


THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 (Congregational)
 13740 Pearl Road
 Strongsville, Ohio 44136
 Rev. Rebecca Stephenson, Pastor



Church Telephone: (440) 238-6697
Email: StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com
Website: www.strongsvilleucc.com
Traditional Worship 9:45 A.M. Sunday
Contemporary Worship 11:15 A.M. Sunday

JULY 2015 NEWSLETTER

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

<p>JULY 5 <i>Sixth Sunday after Pentecost</i></p> <p>Scriptures: Mark 6:1-13</p> <p>Sermon: <i>Go Take Nothing – Part 1</i></p> <p>Communion at Both Services</p> 	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Jim Studer Greeter: Roy Merkle Ushers: Needed Coffee Hour: Volunteer to be determined</p>	<p>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Dale Hawk Greeter: Roy Merkle Coffee Hour: Volunteer to be determined</p>
<p>JULY 12 <i>Seventh Sunday after Pentecost</i></p> <p>OUTDOOR SERVICE + PICNIC</p> <p>Scriptures: Mark 6:30-46</p> <p>Sermon: <i>Go Take Nothing – Part 2</i></p>	<p><u>ONE OUTDOOR SERVICE ONLY – AT 9:45 A.M.</u></p> <p>Liturgist: James Nicoulin Greeter: Needed Ushers: Needed</p> <p><i>The service will be followed by a Potluck Picnic Lunch and Games. Please bring a main dish and either a side dish, salad, or dessert to share for the Potluck Picnic Lunch. If you could, please bring lawn chairs for the outdoor worship service. All are welcome!</i></p>	
<p>JULY 19 <i>Eighth Sunday after Pentecost</i></p> <p>Scriptures: 2 Samuel 7:1-14a</p> <p>Sermon: <i>House or Tent?</i></p>	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Bill Schneider Greeter: Needed Ushers: Needed Coffee Hour: Rosemary Bechtel</p>	<p>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Jack Stephenson Greeter: Needed Coffee Hour: Rosemary Bechtel</p>
<p>JULY 26 <i>Ninth Sunday after Pentecost</i></p> <p>Scriptures: John 6:1-21</p> <p>Sermon: <i>When the Storms Are Raging</i></p>	<p>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Kelly Bickley Greeter: Needed Ushers: Needed Coffee Hour: Sarah Herzog</p>	<p>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M.</p> <p>Liturgist: Lora Rung Greeter: Needed Coffee Hour: Sarah Herzog</p>

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

It's good to be back in Strongsville, and I am very thankful for all the prayers that were lifted for Jack and me. Your prayers brought me through this heart attack with flying colors. I know that it was your prayers that helped. I was also blessed to have had the heart attack in one of the best places in the world for cardiac care.

This past weekend those who gathered to review the strategic plan of the church proposed that 2015-2016 would be "The Year of the Child." I couldn't agree more with making this our theme for the next year or so. During this time we will ALL be finding ways to reach children and parents. Every board and committee or team will be asked to find ways to include youth and to reach out to new families.

We will begin the Year of the Child with our Family Fun Day on August 22. Next we will be seeking to find new ways to reach young people. I might even start a Blog. We need to do this because the next generation is now being enticed to find meaning in things that are contrary to the way of God. Today young people are joining hate groups that espouse violence and hatred as a way of life. Some are finding their way to ISIS and other fundamental groups that use oppression as a means of control. These groups pervert the Word of God to oppress others and even commit acts of violence and murder on innocent people. Many of our youth and adults are consumed by modern technology to the point of becoming anti-social. We are children of God and are meant to be social. I also know that when children find meaning in life through the faith community, they tend to bring their parents along; and the church grows. It is of paramount importance that we be creative and focused on reaching out to the next generation.

In a few weeks, we will hold our first Tent Revival. The theme for the event is "Catch the Spirit, United in Love." Our intention is to have as many churches participate in the event as possible, so that we can show that we are all committed to sharing the Spirit in our community. Each evening there will be a different preacher bringing the message. The air will be electric, as many different Christian artists and bands will provide the music. We hope to have one night focused on the young people with a band and preacher who can speak directly to the young adults. I know this is going to be an exciting event with many coming to the Lord.

There will also be tailgating going on at the event, so if you are a tailgater, bring your best. I plan on judging each tailgate and possibly giving an award to the best tailgater. More information will be coming soon.



Pastor Becky

TENT REVIVAL and FAMILY FUN DAY

Our church will host a Tent Revival from Monday, August 17, through Friday, August 21, 2015, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Pastor Becky is contacting other Strongsville churches, their clergy, and choirs to encourage their participation for one evening during the week. Mark these dates on your calendar now and plan to be a part of this fun celebration with inspiring sermons and music!

The week will conclude on Saturday, August 22, with our annual Family Fun Day, with free activities and food for the kids, families and everyone!

To help, please come to a Tent Revival planning meeting on Thursday, July 9, at 7:00 p.m.; contact Pastor Becky; or call the church office at 440-238-6697.

Join us for an exciting week – August 17 through 22!

Catch the Spirit



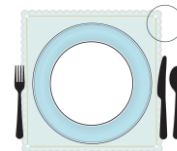
United in Love

WEDNESDAY FREE LUNCH PROGRAM

The program continues every Wednesday, when lunch is served from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall. All are welcome to attend this free weekly lunch.

Volunteers who prepare meals are asked to be at the church no later than 9:00 a.m. Servers can arrive at 10:00 a.m.

Volunteers are needed – please talk with Pastor Becky or call the church, 440-238-6697.



GORDON FOOD SERVICE

Just a reminder that GFS gives our church a rebate on purchases. When you check out, just tell them you are from Strongsville UCC. Also, they now have partnered with Market Days and have a section for those items.

Remember, you can purchase gift cards at church, and the gift card program helps the Organ Restoration Fund.





LOGANSPOORT CHILDREN'S CHOIR CHORAL CONCERT

**Thursday – July 2, 2015 – 7:00 P.M.
at Strongsville UCC**

***No Admission Fee —
Free Will Offering for the Organ Restoration Project***

On Thursday, July 2, 2015, we will host a youth concert at our church, presented by the Logansport Children's Choir. The group is a community choir with members from schools in and near Logansport, Indiana. The Choir is in its 27th season, and has given performances and participated in Children's Choir Festivals in the United States, England and Europe. The Chamber Choir, which is giving this concert, is a subgroup that is comprised of older members who are wrapping up a tour in Canada and the northeastern United States.

The concert starts at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to a "meet and greet" reception in Pilgrim Hall before the concert, starting at 6:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served, and we will have a chance to meet the choir members and their director.

Please join us in welcoming this talented group of young people as they share their music with us.



ORGAN RESTORATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Thanks to the generosity of all who have continued to donate to the Organ Restoration Fund, we are starting the fourth phase of restoration immediately. This is only a part of the fourth phase, based on the funds available. We were able to identify a very necessary part of the restoration that could be done during the summer months, while the Chancel Choir is on hiatus. The organ will still be playable, with only the swell division being silent. The work should be completed by the first of September.

The scope of work will include:

- Remove Bourdon flute rank pipes.
- Re-leather the stoppers on the Bourdon pipes.
- Replace all chest magnets on the bottom boards of the chests in Swell division.
- Remove and replace cabling from chests to control electronics.
- Replace cork gasket and packing leather in chests.

The ORC is grateful for the continued support of our church members. We are hopeful that we will be able to finish the planned restoration of the organ within one year from now.

One of the goals of the ORC, when it was established, was to maintain the organ after the planned restoration is complete. We will continue to hold some fund raisers, as time permits, to pay for tuning and maintenance. We hope that future caretakers of the organ appreciate our efforts to keep our beautiful pipe organ playing well into the future.

Sincerely,
James R. Heinrich



KIWANIS SHOE COLLECTION

Thank you to all who donated shoes for the Kiwanians Shoes for H.O.P.E. program for impoverished people around the world. The collection has concluded.

Clay Williams



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Summer Sunday School is now in session. Parents, Grandparents, Uncles, Aunts: Please sign up to teach one Sunday during the months of July and August. The signup sheet is posted on Pilgrim Hall's bulletin board. No experience is necessary, and all materials will be provided. See Sunday School Superintendent Irene Joyce if you have questions.

Bake Sale on June 13 – The Sunday School Bake Sale, which took place on the day of the Garage Sale, made \$360.50. Thank you to all for your support!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

Saturday – **August 22** – Free Family Fun Day

Sunday – **September 13** – Rally Day



Strongsville UCC CHILDREN'S CHOIR AND BAND

The Children's Choir is now on hiatus. Rehearsals will resume at the end of August. Thank you to all children who participated in the choir!

Children who would like to participate in the Band are welcome to come to rehearsals on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., before Praise Band rehearsal.

For more information about the children's music programs at our church, please contact our Worship Accompanist and Praise Band Director, Elena Taylor.



GARAGE SALE / BAKE SALE / THRIFT SHOP

Thank you all who supported the Garage Sale, the Sunday School Bake Sale, and The Thrift Shop on June 13! The Garage Sale made \$1,641.10, the Sunday School Bake Sale, \$360.50; and The Thrift Shop, \$244.00.



BAKE SALE

MEMORIAL FUND SUMMARY

1/1/2015 through 6/14/2015:

Beginning Balance 1/1/2015	\$1,352.39
Memorials Received	\$ 100.00
Less Expenditures	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance 6/14/2015	<u>\$1,452.39</u>

Memorials received this year to date:
Paul Mhlack, James Habart, Ron Steen

ENDOWMENT FUND SUMMARY

1/1/15 through 6/14/2015:

Beginning Balance 1/1/2015	\$ 37,555.76
Endowment Gifts Received	\$ 0
Interest Income (Cornerstone Fund)	\$160.94
Mutual fund gains (United Church Funds)	\$483.95
Expenditures	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance 6/14/2015	<u>\$38,200.65</u>

Please see or contact Greg Dickson or Irene Jannsohn for information regarding Memorial and Endowment Fund Giving. We thank you for your generous giving to these funds.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Are you: "ALL IN": AT CHURCH?

You could not have missed this slogan if you listened to the news. Every news story reported this to support the Cavaliers. People encouraged one another, spent money on tickets and merchandise, and told everyone they were fans.

Should we not do the same in our lives in the church? We can encourage one another by listening, and sharing our faith with each other. We can tell others about our church, and invite them to come to the free lunch and/or to service. We can support with our contributions both to our congregation, national church missions, and to specific programs or needs of the church. We can use our talents to help serve on boards or committees. When sharing our faith with one another and with friends, we can and are showing we are "ALL IN".

Christ created this slogan in a different way when he said "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Lord. If only our enthusiasm could be as all-encompassing in the church as it is for our sports.

Kenn Oerkitz
For the Stewardship Committee

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 are dates when vases are still needed in order to have two vases on the altar for Sunday worship:

July 5 – 1 vase
September 6 – 1 vase
October 25 – 2 vases
November 29 – 1 vase
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 very much for providing flowers for our worship services.



CHURCH FLOWER BEDS

The flower beds are blooming, but they need some help during the summer with watering and deadheading (removing dead blooms)—especially the petunias. To help, please sign up on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. We are scheduling help on Fridays at 12 noon. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated. For more information, please contact Melinda Slavik, at (440) 783-1148. Thank you.



RECYCLING

We now have recycling containers in our church kitchen. Please use them for recycling glass, cans, plastic, paper and cardboard. Also, please **keep these containers in the kitchen so they are visible for all to use.**

Thank you for recycling!

RETIREMENT PARTY!

for
JACK STEPHENSON
Saturday, July 11, at the Parsonage

You are cordially invited to a Retirement Celebration for Jack Stephenson on Saturday, July 11, 2015, at his and Pastor Becky's home, 2214 Substation Road in Medina.

Festivities will begin at 2:00 p.m. with fishing, swimming, hot tubbing and games; hors d'oeuvres at 5:00; dinner at 6:00; and then dancing.

The Strongsville City Jazz Band will perform at 5:00 p.m., followed by Spaß! (Erhardt Bell's German band) at 7:00 p.m. Dress is casual; bring your swim suit!

All are welcome!

STRONGSVILLE HOMECOMING PARADE

On Wednesday, July 15, 2015, our church will participate in the Strongsville Homecoming Parade. We need volunteers to decorate the float, walkers to hand out goodies and riders on the float. This is a great time and a wonderful event to promote our church in the community. To help with the float and/or be in the parade, please call the church, (440) 238-6697.

Please watch your Sunday morning bulletins for more information. Thank you!

NEWS FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Barb Fraunfelder

This is a monthly report listing the budget income we need to receive from Pledges and Offerings and the amount actually received from May 24 through June 21, 2015. This information is also appearing on a weekly basis in our worship bulletin.

Offering Needed: \$15,950
Offering Received: (May 24 through June 21) 13,226
Traditional: \$11,217 Contemporary: \$2009

Difference: (\$2,724)

Barb Fraunfelder



Join Us for a **BABY SHOWER**

for

Denise and Erhardt Bell

Sunday – July 19, 2015 – 4:00 P.M.

2214 Substation Road (the parsonage)

(Southwest corner of Substation and Sleepy Hollow Roads)

Everyone is welcome—including guys and children!!

Remember to bring swim suits for the pool and hot tub!

Denise and Erhardt are registered at Babies R Us.



THE THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop will be open Thursdays this summer from 10 to 4. Each week we will have a different sale. Our sales are listed on the church website, but the best way to learn about our special sales is to sign up for an email notice. Each week the shop sends an email to over 250 customers!

Stop in Thursday, July 2, for our RED, WHITE, & BLUE sale in honor of the July 4th holiday. Everything red, white or blue will be half off! Now that's a sale you don't want to miss.

The shop is filled with summer clothing, books, magazines, greeting cards, toys, puzzles, games, craft items, fabric, small household items, and jewelry.

We hope to see you sometime in July to shop, visit or drop off donations.

GREETERS AND USHERS NEEDED

Greeters and ushers are needed on Sunday mornings. Please help in these areas if you can. The signup sheets are on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall.

COFFEE HOUR FUND

Thank you to all who contribute to the Coffee Hour Fund. Besides Coffee Hour, these contributions now also provide supplies for the Wednesday Free Lunch Program. Your support is greatly appreciated.



STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of June 7, 2014

Happy Birthday to Our Dad, Bill Ritchie
Love, Gina and Sharon

Week of June 14, 2015

Happy Birthday to Dan Sauter on June 14
With love, Grammy

Happy Belated Anniversary to
Dale and Valerie (Millhoane) Hopkins
on May 28, 2015

Love, Mom – aka Ganny

Happy Belated 35th Anniversary to
Dan and Vicky Masuga on June 7, 2015
Love, Mom / Banny

Happy 30th Birthday to Kyleen Masuga on June 13, 2015
Love, Banny

To light the steeple for a week, the minimum donation is \$5.00. Information and donation forms are on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Multiple donations for the same week will be accepted. Thank you to all who light the steeple.

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 Members: Ethyl Jeglie at Elmcroft of Sagamore Hills, Janet Kato at Western Reserve Masonic Community in Medina, Sandra Kornick at Falling Water, Betty Kovach at Parkside Villa, Debbie Krause, Connie Rebar, Erla Mae Schultz at Medina Village

Church Family: Denise Bell, Erhardt Bell, Nancy Cochran, Holly Elkins, Michele Mhlack, Pam Peacock, Denzil Richards, Barb Stayrook, Keith Sullen, Pastor Becky Stephenson, Leah Tressa Forget

Extended Church Family: Ryan Brubeck, Emelyn Carels (sister of Irene Jannsohn), Dylan Churnega (grandson of Ginny Churnega Oerkfitz), Zachary Crouse (grandson of Barbara Morgan), Rebecca Deeb (Godddaughter of Lora Rung), Angie Dickinson (friend of Lola Millhoane), Donna Fargo (mother of Sally Herzog), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), 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), Trudie Taylor (sister of Karen Morgan), Bob Tomko (cousin of Ed Sobek), Kathleen Wickline (mother of Darla), Marilyn Woodward (mother of David and Carol)

OFFICIAL BOARD NEWS

I would like to thank the members who attended the **Strategic Planning meeting on Saturday, June 20, 2015**. We were able to go over many of the goals/ recommendations put in place in 2013, along with new recommendations. We made a new goal for 2015-2016 called the “**Year of the Child**” and will need all the boards, groups and committees to work for this project and implement plans for a successful goal reached. Therefore, all the groups will need to meet and have a representative from each group with their ideas come together on Thursday, August 6, 2015, for a **special Official Board meeting at 7:00 p.m.** to put this in place. Members of the Congregation are welcomed to attend this special meeting also.

In addition, it is also time to **review the Constitution and By-Laws of the church**. The Official Board will put together a committee to update and make proposed recommendations/changes for approval. If you are interested, please see me or one of the members of Official Board.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to call me at 216-398-1462 or 216-401-8738. I can also be reached by email at davekimmckenzie@cox.net

Thank you in advance for your support.

Kim McKenzie
Moderator

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Ladies, our weekend retreat is fast approaching! We do have a few spots open; and any ladies interested, please let me know by mid-July. We need to have our payment in before the end of July to secure our weekend. I would also like the women who have responded, to volunteer to drive and bring food/drinks. Anyone else who would like to help, please let me know.

I will send emails to keep all of us informed. If you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached at 216-398-1462 or 216-401-8738, and by email at davekimmckenzie@cox.net

Thank you.
Kim McKenzie



RIVER VALLEY PAPER COMPANY RECYCLING NEWS

From Our Financial Secretary
Barb Fraunfelder

The River Valley Paper Company picked up—

March – 8,050 lbs. of recycled material at \$30 per ton for a total payment of \$120.75.

April – 5,310 lbs. of recycled material at \$25 per ton for a total payment of \$70.06.

THANK YOU for recycling. Just a reminder - we collect newspapers, office and school paper, phonebooks, magazines, catalogs, brown paper bags, mail, hard and soft bound books, and cardboard. **(Please collapse boxes before placing them in the recycling bin).**

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

	MARCH 2015 Our 8,050 lbs. of recycled paper saved:	APRIL 2015 Our 5,310 lbs. of recycled paper saved:
WE SAVED:		
Trees	68.43	45.14
Pounds of CO2	1,006.25	663.75
Cubic yards of landfill space	13.28	8.76
Gallons of water	28,175	18,585
Kilowatts of electricity	16,502.50	10,885.50
Homes heated for 6 months	4.03	2.66
Pounds of air pollutants	241.50	159.30

THANK YOU for RECYCLING!!!

STRONGSVILLE FOOD BANK

Donations are down. Canned fruit is especially needed right now. Your support is greatly appreciated. Thank you!



Mission and Outreach Committee

HELPING HOMELESS VETERANS

The Mission and Outreach Committee of our church is partnering with Church Street Ministries to help homeless veterans get back on their feet. Currently, the VA finds housing for these veterans, connects them with CSM, who assists by providing them with furniture and household goods through their used furniture store in Berea. So much more can be done to help these veterans who served our country. Last year CSM helped 31 vets and so far this year has helped 33 proving the need is great. CSM is looking to partner with local churches to help with this project.

Since these veterans are not eligible to receive funding for furniture and do not have the finances to purchase furniture, they need a donation. But with a donation they take what is donated and are not able to pick out their own furniture. This is where the partnership with our church can help. As part of our Mission and Outreach program, our goal is to raise \$500 by July 30 to sponsor one of these veterans. These funds would be used by the veteran to purchase furniture from the CSM furniture store. The program has several positives:

- * It builds relationships between CSM, our church, and the veterans.
- * The veterans feel cared about and appreciated.
- * It allows the veterans to pick out their own furniture thereby empowering them.

The Mission and Outreach Committee would be grateful for the support of the Congregation with this project. Donations can be given in the pew envelope (*please write "Mission Fund-Vet Program" on the pew envelope and your check*).

For questions or more details on how the program works, contact Jim Nicoulin or Claudia Bader.

**The Church Office
will be
CLOSED
Friday, June 3, 2015
in observance of
INDEPENDENCE DAY**

