



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)
13740 Pearl Road
Strongsville, Ohio 44136
(440) 238-6697

StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com
StrongsvilleUCC.com



Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall
Pastor

Sunday – October 7, 2018 – 10:00 A.M.
World Communion Sunday
Reception of New Members

WELCOME!

We are grateful you chose to worship with us this morning. No matter who you are and where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

For questions about our church and ministries, you may call the church at (440) 238-6697.

Please complete your Attendance Card and place it into the offering plate. We hope to see you again soon!

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE "Come, Now is the Time to Worship" Doerksen

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Joyce Reed

INTROIT "Jesus, Stand Among Us" Whitworth

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: On this day, we are not a single congregation.

People: We are part of all believers everywhere, in every place, throughout every time.

Leader: On this day, we share more than just a sacrament.

People: We come to the Table, joining brothers and sisters from every time, every place of faith.

Leader: On this day, God's people gather on sandy beaches and under towering trees, in house churches and cathedrals.

People: And we will walk with you, O God, into the world to love all people.

Leader: We leave behind the fears that bind us, the hurts that have damaged us, breaking our hearts.

People: And we will walk with you, O God, offering your words of peace to all people.

† **HYMN 586** "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"
(Repeat verse 1 after last verse)

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE "Hear Our Prayer, Lord" Foley

EPISTLE READING 1 Corinthians 12 (excerpts)

ANTHEM "As We Gather at the Table" Hatch

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

REFLECTIONS ON BAPTISM Nouwen

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: Sharon Clara Maresco

(To the congregation): Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations, and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you who witness and celebrate this sacrament promise your love, support and care of **Sharon**, as she lives and grows in Christ?

We promise our love, support and care.

Let us pray: **We give you thanks, O God, for your faithful daughter Sharon, and for your grace acknowledged here today in water and the Spirit. Embrace us all as your sons and daughters in your household of Love. Grant us grace as we receive, nurture and befriend Sharon as a member of the Body of Christ. Grant her strength for life's journey, courage in times of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of Love, and the hope of new life, through Jesus Christ, who makes us all one. Amen.**

HYMN 465 "Baptized in Water"

THE OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "Interlude" Elkins

† **DOXOLOGY** **HYMN 815** Tune: *Old Hundredth*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below. Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

† **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SCRIPTURE READING Acts 2: 42-47

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

QUESTIONS TO THE CONGREGATION

Friends, do you profess Jesus as the center and cornerstone of your faith? **We do.**

Will you be faithful to these new friends as they join this congregation and begin the next leg of their journey of faith?

We promise our faithful companionship to these new members of our family.

Will you challenge them to strive to become the very best versions of themselves, upholding them in Christian love and holding them accountable to the Way of the Christ?

We will lovingly challenge these new members to strive to become the very best versions of themselves, guiding them to live into the faith they profess.

Will you allow yourself to be challenged and changed, shaped and transformed by these new members, together seeking God's will for our lives together?

With the help of God's Spirit, we will allow ourselves to be challenged and changed, shaped and transformed, living even more fully into our called identity as the family of faith, Strongsville United Church of Christ.

Let us pray together:

O God, we give you thanks, first for calling us to believe, then leading us to join together and gather into this church, the Body of Christ. We give you thanks for this Family of faith, and rejoice that you have led these newest members into our midst, adding their gifts and talents to ours.

(continued)

Together, may we live more fully in the Spirit, building one another up in Love, sharing in the life and worship of the church, and serving the world for the sake of the Kingdom of God. Amen.

REFLECTIONS ON THE EUCHARIST Nouwen

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

WORDS OF CONFESSION AND RECONCILIATION

Pastor: Every day, we are offered so many choices; every day, we make poor choices. You call us to follow you; we choose paths to nowhere, instead. You remind us to speak truth to light, to be your Hands and Feet; we offer empty words, instead of a loving touch. Our lives often seem as empty as our words. Together, let us come before God in silent prayer. (Silence)

Together, let us confess our sins:

People: O Holy One, we say that we are good listeners; yet we have grown deaf to the cries of the suffering, all around us. We say we want to live as you lived; yet too often, we choose our own selfish desires over the needs of those we love. We claim to be people of faith; yet we don't always back up those words with deeds of love and hope. Forgive us, O God. Give us the ears we need to hear your call to follow; open our eyes to see the road ahead of us. Soften our hearts, O Lord, to accept the loving grace and forgiveness you offer each one of us, every day. Help us, always, to remember that each day offers each one of us a fresh start to follow, to serve and to love. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: In little churches with wide open windows, in ancient buildings echoing with the songs and prayers of generations of saints, in storefronts and buildings that look nothing like sanctuaries, the same good news is proclaimed: God is Love. And that Love forgives us, redeems us and restores us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP "How Beautiful" Paris
Sarah Keenen, vocalist

All are welcome to come forward to partake of the Lord's Supper, or the communion servers will come to you if you wish.

† **HYMN 572** "Blessed Assurance"

† **BENEDICTION**

† **RESPONSE** "Go Now in Peace" Besig

† **POSTLUDE** "Trading My Sorrows" Evans

SERVING

TODAY – OCTOBER 7	NEXT SUNDAY – OCTOBER 14
Kenn Oerkfitz	Liturgists Dave Williams
Linda Plain	Greeters Lola Millhoane
Linda Plain/Marty Winch	Ushers Volunteers needed
Rosemary Bechtel	Coffee Hour Volunteer needed
Tom Foley	Director of Music Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	Associate Director of Music Mike Elkins

The altar flowers are given—
*Remembering our Dad, Roger Robinson,
 on the 48th Anniversary of his passing. Love you, Dad.*
 Becky and Bill Robinson

Happy 86th Birthday, Mom-Banny-Gigi
 Love, Valerie, Dale, Vicky, Dan, 6 grandkids and 9 great grandkids

Our steeple will light the sky this week—
In celebration of our 4th Anniversary today
 Heidi & Chuck McDougall

The Board of Trustees will meet Tuesday, October 9 at 7 p.m.

Happy Birthday today to Lola Millhoane and Alex Becka!
 Happy Anniversary today to Heidi and Chuck McDougall!

OUR PRAYER LIST

If you or a family member would like a visit, please call the church at (440) 238-6697. Please provide updates for this list. Thank you.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Betty Bushea at Danbury Senior Living in Brunswick, Janet Kato at Kemper House, Karen Rak at Parkside Villa, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

Church Family: Betty Babics, Eddy Bond, Rita Budd, Mindy Carte (daughter of Judy), Rev. Larry and Christina Craig, Steve Herzog, Margot James, Bobbie Krisak, Karl Kuhlenschmidt, Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Phyllis Kurz (mother of Karen Morgan), Martha Liebert, Lacey Marshall (daughter of Amanda and John), Laurie Meister, Karen Morgan, Joyce Reed, Bill Ritchie, Doris Soucie, Linda Stepan, Barbara Toth, Dave Woodward, Kyle Woodward



Extended Church Family: Luke Bazan (friend of Judi Pavisich's granddaughter), Amy Carroll (sister of Marty Winch), Michele Cortese (friend of the Heinrichs), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Joyce Freeman (sister of Carol Woodward), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Karen Greenway and daughters (friends of Judi Pavisich), Sam Harteis (friend of Reeds), Sandra Manos (mother of Eli), Diane Mason (friend of Lora Rung), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Zachary McKeever (great-nephew of Pastor Heidi and Chuck), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Jeff Stimson (friend of Keana Dickson), Frank Toth (father of Rob), Joe Valli (brother-in-law of Vicky and Dan Masuga)

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,649.31
 Last Week's Offering Received \$2,837.00
 (Difference -\$ 812.31)



PENNY SUNDAY

Last week, \$224.90 was collected for Hurricane Florence Relief efforts. Money from the October 28 Penny Sunday will go to **Together We Rise**. Information about that program is available in the October Newsletter.

HOW CAN YOU HELP OUT?

Sign-up sheets in Pilgrim Hall are waiting for **your name** to be added as a communion server, greeter, usher, coffee hour helper, or nursery helper! No experience is needed and everyone is welcome to be a part of our church life.



THRIFT SHOP NEWS

THE THRIFT SHOP has reopened for business on Thursdays from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. with a bonus Free Lunch for All sale day on **Wednesday, October 10** from 11 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. **An additional person is needed to work with us for 2 hours on the second Wednesday of the month. Please contact the church office if you can help.**

Special thanks to Joyce and John Glasgow, who have made an additional gift to the Free Lunch for All program in memory of their daughter, Renee, who died suddenly in April, 2018.

201st ANNIVERSARY POTLUCK!

Bring your favorite dish & side, salad or dessert to share with your church family on **Sunday, October 21**, following the worship service. Tableware and beverages will be provided.



MISSION OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Your **Mission Outreach** Committee, as part of this year's Veterans Day project, will be putting together **Comfort Kits** for distribution to local veterans in need during the month of November.

In conjunction with the Veterans Service Commission, Wade Park VA and the Berea Food Pantry, we have committed to assembling a total of **100 Comfort Kits** designed to meet the needs of local veterans. **The cost per kit is \$10**, based on a sample kit containing items purchased at The Dollar Tree.

Each kit, assembled in a drawstring bag, will contain:

- Two pairs of white socks
- 7 oz. Toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- 6 oz. Shaving cream
- Deodorant
- Razor
- 15 oz. Body Wash/ Shampoo
- Bath sponge



Items for the Comfort Kits will be collected starting October 7. The kits will be dedicated during worship on October 28, and delivered November 5.

ORGAN FESTIVAL!

Join us next week, **Sunday, October 14, 2018 at 3 p.m.** is our **ORGAN FESTIVAL**, featuring five area organists playing wide-ranging selections on our refurbished organ, followed by a free wine and cheese reception. Organists include our own **Sharon Heinrich; Nick Cantello** and **Greta Pasztor** from Baldwin Wallace University; **Jarred Sorauf** from Middleburg Heights Community Church; and **Carmen Massaro** from the Rocky River United Methodist Church. A free will offering will be received to maintain our beautiful instrument. Come and enjoy the fruits of nearly a decade of labor with the inspirational sounds of music!



Donations of snacks, crackers/cheese, fruit /veggies are needed and appreciated. Please see Pam Keenen or Ingrid Dickson if you can help or are willing to contribute a finger-food item.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Our goal is to prepare 50 baskets for needy families within our community. Collection begins Sunday, October 15. Each week we will bring to church the following designated items, which will be placed in our sanctuary:

- Oct. 14 cans of green beans, cans of corn
- Oct. 21 boxes of stuffing (like Stove Top) and jars of gravy
- Oct. 28 dessert mixes (like brownies, cake mixes, or cookie mixes) and cans of icing
- Nov. 4 cans of cranberry sauce and boxes of corn muffin mix
- Nov. 11 boxes of instant mashed potatoes or a 5-pound bag of fresh potatoes, canned or fresh yams
- Nov. 18 turkeys or hams



To make a cash donation instead, please make your check payable to **Strongsville United Church of Christ**. On the memo line, write **Thanksgiving Basket**. \$20 covers the cost of the turkey or ham; \$40 covers the cost of a whole basket. All financial donations will be gratefully accepted, whatever the amount. If you know someone who would appreciate a basket, please write the information on your attendance card, or tell Rev. Heidi. Thank you for your support of this worthwhile project.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED



NIN is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the U.S. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts,

and direct service projects through grants. NIN grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. Funding is provided through donations to the Neighbors in Need offering. The offering will be received throughout this month and envelopes are in the pews.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2019



Paper apples are being distributed this morning to everyone at church for our "Church Pie" campaign. Please write your **first name** on the apple. When the offering plate comes your way, please place the apple into the plate. (Signing an apple does NOT obligate you in any way.) In three weeks you will see how the apples are

used. **Stewardship mailing** – Please pick up your Stewardship letter in the Gathering Area today. Thank you for saving our church the cost of postage.

THE TURKEY DINNER is **Saturday, November 3**. Seatings will be at 5 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. Tickets will be on sale next Sunday.

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Robert (Bobby) Foley is the youngest child of our choir director, Tom Foley and his wife, Suzi. Bobby, an avid musician, is a Junior at Strongsville High School, where he plays percussion in the Marching Band. Bobby has already shared a number of his piano compositions with us during worship. His fellowship friend is also his mother, Suzi Foley.

Jackie and Jimmy Foley cannot be with us this morning because they are away at college. Jackie is a first-year student at the University of Cincinnati, where she is majoring in French and math; Jimmy is a freshman at Ohio University, studying math as his major. We will officially welcome the twins into membership when they are home for the holidays.

Sue Gross has been married to Bob for 38 years; they have two children and two grandchildren. Sue most recently was a part of Trinity UCC, and has found a special calling here in tending the Outdoor Worship Space (for which we are very grateful). She has already been a part of several aspects of our church life here. Her fellowship friend is Cherie Teagno.

Gary Hackett has been a familiar face in the Strongsville UCC music program for about five years. He credits Ken Mehalko with inviting him into this church family. Music has always been a major part of his life, and it shows as he sings in our Chancel Choir, the Southwest Community Chorus, and plays in the SUCC Band. His fellowship friend is Chuck McDougall.

Herb Hampson was married in a Presbyterian church, where he and his late wife worshipped for many years. Most recently, he comes to Strongsville UCC from University Circle United Methodist Church. Herb lives in Westpark, and his fellowship friend is Chuck McDougall.

Kay and Ken Konicek began coming to Strongsville UCC in 2014. They have also attended University Circle UMC, where they got to know Ken Mehalko and Bev Wehr. They appreciate the worship style here, "focused on love and caring," and they live in Meadowood. A talented couple, Kay helped design our Gathering Area and Ken is a trumpet player. Their fellowship friends are Ken Mehalko and Bev Wehr.

Tony Koussa was church shopping and had visited five or six churches when he and his granddaughter **Gabby** first visited Strongsville UCC. Almost immediately, they felt welcome and "at home." Tony has also participated in the Free Lunch for All; Gabby is a student of Cheryl Sobek. Tony lives in Columbia Station, and his fellowship friend is Kenn Oerkfitz.

Sharon and Karl Kuhlenschmidt began dating when they were only fifteen years old! They were raised Disciples of Christ, and appreciate that Strongsville UCC gives back so much to the surrounding community. They have already been participating in numerous activities in our church, adding their helping hands and warm spirit. Their fellowship friend is Ginny Churnega Oerkfitz.

Sharon Maresco was raised in the Disciples of Christ as a child; her journey also led her through the Unitarian Universalist tradition, but she felt "something was missing." Her heart has found its home here, where she is being baptized into the Family of Christ. Sharon lives in Meadowood with her husband of 42 years, Jim. She sings soprano in the Southwest Community Chorus and in our Chancel Choir, alongside her fellowship friend, Ingrid Dickson.

Judi Pavisich became a member of First Evangelical and Reformed Church in Lakewood in 1956, when she was confirmed. She and her husband were married at Brooklyn Heights United Church of Christ; she comes to us from Middleburg Heights Community Church. (You may have met Judi since she has served as a greeter here several times.) Judi's fellowship friend is Tom Foley.

Linda Ponstingle was raised in the United Church of Christ, including Dennison UCC and Middleburg Heights Community Church, where she and her husband, Dan, have been quite active. Her heart has found a home here, where she is already a talented member of the Bell Choir and was a big help at the Garage Sale. Her fellowship friend is Irene Joyce.

Richard Taylor has been attending with us for several months, following his move from Minneapolis to Strongsville. He comes from a church of over 3,700 members, but it was Linda Ponstingle's personal invitation that led him here. He has already become involved in our church life by helping with the Garage Sale and various other projects. His fellowship friend is Judy Carte.

Barbara and John Toth come to us from Middleburg Heights Community Church, where Barbara has been a member for 45 years! They appreciate our unmatched hospitality, and look forward to becoming more involved here, as well. The Toths have already attended several of our church activities and outings. Their fellowship friends are Adria and Eddy Bond.

Dave Williams "blames" Bruce Keenen for inviting him to attend Strongsville UCC. His heart felt lost and homeless, but when he landed here, he says he has never felt anything but welcome. Dave and his wife, Heather, live in Strongsville. He is the (other) deep bass voice in the Chancel Choir and the Southwest Community Chorus, and his fellowship friend is Bruce Keenen.

Janis and Bill Williamson have worshipped with us regularly for quite some time. Janis was raised in the Warren UCC her whole life. She and Bill have been married for more than 37 years. Janis is a regular helper with our Free Lunch for All. They live in Strongsville and their fellowship friend is Betty Craig.

