

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

## SEPTEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

### WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

<p><b>SEPTEMBER 7</b></p> <p><i>Communion,            Rally Day for Sunday School,            Reception of New Members,            Box Lunch Auction for Sunday School</i></p> <p><b>Scripture:</b> Exodus 12:1-14</p> <p><b>Sermon:</b> "The Sign of the Covenant"</p> <p><b>Special Offering</b> for Sunday School  <i>to defer the cost of curriculum</i></p>	<p><b>NO            CONTEMPORARY            8:30 A.M.            SERVICE</b></p>	<p><b>BLENDED WORSHIP 10 a.m.</b></p> <p><b>Liturgist:</b> Kenn Oerkfitz  <b>Greeter:</b> Lola Millhoane  <b>Usher:</b> Lola Millhoane  <b>Nursery:</b> Sarah Herzog  <b>Coffee Hour:</b> Cathy Hawk</p>
<p><b>SEPTEMBER 14</b></p> <p><b>NEW            WORSHIP SCHEDULE            BEGINS</b></p> <p><b>Scripture:</b> Exodus 14:19-31</p> <p><b>Sermon:</b> "Through the Waters"</p>	<p><b>TRADITIONAL 9:45 a.m.</b></p> <p><b>Liturgist:</b> Betty Craig  <b>Greeter:</b> Linda Plain  <b>Ushers:</b> Linda Plain, Sharon Heinrich  <b>Nursery:</b> Sarah Hayes  <b>Coffee Hour:</b> Beth Giuliano</p>	<p><b>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 a.m.</b></p> <p><b>Liturgist:</b> Dan Masuga  <b>Graphics Operation:</b>            Vicky Masuga  <b>Coffee Hour:</b> Beth Giuliano</p>
<p><b>SEPTEMBER 21</b></p> <p><b>Scripture:</b> <i>To be determined</i></p> <p><b>Sermon:</b> <i>To be determined</i></p>	<p><b>TRADITIONAL 9:45 a.m.</b></p> <p><b>Liturgist:</b> Kelly Bickley  <b>Greeters:</b> Lloyd and Barbara Bridle  <b>Ushers:</b> Needed  <b>Nursery:</b> Dianne Maringer  <b>Coffee Hour:</b> Ginny Oerkfitz</p>	<p><b>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 a.m.</b></p> <p><b>Liturgist:</b> Dale Hawk  <b>Graphics Operation:</b>            Michele Mhlack  <b>Coffee Hour:</b> Ginny Oerkfitz</p>
<p><b>SEPTEMBER 28</b></p> <p><b>Scripture:</b> Matthew 21:23-32</p> <p><b>Sermon:</b> "By Whose Authority?"</p>	<p><b>TRADITIONAL 9:45 a.m.</b></p> <p><b>Liturgist:</b> Tom Gaumer  <b>Greeter:</b> Needed  <b>Ushers:</b> Needed  <b>Nursery:</b> Ginny Oerkfitz  <b>Coffee Hour:</b> Tom Gaumer</p>	<p><b>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 a.m.</b></p> <p><b>Liturgist:</b> Rachel Zielinski  <b>Graphics Operation:</b>            Rosemary Bechtel  <b>Coffee Hour:</b> Tom Gaumer</p>

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Well, summer is about over; the children are back in school and before you know it, Thanksgiving and Christmas will be here. I don't know about you, but the summer seemed to fly by this year. Perhaps it was because winter seemed to drag on later than usual or maybe it was because sooo much was happening this summer. Could it be that I'm growing older and time seems to go faster as we age? No way! Regardless of the reason it's now time to get back to the activities that begin each fall. In short, IT'S TIME TO COME BACK TO WORSHIP!

This year the worship times are changing a bit. On the first Sunday of September, we will have one worship service at 10 a.m. for RALLY DAY. On this Sunday we will join in a service which blends both traditional worship and contemporary worship. Sunday school children will be welcomed back, and their teachers will be consecrated for the next year. New church members will be received, and we will all celebrate the Lord's Supper together. After the service we will enjoy a Box Lunch Auction fundraiser for Sunday School. I can't wait to see what I'm bidding on. So bring some extra cash and buy a box lunch to support our Sunday school.

Beginning the second Sunday in September, we will move to our new worship schedule. The Traditional Service will be at 9:45 a.m. I'm excited to hear the choir again. Our new musician Elena will be playing the organ and piano, and the church will sound with all the old favorite hymns. Then at 11:15 we will join together for the Contemporary Worship time. The praise band has been practicing and is sounding great. The service will be 45 min. long and be different from the Traditional. Maybe you'll decided to attend both services. Fellowship time will be between the services, with coffee after the second.

This year will see new people in the music program. The choir is encouraging anyone who wants to sing to come to practice. Just mention your interest to Andrew or Elena and get involved. I am praying that some of our very talented musicians might decide to join the band. The band isn't limited to just guitar, drum and keyboard. Dust off the old instruments, and consider joining the band! While I haven't discussed this with the Music Team, I would love to have some horns and strings with the band. If I played an instrument I would join.

I am also excited about the new Children's Choir forming in September. All children are welcome to join for practice at 6:00 p.m. each Tuesday evening. How awesome it will be when they lead us in worship! Also the hand bells are looking for ringers. If you have ever wanted to play bells, now's your chance. See Barb Fraunfelder. Hopefully we will hear the tone chimes again too.

There are so many new and exciting happenings at the church that it's evident God is blessing us. This year is going to be a **great** year at Strongsville UCC, so come a be a part of what God is doing.

Pastor Becky

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## HELP WANTED FOR FACILITIES VISIONING TEAM

We are now forming a Facilities Visioning Team. This team will begin the process of visioning what our church facilities might look like in the future. Perhaps it will include expanded parking, new Sunday School rooms, more storage space or a larger sanctuary. While the team can only examine possibilities and begin to vision what is possible, it is important to start now. If we begin to vision now, it will help all of us to get excited about what God is doing in our church. Then when the time comes, we will have some ideas of how we might expand our church to receive all those who will be coming.

I believe that God is about to bless us tremendously and expand our territory. I know God's hand is with us and directing us so that we can do mighty things for Him. I also believe by visioning and listening we will see our future and be ready to welcome it with open arms.

If you're interested in being part of the Facilities Visioning Team, please let me know.

Pastor Becky



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## STRATEGIC PLANNING

On Saturday, September 13, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the church, there will be a follow-up meeting for those who attended the Visioning Retreat last year, for those who are Board or Committee members, and for those who are interested in helping the church grow. The intent of the meeting is to review the status of all Strategic Goals/Objectives that each committee is working on for this year. If there are any problems in meeting these Goals/Objectives, we will discuss what is needed in order to complete each Goal or Objective.

We will also be discussing how things are going in the church and if other needs should be addressed. Please plan on attending, even if you were not at the retreat last year, but you have an interest in helping the church meet its goal of "Growing our Membership."

## DIACONATE DAILIES !



Wow! September is here! Hope everyone has some wonderful plans for the Labor Day holiday. We are looking for a great kickoff to the year. On Rally Day we will be holding one service at 10 a.m.! We hope you can join us as we celebrate communion and welcome new members from our latest Journey in Faith class. Please join us in celebrating and come to support the Sunday School's Box Lunch Auction.

Our Worship Team is now meeting on the first Tuesday of the month and would love to have those interested in helping in the service join us. Please see Pastor Becky or Rachel Zielinski if you are interested. If you have an idea about worship or a special activity, please let us know your idea!

This Fall our worship times will change on Sept. 14. Our Traditional Service will be at 9:45 a.m. and the Contemporary Service will be at 11:15 a.m. We will be looking for help with coffee hour, greeters, ushers and more this Fall. If you can help us on a Sunday morning, please see a Diaconate member. With the new worship times we have to do some rearranging of the choir area. We will be working with the Trustees and Music Committee to get the best use of the area and also to improve how it looks. We will keep everyone posted on the project and timeline.

We have lots of things planned this fall, so please keep the following important dates on your calendar:

October 5, 2014 – Anniversary Potluck  
November 16, 2014 – French Toast Brunch  
November 23, 2014 – Open House

We will also begin collecting for our Thanksgiving baskets in October.

Yours in Christ,  
Rachel Zielinski  
Diaconate Chairperson

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## THANK YOU

*United Church of Christ Family;*

*Dorene and I would like to say that we enjoyed so very much worshiping with you on Susan's Recognition Sunday. It was so nice to see and visit with friends that we do not see often enough. It was a memorable event for us, and we wish Susan our very best wishes.*

*I have such wonderful memories of my working with Susan. She was and is THE BEST. Susan allowed me to express the choral music by watching my every movement. She made me a better director. She carved me into an artist. I will always be indebted to her.*  
*Hank Klink and Doreen Baldrige*

## MOM'S GROUP TRANSITIONS TO WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP

Our Mom's Group would like to announce a transition from morning to evening meetings and a new focus! We would like to invite all women of the church to come to a monthly prayer and support group. The Women's Prayer Group will meet the third Monday evening of every month.



Our first meeting will be on September 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the church. Topics to be explored and discussed include: courage, loyalty, gratitude, trusting God, worry, and service, among others. The group can offer friendship and support no matter what season of life you're in.

Please join us for these future meeting dates:

October 20  
November 17  
December 15  
January 12  
February 16  
March 16  
April 20  
May 18

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## COMMUNICATIONS

On Sunday, October 19, there will be a Congregational Meeting to discuss plans/costs for installing an electronic message sign in front of the church. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending. Your input is important in resolving and moving forward with this project. Additional information will be forthcoming.



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## THE SARUM PRAYER

*God be in my head and in my understanding;  
God be in my eyes and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart and in my thinking;  
God be at my end and at my departing.*

This prayer is from the Sarum Primer, a collection of prayers and worship resources developed in Salisbury, England, during the 13th century.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

God has truly blessed us this summer with many great weekends to relax, get away, and enjoy His creations. It is hoped that you have been able to take part in this time of the year to enjoy the outside and the sights and sounds of new areas to explore.

The drawback to this is that you may have spent time away from your church home. As a result, we are struggling to meet our bills. We know this is temporary, but our creditors do not look at it this way. We have been able to meet payroll. At present we have \$74.48 in the checking account. We have bills totaling \$4,594 plus another payroll of \$4,100 coming up in two weeks. Some of the bills are three months old.

Consider this a call to the faithful to request that if you are able to catch up with your pledge, pay ahead on your pledge, or increase your pledge. We know the Lord will provide in time, but the need is now. Please pray for the Lord's guidance and assistance in this matter.

In His service,  
Kenn Oerkfitz, Treasurer

## THE THRIFT SHOP



September is fall weather and also fall fashions. Stop in the shop to view all our new fall items. We have clothing for the entire family, fall décor and fall craft items. We also have a nice selection of fabric for the people who sew, puzzles for the puzzle solvers, and books and magazines for the readers. We have fall and winter coats and jackets along with a nice selection of fall shoes.

We are raffling a beautiful porcelain doll. Tickets are only \$1 each or 6 for \$5. We want to thank Joyce Reed for donating the doll for the raffle.

**We will be closed Thursday, September 4,** for a thorough cleaning and also for restocking, but will be **open all the other Thursdays in September.**

Help is needed for the changeover to Fall merchandise. If you are interested in packing up Summer clothing, cleaning the shop, or putting out Fall clothing, please contact Lola at (440) 238-3037 or Betty B. at (440) 238-6749.

Stop in to shop, visit or donate.

## “WHO AM I?”



Our church has had four women serve in the Moderator's role. Do you know who they are? Here are a few clues:

One attended the church with her mother for a long time. Who is she?

One was a registered nurse. Who is she?

One came to our church from a church in Parma and was well known for her craft skills. Who is she?

One loves to sew and made a member of this church a special dress for a very special occasion. Who is she?

Do you know who they are????

## CHURCH LUNCHEON – SEPTEMBER 10, 2014

Church Luncheon (formerly called “Women's Luncheon”) will take place at Santo's Italian Restaurant, 7565 Pearl Road in Middleburg Heights, on Wednesday, Sept. 10, at 11:30 a.m. We changed the name because now both women and men attend! We will meet at the church at 11:00 a.m. to carpool. Drivers are needed. All are welcome. Please call Lola to make your reservation, (440) 238-3037.

Strongsville United Church of Christ presents

*Wine Tasting Fundraiser*

September 12, 2014  
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Donation \$40.00  
Reservations Only

Support the United Church of Christ and have an elegant evening out

Wine Tasting & Hors D'oeuvres

Located at  
The Parsonage  
2214 Substation Road  
(Corner of Substation and Sleepy Hollow)  
Medina, OH 44256  
440-465-8665

Call 440-238-6697 for reservations

Strongsville United Church of Christ will present a Wine Tasting Fundraiser on Friday, September 12, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the parsonage. Reservations are needed. The requested donation is \$40 per person. Tickets are available for purchase after worship on Sundays, or you may call the church to arrange to get your tickets, (440) 238-6697.

# Strongsville U.C.C. Sunday School

presents

## BOX LUNCH AUCTION

on Rally Day Sunday, September 7

Following the 10 a.m. Worship Service



**Bring a lunch or lunches to auction  
and come ready to bid!**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Kids' Lunches

Family Lunches

Gourmet Lunches

Ready-to-eat Lunches

Brown Bag Lunches

Take Home Lunches

in a box, bag, basket, carton, tub, or container

**Fundraiser for**

**Strongsville U.C.C. Sunday School Programs**



### KIDS FOR CHRIST CLUB!! (KFC)



Our KFC Club has gotten off to a wonderful start! Our plans for the upcoming school year are in motion and we look forward to the new Penny Sundays. Rally Day will be upon us soon and a brand new school year! Our September meeting will be held Sunday, September 28. Look for details to follow!



### MISSION AND OUTREACH AND YOU!

The Mission and Outreach Committee would like to extend an invitation to one or two more members who are interested in furthering our committee's goal of helping those near and far. We meet the first Tuesday of



each month, usually at church, but we've been known to meet at Houlihan's and have cookouts for our meetings too! Life is too short to not have good food and fun while also discussing important matters. ☺

In conjunction with Rally Sunday, Sunday School, and the KFC Club, our Committee will be assisting efforts to start "Penny Sundays" at our church. Look for information to come soon! And start saving those pennies!

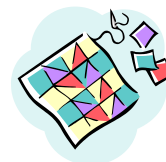
We continue as a committee and a church to support Caroline Y. in India. We are looking into continuing to support Transitional House, monetarily or through our hard work, volunteering where needed. Other plans we hope to put in motion include a community garden and sponsoring not only the current family (the Shavers) but an additional local family.

Parking fundraising this summer went great! We made over \$600. Thank you to all who donated and helped out with that.

### ANOTHER QUILT FROM SKILLED FINGERS

We remember the quilt which Ha Bennett made and was raffled off before Mother's Day. She is a skilled artist, as well as a very generous person, who is now in Viet Nam, her native country, working for a few months with orphan children. She is also a member of the Mission and Outreach Committee.

Before she left this summer (to be back around Christmas), Ha made another queen-size quilt, and asked that we hold another raffle before the Thanksgiving season – a many-colored, intricate work, with a turquoise-blue theme. She spent six weeks on it, an heirloom piece of art. In the next few weeks, raffle tickets may be purchased, the proceeds of which will be used by the Mission and Outreach Committee. Raffle ticket prices are \$10.00 for one, \$15.00 for two. They are available from members of the Committee: Kelly Bickley, Erv Koch, Lora Rung, Elizabeth Snook, and Rev. Becky Stephenson.



## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship will meet on Wednesday, September 3, at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor. The program will be "Vitamins and Minerals – What You Need" presented by Jennifer Nance from Kemper House. Karen Morgan is the hostess and Carol Merkle will lead devotions.

Please bring your own lunch; coffee, tea and dessert will be provided. As always, all ladies are welcome!

## IN SYMPATHY

Our love and prayers are extended in sympathy to Pam Keenen and family on the passing of her father, Gene Curry, on August 27, 2014, in Columbus.



## 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. Please inform the church of updates to this list.*

**Long-Term Care or Homebound Members:** Janet Kato at Western Reserve Masonic Community in Medina, Betty Kovach at Parkside Villa, Debbie Krause, Connie Rebar, Erla Mae Schultz at Medina Village

**Church Family:** Margot James, Dolores Matchett, Michele Mihlack, Barbara Morgan

**Extended Church Family:** Marianne Allwood (niece of Dale Hawk), June Brewer (niece of Ed Powers), Ryan Brubeck, Audrey Curry (mother of Pam Keenen), Zachary Crouse (grandson of Barbara Morgan), Rebecca Deeb (Goddaughter 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)

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Fundraiser for the Pipe Organ Restoration Fund

**Sunday – September 28, 2014**

**8:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.**

All You Can Eat—  
Pancakes, Sausage, Scrambled Eggs,  
Coffee, Tea, Milk, Juice

**\$8.00 Adult – ages 13 and over**

**\$5.00 – ages 6-12**

**Free – Children under 6 years**



## UPDATE FROM LEEK PIPE ORGAN COMPANY

James Leek has submitted the progress report (printed below) to the ORC detailing everything they have accomplished to date on the Choir Restoration and Bellows Installation.

James and his staff continue to remain in close contact with Jim Heinrich and members of the ORC as the work continues. As indicated in his update, they are on track to have the entire choir restoration completed by the end of September, at which time we will once again be able to use the entire organ during our worship service. Thanks to all our church members for their continued support of this restoration.



*The bellows installation is completed per contract, and the bellows are operational. As to the Choir Division Restoration, per the contract, we have re-leathered all the pouch boards for the Choir Main Chest in the workshop and the chests have been cleaned. All chest magnets have been replaced with new units and the magnet boards have new gasket leather installed. New cable has been installed to all of these chests. The expression machine has been rebuilt. New Direct Valve electric magnets for the Cornopean and the Gedeckt offset chests have been installed. The stop action for the choir main chest is controlled by the solid state switching and this is functional. We are currently working on rebuilding the Tremolo and two offset chests at the shop. Next week we will be pulling out the wooden pipes that need the stoppers repacked and taking them to the shop for work. We have begun testing the components that have been reinstalled so far and this will continue through the end of the month. Jim Heinrich and myself had mutually agreed on the completion of the work at the end of the September because of the additional work that was contracted.*

*We are currently on track for meeting the end of September deadline for completion of the Choir Division Restoration.*

*Sincerely,  
James Leek*

## ATTENTION CHILDREN!

A new **Children's Choir** is being formed. Rehearsals begin Tuesday, September 9. 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!



Also—children can play instruments with the Praise Band on Sunday mornings! Elena will work with those interested.



### Children's Rehearsals on Tuesdays

6:00 P.M. – Instruments      7:00 P.M. Singing Choir

## IF YOU LIKE TO SING IN THE SHOWER OR IF YOU'VE BEEN WONDERING . . .

**Can I be in the Choir, Bell Choir or Praise Band?**  
YES, you can be in any of these ensembles!

**Do I have to be able to read music?**  
NO, you don't have to know how to read music!

**If I'm a little rusty – or – if I've not been involved  
in performing music, can I get some help?**  
YES, we will help you!

**Do I have to buy my own choir robe?**  
NO! Plus—a nice, comfortable choir chair is provided!!!!

**Can children be in Praise Band  
on Sunday mornings?**  
Yes! Elena will work with children who want  
to play instruments with Praise Band.

If you'd like to participate in Strongsville UCC's Music Ministry, we'd love to have you! Please see our Music Director, Andrew Purdum, or our Worship Accompanist, Elena Taylor, after church on Sunday morning for more information.

A new music season begins on **Thursday, August 28**. We welcome you to join us!

## Strongsville UCC's Music Ministry wants YOU!



## 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 August 17, 2014

*Happy Birthday to Madison Wentz on August 22  
With love from Grammy*

### Week of August 24, 2014

*Happy Birthday today to Nate Johnson and  
Happy 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday today to Joe Craig  
With love, Mom*

*In Honor of Rhea Clements' Birthday on August 28  
Becky and Bill*

**Thank you to all who light our steeple!**



## HAVE YOUR SHIRT EMBROIDERED

with the  
**Strongsville UCC "God Is Still Speaking" Logo**

In the Gathering Area is a sample shirt with the logo. To have your shirt embroidered, the cost is \$8.00. The shirt's left chest area must be free of seams, embroidery, and pockets. Shirts made of cotton, polyester or a blend are ideal. Leather and silk are not good fabrics for embroidering. To order embroidery, please provide your own shirt, your name, your phone number, and payment (cash or checks payable to *Excellence in Embroidery*) to the church office.

For questions or special requests, please email:  
[excellenceinembroidery@gmail.com](mailto:excellenceinembroidery@gmail.com)

