

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
Blended Worship 11:15 A.M. Sunday

MAY 2016 NEWSLETTER

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

<p>MAY 1 <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i> <i>The Sacrament of Communion</i></p> <p>Scriptures: Acts 9:1-9</p> <p>Sermon: <i>"What Are You Doing?"</i></p>	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Jim Studer</p> <p>Morning Announcements: Kim McKenzie</p> <p>Greeter: Linda Plain</p> <p>Usher: Linda Plain</p> <p>Coffee Hour: Cheryl and Ed Sobek</p>	<p>BLENDED 11:15 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Bill Schneider</p> <p>Morning Announcements: Kim McKenzie</p> <p>Greeter: Linda Plain</p> <p>Graphics Operation: Lori Kovatich</p>
<p>MAY 8 <i>Mother's Day</i> <i>Seventh Sunday of Easter</i> <i>Rev. Rita Root, Guest Minister</i></p> <p>Scriptures: John 17:20-26</p> <p>Sermon: <i>"United in Ministry"</i></p>	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Kenn Oerkfitz</p> <p>Morning Announcements: Irene Joyce</p> <p>Greeter: Ginny Oerkfitz</p> <p>Ushers: Volunteers Needed</p> <p>Coffee Hour: Volunteer Needed</p>	<p>BLENDED 11:15 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Kenn Oerkfitz</p> <p>Morning Announcements: Irene Joyce</p> <p>Greeter: Ginny Oerkfitz</p> <p>Graphics Operation: Michele Mhlack</p>
<p>MAY 15 <i>Pentecost</i> Strongsville United Methodist Church uses Pilgrim Hall from 7:45 to 10:00 a.m. for their Confirmation Class Breakfast.</p> <p>Scriptures: Acts 2:1-4</p> <p>Sermon: <i>"The Cowardly Lion"</i> Strengthen the Church Offering— Please see page 4.</p>	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M. <i>Bell Choir Plays and Is Recognized</i></p> <p>Liturgist: Gina Gigliotti</p> <p>Morning Announcements: Natalie Daniels</p> <p>Greeters: Volunteers Needed</p> <p>Ushers: Volunteers Needed</p> <p>Coffee Hour: Volunteer Needed</p>	<p>BLENDED 11:15 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Dan Masuga</p> <p>Morning Announcements: Natalie Daniels</p> <p>Greeters: Volunteers Needed</p> <p>Graphics Operation: Adria Bond</p>
<p>MAY 22 <i>First Sunday after Pentecost</i></p> <p>Scriptures: Romans 5:1-5</p> <p>Sermon: <i>"Suffering, Endurance, Character, Hope"</i></p>	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M. <i>Recognition of The Thrift Shop's 35th Anniversary</i></p> <p>Liturgist: Lora Rung</p> <p>Morning Announcements: Denise Bell</p> <p>Greeters: The Bickley Family</p> <p>Ushers: Ted and Kelly Bickley</p> <p>Coffee Hour: Cathy Hawk</p>	<p>BLENDED 11:15 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Lora Rung</p> <p>Morning Announcements: Denise Bell</p> <p>Greeters: The Bickley Family</p> <p>Graphics Operation: Vicky Masuga</p>

MAY 29

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Scriptures:

1 Kings 18:20-24

Sermon:

"450 to 1"

TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M.

Liturgist: Dale Hawk

Morning Announcements:

Kim McKenzie

Greeters: Volunteers Needed

Ushers: Volunteers Needed

Coffee Hour: Volunteer Needed

BLENDED 11:15 A.M.

Liturgist: Jim Nicoulin

Morning Announcements:

Kim McKenzie

Greeters: Volunteers Needed

Graphics Operation:

Rosemary Bechtel



-- Beginning June 5, 2016 --

1 SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE
OF COMBINED WORSHIP

10:00 A.M.

NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, April 3, 2016, our congregation was very pleased to receive three people into our church family:

Mary Ann Engel
Rob Toth
Fran Turk

We extend a warm welcome to Mary Ann, Rob and Fran!

DIACONATE NEWS

Wing Nite is Friday, May 6, from 6-9 p.m. at Sidelines in Brunswick. Tickets for this Diaconate fundraiser are \$20 and include beverages and all-you-can-eat buffet. There will be side boards and a basket raffle. Tickets are on sale **now through April 24** and can be purchased after 9:45 worship from a Diaconate member.



Basket donations are needed for Wing Nite. Please consider donating a basket of new items that is theme-based. There is a sign-up board in Pilgrim Hall for you to write your name and the type of basket you are donating. If you donate a basket, please write what the contents are and the approximate value of the basket. Baskets should be brought to the church by May 1 and given to Cheryl Sobek or any Diaconate member.

ARTS IN STRONGSVILLE
and
THE STRONGSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

Sunday - May 1, 2016 – 4:00 PM

presents

The Satori Winds

4 Guys with 4 Clarinets and 4 Saxes
and



Cindy Smith

Sings

"Songs from The American Song Book"



Freewill Offering ~ Reception Following the Concert

200TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK

For our church's 200th anniversary in 2017, Strongsville UCC will print a new cookbook! Recipe letters and forms were recently distributed or mailed. Please return your recipe either in the box in the Gathering Area, or use the envelope provided in your letter to mail your recipe. In order to submit our cookbook to the publisher in time, **please return your recipe by July 15.** Thank you for your participation!



SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

During this month of May we will recognize:

Our Bell Choir on May 15
in 9:45 a.m. Worship

Our Thrift Shop volunteers on May 22
in 9:45 a.m. Worship
for The Thrift Shop's 35th Anniversary!

We hope you will celebrate with us!



NEWS FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Barb Fraunfelder

Below is a monthly report listing the budget income we need to receive from Pledges and Offerings and the amount received from March 27 through April 17, 2016. This information also appears on a weekly basis in our worship bulletin.

Offering Needed \$15,600 for 4 Sundays @ \$3,900/week
Offering Received 9,903
 Difference - \$5,697

Easter Offering: \$1,892

Easter Offering designated for the Associate Pastor for Families and Youth: \$1,597

RECYCLING

The River Valley Paper Company picked up:

January – 4.910 lbs. of recycled material at \$15 - \$20 per ton for a total payment **\$39.31**.

February – 5.330 lbs. of recycled material at \$20 per ton for a total payment of **\$53.30**.

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.

We're finding the weight of cardboard is not as much as paper; so if boxes are not collapsed, they are taking 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):

	JANUARY 2016 Our 4,910 lbs. of recycled paper saved:	FEBRUARY 2016 Our 5,330 lbs. of recycled paper saved:
WE SAVED:		
Trees	41.74	45.31
Pounds of CO2	613.75	666.25
Cubic yards of landfill space	8.10	8.79
Gallons of water	17,185	18,655
Kilowatts of electricity	10,065.50	10,926.50
Homes heated for 6 months	2.46	2.67
Pounds of air pollutants	147.30	159.90

THANK YOU for RECYCLING!!

FROM THE TREASURER

I have been able to pay the bills as they came in, up until this month. This is attributed to you, our members, seeing the need and the direction we are going, and have in your hearts given as the Lord has blessed you. WELL DONE!

As you may have noticed, I said “until this month” (April). What happens every quarter (July, October, and January) are months with big bills. We will get them paid, but I do not like to pay them late. If some of you could pay ahead or increase your offerings during the quarters, it would be appreciated.

Again, I want to thank you for your stewardship. We have many great things happening in our church: Free Lunch Program, exercise classes, Kids for Christ, a great music program, Bible study. We are also gearing up to add a director of Family and Children ministry. I am sure with everyone's help and with the Lord's guidance, we can continue to grow, reach out into the community, and witness to our Lord.

Kenn Oerkfritz



WINE GLASSES MISSING

Ten boxes with 12 wine glasses per box are missing from the church since the Strongsville City Jazz Swing Band Concert on Friday evening, December 18, 2015. The glasses were used at the reception in Pilgrim Hall, which followed the concert in the sanctuary. If you know where these glasses might be or if someone borrowed them, please talk with Pastor Becky or call the church at (440) 238-6697. Thank you!



COFFEE HOUR

Volunteers are needed for Coffee Hour on Sunday mornings. If serving at Coffee Hour is new for you, the Diaconate will train you for the task! The signup sheet is on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Your help will be **GREATLY** appreciated!



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, (440) 238-6697. Also, please provide updates for this list.



Long-Term Care or Homebound Members:

Ethyl Jeglie at Elmcroft of Sagamore Hills, Janet Kato at Western Reserve Masonic Community in Medina, Betty Kovach at Parkside Villa, Connie Rebar, Erla Mae Schultz at Medina Village

Church Family: Madison Bell, Betty Bushea, Ingrid Dickson, Millie LaFave, Richie McKenzie, Eileen Pincombe, Denzil Richards, Sharon Ritchie, Barb Stayrook at Manor Care in Parma, Keith Sullen, Leah Tressa Forget, Kyle Woodward

Extended Church Family: Elizabeth Arendt (granddaughter of Bev Wehr), Nancy Borchert (friend of Dorothy Ritchie), Ryan Brubeck, Dylan Churnega (grandson of Ginny Churnega Oerkfitz), Zachary Crouse (grandson of Barbara Morgan), Audrey Curry (mother of Pam Keenen), Angie Dickinson (friend of Lola Millhoane), Donna Fargo (mother of Sally Herzog), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Irene Hagemeyer (niece of Betty Craig), Amanda Hover (granddaughter of Betty Kircher), Phyllis Keenen (mother of Bruce), Pat Kolba (mother of Kelly Bickley), Phillis Kurz (mother of Karen Morgan), Jessica Lane (granddaughter of Len and Bev), Sue Mason, Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Dolores Mhlack (mother of Allen) at Southern Hills, Dana Moran (sister of Ginny Dangelo), Debbie Morey (sister of Steve Herzog), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Ralph Sitko (friend of Dorothy Ritchie), Keith Stewart (cousin of Carol Woodward), Trudie Taylor (sister of Karen Morgan), Bob Tomko (cousin of Ed Sobek), Kathleen Wickline (mother of Darla)

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING Pentecost Sunday, May 15, 2016.

Strengthen The Church (STC) is a special mission offering to reimagine and build the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, STC largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard.

As God calls our congregations to be the "church" in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. STC funds will also be used to award grants to help congregations communicate the "God is still speaking," message. This offering will be received on May 15. An envelope is enclosed with the paper copy of the newsletter. Additional envelopes are in the pew racks in the sanctuary.

SPRING INTO FITNESS

Spring into Fitness is a FREE 8-week health and fitness program designed for ALL levels that meets on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. at the church. The program began April 4 and runs to May 23 and includes various ways to get involved. On Saturday, May 21, a healthy potluck will be held at Kelly's home at 5:00 p.m. Come to all of the events or just come to what fits your schedule.

Please request to join on our Facebook Group to stay motivated and keep current on all events. There is no minimum or maximum level of involvement. Join the group at:

facebook.com/groups/SpringIntoFitnessProgram/

Classes are 35-50 minutes in length. For more information, please contact Kelly Bickley, Team Beachbody Coach –

phone and text: (330) 461-4624

or email: mindbodysoulmama@beachbodycoach.com

ALTAR FLOWERS



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

June 5 – 2 vases
June 12 – 1 vase
July 3 – 1 vase
July 10 – 2 vases
July 17 – 1 vase
July 24 – 1 vase
August 28 – 1 vase
September 4 – 2 vases
September 11 – 1 vase
September 18 – 1 vase
October 2 – 2 vases
October 23 – 2 vases
October 30 – 2 vases
November 6 – 1 vase
November 20 – 2 vases
November 27 – 2 vases
December 4 – 1 vase
December 11 – 1 vase

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

Please note: If you only attend the 9:45 a.m. service, you are welcome to take your flowers after that service.

STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of March 27, 2016

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

*In Remembrance of the Birthday of My Dad (Nicholas)
on March 31
Gary Paul*

*In Loving Memory of Our Parents—
Robert Heinrich, Albert and Elsie Ruman
Jim and Sharon Heinrich*

Week of April 24, 2016

*In Loving Memory of All My Loved Ones
Margot James*

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.



IN SYMPATHY

Evelyn Muranko, age 83, who was our substitute organist from 2005 to 2013, passed away on February 22, 2016, in Medina. Music was a very important part of Evelyn's life. In addition to being a church organist for many years, Evelyn also taught private music lessons.

Our former church member, **Bill Hoscic**, age 97, passed away on April 11, 2016, in South Carolina. Bill attended our church from 1979 to 1995. In the early years of his membership with us, Bill sang in the Chancel Choir, sang solos, and was our Interim Chancel Choir Director for almost two years. Bill served in the U.S. Army in WWII, was a music teacher in the Parma school system for eight years, and worked for Central Lithograph Company for 29 years. Bill's wife Jean passed away in 1992 from ALS.

We are grateful for the fine music that Evelyn and Bill provided when they were at our church.

Memorial services were already held for both Evelyn and Bill; and unfortunately, the Church Office has no contact information for their families.



BAPTISM

Jack Emerson Hayes

was baptized on Sunday, April 10, 2016, during 9:45 a.m. worship.

Jack is the son of Jon and Sarah Hayes, grandson of Dale and Cathy Hawk, nephew of Amanda Hawk, and cousin of Riley Hawk.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Meeting – Women's Fellowship will meet on Wednesday, May 4, at 10:00 a.m. Karen Morgan will lead devotions. For the program, we will discuss our appreciation of our church service. After the meeting, the ladies are welcome to enjoy the Free Lunch Program in Pilgrim Hall. As always, all ladies are invited to the meeting.



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 will be Sunday, April 24, to Sunday, June 5.** Travel size is best and can be found at Marc's or Target.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING FAMILY-SIZE ITEMS.

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 or 24 count)	

CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

We started taking pictures of families and church events for a Pictorial Directory. Please contact Cathy Hawk at (440) 781-7512 or Sarah Hayes at (440) 781-7513 to schedule your photo time. We will make some day and evening times available.

