throughout the entire weekend.

Special thanks to the following people who made the retreat extra enjoyable:

Dale, Cathy, and Amanda Hawk
Kelly Bickley
Sally Herzog
Pastor Becky and Jack Stephenson
Irene Jannsohn
Irene Joyce
Ingrid and Greg Dickson

♪ ♪ 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 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Chancel Choir - 8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

If you'd like to be part of our church Music Ministry or
for more information, please contact:

Elena Taylor about Praise Band and Children's Music
Barb Fraunfelder about Bell Choir

Ken Mehalko (interim choir director) about Chancel Choir

MISSION AND OUTREACH NEWS

And the crowds were questioning him [John the Baptist], saying, "Then what shall we do?" And he would answer and say to them, "The man who has two tunics is to share with him who has none; and he who has food is to do likewise." Luke 3:10-11

The Mission and Outreach Committee would like to thank the congregation for your ongoing mission and outreach efforts in the community and beyond. Whether it is donating your change to the KFC Club to help the hungry in our town, to helping feed hungry folks in Cleveland at Zion Church, to donating money to support Caroline in India, to ministering to the community on Wednesday afternoons at the free lunches and more...we THANK YOU! 2015 is sure to be another giving year and we are looking forward to expanding our helping hands and spreading the love of Jesus near and far in many ways.

WEEKLY FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Judy Carte continues to be our liaison to the Strongsville Food Bank and you will see she lists the items the Food Bank is most in need of. 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

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

As one of the most important and largest efforts by the United Church of Christ, we ask that you give from the heart in this year's One Great Hour of Sharing. It will take place on Sunday, March 15, 2015. 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 home. More than 30 million of the world's people are uprooted at any given time.
- Provided 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.

CAROLINE Y. NEWS

We continue to communicate with our adopted student in India, Caroline Y.! Sunday school students recently

wrote her letters and we heartily thank those who donated \$30 to support her in 2014. This money supplies Caroline with food, school supplies, uniform, school fees, and any other assistance she may need.

We will continue to ask for monthly donations of \$30 in 2015. If you are interested in writing a letter to Caroline, please do! She would probably love to receive photos as well. You can write to her at the following address: King's Matric. Hr. Sec. School MBKG Pannai, Kasam, Katpadi, Vellore – 632 007 C/O Caroline Y.

CROP WALK!

The Berea CROP Walk will take place on Saturday, April 25, and we are forming a team! The Kids for Christ Club will lead us and everyone is welcome to walk with us! Maybe you're a CROP Walk vet or perhaps you've never heard of it before? If you're the latter, simply put, CROP Walks are neighbors walking together to take a stand against hunger in our world. Different ages, faiths and backgrounds – together we raise awareness and funds for international relief and development, as well as local hunger-fighting. Some 2,000 communities across the country take part each year.

If you'd like to join the team to walk, walk and raise money, or just to donate, please visit our team page at <http://hunger.cwsglobal.org/goto/UCCCongregational>. Look for more information in the upcoming weeks!

"UNEXPECTED PLACES" - GENERAL SYNOD 2015

Every two years, General Synod brings together thousands of faithful members of the United Church of Christ for formal church witness, inspirational worship, and fellowship with friends (new and old). In June 2015 [June 26-30], thousands from across the country (and abroad) will gather for General Synod 30 in Cleveland, Ohio — the birthplace of the United Church of Christ. Together, we will discern resolutions of witness, church structure, and function. We will stand up for issues that demand a faithful witness. And we will join together in worship each day to lift up the Still Speaking God. At General Synod 30, we will explore some of the "Unexpected Places" where we hear God's voice, encounter the Spirit, and find the United Church of Christ lifting up its witness in the world.

The Mission and Outreach Committee is looking for volunteers to help at General Synod! The registration fee for a volunteer is \$60. The General Synod brochure states, "We realize that asking people to 'pay' to volunteer may sound unreasonable, but it is a wonderful way to support the United Church of Christ in its endeavor to bring all of us together as one in faith, service, fellowship, and prayer." **The M&O Committee will pay for half of any volunteers' registration fee, so you need only pay \$30, not \$60.** We will provide funds for 5 volunteers. Since Synod is right in our backyard, let's graciously offer our time and money June 26-30!! Please talk to Kelly Bickley to volunteer!

NEWS FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Barb Fraunfelder

The following will be a monthly report, listing the budget income we need to receive from Pledges and Offerings for the previous few weeks, along with the amount given for that time frame. It will usually be reported from the Newsletter date to the next Newsletter date. We started this report on February 1. This information will also appear on a weekly basis in our worship bulletin.

Offering Needed:	\$9,570
Offering Received (February 1, 8, 15)	\$6,431
Traditional: \$5,405	Contemporary: \$1,026
Difference	(\$3,139)

RECYCLING

The River Valley Paper Company picked up:

December – 57,470 lbs. of recycled material at \$25 per ton for a total payment of \$93.39.

November – 4,640 lbs. of recycled material at \$20 - \$25 per ton for a total payment of \$50.33.

THANK YOU for recycling. Just a reminder – we collect newspapers, office and school paper, phonebooks, magazines, catalogs, brown paper bags, mail, hard and soft bound books, and cardboard (please collapse boxes before placing them in the recycling bin).

FUN FACTS – Published by River Valley Paper Company (and posted on our Pilgrim Hall bulletin board)

	DECEMBER 2014 Our 7,470 lbs. of recycled paper saved:	NOVEMBER 2014 Our 4,640 lbs. of recycled paper saved:
WE SAVED:		
Trees	63.50	39.44
Pounds of CO2	933.75	580.00
Cubic yards of landfill space	12.33	7.66
Gallons of water	26,145	16,240
Kilowatts of electricity	15,313.50	9,512
Homes heated for 6 months	3.74	2.32
Pounds of air pollutants	224.10	139.20

Did you know? 2.5 billion Christmas cards are sold each year in the U.S. This could fill a football field 10 stories high!

THANK YOU for RECYCLING!!!

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, Michele Mhlack at Southwest General, Karen Morgan, Ann Sullen, Leah Tressa Forget *, Rachel Zielinski

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), Irene Hagemeyer (niece of Betty Craig), Phyllis Keenen (mother of Bruce), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Paul Mhlack (father of Allen) at Parkside Villa, Trudie Taylor (sister of Karen Morgan), Bob Tomko (cousin of Ed Sobek), 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.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP CANDY MAKING

We will make candy for Easter on March 2, 6, 9 and 13. Help is needed for this project. Please tell Lola Millhoane or Betty Craig if you can help. Women, as well as men, are all welcome to join in the fun!

MEN'S LUNCHEON

New Meeting Day

Just a reminder that since January 2015, the Men's Luncheon will take place on the

Fourth WEDNESDAY of the month

The next luncheon date is March 25 at 11:30 a.m. at the routine meeting place:



European's Best Restaurant
and Bakery
19608 West 130th Street
Strongsville, Ohio 44136

As always, all men are welcome!

THE THRIFT SHOP

During the month of March the shop will have a variety of sales as we prepare for a change of seasons. Here are our March sales.

- March 5 All non-clothing will be half off
- March 12 Everything GREEN will be half off
- March 19 BAG SALE – all bags \$6
- March 26 BAG SALE – all bags \$6
- April 2 FINAL BAG SALE – all bags \$5

If you have never had the fun of filling a brown bag with Thrift Shop items, it is time you did! You will be shocked at how much will fit into one of our brown bags!

Please remember that greeting cards and jewelry are excluded from all sales.

Because of the water in the church basement the week of February 9, **please hold your donations until The Thrift Shop is cleaned and organized.** Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Stop in the shop to see the kinds of items we sell.

Tax receipts are available whenever the shop is open.

200TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK

As part of our church's 200th anniversary in 2017, Strongsville UCC will be printing a new, one-of-a-kind . . . cookbook! We would like to include old recipes passed down through generations from your families and friends. Also we want any new recipes you are currently loving!

Please submit all recipes in an envelope with your name and phone number to Marty Winch, Dianne Maringer, or place under the church office door. Thank you.



WEDNESDAY FREE LUNCH PROGRAM

The program is in operation! All are welcome to attend this free weekly lunch. Volunteers who prepare meals are asked to be at the church no later than 9:00 a.m. Servers can arrive at 10:00 a.m. Doors open at 11:30 a.m., and lunch is served from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed. A signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area.



STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of February 8, 2015

*In loving memory of
my mother, Clarabelle Herrington, and
grandmother, Theo Irene Robinson
Sharon R. Wilson*

Week of February 15, 2015

*In loving memory of
my mother, Clarabelle Herrington, and
grandmother, Theo Irene Robinson
Sharon R. Wilson*

Week of February 22, 2015

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

*In Memory of Nadine Burnand
Betty Craig*

*In loving memory of
my mother, Clarabelle Herrington, and
grandmother, Theo Irene Robinson
Sharon R. Wilson*

Week of March 1, 2015

*Happy Birthday to Mikey Craig on March 2
With love, Grammy*

*In loving memory of
my mother, Clarabelle Herrington, and
grandmother, Theo Irene Robinson
Sharon R. Wilson*

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 the steeple.

