

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



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**Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall**  
Designated Minister

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## FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

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### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

One of my favorite traditions at Strongsville United Church of Christ is that we come together every month to share in Holy Communion. Different traditions often do things a little differently. Having been raised United Methodist and mentored in other denominations, as well, let me explain the "why" behind some of the things I do.

You may have noticed, for instance, that the person holding the loaf will break off a chunk of bread and offer it to you, rather than offering you the loaf to pull off a chunk for yourself. The server offers you the bread because Christ offered himself in sacrifice for you; it is up to you to accept the offering Christ made. The gift of God's grace is always available, but God will never force us to accept something in which we have no interest. (The other, practical reason for doing this is simply a health issue. The fewer hands touching the loaf, the better. The servers have sanitized their hands before serving. We want you to stay healthy.)

Ever wonder why we use grape juice instead of wine? Even though the United Church of Christ has no policy opposing the use of wine, offering grape juice allows us to be a truly open Table where anyone is welcome, period. Jesus offered this gift to all, including, in my understanding, children.

So . . . church is over, and there's leftover bread and juice. What happens to these? In the Catholic church, leftover consecrated wine must be consumed by the priest; I don't go that far. My United Methodist tradition, however, has a tradition that the elements be returned to the ground, from whence all life came (Genesis 3:19; Ecclesiastes 3:20). This means, out of respect for the holy nature of the sharing of Communion, we don't simply dispose of the leftovers in the trash. My personal custom is to take the loaf outside and break it up for the birds; the grape juice is poured into the ground.

God gave us a brain to think, a curious mind to question. If there is something we do that you're not sure about, please ask! (We may end up learning the answer together!)

Peace,  
Pastor Heidi

### WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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#### SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 4 – 10:00 A.M.

*Fifth Sunday after Epiphany*  
*Installation of Newly Elected Church Officers*  
*The Sacrament of Communion*



**Liturgist:** Lynne McCray  
**Greeter:** Linda Plain  
**Ushers:** Linda Plain  
**Coffee Hour:** Volunteer Needed

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#### SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 11 – 10:00 A.M.

*The Transfiguration*

**Greeter:** Judy Carte  
**Coffee Hour:** Ted and Kelly Bickley

*Retreat Organizational Meeting after Worship*

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#### ASH WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 14 – 7:00 P.M.

*Imposition of Ashes*



**Greeters:** Marty Winch and Linda Plain

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#### SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 18 – 10:00 A.M.

*First Sunday in Lent*  
(Retreat Weekend)

**Liturgist:** Dan Masuga  
**Greeter:** Lola Millhoane  
**Coffee Hour:** Volunteer Needed

*Lenten Study and Light Lunch in Pilgrim Hall at Noon*

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#### SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 25 – 10:00 A.M.

*Second Sunday in Lent*

**Liturgist:** Dale Hawk  
**Greeter:** Jen and Clara Barry, Myron Costin  
**Coffee Hour:** Volunteer Needed

*Lenten Study and Light Lunch in Pilgrim Hall at Noon*

**ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT  
SWISS STEAK DINNER**

**Saturday – February 3, 2018**

**Seatings at 5:00 and 6:30 P.M.**

*Reservations Only: (216) 598-6198*

**Adults \$14.00    Ages 6-10 \$6.00    Under 6 Free**

Help is needed – especially on Friday at 9:30 a.m. for browning meat. The sign-up sheet is posted on Pilgrim Hall's board. For safety reasons, no children under age 6 (with or without parent) can be helpers in any capacity during the serving hours of 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Children 6 to 10 must have a parent helping them.

**The Thrift Shop will be open.**



**JOINING THE CHURCH**

If you are interested in becoming a member of Strongsville UCC, please either inform Pastor Heidi or call the church office, (440) 238-6697. Thank you!

**SIGN-UP CHARTS FOR 2018**

The charts for Greeters, Ushers, Altar Flowers, and Coffee Hour are on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Help is greatly needed! Please sign up if you are able to assist. Thank you very much.



**ADULT SOCIAL CLUB**

The club will meet on the third Wednesday of the month, February 21, at 7:00 p.m. The club's first event is in April after Lent. More information will be forthcoming.

As always, all adults are welcome to the meetings as well as the special events!

**INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

Officers elected at the Annual Meeting on January 28, will be installed during worship on Sunday, February 4.

A study featuring the movie, *The Shack*, will be offered Sundays at noon, beginning February 18 in Pilgrim Hall. The first week will be simply viewing the movie; following weeks will be our chance to discuss, digest and explore together. A light lunch will be provided. Interested? Please let us know who and how many by calling the church at (440) 238-6697 or by letting us know on your attendance card in your Sunday morning bulletin.

**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

**December 24 through January 14**

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



Offering Needed \$15,028.62 for 4 Sundays  
Offering Received 17,824.00 which includes Christmas Offering of \$4,391.00  
Difference + \$2,795.38

**WHEN STRONGSVILLE CITY SCHOOLS  
ARE CLOSED**

because of the weather:

**The Wednesday Free Lunch Program** will be closed  
*and*  
**The Thrift Shop** will be closed.



**UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Concert**

Sunday, March 4 – 3:00 p.m. in our sanctuary  
Cello – 1<sup>st</sup> half; Jim's Little Big Band – 2<sup>nd</sup> half

**Ecumenical Good Friday Tenebrae Service**

at Columbia United Methodist Church  
*Southeast Corner of Royalton + West River Roads*  
March 30 – 8:15 p.m. – Reception follows.  
*Our Chancel Choir will sing in the combined choir.*

**Diaconate Wing Night**

Friday, May 4 – Grindstone Tap House – 6:30-9:30 p.m.

**Concert**

Sunday, May 6 – 3:00 p.m. in our sanctuary  
Satori Winds – 1<sup>st</sup> half; Broadway Bound – 2<sup>nd</sup> half



## IN SYMPATHY

Our love and prayers are extended to two families on their recent losses:

to Mike Clotworthy and family on the passing of his father, Christopher,  
on December 21, 2017, in Florida.

The funeral was held on January 12, 2018, in Florida.  
and

to Pam Keenen and family on the passing of her mother, Audrey Curry,

on January 4, 2018, in Friendship Village of Dublin, Ohio. A memorial service will be held in February at the place where she lived, Friendship Village of Dublin.

## CHORAL ACCOMPANISTS

January 14, 2018, was Eli Manos' last Sunday with us as our regular choral accompanist. Eli, a student at Cleveland State University, has had to step away from the position in order to pursue his degree requirements. In the months that he has played with us, we have been blessed with his expansive talent, kind spirit, and positive energy. He has promised that he will guest or substitute when his schedule allows, so we are not saying "Goodbye", but merely "until we meet again." The members of the Music Ministry, the Chancel Choir, and the Bell Choir wish Eli the best in his future endeavors, and we will always consider him a member of our musical family.



Our new choral accompanist, Mike Elkins, starts Thursday, January 25; and we are very excited to welcome him and his wife Linda to our church family!

## 2018 ALL-FAMILY WINTER RETREAT

For those who made their reservations – The Church's Annual All-Family Winter Retreat will be held at Templd Hills this year and will take place on President's Day weekend 2018: February 16, 17 and 18.

Thank you to everyone who signed up; reservations are now closed. Please sign up for items to bring on the yellow sheet on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. We will have a brief organizational meeting on February 11 immediately following the worship service.



## PENNY SUNDAY

Thank you to all the generous folks who donated \$158.22 on the last Penny Sunday of 2017! The money went to our Sunday School to replenish our donations to the National Youth Advocacy Program and Memorial School in Cleveland. The next two Penny Sundays are January 28 and February 25.



## THE THRIFT SHOP

The weather has had a negative effect on sales in the shop. We have been closed too many days. If you are ever wondering if we are open during a storm, just check to see if the Strongsville schools are open. If the schools are closed due to weather, we will also be closed.

Please remember to stop in the Shop during the Swiss Steak dinner on February 3 from 5:00 p.m. to about 7:30 p.m. We will be open for shopping, donating or visiting. During February we will be open Thursdays from 10 to 4.

Each week we have a different sale. Either join our email group or check the church website for sale information. You can count on a "Red" sale the week before Valentine's Day. This traditional sale has everything the color red on sale for half off.

We are hoping to see you in the Shop sometime during February for a fun shopping experience.

## Help Wanted

### Wednesday Lunch Program

really needs volunteers especially now when four regular volunteers went south for the winter. To help, please contact Betty Craig or call the church, (440) 238-6697.

### Nursery

Helpers are needed because of the increase in number of children. A signup sheet is in Pilgrim Hall.

For questions, please contact Amanda Hawk, Sarah Hayes, or Kelly Bickley.

### Lettering Our Outdoor Sign for Events

Please call the church, 440-238-6697.

### Ushers on Sunday Mornings

Please see the signup sheet in Pilgrim Hall.

## OUR PRAYER LIST

*Hospitals no longer provide names of members who are patients. If you or a family member would like a visit, please call the church, (440) 238-6697. Please provide updates for this list. Thank you.*

**Long-Term Care or Homebound:** Betty Bushea, Janet Kato at Kemper House, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

**Church Family:** Dan Davis at Parkside Villa, Lacey Marshall (daughter of Amanda and John), Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt at Northwestern Health Care Center in Berea, Irene Jannsohn, Bruce Keenen, Martha Liebert, Sandra Manos (mother of Eli), Sloane Masuga (daughter of Jake and Lauren), Joyce Reed, Betsey Santomen (wife of Rev. Joe Santomen), Leah Tressa Forget, Kyle Woodward

**Extended Church Family:** Luke Bazan (friend of Judi Pavisich's grand-daughter), Donna Briggs (mother-in-law of Judi Pavisich's daughter), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Joyce Freeman (sister of Carol Woodward), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Sue Grunewald (friend of the Heinrichs), Diane Mason (friend of Lora Rung), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), the Sink family (friends of Judy Pavisich's granddaughter), Keith Stewart (cousin of Carol Woodward), Frank Toth (father of Rob), Sheena Toth (mother of Dale), Joe Valli (brother-in-law of Vicky and Dan Masuga)

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## ALTAR FLOWERS

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.

As of this printing, below are dates when vases are still needed within the next three months so that two vases are on the altar for Sunday worship. For additional, later dates in the year, please see the signup chart in Pilgrim Hall.

February 4 – 2 vases  
February 11 – 2 vases  
February 18 – 2 vases  
February 25 – 2 vases  
March 4 – 2 vases  
March 11 – 2 vases  
March 18 – 2 vases  
April 8 – 2 vases  
April 22 – 2 vases  
April 29 – 2 vases

Below 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 fresh flowers on the altar.

## STEEPLE LIGHTING

### Week of December 31, 2017

*For All the New Friends I've Made in 2017  
and the Old Ones I've Lost  
With love, Grammy (Betty)*

### Week of January 14, 2018

*Happy Birthday to My Sister, Sharon Ritchie  
Love, Gina*

*Happy Birthday to Tony Tran on January 20  
With love, Grammy*

*In Honor of Chris Morgan on His 71st Birthday  
The Morgan and Zielinski Families*

### Week of January 28, 2018

*In memory of Dolores Mihlack  
on her birthday on January 27—  
Let's pray for our departed loved ones.  
Eternal rest, grant them, O Lord,  
and let light shine upon them. Amen.  
Allen and Michele Mihlack*

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.



*Our congratulations  
to great-grandmother, Lola Millhoane  
to grandparents, Valerie and Dale Hopkins  
and to parents, Cory and Kelsea Rouch  
on the birth of their son,  
Lincoln Gabriel Rouch,  
on January 24, 2018!*