

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

SEPTEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

<p>LABOR DAY WEEKEND</p> <p><i>The Contemporary Service begins September 8, and worship is casual. Volunteers may be recruited on the spot to serve as greeters, liturgists, ushers, etc., unless names are indicated below.</i></p>	<p>Sunday – September 1 – Communion</p> <p>Sermon..... Scripture..... Liturgist..... Greeter(s)..... Nursery..... Ushers..... Coffee Hour..... Summer Sunday School..... Communion Servers.....</p>	<p>TRADITIONAL WORSHIP 10 A.M. “Your Place at the Table” Luke 14:7-14 Barb Fraunfelder Linda Plain Barb Fraunfelder Linda Plain Vicky Masuga Rachel Zielinski Beth Giuliano, Vicky Masuga, Bev Wehr</p>
<p>CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP 9 A.M.</p> <p>“Blow that Trumpet!” Joshua 5:13-6:5 Betty Craig</p> <p>Rachel Zielinski</p>	<p>Sunday – September 8, 2013 Rally Day for Sunday School at 11am</p> <p>.....Message Sermon..... Scripture..... Liturgist..... Greeter(s)..... Nursery..... Ushers..... Coffee Hour.....</p>	<p>TRADITIONAL WORSHIP 11 A.M.</p> <p>“Blow that Trumpet!” Joshua 5:13-6:5 Betty Craig Sharon Heinrich Vicky Masuga Kim McKenzie Beth Giuliano</p>
<p>CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP 9 A.M. “The Lost Sheep” Luke 15:1-10 Lynne McCray</p> <p>Lora Rung</p>	<p>Sunday – September 15, 2013</p> <p>.....Message Sermon..... Scripture..... Liturgist..... Greeter(s)..... Nursery..... Ushers..... Coffee Hour.....</p>	<p>TRADITIONAL WORSHIP 11 A.M. “The Lost Sheep” Luke 15:1-10 Lynne McCray Jim Studer Gina Cathcart Volunteers Needed Karen Morgan</p>
<p>CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP 9 A.M. “Holy Boldness” 1 Timothy 2:1-7 Dale Hawk</p> <p>Sharon Heinrich</p>	<p>Sunday – September 22, 2013</p> <p>.....Message Sermon..... Scripture..... Liturgist..... Greeter(s)..... Nursery..... Ushers..... Coffee Hour.....</p>	<p>TRADITIONAL WORSHIP 11 A.M. “Holy Boldness” 1 Timothy 2:1-7 Dale Hawk Dale and Cathy Hawk Rachel Zielinski Volunteers Needed Dianne Maringer</p> <p><i>Worship Opportunities continue on next page . . .</i></p>

<p>CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP 9 A.M.</p> <p>“Boy, Is It Hot Here!” Luke 16:19-31 Lora Rung</p> <p>Beth Giuliano</p>	<p>Sunday – September 29, 2013 ORC Pancake Breakfast 8am-1pm</p> <p>.....Message Sermon..... Scripture..... Liturgist..... Greeter(s)..... Nursery..... Ushers..... Coffee Hour.....</p>	<p>TRADITIONAL WORSHIP 11 A.M.</p> <p>“Boy, Is It Hot Here!” Luke 16:19-31 Lora Rung Volunteers Needed Cathy Hawk Volunteers Needed Doug Thorn</p>
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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Well, the summer is drawing to a close. The children are headed back to school, and vacations are coming to an end. Before long the leaves will begin to fall, a nip will be in the air, and we will all be wondering what happened. This summer we experienced SUMMER FUN at our church. We wore our Crazy Hats, knocked on the Door to Heaven, went to the Ball Game, blessed the bikes while picnicking on the church lawn; sang old camp songs by Greenbrier Lake, and experienced a battle with the Force. We even roasted a pig and had a wonderful bon fire.

Now it is time for us to embrace a new church year. Beginning on September 7 we will hold our first event, Free Family Fun Day. This day is designed to reach families and children in our community. There will be many exciting things going on including a giant slide, crafts, games and free food. We will also be giving tours of the church and the Sunday School, in an effort to encourage Sunday School enrollment. On this Saturday please bring any children that might benefit from participating in our church school program.

On September 8 our new worship schedule begins. A new contemporary service will be at 9 a.m. with a traditional service at 11 a.m. Fellowship hour will be from 10 to 11 a.m. I am already hearing good things about starting the new service and our efforts to reach new brothers and sisters for Christ. The Praise Band has been practicing, and the choir will begin to rehearse soon. We are so blessed with great musicians that I can hardly wait to hear an expanded variety of music lifted to the Lord.

It seems like the summer fun might just turn into an exciting fall frenzy! Wow! Won't it be great to see so many exciting opportunities happening in our church? I can't wait. I should also mention that I have many new sermon ideas for the fall. Just wait and see!!!

Pastor Becky



DIACONATE DAILIES!

Hi, all! As summer comes to a close, exciting things are happening at Strongsville UCC! The Diaconate and its committees are hard at work preparing for the new things coming this month. The Worship Team has been meeting biweekly to prepare for the new Contemporary Service. The Diaconate is hoping to see everyone for either the Contemporary Service at 9 a.m. or the Traditional Service at 11 a.m. We will have coffee hour from 10 a.m. until the second service starts. Please join us in Pilgrim Hall each Sunday for great conversation!

This fall we are looking for some help. If you are interested in serving as an usher, volunteering in the nursery, helping serve at coffee hour, or serving as a greeter, please see any Diaconate member. We are looking for volunteers for both services. We will also begin serving communion on the first Sunday of each month at both services. If you are interested in helping with the service of communion, please see Beth Giuliano.

We also want you to know about some logistical changes that will be happening with the change in services. Between 10 and 10:45 a.m., the Parlor will be used by the Choir for rehearsal. We ask that you please respect their rehearsal time and join us in Pilgrim Hall for coffee prior to the service. We will also be adding some exciting things this fall and during the Advent season.

Please let us know if you have any suggestions or feedback.

Rachel Zielinski
 Diaconate Chairperson

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship will meet on Wednesday, September 4, at 10:00 a.m. The program is a fun meeting with games and crafts. Hostess is Margot James, and devotions will be given by Doris Soucie. Please bring your own lunch; coffee, tea and dessert will be provided. As always, all ladies are welcome!

ADULT DISCUSSION GROUP

Beginning **Sunday, September 8**, when the two services are kicking off, the Christian Education Team will begin an Adult Education Discussion Group to take place during the hour between the services (10:15 to 10:45 a.m.). The first group will be hosted by Judy Carte on topics from The Upper Room. A second group is desired, but we are in need of volunteers! If you are interested in being a discussion group leader, here is what you will be asked to do:

As a Sunday Discussion Leader, you will be asked to:

- Commit to leading a discussion once a week, on Sunday mornings, for eight consecutive weeks.
- Select a topic of discussion. Topics of discussion must have prior approval of the Christian Ed Team. Supporting resources can be provided by the team if needed, or you can seek your own resources. Your own resources should also have prior approval of the Christian Ed Team.
- Select a time frame during the hour between the contemporary and traditional worship services. A suggested time frame is from 10:15am to 10:45am, but you can further adjust to be up to 45 minutes long. We recommend you set a time that allows people to make it to the traditional service. If you choose to make the discussion longer than 30 minutes, notify the Christian Ed team so that we may announce the correct time to the congregation.
- Most of all, have fun! Keep it casual and if you need further support, just ask the Christian Ed team!

If you have an interest in attending, signup is not required. If you wish to lead an 8-week session to help continue The Upper Room group, or to begin a new group, please refer to the signup sheet located in Pilgrim Hall. Please contact Katie Renfro at 440.239.0509 or renfrokatie@hotmail.com with any questions. Thank you!



THANK YOU . . .

to those who donated, allowing me to attend the Invisible Children Fourth Estate Leadership Summit in August! I'm excited to have learned more about the children fighting against their own will with the LRA in Africa. I cannot wait to share that information with you!
Thank you! *Brandi Garsteck*

LAST DAY OF SUMMER PARTY

for the benefit of the Organ Restoration

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2013

Pastor Becky and Jack will sponsor and host, with the assistance of the ORC, a "Last Day of the Summer" party on Saturday, September 21, at their home. The event will start at 2:00 and run until the last guest leaves – voluntarily or otherwise! The price is \$15 for adults and \$10 for children 5-10. Children under five are free. Tickets may be purchased after church services or by calling Frank Jefferis at (440) 826-0960.



We are planning on having 150-200 people attend throughout the day and evening. There will food for everyone that includes hors d'oeuvres, crab, shrimp, veggie platter, hot dogs, hamburgers, deep fried turkey, carved roast beef, jambalaya, potato salad, pasta salad, broccoli salad, Becky's famous baked beans, rolls, chips, deserts, cookies, cakes pies S'mores, iced tea, lemonade soft drinks, beer and wine.

Activities will include swimming, hot tubing, fishing, paddle boating, volleyball, a corn hole toss tournament, a camp fire and other activities to be determined. This will be the party of the year for the outdoor crowd.

So don't miss the frolic, food and the chance to support the restoration of your church pipe organ. The ORC is getting closer and closer to their fund raising goal and this event will contribute much to that end. Thank you.

Strongsville UCC

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Fundraiser for the Pipe Organ Restoration Fund

Sunday – September 29, 2013

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

All You Can Eat !

Pancakes, Sausage, Scrambled Eggs,
Coffee, Tea, Milk, Juice

\$6.00 Adults \$3.00 Children under 10



FREE FAMILY FUN DAY

Saturday - September 7, 2013

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Church Grounds



Christian Ed will sponsor this fun event, which will take place **rain or shine** on the Saturday before Rally Day. The church will provide free hot dogs, games, face painting, crafts, and other fun things. We hope you will join us for this celebration, as we invite the community to our church and Sunday School. **Help is needed.** Please sign up to help on your Attendance Card on Sunday morning or on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall.

RALLY DAY

For Sunday School

September 8, 2013 – during 11:00 A.M. Worship

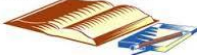


Children and teachers will meet in Pilgrim Hall at **10:45 A.M.** Classes will sit together in the service. **The annual offering for Sunday School will be received.** Offering envelopes are in the pew racks. This special annual offering helps to defray the cost of the Sunday School curriculum. Please join us for the start of a new and exciting Sunday School year!

Summer Sunday School – Thank you to all who taught this summer:

June 2 – Sue Gigliotti, June 9 – Sue Gigliotti,
June 16 – Elena Joyce, June 30 – Irene Joyce,
June 7 – Ingrid Dickson, July 14 – Evan Joyce,
July 21 – Cathy Hawk and Dan Davis,
July 28 – Erik Joyce, August 4 – Ingrid Dickson,
August 11 – Irene Joyce, August 18 – Sharon Heinrich,
August 25 – Charles and Aimée Jannsohn,
September 1 – Rachel Zielinski

Confirmation Class



Confirmation Class will start on Rally Day—Sunday, September 8. Class will be held during the 11:00 a.m. service in the classroom across from the parlor. We have a great program planned for this year's class and look forward to working with the group. There will be an informational meeting for parents and students on Sunday, September 8, following the 11:00 a.m. service. During the meeting, we will discuss the program and class schedule and also address questions.

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. Also, please inform the church of updates to this prayer list. Thank you.

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

Church Family: Holly Manley Elkins and family, Gary Fischer, Paul Hirt, Hank Klink, the Purdum family, John Maringer, Elizabeth Snook, Ann Sullen, Keith Sullen

Extended Church Family: Dolores Banach (friend of Betty Craig), Betty Berk (mother of Mary Mortus), June Brewer (niece of Ed Powers), Zachary Crouse (grandson of Barbara Morgan), Audrey and Gene Curry (parents of Pam Keenen), Victor DiChiro (father-in-law of Rob Wentz), Tom Davern (relative of the Woodwards), Donna Fargo (mother of Sally Herzog), Ruth Fraley (relative of the Jannsohn family), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Charlene Gideon (friend of Karen Rak), Irene Hagemeyer (niece of Betty Craig), Sally Joseph (friend of Karen Rak), Mary Joyce-Smith (mother of Jim Joyce), Janine Kaltenstein (cousin of Vicky Masuga), Phyllis Keenen (mother of Bruce), Erik Kratky (friend of Sarah Hawk), Cyrila Kribel (friend of Betty Craig), Rick Mahon (friend of the Woodwards), Rick Pfuhl (former custodian of Strongsville UCC), 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)

A DAY AT THE CHALET

On Sunday, September 15, from noon until 5 p.m., The Arts in Strongsville will hold its 14th Annual Outdoor Art Festival at the Toboggan Run in the Cleveland Metroparks, Strongsville's Mill Run area. This is a free, family, fun-filled day of art in all its form. Please invite your family, friends, neighbors, and anyone else to enjoy this wonderful day.

If you are interested in volunteering to help all day or just two and a half hours of the day, we could surely use you. We will fit your task to your capability to make your day non-taxing, yet enjoyable. In November all volunteers will be invited to a free dinner in appreciation for your help.

Please contact Linda Plain at (440) 668-4848 to sign up or for more information.

JOURNEY IN FAITH MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Pastor Becky will once again teach a 12-week membership class entitled *Journey in Faith*, beginning **Thursday, September 26**. Members, as well as potential members, are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Topics covered are *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*.

Class dates are Thursday evenings—September 26, October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21; December 5, 12, 19. The class will be held at church from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

To enroll in the class, please sign up on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area or call the church office at (440) 238-6697.

COMMUNITY COMPASSION CONTRIBUTION

The Mission and Outreach Committee reminds you of our Community Compassion Contribution. The money collected goes into the minister's discretionary fund, which is used to assist people who come into the church looking for help.

Just look for our "crazy" green and silver striped can in the Gathering Area each week after the worship service to make your contribution.

Thank you for helping us reach out to our community!

SERVING MEALS AT ZION UCC



Church members and friends continue to serve meals for the poor on Cleveland's west side at Zion UCC on the first Saturday of the month. The next date is **Saturday, September 7, and volunteers are needed**. To help, please sign up on

the bulletin board in the Gathering Area. Then discuss carpooling with others going to Zion on the same day. Thank you!

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on World Communion **Sunday, October 6**, is especially important this year. It supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

A refreshing breeze is blowing through the contemporary world, with more and more churches, of more and more denominations, addressing the immense problems of poverty and social justice issues with focused determination and imagination. We here at Strongsville UCC are doing so through a renewed support of missions and outreach, following the example of the new Pope Francis (after St. Francis of Assisi) who said that the Church should be a "*poor church, for the poor*." A church that moves to the edge to care for the weak and vulnerable is a church worth belonging to. It takes Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan to heart.

The annual Neighbors in Need offering covers a broad spectrum of issues affecting the poor in the U.S., such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice -- each of these concentrated on the problems of the poor and marginalized. We belong to a denomination which is "in, with and under" people where they live and work, suffer and die, and who need a helping hand. Among them are our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. (One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries.)

Please read the enclosed Neighbors in Need insert on the theme, "Imagining Another World Is Possible . . . without poverty."

FROM THE "SUNLIT ROAD CALENDAR"

"Die when we may, I want it to be said of me,
By those who knew me best,
That I always plucked
A thistle and planted a flower
When I thought a flower would grow."

~Abraham Lincoln



THE THRIFT SHOP



The Thrift Shop is starting September with a \$6 Bag Sale on Thursday, September 5. We will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and we will supply the bags. Just fill them to the top for only \$6. Anything too large to fit in the bag will have a reduced price. After the bag sale we

will empty the shop and then fill the sales floor with fall and winter fashions. If you have any time Friday, September 6; Monday, September 9; Tuesday, September 10, we would appreciate help packing unsold items and restocking the shop. It is a big job, and many hands will make the job easier. Please contact Betty Bushea or Lola Millhoane for times. Starting Thursday, September 12, the shop will be selling fall and winter items.

In addition, we will be open during the Free Family Fun Day on Saturday, September 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Due to your generosity, we are currently overstocked. Please hold your donations until November 1. We appreciate your cooperation. Thank you very much.

We hope to see you to shop or just visit whenever the shop is open.



STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of August 4, 2013

*With joy for our grandson Colin
who is spending the week with us
Chris and Gina*

*In memory of Garrett (Corky) Manley
Holly Manley Elkins*

Week of August 18, 2013

*Happy Anniversary on August 19 to Bill and Pam Craig,
Happy Birthday on August 22 to Madison Wentz, and
Happy Birthday on August 24 to Joe Craig and Nate Johnson
With love, Mom and Grammy*

Week of August 25, 2013

*Happy Birthday to my grandson, William
Barb Fraunfelder*

*Happy Birthday to Rhea Clements on August 28
Becky and Bill Robinson*

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.

