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
Contemporary Worship 9:00 A.M. Sunday
Traditional Worship 11:00 A.M. Sunday

NOVEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES		
NOVEMBER 3 - SUNDAY All Saints Sunday A Time of Remembrance Dedicate Memorials and Honorariums Thanksgiving Basket Collection Sermon: Worthy Is the Lamb Scripture: Revelation 5:6-14	CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP 9 A.M. Liturgist: Dale Hawk Coffee Hour: Vicky Masuga	TRADITIONAL WORSHIP 11 A.M. Sacrament of Baptism Liturgist: Dale Hawk Nursery: Barb Fraunfelder Greeters: Volunteers Needed
NOVEMBER 10 - SUNDAY Communion at Both Services Thanksgiving Basket Collection Sermon: God of the Living Scripture: Luke 20:27-40	CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP 9 A.M. Liturgist: Barb Fraunfelder Communion Servers: Cathy Hawk, Lora Rung Coffee Hour: Beth Giuliano	TRADITIONAL WORSHIP 11 A.M. Liturgist: Lynne McCray Communion Servers: Beth Giuliano, Cathy Hawk, Dianne Maringer, Marty Winch Nursery: Lora Rung Greeters: Dick and Ha Bennett
NOVEMBER 17 – SUNDAY Thanksgiving Basket Collection Sermon: Making All Things New Scripture: Isaiah 65:17-25 Decorate for Thanksgiving and Christmas after 11 A.M. Worship	CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP 9 A.M. Liturgist: Betty Craig Coffee Hour: Rachel Zielinski	TRADITIONAL WORSHIP 11 A.M. Liturgist: Betty Craig Nursery: Rachel Zielinski Greeters: Dale and Cathy Hawk
NOVEMBER 24 - SUNDAY Dedicate Thanksgiving Baskets Stewardship Kickoff Sermon: A Gift of Love Scripture: Malachi 3	CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP 9 A.M. Liturgist: Bev Wehr Coffee Hour: Gina Cathcart	TRADITIONAL WORSHIP 11 A.M. Liturgist: Bev Wehr Nursery: Vicky Masuga Greeters: Volunteers Needed
NOVEMBER 27 – WEDNESDAY THANKSGIVING EVE ECUMENICAL WORSHIP Preaching: Rev. David Scavuzzo from Strongsville United Methodist Church	WORSHIP AT 7 P.M.	RECEPTION AFTER WORSHIP Providing Refreshments: Betty Craig, Beth Giuliano, Cathy Hawk, The Herzogs, Karen Morgan, Ginny Oerkfitz, Linda Plain, Marty Winch

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Question: Pastor, how are we doing as a congregation? Are we healthy?

Answer: Yes, we are healthier than we were a year or two ago. We have increased in worship with several new families now attending. As you can see on Sunday mornings, there are more and more children coming to the Children's Message. We are again holding a Confirmation Class. There are now two worship services and lots of new opportunities for people to be part of the church activities. Last Sunday the Youth Group met for an outing. In a few days we will gather for the first Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service in several years. So many things have happened that we are getting the reputation of being a vibrant, vital, growing congregation in the community. Things have changed.

Financially, we are doing better; still we are not excelling. We have managed to meet our expenses and even step out with our giving a bit, but we are not there yet. This coming year will see some renewed emphasis on Stewardship. The committees of the church are now developing budgets that will help us all see where and what need to be supported by the entire congregation. We are moving towards a unified budget of some sort, which is good.

The Stewardship Program will begin in late November this year. This is an exciting program that will be fun for all of us. Unlike years past, the program will not focus on the church budget, but rather on giving both of time and finances—as what we do as followers of Christ. We will not ask you to meet any budget goal. Instead, we will ask you to commit to giving of your finances and time in gratitude for all God has given you.

Question: How are the two services working out?

Answer: As of this past Sunday (October 20), we are averaging about 35 persons at the 9 a.m. service and 115 at the 11a.m. service. Some people attend both services.

The first service is doing well. We are developing the Praise Band with several new persons joining the team. This week on October 27, we welcomed a new lead singer and a new guitarist.

Also, we have begun using projection in the 9 a.m. service to enhance worship. I love to watch people as they answer the Bible questions on the countdown before the service. It is great to see people looking up and singing the songs, and clapping to the music. I truly believe attendance at this service will continue to grow and perhaps become even larger than the 11 a.m. service.

The 11 a.m. service is wonderful, filled with all the traditional music of the church. Our choir is outstanding

and brings a gift of music to the service. We will be tweaking the service as times goes on to include some more traditional components of worship. You already have experienced communion in the pews. You might see an affirmation of faith or a liturgy or a sung response to a psalm in the near future. We will be singing many traditional Christmas carols during the Advent season.

Question: It seems like the same people do all the work. What can we do?

Answer: We need to change our mindset about doing the work in the church. Look, I know it easier to just do the work ourselves than to get others to help. It drives us crazy to try and organize others and then let then do things their way. Remember when you first became active in the church. I would bet that someone personally invited you to do something. Maybe you had the entry-level job of cutting bread or onions for the Turkey Dinner. Before long you found yourself being part of the entire process. Now it's time for you to personally invite others to help too-not because you can't do the job by yourself. I'll bet Betty Craig can cook the entire meal by herself if she had to, but it is important for others to be included in the life of the church. Helping in the activities of the church is how we make the church our own. Inviting and encouraging others is a vital ministry in the church. A personal invitation and followup will help new persons be part of the family.

When you go to your family gatherings during the holidays, don't you feel better when you help with something--cooking, setting the table, cleaning up, leading singing, something? I know I do. I also know that I love to see others working together, listening to the conversations, laughing and sharing. When we do that in the church, we grow as Christ's family. Sometimes it's not working at a dinner but perhaps planting a tree, caring for flowers, setting up or serving the sacraments, picking up old bulletins, calling missing friends, visiting in hospitals, taking a meal, or bringing in canned goods for the baskets.

Please share the work—like you would a cookie or pie or bottle of wine—and invite others to be part of the family.

Pastor Becky

WOMEN'S LUNCHEONS

Wednesday – November 13, 2013 Gran Fiesta - 18737 Royalton Road, Strongsville Meet at the restaurant at 11:30 a.m. Reservations – Lola Millhoane – (440) 238-3037

Looking to December –

<u>Tuesday</u> – December 10, 2013

Don's Pomeroy House – at Pearl and Westwood

Meet at the restaurant at 11:30 a.m.

Reservations – Lola Millhoane – (440) 238-3037

Strongsville UCC

ANNUAL TURKEY DINNER



Saturday - November 3, 2013

Seatings at 4:30, 5:45 and 7:00 p.m.

Reservations Only - (440) 236-8025

Adults - \$9.00 Ages 6-12 - \$5.00 Under 6 - Free

Help is needed. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall.

For safety reasons, no children under age 6 (with or without a parent) can be helpers in any capacity during the serving hours of 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Children 6-10 years must have a parent helping them.

Adult help and bakery donations are needed. After church on Sunday mornings, you may purchase tickets from Chris Morgan.

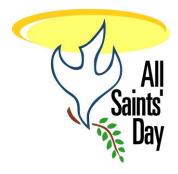
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

and

DEDICATION OF MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

November 3 is All Saints Sunday, when we will remember loved ones who have passed. To remember someone, please write their name(s) on the back of your Attendance Card, or call the church office at (440) 238-6697. Names will be printed in the bulletin, and a tea light candle will be lit in remembrance of each person.

Also on November 3, we will dedicate memorials and honorariums.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Becky is usually in the church office in the mornings, and she is also available by appointment. Wednesday is her planned day off.

Sharon Heinrich, church secretary, is in the office Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. until 4:30 p.m. She runs errands between 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m., so she may be out of the office during that time.

MEALS

To help a church family by preparing meals because of illness or another need, please check the back of your Attendance Card on Sunday morning or call the church office, (440) 238-6697. A list of cooks will be prepared, and the names will be rotated. The task will be shared by several people over time. You will be contacted when your help is needed. Thank you for your participation.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Help with the Turkey Dinner on November 2
See the signup sheet on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall.

Make Candy with Women's Fellowship See page 5 of this newsletter.

Decorate for Thanksgiving and Christmas See the Diaconate Dailies on page 4.

For the Holiday Open House on November 24— Serve in the Kitchen, Be a Greeter, and Be in the Live Nativity See page 5 of this newsletter.

Serve Meals at Zion UCC

See page 7 of this newsletter – also the bulletin board in the Gathering Area.

For the ORC Benefit Concert on December 8, 2013— Be an Usher or Child Care Worker, provide bakery, or help at the reception in Pilgrim Hall See page 6 of this newsletter.

DIACONATE DAILIES

Hope this newsletter finds all of you well!

The Diaconate is excited about this fall! We have many things happening. As we move toward the Advent season, we have many things planned. We are currently collecting food for our Thanksgiving baskets. Our collection program is new this year and began on October 20. We are collecting different foods each week to make complete dinner baskets for families in need. We set a goal to make 50 baskets. If you would like to donate, please see the Thanksgiving Basket Food Collection article on this page.

Also we are looking for families to receive the baskets. You can give names to Pastor Becky, or fill out an attendance card with the information and place the card in the collection plate. Please be sure to let us know the size of the family, so we can give them the appropriate size basket.

If you would like to donate to this program, the total cost for a basket is \$35.00, or you can purchase the items. If you would like to donate for a turkey or ham, the cost is \$15.00. We hope that we can meet and even exceed our goal for this year and kick off a wonderful program in our community.

If you would like to help put the baskets together, we will be doing that on Monday, November 25, at 9 a.m. We will sort the food and box it for each basket. Please see Rachel Zielinski or Pastor Becky if you have any questions.

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, we will be decorating the church. Some new things will be happening. This year we will be hosting a Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service on Wednesday, November 27, at 7 p.m. Many churches in the community will be joining us. A reception will follow the service.

Since we will be having the Open House on the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving and also having the Thanksgiving Eve service, we will be decorating the church a little differently. On Sunday, November 17, following the 11 a.m. service, we will decorate the inside and outside. All are welcome! A sign-up sheet will be posted in Pilgrim Hall. Also, we will provide a pizza party for those helping.

We will be changing our church decorations from Thanksgiving to Christmas on the Friday after Thanksgiving at 10 a.m., if you would like to come and help.

We are two months into our new Contemporary service and have now added the program, EasyWorship, to our service. This program shows visual aids that help with the service. In the future we will still be having coffee hour between the services, but now we will leave coffee available after the 11 a.m. service. We are looking for volunteers to help clean up following the late service. Volunteers would just have to rinse out the coffee pots and creamers, and clean off the counter. If you are willing to help, please see Dianne Maringer or any member of the Diaconate.

Hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!

Rachel Zielinski Diaconate Chairperson

Thanksgiving Basket Food Collection







October 20 cans of green beans, cans of corn

October 27 boxes of stuffing (like Stove Top) and

jars of gravy

November 3 dessert mixes (like brownies, cake

mixes, or cookie mixes) and cans of

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November 10 cans of cranberry sauce and boxes of

corn muffin mix

November 17 boxes of instant mashed potatoes or

5-pound bag of fresh potatoes, canned

or fresh yams

November 24 turkeys or hams

To make a cash donation instead, please make your check payable to **Strongsville United Church of Christ** and on the memo line write **Thanksgiving Basket**.

All Financial Donations Accepted \$15 covers a turkey or ham \$35 covers a whole basket

Thank you for your support.



OFFICIAL BOARD NEWS

At our monthly meetings the Official Board continues to review/provide support to the activities of the various boards, committees and groups within the church. Please check the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall for the minutes of the Official Board meetings for more details on each group's activities.

New "Official Board" items:

- 1) Erv Koch, Lloyd Bridle and Roy Merkle will represent our church on November 2 at the WRA Fall Meeting in Elyria.
- 2) On December 8 the ORC Christmas Jazz Concert will take place at 3:00 p.m. Please mark your calendars.
- 3) The evening of December 22 will be the Christmas Potluck/Children's Pageant. Do plan on attending for a wonderful evening celebrating the season.
- 4) Continuing to work with an outside company to design/make special 200th Anniversary ornaments We will keep the congregation updated on activities planned for that Anniversary as we move closer to the date.
- 5) Lighting ceremony changed by the city to Sunday, November 24. Thus, our Open House will be moved to that date also.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE - LIVE NATIVITY

On Sunday, November 24, we will hold our Open House and Live Nativity in conjunction with the city's lighting ceremony. We will open our doors to the community at 5:00 p.m. and offer Christmas music of our pipe organ and caroling by the DFS Singers. The live nativity will be set up on our church's front lawn, and refreshments will be available in Pilgrim Hall.

Help is needed, including servers in the kitchen, greeters, and actors. Please see Rachel Zielinski or the sign-up sheet in Pilgrim Hall. Workers are requested to be at church at 4:30 p.m.

We will again have live animals. Donations for the animals are being accepted. Please see Chris Morgan if you wish to donate.



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.

Long-Term Care or Homebound Members: Bill Betz at Chapel Hill Community in Canal Fulton, Edith Graves at Century Oak Care Center, Debbie Krause, Connie Rebar, Louetha Rieth at Sunrise Assisted Living of Dresher in PA, Erla Mae Schultz

<u>Church Family</u>: Holly Manley Elkins at Lutheran Hospital, Betty Kovach at Parkside Villa, Dolores Matchett, Marjorie Morrison and parents, Katie Renfro, Rich Tressa

Extended Church Family: June Brewer (niece of Ed Powers), Logan Churnega (grandson of Ginny Churnega), Audrey and Gene Curry (parents of Pam Keenen), Zachary Crouse (grandson of Barbara Morgan), Tom Davern (relative of the Woodwards), Rebecca Deeb (Goddaughter of Lora Rung), Victor DiChiro (father-in-law of Rob Wentz), Donna Fargo (mother of Sally Herzog), Ruth Fraley (relative of the Jannsohn family), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Irene Hagemeier (niece of Betty Craig), Kate Heisler (friend of Lora Rung), Janine Kaltenstein (cousin of Vicky Masuga), Phyllis Keenen (mother of Bruce), Erik Kratky (friend of Sarah Hawk), Rick Mahon (friend of the Woodwards), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Erwin Roberts (nephew of Doris Soucie), James Smith (brother of Katie Renfro). Barbara Sommers (mother of Sheri Martin), Trudie Taylor (sister of Karen Morgan), Bob Tomko (cousin of Ed Sobek), Marge Tressa (mother of Rich)

Please call the church with updates, (440) 238-6697.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship will meet on Wednesday, November 6, at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor. The program will be election of new officers and discussing meeting ideas for 2014. Devotions will be led by Lola Millhoane, who is also the hostess. Please bring your own lunch; coffee, tea, and dessert will be provided. As always, all ladies are welcome.

Women's Fellowship Candy Schedule

Make 9:00 a.m. November 18, 20 Package 10:30 a.m. November 22

Sell after church November 24, December 1



ORGAN RESTORATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Pancake Breakfast Results

Gross Revenue: \$1166 (Raffle and Food) <u>Expenses:</u> \$ 258 (Raffle and Food)

Net Revenue: \$ 908

Many thanks to all who supported the Pancake Breakfast in any way on Sunday, September 29.



Stop Key Chains Fundraiser

The Organ Restoration Committee is selling the stop keys from the original organ console. The stop keys have been made into key chains, and the requested donation is \$1,000 per stop key chain. Pledges are welcome.

To date, we have sold six stop keys for a total of \$6,000. A huge thank you to those families for their generous support of this fundraiser for our pipe organ's restoration.

To purchase a stop key chain or for more information, please contact any one of us on the Organ Restoration Committee—

Jim Heinrich and Sharon Metivier, Co-Chairs Judy Gaumer, Frank Jefferis, Bruce and Pam Keenen, Treasurer Sarah Keenen, Sandy O'Shea, Pastor Becky Stephenson, Susan Tressa



Have Yourself A Swingin' Christmas II

Strongsville City Jazz Swing Band Concert at Strongsville UCC

A Benefit Concert for the Strongsville UCC Organ Restoration Fund

Sunday, December 8, at 3:00 p.m. in our sanctuary, the **Strongsville City Jazz Swing Band** will delight us with songs of the holiday season played by this outstanding jazz swing band.

Under the direction of Ken Mehalko and Jim Wonnacott, Strongsville City

Jazz Swing Band has dazzled audiences throughout the community and Cleveland area and has graciously offered their

and Cleveland area and has graciously offered their talent once again this year for a concert to benefit our Pipe Organ Restoration Fund. What a wonderful way to jumpstart the holiday spirit!

This is a family-friendly event, so bring your children, parents, grandparents, friends, neighbors—all are welcome. The nursery will be open and staffed for those with young children. Tickets will be available for purchase before the concert, which includes a sing-along of favorite Christmas carols, and fellowship in Pilgrim Hall afterwards with goodies. Come support this event and enjoy a festive Sunday afternoon of music, fellowship, and good cheer.

Gift cards to benefit the Organ Restoration Fund will be available, so you can get your Christmas shopping done while you're here. There will be a raffle of \$100 in gift cards (your choice) for \$5 a ticket. Only 40 tickets are sold for the gift card raffle, so your chances are good for winning.

We hope you will join us on December 8!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BENEFIT CONCERT

There are many opportunities for volunteers to help with the December 8 concert benefiting the Pipe Organ Restoration. We need ushers, child care workers, people to donate baked goods, and helpers for a reception following the concert.

If you would like to help, please contact any member of the Organ Restoration Committee. Members are

Judy Gaumer, Sharon Metivier, Jim Heinrich, Bruce Keenen, Pam Keenen, Sarah Keenen, Frank Jefferis, Sandy O'Shea, Pastor Becky Stephenson, Susan Tressa

Thank you for helping to support this endeavor!

MITTEN TREE + FAMILY OF FAITH TREE

The Mitten Tree will be in the Gathering Area from November 17 until December 8 for collecting hats, gloves, mittens and scarves for Brookside Center. Brookside is an ecumenical center that provides clothing and necessities to the poor and needy and is located on Pearl Road in Cleveland.

After church services on December 8 the Mitten Tree items will be removed. The tree will become the Family of Faith Tree, which we will decorate with Christmas ornaments donated by us last year.

If you have not yet donated an ornament – or – if you'd like to donate an additional ornament this year, please bring your ornament to the church office in early December and include your name.

Official Board will prepare a tag with your name, attach the tag to your household ornament, and then hang the ornament on the Family of Faith Tree.

Please understand that your Christmas ornament will NOT be returned to you, but it will become part of the Christmas decorations each year. It is recommended that you do not bring expensive heirloom ornaments.

Thank you for celebrating with your church family in both the Mitten Tree and the Family of Faith Tree!





Congratulations to

Ross P. Martin and Allison E. Clement, who were married on September 21, 2013, at Stan Hywet Hall and Garden. Rev. Erwin Koch conducted the ceremony.



CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Working with Global Ministries, our church is sponsoring young Keerthana from the Family Village Farm and School in Vellore, India. The donation of \$30.00 per month covers her tuition fee, textbooks and notebooks, papers for all tests and exams, pens, pencils, erasers, ink, etc.; and 100 percent of the gift goes toward her expenses at school.

We thank the Sunday School for sponsoring Keerthana for the month of November 2013.

In Sympathy

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

To Mary Mortus and family on the passing of her mother, Betty Berk, on October 7. The funeral was held on October 11 in Vermilion.

To Katie Renfro and family on the passing of her uncle, Mike Hess, on October 15, 2013. The funeral was held on October 18.



SERVING MEALS FOR THE POOR

Our congregation continues to serve meals for the poor on the first Saturday of the month at Zion UCC on Cleveland's West Side. This month the date is **November 2, 2013.**

To participate in this outreach, please sign up on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area and coordinate driving arrangements with others going to Zion on that day.



STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of October 6, 2013

Happy Birthday to My Granddaughter, Helen
Barb Fraunfelder

In Loving Memory of Alfred Graves' Birthday on October 9 Edith Graves and Roberta Carpenter

In Celebration of Our Young Members who recently found a job— Keana Dickson, Sarah Herzog, Erik Joyce, Evan Joyce, Elena Joyce, Alex Krause, Rich McKenzie, and Andrew Purdum

Week of October 13, 2013

Happy Birthday to Samantha Wentz on October 16 With love, Grammy

Week of October 20, 2013

Happy Birthday to Kristina Craig on October 22 With love, Gram

> In Loving Memory of Carol Studer Kathy, Jeff, Jim

October 27, 2013

Happy Anniversary to Tracey and Natalia Hill on October 29, and Happy Birthday to Gabe Sauter on October 31 With love, Grammy



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 our steeple!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The Sunday School will present their Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 22, at 5:00 p.m. The Christmas Potluck Meal will follow in Pilgrim Hall. Mark your calendar now!





I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and cards when I had my surgery. All went very well, and I am recovering at a quick pace. Thank you all very much. God bless.

Doug Thorn

I wish to thank the Women's Fellowship for the lovely shawl I received from them after my surgery and also Pastor Becky for her visits while I was in the hospital. Thanks to all.

Maggie Struhar

I wanted to say "thank you" to everyone who wished me well during my recent illness. Your prayers, cards, well wishes and the thoughtful blanket were very much appreciated.

Bob Pogozelski

Thanks to my church family for prayers and concerns on my corrective surgery last Wednesday (10/16). Thanks for calling me, Rev! Gino Tosi

REV. PAUL SHERRY LECTURE

The first of the Dr. Paul Sherry Lectures will be held at the Euclid Avenue Congregational United Church of Christ, 3000 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, on Wednesday, November 13, at 7 p.m. Doors will be open at 6:30 p.m., with seating on a first come, first served basis. There is no cost to attend.

The Guest Lecturer will be **Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes**, **Jr.**, the Harry Emerson Fosdick Distinguished Professor at Union Theological Seminary, Senior Minister Emeritus of The Riverside Church of New York, and President of the Healing of the Nations Foundation. This year's theme is "Courage to Attend the Family Reunion: Risking Advocacy for At-Risk Members of our National Family."

The Dr. Paul Sherry Lectures bring to Cleveland world-renowned scholars, ministers, and public figures, who are making significant contributions in the area of faith and social justice. This lecture seeks to engage and encourage the listener to search within and ask the question, "What does the Lord require of me?" The goal of the annual lecture is to honor the ministry of Rev. Dr. Paul H. Sherry, former President of the United Church of Christ, who is also a faithful member of the Euclid Avenue congregation.

A car pool will meet at Strongsville UCC at 6 p.m. that Wednesday evening.