THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational) 13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136

Worship 10 a.m. (+online)



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

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall Pastor

APRIL 2022 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK What more is there?

As we approach Easter Wee k, I am turning this column over to the apostle Paul for an important reminder. You may know it better as 1 Corinthians 13, and this is The Message version.

If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love,

I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate. If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing.

If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love. I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe. and what I do.

> I'm bankrupt without love. Love never gives up.

Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.

> Love doesn't strut. Doesn't have a swelled head, Doesn't force itself on others. Isn't always, "Me first," Doesn't fly off the handle.

Doesn't keep score of the sins of others. Doesn't revel when others grovel,

Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,

Puts up with anything, Trusts God always, Always looks for the best, Never looks back, But keeps going to the end.

Or, if you prefer the Lennon/McCartney version: Love, love, love. All you need is Love. The Cliff Notes version of the entirety of Jesus' message.

As we reach the end of this year's journey to the Cross, remember: It was never about death, or dying, or even about getting into Heaven someday. Jesus has shown us how to live this life, every day, to the Glory of the Loving Creator, by sharing one another's joys and burdens.

We are, after all, the Strongsville United Church of Christ . . . and Cake . . . and Caring.

Peace, Hope and Love, Pastor Heidi

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY, APRIL 3 – 10 a.m.

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sacrament of Communion

Greeter: Linda Plain Liturgist: Judi Pavisich **Ushers: Volunteers Needed** Special Music: Chancel Choir, Erin

Difrancesco, flute

SUNDAY - APRIL 10 - 10 a.m.

Palm Sunday

Greeters: Serena Abruzzino & Bobbie Krisak

Liturgist: Linda Ponstingle Ushers: Volunteers needed

Special Music: Bell Choir

THURSDAY—APRIL 14 – 7 p.m. **Maundy Thursday Sacrament of Holy Communion**

FRIDAY—APRIL 15 - 8:15 p.m.

Good Friday Ecumenical Tenebrae Service at Whitehall Event Center

(formerly Copopa Elementary School)

14161 W River Rd, Columbia Station We will not have a Good Friday service at Strongsville UCC.

SUNDAY—APRIL 17 - 7 a.m. **Sunrise Service** On the church grounds

SUNDAY—APRIL 17 - 10 a.m. **Traditional Worship**

In the Sanctuary





SUNDAY – APRIL 24 – 10 a.m.

Second Sunday of Easter/Holy Humor Sunday

Greeter: Elaine Coffey Liturgist: Elaine Coffey **Ushers: Confirmation students** Special Music: Music Ministry Team 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.

HERE'S THE LINK TO OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCynOZfg4uKo
X7HMnKORbXfQ/videos

HOLY WEEK

Sunday, April 10th Palm Sunday

With the tradtional processional of the Palms



Thursday, April 14th Maundy Thursday

Worship service with Sacrament of Holy Communion in the Sanctuary at 7 p.m.



Friday, April 15th Good Friday

"Song of the Shadows" at 8:15 p.m. Ecumenical collaboration At Whitehall in Columbia Station

(formerly Copopa Elementary School) 14161 W River Rd, Columbia Station



Sunday, April 17th Easter

Sunrise Service at 7 a.m.



Easter Breakfast 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Traditional Worship with Brass at 10 a.m.



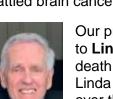
IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY



We recently received word that church member **Sally L. Vetovitz** had passed away on February 15, 2022 at the age of 85. Sally had been a member here since 2015. Our deepest sympathy is extended to her

family and friends.

Our condolences to **Judy** and **Dave Maur** on the loss of Judy's sister, **Pat Robusto**, on March 5, 2022. Pat battled brain cancer. She was 81.



Our prayers and sympathy go out to **Linda Plain** and family on the death of her ex-husband **Alan Plain**. Linda and Alan had remained friends over the years. Alan died on March 2, 2022 at the age of 84.

Our love and prayers are extended to **Diana Creecy** and family on the passing of Diana's long-time partner, **Lou Coté** on March 10, 2022. He passed away quietly at Southwest General Hospice. Lou was 91 and well known in the area as a SWG



Hospital (12,300 hrs) and a hockey referee for the Cleveland Barons Hockey Team and area high schools and was an avid golfer. He was born in Sherbrooke, Quebec and has no family survivors. Lou and Diana and her family had 15 years together without a cross word, but lots of fun and laughter. Diana thanks all for their prayers and support during Lou's illness. A celebration of Lou's life is being planned for a future date. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the support of the Ukrainian people, or your favorite charity.



Deepest sympathy to **Katie** and **Mike Zurowski** and their daughter **Isabel** and family. Katie's mother, **Andrea McNamara** ,died Friday, March 11, 2022 at the age of 75.

Our sympathy and prayers to Mary Ellen Zimmerman and family. Our church member since 2019, Bob Zimmerman, passed away March

15, 2022 after a difficult illness.
There will be visitation at **Sunset**

Memorial Park on **Saturday, April 2nd** from 11 a.m.-12:00, with a service following at noon. Bob was 80 years old.

IT'S A GIRL! IT'S A GIRL!

Congratulations to parents Joe and Kyleen (Masuga) Avramovich on the birth of their twin daughters, Isabel Joann and Nova Victoria, who were born on March 3, 2022.

Proud grandparents are Dan and Vicky Masuga, and great-grandmother, Lola Millhoane.



IT'S ANOTHER GIRL!

Congratulations to new parents Katie and Kevin Sobota. grandmother Mindy Carte, aunts Autumn and Summer Zoscak. and great-grandmother Judy Carte on the birth of Quinn Melinda Sobota, who came into



the world on March 11, 2022!

IT'S A BOY!

Congratulations to Pastor Heidi and Chuck on the arrival of the fourteenth grandchild! Helios McDougall was born on March 22, 2022 at 7 lbs., 8 oz. His parents are Greg and Anais McDougall, and his sisters are Kalistee and Eowyn.

MUSIC NOTES

Many thanks to Kelly Wilson, Dick K. Ingersoll, Ken Mehalko, Sharon Heinrich, Tom Foley, Mike Elkins, and of course, our faithful Chancel Choir for sharing their music with us in March for our worship.



LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

The Lenten Bible Study called, "Reading Between the Lines: Exploring Our Story through Biblical Stories," continues to meet



Hall through April 13th. All are welcome.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER CLASS!

The following members were welcomed into our congregation on March 20th:

Kristen Burgess has been coming to our church



events and activities since she was a teenager. She and Brian Kohler are engaged to be married at our church in October. They are happy to be a part of the loving, caring church community. Brian and Kristen were also baptized when they became members.

Their sponsors are **Ingrid** and **Greg Dickson**.



Roz Fotos, a resident of Strongsville, joined our church when she transferred her membership from the Middleburg Heights Community Church in November of 2021. Roz has already served as an

usher and she's glad to make her membership "official." Her sponsor is **Diana Creecy** (pictured on right).

Chris Goff had been looking for a UCC church on this side of town and found us through our website. After visiting, she has decided to join. Chris lives in North Royalton and we are eager for her to be a part of our church family. Elaine Coffey is her sponsor.





Laura and Dan Winrod have been attending our worship services for a number of years. Residents of Strongsville, they have two grown children, Sarah and Adam. The Winrods have served as greeters and

we are pleased to welcome them as members. Judi Pavisich is their sponsor.

> **KEEP RECYCLING YOUR PAPER, MAGAZINES, AND CARDBOARD! BONUS WEEK April 17th - 23rd** PLEASE FLATTEN ALL BOXES WHEN

RECYCLING CARDBOARD

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Thank you.

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

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Joan Beckwith, Eddy Bond, Mary Carey, Kathy Cockrell, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sam Cuyler, Sr., Linda Elliott, Tom Foley, Ramona Glaze, Sue Hawk, Bob

Heddleson, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Judy Maur, Reggie McCray, Heidi & Chuck McDougall, Laurie Meister, Roy Merkle, Michele Mihlack, Lola Millhoane, Gary Paul, Judi Pavisich, Sandy Pogozelski, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, Tracey Seneff, Peter Smith, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Doug Thorn, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Owen Woodward, Mary Ellen Zimmerman

Extended Church Family: Ron Adams (Judi Pavisich's friend), Dorene Baldridge, Fred Beba (Theresa's husband), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Jerry Cergol, (Barb Fraunfelder & Dennis Smith's friend), Hunter Colao (Barb & Mark Camp's grandson), Mary Ann Csory (Judi Pavisich's friend), John Dickson (Greg's dad), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Andrew Majoros (Michele Mihlack's cousin), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend) Rudy Matjazic (Judi Pavisich's friend, 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), Thomas O'Shea (Sandy's dad), Terry Robson (Barb & Mark Camp's friend), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Tina Serrano (Elliott Joyce's grandma), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Sandra Wentz (Debbie's daughter-in-law), Weston (Chelsea Cathcart's friend's baby)

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

h.e.denman@gmail.com



DIACONATE "WING" NIGHT FRIDAY, MAY 6th from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Grindstone Tap House in Berea.

It is \$25 per ticket. Ticket includes boneless wings, pizza, pasta, salad, draft beer, well

drinks, wine, soda. There will be a basket raffle, sideboards, and a great chance to socialize. Tickets are on sale every Sunday in Pilgrim Hall. Please provide cash or check only.

In addition, we are looking for basket donations for wing night. There will be a sign up for your name and your themed basket on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! The Southwest Community

Chorus, under the direction of



Tom Foley, is returning with a concert on **Sunday, May 8**th at **3 p.m.** at the Berea United Methodist Church on Seminary St. Tickets will be available for purchase from choir members and at the door.

CINNAMON BUN BUNCH

Thank you so much to our faithful bread transporters and sorters:

Judy Carte Maria Graeff Mike

Judy Carte, Maria Graeff, Mike Elkins, Sharon Heinrich, Sally Herzog, Linda Kapcar, Sharon & Jim Maresco, Sharon



Lempner, and Rick & Cherie

Teagno, who continue to make the Panera Bread ministry possible! Special thanks to **Cathy Hawk** and **Irene Joyce** for transporting the baked goods downtown when needed.



NEW WINDOWS INSTALLATION STARTING SOON

This project is underway! The windows are ordered. Our contractors for this job, Smart Choice (formerly known as

Solar Windows & More) installed the windows in our sanctuary and the side room in 2018.



PENNY SUNDAY

Save those pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and yes, DOLLARS for our next Penny Sunday collection, **April 24**th!

THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to our Sunday School for Penny Sunday in March, when we collected \$242.56 for **Disaster Relief Ministries**. UPDATE: In February, the final total was \$337.05 **for Heifer Project, International**.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

 The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, April 12th at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, April 19th at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, April 26th at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY TEAM



If you like to cook . . . or bake . . . or reach out to others in love . . . as winter and circumstances continue to make it hard to stay connected, your Diaconate is organizing a Pastoral Care Ministry Team and would LOVE

to have you take part! (You do not need to be a member of the Diaconate to participate, and you may come and go as you are led.)

UNSUNG HEROES

Did you know that **Linda Elkins** led a team of hearty souls organizing the upstairs? Thanks to **Greg & Ingrid Dickson**,



Irene Joyce, Pastor Heidi, and Rachel Zielinski for their muscle and to Dale & Cathy Hawk for hauling away many years of unused items and trash!

Did you know that several of our church members, along with Pastor Heidi, have been taking the time to deliver the Sacrament of Communion to folks who are unable to come and receive it in person? You can join them—just let a Diaconate member know you'd like to help!

FIRST AID SUPPLIES FOR UKRAINE— NOW THROUGH APRIL 10th

Our church is collecting first aid supplies for Ukraine with Olmsted Falls Middle School and a non-profit organization in Cleveland called MedWish International, which saves lives and the environment by repurposing discarded medical supplies and equipment to provide humanitarian aid to people in need. MedWish is asking for basic emergency supplies for the humanitarian emergency in Ukraine. Here's what we need:



Individual first aid kits
Hydrogel dressings
Alcohol wipes, Sterile gauze
Blood pressure machines
(battery operated)
Surgical tape, Band-Aids,
Antibacterial ointment

DON'T FORGET!



Are you shopping online? 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. Strongsville UCC has received \$433.77 from Amazon to date.

GIFT CARDS AN EASY WAY TO BENEFIT THE CHURCH!

You can order gift cards by calling **Jim Joyce** at 216-267-5043 in advance with your order. **Limited stock** is available for purchase on Sunday mornings.

ADDRESS CHANGES/ADDITIONS

If you move or change your phone number, please be so kind as to let the church office know—thanks!

To update your Church Directory:

Kristen Burgess & Brian Kohler

13841 Oakbrook Drive #311 North Royalton, OH 44133

Roz Fotos

8380 Pearl Rd #516 Strongsville, OH 44136

Chris Goff

14310 Quail Ridge Drive North Royalton, OH 44133

Laura & Dan Winrod

20419 Arlington Drive Strongsville, OH 44149



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - 2022



Please mark your calendars for these programs on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in Pilgrim Hall at church (unless noted otherwise):

April 6 – Make Puppy Chow (for people) as a fundraiser

May 4 – Getting to Know You – Part 1
Each lady talks 2 to 5 minutes about herself—
her hobbies, interests, collections, etc.

June 1 – Getting to Know You – Part 2 A continuation of the previous month's program

July 6 - Program on Pets

September 7 - 11:00 A.M.

Outdoor Picnic at East River Park in Olmsted Falls

October 5 - Program on Medical Ministry

November 2 – Plan Our Christmas Tea, Plan Programs for Next Year, Elect Officers

December 4 - Sunday - Christmas Tea

As always, all ladies of the church are welcome to attend those programs that interest them.

MISSION-OUTREACH COMMITTEE



The Strongsville Emergency Food Bank has always been supported by our congregation. Please remember, we do not accept

expired goods. The needs for the food bank in April would be SOUP and PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY.

COMING SOON

Plans are underway for our church to lead a community-wide project to put together Disaster Relief kits and fill a trailer with these much-needed supplies for victims of any sort of disaster. STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION!



FREE LUNCH FOR ALL



HAS ROOM FOR YOU! 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month at 11:30 a.m.

(Limited space for seating; carryout is available with reservations)

Reservations only. Please call 440-238-5389 by the Friday prior.

Reminder: When the Strongsville City Schools are closed for weather, the Free Lunch for All will not be served that day. We love you and want you to stay safe.

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

Mike Elkins

Below is a monthly report listing the budget income we need to receive from Pledges and Offerings and the amount received from February 6 through February 27, 2022. Thank you to everyone who supports our church and its ministries.

Offering Needed \$14,597.48 for 4 Sundays
Offering Received 12.174.20
(-\$2,423.28)

Pledge cards received to date: 62

THRIFT SHOP



The Thrift Shop is OPEN on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. with 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 Thursday of the month, April 21, 2022 — 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Special thanks to all our dedicated volunteers!

STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of March 6th

In support of the people of Ukraine
Our church family
Happy 12th Birthday to Mikey Craig on
March 2nd!



With love, Grammy

Week of March 13th

Happy Birthday to Natalia & Mia Hill on March 17th! --With Love, Grammy

Welcome to my newest great-granddaughters Isabel and Nova, born on March 3rd!—Love, "Banny" Lola Millhoane

Week of March 20th

In loving memory of Edith Graves on her birthday, March 19th—Roberta Carpenter

Week of March 27th

Happy Birthday to Rob Wentz on April 1st! Love, Grammy

To light the steeple, the minimum donation is \$5.00. Multiple dedications are welcomed for each week. Please email the church at strongsvilleuuc@gmail.com. Thank you to everyone who lights our steeple!

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR MARCH

The altar flowers are given—

March 6th

Happy 25th Birthday to Elena Joyce on March 3rd! Love, the Joyce-Dickson-Jannsohn family

March 13th

In celebration of our Grandson Mason's Birthday this month and in memory of Teddi Rose, he has left our lives but never our hearts!

George & Joyce Reed

March 20th

In Remembrance of Margaret Haught's 80th
Birthday, March 25th.
The Costin-Barry family

March 27th

In loving memory of Gordon Cockrell Kathryn Cockrell and the Cockrell Family

You may provide fresh 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. Near the flower chart in Pilgrim Hall are forms for submitting your bulletin information or better yet, email the church at strongsvilleucc@gmail.com. Envelopes for enclosing your payment to the church office are also available. Thank you!

THE FLOWER CHART FOR 2022 IS POSTED IN PILGRIM HALL-We still have several Sundays available, including May 15 & 22, June 5 (1), & 26, July 3, August 7 (1), & 14, Sept. 4, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23 (1), 30 (1), Nov. 20, and Dec. 4

CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2022

Elected January 30, 2022

* = 1 year term

Greg Dickson Moderator Vice-Moderator Jennifer Barry Treasurer Sally Herzog Clerk Judy Gaumer

Sunday School Co-Superintendents Linda Elkins Serena Abruzzino

Board of Trustees

Myron Costin Diana Creecy Bill Giuliano* Herb Hampson Dale Hawk Sarah Hayes Dave Sekorky Ed Sobek* Sandy Pogozelski* Rachel Zielinski

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson Linda Stepan Joyce Reed*

Diaconate

Teri Barbish Barbara Camp* Elaine Coffey Cathy Hawk* Linda Kapcar Bobbie Krisak Sharon Maresco Linda Ponstingle Cheryl Sobek* Cherie Teagno Barbara White*

Christian Education Committee

Serena Abruzzino* Mary Densmore Linda Elkins

Amanda Marshall Lora Rung

Music Committee

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

Stewardship Committee

Sue Gigliotti* Beth Giuliano* Judi Pavisich Richard Taylor Rob Toth

Mission and Outreach Committee

Judy Carte* Sarah Hayes Bobbie Krisak Lora Rung* Jennifer Sekorky Bev Wehr*

_____ **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HOSPICE OF THE WESTERN RESERVE**

Are you looking for a way to help individuals in your community? We serve palliative and hospice care patients and families wherever they call home and have a wide range of volunteer opportunities to fit your talents, interests, and schedule. There are many virtual and face-to-face opportunities available at Ames Family Hospice House in Westlake, the Medina Inpatient Unit and Life's Treasures Thrift Shop in Medina, and the David Simpson Hospice House and our Headquarters office in Cleveland. Virtual training series are held each month. Registration for a specific series is contingent on meeting pre-registration requirements which include completing an application, criminal background check, and prescreening interview. For more information or to start the application process today, call 216-255-9090, email volunteering@hospicewr.org, or visit our website at http://hospicewr.org/volunteer.

WE NEED YOU IN 2022!



Sign-up sheets in Pilgrim Hall are waiting for vour name to be added as a communion server, greeter, usher, coffee hour helper, or bread/pastry sorter. Don't know how to do any of those things? No

worries—we will show you everything you need to know! No experience is needed and everyone is welcome to be a part of our church life

EASTER LILIES/TULIPS ORDER FORM

You may choose a lily or tulips (no color choice). To order, please email the church prior to the deadline of Sunday, April 3, 2022 at NOON.

The cost is \$8.00. Payment is due April 10, 2022.

Wording for bulletin:	
Given by:	
(# of plants) Lilies	(x \$8)
Tulips	(x \$8)
Total amount due	e: \$
☐ I will take my plant(s). ☐ someon	I will leave my plant(s) for ne who needs some cheer.
Please make your check paya Church of Christ, and call or order.	
For Church Records	
Total number of plants:	
Amount enclosed: \$	
Offering envelope number:	
Cash/Check No	_
Name:	

Order deadline is Sunday, April 3. 2022 at NOON. Payment deadline is April 10, 2022.





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www.strongsvilleucc.com

