

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
13740 Pearl Road
Strongsville, Ohio 44136



Church Telephone: (440) 238-6697
Email: StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com
Website: www.strongsvilleucc.com

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall
Minister

WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M. ON SUNDAY

APRIL 2018 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Remember way back when you were in kindergarten, and you planted that little bean seed in a clear plastic cup for the first time? The teacher would help each child push the seed down into the dirt, and the class would talk about what that seed needed to grow.

We learned the seed needs soil to grow in. And water, but not too much water, to help the plant draw the nourishment it needs from the dirt. And the third thing every seed needs to grow—is light.

So let's pretend for a minute that we are all like those bean seeds, and imagine what we need to grow spiritually:

- **Soil.** That stuff we ground ourselves in, the place we can put down roots. Something—or *someplace*—that will provide us with nourishment and support as we go through periods of change or reorientation in the way we view the world. Our church family and worship experience on Sunday mornings become our soil, the place where we reach deeper and deeper, spreading out our roots so our foundation becomes more stable.
- **Water.** Refreshment that allows us to rest and be restored, water also loosens the soil and allows us to push *even deeper* into that in which we are grounded. Maybe this is a smaller group, a place we feel safe to question. Sometimes, the “water” can be an extra experience, like our Seder trip or *The Shack* study; it might even be a volunteer experience like helping serve the Wednesday Free Lunch or one of our many dinners.
- And finally, **light.** That inexplicably warm *something* that makes us want to stretch out, to become *more* than we are right now. Each of us experiences the Light of Christ a little differently. And sometimes, that Light shows up in unexpected places that, from the outside, look very little like *church*.

How are the seeds of your faith doing? Have you been tending them well? Who else in your life helps you tend your spiritual garden?

As the weather (finally) begins to warm up, I wish for you a spiritual garden rooted deeply in Christ to stand strong

in life's storms, filled with beautiful fruit plentiful enough to share with others, and as the seasons change, may the seeds of your garden be carried far on the breezes, sowing new gardens in the hearts and lives of others. This, friends, is the mark of true growth—not just in each one of us, but into the Church Jesus calls us to be.

Peace to your spirit,
Pastor Heidi

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 1 – 7:00 A.M.

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service
(Outdoors, weather permitting)

Greeter: Cathy Hawk

CHRIST IS RISEN!

Easter Breakfast of scrambled eggs and ham
will be served in Pilgrim Hall between the two services.

EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 1 – 10:00 A.M.

Traditional Service in the Sanctuary with
Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, Band,
Brass Choir, Piano and Pipe Organ

Liturgist: Pam Keenen

Greeter: Linda Plain

Usher: Linda Plain

Coffee Hour: Doug Thorn

SUNDAY – APRIL 8 – 10:00 A.M.

Second Sunday of Easter

Liturgist: Kelly Bickley

Greeter: Chuck McDougall

Usher: Chuck McDougall

Coffee Hour: Michele and Allen Mihlack

SUNDAY – APRIL 15 – 10:00 A.M.

Third Sunday of Easter

Liturgist: Bruce Keenen

Greeter: Roy Merkle

Usher: Roy Merkle

Coffee Hour: Ted and Kelly Bickley

Worship Opportunities continue on page 2.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES – Continued

SUNDAY – APRIL 22 – 10:00 A.M.
Fourth Sunday of Easter

Liturgist: Jim Studer
Greeters: The Costin / Barry Family
Ushers: Volunteers Needed
Coffee Hour: Cathy Hawk

SUNDAY – APRIL 29 – 10:00 A.M.
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Liturgist: Tom Gaumer
Greeters: The Costin / Barry Family
Ushers: Volunteers Needed
Coffee Hour: Sharon Heinrich



We extend a warm welcome to the following six people who joined our church family on Sunday, March 4:

Mike and Linda Elkins
Jan Stough
Rick and Cherie Teagno
Clay Williams

TRUSTEES UPDATE

The April meeting of the Board of Trustees will resume at the regular day and time—the second Tuesday of the month—April 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Installation of the new Sanctuary windows will begin on Friday, March 23.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mr. Paul Hirt
18627 Shurmer Road, #115
Strongsville, OH 44136

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

There is a new senior facility called Vitalia Living Center on Route 82 near the tracks. They are looking for folks who might be interested in helping to lead worship or a Bible study occasionally (once a month). Sound interesting? Please speak with Pastor Heidi for more information.

Strongsville United Church of Christ
All You Can Eat!

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Benefits the Restoration of Our Pipe Organ

Sunday – April 15, 2018
9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon

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



Many of us have prayed for Nicole and Tiffany Ashforth on their journey to parenthood. They are now happily expecting a baby on July 12! If you are interested, a Baby Shower will be held for them on Sunday, April 22, 2018, in Pilgrim Hall at 2:00 p.m. They are registered at Babies-R-Us and Target. Please R.S.V.P. by Sunday, April 15, to Tiffany's mom, Denise, (828) 447-4816.



PENNY SUNDAYS

Thank you to everyone who supports Penny Sundays every month. The Sunday School kids vote on where the Penny Sunday money is given.

In February \$99.48 was collected for Providence House, a crisis nursery in Cleveland committed to child abuse prevention and family preservation.

March's collection went to St. Malachi's Metanoia Project, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing a safe, secure overnight respite during the winter months for hard-core homeless people unwilling/unable to access shelters. The Metanoia Project provides shelter, showers, meals, personal care items and clothing. It also provides access to social services and works to strengthen the personal skills of persons trying to change their life situation.

The students of the Sunday School voted that April's Penny Sunday collection will go to the Strongsville Food Bank.

Again, thank you to everyone who supports Penny Sundays.





Our love and prayers are extended in sympathy to two families on their recent losses:

To the family of former church member, Millie Lantzer, on the occasion of her passing on February 25, 2018. Millie attended Strongsville UCC from 1967 until she moved to Georgia in 2010.

To Marie Bury and family on the passing of her brother, William Moxey, on March 7. The funeral service was held at Riczo Funeral Home in Parma on March 12.

MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE NEWS

Mission and Outreach continues transporting all food donations to the Strongsville Food Bank. At their most recent Board Meeting, the Food Bank Administrator, Kelly Kling, stated that because of an overall decline in food donations, she is now has to buy more of the needed provisions. Outside of yearly food drives by various community groups, our church provides a steady weekly supply. You will see their letters of thanks posted in the back of Pilgrim Hall on our Bulletin Board. As always, many thanks for your generosity

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, below are dates when vases are still needed so that two vases are on the altar for Sunday worship.

- June 3 – 2 vases
- July 8 – 2 vases
- December 2 – 2 vases
- December 9 – 2 vases

Near to the flower chart in Pilgrim Hall are forms for submitting your bulletin information and envelopes for enclosing your payment to the church office. Thank you for placing flowers on the altar.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Meeting – Women's Fellowship starts up again the first Wednesday of the month—April 4 at 10:00 a.m. After the meeting, the ladies are welcome to enjoy the Free Lunch Program in Pilgrim Hall. As always, all ladies are invited to the meeting.



We will have a book to read for the May meeting to discuss our thoughts. The book is Forgiveness by Desmond Tutu. We will also have a Tea Party on May 2 to celebrate May and Spring. Rosemary Bechtel is the new Women's Fellowship chairman.



Tote Bags – Women's Fellowship Spring Project will be to fill about 60 Tote Bags for the Strongsville Food Bank children, ages 5 to 12. The finished bag is about 11" x 12". Donations of any of the items listed below or monetary donations, so we

may purchase items, would be appreciated. Monetary donations should be put into an envelope marked "Tote Bag Project" and placed in the church office.

Collection begins after Easter Sunday and continues until mid-May 2018.

The collection box is under the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Travel size is best and can be found at Marc's or Target.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING FAMILY-SIZE ITEMS.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| soap (facial size or smaller) | small tissue packets |
| shampoo | small cars or trucks |
| body lotion | decks of cards |
| deodorant | activity books |
| tooth brushes | coloring books |
| toothpaste (small tubes) | small stuffed toys (<i>no bigger than 8"</i>) |
| wash cloths | blowing bubbles (small bottles) |
| combs or brushes | sidewalk chalk |
| pencils | |
| crayons (16 or 24 count) | |

WING NITE

Diaconate Fundraiser

Friday – May 4, 2018 – 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Grindstone Tap House, 826 Front Street in Berea

The event is on one floor and includes pizza, pasta, wings, salad, 5 types of domestic beer, well drinks, and wine. Tickets are \$25 per person and can be purchased from Kristen Clotworthy or any Diaconate member. We are looking for donations of theme-based baskets to auction at this event. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall for you to write your name and the type of basket you will provide. Thank you for your support of this Diaconate fundraiser.



STRONGSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
and
ARTS IN STRONGSVILLE

CONCERT SERIES

SUNDAY – MAY 6, 2018 – 3:00 P.M.

The Satori Winds

4 Guys with 4 Clarinets and 4 Saxes
and

Broadway Bound

Featuring BW Music Theatre Majors—
Gillian Han and Friends

\$10 – Adult \$4 – 6 to 12 years Free – 5 years
and under

Following the concert, a reception with refreshments
will be held in Pilgrim Hall.



ADULT SOCIAL CLUB

The club meets the third Wednesday of the month, so
their next meeting is April 18 at 7:00 p.m. The following
events are scheduled:

April 29

Brunch at Perk-Cup Cafe in Berea – 12:30pm

May 20

Hard Rock Casino, after church

June 24

Aquarium (including a stop somewhere to eat)

July 22

Picnic in the Metro Parks

August 19

Botanical Gardens

September 16

Jilbert Winery & Brewery

October 7

The Ohio Mart at Stan Hywet Mansion

November 25

Bus ride to Nela Park
to see Christmas lights and eat

*For more information please contact Adria or Eddy Bond.
As always,
all adults are welcome to the meetings and events!*

NEWS FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Adria Bond

Below is a monthly report listing the
budget income we need to receive
from Pledges and Offerings
and the amount received from
February 18 through March 11.



This information also appears
on a weekly basis in our worship bulletin.

Offering Needed \$14,597.24 for 4 Sundays
Offering Received 10,702.00
Difference (\$3,895.24)

**WHEN STRONGSVILLE CITY SCHOOLS
ARE CLOSED**

because of the weather:

The Wednesday Free Lunch Program will be closed
and
The Thrift Shop will be closed.



THE THRIFT SHOP

April is an exciting time in the Thrift Shop. We will be
unveiling our spring collection! Everything will be new
and our spring items will make you smile.

We will be closed April 5 for cleaning and restocking. If
you have time that week to help us, please let us know.
We can always use extra hands to fill our clothing racks.
If you can put clothes on a hanger, you can help.

When putting your winter items away, please remember
the Thrift Shop. If you donate something that is not in
season, we will store it until it is! We will help you
recycle clothing you no longer want, household items you
don't need, or books and magazines you have already
read.

Stop in to the shop to see what we sell!

OFFICIAL BOARD



Profit from the Roast Pork, Sauerkraut
and Kielbasa Dinner on March 10, 2018,
was \$1,036.98. Thank you to all who
supported the dinner in any way!

