

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



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

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall
Pastor

Worship Sundays at 10 a.m. (+online)

AUGUST 2024 NEWSLETTER

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His Love endures forever. –Psalm 136:1

Attitude is Everything.

As you may know, Strongsville UCC is in partnership with Bombas socks, and we regularly distribute their amazing sock to various populations in need. Recently, we were able to share socks with the female residents at the Northeast Reintegration Center, and received a number of grateful notes in response:

- ♥ I just want to thank you all for the socks. It is greatly appreciated and I'm grateful for you all thinking about us. The socks brought great delight to me because we all love socks. It's the small things that matter! – Deneé
- ♥ I received the beautiful gifts you sent. Not only were they needed, they were BOMBAS! Thank you so much for the blessing. In a "place of confinement," you gave us all a taste of "The Outside!" God bless you! --Ms. Magse
- ♥ I just wanted to take the time to say thank you so much for the donation of Bombas socks. I love them! I wear them every day. They are the most comfortable socks! I am going to continue wearing Bombas when I am released. –Brandi
- ♥ Hello—I would like to thank you so very much for the Bombas Socks! It really means a lot to me, and I am one of the ladies who helped pass them out so it is such a joy to see the women's faces when they were receiving them –N. Allen

Socks. Something we take for granted. And yet Jesus reminds us that *whatever we do for the least of these, we do for Jesus* (Matthew 25:40). Truly, it is the little kindnesses, done with great love, that change the world every, single day.

Peace, Love, Hope—and Gratitude,
Pastor Heidi

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



SUNDAY, AUGUST 4 – 10 a.m.

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Greeter: Linda Plain

Liturgist: Elaine Coffey

Music: Sue McLaughlin, Dave Williams

Summer Sunday School: Colette Emerson

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11 – 10 a.m.

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Judi Pavisich

Liturgist: Mike Willis

Music: 3 Generations of Foleys

Summer Sunday School: Volunteer needed

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18 – 10 a.m.

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Volunteer needed

Liturgist: Herb Hampson

Music: Megan Denman

Summer Sunday School: Sharon Heinrich

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25 – 10 a.m.

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Penny Sunday

Greeter: Volunteer needed

Liturgist: Sharon Maresco

Music: The Satori Winds

Summer Sunday School:

Volunteer needed

Special Guest Speaker: Tami Klammer,
principal of Snow School



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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/UCynOZfg4uKoX7HMnKORbXfQ/videos> Thanks to Doug Thorn for posting these each week.
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ALL ARE WELCOME AT GOD'S TABLE!

As we seek to walk ever more closely with Jesus and welcome all without question or singling anyone out, we will now be offering gluten-free bread to ALL who come forward to the Table for Holy Communion. ALL means ALL at The United Church of Christ (Congregational)!

Welcome New Members!

We are so happy to welcome these new members into our church family!

Nancy Garber grew up in the Methodist tradition has been attending our church regularly for a number of months and felt moved to join our congregation. She has a grown son and six grandchildren. She is being sponsored by her neighbor here in Strongsville, **Peter Smith**.



Sally Harper lives in Berea when not a resident of Fort Pierce, Florida during the winter months. She is a retired librarian, who has a grown son and daughter. Sally came to know Pastor Heidi while at University Circle United Methodist Church in Cleveland

and is now joining our congregation. Her sponsor is **Mary Ellen Zimmerman**.

Jo-Ann & Tony Hoty were looking for a church home after moving back to Ohio from sweltering North Carolina. They came upon our church and decided that they belong with us. The Hotys, retired educators, models, and business people, are well-traveled and have three grown sons and 7 grandchildren.

Elaine Coffey was one of the first people they met when visiting and she is their sponsor.



Sarah Hwang is a licensed pharmacist and started attending our church late last year. She worships with us regularly and even attended her first Church Retreat at Temple Hills with us earlier this year.



She started attending our church after moving to North Ridgeville from Toledo. Sarah is

sponsored by **Jennifer Barry**.

Rev. Erv Koch, a retired UCC minister, is reinstating his membership in Strongsville UCC via a transfer from Dover Congregational United



Church of Christ in Westlake. He and his late wife, Grace, were members here for a number of years prior to attending Middleburg Heights UCC. Erv recently returned to Strongsville and to our church. Erv's sponsor is **Judi Pavisich**.

Jane Linscott is a Strongsville resident and the mother of a grown daughter and son. She was raised in the United Church of Christ in Indiana and has found a church home here. She loves to knit and enjoys worshipping with us. **Diana Creecy** is her sponsor.



Alex Tomoff transferred his membership from the Church of the Redeemer in Westlake in April of



2024 and has been faithfully attending worship services here ever since. Alex and his wife, Karen, are Strongsville residents and are the parents of two grown children. **Dale Hawk** is sponsoring Alex.

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Our most heartfelt condolences go out to **Dorothy Ritchie** and the family and friends of long-time member,

William J. (Bill) Ritchie. Bill died on June 30, 2024 at the age of 92. He and Dorothy were married for almost 72 years and they joined our church more than 70 years ago. Bill was active in the community as well as the church and was the president of Cleveland Tool & Cutter. He was the father of **Gina (Chris), Cathcart, Lisa (Brian) Bird, Bill (Lynn) Ritchie, Jr., Sharon**



Ritchie, and a beloved grandfather and great-grandfather.



BOOK STUDY--A YEAR OF BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD

Continuing on **August 19th**, Pastor Heidi and Linda Elkins are leading a monthly book study based on Rachel Held Evans's wonderful book, *A Year of Biblical Womanhood*. The group will meet on the **third Monday of each month at 7 p.m.**, for one hour. It's not too late to join us!

SECRETARY ON VACATION!



Please be aware that the church office will be closed from Monday, August 12th through Wednesday, August 14th and will reopen on Thursday, August 15th.

BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Luz Violet-Rocio Mendoza**, daughter of **Luz Gissell Hernandez Mendoza** and **Gegory Joas Aguilar Turcios**. She was baptized at our church on July 6, 2024. Luz's sponsors are Angelica Ocegüera and Ricardo Hernandez. Special thanks to **Rev. Pat Jefferis**, who stepped in at the last minute to baptize Luz when Pastor Heidi was ill.



THANK YOU NOTES



To everyone at Strongsville UCC, Thank you for all of your cards, prayers, and words of encouragement on my recent knee replacement surgery.

Because of your concern, advice, and caring, I am doing very well. **Jim Joyce**

Please thank the congregation for their cards and well wishes. They are helping me so much! I can feel the love from everyone. **Sarah Keenen**

Thanks to my church family for all the cards, prayers, and notes. They made me feel special and really brightened my day. I miss seeing everyone, but you are all in my thoughts and prayers! Love ya, **Lola Millhoane**

PICNIC SUNDAY

Thank you to everyone who participated in outdoor worship and our church picnic!

Special thanks to **Barbara White** for organizing the potluck and to **Rachel Zielinski** for supervising the games for the kids!



IT HAPPENED!

CHURCH GARAGE SALE/BAKE SALE/THRIFT SHOP

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to everyone who supported our Garage Sale. Whether you donated, purchased, sorted, helped set-up,

cashier, or clean-up, you are a part of the team that raised \$2,326.00 for the Official

Board. The Bake Sale raised \$816.50 for the Sunday School, thanks to all of the wonderful bakers and buyers. The Thrift Shop earned \$2,014.50 last week, due to the hard work of our dedicated volunteers and everyone who donates and everyone who shops. Our grand total was \$5,157.00 for the sponsoring organizations—once again, THANK YOU!



OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Laurie Meister, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Maggie Struhar

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Judy Carte, Jennifer Cockrell, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sue Hawk, Irene Jannsohn, Jim Joyce, Bruce Keenen, Sarah Keenen, Kay Konicek, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Jim Maresco, Jan Meier, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Ginny & Kenn Oerkitz, Gary Paul, George & Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Peter Smith, Linda Stepan, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Mary Ellen Zimmerman



Extended Church Family: Yvonne Adams (Judi Pavisich's friend), Dorene Baldrige, Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), John Dickson (Greg's dad), Keana Dickson (Greg & Ingrid's daughter), Allison Emerson (Colette's sister), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Joanne Gariepy (Sally Herzog's friend), Kathy Ghetti (friend of Ginger Rothel), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel's parents), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Sylvia Pakish (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Jeff Peacock (former member), Zora Roundtree (FL4A volunteer), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Sandy Shipley (the Zielinkis' friend), Vicki Smith (Venner Clarinets), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), The people of Ukraine, Gaza, and Israel, victims of violence, those affected by natural disasters

OPT-IN: Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain. h.e.denman@gmail.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Summer Sunday School is such a pleasure! We still have a couple of Sundays available. All lessons and materials will be provided in advance. Please sign

up for a Sunday you're available for this special ministry--a sign-up sheet is posted in Pilgrim Hall!

PENNY SUNDAY.



Thanks to everyone who donated in June. We collected \$406.03 for St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral in

Cleveland, which was severely damaged by fire in May. Please save your coins, dollars, and checks (to UCC) for our next Penny Sunday on **August 25, 2024.**



RALLY DAY IS COMING! Mark your calendars for a brand new Sunday School year beginning September 8th!

ADDRESS CHANGES/ADDITIONS

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

Nancy Garber

15101 Howe Road
Strongsville, OH 44136

Sally Harper

179 Manning Drive
Berea, OH 44017

Jo-Ann & Tony Hoty

9825 Hazelwood Avenue
Strongsville, OH 44149

Sarah Hwang

32044 Burnt Timber Trail
North Ridgeville, OH 11039

Jane Linscott

22462 Woodfield Trail
Strongsville, OH 44149

Erv Koch

18960 Falling Water Road #111
Strongsville, OH 44136
Phone number: 440-334-2318

Clay Williams

1521 Bridford Pkwy. #5G (Add the apt. number)
Greensboro, OH 27407



Did you know that **Ed Sobek** took the time to clean and paint over some graffiti on our church building? Thanks for your work, Ed!



Did you know that **John Toth** had the American flag from our chancel area pressed, just in time for the 4th of July? Thank you very much, John!

Did you know that **Sally Herzog** came in early on the Monday after the Garage Sale to admit the workers from Volunteers of America who picked up the remaining boxes from the sale? Thanks for getting up early, Sally!

MUSIC NOTES

Many thanks to **Cindy Smith, Brittany Fernandez, Ken Mehalko, Dave Williams, EKCO Ringers/We 3 Ring (Ed Krzes, Cheryl Onesky, and Nicki Haire), Sandy O'Shea, and of course, Tom Foley, Mike Elkins, and Sharon Heinrich, for their music in July!**



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY BAND:



Come to our concert on **Friday, August 2nd (Rotary Cookout at the Ehrnfeltd Center) at 7:30 p.m.** and

grab your lawn chair for our concert on **Friday, August 9th at 7:30 p.m.** on the Strongsville Middle School lawn (In case of rain, outdoor concerts will be at the Ehrnfeltd Center.)

GIFT CARDS

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR

PROGRAM. You may place orders by calling **Jim Joyce** at 216-346-4161 in advance.

Limited stock is available for purchase on Sunday mornings.



DO MORE IN 2024!



New sign-up sheets in the Gathering Area are waiting for your name to be added as a greeter or usher. No experience is necessary—we will show you everything you need to know! Everyone is welcome to be a part of our church life.

NEWS FROM THE KITCHEN



Did you know? The "tip jar" you see next to the coffee on Sunday mornings is there for a reason. The "tips" go directly to keeping the coffee, tea, sugar, creamer, etc., supplied. Your generosity is appreciated!



PLEASE DON'T FALL FOR A SCAM!

Pastor Heidi will never ask you for cash or gift cards via text or email. If there is a need, she will approach you in person.

MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:

Mission Outreach will be collecting **OLD SPICE** and **DOVE** deodorant for **Snow School in Berea** through **August 25th**. The students who attend that school are in foster care, transitional care, or wards of the county and while Ohio Guidestone provides hospital grade deodorant, having a name brand product makes a big difference to these young people. (The principal of Snow School suggested Old Spice and Dove because they are popular and having a consistent product promotes harmony among the kids.)



Mark your calendar for **Sunday, August 25th**, during our worship service, when **Tami Klammer**, the principal of Snow School, will speak about their work and mission serving kids in crisis.



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT THE FOOD BANK:



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 August would be peanut butter & jelly and canned tuna.

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU

Our brothers and sisters at the **Pentecostal Church of Christ** in Cleveland collected 10,560



pounds of shoes for their mission in third world countries. Our church was a big part of helping them to

gather that many pairs of shoes! Any unsold Thrift Shop shoes were picked up by **Sharon Lempner**, hauled and sorted, and donated to their project, which took almost 18 months. Thank you from PCC to UCC!

PANERA PALS



Are you able to give less than an hour of your time on a Monday or Friday morning to pick up and/or sort Panera bread, bagels, and pastries? Please contact the church office if you can help with this worthwhile ministry. Thank you so much to our faithful bread transporters: **Teri Barbish, Colette Emerson, Carole Kapcar, Roz Fotos, Maria Graeff, Neal Flowerman, Linda Elkins, Cherie Teagno, Wayne & Bobbi Cook, and Sharon Lempner**, who are enabling the Panera Bread ministry to continue!

RIVER VALLEY PAPER RECYCLING—ON BORROWED TIME



River Valley Paper company is reducing its routes and will be removing our paper/cardboard recycling bin at some point. We will be contacting other companies to see about getting another bin. You may bring your cardboard and paper as long as the bin is in our parking lot, but an alternative site will be needed in the future. Thank you to everyone who has supported this program.

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL--Wednesdays

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

We've really enjoyed having our youth volunteers during the summertime! They're a big help, especially since we have been serving over 100 guests each Wednesday!



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS



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

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP— August "MOVIE WATCHING!"



Evening: **Monday, August 5th, 7PM** in the Gathering Area

Daytime: **Wednesday, August 7th, 1PM** in the Gathering Area

Movie is to be determined - please provide suggestion(s) to Sharon Heinrich.

As always, all ladies are welcome!





GIVING OPTIONS

If you are interested in giving electronically, you can set up your giving through Bill Pay on your bank's website or on our church's website: www.strongsvilleucc.com. You may also mail a check to The United Church of Christ (Congregational) 13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, OH 44136 or drop it off in the church's mailbox.

FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY Gary Zielinski

Below is a monthly report listing the budget income we need to receive from Pledges and Offerings and the amount received from June 30 through July 21, 2024.



Thank you to everyone who supports our church and its ministries.

Offering Needed \$14,468.04 for 4 Sundays
Offering Received \$13,515.90
-(\$ 952.14)

PLEDGE CARDS RECEIVED: 51



TELLERS NEEDED! If you have less than 30 minutes to spare after worship periodically, we are in need of tellers. No experience is necessary. Please see Gary Zielinski if you can help.



All checks to the church should be made out to **United Church of Christ or UCC or United Church of Christ (Congregational)**. Please do not use "Strongsville" or "SUCC" in the "Pay to the Order of" line. Thanks!



THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is OPEN every Thursday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Come and shop lots of interesting

merchandise at amazing prices. Donations are accepted during our Thursday sale hours, but please try to limit your donations to what you can carry downstairs. **Please do not abandon items outside the church doors.** THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS, OUR SHOPPERS, AND OUR PEOPLE WHO DONATE!

IN OUR COMMUNITY



Girl Scout Troop #71363 is stocking and maintaining a "Hygiene Library," which is located on the lawn near the parking lot facing Royalton Road.

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR LAST MONTH

The altar flowers are given—

July 7th

Happy Birthday to Teri Barbish (yesterday!)
Love, Mom & Dad

July 14th

Celebrating our Granddaughter Alison,
Daughter Joyce Lynn, George & Joyce Reed's
Birthdays this month.--The Reeds

July 21st

Happiest Birthday to my beautiful diva,
Kenzzi! --Serena Abruzzino
Welcome to our church family, new members!



July 28th

Church picnic (no altar flowers)

THE FLOWER CHART FOR 2024 IS POSTED IN PILGRIM HALL. Please sign up for fresh flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one or just for yourself. Cost is \$36 for two vases; \$18 for one.



STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of July 7th

Happy Birthday to Bev Wehr on July 9th
and to Susann Lerch on July 10th!

Week of July 14th

Happy Anniversary today to Barbara & Joe Craig
With love, Mom

Week of July 21st

Happy Birthday to Frankie McKane on July 24th!
With love, Grammy

Week of July 28th

Happy Birthday today to Joey McKane!
With love, Grammy

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

CHURCH FAMILY CARE 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 don't need to be a member of the Diaconate to participate, and you may come and go as you are led.)



IMPORTANT INFO—Do you know where the AED and First Aid Kit are located in the church? They are adjacent to the doorway in Pilgrim Hall, just to the right of the confirmation classroom.

CHURCH OFFICERS 2024

**Elected January 28, 2024 **Appointed by Official Board*

Moderator: Greg Dickson* **Vice-Moderator:** Jen Barry*

Treasurer: Sally Herzog* **Clerk:** Judy Gaumer*

Sunday School Co-Superintendents

Linda Elkins Mary Densmore

Board of Trustees

Bill Giuliano* Chris Goff Mike Elkins*

Les Fox* Herb Hampson* Cathy Hawk

Sarah Hayes* Sandy Pogozeleski* Cheryl Sobek

Dan Winrod Laura Winrod Rachel Zielinski*

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson* Dave Williams*

Diaconate

Teri Barbish* Jean Bittinger Elaine Coffey*

Bobbi Cook Wayne Cook Judy Davis Judy Fox*

Carole Kapcar Cherie Teagno* Barbara White

Mary Ellen Zimmerman

Christian Education Committee

Serena Abruzzino Mary Densmore Linda Elkins*

Colette Emerson* Sarah Hayes** Amanda Marshall*

Lora Rung

Music Committee

Karen Bates* Ingrid Dickson*

Pam Keenen Ken Mehalko Mike Willis

ex officio: Sharon Heinrich Tom Foley Mike Elkins

Stewardship Committee

Sue Gigliotti* Judi Pavisich Bill Schneider

Rob Toth* Mary Willis

Mission and Outreach Committee

Diana Creecy* Sarah Hayes* Lora Rung

Jennifer Sekorky* Peter Smith Bev Wehr*

Mary Ellen Zimmerman

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE CHURCH

Your church boards and committees have been busy this past month, working on projects:

- The Memorial Fund purchased new 8' plastic tables to replace the unwieldy wooden tables we used to have.
- New vinyl table coverings were bought by the Diaconate for the round tables in Pilgrim Hall.
- The Official Board has paid the deposit to reserve Inspiration Hills in Burbank, Ohio for our Annual Winter Retreat in February of 2025.
- The Trustees are gathering bids and estimates for various improvement projects in and around the church building, some of which are not glamorous, but are sorely needed. More information about these projects will be coming in the fall.

CALL FOR CARDS!

Our own **Betty Jacobson** will be turning **103**

on August 27, 2024 and we would love to shower her with at least 103 birthday cards!

Can you send her a card?

Betty Jacobson

18800 Westwood Place #412

Strongsville, OH 44136



Psalm 100 7 Ways to Praise + 7 Reasons

Make a
JOYFUL NOISE

KNOW that the
Lord is God

Serve with
GLADNESS

It is He who
MADE us

Come before His
presence with SINGING

We are
HIS PEOPLE

Enter His gates
with THANKSGIVING

We are
HIS SHEEP

Enter His courts
with PRAISE

The Lord is
GOOD

Be THANKFUL

HIS MERCY is
EVERLASTING

BLESS His name!

HIS FAITHFULNESS
and TRUTH endure!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PLEDGE!

2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN --M.A.P.L.E.

M- Making and moving

A- Accepting and Acknowledging

P- People

L- Learning and Loving

E- Encompassing



United Church of Christ 2024 Estimate of Giving

In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2024:

Name _____

Address _____

I plan to give \$_____ each

week month other _____ to be used for

Our Congregation's Ministries and Operations

\$_____

Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)

\$_____

I would like to talk with someone from the Endowment Committee about including the church or church-related institution in my Will.

I would like to talk with someone about using the automatic deduction plan from my checking/savings account.

Signed _____

Date ____/____/____



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(Congregational)
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Summer
Blessings