

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
Worship at 10:00 A.M. on Sunday
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NOVEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 6, 2016 – 10:00 A.M.

Rev. Joseph Santomen, Guest Minister

Scriptures: Luke 10:25-37

Sermon: "What We Will Do!"

Liturgist: Dan Masuga

Greeter: Linda Plain

Announcements: Sally Herzog

Usher: Linda Plain

Coffee Hour: Ginny Churnega Oerkfitz

SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 13, 2016 – 10:00 A.M.

Scriptures: Luke 21:5-19

Sermon: "What's Coming?"

Liturgist: Lynne McCray

Greeter: Peg Weakley

Announcements: Irene Joyce

Ushers: Volunteers Needed

Coffee Hour: Gina Cathcart

SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 20, 2016 – 10:00 A.M.

Scriptures: Revelation 1:10-18

Sermon: "Christ Shall Reign"

Liturgist: Gina Gigliotti

Greeter: Roy Merkle

Announcements: Natalie Daniels

Ushers: Volunteers Needed

Coffee Hour: Volunteer Needed

SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 27, 2016 – 10:00 A.M.

First Sunday of Advent

Scriptures: Luke 21:25-36
HANGING OF THE GREENS

Liturgist: Kelly Bickley

Greeters: Lynne McCray, Sharon Heinrich

Announcements: Denise Bell

Ushers: Volunteers Needed

Coffee Hour: Volunteer Needed

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

To My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Blessing be to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In just a short time many of us will be gathering together with family and friends to celebrate Thanksgiving and then Christmas.

We will join together in November to share in a great feast celebrating God's blessing on our country. Turkey and stuffing along with many side dishes and desserts will be displayed on our table with great love.

This year, like years past, I will be giving thanks for all the blessings God has granted me. I'll be thankful for all of my family, especially little Madison. I will also be thankful for all the love I have seen bursting forth from her older sister Morgan. Naturally I will be thankful for all my family including my beloved Jack.

I will also be giving thanks this year for all of you. I am especially thankful for all who have worked so hard and given so much for the mission of our church. I'm thankful for those who sing in the choir and play instruments. I'm thankful for each Sunday School teacher, for Women's Fellowship, for the Thrift Shop ladies, for those who serve on boards and committees. I am thankful for everyone who joins each Sunday for worship and those who support the church in many ways. I'm thankful for our Lunch Program team and everyone who comes and breaks bread. I'm thankful for each of our church staff—both paid and unpaid.

I am especially thankful for Sharon Heinrich whose devotion to this church is unmatched. She has been central in keeping me on track and is my right hand in ministry. She goes above and beyond. Thanks so much, Sharon.

Even though this will be the last Thanksgiving I get to share with you as pastor, I will NEVER stop giving thanks for you. No matter where I am on Thanksgiving, you will always be in my thoughts and prayers and I hope you will remember Jack and me.

Article continues on next page.

However, let us never forget that all our blessings come from the Lord, and it is our Christian responsibility to share those blessings with others. Perhaps we could all set an extra place at our table for our Lord and give a little extra to help to care for those who need a helping hand.

Thinking of you on Thanksgiving,
Pastor Becky

HEADLINE NEWS

'FIRST PUBLIC BUILDING OF STRONGSVILLE TO BE BUILT'

A log cabin was built in 1819 with volunteer labor and materials. The building served as a school, church, and public building located on the southwest corner of the Commons. The cost of the survey was \$138.00... \$2.50 per day for surveyor, \$1.00 per day for ax and chain men, 37½ cents per man per day for board and whiskey. Benches were homemade and the floor was of split logs.



200th ANNIVERSARY CHURCH COOKBOOKS

The cookbooks are in! Please see Dianne Maringer on Sunday morning to get your copy. Price per book is \$12; mailing the book is an additional \$3 per book.



DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS Sunday – November 13 – after Worship



Help is needed.
All are welcome to join in the fun!
We will eat pizza
when decorating is done!

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE and LIVE NATIVITY

Sunday – November 20, 2016
5:00 to 8:00 P.M.

featuring live animals,
music, and refreshments!
Help and bakery
donations are needed.
To help, please mark the
back of your attendance
card on Sunday morning,
sign up on Pilgrim Hall's
bulletin board, or call the church office at
(440) 238-6697.



Thank you for your support as we open our doors to the community!

ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

Wednesday – November 23, 2016 – 7:30 p.m.

at Strongsville United METHODIST Church
13500 Royalton Road

An Ecumenical Choir will sing. All are welcome!



BLUE CHRISTMAS Service of Remembrance

Friday – December 9, 2016 – 7:30 p.m.
in our Sanctuary

Blue Christmas is a worship service
remembering those who have passed
away, while seeking hope for all of us
during the Christmas season.

You are not alone . . . we welcome you.
Come, join us in fellowship.

After the service, a reception will be
held in Pilgrim Hall.



STRONGSVILLE CITY JAZZ SWING BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Friday – December 16, 2016
7:30 p.m. in Our Sanctuary

Fundraiser for Our Music Ministry



TURKEY DINNER

Saturday – November 5, 2016

Seatings: 4:30 P.M. 5:45 P.M. 7:00 P.M.

Reservations: (216) 598-6198

Adults - \$12 Ages 6-12 - \$6 Under 6 – Free



Tickets are available for purchase on Sunday mornings. Help is needed. A signup sheet is posted in Pilgrim Hall. For safety reasons, no children under age 6 (with or without parent) can be helpers in

any capacity during the serving hours of 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Children 6-10 years old must have a parent helping them.

BASICS OF YOGA SESSION

Sunday – November 6 – 5:00 P.M.

Are you a yoga novice? A professional pretzel? Or somewhere in between? Fit Club is hosting a live "Basics of Yoga" session, HERE at the church, on Sunday, November 6, at 5 p.m., taught by Lauren Joy Fraley, certified yoga instructor from Puma Yoga.

This class is totally free and geared toward anyone who would like to find out more about yoga. Bring water and a yoga mat. (If you don't have a mat, let us know and we will provide one for you!)



After our session, we plan to go to Core Life Restaurant on Royalton Road for a healthy meal together. We will have a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall, or you can see Kelly Bickley or Irene Joyce and let us know that you are interested.

This is the day after the Turkey Dinner, so we will be extra motivated to get up and get moving.

THE THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop will only be open three Thursdays in November, but we will also be open during the Turkey Dinner on Saturday, November 5. Please stop in the shop either before or after your dinner. We love visitors, and you just might find a special item to purchase! We are closed on Thanksgiving Day.

Now is the time to pick up an extra sweater or jacket to wear during the cold months ahead. You might even want an extra pair of gloves! We have a nice selection, thanks to the generous donations we receive.

Planning on buying Christmas cards? Check the Thrift Shop first. We always have a nice selection of greeting cards and holiday cards.

Thanks in advance for your donations, but please do not leave them at the top of the stairs. Let us know and we will help you bring your donations down the stairs.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Our goal is to prepare 75 baskets for needy families within our community. Food collection continues through November 20. Each week we bring the following items:

- Oct. 16 cans of green beans, cans of corn
- Oct. 23 boxes of stuffing (like Stove Top) and jars of gravy
- Oct. 30 dessert mixes (like brownies, cake mixes, or cookie mixes) and cans of icing
- Nov. 6 cans of cranberry sauce and boxes of corn muffin mix
- Nov. 13 boxes of instant mashed potatoes or a 5-pound bag of fresh potatoes, canned or fresh yams
- Nov. 20 turkeys or hams

To make a cash donation instead, please make your check payable to **Strongsville United Church of Christ**. On the memo line, write **Thanksgiving Basket**. \$20 covers the cost of the turkey or ham; \$40 covers the cost of a whole basket. All financial donations will be gratefully accepted, whatever the amount.

If you know someone who would appreciate a basket, please complete the information on your attendance card, call the church office at (440) 238-6697 or tell Pastor Becky.



Thank you for your support of this benevolent outreach.

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.

Long-Term Care or Homebound Members: Eric Brand, Betty Bushea, Margot James, Ethyl Jeglie at Elmcroft of Sagamore Hills, Janet Kato at Western Reserve Masonic Community in Medina, Betty Kovach at Parkside Villa, Dolores Mhlack at Southern Hills, Harvey Pincombe, Connie Rebar, Doris Soucie, Trudie Taylor at Royal Oak Nursing and Rehab Center, Howard Wilson

Church Family: Pam Peacock at Southwest General, Denzil Richards, Melinda Slavik, Leah Tressa Forget, Kyle Woodward

Extended Church Family: Bri Brostek, Thom Cerny, Dylan Churnega, Zachary Crouse, Audrey Curry, Angie Dickinson, Edie Deitcher, Kim Filiatraut, Elizabeth Fulford, Matthew Geletka, Dan Karoly, Sue Mason, Pat Masuga, Debbie Morey, Carrol Riley, Trish Shields, Keith Stewart, Kathleen Wickline

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Soon we will be asking everyone for a pledge as a part of stewardship drive, but stewardship is more than giving money, it is using your talent also. We have many talented members who provide their time and talents. When I taught, I was told catch them being good and recognize it.

I intend to try to do that with this column. I want to be able to recognize those members who do the little things to add to the ministry of the church. No talent is too small to be recognized. We do recognize musicians and Sunday school teachers. But, we have others who also contribute. I will lead off with some I would like to recognize.

Lloyd Bridle a few weeks ago replaced a broken tile on the steps going down to the fellowship hall.

Dick Colmery gave us electricity out to the shed and tents.

Melinda Slavik and Kathie Paul have taken care of flowers that have so much improved the appearance and beauty of the church grounds this whole year.

Jim Dettmer fixed the doorstop on the kitchen door to make it easier to bring in and take out things.

Lola Millhoane, Ginny Churnega, Linda Plain, Rachel Zielinski, Maria [a lunch visitor], and Sharon Heinrich cleaned the kitchen. Also, Betty Craig washed and stored all the new dishes. And Dale Hawk power sprayed the kitchen rugs.

Lloyd Bridle picked up and Ray Suttle bought the new ramp used on the stairs leading to Pilgrim Hall.

Those are just a few that I have observed who have taken on something.

NOW IT IS YOUR TURN! Please send me those people whom you would like to have recognized. My email is kennjoerk@yahoo or send it to Sharon at the church office email Strongsvilleucc@gmail.com. Let's all recognize those who use talents to help in the ministry of the church.

Kenn Oerkfitz, Treasurer



IN SYMPATHY

Our love and prayers are extended in sympathy to the Morgan and Zielinski families on the passing of Chris on Sunday, October 23, 2016. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, November 26, 2016, at 11:30 a.m. at **our church**. After the service a luncheon in celebration of Chris' life will be held at 1:00 p.m. at the **VFW Hall, 25742 Royalton Road in Columbia Station**.

Donations of desserts would be appreciated. Please contact Ginny Churnega Oerkfitz at (440) 554-4367 or email her at anchormate1@yahoo.com if you will provide a dessert. Thank you.



PENNY SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

We have collected and forwarded to the Strongsville Food Bank \$671.02 since January 2016 from Penny Sunday collections. Thank you for your support.



NEW RAMP

A new ramp to accommodate a variety of wheel chair styles was purchased and is available for use between the Gathering Area and Pilgrim Hall.

STRONGSVILLE FOOD BANK

The Food Bank especially needs canned fruit right now. In addition, the Food Bank started the power pack program to help feed 12 children at Muraski School on weekends, and the program maintains the children's privacy. The Food Bank will target other schools until all children who need the program are included.

COFFEE HOUR

To donate staples for Coffee Hour and the Free Lunch program, these items are needed: napkins, small recyclable cups for juice (7 or 9 oz.), Splenda, Sweet 'n Low, Equal, coffee, tea, powered mix for lemonade, iced tea, and hot chocolate. Please **DO NOT** donate styrofoam cups, plates, and bowls, as they are **NOT** recyclable. We are trying to go **GREEN**. Thank you.



NEWS FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Lori Kovatich

2017 Budget Preparation is underway. An email was sent to committee chairs and treasurers on October 12 containing 2017 budgeting information and attachments. The attachments in the email are intended to help with budget preparation. Please contact me with any questions.

Giving Statements will be distributed in November for giving through October.

Donations are being collected for choir robes. A separate check should be made to the United Church of Christ Memorial Fund as these funds are handled separately. Thank you!

Recycling - The River Valley Paper Company picked up: **July – 2,480 lbs.** of recycled material at \$10/ton. Total payment: **\$12.40.**
August – 5,290 lbs. of recycled material at \$10/ton. Total payment: **\$52.90.**

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. The weight of cardboard is LESS than paper. If not collapsed, boxes take up valuable space.

FUN FACTS – Published by River Valley Paper Company (Posted on Pilgrim Hall bulletin board):

- Americans use 85,000,000 tons of paper each year; 680 pounds per person.
- Last year River Valley provided \$250,000 to community recycling partners.

	July 2016 Our 2,480 lbs. of paper saved:	August 2016 Our 5,290 lbs. of paper saved:
WE SAVED:		
Trees	21	45
Pounds of CO2	310	661
Cubic yards of landfill space	4	9
Gallons of water	8,680	18,515
Kilowatts of electricity	5,084	10,845
Homes heated for 6 months	1	3
Pounds of air pollutants	74	159

THANK YOU for RECYCLING!

NEWS FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

(Continued)

Below is a monthly report listing the budget income we need to receive from Pledges and Offerings and the amount received from September 25 through October 16, 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 13,569
 Difference - \$ 2,031



THANK YOU

Chris Morgan wanted his church family to know that he truly appreciated the visits, cards, thoughts and prayers from Pastor Becky and his church friends.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSALS

Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 7:30 until 8:00 p.m. **Children interested in being part of the Band** may stay for the 8:00 p.m. Band rehearsal with the adults.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Meeting – The ladies will have an Organizational Meeting on Monday, November 7, at 10:00 a.m. to pick a definite day for meetings and to plan programs for the coming year.

CANDY SCHEDULE

Make 9:00 a.m. November 21, 28
Package 10:30 a.m. December 2
Sell after church December 4, 11

Candy will be sold after church during Coffee Hour on December 4 and 11. No candy will be sold before those dates, and no advance orders will be taken.

MITTEN TREE ~ FAMILY OF FAITH TREE

The **Mitten Tree** will be in the Gathering Area from November 13 to December 4 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.

On December 4 the hats, gloves, mittens and scarves will be removed, and the tree will become the **Family of Faith Tree**, which we will decorate with Christmas ornaments donated by members and friends. **If you have not yet donated an ornament – or – if you'd like to donate an additional ornament, please bring it to the church office and include your name.** Official Board will prepare a tag with your name, attach the tag to your ornament, and hang the ornament on the Family of Faith Tree. Please know that **your ornament will NOT be returned to you**, but it will become part of the Christmas decorations each year. **Please do not bring expensive heirloom ornaments.**

Thank you for celebrating with your church family in the Mitten Tree, as well as the Family of Faith Tree!



KIDS ACTIVITIES FOR NOVEMBER!

Service Project

We will help serve at the Free Lunch Program on Wednesday, November 23.

Penny Sunday

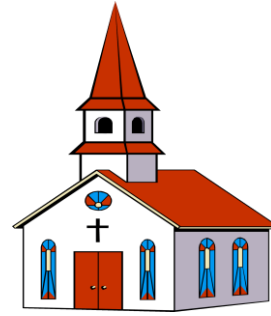
November 27

Bowling Outing!

Date to be determined . . . stay tuned!



STEEPLE LIGHTING



Week of October 2, 2016

*For the Marriage on October 7, 2016, of
Courtney Brownfoot and Jacob Scattergood
Luv, Gram Jackson*

Week of October 16, 2016

*Happy Birthday today to Samantha Wentz
With love, Gram*

Week of October 23, 2016

*Happy Belated Birthday to Kristina Craig on October 22
and
Happy Anniversary to
Tracey and Natalia Hill on October 28
With love, Grammy*

Week of October 30, 2016

*Happy Birthday to Gabe Sauter on October 31 and
Congratulations to Hayley Craig and Joey McKane
on Their Wedding on October 28
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 to all who light the steeple.

NEW CHOIR ROBES

The Music Committee, along with the Endowment and Memorial Fund, is beginning a drive to purchase new choir robes. As you know, the music ministry is an integral part of our worship here at Strongsville UCC. 1975 (over four decades ago) was the last time our church purchased choir robes. Over the years, like any garment or fabric, the choir robes have reached a state where having them cleaned and mended is no longer an option. With the 200 year anniversary of the Strongsville United Church of Christ fast approaching, we have researched and found a new source to purchase new affordable choir robes. The new robes will also be machine washable and will save hundreds of dollars in future dry cleaning costs. We are looking for sponsors to purchase one or more choir robes in memory or in honor of a loved one. The cost for each robe is only \$50.00. Your generous tax deductible gift will also be acknowledged as an addition to your pledge or planned giving. We will have more information in the coming weeks as well. Please contact Ingrid or Greg Dickson for more information.

If you wish to sponsor a new choir robe please use the following form.

CHOIR ROBE SPONSORSHIP FORM

IN HONOR (living) or in MEMORY of _____

FROM: (Include address if not listed in the church directory) _____

ADDRESS: _____

AMOUNT: _____ (Please make check payable to **United Church of Christ Memorial Fund** and please indicate "choir robes" on the memo line).

Cash also accepted. Please make sure to include sponsorship form.

If you wish, we will notify the family or loved one honored and remembered of your generous gift. Please include a name and address and we will notify them.

NAME OF FAMILY MEMBER OR LOVED ONE TO BE NOTIFIED _____

ADDRESS: STREET _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE _____

THANK YOU!