



SEPTEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 3 – 10:00 A.M.

The Sacrament of Communion



Guest Minister: Rev. Mendle Adams

Liturgist: Bill Schneider

Greeter: Linda Plain

Usher: Linda Plain

Summer Sunday School: Sharon Heinrich

Coffee Hour: Myron Costin

SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 10 – 10:00 A.M.

*Rally Day for Sunday School
Special Offering for Sunday School*



Guest Minister: Rev. Oommen Thomas

Liturgist: Bruce Keenen

Greeters: The Clotworthy Family

Usher: Roy Merkle

Coffee Hour: Michele and Allen Mihlack

SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 17 – 10:00 A.M.

Guest Speaker: Atal RM Aryan – *Please see page 3.*

Liturgist: Kenn Oerkfitz

Greeters: Allen and Michele Mihlack

Ushers: Volunteers Needed

Coffee Hour: Ted and Kelly Bickley

SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 24 – 10:00 A.M.

Guest Minister: Rev. Larry Craig

Liturgist: Ted Bickley

Greeters: The Rolland Family

Ushers: Volunteers Needed

Coffee Hour: Volunteers Needed

UPDATE FROM YOUR PULPIT SEARCH COMMITTEE

Your Pulpit Search Committee has continued to meet weekly and finished our church profile. Thank you to all who completed the demographic survey; we received responses from approximately 68 family units. These responses have been tabulated and incorporated into the church profile. The Committee presented the completed profile for final review to the Official Board at its July meeting, and it was approved to send on to the UCC Conference. We will continue the process.

This process will be ongoing for many months and we would ask to renew our request for prayers as we diligently proceed in searching out God's will and finding our new minister to lead us. We are grateful for the support the congregation has shown us for the very important task to which we have been entrusted. Our church continues to be strong and vibrant even in this time of transition, our deepest gratitude to all for being a part of that.

Please do not hesitate to bring any questions or concerns to any one of us.

Your Pulpit Search Committee

Ted Bickley, Judy Carte, Kristen Clotworthy,
Jim Dettmer, Ingrid Dickson, Sally Herzog, Bill Schneider

STRONGSVILLE UCC



**Saturday, September 9, 2017
9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.**

The Thrift Shop will be open.
Sunday School will hold a bake sale and sell hot dogs.

Help is needed! Please assist **anytime** during these hours:
Wednesday 7-9pm, Thursday 7-9pm, Friday 7-9pm,
Saturday beginning at 8am to about 3:30pm

HEADLINE NEWS

Early 2000's

The Endowment Fund was established. This fund was created to continue the ministry of the church. Income from the Endowment is used for this purpose. Air conditioning was installed for the first time in the sanctuary. New windows and vertical blinds were installed in Pilgrim Hall. In 2007, new front steps, planters, and a memorial cross of engraved bricks were set into the front sidewalk. People could purchase the bricks to be engraved in honor or memory of loved ones. In 2010 the house on Royalton Road that was purchased in 1985 was razed.

STRONGSVILLE UCC 200th ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON Sunday, October 15, 2017, 1:00 p.m. at the Strongsville Rec Center

Tickets are available for purchase in Pilgrim Hall from either Joyce Reed or Dianne Maringer each Sunday through September 10.

Seating is limited; we recommend you get your tickets as soon as possible.

Ticket prices are

\$15 for Adults \$10 for Children (6-12 years).

Luncheon Menu

Carved Roast Beef, Chicken Marsala with Sauce,
Penne Pasta with Marinara Sauce,
Roasted Red Potatoes, Au Gratin Potatoes,
Green Bean Almondine, Tossed Salad
with a variety of dressings, Cake



What the Church Means to Me! The Anniversary Committee is asking everyone to fill out a paper with what the Strongsville United Church of Christ means to them. Please pick up a sheet in the Gathering Area. We are planning on displaying these prior to the Anniversary Sunday and at the luncheon. They will also be placed in our time capsule. Please take the time to fill one out and leave it in the basket in the Gathering Area. If you have any questions please speak with Rachel Zielinski. Thank you.

200th Anniversary Cookbooks – We still have cookbooks available for purchase. They make great gifts, and your purchase helps support the Anniversary celebration. The current cookbook costs \$12, but we also have some cookbooks from 2006 for \$10 each. Please contact either Dianne Maringer or Joyce Reed if you are interested in purchasing one or more of these books. Thank you!



OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY IN CELEBRATION OF OUR 200TH ANNIVERSARY

In celebration of our 200th Anniversary this year, the church is participating in an Outreach Opportunity to the Strongsville community. After much consideration, the Anniversary Committee contacted the Strongsville Food Bank with the idea of the church providing small \$5.00 Christmas gifts for distribution to those who come to the Food Bank.

Since the Food Bank has gifts for the children of families who come there, the Food Bank suggested we focus on gifts for adults. Therefore, from October 15, 2017, through November 19, 2017, we are asking your support in donating small \$5.00 wrapped Christmas gifts labeled for either a man or woman. A large wrapped Christmas Box will be in the Gathering Area for collecting all gifts.

During the week of November 20, the gifts will be sorted. A holiday greeting message from the church will be attached, along with the history of our church in recognition of our 200th Anniversary. The gifts will be taken to the Food Bank for distribution in December.

Some suggestions for types of gifts to buy are:

- For a man – a small can of shaving cream with a few disposable razors.
- For a woman – hand lotion with a brush or comb, or a small Christmas pin.

You can find other ideas at the local Dollar Store or stores where small samples of products at reasonable prices are available. Anything that is personal and usable would make a great gift.

We know that in the past our church has been very generous in donating items for Tote Bags and the Mitten Tree. As this is a one-time special event, we would greatly appreciate your support in filling the Christmas Box with gifts for adults who come to the Food Bank. Just think how special it will be for those adults to know they were remembered with a gift that was given with love from our church.

Thank you very much for your support of this outreach to the community.

The 200th Anniversary Committee



GUEST SPEAKER ON SEPTEMBER 17

Atal RM Aryan will present the sermon during worship on Sunday, September 17. Below is background information about him:

I came to the U.S.A. in 2010 as a refugee from Afghanistan. I belong to a very poor family. I grew up in Kabul City until I became six. As I remember, like all other children, I started school then, but, unfortunately, I did not stay there for very long. I was at the first grade when my school was destroyed. To protect me, my parents decided to send me far away from the war to the village Mangal to live there with my grandmother and two uncles.

When I became 9 years old I was listening to a Christian radio and met Christian people. Since then, I have been interested to tell other people about Christianity. In Afghanistan, my interest in Christianity led to the negative consequences with the people in the area where I lived, so, finally with my family agreement, I ran away from my home and lived in a different country (Pakistan) close to Afghanistan for about 4 years and then I came to the U.S.A. I was a survivor, but it was my dream to achieve my educational goals and freedom of speech and religion.

Now, my major is chemical engineering, and I work as a cancer researcher at Cleveland State University. I'm a member of Journey Community Church in Cleveland. I recently wrote a book about myself and the religious conflict in my country, and a lot of people liked it. With this book my goal is to introduce my culture to people and let them to be thankful to God for the freedom of religion they have. I want to tell and share my testimony and experiences with them as well.

I spoke at Walton Hills Church of Christ at Cleveland Ohio and Pleasant Hills United Methodist Church. In addition, I will be a speaker on September 9th at Grace Church at Middleburg Heights, OH. I got a lot of encouragement from the members of these churches.

It is my wish to meet new people and believers. I am so grateful to be a guest in your church and share my testimony for about 15-20 minutes.

Atal RM Aryan

THANK YOU

Thank you so much for all the calls, cards and visits during my stay at Concordia at Sumner. Also thank you for all the birthday cards. I received close to 90 cards from friends, family, and members of our congregation. It's a birthday I will always remember. The shingles are getting better but it's a slow process. I have about 75% of my vision back and it's getting better by the day. I am able to walk with a walker and hopefully I will be able to return to church very soon.

Again, my thanks to all.

Betty Babics

MISSION AND OUTREACH NEWS

The Mission and Outreach Committee has several baskets ready for our upcoming "Around the World" silent auction on October 22. You will soon be seeing them on the TVs in Pilgrim Hall and the Gathering Area in the lobby. It has been interesting sharing our ideas. If you have a cultural heritage that you would like to share, let us know. It is an opportunity to share with your family as well. The minimum value is only \$25. Thus far, we have baskets for Poland, Germany, Mexico, Great Britain, China, Italy, and Czechoslovakia. We plan to have two baskets for the children also.

THE THRIFT SHOP

September is a busy time in The Thrift Shop. We call it "change over". We clear the sales floor of all our summer merchandise, thoroughly clean the shop, and stock the shop with fall and winter items.

The shop will be open from 10 to 4 on Thursdays. We supply the bags for the Bag Sale.

Here's our September schedule:

Thursday, September 7 – \$6 Bag Sale

Saturday, September 9 – \$6 Bag Sale during the church Garage Sale

Thursday, September 14 – Shop closed

Thursday, September 21 – Debut of the new fall line

Thursday, September 28 – New fall and winter sale

For safety reasons, please remember when bringing donations to the shop not to block the stairs.



Our love and prayers are extended in sympathy . . .

to the family of Ethyl Jeglie
on the occasion of her passing on August 8, 2017.
Rev. John King officiated at the funeral at the
Donald A. Faulhaber Funeral Home
in Broadview Heights on August 10.

to Len Lane and family on the passing of his wife Bev
on Wednesday, August 16, 2017.

A private graveside service was held on August 22.

to Dave Matchett and family on the passing of his mother
Dolores on July 19, 2017, in West Virginia.

**The memorial for Dolores will be held at 4:00 p.m. on
Saturday, September 9, 2017, in our sanctuary.**

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

We again see members using their talents to help in the operation of our church and its facilities:

Barbara Bridle for helping with chores in the church office on short notice.

Lloyd Bridle saved the church money by cleaning the cracks and caulking the parking lot. Here is a man 85 sitting on the ground running caulking in the cracks. He has since decided that it is too much for him, but perhaps some other younger person could take on the task.

Judy Carte for routinely folding Sunday bulletins on Friday afternoons.

Jim Dettner for cleaning the church kitchen fridge.

Linda Dettmer for removing the coffee and tea stains in our church coffee cups.

Gary Hackett, Rob Toth, and Mike Soltis for providing contemporary music in our worship service almost every Sunday of the year.

Jim Heinrich for ordering and installing five new towel dispensers for the restrooms and the kitchen, thus saving money by using less paper and by using less expensive paper towels.

Kathie Paul (and sometime husband **Gary**) for their continued attention to the flowers and landscaping around the church.

Melina Slavik for sharpening the pencils in the pew racks in the Sanctuary.

If you know of someone who should be recognized for their efforts for our church, please call the church at (440) 238-6697 or email the information to:

strongsvilleucc@gmail.com

We are very happy to acknowledge those who use their talents to help the ministry of our church.

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

What about you? Do you have a talent that you could contribute to the ministry of our church? If you do not know how to start or to whom to speak, here are some ideas for how you can help:

Every Wednesday our church serves a free lunch to about 100 people in the community. We can always use help--especially in the New Year when many current lunch volunteers go south for a few months in the winter.

Now is the time to learn how the free lunch program operates:

- We can always use more help in prep of things. Right now we have only 2 people preparing food. Some prep can be done earlier or even in the evening.
- We need individuals to set up for the meal and clean up afterward.
- Additional servers are needed at times.
- We also need help to run the dishwasher and to dry and store the dishes.
- Beginning in January will need someone to pick up the donations from Panera in the mall and on Route 82 on Monday, and also pick up from Panera on Route 82 on Fridays

Ideally we could have volunteers in any of these areas depending on need. Please talk to Betty Craig, Kenn Oerkfitz, or Sharon Heinrich with questions; or better yet, just show up around 10:00 a.m. any Wednesday.

If you have other talents beside these and would like to use them, please call the church, and we will direct you to the person who will help you to help our church. Thank you for serving!



ADULT SOCIAL CLUB



The Adult Social Club meets the third Wednesday of the month at the church. Their next meeting is Wednesday, September 20, at 7 p.m. All adults are welcome.

CLEVELAND METROPARKS ZOO

Sunday – September 10

Please sign up on the sheet on Pilgrim Hall's bulletin board.

We will carpool and leave after church.

Tram makes two stops—

at top of hill and at bottom of hill.

Adults \$13.25 Seniors (62 and over) \$11.95

THISTLEDOWN

Saturday – October 7

STAN HYWETT MANSION

December – Details to follow.

For more information, please contact Adria Bond at (440) 227-8410 or Eddy Bond at (440) 554-7380.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Summer Sunday School concludes on September 3. We thank our volunteers who taught this summer:

Kelly Bickley, Kristen Clotworthy, Dan Davis,
Ingrid Dickson, Tom Gaumer, Sharon Heinrich,
Charles Jannsohn, Irene Joyce

HELP WANTED – Sunday School Teacher Position Available! Some adorable little girls (Kindergarten-1st Grade) are in need of a teacher for their Sunday School class on Sunday mornings. Won't you be the one to love them and help them learn about Jesus each week? Curriculum is provided. Please see Irene Joyce or Jamie Trinckes if you are willing to be that someone special.

Sunday School Bake Sale will be held at our church Garage Sale on Saturday, September 9, 2017. Please bring your donations of baked goods either Friday evening (9/8) or Saturday morning (9/9) before 9 a.m. Thank you for supporting our church school!

Rally Day is September 10, when a new year begins for Sunday School. A special offering will be received to help defray the cost of our Sunday School curriculum. Enclosed with the paper copy of this newsletter is an offering envelope for Sunday School. For those who get their newsletters by email, Sunday School offering envelopes are in the pew racks. Thank you for your support.

Penny Sunday is September 24. For this month, the collection will benefit Sunday School programs. Thank you for your pennies!



VIEWING CHURCH SERVICES ON THE WEB

To make past services easier to view on the web, we have started a YouTube channel. To access it, go to the <http://strongsvilleucc.com/> website. Click on WORSHIP and then SERVICE VIDEOS. Once you get to YouTube, search for the service you wish to see and click on it. Alternately, you can go directly to YouTube and search for "Strongsville UCC". Most services from the beginning of 2017 have already been uploaded. To see an older service, please contact Jim Heinrich to see if it is available.

STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of August 6, 2017

In Honor of Len and Bev Lane

Week of August 13, 2017

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

In Memory of Ruth Saylor

Week of August 20, 2017

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

With love, Grammy and Mom

Week of August 27, 2017

*Happy 90th Birthday Today to Betty Bushea
Barb Fraunfelder*

*In appreciation to Sarah Keenen
who is always willing to share her talents with us*

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 questions, please call the church, (440) 238-6697. Thank you for lighting the steeple.



UPDATING OUR WEBSITE AND TVs

If you have updates for our church Website or TV screens at church, please inform:

Michele Mihlack 216-324-9799 / m.mihlack@gmail.com
or

Irene Joyce 216-267-5043 / ij3e@sbcglobal.net



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.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Betty Bushea, Margot James, Janet Kato at Kemper House, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

Church Family: Betty Babics, Tom Gaumer, The Grabski/Williams Family, Steve Herzog, Martha Liebert, Michele Mhlack, Eileen Pincomb, Jan Stough, Leah Tressa Forget, Shirley Weinhold, Kyle Woodward

Extended Church Family: Logan Churnega (grandson of Ginny Churnega), Audrey Curry (mother of Pam Keenen), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Diane Mason (friend of Lora Rung), Piper Masuga (granddaughter of Dan and Vicky and great-granddaughter of Lola Millhoane), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Keith Stewart (cousin of Carol Woodward), Frank Toth (father of Rob), Joe Valli (brother-in-law of Vicky and Dan Masuga)

Please provide updates to this list. Thank you.

NEWS FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Adria Bond

The following monthly report lists the budget income we need to receive from Pledges and Offerings and the amount actually received. This information also appears weekly in our Sunday bulletin.

For July 23 to August 13, 2017

Offering Needed \$15,460
Received: July 23 to August 13 12,070
Difference (\$3,390)



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship will meet on Wednesday, September 6, at 10:00 a.m. Randy French from the Strongsville Fire Department will present a program on safety, news, and fire extinguishers. As always, all women are welcome.



After the meeting, all ladies are invited to enjoy the Free Lunch Program in Pilgrim Hall.

ALTAR FLOWERS

You may provide flowers on any Sunday you wish because multiple vases are accepted on Sunday mornings. The cost is \$15 for one vase, \$30 for two vases.

As of this printing, the following are dates when vases are still needed so that two vases are on the altar for Sunday worship:

September 10 – 1 vase
October 15 – 1 vase
October 22 – 2 vases
October 29 – 2 vases
November 19 – 1 vase
December 10 – 1 vase

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 placing fresh flowers on the altar for worship on Sunday morning.

WEDNESDAY FREE LUNCH PROGRAM

**NEW SERVING HOURS BEGIN
SEPTEMBER 6, 2017**

Lunch will be served from 11:30 A.M. to **12:30 P.M.**

