

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)

AUGUST 2020 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Hope is necessary in every condition. The miseries of poverty, sickness and captivity would, without this comfort, be unsupportable.

—William Samuel Jackson

A very long three days. . . .

We are beginning to lose track of time. Day after day after day, we are told where *not* to go, what *not* to do—who we *cannot* visit because of the coronavirus. Some days, I feel a bit like the wild cats at the zoo, pacing back and forth, back and forth, seeming to just want to *get out of this place!*

Who's with me? Who's about had enough?

Put your hands down. Now that we have acknowledged that we are all in this together, look at this season another way:

If that wild cat were released from her cage, she would surely die, either from her inexperience as a wild hunter or because she posed a danger to a human who owned a gun. Being caged in, fed regularly and cared for is life-giving, even if it's not quite the way Mother Nature intended her life to be.

Can we try to see this isolation the same way? If we do not follow the guidelines of distancing, hand-washing and mask-wearing, those whom we love stand a better chance of getting very sick—or worse.

Our captivity is saving lives. Possibly our own, as well as the lives of others. The better we wait, the sooner we can come back together again.

Some traditions tell us that after he was crucified, Jesus spent those three days, not lying dead in the tomb, but in the depths of Sheol, releasing souls to new life, through God's Grace. For those waiting souls, it was, quite literally, hell. You know my Tom Petty theology: the waiting was the hardest part.

But after the waiting, new life. New possibilities. New hope.

Use this time to wait *well*. Let God nurture you. When you *must* go out, please. **Wear a mask.*** It's a simple, helpful thing to do. (And try not to bite anyone. You'll only get a mouthful of fabric, and maybe some animal hair, anyway! Ask me how I know.)

In Peace and Hope,
Pastor Heidi

**If you need a mask, there are wonderful cloth masks available in the church office for an optional, small donation.*

ONLINE WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY – AUGUST 2 – ONLINE

**Sacrament of Communion
Sacrament of Baptism**

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost



SUNDAY – AUGUST 9 – ONLINE

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Special Musical Guests: The Satori Winds

SUNDAY – AUGUST 16 – ONLINE

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Special Guest Minister: Rev. Oommen Thomas
Liturgist: Rev. Heidi Denman-McDougall

SUNDAY – AUGUST 23 – ONLINE

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

SUNDAY – AUGUST 30 – ONLINE

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



THANK YOU NOTES

Many thanks to my church family for all the get-well cards, good wishes, and prayers after my shoulder surgery. I am on the mend and am doing everything I can to get back to normal. I am so lucky

to have so much support.—**Judy Carte**

Thanks for the get-well prayers and cards. It really meant a lot to know that so many people care. My knee is on the mend and I should be fully recovered soon. Hope everyone is staying healthy and safe --**Evan Joyce**

Dear Pastor Heidi, Irene, and everyone at SUCC, My Greetings of Love! Hope you all are well and keeping safe. I miss you and I truly miss my Larry. The COVID-19 is not helping the situation since we are still unable to visit Larry inside the facility and he, along with the other residents, just does not understand why. Thank you for your continued prayers; they are greatly appreciated and much needed. Stay well and keep safe! My thoughts and prayers to all—God's Blessings, **Christina Craig**

Pastor Heidi and Strongsville UCC,
Thank you so much for my graduation card and gift! I really appreciate you thinking about me! It truly means so much! Love. **Madison Wentz**

Dear Pastor Heidi and Strongsville UCC,
Thank you for the kind thoughts, cards, and Chipotle gift card for my graduation. It was extremely thoughtful of all of you and I am very grateful. With love, **Louis Gigliotti III**

To the congregation at SUCC,
Thank you so much for the scholarship! I appreciate it a lot and it's going to good use. I hope everyone is well and staying positive. Again, thank you all! Sincerely, **Rachel Kovatich**

Dear Strongsville UCC and Pastor Heidi,
I was really touched with the kind gift, book, cards, and congratulations on my graduation. Your thoughtfulness made this trying year a little easier and a lot brighter for me. Thank you again, **Isabella Jannsohn**

Strongsville United Church of Christ,
Thank you so much for the graduation cards! Times have been crazy and they were greatly appreciated! God Bless! Best, **Alison Schafer** (George & Joyce Reed's granddaughter)

Dear Strongsville UCC,
Thank you so much for the generous scholarship for school. I'll be attending Baldwin Wallace as a Music Composition student this fall. I will look forward to continuing to use my musical talents in church!
Sincerely, **Robert C. 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 You Tube Channel:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCynOZfq4uKoX7HMnKORbXfQ/videos>



OUR PRAYER LIST

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

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

Church Family: Joan Beckwith, Lloyd Bridle, Judy Carte, Mary Carey, Elaine Coffey, Rev. Larry and Christina Craig, Joe Craig, Robert

Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Dan Davis, Sue Hawk, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Evan Joyce, Carole Kapcar, George Kapcar, Debbie Krause, Lori Kovatich, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Lacey Marshall, Judy Maur, Laurie Meister, Michele Mhlack, Joyce Reed, Bill Ritchie, Alysha Rolland, Ginger Rothel, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Jamie & Josh Trinckes, Sharon Wilson, Sally Vetovitz, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Ron, Yvonne, & Ronnie Adams (friends of Judi Pavisich), Dorene Baldrige, Amy Carroll (sister of Marty Winch), Lyla Joy Crowley (great grand-niece of Irene Jannsohn), Ruby Cuyler (sister of Sam), Gwen Giddings (sister of Linda Dettmer), 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), Donna McDonald (friend of the Ritchies), 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), Chris Vozniak (friend of Lora Rung), Brad Williams (friend of Judi Pavisich), Daphne Wilson (niece of Irene Jannsohn)

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



Our deepest condolences to **Lois Reisinger** and family on the passing of her mother, **Janet May Boggs**, on July 3,

2020. A small graveside service was held on July 16, 2020 at Columbia Cemetery.

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. The next bonus week will be November 15 -21, but you don't have to wait until then to dispose of your papers. Thank you!



River Valley Paper Company

BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS

May God's richest blessings flow upon **Henry Harrison Hayes**, son of **Sarah and Jon Hayes**, who was baptized on July 26, 2020. Our congregation, his Nana and Papa, **Cathy and Dale Hawk**, along with siblings, **Jack and Ella**, are very proud to welcome Henry into the family of God. Henry's sponsors are **Amanda Lavoie, John Marshall, and Rachel Hayes**.



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 received \$203.58 from Amazon as of May, 2020. Every little bit helps!**

GIFT CARDS



You can still order gift cards by calling the church in advance with your order. Then you may 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!

UNsung HEROES

Did you know that **Cathy Hawk and Janice Booth** have taken the reins of the Thrift Shop and, along with the help of **Linda Dettmer, Barb Fraunfelder, Rosie Remle, Pam Polansky, Sarah Hayes, Mary Carey, and Sally Herzog?** Thank you all for cleaning, sorting, and reorganizing the shop and the items.



Did you know that the Panera Bread donations are still being picked up and sorted? Thanks to the dedication of **Cathy Hawk, Sharon & Jim Maresco, Rick & Cheri Teagno, Jim & Linda Dettmer, Linda Kapcar, Mary Ellen Zimmerman, Kay Kispert, Judy Carte, and Maria Graeff?** Many thanks also to **Sharon Lempner and Dave Newhouse** who have been distributing the sorted items.

Did you know that several of our church members have been helping with distributing produce to those in need at Strongsville Middle School during the month of July? Thanks to **Rosie Remle, Linda & Jim Dettmer, Pastor Heidi & Chuck McDougall, Cathy Hawk, and Clay Williams**.

STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of July 5

With blessings for our nation's Independence Day

Week of July 12

Happy Anniversary on July 14th to Joe & Barbara Craig

With love, Mom

Happy Birthday on July 16th to a great friend,

Joyce Reed--With love, Betty C.

Week of July 19

Thank you to all of our front line workers who keep our world going and to those bringing us our online worship services each week

Betty (Grammy) Craig

Week of July 26

Happy Birthday to Joey McKane on July 28th!

With love, Grammy

In honor of my son, Michael McNabb's, birthday

on July 27th! With love, Ginger Rothel



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**

strongsvilleuuc@gmail.com.

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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.

PENNY SUNDAY NEWS



If you have been holding on to all those pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and dollar bills, now is the time to bring them to the church for our virtual **Penny Sunday** collection through August 3rd. The collection will go to **St. Herman's House** in Cleveland, which shelters and supports the homeless on the path to well-being and independence and meets the basic needs of people in the community by offering prayer, serving meals, providing job assistance, and finding housing. (Some of the Panera Bread donations have been going there during the pandemic shut down.) Thank you!

Live Penny Sunday collections will resume on the last Sunday of each month when our in-person worship services return. Please keep saving those pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and dollars!

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.



THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is OPEN on Thursdays from 10 a.m.

until 4 p.m. with enhanced

safety protocols in place, a new look with fresh paint, and lots of interesting merchandise. Donations are once again being accepted, but you must call the church first to arrange a time for drop-off. Thank you

to the volunteers at the Thrift Shop for bringing back this valuable asset to our church and our community!



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Because of the pandemic, Women's Fellowship is not currently meeting. Programs scheduled for this year will probably be

rescheduled when our environment is safe.

We are creating a Women's Fellowship roster, which includes addresses, phone numbers, birthdays, and email addresses. The roster will be distributed soon to all ladies in the group.

All women are welcome to all Women's Fellowship activities. Your participation is as much or little as you choose. For more information about Women's Fellowship, please contact either of us. We look forward to emailing or talking with you soon.

Sharon Heinrich and Linda Elkins

If you would like to support the Strongsville Food Bank, please note that cereal, canned veggies, soup, and pasta are their biggest needs. **DONATIONS MAY BE TAKEN DIRECTLY TO THE FOOD BANK.** It is located on Zverina Lane behind the Strongsville Communications Building. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.



STEWARDSHIP

Now, more than ever, your faithful support is needed and appreciated 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 **June 28 through July 19, 2020.**

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

Offering Needed \$13,893.08 for 4 Sundays

Offering Received 12,266.60

Difference (- \$1,626.48)

Thank you to everyone who is maintaining their giving!



TRUSTEES UPDATE

You may already be aware, but the Board of Trustees has continued to meet through email meetings, doing the business of the church during this time.

- Replaced the gasket in the toilet in the restroom adjacent to the Gathering Area. Thanks to **Bill Craig** for his assistance with this repair.
- Have been soliciting bids for painting the exterior of the Pearl Road property.
- Have been monitoring the status of the church building, utilities, and finances.

Thank you to our dedicated Trustees !

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 Pogozeleski
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 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

ADDRESS CHANGES

To update your Church Directory:

Richard Colmery
819 Nottingham Drive
Medina, OH 44256



Adam & Kristina Craig and family
10837 NW Malia Lane
Portland, OR 97229

Dan Davis
17603 Whitney Road #102
Strongsville, OH 44136

Elena Joyce
6951 York Road #208
Parma Heights, OH 44130

Hayley, Joey, and Walter McKane
350 25th Avenue #2
San Francisco, CA 94121

Clay Williams & Jacob Williams
3304 Brookpark Road
Brooklyn, OH 44144

Claire Wills
c/o 17950 Heritage Trail
Strongsville, OH 44136

BLESSING FOR A FACE MASK by Mary Luti

**God of health and wholeness,
of neighbor love and kindness,
Bless this mask, my slight shield
against great ills:**

**Bless the fabric that repels the drops,
the ties that go behind my ears,
the wire that fits snug against my nose,
the folds that cup my chin.**

**Make me grateful for my mask
even when it makes me hot,
even when I look funny in it,
even when I'm dying to take it off.**

**Bless me also, and everyone,
who for their own and others' sakes
put on this holy inconvenience every day
our minds made up to love.**



(Masks by Linda Ponstingle)

