

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

(Worship Online during COVID)



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

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall
Pastor

APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

It is not the beauty of a building you should look at; it's the construction of the foundation that will stand the test of time. —David Allan Coe

Let's talk about architecture.

In Scripture, Jesus refers to himself as both the *keystone* and the *cornerstone*. Ever stop to think about what these words mean?

The *keystone* is the wedge-shaped stone inserted at the very top of an arch. It literally allows the *entire arch* to stand and not collapse; it takes the tension from all sides.

The *cornerstone*, on the other hand, is fixed at the base of a building. It is typically one of the first stones laid; the *entire building* is constructed around and upon the cornerstone.

Where is Jesus in your faith construction?

Do you lift Jesus to a position of prominence in your faith walk, even when the pressure and tension are oppressive? Do you lean on Jesus to keep yourself together?

Or do you see Jesus as the firm foundation, the solid rock of your faith? Do you ground yourself in God's Word and seek to let the Holy Spirit guide your actions?

You might guess: it's not really an *either/or*, but a *both/and*. We need to build a solid faith in God's Word, seeking guidance in the Bible *and* in community. And—we need to lift high the cross of Jesus, recognizing the importance of listening for the voice of the Spirit.

As we move into the season of Easter, take time to reflect on your personal Lenten journey. Did you make any changes in your life that, forty days later, you hope to continue to practice? Have you seen anything in your faith walk that makes you feel uncomfortable, or spiritual "baggage" you'd like to leave behind?

Your journey is yours alone, even as we travel together in community. For each person, the way we experience the Christ may be different. But for each of us, the question to answer is the same:

What would Jesus do, anyway? For whatever you do for the least of these, you do for Jesus (*Matthew 25*).

Peace and Hope, Pastor Heidi

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY – APRIL 4 – ONLINE

Easter Sunday

Sacrament of Communion

Special Music: Sharon Heinrich, Brittany Fernandez, the Venner Clarinet Quartet, Brass ensemble

7:30 a.m. Outdoor Sunrise Service
9 a.m. Service (Reservations Required)
10:30 a.m. (Reservations Required)



SUNDAY – APRIL 11 – ONLINE

Second Sunday of Easter--Holy Humor Sunday

Sacrament of Baptism

Special Music: Venner Clarinets



SUNDAY—APRIL 18 – ONLINE

Third Sunday of Easter

Special Music: Tom Foley & Mike Elkins

SUNDAY – APRIL 25 – ONLINE

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Special Music: Mike Elkins & Tom Foley

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

BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS

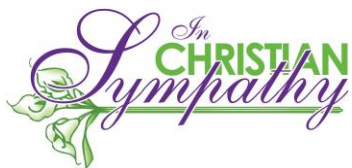


Congratulations to **Lena Violet Ashforth**, daughter of **Tiffany and Nicole Ashforth**, who was baptized on March 21, 2021. Congratulations also to big brother **Everett!**

IT'S A GIRL!

Welcome to the world, **Charlotte Ann Boden**, who was born on February 26, 2021 at 7 lbs 7.5 oz., 20 1/4 inches, and congratulations to parents **Katelyn (Deertz) and Vince Boden**.

Congratulations also to grandmother **Lori Deertz**, grandfather **Dave Deertz**, and great grandmother, **Marty Winch!** We wish many blessings on this new addition to our church family!



Our love and prayers are extended to **Billie Jo Cantrell**, whose son, John Paul, died on February 2, 2021. He

had diabetes for a very long time, and it led to his having a severe heart attack.

THANK YOU NOTES

Many thanks to **Dave Williams, Richard Densmore, Sandy O'Shea, Ken Mehalko**, and **Tanis Merimee** for sharing their music with us in March for our recorded worship services.



From our members and friends...

Thanks to friends and members for their cards and prayers of sympathy. They are hanging up at my place where I can look at them and be comforted.

Billie Jo Cantrell

IN-PERSON BOARD MEETINGS RESUME



- **The Board of Trustees** will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **April 13th** at 7 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall.
- **The Diaconate** will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **April 20th** at 7 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall.
- **The Official Board** will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **April 27th** at 7 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall.

Of course, the usual safety protocols will be in place at all in-person meetings.

OUR PRAYER LIST

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



Long-Term Care or Homebound: Janet Kato, Marge McKinney, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

Church Family: Joan Beckwith, Adria Bond, Eddy Bond, Mary Carey, Elaine Coffey, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Linda Elliott, Don Gleichauf, Sue Hawk, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Elliott Joyce, Carole Kapcar, Tony Koussa, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Lacey Marshall, Brigitte Matchett, Judy Maur, Laurie Meister, Michele Mhlack, Lola Millhoane, Joyce Reed, Dorothy and Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Jamie & Josh Trinckes, Sharon Wilson, Sally Vetovitz, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Dorene Baldridge, Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Judy Carte's son-in-law, Ryan, John Dickson (Greg's dad), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Pat Masuga (Dan's mom), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Zachary McKeever (Pastor Heidi and Chuck's great-nephew), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Carrol Riley (Marjorie Morrison's dad), Terry Robson (the Camps' friend), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), (Judi Pavisich's friends), Anneke Scholtz (Irene Jannsohn's sister), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Daphne Wilson (Irene Jannsohn's niece)

Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain.

GIFT CARDS

YOU CAN SUPPORT THIS PROJECT IN A SAFE WAY THAT BENEFITS OUR CHURCH!



You can order gift cards by calling **Jim Joyce** at 216-267-5043 in advance with your order. Limited stock is available, but special orders may be accommodated with advance notice. You may arrange to pick up your cards at the church office with your payment at a convenient time. **Thank you to those who continue to support this project by purchasing gift cards!**



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

STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of March 7th

Happy Birthday to Elena Joyce on March 3rd!
With Love, the Joyce Family

Happy 11th Birthday March 2nd to Mikey Craig
With love, Grammy

Week of March 14th

Happy 30th Birthday to Keana Dickson on March 18th!
With Love, Ingrid & Greg Dickson
Happy Birthday to Mia & Natalia Hill on March 17th
With Love, Grammy

Week of March 21st

In loving memory of Richard Craig
With Love, Betty

Week of March 28th

Thank you to Doug Thorn for the great editing of our virtual worship services to make them even more memorable--Betty Craig



To light the steeple, the minimum donation is \$5.00. 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 strongsvilleuc@gmail.com.**

MEN'S LUNCH BUNCH meets at 11:30 a.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month at **Gourmé Restaurant** 15315 Pearl Rd. in Strongsville.



TRUSTEES UPDATE

- A new Financial Secretary has been hired to take over for **Adria Bond** as she steps back from the position she has held so ably for a number of years. We welcome **Tracy Seneff** as she trains with Adria.
- New Age Landscaping has once again been contracted to maintain the church's outdoor properties. They have mulched for the spring.
- Thank you to **Greg Dickson** and **Jim Joyce** for cleaning up the wind damage to a tree on the north side of Pilgrim Hall.
- The faucet in the ADA restroom has been replaced with a new, more usable one. Thank you to **Bill Craig** for procuring and installing it.
- The badly leaking roof on the Royalton Road shed has been replaced by Lemberg Roofing Company.



KEEP RECYCLING YOUR PAPER, MAGAZINES, AND CARDBOARD!

The church (and everyone else) benefits any time you recycle. Thank you!



River Valley Paper Company

UNSUNG HEROES

Did you know that **Greg Dickson** purchased and installed covers for the obsolete 220 electrical outlets in the kitchen? Thanks for being mindful of our safety, Greg!



Did you know that **Jim Heinrich** periodically comes in and pours chemicals in the sewer drains and grease trap to keep the drains flowing smoothly? Thank you for doing this very necessary, but often overlooked task, Jim!

Did you know that **Linda Ponstingle** continues to singlehandedly steam-clean the pew cushions in the sanctuary and has now added the undertaking of polishing the wooden seats of the pews? Thank you for your hard work, Linda!

Did you know that the faithful bread transporters and sorters, **Judy Carte, Maria Graeff, Cathy Hawk, Sally Herzog, Linda Kapcar, Sharon & Jim Maresco, Sharon Lempner, Rick & Cherie Teagno, Sarah Toth, and Mary Ellen Zimmerman** continue to make the Panera Bread ministry possible? Thank you so much!



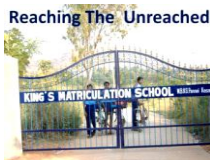
The Strongsville Emergency Food Bank will accept donations again starting in

March. **DONATIONS MAY BE TAKEN DIRECTLY TO THE FOOD BANK.** It is located on Zverina Lane behind the Strongsville Communications Building. They are only going to be open Tuesday through Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. So if you need to drop off...earlier the better...they have to take time now to sanitize the food bank each shift. The needs for the food bank in April would be SOUP, VEGGIES, and MAC & CHEESE!

SPONSORSHIP OF CAROLINE IN INDIA

Thank you to everyone who signed up for 2021:

January—Dale & Cathy Hawk
February—Ginger Rothel
March—Judy Carte
April—Ginger Rothel
May—Sue Gigliotti
June—Dorothy & Bill Ritchie
July—Dale & Cathy Hawk
August—Dale & Cathy Hawk
September—Bill Robinson
October—Dale & Cathy Hawk
November—Barb & Mark Camp
December—Gina Cathcart



THRIFT SHOP



The Thrift Shop is **OPEN** on **Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.** with enhanced safety protocols in place and

lots of interesting merchandise. Donations are being accepted, but you must **call** the church first to arrange a time for drop-off.

THRIFT SHOP BONUS HOURS

**The 3rd Monday of the month,
April 19, 2021 — 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.**

(We're still open on Thursdays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

Also, the Thrift Shop is in need of volunteers to help out for a couple of hours—sorting, organizing, and selling on Thursdays. Please call Cathy Hawk (440-781-7512) if you can help!

ADDRESS CHANGES

To update your Church Directory:

Evan Joyce
2562 Graham Road
Stow, OH 44224

Katelyn, Vince, and Charlotte Boden
1514 Rosewood Avenue
Lakewood, OH 44107

Ruth Milidonis (mailing address only)
c/o Joy May
10190 Spencer Lake Road
Spencer, OH 44275



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.strongsvilleuucc.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 7 through March 28, 2021. Thank you to everyone who supports our church and its ministries.**

Offering Needed	\$14,597.48 for 4 Sundays
Offering Received	27,249.00
Difference	\$12,651.52



To the Glory of God

Easter lilies/tulips are given...



In honor of our faithful church family and leadership; in gratitude for wisdom and patience as we continue to discern our way forward together, one step at a time. In loving memory of those whom we have lost, as well as over half a million family, friends and strangers who are now among the heavenly chorus with whom we celebrate this Resurrection Sunday.

Pastor Heidi & Chuck

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 Honor of Christopher Clotworthy
and Marie Cadena
The Clotworthy Family

In appreciation and celebration of our virtual worship warriors! Pastor Heidi, Chuck, Doug, Irene, Mike, Tom, musicians and other guests, your dedication to provide our virtual service every week has certainly helped keep our family together. We're grateful for each of you and blessed to have you in our lives.

In Honor of All Front-Line Workers
Mary & Richard Densmore

In Loving Memory of Family and Friends
We Miss You!
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
In memory of all those who lost their lives
due to the pandemic.
The Gigliotti and Kubancik Families

Easter Blessings to Our Church Family!
In Loving Memory of
Charles & Thelma Hawk and
Richard & Sally Mack
In Gratitude for our Deepest Blessings:
Riley, Jack, Lacey, Ella & Henry
Cathy & Dale Hawk

In Loving Memory of Don Hawk
Sue Hawk

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

In Honor of our Church Family
The Keenen Family

Prayers that the church reopens for we miss our wonderful church family and coming to the Lord's house every week. We love you all.

Happy Resurrection Day!
The Abruzzino-Krisak Familia
In Celebration of Children and Grandchildren
Ken Mehalko & Bev Wehr

In Honor of all our Loved Ones who have Passed
Roy & Carol Merkle

In Loving Memory of our parents
Bonnie & John Couchey and Anna & Jim Pavisich
Judi & George Pavisich

In Memory of all those who have passed
this past year
Love to my dear friends, my church family,
my family and to the Glory of God
Linda Plain

In Memory of Lynne Golden and Bill Pfahl
The Pogozeleski Family

In Loving Memory of our parents:
Paul and Eileen Mlinec
George Reed Sr. and Marie Wolf
Remembering my oldest brother, Dale Mlinec
George and Joyce Reed

In Loving Memory of Teddi Rose Reed,
forever in my heart and memories
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

Happy Easter and Love to All Our Friends
Cherie & Rick Teagno

In Loving Memory of
 Tad & Gen Thorn, Bernice Cooper,
 Charles Garner, Susan Tressa, Debbie Krause,
 and Jan Stough
 God Bless Our Church Family
 Sandy O'Shea, Doug Thorn, Devin Thorn,
 Schyler Thorn and family

In Honor of our Family Around the World
 Barbara & John Toth

Praising God for the Arrival of my
 Great-grandchildren, Brecken Raymond
 and Charlotte Boden
 "G.G." Marty Winch

In Memory of
 David Woodward and
 Gma Marilyn Woodward
 Love Carol, Steve & Roxy and Owen, Kyle & Jane



Summer is Coming!

Spring Cleaning at Templed Hills Camp!

They have two work days planned April 10th and May 8th. Please register through their [events calendar](#). They also invite groups to schedule their own day to come out at do a project. There is a lot to do!

Contact Jill Frey at jill@heartlanducc.org or 740-901-0734 to discuss the projects available and to set a date.



SUMMER CAMP INFORMATION

Want more info about summer camp? Sign up for a virtual information session March 22, 27, or April 17. Click the link below for more summer camp information and to register.

<https://heartlanducc.doubleknot.com/event/calendar/4480>

CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2021

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

Board of Trustees

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

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Irene Jannsohn*	Joyce Reed
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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	Sue Gigliotti*
Beth Giuliano	Judi Pavisich**	Bill Schneider**

Mission and Outreach Committee

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



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