

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

DECEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My little light

Advent is upon us. Soon, we begin four Sundays of waiting, watching, listening and remembering when Love first came down at Christmas.

Sometimes it's almost impossible to perceive even a glimmer of light in the midst of a cold, dark winter, and even harder to believe my little light can make any difference at all in the world. Every headline, every story on the evening news reminds us how far the world has wandered from the loving good news of the gospel. Even on days when my light burns brightly, it barely lights my corner of the city.

In the face of expansive evil in the world and problems faced by people across the globe, it's tremendously important to remember: I cannot do everything, but I *can* do one thing.

I can buy one book to donate to our local schoolchildren. Or I can fill one bag of groceries for the local food bank. I can buy a cup of coffee or a sandwich for someone whose stomach is chronically empty. I can let my little light shine with a hug and a smile. As we move closer to Christmas, focus on the *little* things. You just might discover they're really the *big* things, after all.

And who knows? Maybe, just maybe *your* light will kindle a fire in another. After all, *it only takes a spark. . . .*

Peace,
Pastor Heidi



*(In loving memory of Kurt Kaiser, composer of **Pass It On** and many other songs)*



PRAYER FOR PEACE

Eternal God, creator of the universe,
there is no God but you.
Great and wonderful are your works; wondrous are your ways.

Thanks you for the many splendored variety of your creation.

Thank you for the many ways
we affirm your presence and purpose,
and the freedom to do so.

Forgive our violation of your creation.
Forgive our violence toward each other.
We stand in awe and gratitude for your persistent love for each and all of your children:
Christian, Jew, Muslim,
as well as those of other faiths.

Grant to all, and to our leaders, attributes of the strong;
mutual respect in words and deed;
restraint in the exercise of power;
and the will for peace with justice, for all.

Eternal God, creator of the universe,
there is no God but you. Amen.

(Written by Jewish, Christian, and Muslim clergy, and published by The World Council of Churches)



Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of **Doris Soucie**, who passed away on November 17.

She was 95 years old and very active until shortly before her death. A memorial service was held at our church on November 26.



WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY – DECEMBER 2 – 10:00 A.M.
Sacrament of Communion



First Sunday of Advent
Luke 21: 25-36 and Jeremiah 33: 14-16

Liturgist: Betty Craig
Greeter: Linda Plain
Ushers: Linda Plain/Marty Winch
Coffee Hour: Volunteers needed
Special Music: SUCC Chancel Choir and Band

SUNDAY – DECEMBER 9 – 10:00 A.M.

Second Sunday of Advent
Luke 3: 1-6 and Malachi 3: 1-4

Liturgist: Pam Keenen
Greeter: Lola Millhoane
Usher: Volunteers needed
Coffee Hour: Volunteer needed
Special Music: SUCC Bell Choir and Band

SUNDAY – DECEMBER 9 – 7:00 P.M.



SUNDAY – DECEMBER 16– 10:00 A.M.

Children's Christmas Pageant

Third Sunday of Advent
Luke 3: 7-18 and Isaiah 12: 2-6

Liturgist: Dave Williams
Greeters: The Rolland Family
Ushers: Volunteers needed
Coffee Hour: Volunteers needed
Special Music: SUCC Children's Choir



SUNDAY – DECEMBER 23– 10:00 A.M.

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Luke 1: 39-46 and Micah 5: 2-5a

Liturgists: Kenn Oerkfitz
Greeters: The Clotworthy Family
Ushers: Volunteers Needed
Coffee Hour: Volunteers needed
Special Music: SUCC Choir and Band

MONDAY – DECEMBER 24– 7:00 P.M.

Christmas Eve Family Service

Liturgist: Kelly Bickley
Greeters: The Rolland Family
Ushers: Volunteers needed
Special Music: SUCC Band & Choir



MONDAY – DECEMBER 24– 11:00 P.M.

Christmas Eve Traditional Candlelight Service

Liturgist: Dale Hawk
Greeter: Marty Winch
Ushers: Volunteers Needed
Special Music: SUCC Choir and Band



SUNDAY – DECEMBER 30 – 10:00 A.M.

First Sunday after Christmas

Liturgist: Jim Studer
Greeters: Roy and Carol Merkle
Usher: Volunteers needed
Coffee Hour: Volunteer needed
Special Music: SUCC Band

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE & LIVE NATIVITY

Thank you to everyone who participated!
662 people came through our doors that night!



LOOKING AHEAD TO ADVENT

Mark your calendars for a busy and blessed Christmas season:

December 2: 1st Sunday of Advent—10 a.m.

December 9: 2nd Sunday of Advent—10 a.m.
Blue Christmas Service of Remembrance
Sunday evening at 7 p.m.

December 14: Christmas Jazz Concert
Friday evening at 7:30 p.m.

December 16: 3rd Sunday of Advent—10 a.m.
Christmas Pageant followed by reception
and visitor from the North

December 23: 4th Sunday of Advent—10 a.m.

December 24: Christmas Eve Worship
Monday at 7 p.m. & 11 p.m.

December 30: Last Sunday worship of 2018



ARE YOU A FACEBOOK USER?



“Like” our page at Strongsville United Church of Christ and get the latest updates, links to videos of our worship services, and fun connections to your church family!

HOW CAN YOU HELP OUT?

Sign-up sheets in Pilgrim Hall are waiting for **your name** to be added as a communion server, greeter, usher, coffee hour helper, or nursery helper!

Help is especially needed to pick up the donations from Panera on

Monday or Friday mornings. No experience is needed and everyone is welcome to be a part of our church life.



SWINGIN' SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS

Friday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m.



Join the Strongsville City Jazz Swing Band for an evening of your favorite Christmas tunes with a little toe-tapping swing! Tickets are only \$10 at the door, \$5 for kids 6-12 and Free for kids under age 6
Followed by a wine & cheese reception!



BLUE CHRISTMAS

Service of Remembrance & Healing

Sunday, December 9, 2018, 7 p.m.

Slow down. Breathe. Remember.
Join us for a time of reflection, remembrance

and meditation as together we seek peace during this busy season.

All are welcome—especially you.

UNSUNG HEROES

Did you know that the **Doug Thorn** braved wet, freezing weather to completely rewire the damaged Live Nativity set-up? Your work is truly appreciated, Doug!

Did you know that **Sarah Hawk Hayes, Linda Ponstingle, Janis Williamson, Sharon Heinrich, Rachel Zielinski, Pam Keenen, Karen Morgan, Ingrid Dickson, Ollie Zielinski, Claire Wills, Sarah Toth, Irene Jannsohn, and Irene Joyce** packed all of the Thanksgiving baskets, including running to the store and procuring missing items? Thanks to everyone for donating items and for making this awesome project happen! 37 families were fed.

Did you know **Bill Craig** donated his plumbing services to repair the leaking toilet in the Pilgrim Hall Men's Room? Thank you so much, Bill!



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.

And since you're in a shopping mood...you can benefit the church even more by buying Amazon (or many other) **gift cards** from Jim Joyce in Pilgrim Hall prior to whipping out that credit card. **Please keep us in mind for your upcoming Christmas shopping!**



ALTAR FLOWERS

November altar flowers were given

November 4 – *Happy Birthday to Lori Deertz on November 2. Have a wonderful year!*
Love you forever, Mom (Marty Winch)

Congratulations to Everett Ashforth on his baptism today!

November 11 -- *In Memory of our Parents, Warren & Hallie Strine and Harold & Louella Camp*
Mark and Barbara Camp

In Memory of Dr. Frank L. Weakley
Peg Weakley

November 18 – *For the Chancel Choir*
Doris Soucie

With thankful appreciation of all of our staff and volunteers that make this church a family--with love from the Hawk family

November 25 -- "Happy Anniversary-
Love you so much, Babes"
Mike and Kristen Clotworthy 18 years of wedded bliss



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. Near the flower chart in Pilgrim Hall are forms for submitting your bulletin information and envelopes for enclosing your payment to the church office. Thank you for placing flowers on the altar. **2019 Flower sign-up chart is posted!**

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Fall Family Festival was a hit with Strongsville UCC families, who all came in costume and enjoyed trunk-or-treating, watching Hocus Pocus, and playing tabletop games. Thank you to everyone who donated their time and candy to help make our family friendly afternoon a success!



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The Sunday School Christmas Pageant will be on Sunday, December 16, during our 10 a.m. worship service. Elena Joyce is writing the play once again this year, and we will have parts for everyone!

Brief rehearsals will be on the Sundays in December after the worship service.

On the 16th, we will have a reception after the service and there will be a special visitor from the North to greet the children (of ALL ages).

Parents: please turn in this form to your child's Sunday School teacher.

My child(ren) will participate in the pageant on December 16 and attend rehearsals prior.

Child's Name(s):



Penny Sunday –The Sunday School students voted and the \$218.27 collected from the October Penny Sunday went to **Together We Rise**. November and December collections will go to the Giving Tree for NYAP—the **National Youth Advocacy Program's** branch in Cuyahoga County, which helps children in the foster care system. **Thanks to the Post-Confirmation class for sorting the coins and to Jan Stough for counting them!**



Thanks to our coin sorters: Alysha, Emma, Olivia, Bobby & Ben!

OUR PRAYER LIST



Long-Term Care or Homebound: Betty Bushea at Danbury Senior Living in Brunswick, Janet Kato at Kemper House, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

Church Family: Betty Babics, Marie Bury, Rev. Larry and Christina Craig, Steve Herzog, Margot James, Bobbie Krisak, Karl Kuhlenschmidt, Sharon

Kuhlenschmidt, Phyllis Kurz (mother of Karen Morgan), Martha Liebert, Lacey Marshall (daughter of Amanda and John), Laurie Meister, Karen Morgan, Harvey Pincombe, Joyce Reed, Bill Ritchie, Linda Stepan, Barbara Toth, Kyle Woodward

Extended Church Family: Luke Bazan (friend of Judi Pavisich's granddaughter), Amy Carroll (sister of Marty Winch), Michele Cortese (friend of the Heinrichs), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Joyce Freeman (sister of Carol Woodward), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Sam Harteis (friend of Reeds), Margaret Haught (mother of Jen Barry), Sandra Manos (mother of Eli), Diane Mason (friend of Lora Rung), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Zachary McKeever (great-nephew of Pastor Heidi and Chuck), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Mary Joyce-Smith (mother of Jim Joyce), Frank Toth (father of Rob), Joe Valli (brother-in-law of Vicky and Dan Masuga)

THANK YOU

Thank you to my church family for the heartfelt sympathy and love on the sudden passing of my mother, Leola Higham.
--Dianne Maringer and family



MARRIAGE BLESSINGS

Congratulations to **Lisa (Khavaran) and Paul Oslin**, who were married on November 17, 2018 in Columbus!



MISSION OUTREACH

Mission Outreach has assembled and delivered 100 comfort kits to the Church Street Ministry for the Veterans they serve. Your generous donations supported the entire project. This, as always, is an amazing "Can Do" congregation and we are so grateful for your help.



October was **Neighbors in Need** special collection month. Thank you to everyone who made a special effort to participate in the offering.

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

October 28 through November 18, 2018. This information also appears on a weekly basis in our worship bulletin.

Offering Needed	\$18,246.60 for 5 Sundays
<u>Offering Received</u>	<u>15,682.15</u>
Difference	(-\$2,564.45)



CHURCH CHRISTMAS MAIL BOX

To send Christmas greetings to fellow members and friends, the church "mail box" will again be available in Pilgrim Hall. Please remember to check the box for greetings you receive.

Also, please do not put cards in the box for friends who are not in town for Christmas. The church office cannot mail your personal Christmas cards. Cards left after Christmas will be discarded. Thank you.



BAPTISMS

Congratulations to **Owen Raymond Johnson**, son of **Chad and Brittany Johnson**, who was baptized on October 21st. and to **Everett Anthony Ashforth**, son of **Tiffany and Nicole Ashforth**, who was baptized on November 4th.



SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CHORUS CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2018



The **Southwest Community Chorus** and Chamber Singers will present their 2018 Christmas concert, "Carol Me Sweetly," on **Sunday, December 2, at 3:00 p.m.** in the United Methodist Church at 170 Seminary Street in Berea.

This year's performance features our Music Director, Tom Foley as director, accompanist Carol Konet, and church singers: Ingrid Dickson, Gary Hackett, Irene Joyce, Bruce Keenen, Pam Keenen, Sarah Keenen, Sharon Maresco, Dave Williams, and UCC guest singer, Craig Hardy.

Tickets are available in advance at a cost of \$12.50 for adults, \$15 at the door and free for children 12 and under. Save a few bucks by purchasing your tickets from any of the above choir members! You'll enjoy the music, and we'll get you in the Christmas mood. We like looking into the audience and seeing our fellow church members. So, please attend. Thank you!

MITTEN TREE ~ FAMILY OF FAITH TREE



The **Mitten Tree** will be in the Gathering Area from November 11th to December 8th for collecting hats, gloves, mittens and scarves for Strongsville Food Bank. .

On December 8th, the hats, gloves, mittens and scarves will be removed, and the tree will become

the **Family of Faith Tree**, which we will decorate with Christmas ornaments donated by members and friends. **If you have not yet donated an ornament – or – if you'd like to donate an additional ornament, please bring it to the church office and include your name.** Official Board will prepare a tag with your name, attach the tag to your ornament, and hang the ornament on the Family of Faith Tree. Please know that **your ornament will NOT be returned to you**, but it will become part of the Christmas decorations each year. **Please do not bring expensive heirloom ornaments.**

Thank you for celebrating with your church family in the Mitten Tree, as well as the Family of Faith Tree!

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL



Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Please Note: NO LUNCH ON DECEMBER 26th



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Many offices in the church will be available for the coming year. Please consider saying **YES** when a member of the Nominating Committee asks you to serve. Some of the positions that are available include serving on the:

Moderator, who presides over

the Official Board and represents the church in the community

Vice-Moderator, who works in tandem with the Moderator, serves on the Nominating Committee, and enlists volunteers for dinners and other Official Board events.

Treasurer: Manages the outgoing finances of the church in conjunction with the Financial Secretary

Diaconate, which oversees the worship operations and church services. The committees of the Diaconate are Acolytes, Altar, Coffee Hour, Funeral, Greeters, Membership, Nursery, Pastoral Relations, Special Events and Ushers.

Board of Trustees, which oversees the finances and physical plant of the church. The committees of the Trustees are Building and Grounds, Finance, and Long-Range Planning and Memorial/Endowment.

Mission & Outreach, which sponsors projects and our church's benevolence in the local, national, and international communities, including the 5 for 5 offerings through the United Church of Christ

Stewardship, which administers a yearly campaign to assess and inspire giving of time, talent, and treasure

Christian Education, which oversees the Sunday School and Adult Education programs

Music Committee, which supervises all aspects of the Music Ministry

Remember the old but true saying, *Many hands make light work*. Plan to be a part of one of these boards or committees. Thank you for your consideration.

STEWARDSHIP AND GOD'S PIE



The Stewardship Committee thanks you for being an apple in our church pie for God. All of us together make the BEST pie possible! Our campaign concluded on Sunday, November 11, when we dedicated

our Estimate of Giving cards after the offering. After worship, we enjoyed apple pie and fresh apple slices, in addition to the usual coffee hour treats. If you have not yet submitted your Estimate of Giving card, you may still do so. Your card will be gratefully accepted at any time. The Estimate of Giving cards assist in planning our church budget. As of this printing, we have received 63 Estimate of Giving cards for a total of \$105,792.00. Thank you very much for your support.

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.

DECEMBER 2018 DATES TO REMEMBER

- 2 Sun Worship 10am with Communion**
1st Sunday of Advent
Children's Choir
- 5 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am to 12:30pm**
Fit Club
Band Rehearsal 8:15 pm
- 6 Thurs Thrift Shop 10am-4pm**
Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm
- 9 Sun Worship 10am-Poinsettia orders due**
2nd Sunday of Advent
Children's Choir
Blue Christmas Service of Hope 7pm
- 10 Tues Trustees Meeting 7pm**
- 11 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am to 12:30pm**
Fit Club, 7pm
Band Rehearsal 8:15pm
- 12 Thurs Thrift Shop 10am-4pm**
Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm
- 14 Fri Swingin' Sounds of the Season Concert 7:30pm**
- 16 Sun Worship 10am Children's Pageant**
3rd Sunday of Advent
Reception to follow worship
- 17 Tue Diaconate Meeting, 7pm**
- 18 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am-12:30pm**
Fit Club
Band Rehearsal 8:15 pm
- 19 Thurs Thrift Shop 10am-4pm**
Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm
- 23 Sun Worship 10am**
4th Sunday of Advent
- 24 Mon Christmas Eve Family Service 7pm**
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 11pm
- 25 Tues Christmas Day**
- 26 Wed No Free Lunch for All**
No Fit Club, No Band Rehearsal
- 27 Thurs Thrift Shop Closed**
Men's Luncheon 11:30am
No Bell or Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 30 Sun Worship 10am Penny Sunday**
- 31 Mon Annual Reports due**

TURKEY DINNER



Thank you to everyone who supported the Turkey Dinner. The profit was \$1,862.07 for the Official Board.

STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of November 4, 2018

*With thanks to the Turkey Dinner workers
The Dicksons, Joyces, and "Oma"*

Week of November 11, 2018

*Happy Birthday on November 13th to Zach Craig!
With Love, Grammy*

Week of November 18, 2018

*Happy Birthday today to Katie Lett, to Adam Craig on
Tuesday, and Happy Anniversary to Debbie & Larry
Wentz on November 24th!
With Love, Grammy/Mom*

Week of November 25, 2018

*Happy Birthday on November 28th to Stephen Popovich!
With love, Grammy
Happy 10 "A" Anniversary to Ingrid & Greg Dickson!*

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.



ANNUAL REPORTS

Chairmen of church organizations: Annual reports are due in the church office on December 31. Please be kind to the new, inexperienced Church Secretary and get your reports in on time. Thank you!!! Once completed, Annual Reports will be available for pickup prior to the Annual Meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING



The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place Sunday, January 27, 2019, and will be preceded by the traditional Pancake Brunch. All are encouraged to attend this meeting.

FINANCIAL OFFICERS OF CHURCH GROUPS:

Please turn in your financial statements to the Auditing Committee through the church office by December 31. It is extremely important that all books be audited before the Annual Meeting on January 28, 2018. All organizations are required to submit:

1. ALL bank books (savings and/or checking).
2. ALL bank statements for each month for each account. Checking accounts statements should show completed reconciliation on the back.
3. ALL monthly recap forms.
4. ALL bank deposit slips, withdrawal slips and bank check receipts (if received), attached to monthly recap forms.
5. ALL receipts and bills paid.
6. Copy of Annual Financial Report (original provided to church office for Annual Report).

Thank you for your cooperation.

THE CHRISTMAS FUND

Formerly known as Veterans of the Cross, this special offering of the United Church of Christ provides direct financial assistance to retired and active United Church of Christ authorized ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses, including pension and health premium supplementation, emergency assistance, and Christmas thank-you checks. A ministry of the Pension Boards, the offering is received throughout December. Offering envelopes will be in the pew racks.



ANNUAL ALL FAMILY WINTER RETREAT

February 15 - 17, 2019
Templed Hills Camp
in Bellville, Ohio



CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2018

Officers elected on Jan. 28, 2018, have an asterisk* by their names.



Moderator	Rachel Zielinski
Vice-Moderator	Bill Schneider
Treasurer	Lori Kovatich*
Clerk	Karen Morgan

Sunday School Superintendents

Kristen Clotworthy Jamie Trinckes

Board of Trustees

Tom Gaumer*	Eddy Bond*	Dale Hawk
Mike Clotworthy*	Jim Heinrich	Myron Costin*
Bob Kovatich*	Jim Dettmer	Kenn Oerkfritz
Greg Dickson	Ed Sobek	

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Irene Jannsohn* Joyce Reed *

Diaconate

Serena Abruzzino*	Judy Gaumer*	Jennifer Barry
Cathy Hawk*	Kelly Bickley	Sarah Hayes
Barbara Camp	Linda Plain	Gina Cathcart
Dawn Rolland*	Kristen Clotworthy	Marty Winch

Christian Education Committee

Kelly Bickley Sandy O'Shea
Kristen Clotworthy Lora Rung Jamie Trinckes

Music Committee

Ingrid Dickson Ken Mehalko
Pam Keenen* Tom Foley Mike Elkins

Stewardship Committee

Rosemary Bechtel* Sue Gigliotti Adria Bond
Beth Giuliano * Ed Bond Sharon Heinrich
Laurie Meister

Mission and Outreach Committee

Judy Carte Gary Paul Brandi Garsteck
Lora Rung* Michele Mhlack Bev Wehr

The Church's Annual All-Family Winter Retreat will take place on President's Day weekend 2019: February 15, 16 and 17. The sign-up sheet to attend and the sign-up sheet for things to bring and to volunteer will soon be posted on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Please reserve your spot and room now, as rooms will be first-come, first-served. The cut-off to sign up—January 13—will be strictly enforced this year. We will not have the same luxury as we've had in the past, in which we were able to take reservations up until the event weekend. Space is limited to 60 attendees. Also, please let us know if you have any special dietary needs. Finally, those that wish to come down on Saturday only—we would be happy to have you there, but we also need your reservation by January 14, and the cost is \$10 per meal. Please contact Irene Joyce or Rachel Zielinski if you have any questions.

Here is the cost (no change from last year):

ADULTS (12 and up): \$70
CHILDREN (6-11): \$15
CHILDREN (5 and under): FREE

Important dates to remember:

JANUARY 13, 2019: Reservations close; **MONEY DUE**
JANUARY 27, 2019: Special dietary needs reported
FEBRUARY 10, 2019: Retreat planning meeting in the church after the worship service

THE THRIFT SHOP



The Thrift Shop is open for business on Thursdays, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., with a bonus Free Lunch for All sale day on Wednesdays once a month from 11 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. WE NEED HELP! If you

can spare a few hours on Thursdays to volunteer in our Thrift Shop, please consider helping at the Thrift Shop. **Also, an additional person is needed to work with us for 2 hours on the second Wednesday of the month. Please contact the church office if you can help either on Wednesdays or Thursdays.**

FIT CLUB



We continue to meet on Wednesday, (except December 26) at 7:15 p.m. Our group is small, but enthusiastic and we welcome anyone, of any age or fitness level to join us and get moving. Plus, once a month, we have a field trip to the Opera at the movies. Please join us for more information and dates. **You do not have to be fit to be a part of Fit Club**

ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Thank you to these area members of the clergy and others who participated in the worship service on November 21st:

Rev. Kathy Kluck, First Evangelical Lutheran Church
Pastor Chuck Knerem, First Evangelical Lutheran
Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, SUCC (Congregational)
Deacon Pete Moore, St. Joseph Catholic Church
Deacon Kenneth J. Piechowski, St. John Neumann
Rev. Dave Scavuzzo, Strongsville United Methodist

The Hon. Thomas Perciak, Mayor of Strongsville

Thanks to our Strongsville UCC members who assisted with hosting the service:

Thomas M. Foley, Director of Music,
Mike Elkins, Associate Director of Music
Sharon Heinrich, Organist
Ken Mehalko, Native American Flute
Doug Thorn, Sound Technician
Jim Heinrich, Sound Technician
Jim and Linda Dettmer, Greeters
Ingrid Dickson and Irene Joyce, Readers

Special thanks to the Music Directors and 34 singers from all of the Strongsville churches for their support of and participation in our Ecumenical Choir.



FROM THE STRONGSVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Strongsville Historical Society is looking for a volunteer to handle building maintenance. The individual should have some skills and experience with basic carpentry, electrical, plumbing, and general maintenance. In addition, it would help to have contacts with local contractors who can provide more complex repairs.

The mission of the Strongsville Historical Society and Village is to discover, collect, preserve, record, and interpret the history of the Strongsville area through programs that inspire, stimulate, and educate the community.

Additional information about the organization can be found on their website at:

www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org/about-us.html

If you have additional questions or have an interest, please contact Ruth Brickley, President, at rbrick@aol.com or 440-572- 0535.

ALTAR POINSETTIA FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Order deadline is Sunday, December 9, 2018. Please complete this form and place it to the Church office with your cash or check payment. The cost is \$7.00.

Wording for bulletin: _____

Given by: _____

Number of plants: ____ X \$7.00 / plant = \$ _____

Please make your check payable to **Strongsville United Church of Christ**, and place it with your order in the offering plate, under the office door, or mail it to:

**Strongsville United Church of Christ
13740 Pearl Road
Strongsville, OH 44136**

Thank you for placing a poinsettia plant on the altar!

For Church Treasurer's Records 2018 Christmas Poinsettia

Total number of plants: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Offering envelope number: _____

Cash/Check No. _____

Name: _____

Order deadline is Sunday, December 9, 2018.

