

**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**

# SEPTEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

## WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

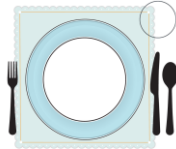
<p><b>SEPTEMBER 6</b>  <i>Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i></p> <p><b>Scriptures:</b> Mark 7:24-37</p> <p><b>Sermon:</b>  <i>Ask and Receive</i></p> <p><b>Communion  at Both Services</b></p> 	<p><b>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M.</b></p> <p><b>Liturgist:</b> Pam Keenen  <b>Greeter:</b> Linda Plain  <b>Usher:</b> Linda Plain  <b>Coffee Hour:</b> Bev Wehr</p>	<p><b>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M.</b></p> <p><b>Liturgist:</b> Jim Nicoulin  <b>Coffee Hour:</b> Bev Wehr  <b>Graphics Operation:</b>  Rosemary Bechtel</p>
<p><b>SEPTEMBER 13</b>  <i>Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i></p> <p><b>Scriptures:</b>  Luke 18:15-17  Proverbs 22:6, 22-25</p> <p><b>Sermon:</b>  <i>The Year of the Child</i></p>	<p><b>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M.</b>  <b>RALLY DAY</b> for Sunday School,  Chancel Choir Returns</p> <p><b>Liturgist:</b> Kenn Oerkfitz  <b>Greeter:</b> Bev Wehr  <b>Usher:</b> Bev Wehr  <b>Coffee Hour:</b> Gina Cathcart</p>	<p><b>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M.</b></p> <p><b>Liturgist:</b> Barb Fraunfelder  <b>Coffee Hour:</b> Gina Cathcart  <b>Graphics Operation:</b>  Lori Kovatich</p>
<p><b>SEPTEMBER 20</b>  <i>Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost</i></p> <p><b>Scriptures:</b>  2 Samuel 22:50-51  Psalm 117:1 and 7</p> <p><b>Sermon:</b>  <i>Sing Out Loud</i></p>	<p><b>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M.</b>  <b>GOSPEL SUNDAY</b></p> <p><b>Liturgist:</b> Bill Schneider  <b>Greeter:</b> Needed  <b>Ushers:</b> Needed  <b>Coffee Hour:</b> Ginny Oerkfitz</p>	<p><b>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M.</b></p> <p><b>Liturgist:</b> Jack Stephenson  <b>Coffee Hour:</b> Ginny Oerkfitz  <b>Graphics Operation:</b>  Michele Mhlack</p>
<p><b>SEPTEMBER 27</b>  <i>Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i></p> <p><b>Scriptures:</b>  James 5:13-20</p> <p><b>Sermon:</b>  <i>When Pigs Fly</i></p> <p><b>ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT PANCAKE BREAKFAST</b>  Fundraiser for Our Pipe Organ's Restoration  9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall  <i>(Please see page 7 for details.)</i></p>	<p><b>TRADITIONAL 9:45 A.M.</b></p> <p><b>Liturgist:</b> Sarah Hayes  <b>Greeter:</b> Ginny Dangelo  <b>Ushers:</b> Roy Merkle</p>	<p><b>CONTEMPORARY 11:15 A.M.</b></p> <p><b>Liturgist:</b> Tom Gaumer  <b>Greeter:</b> Ginny Dangelo  <b>Graphics Operation:</b>  Rosemary Bechtel  <b>Usher:</b> Ginny Dangelo</p>

## 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 always appreciated – please talk with Pastor Becky or call the church, (440) 238-6697.



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## THE THRIFT SHOP

Our final bag sale of 2015 will be held on Thursday, September 3, in The Thrift Shop. This year the bags were donated to the shop by Heinen's Grocery here in Strongsville.

You may fill a bag to the top for only \$5. You will be amazed how many items you can put into a bag! We ask that greeting cards and jewelry not be placed in the bags. We will be open Thursday, September 3, from 10 to 4. Stop in to visit, to donate or to fill a bag.

The shop will be closed from September 4 to September 16. During that time the shop will be thoroughly cleaned and restocked with fall and winter items, including Halloween décor and costumes. If you are available during that time to help, please contact Lola Millhoane. It's a huge job, and help is always appreciated.

The shop will then reopen Thursday, September 17, with the new fall line of fashions.



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## CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

**Friday – September 4, 2015  
and  
Labor Day Monday – September 7, 2015**

The church answering machine will be checked for messages.

## 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.



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## NEWS FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

The following are two monthly reports that list the budget income we need to receive from Pledges and Offerings and the amount actually received. The first report below did not appear in the August Newsletter because the Financial Secretary was on vacation.

This information also appears weekly in our Sunday worship bulletin.

### For June 28 through July 19, 2015

Offering Needed:	\$12,760
Offering Received: (June 28 through July 19)	12,375
Traditional:	\$11,579
Contemporary:	\$796
Difference	(385)

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### For July 26 through August 16, 2015

Offering Needed:	\$12,760
Offering Received: (July 26 through August 16)	10,908
Traditional:	\$9,867
Contemporary:	\$1,041
Difference	(\$1,852)

Barb Fraunfelder



**OFFICIAL BOARD**  
**Special Meeting on August 6**

The Official Board held a special meeting on August 6, 2015, to focus on plans for "The Year of the Child". After much discussion and help from Pastor Becky, we made the realization that the youth group, along with the Sunday school and KFC, needs to be renewed with a structured plan. Therefore, a motion was made to LOOK into establishing a job description for a Youth Leader / Christian Education teacher. A committee to look into writing up a job description was formed, and members of the finance committee will research obtaining the funds to support this part-time position. In the near future, I hope to have a Congregational Meeting to discuss this issue and hope for a vote to support the hiring of a dedicated person for the position.

If our church is able to obtain a Youth Leader and maintain a structured plan, this will help bring in young families and their children. How great this would be to have a place for our youth to gather and do many activities within the church and outside the church.

Until then, we will start having activities for the youth in high school, middle school and elementary school. On Sunday, September 13, Pastor Becky and Jack will host a pool party for high school age students at their home starting at 2:00 p.m.; and the following Sunday, September 20 the same event will be held at the same place and time for middle school/junior high age students.

I hope the younger students enjoyed Family Fun Day, hosted by the Christian Education Committee, on Saturday, August 22, under the "Big Tent".

Please read your bulletins and newsletters for more activities within the church. If you have any questions on anything, please do not hesitate to call me at 216-401-8738 or email me at [davekimmckenzie@cox.net](mailto:davekimmckenzie@cox.net).

God bless all.

Kim McKenzie  
Moderator

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**FAMILY FUN DAY**

Our third annual Family Fun Day took place on Saturday, August 22, outside—under our church tent. The weather was wonderful! Free hot dogs, chips, popcorn, lemonade, and ice pops were served. Activities for the children included crafts, Balloon Bender Dave, and the Bounce House. A gift bag was given to each child, and the children had a great time!



THANK YOU to all who supported Family Fun Day in any way.

**RALLY DAY**

**For Sunday School**

**September 13, 2015 – during 9:45 A.M. Worship**



Children and teachers will meet in Pilgrim Hall at **9:30 A.M.** Classes will sit together in the service. **The annual offering for Sunday School will be received.** An offering envelope is enclosed with the paper copy of this newsletter, and additional envelopes are in the pew racks at church. This special annual offering helps to defray the cost of the Sunday School curriculum.

**Sunday School Staff for 2015-2016**

Aimée Jannsohn, Pre-School Teacher  
Jamie Habart, Primary Teacher  
Lora Rung and Sue Gigliotti, Intermediate Teachers with  
Dan Davis, Assistant  
Irene Joyce, Post-Confirmation Teacher  
Jim Joyce, Financial Secretary  
Irene Jannsohn, Treasurer

Please join us for the start of a new and exciting Sunday School year!

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**YOUTH PARTIES**

In an attempt to grow our Youth Group, Pastor Becky and Jack Stephenson will graciously host two youth parties at their home:

**Senior High Youth**

Rally Day Sunday – September 13 – 2:00 p.m.

**Junior High / Middle School Youth**

Sunday – September 20 – 2:00 p.m.

All youth **and their friends** in these age groups are invited and encouraged to attend their respective party. Activities will include swimming in a heated pool, hot tubbing, fishing in a large pond stocked with bass, volleyball, corn hole, and a meal of hamburgers and hot dogs.

Personal invitations will be mailed to the youth in our church. All youth and their friends are welcome!



## STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Peter wrote in I Peter 4:10: "Each of you use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's word."

It is a joy to see this happening here at Strongsville United Church of Christ during this last year. I observed this outpouring when the Free Lunch Program was begun. Many volunteers led by Betty Craig came forward to help with preparation, setup, and serving. What great Christian fellowship this provides.

I saw it again when it was decided to upgrade the Gathering Area. Kay Konicek helped design, and Dan Masuga and Cheryl and Ed Sobek stepped up to re-design and paint the area and also paint the Parlor later. What a difference it adds to the coming and going of members and visitors.

I recognized it again when I saw the flowers blooming around the church. I discovered that Melinda Slavik and Kathie Paul did the planting and continue to weed and water. What a great impression it gives to the community.

If you haven't noticed, we have a white cross, provided by George and Joyce Reed, on the front of the building and mounted by Jim Heinrich, who also cleaned the kitchen area flat roof of debris and rewired the nonworking parking lot light so that it now lights. These specific events, along with the many people who serve on boards and committees, help our church move forward, serve the community, and serve one another. If you see something that needs to be done and can share your gift [talent] talk to Pastor Becky, Sharon Heinrich or a chairman of one of the boards or committees. (See the list of chairmen on the right column of this page.)

By the way, as we use our talents to serve others, we get a warm feeling that we have accomplished something, that makes us feel better also.

Kenn Oerkfitz

*Our Congratulations  
to Denise and Erhardt Bell  
on the birth of their daughter,  
Madison Rebecca,  
on Saturday, July 25, 2015!*



## CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

(in alphabetical order)

and their chairmen or contact persons

- 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

## RECYCLING NEWS

The River Valley Paper Company picked up—

**May – 6,820 lbs.** of recycled material at \$25 per ton for a total payment of \$85.26.

**June - 6,590 lbs.** of recycled material at \$25 per ton for a total payment of \$82.39.

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

	<b>MAY, 2015</b> <b>Our 6,820 lbs.</b> <b>of recycled</b> <b>paper saved:</b>	<b>JUNE, 2015</b> <b>Our 6,590 lbs.</b> <b>of paper</b> <b>saved:</b>
<b>WE SAVED:</b>		
Trees	57.97	56.02
Pounds of CO2	852.5	823.75
Cubic yards of landfill space	11.25	10.87
Gallons of water	23,870	23,065
Kilowatts of electricity	13,981	13,509.5
Homes heated for 6 months	3.41	3.3
Pounds of air pollutants	204.6	197.7

**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).

Barb Fraunfelder, Financial Secretary

## 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:

September 6 – 1 vase  
October 25 – 2 vases  
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 sign-up 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.

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## ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK



For our church's 200<sup>th</sup> 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.

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## MISSION COMMITTEE Veteran Project Update

With help from the Congregation, we have raised over \$1,300 to fund the Help A Veteran Program in conjunction with Church Street Ministries. Mr. Radford, the first Veteran we have been able to help, has selected his furniture and was very appreciative of our help. We are currently working on helping a second Veteran who has a wife and six children in need.

Thank you to everyone who has opened their hearts to help give back to our Veterans.



## JOURNEY IN FAITH Membership Class

Pastor Becky will teach a Journey in Faith class that will meet on Mondays for 11 weeks beginning 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 register, please mark your Attendance Card, tell Pastor Becky, call the Church Office, or see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall.



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## PIG ROAST and \$750.00 REVERSE RAFFLE Fund Raiser

**When:** Saturday, October 3, 2015

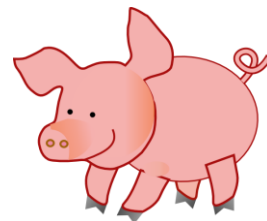
**Time:** 5:30 p.m.

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

**Location:** At the Church

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

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





## KFC PENNY SUNDAYS

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



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## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 2, is canceled. The next meeting will take place next month on Wednesday, October 7, at 10:00 a.m.

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## IN SYMPATHY

Our love and prayers are extended in sympathy to the family and friends of Nancy Cochran on the occasion of her passing on August 9, 2015. The funeral took place in our sanctuary on August 14.



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## STEEPLE LIGHTING

### Week of August 16, 2015

*Happy Anniversary to Bill and Pam Craig  
on August 19, and*

*Happy Birthday to Madison Wentz on August 22  
With love, Mom / Grammy*

### Week of August 23, 2015

*Happy Birthday on August 24  
to Joe Craig and to Nate Johnson  
With love, Mom*

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, 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 at Medina Hospital, 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), 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)

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## STRONGSVILLE FOOD BANK

The Food Bank has a hard time during the summer months with donations. Please think of what you can bring to our church to help. Right now they are requesting canned fruit, but any and all donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your food donations.



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## 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.

If greeting and/or ushering is new to you, please call the church office, 440-238-6697, and we will arrange for someone to help you learn the responsibilities involved.

## BELL CHOIR

Hi Past, Present and Future Bell Ringers!

It's time to plan to begin our year of Bell Ringing!!! We'll start **on THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2015, at 7:00 P.M.** We'll continue to practice at the SUCC, on the second floor.

Our schedule is like before:

- Weekly rehearsals on Thursday evenings: 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Present music at the 9:45 am worship service about once a month to every 6 weeks.
- We play the Anthem, Introit and Benediction Response.
- We also play for special occasions and services.

It is best if you have some experience in reading music – either instrumental or vocal. Learning to ring the bell is easy!!

Please let me know if you will be able to join us! I'm looking forward to an exciting year of bell ringing!



Barb Fraunfelder  
Bell Choir Director  
440-331-3673  
[bfraunfelder@ameritech.net](mailto:bfraunfelder@ameritech.net)

## All-You-Can-Eat PANCAKE BREAKFAST

*Fundraiser for the  
Pipe Organ Restoration Fund*

**Sunday –September 27, 2015  
9:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.**

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

\$8.00 Adult – Ages 13 and over  
\$5.00 – Ages 6-12 years  
Free – Children under 6 years



## CHANCEL CHOIR



Our Chancel Choir has been on summer hiatus and will resume rehearsals on Thursday evenings at 8:00 p.m., beginning September 3. The Chancel Choir provides music for the Traditional Worship Service at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday morning.

Their first Sunday singing in church will be Rally Day, September 13. For information about the Chancel Choir, please see our Chancel Choir director, Joshua Konow, on Sunday morning.

## PRAISE BAND

Our Praise Band provides contemporary music for the 11:15 Service on Sunday morning. The band plays throughout the year and rehearses at 8:00 p.m. every Wednesday evening. For more information, please see our Praise Band director, Elena Taylor.



## CHILDREN'S MUSIC

**Children's Choir** rehearsals are held on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. and will resume on September 2.

**Children's Instrumental** rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. and will resume on September 3.

All school age children are welcome to the children's music programs. For more information, please see their director, Elena Taylor.



## MUSIC MINISTRY PARTY

If you're thinking about being part of our music program, you are very much encouraged to join us at our **"kickoff" music party at the parsonage on Saturday, September 12, at 2:00 p.m.**

Music is an enriching and joyful experience, and we invite you to be part of our music ministry team!

