

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
Pastor

Worship at 10:00 A.M. on Sunday

APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

That's what the saucer is for!

The Psalmist in the Bible regularly speaks with great awe about the generous heart of the Lord. Most memorably, in Psalm 23, he writes: *My cup overflows!* These words remind me of when I was little, and Mom would come around with milk or Kool-Aid and tell us to say "when." She would pour slowly, waiting for us to speak that magic word.

Sometimes we would actually say *when*; other times, we would giggle and watch, and see if Mom would stop if we didn't tell her to. I can remember her carefully pouring until physics kicked in, and the surface tension made the liquid stretch above the rim of the glass, just a bit. Oh, the challenge of getting that *very full* glass to our lips without spilling!

But every once in a while, she'd overshoot, and bright red liquid would dribble over the side onto the table (or into our laps). It happened so unexpectedly (sort of). After all, why would we ever think Mom would offer us more than we asked for or needed? But she would.

And so does God. But unlike Mom, God does so with every intention of astonishing us. If our "life cups" had saucers, God would overflow them, leaving us (when we stop and notice) giggling and gasping at God's generosity. The Love and Grace and Peace God pours out on each one of us truly reaches beyond our expectations.

This is a challenging season of life. During times like these, our work as followers of the Christ becomes even more important. God has planted a spirit of generosity in each of our hearts. As we travel into Easter and beyond, please remember: **the vital ministries of The Strongsville United Church of Christ cannot continue without your financial support.** Please feel free to use the enclosed envelope to enable us all to further God's work in the world, in a time when more Love is so desperately needed. We thank you for your prayerful considerations.

Peace to your spirit
Pastor Heidi

*For me, the opposite of scarcity is not abundance;
it's enough.*

I am enough. My kids are enough. –Brene Brown

ONLINE WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY – APRIL 5 – 10:00 A.M.

Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday



SUNDAY – APRIL 12 – 10:00 A.M.

Easter Sunday



SUNDAY – APRIL 19 – 10:00 A.M.

Second Sunday of Easter

Holy Humor Sunday

SUNDAY – APRIL 26 – 10:00 A.M.

Third Sunday of Easter

PLEASE NOTE: *Our worship services are video recorded each week and posted on our YouTube channel for all to enjoy. Just go to **strongsvilleucc.com**, go to **Worship**, and click on **Service Videos**. Our You Tube Channel:*

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCynOZfg4uKoX7HMnKORbXfQ/videos>



OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office. Thank you.

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Long-Term Care or Homebound:

Janet Kato at Kemper House, Martha Liebert, Marge McKinney, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

Church Family: Joan Beckwith, Elaine Coffey, Rev. Larry and Christina Craig, Robert Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Dan Davis, Jim Dettmer, Sue Hawk, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Carole Kapcar, George Kapcar, Debbie Krause, Karl and Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Lacey Marshall, Judy Maur, Laurie Meister, Michele Mihlack, Bill Ritchie, Alysha Rolland, Ginger Rothel, John and Maggie Struhar, Josh Trinckes, Sharon Wilson, Rick Teagno, Sally Vetovitz, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Amy Carroll (sister of Marty Winch), Hunter Colao (grandson of Mark & Barb Camp), Lyla Joy Crowley (great grand-niece of Irene Jannsohn), Elaine Fuelling (friend of Judi Pavisich), Rebecca Gordon (niece of Irene Jannsohn), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Dana Hardy (wife of Craig), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Rev. Kent Knife (retired pastor from MHUCC), Diane Mason (friend of Lora Rung), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Zachary McKeever (great-nephew of Pastor Heidi and Chuck), Linda McNabb (sister-in-law of Ginger Rothel), Mae O'Shea (mom of Sandy O'Shea), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Terry Robson (friend of the Camps), Mike Rung (brother of Lora), Amanda Shannon (friend of Sarah & Jon Hayes), Sherry Sheeks (sister of Mark Camp), Brad Williams (friend of Judi Pavisich), Daphne Wilson (niece of Irene Jannsohn)

Our church has an e-mail prayer chain.

Please see Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others.

BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS

We welcome to the family of God **Ember Marie Schneider**, daughter of **Bill & Deborah Schneider** and sister of **Autumn**, who was baptized during worship on March 8th.



COMING SOON: the baptism of **Isabel Marie Zurowski**, daughter of **Katie and Mike Zurowski** of Olmsted Falls. Isabel was scheduled to be baptized during worship on March 29th, but will be welcomed into the family of God when we meet again for worship.



Double Congratulations to Great Grandmother **Lola Millhoane** and Grandparents **Vicky and Dan Masuga**, who welcomed two baby girls into their family in March.

Mila James Avramovich, daughter of **Kyleen and Joe Avramovich** was born on March 17, 2020, and her cousin, **Audriana Patricia Masuga**, daughter of **Chase and Lauren Masuga**, was born on March 19, 2020!



Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of **Jean Straub**, who passed away on February 26, 2020 in Florida. Jean became a member here in 1951. She was 95 years old. A memorial service will be held at our church at a later date.

UNSUNG HEROES

Did you know that **Cathy Hawk, Maria Graeff, Linda Kapcar, Elaine Coffey, Sharon & Jim Maresco, Judy Carte, John Toth, and Mary Ellen Zimmerman** continue to pick up baked goods from Panera in order to maintain our program of receiving their donations? **Tony Koussa** then delivers the items to folks in need. Thank you, friends!



River Valley Paper Company

APRIL 19 - 25 IS BONUS WEEK!

KEEP RECYCLING YOUR PAPER, MAGAZINES, AND CARDBOARD! The church (and everyone else) benefits any time you recycle, especially during bonus week where your paper donations count for more. Thank you!



EVEN IF OUR CONGREGATION IS NOT MEETING IN PERSON, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO REACH OUT TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY WITH A CALL, CARD OR TEXT.



FIT CLUB

We went to see the opera *Agrippina* in March. We will resume our activities once the COVID 19 crisis has abated.

**FREE LUNCH FOR ALL
is suspended until further notice.**



THANK YOU

Dear Pastor Heidi and Congregation: Just a few words to thank you all for the kindness and comfort extended to my daughter (Dawn Rolland) and her family in their time of need. She speaks very highly of her church family and how she and her family and friends feel very loved and



accepted. Thank you for the visits to Mr. Trill which I'm sure brought much comfort to him. Again, please accept my thanks. Much appreciation, Janis M. Trill

Thank you to everyone who expressed caring and concern after my recent fall and during my recovery. I am on the mend, thanks to your prayers. --Jim Joyce



Are you an online shopper? If so, why not benefit the church while you make your purchases from Amazon? It's incredibly easy! Here's what you do:

1. Instead of typing amazon.com into your search bar, type in **smile.amazon.com**.
2. Select United Church of Christ Congregational Strongsville by clicking this link:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-1298100>

3. Shop as you would normally—that's it!

Your addresses, billing information, and shopping cart are still saved and your Prime membership privileges still apply. A small percentage of your purchase price will go toward supporting the church. **We earned another \$22.78 this past quarter. Every little bit helps!**



You can still order gift cards by calling the church at least two days in advance and then picking them up at the church

office with your payment.

THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is closed until further notice.



SPONSOR CAROLINE IN INDIA

Thank you to everyone who signed up for 2020:

- January—The Sunday School
- February—Judy Carte
- March—Dorothy & Bill Ritchie
- April—The Hawks
- May—Gina Cathcart
- June—Richard & Mary Densmore
- July—Barbara & John Toth
- August—The Hawks
- September—Bill Robinson
- October—Bev Wehr
- November--Linda Plain
- December—Sharon & Jim Heinrich



The Child Sponsorship Program is a part of Global Ministries, United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ (Christian) Churches.

STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of March 1

*Happy 10th Birthday tomorrow to Mikey Craig
With love, Grammy*

*A special thank you to Pastor Heidi and our UCC friends
for their prayers and well wishes.
Jim and Linda Dettmer*

Week of March 8

*In celebration of Ember Marie Schneider's baptism
With love from your church family*

Week of March 15

*In loving memory of Edith Graves
With love from her daughter, Roberta Carpenter
Happy Birthday on March 17th to Natalia & Mia Hill
With love, Grammy*

Week of March 22

With love to all the members of the Strongsville UCC

Week of March 29

*Happy Birthday to Rob Wentz on April 1st
With love, Grammy*

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 to all who light the steeple. **You may still light the steeple even though we are not meeting in person. Please email the church at strongsvilleucc@gmail.com.**



† † † † † † †

MEN'S LUNCH BUNCH is suspended until further notice.



ALTAR FLOWERS

March 1 – *Happy Birthday to Mike Elkins on February 29th* Love, Linda
Happy Birthday to Elena Joyce on March 3rd
With love from your family

March 8– *In honor of my great niece and great nephew arriving this spring*
Carol Woodward

March 15– *In loving memory of Mary L. Joyce-Smith*
Jim, Irene, Erik, Evan, and Elena Joyce



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. **Altar flowers are suspended through the month of April.**

A NEW FLOWER CHART FOR 2020 IS NOW POSTED.

Many dates are still available for summer/fall!

Please sign up to remember or honor a special occasion or loved one with flowers.

PENNY SUNDAY NEWS



Outdoor Ministries.

The **February Penny Sunday** collection of \$134.20 for the United Church of Christ's Outdoor Ministries. Our Annual Family Retreat is held at Templed Hills camp, through UCC

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



The members of the **Women's Fellowship group made 96 bags of Puppy Chow to sell as a fund raiser for the group. A total of 96 bags were prepared and**

sold. The profit from this fundraiser was \$144.49.

We would like to thank everyone that purchased puppy chow and those that helped to prepare it.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

Scheduled meetings/programs are suspended until further notice.

~~April 7 – "Getting to Know You"~~
~~"Tote Bags" Project--suspended~~

May 5 – "Fire Safety"--TBD

July 7 – "Outdoor Picnic in the Park"--TBD

September 1 – "Go to a Movie"

October 6 – "A Harvest Craft"

November/December – "Make Candy" as a fundraiser for the group

December – "Bring-a-Friend Christmas Tea"

FROM THE KITCHEN:



Don't forget to mention Strongsville United Church of Christ when making any purchases at GFS. We saved \$203.00 in expenses at the Swiss Steak Dinner!

Please label any items that are placed in the refrigerators with your **NAME/GROUP** and the **DATE**.



Also, if you have any large plastic serving trays with domed covers, round or rectangular, that you do not need, please donate them to the kitchen for our Coffee Hour pastries. Also, we could use empty, clean large sour cream/cottage cheese/yogurt containers for the Altar Flowers and plastic grocery bags, too. **Kitchen users: please remember to take out the garbage after each use.**



Our church supports the Strongsville Emergency Food Bank. They are suspending food

donations through the month of April.

STEWARDSHIP

Now, more than ever, your faithful support is needed to maintain our church and its ministry.



GIVING OPTIONS

If you are interested in giving electronically, Here's how: You can customize your giving based on how, when, and how much through **E-Offering**. Log on to our church website at www.strongsvilleucc.com and click "Donate Now". You will be taken to the church's myEoffering page. Simply click on the "Sign-up" button and you will then fill in your personal information and "Register". Follow the prompts to set up your payment, one-time or ongoing. You can also set up your giving through Bill Pay on your bank's website. **You may also mail a check to**

Strongsville UCC

13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, OH 44136 or drop it off in the church's mailbox.

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 **March 1 through March 22 2020.**

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

Offering Needed \$13,893.08 for 4 Sundays

Offering Received 10,722.10

Difference **(-\$3,170.98)**



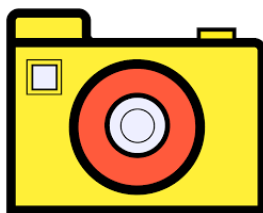
Thank you to everyone who is maintaining their giving!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

A new **Congregational Photo** has been scheduled for **Sunday, May 10th** (Mother's Day)

The last group picture of our congregation was taken in 2010.

This event is subject to cancellation due to the COVID 19 crisis situation. Please check your e-mail for updates.



CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2020

Officers elected on Jan. 26, 2020, have an asterisk* by their names.

** = appointed by the Official Board



Moderator Rachel Zielinski
Vice-Moderator Rob Toth*
Treasurer Sally Herzog
Clerk Judy Gaumer*

Sunday School Superintendent
Kristen Clotworthy

Board of Trustees

Eddy Bond* Greg Dickson Mike Clotworthy*
Myron Costin* Bill Giuliano
Dale Hawk Sandy Pogozelski
Ed Sobek Linda Stepan Rob Stepan

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Irene Jannsohn* Joyce Reed

Diaconate

Jennifer Barry Barbara Camp Gina Cathcart*
Kristen Clotworthy Elaine Coffey* Cathy Hawk*
Sarah Hayes Linda Plain Linda Ponstingle
Nicole Stevens Dawn Rolland* Marty Winch
Barbara White* Mary Ellen Zimmerman*

Christian Education Committee

Serena Abruzzino* Kristen Clotworthy Mary Densmore
Linda Elkins Suzi Foley Sandy O'Shea
Lora Rung

Music Committee

Richard Densmore* Ingrid Dickson
Ken Mehalko Pam Keenen*
ex officio: Sharon Heinrich Tom Foley Mike Elkins

Stewardship Committee

Serena Abruzzino* Rosemary Bechtel Eddy Bond**
Sue Gigliotti* Beth Giuliano Sharon Heinrich**
Judi Pavisich** Bill Schneider**

Mission and Outreach Committee

Judy Carte Bobbie Krisak Tony Koussa*
Michele Mhlack Gary Paul Lora Rung*
Jennifer Sekorky** Bev Wehr

Many thanks to the dedicated officers of our church, who serve so faithfully and make our church run smoothly as we strive to be like Christ in the world.

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR HEIDI

Author Henri Nouwen spent several years living at L'Arche, a school/ community for developmentally delayed adults. Nouwen wrote about his experiences there, and how much he learned from these children of God. Here is one of Nouwen's reflections on the season of Lent:

"In the midst of Lent I am made aware that Easter is coming again: the days are becoming longer, the snow is withdrawing, the sun is bringing new warmth, and a bird is singing. Yesterday, during the night prayers, a cat was crying! Indeed, spring announces itself.

"Tonight, O Lord, I heard you speak to the Samaritan woman. You said: "Anyone who drinks the water that I shall give you will never be thirsty again; the water that I shall give you will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life."

"What words! They are worth many hours, days, and weeks of reflection. I will carry them with me in my preparation for Easter. The water that you give turns into a spring. Therefore, I do not have to be stingy with your gifts, O Lord. I can freely let the water spring from my center and let anyone who desires drink from it. Perhaps I will even see this spring myself when others come to it to quench their thirst."

Thoughts to Ponder: *Do I allow God's gift to flow through me like water? Or am I stingy with your gifts? How can I cultivate a more generous heart, even in times of spiritual famine?*

Prayer: **Gracious God, You have given to us, expecting nothing in return but that we love you. Help us to find new, open-handed ways to manifest your Love for us, as we journey through this world every day. Amen.**

To the Glory of God
virtual lilies are given...



In Celebration of our children and grandchildren: Brandt,
Gelin & Aidan Camp and Abby, Hunter & Hannah Colao
Mark and Barbara Camp

Happy Easter to My Mom and Dad and
In Loving Memory of My Grandparents—
Peter and Edna Lansell, LeRoy and Rusha Ritchie
Gina Cathcart

In Memory of Gordon Cockrell
Harry and Kathryn Johnson
Harold and Wava Cockrell
Kathryn Cockrell

In Loving Memory of Family and Friends
Jim and Linda Dettmer

In Loving Memory of Bill Fraunfelder
and Betty & Don Bushea
Barb Fraunfelder

In Loving Memory of Our Parents and Grandparents,
Betty & Donald Babics
The Gigliotti and Kubancik Families

In Memory of Lois Anne Hampson
Herb Hampson

In Loving Memory of
Erik O. Jannsohn, James J. Joyce Sr. and Mary Joyce-Smith
Michael E. Dickson, Almee J. Jannsohn, and Brooke M. Akins
Irene A. Jannsohn, Ingrid & Greg Dickson, Irene & Jim Joyce

In Celebration of Children and Grandchildren
Ken Mehalko & Bev Wehr

In Loving Memory of
Joyce Oerkfitz and Richard Churnega
With love, Kenn and Ginny

In Memory of Michael & Sarah Preidt
Stanly & Doris Jackson
Max & Elsie Dewitt
Walter & Agnes Perciak, Sarah Perciak
Tom & Debbie Perciak

In Loving Memory of
Paul and Eileen Mlincek
George Reed Sr. and Marie Wolf
George and Joyce Reed

In Loving Memory of Teddi Rose Reed, whose unconditional
love has touched my heart forever
Joyce Reed

In Loving Memory of Our Grandparents,
Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Clements

In Loving Memory of Our Parents, Roger and Lorna Robinson
In Loving Memory of Our Aunt Rhea Clements
Becky and Bill Robinson

In Loving Memory of Our Parents, Grandparents,
and Great-Grandparents—
Jean and Joe Rung and Willie Mae and Jimmy Lee Cuyler
Lora, Sam, Samuel, and Braxden

In memory of Pat & Dutch Schultz
In Memory of Richard Washington
Patty Sasala

In loving memory of
Harold and Mabel Hamlin
Edward and Jean Sobek
Richard Churnega
Eddie and Cheryl Sobek

Because of the COVID 19 crisis, we will not be ordering Easter
Lilies this year. If you do not wish to donate the \$8 per plant
to the church and its ministries, please contact Sally Herzog,
treasurer, at camperzog@gmail.com.

CHURCH OFFICE

**The church office is open during regular
hours: Monday-Friday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
However, the doors will be locked and
folks are requested to ring the doorbell
for entry. To facilitate social distancing, email and
phone calls are encouraged. Thank you!**



SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Summer Camp has made a lasting impression on
everyone who attends. Your child is invited to make
a lifetime memory at Templed Hills Camp this year.
Registration for 2020 Summer Camp is now open!
Register today to lock-in early bird prices (the early
bird deadline is **April 15**) and to ensure your place
at camp.

You will also have the opportunity to purchase a
camp t-shirt (even if you don't plan on attending
camp). The t-shirt is currently in the final stages of
its design, but that design will be made public
soon. The deadline to pre-order a t-shirt is **May 10**.

Here is the link to register:
<https://heartlanducc.campbrainregistration.com/>



**A LETTER FROM THE HEARTLAND
CONFERENCE OF
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Dear Congregations:

As this time of sheltering at home lengthens and the sense of isolation for all of us deepens, we want to offer a continuing word of encouragement and support. We recognize this is an unprecedented season in which to do ministry. Never before has everyone had to shift the way in which ministry is done in such a dramatic way and under such an urgent timeframe.

We pray God's continuing love, encouragement, and strength all around you. We seek to be available to you both to listen and to facilitate the sharing of resources that may be helpful to you. We recognize that across the conference there are widely varying contexts and so some resources will be more helpful than others, depending on your congregation's setting and size (rural, urban, suburban). If there are particular needs that you have, we urge you to let us know. Our emails are listed below and you may contact any one of us.

We also recognize that not all ministry is congregational in nature. For those of you serving in specialized settings of chaplaincy or other non-parish settings, we are equally concerned for your support. A zoom call for those in specialized settings is listed in the resources that follow this letter. We recognize that the widely varying schedules which chaplains carry will make it difficult for one time that fits the needs of all and are committed to continuing to offer such space at other times so that your needs may be honored.

It is our strong recommendation that in-person worship be suspended through the end of April, at least. It seems clear from the counsel of the Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia Departments of Health that this will help both in the effort to flatten the curve of COVID 19's emergence throughout the geography of the Heartland Conference and help to prevent COVID 19's resurgence through contact which comes too soon. **We will continue to update our counsel in this regard based on the most recent reporting of these departments of health.**

We realize that this counsel will necessarily require alternatives related to how Holy Week and Easter are celebrated this year and have arranged for two zoom conversations early next week to provide an opportunity for sharing of ideas.

We pray God's blessings on you and the ministry you are engaging. As we seek to be supportive and empowering of you in these days, there are resources about **worship, generosity and finances, summer camp, rural ministry, chaplaincy**, and also a few other meeting updates including the postponement of the National Youth Event that may be helpful to you.

Please remember that your work matters not only to your specific community of faith but also to the world. You are not alone. We are here for you. We close this letter by offering to you this blessing from Ephesians:

"[We] pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love." 18 [We] pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Indeed, may it be so for all of us!

Your Pastoral Partners in Ministry

Rev. Nayiri Karjian - nayiri.agm@livingwaterone.org
Rev. Carl Robinson - crobinson@sonkaucc.org
Rev. Dave Long-Higgins - dave@heartlanducc.org
Rev. Dan Busch - dlbusch@nwoa.org
Rev. Patricia Battle - patricia.cseo@heartlanducc.org

