

**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  
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**Worship at 10:00 A.M. on Sunday**

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## MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER

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### WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

#### ASH WEDNESDAY – MARCH 1 – 7:00 P.M.

*Imposition of Ashes*

*After Ash Wednesday worship, a Journey in Faith Membership Mini-series Class will begin. See page 2.*

**Liturgist:** Kenn Oerkfitz  
**Greeter:** Linda Plain  
**Ushers:** Linda Plain and Bobbie Krisak

### WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES – *Continued*

#### SUNDAY – MARCH 26 – 10:00 A.M.

**Scriptures:** James 2:14-18  
**Sermon:** *Living Faith*

**Liturgist:** Tom Gaumer  
**Greeter:** Gina Cathcart  
**Ushers:** Volunteers Needed  
**Coffee Hour:** Volunteer Needed

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#### SUNDAY – MARCH 5 – 10:00 A.M.

*The Sacrament of Communion*



**Scriptures:** Luke 28:41-51  
**Sermon:** *Children in Church*

**Liturgist:** Lora Rung  
**Greeter:** Barb Bridle  
**Ushers:** Volunteers Needed  
**Coffee Hour:** Ed and Cheryl Sobek

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### HEADLINE NEWS

#### Sabbath Desecration Being Tried



Around the time of 1857, Sabbath Desecration occupies a large share of the space of the church records. Members of the church were being tried for doing unnecessary Sunday work, for travelling, and for social visiting on the Lord's Day. Several cases of discipline for such offenses were recorded.

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#### SUNDAY – MARCH 12 – 10:00 A.M.

**Scriptures:** John 3:1-17  
**Sermon:** *Must Be Made New*

**Liturgist:** Pam Keenen  
**Greeter:** Roy Merkle  
**Ushers:** Volunteers Needed  
**Coffee Hour:** Volunteer Needed

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#### SUNDAY – MARCH 19 – 10:00 A.M.

**Scriptures:** John 4:5-42  
**Sermon:** *Living Water*

**Liturgist:** Jim Nicoulin  
**Greeter:** Kristen Clotworthy  
**Ushers:** Bobbie Krisak and Serena Abruzzo  
**Coffee Hour:** Volunteer Needed

*Performing Arts Series Concert – 3:00 p.m. See page 2.*

*Strongsville UCC*

#### ROAST PORK, KIELBASA AND SAUERKRAUT DINNER

**Saturday – March 4, 2017**  
**Seatings at 5:00 and 6:30 P.M.**

*Reservations Only: (216) 598-6198*

**Adults \$10.00    Ages 6-12 \$5.00    Under 6 Free**

***Tickets are available to purchase after church.***

Help is needed. The sign-up sheet is posted on Pilgrim Hall's board. 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 7:00 p.m.

Children 6 to 10 must have a parent helping them.

**The Thrift Shop will be open.**





We will begin the season of Lent on Wednesday, March 1, with a worship service in our sanctuary at **7:00 p.m.** and the imposition of ashes.

### MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Journey in Faith Mini-series class will be held on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. at the church. The first class is on Ash Wednesday, March 1, and will be held after the 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday service. The mini-series will conclude on April 5. New members will be received into the church on Palm Sunday, April 9. A signup sheet is in Pilgrim Hall.

### LENTEN STUDY

Jesus and the Movies II is a Lenten Study on Sunday evenings that includes a light meal of soup and bread. The study is for six weeks begins on March 5 at 5:30 p.m. Together we will explore the life of Jesus as portrayed in the movies. We will compare the movies with the Gospel accounts and our life experiences. A signup sheet is in Pilgrim Hall.

### ARTS IN STRONGSVILLE

and

### THE STRONGSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

### PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

**Sunday – March 19, 2016 – 3:00 PM**

*presents*

#### **The Satori Winds**

4 Guys with 4 Clarinets and 4 Saxes

*and*

#### **Broadway Bound**

Featuring BW Music Theatre Majors—  
Gillian Han, Jason Goldstone and Alyssa Kay Thompson

*Freewill Offering ~ Reception Following the Concert*



## STEEPLE LIGHTING

### **Week of February 12, 2017**

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

*Happy Birthday on February 14 to*  
*Daughter "A" Valerie Hopkins and to*  
*Daughter "B" Vicky Masuga*  
Love, Mom

### **Week of February 19, 2017**

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

### **Week of February 26, 2017**

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

To light the steeple, the minimum donation is \$5.00. Donation forms are on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Multiple donations for the same week will be accepted. For questions, please call the church, (440) 238-6697. Thank you for lighting the steeple.

### IN SYMPATHY

Our love and prayers are extended in sympathy to two families on their recent losses:

To Rich Tressa and family on the passing of his wife Susan on February 10. A memorial service will be held Saturday, March 11, 2017, at 4:00 p.m. at Middleburg Heights Community Church, 7165 Big Creek Parkway (at Bagley Road). A combined choir of members from Strongsville UCC and Middleburg Heights Community Church, along with friends who were touched by Susan's talent, will sing. The choir will be directed by Tom Foley, under whom Susan joyfully served as accompanist at our church for many years. For 30 years Susan Stevenson Tressa faithfully and competently was our Church Organist and Choir Accompanist.



To Darla Wickline and sons, Chris and Matt, on the passing of Darla's mother, Dorothy Kathleen Wickline, on February 14, 2017. A private funeral service was held

### THE THRIFT SHOP WINTER BAG SALE

Thursday – March 2 – \$7 / bag – 10am to 4pm  
March 4 – Pork Dinner – \$7 / bag – 4:30pm to 7:30pm  
Thursday – March 9 – \$7 / bag – 10am to 4pm  
Thursday – March 16 – \$6 / bag – 10am to 4pm

*Closed March 23 and 30, 2017      Reopen April 6, 2017*

Fill a Brown Paper Bag, which we will supply, with merchandise of your choice. Overfill is \$1.00 extra.  
Excluded are jewelry, cards, St. Patrick's Day and Easter items.

## SIGN-UP CHARTS FOR 2017

The charts for Greeters, Ushers, Altar Flowers, and Coffee Hour are on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Help is greatly needed! Please sign up if you are able to assist.

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### CHILD SPONSORSHIP

Our church continues to sponsor Caroline Y from the Family Village Farm and School in Vellore, India. If you would like to sponsor her for a month, please sign up on the new chart for 2017 on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Please make your check payable to **Strongsville United Church of Christ** and on the memo line and/or the envelope write: **Child Sponsorship** and the **month** you are sponsoring her. Please place your donation into the offering plate. Your \$30 a month gift will cover her tuition, fees, textbooks and other expenses. 100% of your gift goes directly toward her expenses at the school.

We thank our sponsors in 2016: Claudia Bader and Jim Nicoulin, Sunday School, Irene Joyce and Ingrid Dickson, Judy Carte, Gina Cathcart, the Gigliotti family, Bill and Dorothy Ritchie, Barbara O'Boyle, Doris Soucie, Schyler and Devin Thorn, Linda Plain, Erv and Grace Koch.

This program is part of Global Ministries, United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ Churches. We rejoice in your gift sent to undergird Christ's mission in the world. Along with your giving, we covet your prayers that the deepest needs of all God's children will be met. Thank you for your support.

The Mission and Outreach Committee



### STRONGSVILLE FOOD BANK

We continue our support with food donations. Many thanks to all of you for your contributions. Additionally, the children of our congregation have been faithful with their "Penny Sunday" collections. We recently received a letter from their secretary acknowledging the most recent one. I spoke with her this week when taking in our food donations, and she praised the children for their efforts. She commented that it impressed her at the power of pennies!

## DIACONATE NEWS

### WING NITE

Wing Nite has a new venue! It will be held Friday, May 5, 2017 at the Grindstone Tap House at 826 Front Street in Berea. It is on one floor (no steps to a dark basement), and will include 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.

We are also looking for anyone interested in donating a theme-based basket to auction at this event. If you would like to make a basket, there is a sign-up sheet in Pilgrim Hall for you to write your name and the type of basket you will be providing.

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Many have followed the path of Beth Fraunfelder Lewis on her journey to motherhood. She and her husband, Harold, are happily expecting a baby at the end of May! If you are interested, a Baby Shower will be held for them on Sunday, March 12, 2017, in Pilgrim Hall at 1:30 p.m. They are registered at Target and Amazon.com.

Please R.S.V.P. by Friday, **March 3**, to Barb Fraunfelder, (440) 227-9051.

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### ANNUAL REPORT CORRECTION

Strongsville UCC's 2016 Annual Report booklet has a 5-Year Financial Summary on page 18. The figures for 2016 are correct, but the figures for 2015 are wrong and should be:

	Church 2015	Royalton Rd Property 2015
<b>Income</b>	\$187,338.07	\$17,969.81
<b>Expense</b>	\$190,550.54	\$ 8,649.58

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### CAN YOU HELP?

The Sunday School is looking for a few items for our costume stash:

- Old graduation gowns--any color, any size
- Striped/earth-tone skinny ties (from the 80's)
- Pieces of soft rope for belts (about 2 feet long)
- Winter scarves--plain or with rustic/earth-tone patterns/stripes

Please bring your items to Irene Joyce when you have a chance.

Thanks for cleaning out your closets to benefit the Sunday School!

## 37<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ALL-FAMILY WINTER RETREAT AT PILGRIM HILLS RECAP – 2017

The church held its annual All-Family Winter Retreat at Pilgrim Hills on President's Day Weekend (February 17 – February 19). This was our 4<sup>th</sup> year at Pilgrim Hills after spending the previous 33 at Tempel Hills. There were 50 total attendees, including 10 first-time guests for the weekend and 5 extra Saturday-only guests. This Retreat will be known for two things: 1) the beautiful, unseasonably warm weather and 2) the announcement that Pilgrim Hills will be sold and Tempel Hills will be reopened (more on that later).

The weekend started off with a fun game on Friday night called "What Room in the Church is this?" Rachel Zielinski was the winner. We will bring this game to church and set it up in Pilgrim Hall for others to try. On Saturday, the temperatures soared into the mid-60s (a 60-degree difference from last year!) and our hiking crew reflected the gorgeous weather, as more than half of our attendees made the trek to the pond, archery station, and labyrinth. In addition to our hike, on Saturday we also built a spaceship (Jesus tank?) out of boxes and duct tape, took a short car ride to Ohio's longest covered bridge, did yoga, and had a sing-along with Charles. Our normal Saturday night fun time included candy guessing, group games, late-night chili dogs and, of course, everyone's favorite: CRAZY BINGO! Our group games included a too-long game entitled "Who's #1" (won by Ted Bickley) and another version (our fourth) of The Best Game, in which we divided into 5 different teams and tried to figure out who was the best at various activities and trivia questions. The winning team was Team Pogozelski, which also included Devin Thorn. The Best Game was a mild hit again, so if you were ever wondering who in the church is the best dancer, spoon balancer, or fastest banana eater, you will have to attend the Retreat! After the game, Rachel Zielinski was kind enough to haul her massive sound-system down to the camp so we could have late-night karaoke, which ended up being a lot of fun (especially with a good rendition of Neil Diamond's "Sweet Caroline.")

Sunday started off with a Sunrise Service led by Aimée Jannsohn, with 13 present. Music was provided by Sandy O'Shea. Our regular Sunday Service had the theme "Let Your Light Shine," and was led by Irene Joyce with help from Sandy O'Shea (on guitar and piano). We wrapped things up after lunch (no ham loaf) and departed around 2 PM. A good time was had by all!

We'd like to give extra thanks to our special Retreat contributors and helpers: Irene Jannsohn, Irene Joyce, Ingrid Dickson, Greg Dickson, Dale Hawk, Cathy Hawk, Rachel Zielinski, Karen Morgan, Sally Herzog, and Sandy O'Shea.

The Annual All-Family Winter Retreat takes place the same weekend every year—President's Day weekend. If you've ever considered attending, we encourage you to join us next year for a fun-filled, relaxing weekend. All ages welcome.

## NEWS FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY Adria Bond

Giving statements were distributed at the end of January. If you did not get yours, please contact Adria Bond at 440-554-7380.

The following monthly report lists the budget income we need to receive from Pledges and Offerings and the amount actually received. This information also appears weekly in our Sunday worship bulletin.

### For January 29 through February 19

Offering Needed: \$15,460  
Offering Received: (Jan. 29 through Feb. 29) 10,033  
Difference (\$5,427)



### RECYCLING

The River Valley Paper Company picked up:

**For the year 2016 – 59,520 lbs.** of recycled material for a total payment for the year of **\$618.63**

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.

The weight of cardboard is not as much as paper; so if boxes are not collapsed, they take up valuable space. So, 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):

95% of all data in the world is still stored on paper. Most of it is never looked at again! Clean out your files regularly and bring the recycled paper to the bin!

WE SAVED:	FOR THE YEAR 2016, Our 59,520 lbs. of recycled paper saved:
Trees	505.92
Pounds of CO2	7,440
Cubic yards of landfill space	98.21
Gallons of water	208,320
Kilowatts of electricity	122,016
Homes heated for 6 months	29.76
Pounds of air pollutants	1,785.6

**THANK YOU for RECYCLING!!**

## CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2017

*Officers elected on January 29, 2017,  
have an asterisk\* by their names.*

**Moderator** Rachel Zielinski\*  
**Vice-Moderator** Bill Schneider\*  
**Treasurer** Kenn Oerkfitz\*  
**Clerk** Karen Morgan\*  
**Sunday School Co-Superintendents** Jamie Habart\*  
Irene Joyce\*

### Board of Trustees

Ed Bond Lloyd Bridle\* Jim Dettmer\*  
Greg Dickson\* Bill Giuliano Dale Hawk\*  
Jim Heinrich\* Bob Kovatich Ken Mehalko  
Ed Sobek\*

### Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Irene Jannsohn\* Joyce Reed\*

### Diaconate

Jennifer Barry\* Kelly Bickley\* Adria Bond  
Barbara Camp\* Gina Cathcart\* Ginny Oerkfitz  
Kristen Clotworthy\* Dan Davis Cathy Hawk  
Sarah Hayes\* Linda Plain\* Cheryl Sobek  
Marty Winch\*

### Christian Education Committee

Kelly Bickley\* Jamie Habart Irene Joyce  
Sandy O'Shea\* Lora Rung\*

### Music Committee

Ingrid Dickson\* Pam Keenen Elena Taylor  
Barb Fraunfelder Ken Mehalko\*

### Stewardship Committee

Rosemary Bechtel Barbara Bridle\* Sue Gigliotti\*  
Laurie Meister\*

### Mission and Outreach Committee

Judy Carte\* Brandi Garsteck\* Michele Mihlack\*  
Gary Paul\* Lora Rung Bev Wehr\*

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## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP CANDY SALE

### Tentative candy-making dates are

Monday, March 13; Friday, March 17;  
Monday, March 20; and Friday, March 24,  
from 9:00 a.m. until lunch or cleanup is done.

### Tentative sale dates are

the Sundays of March 26 and April 2.

The sign-up sheet for making candy is posted in Pilgrim Hall.

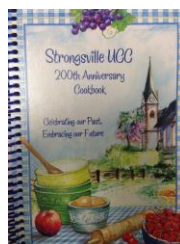
Right now there are not enough helpers to accomplish the task. Please sign up now if you will help with this project. Thank you.

Women's Fellowship

## THANK YOU!

As many of you know, the Thrift Shop here at SUCC is a great place to find great deals! The ladies that work here are wonderful. They put in many hours going through donations, putting up displays and helping customers. They are here every Thursday from 10-4 plus other days getting ready for seasonal change-overs and special sales. Some of these ladies are members and some are just volunteers/friends of our church. In the past year these ladies have funded many projects at the church. They paid for half of the parking lot repairs, to have trees removed from the lot on Royaltan Road, and for various other things. After our annual meeting this past January, these ladies came forward and are giving us \$7,000 toward our ADA bathroom project. This amount will pay for half of the projected cost. We cannot say enough about these wonderful ladies. Please stop and see them on a Thursday or during a dinner. They have helped the church in numerous ways over the last 35 years. As the moderator and an outgoing trustee, I want to say a HUGE thank you to them for everything!

Rachel Zielinski, Moderator SUCC



## 200TH ANNIVERSARY CHURCH COOKBOOKS

Please see Dianne Maringer to get your copy. Price per book is \$12; mailing the book is an additional \$3.

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## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING

One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Churches Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. 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 rehabilitation. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

This special offering will be received at our church throughout the month of March. Offering envelopes are enclosed with the paper copies of this newsletter and are also in the pew racks at the church.

Thank you for your support.