

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

Rev. Rebecca Stephenson, Pastor

SUNDAY – MARCH 26, 2017 – 10:00 A.M.



WELCOME!

*We are grateful you chose to worship with us this morning.
No matter who you are and where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.*

For questions about our church and ministries, you may call the church at (440) 238-6697. Please complete your Attendance Card and place it into the offering plate. We hope to see you again soon!

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE *Be the Center* Michael Frye

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ALL: The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want.

One: It is you, Lord, who makes me lie down in green pastures;

All: It is you who leads me beside the still waters.

One: You restore my soul and guide me in paths of righteousness for your name's sake.

ALL: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff comfort me.

One: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

All: You anoint my head with oil;

One: My cup runs over.

ALL: Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in your house, O Lord, forever.

† **HYMN 688** *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

OUR LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

RESPONSE *Native American Flute* Ken Mehalko

BELL ANTHEM *A New Name in Glory* Austin Miles

CHILDREN'S CHOIR *I Want to Be Ready* Traditional Spiritual

The Children's Choir

Teddy Bickley, Russell Bickley, Anna Bickley,
Rowan Garcia, Luke Giuliano, Christian Habart-Scott

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Give Thanks* Henry Smith

† **DOXOLOGY 817** Tune: *Lamb of God*

O bless the gifts our hands have brought;
And bless the work our hearts have planned.
Ours is the faith, the will, the thought;
The rest, O God, is in your hand.

† **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SCRIPTURES James 2:14-18

SERMON *Living Faith*

† **HYMN 727** *Faith Is the Victory*

† **BENEDICTION**

† **BELL RESPONSE** *We Will Glorify* Twila Paris

† **POSTLUDE**

This morning's altar flowers are given—

In Loving Memory of James Habart on the Anniversary of His Death
Always, Always Remembered Fondly by His Family

The steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthday to Rob Wentz on April 1
With love, Grammy

In Loving Memory of Edith Graves
Roberta and Dan Carpenter

Trustees will meet today at 11:30 a.m.

Official Board will meet Tuesday at 7:00 p.m

April Newsletter – For those who get paper copies, please pick up your newsletter in the Gathering Area this morning. For those who get theirs by email, thank you very much for helping us save paper and postage costs.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,865
Weekly Offering Received 3/19/2017 \$1,513
Difference -\$2,352

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

PALM SUNDAY

10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Children meet in Pilgrim Hall at 9:45 a.m. to prepare for Palm Processional.



MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:00 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall (*includes full dinner*) **Reservations are required** –
Please sign up or call the church at (440) 238-6697.



GOOD FRIDAY

Tenebrae Service at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary



EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

6:30 a.m. outdoors in the Worship Garden—
when the garden will be dedicated



EASTER BREAKFAST

of scrambled eggs and ham will be served
in Pilgrim Hall between the two Easter worship services.

EASTER TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Children have class and an Easter egg hunt!



The Upper Room devotional guides for March/April finally arrived and are on the rectangular table in the Gathering Area.

Jesus and the Movies II is a Lenten Study on Sunday evenings at 5:30 p.m. that includes a light meal of soup and bread. The study continues TODAY and goes through April 9. Together we are exploring the life of Jesus as portrayed in the movies. We are comparing the movies with the Gospel accounts and our life experiences. Please sign up on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall if you plan to attend. All are welcome.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering – The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehab. OGHs also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. Offering envelopes are in the pew racks. Thank you for your support.

Women's Fellowship will meet on Tuesday, April 4 (not this week, but the following week), at 10:00 a.m. Strongsville Police Department will present a program on phone scams. Please bring a lunch; dessert, coffee and tea will be provided. As always, all ladies are welcome.

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

Sunday School – On Palm Sunday, April 9, the children will process with palms and sing "Hosanna! Jesus is the Rock." The children will meet in Pilgrim Hall at 9:45 a.m. to prepare for the processional. On Easter Sunday, April 16, the children will have class and also enjoy an Easter Egg Hunt, which is sponsored by the Sunday School.

**Celebration of Ministry Open House for
PASTOR BECKY STEPHENSON**



on the occasion of her retirement

Sunday - April 23, 2017 - 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.

at Strongsville United Church of Christ

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

Bell Choir Recognition will be Sunday, April 30, during the service, and the Bell Choir will play.

Renewal of Wedding Vows will take place during Sunday worship on April 30, 2017. There is no signup; all are invited. Pastor Becky will ask participating couples to come forward, and the couples will recite their vows. Special attire is not required—although anyone wishing to wear their wedding clothes may do so!

Wing Nite is Friday, May 5, 2017, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Grindstone Tap House, 826 Front Street in Berea. It is on one floor and includes pizza, pasta, wings, salad, 5 types of domestic beer, well drinks, and wine. Tickets are \$25 per person and can be purchased from any Diaconate member. To donate a basket to auction, please see the sign-up sheet in Pilgrim Hall.

OUR PRAYER LIST

Hospitals no longer provide names of members who are patients. If you or a family member would like a visit, please call the church at (440) 238-6697. Please provide updates for this list. Thank you.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Eric Brand, Betty Bushea, Margot James, Ethyl Jeglie at Elmcroft of Sagamore Hills, Janet Kato at Western Reserve Masonic Community in Medina, Harvey Pincombe, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields, Doris Soucie

Church Family: Shirley Brand in Hospice, Steve Herzog, Carol Lesiak, Martha Liebert, Michele Mihlack, Pam Peacock, Denzil Richards, Lora Rung, Melinda Slavik, Jan Stough, Leah Tressa Forget, Kyle Woodward

Extended Church Family: Bri Brostek (friend of Gina Cathcart), Dylan Churnega (grandson of Ginny Churnega), Zachary Crouse (grandson of Barbara Morgan), Audrey Curry (mother of Pam Keenen), Edie Deitcher (friend of Barbara O'Boyle), Hollie Paine Dodge (friend of Betty Craig), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Matthew Geletka (grandson of Barbara O'Boyle), Sue Mason, Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Jean Mlincek (sister of Joyce Reed), Debbie Morey (sister of Steve Herzog), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Keith Stewart (cousin of Carol Woodward), Frank Toth (father of Rob), Joe Valli (brother-in-law of Vicky and Dan Masuga)

SERVING TODAY

Greeter – Gina Cathcart
Morning Announcements – Irene Joyce
Liturgist – Tom Gaumer
Ushers – Volunteers Needed
Coffee Hour – Ginny Churnega and Kenn Oerkfitz
Director of Music – Elena Taylor
Accompanist – Joe Williams
The Chancel Choir
Clarinet/Native American Flute/Saxophone – Ken Mehalko
Acoustic Guitar – Gary Hackett
Bass Guitar – Jack Stephenson
Electric Guitar – Jake Williams
Mallet Percussion – Rob Toth
Drum Set – Mike Soltis
Sound System – Jim Heinrich

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY – APRIL 2, 2017

Greeter: Linda Plain
Morning Announcements: Irene Joyce
Liturgist: Bill Schneider
Usher: Linda Plain
Coffee Hour: Ed and Cheryl Sobek

MARCH 2017

26 Sun Trustees Meeting, 11:30am
Lenten Study, 5:30pm
28 Tue Official Board Meeting, 7pm
29 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm,
Fit Club, 7pm
Journey in Faith Class, 7pm
30 Thu Thrift Shop CLOSED for cleaning and changeover
Bell Choir 7pm, Chancel Choir 8pm

APRIL 2017

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

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

STRONGSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Church Telephone (440) 238-6697
Website strongsvilleucc.com
Email strongsvilleucc@gmail.com