

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

MAY 2015 NEWSLETTER

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

<p style="text-align: center;">MAY 3 <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i></p> <p>Scriptures: John 15:1-8</p> <p>Sermon: <i>How to Live a Fruitful Life</i></p> <p>Communion at Both Services</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Bruce Keenen Greeter: Lola Millhoane Usher: Lola Millhoane Coffee Hour: Tom Gaumer</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Tom Gaumer Greeter: Needed Coffee Hour: Tom Gaumer</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">MAY 10 <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i></p> <p>Scriptures: Acts 10:1-8</p> <p>Sermon: <i>Open Our Minds and Hearts</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Kenn Oerkfitz Greeter: Linda Plain Ushers: Volunteers Needed Coffee Hour: Allen and Michele Mhlack</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Jack Stephenson Greeter: Needed Coffee Hour: Allen and Michele Mhlack</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">MAY 17 <i>Seventh Sunday of Easter</i></p> <p>Rev. Mendle Adams will lead worship.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Pam Keenen Greeter: Beth Giuliano Ushers: Volunteers Needed Coffee Hour: Bev Wehr</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Dan Masuga Greeter: Needed Coffee Hour: Bev Wehr</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">MAY 24 <i>Pentecost Sunday</i></p> <p>Rev. Mendle Adams will lead worship.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Jim Studer Greeters: Tom and Judy Gaumer Ushers: Volunteers Needed Coffee Hour: Ginny Basenback</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Michele Mhlack Greeter: Needed Coffee Hour: Ginny Basenback</p>

<p>MAY 31 <i>Trinity Sunday</i></p> <p>Rev. Mendle Adams <i>will lead worship.</i></p>	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Lora Rung Greeter: Ginny Dangelo Ushers: Volunteers Needed Coffee Hour: Michele Mhlack and Ginny Dangelo</p>	<p>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Dale Hawk Greeter: Needed Coffee Hour: Michele Mhlack and Ginny Dangelo</p>
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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

What can we expect to happen this summer at church?

This summer is going to be an exciting time at the church. Some of the events planned will include a visit from a special youth choir on Thursday, July 2, at 7:00 p.m., a Pig Roast on the front lawn, participation in the Strongsville Parade, and possibly an old time Community Tent Revival in August. We will also continue the Free Lunch Program all summer.

Possible other activities might include a wine tasting, Indians Game Night, and other fellowship activities. We are also looking to get a softball team going and recently began to develop a golf league.

How about changes to our church facility?

Hopefully very soon we will begin building a handicapped accessible restroom where the ladies room is, just off the sanctuary. This will take some shuffling of office space to make necessary room for the new restroom. Also, I hope we might move forward with the much needed parking lot expansion using stone to make a temporary lot adjacent to the existing lot. We really need the parking to grow.

How about staffing?

Well, first I want to thank Ken Mehalko for the wonderful job he did leading the choir while we searched for a new director. This Easter's music program was out of sight! Thanks, Ken and everyone who made this Easter so special.

Beginning May 1, our new choir director, Joshua Konow, will come on board to inspire our choir to praise God with heart and soul and voice. We are all excited to have Joshua with us. Also we are so blessed to have all our staff who work so hard to make our church a great community in Christ.

Pastor, we hear you're going to be on vacation for a month.

Yes, that is true. Jack and I will be traveling to Europe to recharge our batteries. We will be cruising the Rhine

River and the Mediterranean Sea. We will stop in Athens, Corinth and Ephesus, where Paul began the early church. While we are away, Dr. Adams will be leading the church. He has been here before, and everyone enjoyed his quick wit and gracious personality. Hopefully, I will continue to be in contact with the office via phone all through the trip.

A word of caution: Get some rest, for when I get back, I will be all charged up and ready to go!

There is much happening over the summer; and even though I'll be away for a short time, I know that each of you will step up and keep the church growing. I can't wait until I hear about all the wonderful things the church does while I'm away. I might even call you from Germany, Rome or Greece.

Pastor Becky

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 – talk with Pastor Becky or call the church, (440) 238-6697.



SAVE THESE DATES!

Thursday, July 2 – Logansport Children's Choir Concert
7:00 p.m. at Our Church – All are welcome!

Saturday, July 11 – Jack Stephenson's Retirement Party
at the Parsonage – All are welcome!

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

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



MUSIC RECITAL

The music students of Elena Taylor will present a Spring
Concert on Saturday, May 2, at 5:00 p.m. at the church.
All are welcome.

IN SYMPATHY



Our love and prayers are extended in
sympathy to Pastor Becky and Jack
Stephenson, Denise Bell and their
family on the sudden, unexpected
passing of Pastor Becky's dear
"Cousin Ron" on Wednesday, April 15,
in Delaware. The funeral was held
Sunday, April 26, in Delaware.

THE THRIFT SHOP

Stop in on Thursdays between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
to visit us and see our new spring and summer line!

A BIG THANKS to the Thrift Shop volunteers for the
wonderful work they did with the changeover from winter
to spring and summer merchandise.

STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING

The Strategic Planning Meeting originally scheduled for
Saturday, April 25, has been RESCHEDULED for
Saturday, **June 20**, at 9:00 a.m. at the church. Please
mark your calendar! Your opinion and ideas do count
and will help the church to carry forward with goals to
succeed!

iSACRA

I will be walking the 5K on Saturday, May 16, in Fairfax,
Virginia, to support the iSACRA. I was born with sacral
agenesis, which is a rare birth condition characterized by
the absence of the lower spine and spinal cord. This
fundraiser will support families and parents of children to
put out more information to doctors and hospitals
regarding this rare birth condition. Please help me raise
funds by sponsoring me and donating funds – any
amount is appreciated – cash or check payable to
iSACRA. A sign up sheet is on the Pilgrim Hall bulletin
board. Thank you for your support.

Michele Mihlack



Calling All Women! The third annual Women's Retreat
will be held August 14 through 16, 2015 (Friday,
Saturday and Sunday) at Pilgrim Hills. Please join in for
a GREAT weekend! Cost is \$93.60 and is due by
Sunday, June 14, 2015.

If you have any questions or want to sign up, please
email Kim McKenzie at davekimmckenzie@cox.net or
call Kim at (216) 401-8738. The sign-up sheet is on the
bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall.

COFFEE HOUR FUND

Thank you to all who contribute to the
Coffee Hour Fund. Besides Coffee
Hour, these contributions now also
provide supplies for the Wednesday
Free Lunch Program. Your support is
greatly appreciated.



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Paul writes that God loves a Cheerful giver: "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And 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: 7-8 NRSV).

In the spirit of Paul's verses, the Stewardship Committee invites each of you to think about your Stewardship. Although the campaign doesn't officially start until the fall, Stewardship is continual within the church, and it is necessary in the growth and support of God's church. For this month, take a moment to think about the giving aspect of Stewardship. Giving may include a monetary tithe, donations of food or clothing, or volunteering your time. When you choose to give, make it a gift from the heart. Keep in mind what the church does for the community, families, Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM), as well as what giving means to you. Although you may not receive public appreciation or recognition, your giving is a reflection of you and your voice!

Remember, the Stewardship Committee represents YOU! If you have suggestions, questions, etc., please let us know! The committee's next meeting is set for the beginning of May, and we would love to incorporate thoughts and suggestions from the rest of the congregation!

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!



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.



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. This list is updated weekly. If you wish someone to remain on the list, please call the church, (440) 238-6697.

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 Babics, Betty Bushea, Charles Jannsohn, Jim Joyce, Pam Peacock, Denzil Richards, Melinda Slavik, Doris Soucie, Ann Sullen, Leah Tressa Forget *

Extended Church Family: Ryan Brubeck, Emelyn Carels (sister of Irene Jannsohn), Dylan Churnega (grandson of Ginny Churnega Oerkfitz), Zachary Crouse (grandson of Barbara Morgan), Rebecca Deeb (Goddughter of Lora Rung), Angie Dickinson (friend of Lola Millhoane), Donna Fargo (mother of Sally Herzog), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Brian Gogerty (friend of the Heinrichs), Irene Hagemeyer (niece of Betty Craig), Phyllis Keenen (mother of Bruce), Pat Kolba (mother of Kelly Bickley), Dorothy Kovatich (mother of Bob), Maggie (friend of the Bickleys), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Trudie Taylor (sister of Karen Morgan), Bob Tomko (cousin of Ed Sobek), Gino Tosi, Marjorie Tressa (mother of Rich), Kathleen Wickline (mother of Darla), Shirley Wilson (mother of Sue Hawk), Marilyn Woodward (mother of David and Carol)

* Leah's Forget's address: 1604 Brentwood Street
Middletown, OH 44054



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 the envelope under the church office door. Thanks!

MISSION AND OUTREACH NEWS

“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.

The Mission and Outreach Committee is looking for volunteers to help at General Synod! The registration fee for a volunteer is \$60. **The Mission and Outreach 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!

KFC Club and Mission Outreach CAR WASH!

Come get the winter grime washed off of your car and help raise funds for the KFC Club and Mission Outreach Committee! We are looking into future mission trips and community projects and every dollar will help us do more and more. The car wash will take place Saturday, May 9, and will run from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the church parking lot. We also need helpers at the car wash! Please speak to Kelly Bickley, Jamie Habart, Lora Rung, Claudia Bader, Jim Nicoulin, or Greg Dickson if you can help. We will gather after the 9:45 service Sunday, May 3, for a brief organizational meeting for anyone who can participate.



MEN’S LUNCHEON

Just a reminder that Men’s Luncheon takes place on the **Fourth WEDNESDAY of the month.** The next Men’s Luncheon date is **May 27 at 11:30 a.m.** at the usual meeting place:
European’s Best Restaurant and Bakery
19608 West 130th Street
Strongsville, Ohio 44136
As always, all men are welcome!

WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP

Meeting – Women’s Fellowship will meet on Wednesday, May 6, at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor. Betty Bushea will be the hostess, and Barb Fraunfelder will lead devotions. The program will be presented by the Strongsville Police Department. Following the program, those who wish can enjoy the Wednesday Free Lunch in Pilgrim Hall. As always, all ladies are welcome!



Tote Bags – Women’s Fellowship Spring Project will be to fill about 60 Tote Bags for the Strongsville Food Bank children, ages 5 to 12. The finished bag is about 11” x 12”. Donations of any of the items listed below or monetary donations, so we may purchase items, would be appreciated. Monetary donations should be put into an envelope marked “Tote Bag Project” and placed in the church office. Collection is now until Sunday, June 14. **The collection box is under the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall.** Travel size is best and can be found at Marc’s or Target.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING IN FAMILY SIZE ITEMS.

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|-------------------------------|---|
| soap (facial size or smaller) | small tissue packets |
| shampoo | small cars or trucks |
| body lotion | decks of cards |
| deodorant | activity books |
| tooth brushes | coloring books |
| toothpaste (small tubes) | small stuffed toys (<i>no bigger than 8”</i>) |
| wash cloths | blowing bubbles (small bottles) |
| combs or brushes | sidewalk chalk |
| pencils | |
| crayons (16 count) | |



THANK YOU

We cannot thank you enough for your heartfelt support and concern during this difficult time. A huge thank you to the funeral luncheon committee for providing a wonderful lunch. We also want to thank those who came to the funeral or said a prayer for us. Knowing that we have a caring church family has been immensely helpful.

Love from Jamie and Christian

Thank you for all your prayers, cards, and thoughts of me during my eye surgery. Blessings to you all.
Doris Soucie

STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of April 5, 2015

*In Loving Memory of Frank Gritti – You will be missed.
Love, Lola*

Week of April 12, 2015

*Thank you to all who helped to make this past
Free Lunch a success in the absence of our leader –
with thanks especially to Jon
Grammy*

*In Loving Memory of My Buddy, Jean Sobek –
Still Miss You Always
Your Buddy, Lola*

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.



ALTAR FLOWERS

You may provide flowers on any Sunday you wish because multiple vases are accepted on Sunday mornings. However, the following are dates when vases are still needed in order to have two vases on the altar for Sunday worship:

July 5 – 1 vase
September 6 – 1 vase
October 25 – 2 vases
November 29 – 2 vases
December 13 – 2 vases

Please note: If you only attend the 9:45 a.m. service, you are welcome to take your flowers after that service. The Contemporary Service is casual, and it is okay if flowers are not on the altar.

The signup chart for altar flowers is on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area. Below the chart are forms and envelopes for submitting your bulletin information and payment to the church office.

Thank you very much for providing flowers for our worship services.



NEWS FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Barb Fraunfelder

This is a monthly report listing the budget income we need to receive from Pledges and Offerings and the amount actually received from March 29 through April 19. This information is also appearing on a weekly basis in our worship bulletin.

Offering Needed: \$12,760

Offering Received: (March 29 to April 19) 11,791
Traditional: \$10,719 Contemporary: \$1,072

Difference: (\$ 969)

Easter Offering Received \$3,297

RECYCLING

The River Valley Paper Company picked up –

February – 5,590 lbs. of recycled material at \$25 per ton for a total payment of \$69.88.

January – 6,090 lbs. of recycled material at \$25 per ton for a total payment of \$79.25.

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):

	FEBRUARY 2015 Our 5,590 lbs. of recycled paper saved:	JANUARY 2015 Our 6,090 lbs. of recycled paper saved:
WE SAVED:		
Trees	47.52	51.77
Pounds of CO2	698.75	761.25
Cubic yards of landfill space	9.22	10.05
Gallons of water	19,565	21,315
Kilowatts of electricity	11,459.50	12,484.50
Homes heated for 6 months	2.80	3.05
Pounds of air pollutants	167.70	182.70

THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING!



STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

Through this special offering of the UCC, *visions and dreams* can become reality. On Pentecost Sunday, May 24 – "The Birthday of the Christian Church" – the special offering called "Strengthen the Church" will be received. Please bring or send in the enclosed offering envelope to help celebrate this festival Sunday.

Our gifts help plant new UCC churches in the U.S., help existing congregations and pastors implement new ideas for local ministry, and enable more people to hear the good news that "God is Still Speaking!" "Stillspeaking" is the shorter form of the campaign by the United Church of Christ to remind us that God has a lot more to say.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Attention Graduating Seniors! The Sunday School has a scholarship available to Sunday School alumni who are graduating from high school this year. This is a service scholarship, not based on financial need or academic merit, but participation in the Sunday School and church activities. Please pick up an application from the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Deadline for submission is Sunday, May 24. Scholarships will be awarded on Sunday, June 28, when graduates will be recognized in church.

Summer Sunday School begins June 7. Parents, Grandparents, Uncles, Aunts: Please sign up to teach one Sunday during the months of June, July, and August. The signup sheet is posted on Pilgrim Hall's bulletin board. No experience is necessary, and all materials will be provided. See Sunday School Superintendent Irene Joyce if you have questions.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

May 10 – Mother's Day
May 17 – Sunday School Ice Cream Party
June 7 – Summer Sunday School begins.
June 21 – Father's Day
June 28 – Graduates' Recognition, when the Sunday School Scholarship will be awarded

