

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
 www.strongsvilleucc.com
 Traditional Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday
 Contemporary Worship 11:15 a.m. Sunday

OCTOBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

<p>OCTOBER 5</p> <p><i>Neighbors in Need Offering</i></p> <p>Scripture: <i>To be determined</i> Sermon: <i>To be determined</i></p>	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 a.m.</p> <p>Liturgist: Bruce Keenen Greeter: Jim Studer Ushers: Needed Nursery: Rosemary Bechtel Coffee Hour: Allen and Michele Mhlack</p>	<p>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 a.m.</p> <p>Liturgist: Lora Rung Graphics Operation: Sharon Heinrich Coffee Hour: Allen and Michele Mhlack</p>
<p>OCTOBER 12</p> <p><i>Communion</i></p> <p>Scripture: Philippians 4:1-9 Sermon: "Keep on Keepin' on"</p> <p><i>5:00 p.m. Anniversary Dinner in Pilgrim Hall</i></p>	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 a.m.</p> <p><i>Recognize New 50-Year Members</i></p> <p>Liturgist: Lynne McCray Greeter: Linda Plain Ushers: Linda Plain Nursery: Cheryl Sobek Coffee Hour: Sharon Heinrich</p>	<p>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 a.m.</p> <p>Liturgist: Sarah Hayes Graphics Operation: Michele Mhlack Coffee Hour: Sharon Heinrich</p>
<p>OCTOBER 19</p> <p>Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20 Sermon: "The Box"</p> <p><i>Begin collecting for Thanksgiving. Congregational Meeting is canceled.</i></p>	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 a.m.</p> <p>Liturgist: Jim Studer Greeter: Bickley Family Ushers: Roy Merkle Nursery: Sharon Heinrich Coffee Hour: Rachel Zielinski</p>	<p>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 a.m.</p> <p>Liturgist: Sharon Heinrich Graphics Operation: Rosemary Bechtel Coffee Hour: Rosemary Bechtel</p>
<p>OCTOBER 26</p> <p>Scripture: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 Sermon: "Love Thy Neighbor"</p> <p><i>Continue collecting for Thanksgiving baskets.</i></p>	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 a.m.</p> <p>Liturgist: Pam Keenen Greeter: Needed Ushers: Needed Nursery: Rachel Zielinski Coffee Hour: Dianne Maringer</p> <p><i>Sunday School Pumpkin Painting during class time</i></p>	<p>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 a.m.</p> <p>Liturgist: Jack Stephenson Graphics Operation: Vicky Masuga Coffee Hour: Dianne Maringer</p>

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

As I write I am traveling through South Dakota and Montana. I am awed by the vastness of the open spaces. I see the wonders of God's creation from the windows of the bus that's filled with people I don't know YET! I am sure that before long God will open doors, and I will make many new friends.

Traveling down the road, I see many church steeples marking the presence of Christ in the area. I see many denominations, each of which have a slightly different understanding of how we are to live as followers of Christ. Even in this area where there are not so many people, there exists a need for a diversity of faith expressions.

We at Strongsville United Church of Christ are both alike and different from other churches in the community. In Strongsville there are a variety of churches—some very conservative and others more liberal. Some are biblical literalists, while others see the Bible as mostly myths. Some reach out to the community, and others are more concerned about those inside the church.

The United Church of Christ is not defined by any one value. The UCC stands for liberal to conservative, inward focused to outward focused. We all proclaim ourselves to be a peace and justice church that seeks to care for the poor and dispossessed. We also stand with those who are wronged by society. We also seek to be an open and welcoming church. To some degree each church falls within these understandings of ministry. Moreover, within each congregation there are a variety of members who hold various viewpoints. Sometimes as a pastor, I wish we all believed the same, but then I realize that our differences make us strong. Over the years I have been accused of being too conservative and literal, then at other times, too progressive and liberal. Sometimes that's true. It is in the dynamic between the two that I grow in my faith.

As a Christian I will always stand against persecution of those who are different. I have been threatened with death by the KKK for standing for equal rights for all races. I have been denounced by some for supporting the rights of the GLBT community – to live without persecution and violence, and to love whom God gives them to love. Some have labeled me a liberal because I uphold the rights of women to fair and equal treatment under the law and for firmly protecting the most vulnerable—children and the elderly. I seek to care for those suffering from mental illness. Some have called me too conservative because I offer Christ's forgiveness to those who have committed acts of violence on others, while insisting that justice requires payment for what they did. I will always step in to protect the innocent—especially children. I believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and is to be studied in its entirety. I will not label it a book of well-meaning stories that have no place

in today's world. I teach the Gospel and understand that the Kingdom of God is both now and in the future. I also believe that I have a responsibility to help others come to a clearer understanding of what it means to be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. I know the great "I Am" is in the past, the present and the future.

We at Strongsville UCC are a diverse population of people, seeking to follow as best as we can The Way. Together we struggle and grow in our faith. We invite everyone who seeks a relationship with God to come and join us. We are not perfect, but we strive to be better Christians each new day.

Pastor Becky

JOURNEY IN FAITH MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Pastor Becky will again teach a membership class entitled Journey in Faith, beginning on Thursday, October 2. Members, as well as potential members, are welcome and encouraged to attend. Class is held on Thursdays at the church from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Topics covered include:

Establishing the Group
The Bible as our Authority
Discovering Jesus
What We Believe and How We Got Here
The Nature of the Church
From the Early Church to Us
We Are ALL Gifted
Investigating the Local Church
Christian Giving
Understanding Different Levels of Living and Giving
The Meaning of Christian Covenant
Investigating Worship

Even if you are a member of Strongsville UCC, you will enjoy the knowledge that Pastor Becky shares and the camaraderie with new friends. A sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Area.

HEAVEN IS FOR REAL STUDY

Pastor Becky will lead a study on *Heaven Is for Real* on the Mondays of October 13, 20, and 27 at 7:00 p.m. The movie is based on the book of the same name and will be shown during the study time, with discussion to follow.

WINE TASTING FUNDRAISER A SUCCESS

The Wine Tasting fundraiser on September 12 raised \$2,800.00. Thank you to all for your support!



DIACONATE DAILIES !

October is here which means it is time to celebrate our church's anniversary! We will be doing special things throughout the month. On October 12 during the Traditional Service, we will honor our two new 50-year members. That evening at 5:00 p.m. will be the Anniversary Dinner. We are asking a \$5.00 donation to cover the cost, but we will supply the meal and desserts.

At our Anniversary Dinner we will have a Year-in-Review presentation. If you have any pictures from an event in the church within the last year, please email or drop them off to the church office. We hope to have pictures from all the wonderful things we do in the church! If you have questions please see Cheryl Sobek or Rachel Zielinski.

As the seasons change we begin preparing for Fall, Thanksgiving and Advent. We will again collect food for Thanksgiving baskets. Our goal this year is 75 baskets! To provide donations please see page 10 of this newsletter and also upcoming bulletins.

Please mark your calendar for Saturday, October 25, at 9:00 a.m.; we will decorate our sanctuary for Fall! Donuts and coffee will be provided. These decorations will be up through the Fall season. If you wish to help, please join us!

Also we will begin construction on the choir and music area in the front of the church. Two donors and the Diaconate will finance this project, and we thank them for their generosity. We expect the construction to be completed quickly.

There are many things our church needs. Several items that we use in our worship service are in need of replacement. These items include white and green altar cloths, new oil candles for the communion table, replacement of some acolyte robes, wireless hands-free microphones for the Praise Band, and much more. If you would like to make a donation or memorial toward any of these items, please see Rachel Zielinski or Greg Dickson.

Serving in Christ's name,
Rachel Zielinski, Diaconate Chairperson

THANK YOU

*To all church friends,
How wonderful it is to have such caring and loyal friends.
Thank you so much for the cards and phone calls, and to
Pastor Becky for her visits. They were a great help in my
long recovery, which is not quite complete yet, but is
getting better. Thanks again, and blessings to all. I will
see you in church soon.*

Margot James

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Congregational Meeting originally scheduled for Sunday, October 19, is canceled.

TRUSTEES MEETING

The Trustees will meet on Sunday, October 5, following the 9:45 a.m. Traditional Worship Service.

AHOY MATEY!

The First Annual Strongsville UCC Clambake will be held on Saturday, October 18, 2014, at the home of Pastor Becky and Jack "Sparrow" Stephenson. Doors will open at 5:00 p.m., and the meal will be served at 6:00 p.m. Ticket prices are \$25 for adults, \$5.00 for children (for hot dog / hamburger meal).

Dale "No Beard" and his Beauty, Cathy Hawk, will host this event, which is a fundraiser for the pipe organ restoration. The dinners will be provided and prepared by Strongsville Seafood. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$5 for children ages 6-12 (for a hot dog / hamburger). Wench Sandy O'Shea will coordinate the event and recruit volunteers. You may contact Wench Sandy at (440) 840-0639, Bilge Rats. The event will feature a pirate theme including "treasure hunting" (games of chance). Pirate costumes and pirate talk are encouraged!

We need a minimum of 50 dinner reservations. So, plan to bring some buckos (that means friends, land lubber)!

More details will be coming soon.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Sunday School made over \$1,200.00 from the Box Lunch Auction on September 7! Thank you to everyone who prepared or bid on a lunch, and thanks to Charles Jannsohn for being a stellar auctioneer.

The children will have their annual Pumpkin Painting Party on Sunday, October 26, during Sunday School class time.

Irene Joyce
Sunday School Superintendent

THE THRIFT SHOP

Fall has arrived in the Thrift Shop. Buy your Halloween and Thanksgiving décor in the shop. We also have a nice selection of Halloween costumes and winter jackets and vests.

Donations of greeting cards and note cards, with or without envelopes, are always welcome. We especially need sympathy cards.

We'll be open Thursday from 10 to 4 and hope you can stop in to visit, shop, or help.

Remember: The Thrift Shop will be open during the annual Turkey Dinner on Saturday, November 1, 2014.

CHURCH LUNCHEON

Church luncheon will be held Wednesday, October 8, at 11:30 a.m. at Italian Village Restaurant, 16605 Pearl Road in Strongsville. We will meet at the restaurant. Please call Lola for reservations at (440) 238-3037. All are welcome.



Our flower chart is now expanded to accommodate multiple vases on Sunday morning. To provide a vase (or more) on a Sunday that you previously thought was taken, please write your name by the date you want on the revised chart in Pilgrim Hall. Then take an Altar Flowers form and follow the instructions for providing bulletin information and payment. Thanks to all who provide flowers.

“WHO AM I?”

This group of people . . .

Cooperates with the minister in arranging the services.

Is comprised of a minimum of twelve people from the church and meets monthly.

Aids in ministering to the spiritual needs of the church and community.

Does everything possible to maintain a spirit of good Christian fellowship and harmony.

Has numerous duties within the church that align with its overall responsibilities.

Is responsible for the preparation and serving of the sacraments.

If the minister is absent or leaves, this group has the responsibility to ensure the pulpit is covered.

“Who Am I?”

September's answers to "Who Am I?" about the four women Moderators of the church:

Debbie Wentz attended the church with her mother for a long time.

Gail Butler is a registered nurse.

Ruth Wenzel came to our church from a church in Parma and was well known for her craft skills.

Joyce Reed loves to sew and made a member of this church a special dress for a very special occasion.

OUR PRAYER LIST

Hospitals do not 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: Janet Kato at Western Reserve Masonic Community in Medina, Betty Kovach at Parkside Villa, Debbie Krause, Erla Mae Schultz at Medina Village

Church Family: Marie Bury, Nancy Cochran, Dolores Matchett, Barbara Morgan

Extended Church Family: June Brewer (niece of Ed Powers), Ryan Brubeck, Audrey Curry (mother of Pam Keenen), Zachary Crouse (grandson of Barbara Morgan), Rebecca Deeb (Godaughter of Lora Rung), Victor DiChiro (father-in-law of Rob Wentz), Pam Doubell (friend of Sue Gigliotti), Donna Fargo (mother of Sally Herzog), Ruth Fraley (relative of the Jannsohn family), Irene Hagemeyer (niece of Betty Craig), Phyllis Keenen (mother of Bruce), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Barbara Sommers (mother of Sheri Martin), Trudie Taylor (sister of Karen Morgan), Bob Tomko (cousin of Ed Sobek), Donna Wadden (friend of Gayle Sperber), Marilyn Woodward (mother of David and Carol)

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Meeting – Women's Fellowship will meet Wednesday, October 1, at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor. The program will be Fun Day: Bunco with Rosemary Bechtel and a Craft Project with Pam Polansky. Barb Fraunfelder is the hostess, and Betty Bushea will lead devotions. Please bring your own lunch; coffee, tea and dessert will be provided. As always, all ladies are welcome!

Tote Bag Project – Thank you to all who gave to our Tote Bag Project. It was a big success, and we filled 61 bags. We were able to donate to Brookside and to our own Strongsville Food Bank.

CHRISTMAS CANDY – TO DO or NOT TO DO???

The Women's Fellowship enjoy making and selling candy every Christmas. And this year is no exception. However, we are finding it a bit harder to do! Due to health concerns, not all of our women are able to continue to help in the same capacity.

How about you (men and women)? Could you lend us a hand? You don't need to be a member to help us make candy! You can if you wish, though!!!

It involves taking candy mixed with raisins or coconut or peanuts and placing it by small spoonfuls into little cups. Or you may break up pretzels for the pretzel bark. You may dip marshmallows in chocolate and place them on a tray. All these items go in the refrigerator to harden and then are removed and placed into containers. You could be the person taking trays of candy to and from the refrigerator!! After all the candy is made (by about the third day) we place the candy in the little boxes or bags that you see when you buy it. There are a few more candies we make. And of course, there's washing the bowls, spoons, trays. You could be the dishwasher!! You get the picture!

We make candy in the church's kitchen:
Monday, November 17 and Wednesday, November 19 – 9:00 a.m. until about noon

We package candy:
Friday, November 21 – 10:30 a.m. until it's done!

You may help us on all days, or just one – for the whole time or just an hour or two.

If you wish, bring a brown bag lunch and we'll eat together and share in fellowship. It's truly a good time!

Sorry to say, but we need to know that we have more help, or we will NOT be making candy for Christmas. PLEASE see or contact any of the following to tell us you can help, or ask for any clarification:

Betty Craig	(440) 238-5389
Lola Millhoane	(440) 238-3037
Barb Fraunfelder	(440) 331-3673

Strongsville UCC

TURKEY DINNER

Saturday – November 1, 2014

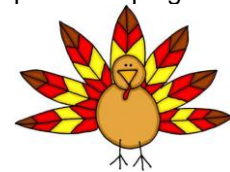
Seatings at 4:30 P.M., 5:45 P.M., + 7:00 P.M.

Reservations Only – (440) 238-8192

Adults - \$10 Ages 6-12 - \$5 Under 6 – Free

Help will be needed, and a signup sheet will be 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.



THE THRIFT SHOP WILL BE OPEN.

STEEPLE LIGHTING



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.

Week of September 7

*Happy Birthday to Stacie Sauter on September 9 and
Happy Birthday to Eli Sauter on September 12
With love, Grammy*

*In loving memory of our son, Ed Munger, on his birthday,
September 9. Ed served in the Navy for 30 years, and
he is the brother of Alan (Renee) Jacobson.
Betty and Mick Jacobson.*

*To warmly welcome our new members—
Jim and Linda Dettmer, Christine Martinovich,
Laurie Meister, and Melinda Slavik*

Week of September 21

*In Celebration of Our Parents, Bill and Dorothy Ritchie's
62nd Anniversary on September 26
Love, Gina and Sharon*

*Happy Birthday Today to Abby Craig
With love, Grammy*

Thank you to all who light our steeple!

NEWS FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY
Barb Fraunfelder

Paper Recycling

The River Valley Paper Company picked up 6,190 lbs. of recyclable material in July. We received \$25 per ton for a total payment of \$77.38.

THANK YOU for continuing to recycle. As most of you may know, we collect newspapers, office and school paper, phonebooks, magazines, catalogs, brown paper bags, mail, hard and soft bound books, and cardboard.

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

WE SAVED:	JULY, 2014 Our 6,190 lbs. of recycled paper saved:
Trees	52.62
Pounds of CO2	773.75
Cubic yards of landfill space	10.21
Gallons of water	21,665.00
Kilowatts of electricity	12,689.50
Homes heated for 6 months	3.10
Pounds of air pollutants	185.70

To grow a pound of wood, a tree uses 1.47 pounds of carbon dioxide and gives off 1.07 pounds of oxygen!!

THANK YOU for RECYCLING!!!

*Please **collapse cardboard boxes** before placing them into the recycling bin.
 Thank you.*

ATTENTION CHILDREN!

A new **Children’s Choir** is formed. Rehearsals are Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. All children are welcome and encouraged to join in the fun! To participate or for more information, please see our Worship Accompanist, Elena Taylor, after church on Sunday!

Children can play instruments with the Praise Band on Sunday mornings! Elena will work with those interested on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m.



IN-KIND GIFTS OR NON-CASH GIVING

There may be a time you wish to give a tangible gift to the church, like a case of copier paper or a new microphone or new music. This would be something you have purchased and want to give to the church with the understanding that it is something we need! We can acknowledge your gift on your Giving Statement, but the amount paid for the item cannot be recorded like the rest of your cash/check giving. We did not receive the cash, so there is none to record. But we can acknowledge it.

Here’s how it can be done: Talk with the person(s) who will be directly involved with your gift to be sure it is something we need. Give your item to that person, e.g., copier paper goes to the church secretary. Present your receipt to me, Barb Fraunfelder, Financial Secretary. It will be recorded as a comment on your statement:

*9/28/14 Non-Cash Giving \$0.00
 New microphones from ABC Company \$150.00*

It is up to you to **keep the receipt for tax purposes.**

If you do not have a receipt, but did indeed give the gift, the comment could still be made; but an amount would not be included on the statement.

For more information or to answer your questions, please see me or contact me.

Barb Fraunfelder, Financial Secretary
 (440) 331-3673
 bfraunfelder@ameritech.net

IN SYMPATHY

Our love and prayers are extended in sympathy to three families on their recent losses:

To member Lori Kovatich and family on the passing of her grandmother, Ethel Schuch, on September 13 in Cincinnati. The funeral was September 27 in Cincinnati.

To member Michelle Szasz and family on the passing of her mother, Marsha Rossey, on September 19. The funeral took place on September 23 in Bedford, Ohio.

To our church friend Dave Whitely and family on the passing of his mother, Karen Whitely, on September 21. Her funeral was held on September 25 at the Chapel at Sunset Memorial Park.



MISSION AND OUTREACH AND YOU!

The Mission and Outreach Committee recently voted for our church to become a member of CHURCH STREET MINISTRIES, located on 398 W. Bagley Road, Berea, under the leadership of Ms. Fanny Millward, who has been to our church as a speaker. The \$100 annual membership fee (made possible through recent parking lot donations) was sent following a discussion by the Committee detailing the fine work it is doing in a broad range of communities, including ours.

Last year, at an Open House at Middleburg Heights UCC, ten booths set up and detailed the work being carried out at CSM, including:

- Counseling and support services to persons needing emergency assistance
- Large food pantry
- Financial Assistance--most going to people out of work or who face utilities shut-off, medical emergencies or eviction
- Meeting space for support groups, i.e. Alcoholics/Narcotics Anonymous, Native Americans
- Clothing and household goods distribution
- A large building filled with good, used furniture and household items, available at low cost
- Cooperates with courts in providing opportunities for individuals assigned to community service
- Educates people concerning those in need, with training for volunteers and young people committed to assisting others

Individuals can become members for \$25. Call (440) 826-4603. Three buildings are currently being used for this very vital work. The Good Samaritan lives! CSM was created in 1986 by the First Congregational UCC church in Berea, an outgrowth of our "mission-minded" UCC. A visit to the location is an eye-and-soul opener.

CHURCH FUNDRAISING

In an effort to better understand and coordinate all church fundraising activities/events, a Calendar is being developed by the Official Board. In support of this effort, all boards, committees or groups planning a fundraising event in 2015 are asked to submit a list of months and dates to the Official Board by November 25.

If you have any questions pertaining to this request, please contact Joyce Reed.

ALSO DISCUSSED AT MISSION AND OUTREACH

We are beginning to look into the possibility of establishing a **Community Garden** on the property immediate to the west of our parking lot. After gleaning information, details will be given to the Trustees, the Strongsville Food Bank, and City Government.

A beautiful quilt, generously crafted by Ha Bennett, will be raffled off on **Sunday, November 16**, after the late service. Raffle tickets will be available beginning Sunday, September 14. Cost: \$10 for one, \$15 for two. Ha, a member of the Mission and Outreach Committee, is working with orphan children, which was her full-time work prior to moving to Strongsville from Tulsa, Oklahoma, where she taught in a university. She is a skilled artisan, and has made another exceptionally beautiful queen-sized quilt (on display Sunday mornings). It will make a memorable Christmas present. Members of the Committee are: Kelly Bickley, Ha Bennett, Erv Koch, Lora Rung, Elizabeth Snook, and Pastor Becky. Tickets may also be purchased in the church office.

Neighbors In Need on Sunday, October 5 – This special offering is put to use by the United Church of Christ for numerous projects and programs here in the States. Kelly Bickley will bring details of its scope and spirit on that Sunday (World Communion Sunday). Please give generously – lives are affected in positive ways!

Don't forget to pray regularly for our missionary partners, and particularly for and with nine-year-old *Caroline Y*, whom we are sponsoring at the Village Farm School, Vellore, India. **Still needed: two sponsors for November and December at \$30 per month.**

Thanks to **Judy Carte**, who has agreed to represent Strongsville UCC on the Board of Directors, Strongsville Food Bank. It now has a new building. Kelly Kling remains its Director. **Items of food are still requested for the Food Bank on the 4th Sunday of each month.**



TREASURER'S REPORT

Unfortunately the weather has changed, and it appears that the next season, Fall, is quickly approaching. With the first service of September, we received many generous or catch-up contributions and were able to pay all outstanding bills to companies or businesses that provide materials or services to us—most without getting late notices. Thank you for this.

We are still not out from under the financial pressure. We have some quarterly bills and other commitments in the amount of almost \$10,000, along with all of the regular monthly bills and salaries. Please review the August report (*on the attached file*) to see what the monthly bills entail.

Once again we turn to the Lord and ask for His blessing on the ministry, and trust He will lead all of us to capture the blessing and give from the first fruits that the Lord has provided us. We know the Lord will once more deliver as in the past. Enjoy the change in seasons and begin to look forward to a change in the church calendar, as we look forward to the advent of His coming.

In His service,
Kenn Oerkfitz
Treasurer