



OCTOBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

<p>OCTOBER 4 World Communion Sunday <i>Pentecost 19</i></p> <p>Scriptures: Matthew 26: 17-30</p> <p>Sermon: <i>All Are Welcome</i></p> <p>Communion at Both Services</p> 	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Bruce Keenen Greeter: Linda Plain Usher: Linda Plain Coffee Hour: Cathy and Dale Hawk</p>	<p>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Jim Nicoulin Coffee Hour: Cathy and Dale Hawk Graphics Operation: Sharon Heinrich</p>
<p>OCTOBER 11 <i>Pentecost 20</i></p> <p>Scriptures: Hebrews 4:12-16 Mark 10: 17-31</p> <p>Sermon: <i>What Must I Do?</i></p>	<p>CHURCH 198th ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY <i>ONE SERVICE ONLY</i></p> <p>BLENDED WORSHIP 11:15 A.M. Recognition of New 50-year Member</p> <p>Greeters: Bickley Family Graphics Operation: Rosemary Bechtel</p> <p>An Anniversary potluck meal will be served in Pilgrim Hall. The Diaconate will provide ham. Please bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share.</p>	
<p>OCTOBER 18 <i>Pentecost 21</i></p> <p>Scriptures: Job 38:1-7 Mark 10:35-45</p> <p>Sermon: <i>Being Tested</i></p>	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M. <i>Baptism</i></p> <p>Liturgist: Lynne McCray Greeters: Kenn & Ginny Oerkfitz Ushers: Needed Coffee Hour: Rosemary Bechtel</p>	<p>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Betty Craig Coffee Hour: Rosemary Bechtel Graphics Operation: Vicky Masuga</p>
<p>OCTOBER 25 <i>Pentecost 22</i></p> <p>Scriptures: Mark 10:46-52</p> <p>Sermon: <i>Open My Eyes</i></p> 	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M. <i>Dedication of Memorials</i></p> <p>Liturgist: Lora Rung Greeter: Ginny Dangelo Ushers: Needed Coffee Hour: Cheryl Sobek</p> <p><i>Sunday School Pumpkin Painting Party during Sunday School time</i></p>	<p>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Dan Masuga Greeter: Ginny Dangelo Usher: Ginny Dangelo Coffee Hour: Cheryl Sobek Graphics Operation: Lori Kovatich</p> <p><i>Decorate church for Thanksgiving after worship</i></p>

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In a few days we will celebrate the anniversary of our church. On Sunday, October 11, we will all join together at 11:15 a.m. for a blended worship service, followed by a covered dish dinner. The Diaconate will provide delicious baked ham and all the supplies for the dinner. The congregation is asked to bring side dishes, salads, or desserts to share.

It was 198 years ago that some of our forebears wanted to establish a Christian community here in Strongsville. The church was needed to help bring stability and guidance to the people who lived in this agricultural community. Since its founding, the church has existed for the purpose of witnessing to the grace of God and the love of Christ as directed by the Holy Spirit. Throughout our history we have experienced many ups and downs. There were times when the entire community worked together for a common goal. I am sure that during the great wars, the church rallied behind the troops and provided both prayer and support for the cause of freedom in the world. I am also sure that during the great depression the church struggled together to help those who had little.

As we remember the times we worked together, we must not forget that not everyone agreed with everything. I am sure that whenever the church changed, there were those who opposed the change. I don't know for sure, but I would bet that when the organ was installed, there were those who opposed the work. Also, when changes were made to the structure of the church, some disagreed. I don't need to remind everyone that the church even split over the issue of slavery, but reunited again after 60 years.

Today we face new challenges as a congregation. What worked in the past does not work today. Therefore, to be faithful to the Gospel, we must seek new ways to faithfully serve the Lord in our community. I am very pleased to see that there is openness to growth in our church. We are moving forward with new ideas, such as the free lunch program and the incorporation of youth into the worship service. We are also expanding our worship toolbox to include new music and interactive worship experiences. Look forward to more inclusion of instrumental music in worship. We are also looking to present a concert/recital series coming soon, and other creative ideas. We are also thinking about new ways to do youth ministry, which may include hiring a new Christian education / youth director, whose goal will be to bring youth into the church.

I know the past 198 years were exciting, and I know that the next year holds lots of new and exciting opportunities. In a short time we will celebrate our

200th anniversary. I am excited to see where the Lord leads us as we continue to be the faithful people of Christ in Strongsville.

Pastor Becky

PIG ROAST and \$750.00 REVERSE RAFFLE Fund Raiser

When: Saturday, October 3, 2015

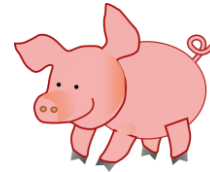
Time: 5:30 p.m.

Price: Dinner and Raffle Ticket: \$35.00 per person

Location: At the Church

*The proceeds will benefit our
Wednesday Free Lunch Program & Youth Missions.*

For tickets, please see Beth Giuliano, (440) 238-8192.



THE THRIFT SHOP

The new fall line is now on sale in the Thrift Shop. Stop in soon. We have fall and winter clothing, fall décor and many items that you will be sure to need. Let The Thrift Shop be your first stop for Halloween. We have costumes, cards and items to decorate your home. We are open on Thursdays from 10 to 4 and would love for church members to stop to shop, visit, or donate.

Speaking of donations, we can use baby's and children's clothing in all sizes. Please leave your donations in the shop. We can supply you with a tax receipt.

PRESCHOOL CLASSROOM CLEANED

The room by Pilgrim Hall (which many years ago was the old office of the minister) was recently cleaned and decluttered. It is now the Preschool Sunday School classroom.

Please do not use the room for storage of church items. Your cooperation is very much appreciated. Thank you.



NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC denomination that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. Funding is provided through donations to the Neighbors in Need offering.

This special offering will be received throughout the month of October. Enclosed with the paper copy of this newsletter is an offering envelope for Neighbors in Need. Offering envelopes are also in the pew racks at the church. Your support is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

(in alphabetical order)

and their chairmen / contacts

Advertising Committee – Dale Hawk

Bell Choir – Barb Fraunfelder, Director

Chancel Choir – Joshua Konow, Director

Christian Education Committee – Jamie Habart

Diaconate – Denise Bell

Endowment Fund and Memorial Fund – Greg Dickson

Free Lunch Program – Pastor Becky Stephenson

Mission and Outreach Committee – Kelly Bickley

Music Committee – Pam Keenen

Official Board – Kim McKenzie, Moderator

Organ Restoration Committee – Jim Heinrich

Praise Band – Elena Taylor, Director

Stewardship Committee – Natalie Daniels, Darla Wickline

Sunday School – Irene Joyce, Jamie Habart

The Thrift Shop – Lola Millhoane

Trustees – Gary Paul, Rachel Zielinski

Women's Fellowship – Lola Millhoane

Women's Retreat – Kim McKenzie



NEWS FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

As we head into the final months of 2015, some may wonder about their giving options. We appreciate everyone's contributions because paying the bills is of the utmost importance to us. On 9/13 (between services), members and potential members had the opportunity to learn more about ways to give and continue their stewardship:

1. Traditional envelopes for the plate
 - a. These can be used weekly, monthly, or as needed.
 - b. If you need envelopes, or want them discontinued, please let us know.
2. Giving through your bank
 - a. Select the type of bill you want to pay.
 - b. Enter the church's information (Strongsville United Church of Christ, 13740 Pearl Road, Strongsville, OH 44136, 440-238-6697).
 - c. Include envelope number.
 - d. If you want your offering to go toward a specific fund, please make a note when entering the information.
3. Online giving
 - a. This is a new feature the Stewardship committee is in the process of implementing, which will be accessible via the church's website.

Thank you for your continued support toward the church. It assists with all the church does for its congregation, the community, and global efforts.

If you have questions or concerns about giving, the Stewardship committee is available in person on Sundays. Or if you prefer, feel free to contact Natalie Daniels, Kenn Oerkfitz, or Barb Fraunfelder with questions!

God Bless,

The Stewardship Committee

Natalie Daniels, Stewardship Chair

Phone: 216-470-8646

Email: danielsnatalie1@gmail.com

Kenn Oerkfitz, Treasurer

Phone: 440-238-3228

Email: kennjoerk@yahoo.com

Barb Fraunfelder, Financial Secretary

Phone: 440-331-3673

Email: bfraunfelder@ameritech.net

JOURNEY IN FAITH Membership Class

Pastor Becky is teaching a Journey in Faith class that meets on Mondays for 11 weeks and began on September 21, 2015, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the church. Members, as well as potential members, are welcome and encouraged to attend. 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, and Investigating Worship.* Both members and nonmembers will enjoy the camaraderie within the group and the knowledge that Pastor Becky shares.

To enroll in the membership class, please call the church at (440) 238-6697. Deadline for enrollment is Monday, October 5.



NEWS FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

The following monthly report lists the budget income we need to receive from Pledges and Offerings and the amount actually received. This information also appears weekly in our Sunday worship bulletin.

For August 23 through September 13, 2015

Offering Needed: \$12,760
Offering Received: (Aug. 23 through Sep. 13) 10,886
Traditional: \$9,122 Contemporary: \$1,764
Difference (\$1,874)

Barb Fraunfelder



PURSE, BAG AND TOTE BAG SALE

This Diaconate fundraiser will take place the day of our Turkey Dinner—Saturday, November 7, 2015. If possible, please bring your donations to the church now so we can plan the space needed. However, we will accept donations until Sunday, November 1. Thank you for your donations.

Purses should be **new or like new**. Pricing for regular size purses will begin at \$5.00. For more information, please contact Joyce Reed or Dianne Maringer.



THANK YOU

*A big thank you to my church family and friends for all the get-well wishes with cards, phone calls, and visits. I surely appreciated them all. Love you all. God bless.
Love, Lola*

ALTAR FLOWERS

You may provide flowers on any Sunday you wish because multiple vases are accepted on Sunday mornings. As of this writing, the following date is when one vase is still needed in order to have two vases on the altar for Sunday worship: December 13 – 1 vase



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 Pilgrim Hall. Below the chart are forms and envelopes for submitting your bulletin information and payment to the church office.

Thank you for providing flowers for our worship services.

ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK



For our church's 200th anniversary in 2017, Strongsville UCC will print a new, one-of-a-kind cookbook! We want to include old recipes passed down through generations from your families and friends. Also, we want new recipes you currently love! Please submit all recipes in an envelope with your name and phone number to Marty Winch or Dianne

Maringer, or place the envelope under the church office door. Thank you for sharing your recipes.

Strongsville Women's League

BLOODMOBILE

Monday – October 19, 2015 – 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

St. Joseph and John Church
12700 Pearl Road in Strongsville

Did you know that every minute of every day, someone needs blood. Blood can only come from a volunteer donor—a person like you who makes the choice to donate. There is no substitute for your donation. When you make a blood donation, you join a very select group. Currently only 3 out of every 100 people in America donate blood. The Red Cross needs healthy individuals, age 17 and older to donate. Persons over 65 may donate. Walk-in donors are welcome. The donation process takes about one hour. For information, please call Marlene Martin, 440-238-7123.

HARVEST FESTIVAL



Come one, come all to celebrate fall! Strongsville UCC will host a Harvest Festival Saturday, October 31, at church. This family friendly event is for the whole family to have fun before trick or

treating. We're looking for volunteers to donate baked goodies or candy and also to help man the activities. Spread the word! All the kids in the community are invited! Look for more information to follow, such as a flyer you can pass out in your neighborhood or at work or school.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PUMPKIN PAINTING

This annual event will take place Sunday, October 25, in Pilgrim Hall for the children during Sunday School class time.



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

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: Lloyd Bridle, Holly Elkins, Mick Jacobson (husband of Betty), Bill Kato, Michele Mhlack, Denzil Richards, Barb Stayrook, Keith Sullen, Leah Tressa Forget, John Wood

Extended Church Family: Ryan Brubeck, Emelyn Carels (sister of Irene Jannsohn), Dylan Churnega (grandson of Ginny Churnega Oerkfritz), Zachary Crouse (grandson of Barbara Morgan), Audrey Curry (mother of Pam Keenen), Rebecca Deeb (Goddughter of Lora Rung), Angie Dickinson (friend of Lola Millhoane), Donna Fargo (mother of Sally Herzog), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Kay Gritti (friend of Lola Millhoane), Irene Hagemeyer (niece of Betty Craig), Phyllis Keenen (mother of Bruce), Pat Kolba (mother of Kelly Bickley), Dorothy Kovatich (mother of Bob), Lily (student of Lora Rung), Maggie (friend of the Bickleys), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Debbie Morey (sister of Steve Herzog), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Keith Stewart (cousin of Carol Woodward), Trudie Taylor (sister of Karen Morgan), Bob Tomko (cousin of Ed Sobek), Kathleen Wickline (mother of Darla)

KFC PENNY SUNDAYS

Penny Sunday dates for the remainder of the year are October 25, November 29, and December 27.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship will meet Wednesday, October 7, at 9:45 a.m. in the classroom across from the Parlor. The Strongsville Fire Department will present a program on "Safety" at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will follow the program, and Margot James will lead devotions. After the meeting, those who wish are welcome to enjoy the Wednesday Free Lunch in Pilgrim Hall. As always, all ladies are invited to attend the meeting and program.

STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of September 6, 2015

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

Week of September 13, 2015

*Happy Birthday on September 19 to Abby Craig
With love, Grammy*

Week of September 20, 2015

*In Memory of My Dear Friends
Sally Vetovitz*

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 more info, please call the church, 440-238-6697.

Thank you to all who light the steeple.



NEW LOCATION FOR DONATIONS for the Strongsville Food Bank

Many thanks to the congregation for their continuing support of the Food Bank donations. With the approval of the Trustees, the Mission Outreach Committee has moved the donation area. It is now located in Pilgrim Hall alongside our glass display case. This was done to increase visibility and also to make it more easily accessible. Thanks again for your continued support.



Thanksgiving Baskets



For the 2015 Thanksgiving season, we will prepare boxes of Thanksgiving foods for 75 needy families within our community. Collection will begin Sunday, October 18, and conclude Sunday, November 22, when we will dedicate the food during worship. Each week we will bring to the church the designated items, which will be placed on and around our communion table in the Sanctuary. The display of food will grow bigger and bigger each Sunday! Requested foods are:

- October 18** cans of green beans, cans of corn
- October 25** boxes of stuffing (like Stove Top) and jars of gravy
- November 1** dessert mixes (like brownies, cake mixes, or cookie mixes) and cans of icing
- November 8** cans of cranberry sauce and boxes of corn muffin mix
- November 15** boxes of instant mashed potatoes or 5-pound bag of fresh potatoes, canned or fresh yams
- November 22** turkeys or hams

Should you prefer to make a cash donation, please make your check payable **to Strongsville United Church of Christ**, and on the memo line write **Thanksgiving Basket**. \$20 covers the cost of a turkey or ham; \$40 covers a whole basket. All financial donations will be accepted.

Baskets will be assembled at the church in Pilgrim Hall on Monday morning, November 23, at 9:00 a.m. and then picked up at the church by the family that afternoon. If the family cannot pick up their basket, we will arrange delivery of the food to them. To help assemble baskets or deliver food, please call the church office, (440) 238-6697.

Thank you for your support of this benevolent project.

If you know someone who would appreciate a basket, please provide Pastor Becky with the following information:

Thanksgiving Basket Distribution - 2015

Name of Family: _____ Number of people in family: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (____) _____

