

**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  
**Worship at 10:00 A.M. on Sunday**  
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# SEPTEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

## WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**SEPTEMBER 4 – SUNDAY**  
**10:00 A.M.**

*Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

**Sacrament of Communion**



**Scriptures:** Luke 14:25-33

**Sermon:** "I Surrender All"

**Liturgist:** Kelly Bickley

**Greeter:** Linda Plain

**Announcements:** Sally Herzog

**Graphics Operation:** Michele Mihlack

**Ushers:** Linda Plain

**Coffee Hour:** Volunteer Needed

**Summer Sunday School:** Irene Joyce

**SEPTEMBER 11 – SUNDAY**  
**10:00 A.M.**

*Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost*

**Rally Day for Sunday School**

**Special Offering for Sunday School**

**Box Lunch Auction Fundraiser for  
Sunday School, after worship**

**Photos Taken After Church for Directory**

**Scriptures:** Proverbs 3:1-2

**Sermon:** "Remember My Teachings"

**Liturgist:** Kenn Oerkfitz

**Return of Chancel Choir  
after Summer Hiatus**

**Greeter:** Dorothy Ritchie

**Announcements:** Irene Joyce

**Graphics Operation:** Michele Mihlack

**Ushers:** Volunteers Needed

**Coffee Hour:** Volunteer Needed

**SEPTEMBER 18 – SUNDAY**  
**10:00 A.M.**

*Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

**Scriptures:** 1 Timothy 2:1-7

**Sermon:** "Peace, Peace"

**Liturgist:** Bruce Keenen

**Greeter:** Gina Cathcart

**Announcements:** Natalie Daniels

**Graphics Operation:** Michele Mihlack

**Ushers:** Volunteers Needed

**Coffee Hour:** Volunteer Needed

**SEPTEMBER 25 - SUNDAY**  
**10:00 A.M.**

*Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

**Newsletter Pickup**

**Photos Taken After Church for Directory**

**Scriptures:** Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

**Sermon:** "Trust in the Future"

**Liturgist:** Michele Mihlack

**Greeters:** Lynne McCray, Sharon Heinrich

**Announcements:** Denise Bell

**Graphics Operation:** Lori Kovatich

**Ushers:** Volunteers Needed

**Coffee Hour:** Volunteer Needed

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

I know that many of you are asking, "Ok, what happens now that Pastor Becky has announced her retirement date?" Let me assure you that life at the church will continue to be exciting and fulfilling. We will do all the wonderful ministries we have been doing over the years. You can look forward to a strong music and worship experience. There will be one service at 10:00 a.m. that will follow a similar format as we experienced this summer. There will be something for everyone in the service. I truly believe that our diversity is our strength when we join in one body to worship our Lord.

The activities of the church will still continue. I look forward to the concert series, dinners, lunch program, Christmas pageant, open house and many other special events. We will still be active in the ecumenical community and seek to bring all our sister churches together in the love of Christ Jesus.

I will also continue to be very active in caring for the church family. There are several weddings scheduled, and I look forward to baptizing several new brothers and sisters into the community. I will also continue to be available for funerals when needed. Please note that I will not be scheduling weddings beyond December 2017.

We will also continue the Journey in Faith Class this fall and several short-term Bible studies. If you haven't yet taken the Journey in Faith Class, now would be the time to do so.

Within the next several months, the church should begin the process of forming a Search Committee. This committee will go through a great process in finding a new pastor to love the church. I know this process is long and difficult, but it is important for selecting the new pastor. It is also important that everyone participates in the process. If you are asked to be a member of the Search Committee, please do so.

I am also asking for you to come forward and assume the leadership of the church. It is very important that you become active in the ministries of the church. The future of the church is not in the pastor, but rather in the commitment of the members. Your church needs you to get involved in a ministry within the church.

I must admit that after 35+ years of ministry, I am a bit nervous about retiring. I know that retirement for me doesn't mean no more ministry, but rather a new form of ministry. I know at first it will be difficult not to be the regular preacher on Sunday morning. However, it will be interesting to visit other churches; and God willing, I may find some young pastor who might need a bit of support and guidance from an old pastor. I am also looking forward to fishing for fish, instead of men, and on occasion being able to travel to family birthdays and celebrations. I know the Lord is always with me and isn't done with me yet.

In conclusion, I am looking forward to having fun for the remainder of our time together. I'm looking forward to exciting worship, breaking bread together with our beloved congregation, and celebrations of marriages, baptisms and life transitions.

I am so thankful that you all have journeyed through life with me and we will always be family.

Pastor Becky

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## JOURNEY IN FAITH MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Pastor Becky will again teach a Journey in Faith class, that will meet on **Thursdays** for 12 weeks **beginning September 8, 2016**, 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, tell Pastor Becky, call the Church Office at (440) 238-6697, or see the sign-up sheet that is posted on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall.

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## BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Becky will lead a five-week study on the New Testament. The study will take place at the church at 12:00 noon on the five consecutive Tuesdays from September 27 to and including October 25.

More information will be forthcoming.

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## The Thrift Shop

### END-OF-SUMMER BAG SALE

**Sept. 1 – \$7      Sept. 8 – \$7      Sept. 15 – \$6**

*Sept. 22 – Shop is closed for changeover.*

*Sept. 29 – Shop reopens.*

Fill a Brown Paper Bag, which we will supply, with merchandise of your choice.

**Overfill will be charged \$1.00 extra.**

**Excluded** are jewelry and cards.

**NO RETURNS** – Shop Early for Best Selection



## FREE FAMILY FUN DAY

**Saturday – September 10**  
(the day before Rally Day)

**10 A.M. to 2 P.M.**



Bounce House – Crafts – Games – Music – Dancing  
Face Painting – Refreshments – **All are welcome!**

## RALLY DAY FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Sunday – September 11, 2016**

Children will sit together in worship. Classes will be introduced. **A special offering will be received to help defray the cost of our Sunday School curriculum.**

Enclosed with this newsletter is an offering envelope. Additional envelopes are in the sanctuary pews.

## BOX LUNCH AUCTION

*Fundraiser for Sunday School*

**Rally Day Sunday – September, 11, 2016 – 11:30 A.M.**



Box Lunches are a fun auction event everyone can enjoy! You get to be creative making up box lunches and donating them to be auctioned off, and then bidding to win the meals others have made is just as fun! If you're donating a box lunch, you bring it to church that Sunday morning. After church, the box lunch treasures are displayed for everyone to see and choose their favorites. Once the auction starts, the auctioneer reads the description of the lunch (that you have written and attached to your lunch) which tells the delicious meal you've created, and your name. As the bidding increases, so does the fun and fellowship, and all funds raised will go to our Sunday School. Once you win a box luncheon during the auction, you can eat it there, or take it home for later if you prefer. Some box ideas lunches that we've all enjoyed in the past include:

- A simple kids' meal of a sandwich, fruit, a juice box, and maybe a small toy or two
- Chips and a sub sandwich or homemade tuna salad sandwich or ham salad sandwich
- Dinners of your favorite homemade dish, and maybe side dishes for a heat-and-eat meal at home
- Fun Movie Night meals with pop, movie tickets and some popcorn
- Baskets with goodies, sweets, or fruits, bottle of wine
- Homemade soup
- Cakes and pies always keep the auction lively!
- New and creative box lunch ideas are always enjoyable – be the first to create something different!

Come to enjoy the auction, win some wonderful food, and have a great time together, too!

## BIRTH



*Congratulations to Bill and Deborah Schneider  
on the birth of their daughter,  
Autumn Lilly Rae, on August 9, 2016!*

## FITNESS CLUB

Fitness Club is up and running and wants YOU to come and take care of that temple God gave you! All levels of fitness and ages are welcome. You can go at your own pace. Don't neglect your body; it's the only one you get!



Our NEW DATES will be on Wednesday evenings starting Wednesday, August 31, at 7:00 p.m. We will then meet September 7, 14, 21, and 28. See you there!!!

Kelly Bickley

## 200TH ANNIVERSARY CHURCH COOKBOOK NOW ON SALE



The cookbook is at the printer, and we expect to receive it in late September. Only 200 books were ordered. Beginning August 28, Joyce Reed, Dianne Maringer, and Marty Winch will take pre-orders because we anticipate high interest in what will probably be

the last paper copy of this special edition cookbook. Price per book is \$12; mailing the book will incur an additional \$3 per book. Pre-payment is appreciated when you order. However, if you prefer just to pre-order, payment is due upon delivery of the cookbook.

## S.U.C.C. BOWLING CLUB

Ladies! Please join our Tuesday Varieties Bowling Club at Fairview Lanes on Tuesdays at noon. We are looking for a few ladies to get together for some light exercise, lots of fellowship, and a little bowling, too. You do not have to be a good bowler, and you do not have to have your own bowling ball or shoes. We would love to have you as a part of our fun gang on Tuesday afternoons. Please see Irene Joyce or Irene Jannsohn if you are interested. We start September 6!



## 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, (440) 238-6697.*

**Long-Term Care or Homebound Members:** Eric Brand, Betty Bushea, Margot James, Ethyl Jeglie at Elmcroft of Sagamore Hills, Janet Kato at Western Reserve Masonic Community in Medina, Betty Kovach at Parkside Villa, Dolores Mhlack (mother of Allen) at Southern Hills, Harvey Pincombe, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields (friend of Pastor Becky), Doris Soucie, Trudie Taylor (sister of Karen Morgan) at Royal Oak Nursing and Rehab Center

**Church Family:** Chris Morgan, Pam Peacock, Denzil Richards, Melinda Slavik, Leah Tressa Forget, Kyle Woodward

**Extended Church Family:** Bri Brostek (friend of Gina Cathcart), Ryan Brubeck, Thom Cerny (friend of Bob Kovatich), Dylan Churnega (grandson of Ginny Churnega Oerkfitz), Zachary Crouse (grandson of Barbara Morgan), Audrey Curry (mother of Pam Keenen), Angie Dickinson (friend of Lola Millhoane), Edie Deitcher (friend of Barbara O'Boyle), Kim Filiautraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Irene Hagemeyer (niece of Betty Craig), Dan Karoly (friend of The Thrift Shop ladies), Sue Mason, Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Debbie Morey (sister of Steve Herzog), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Keith Stewart (cousin of Carol Woodward), Bob Tomko (cousin of Ed Sobek), Kathleen Wickline (mother of Darla)

## GARAGE SALE

A **BIG THANK YOU** to all who donated items for the Garage Sale on August 6 and to all who supported and helped with the Garage Sale in any way! The profit was \$1,238.75.

The Thrift Shop was open on the day of the Garage Sale and made \$149.81.

## KITCHEN CLEANING

**Join the fun on Saturday  
September 24 – 9 A.M.!**

To help, please sign up on Pilgrim Hall's bulletin board. Thank you!



Mark Your Calendars for the Annual

## HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Sunday – November 20 – 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.  
Sign-up sheet is on Pilgrim Hall's bulletin board.

## IN SYMPATHY



Our love and prayers are extended in sympathy to Bruce Keenen and family on the passing of his mother, Phyllis Keenen, on Wednesday, August 10, 2016. The funeral took place on Saturday, August 13, in Pickerington, Ohio.

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The memorial service for our church friend, Frieda Kara, will be held on Saturday, September 3, at 10:00 a.m. at the Strongsville United **Methodist** Church. After burial at Strongsville Cemetery, a luncheon will be held at the **Methodist** Church. Frieda attended our public dinners and other special events at our church.

## CHURCH STREET MINISTRIES

The Executive Board of Church Street Ministries has moved to consolidate the two stores (East and West) at the West location at 1480 W. Bagley Road. This consolidation is to reduce overhead and put CSM on a better financial footing. The west location will now be known as The Second Mile Shop and will receive all donations of clothing, furniture and household goods. The Food Pantry and outreach center will remain at 398 W. Bagley Road, Suite 12. Please spread the word about our new location. The former West Furniture Store has been remodeled and is now open for business. It has many nice household furnishings from the former East Store. Please come and check us out! We welcome donations of good usable home furnishings, furniture and clothing.

Sandy Uhl, Secretary, CSM Executive Board

## COFFEE HOUR DONATIONS

Donations for Coffee Hour are very important. While the pastry, bagels, and bread are free—the coffee, tea, creamers, sweeteners, butter, and cream cheese cost money, as do the napkins, plastic bags and carry-out containers. So when you are enjoying that cup of coffee or tea with some goodies, please consider what they may cost elsewhere and donate to the cause. Thank you.

## THANK YOU

*On behalf of my entire family, I want to thank you for your cards and emails of sympathy on the occasion of my mother's recent passing. She had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's several years ago. She had not recognized us for the past 2-3 years. She died quietly and without pain. Your prayers and concern are appreciated.*

*Bruce Keenen*

*I wish to thank everyone for their cards, phone calls, thoughts, and prayers. I really appreciate everything.*

*Betty Bushea*

## NEWS FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Lori Kovatich

Recycling

The River Valley Paper Company picked up :

**May – 3,930 lbs.** of recycled material at \$15 per ton for a total payment **\$29.48.**

**June – 3,510 lbs.** of recycled material at \$15 per ton for a total payment of **\$26.34.**

**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.

The weight of cardboard is not as much as paper. If boxes are not collapsed, they take up valuable space; so PLEASE collapse boxes before placing them in the recycling bin.

**FUN FACTS** – There are 400 paper mills in the U.S.— 80% of them use some form of recycled fibers! The first paper mill was built by the Spanish in Mexico City in 1575.

WE SAVED:	May 2016 Our 3,930 lbs. of paper aved:	June 2016 Our 3,510 lbs. of paper saved:
Trees	33.41	29.84
Pounds of CO2	491.25	438.75
Cubic yards of landfill space	6.48	5.79
Gallons of water	13,755	12,285
Kilowatts of electricity	8,056.50	7,195.50
Homes heated for 6 months	1.97	1.76
Pounds of air pollutants	117.9	105.3

### THANK YOU for RECYCLING!!

Below is a monthly report listing the budget income we need to receive from Pledges and Offerings and the amount received from July 24 through August 21, 2016. This information also appears on a weekly basis in our worship bulletin.

Offering Needed \$19,500 for 5 Sundays @ \$3,900/week  
Offering Received 12,604  
 Difference - \$6,896

**Giving statements** were distributed in August. Those not passed out will be mailed at the beginning of September. If you do not get your statement by mid-September, please call Lori at (440) 238-3938.

## STEEPLE LIGHTING

### WEEK OF AUGUST 14, 2016

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

*In Gratitude for the Life of Betty Kircher,  
 the Brightest Light in All of Our Lives!*  
 The Kircher Family

### WEEK OF AUGUST 21, 2016

*Happy Birthday to Madison Wentz on August 22*  
*Happy Birthday to Joe Craig and Nate Johnson*  
 on August 24

With love, Gramm and Mom

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 details, please call the church, 440-238-6697. Thank you to all who light the steeple.



### ADULT SOCIAL CLUB



The club will go to Blossom Music Center on Saturday, September 3, at 8:30 p.m. to see *Raiders of the Lost Ark* on the big screen, with the score

performed live by the Cleveland Orchestra. If you're interested, please contact Adria or Eddy Bond **now**, who will work on a group rate (for 10 or more) and/or a rate for Seniors. Price would be either \$44.20 or \$28.20 per ticket for a seat in the Pavilion, with fireworks (weather permitting) after the concert. We will carpool; or if there is enough interest, we may rent a "Party Bus."

Also, we also are planning the following events (more details to follow):

- 1) **Lolly the Trolley Tour** – sometime Mid-September to early October
- 2) **Clam Bake** – Saturday, October 15
- 3) **Bus Trip to Lancaster PA** to see the Sight and Sound Biblical Theatre – sometime in October or early November
- 4) **Stan Hywett Mansion** to see the Christmas lights and enjoy the music
- 5) **December 16 (Friday)** – An early **dinner** somewhere in Strongsville and then to the church to hear the Strongsville City Jazz Swing Band Christmas Concert
- 6) **Potluck / Game Night** – January

Thanks and again let me know if you are interested in Blossom. All adults are welcome!

Adria and Eddy Bond  
 Phone (440) 572-5871 or Email ad.bond@sbcglobal.net

## CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

For those who have not yet scheduled their photos to be taken, pictures will be taken on the Sundays of **September 11 and 25** after church. Smile!

