

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

Worship at 10:00 A.M. on Sunday

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall

Pastor

FEBRUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. . . . All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. . . . They broke bread . . . and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

—Acts 2:42-47

What a year it has been! Here are some highlights, from the pastor's "catbird seat":

- ♥ August 12 marked the official start to our journey together, as the membership voted to name me (and Chuck) as your settled pastor. I am so grateful for this vote of confidence and faith. Thank you!
- ♥ The Free Lunch for All has been generously supported by the Deaconess Foundation; the Berea Elks Lodge; and several memorial gifts. The community growing on Wednesdays is a sight to behold. (You should come! The food is great, too!)
- ♥ During 2018, we brought in 32 new members: twenty-six adults and six by confirmation. We baptized four beautiful infants and one beautiful adult into the Family of Christ. Truly, God has been hard at work in our hearts.
- ♥ Besides a new pastor, 2018 also saw a new Administrative Assistant, Music Director, Assistant Music Director and Custodian. We are all learning together.

- ♥ Speaking of learning . . . almost 20 folks participated in our Lenten study of the movie "The Shack," sharing and growing together. Over 30 people joined us for our field trip to participate in the Seder at the Temple. And about 20 of us met at the Islamic Center of Cleveland to learn more about our Muslim brothers and sisters. I am grateful for your holy curiosity and desire to learn more about our faith and our God.
- ♥ It was our turn to host the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service, which was attended by around a hundred Christians united in our worship and song. One of the pastors remarked, "Your congregation is so warm and friendly!" (I could not agree more. Your welcoming spirits make my job so much easier. Thank you.)
- ♥ Our church building has seen major improvements, as well, with new windows in the Sanctuary, fresh paint and carpet—and a brand new unisex bathroom in the Gathering Area.

Only God knows what lies ahead for this congregation as we continue to grow together, spiritually *and* numerically. I am grateful for each one of you who's found the courage to step out in hope and love, offering Christ with our lives to a world in need. May God continue to bless our ministry together in 2019!

Peace,
Pastor Heidi



WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 3 – 10:00 A.M.

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Sacrament of Communion
Installation of Officers



Liturgist: Dave Williams

Greeter: Linda Plain

Ushers: Linda Plain/Marty Winch

Coffee Hour: Volunteers needed

Special Music: SUCC Children's Choir, Chancel Choir and Band

SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 10 – 10:00 A.M.

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Retreat Meeting after worship

Liturgist: Bruce Keenen

Greeter: Billie Jo Cantrell

Ushers: Volunteers needed

Coffee Hour: Volunteer needed

Special Music: SUCC Bell Choir and Band

SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 17– 10:00 A.M.

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
Retreat Sunday

Liturgist: Judi Pavisich

Greeter: Judi Pavisich

Ushers: Bill Schneider

Coffee Hour: Volunteers needed

Special Music: Sharon Heinrich and Ken Mehalko

SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 24 – 10:00 A.M.

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
Penny Sunday

Liturgist: Betty Craig

Greeter: Betty Craig

Usher: Volunteer needed

Coffee Hour: Volunteer needed

Special Music: SUCC Choir & Band



CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Are you interested in joining our family of fellowship by becoming a member of the Strongsville UCC? Please contact her or the church office if you would like to be a part of the next class of members or indicate your interest on your attendance card and place it in the offering plate.



Our condolences go out to the Abruzzino-Krisak family who lost their cousin/nephew, Gerald Thompson on January 12.

Our Deepest Sympathy is extended to the family, friends, and congregation of **Rev. M Kenneth Morris**, who passed away January 10. Rev. Morris served our church from November 1999 until October 2010. Please keep his wife, **Linda**, their four grown children and eight grandchildren in your prayers. Here is the address if you would like to send a card:

6436 Westshore Drive Kent, OH 44240



If you would like to make a contribution to the Memorial Fund in memory of Rev. Morris, please place your donation in an envelope labeled "Memorial Fund" and return in the offering plate or to the church office.

Prayers of sympathy also go out to the Hawk and Hayes families on the sudden loss of Dale's brother, Charles F. Hawk, on January 20th

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! No experience is needed and everyone is welcome to be a part of our church life.



CHILD SPONSORSHIP

The Mission and Outreach Committee, through the Child Sponsorship Program, Global Ministries, sponsors Caroline Y, from the King's Matriculation Higher Secondary School in Vellore, India. With our congregation maintaining this sponsorship, Caroline will continue her studies and escape a life of poverty.

Reaching The Unreached



CHILD SPONSORSHIP SIGN-UP

If you would like to sponsor Caroline for a month this year, a sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area. The cost is \$30.

The Child Sponsorship Program is a part of Global Ministries, United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ (Christian) Churches.

UNSUNG HEROES

Did you know that **George and Linda Kapcar** and **Rick and Cherie Teagno** along with helpers **Betty Craig, Judy Carte**, and **Maria Graeff** have stepped up to handle the Panera pick up duties? Thank you for keeping the congregation well-nourished! Also, thanks to Tony Koussa for delivering extra bread to Lia House

Did you know that **Mary Densmore** and **Judi Pavisich** have joined **Judy Carte** as part of the bulletin-folding brigade on Friday mornings? Thanks to these nimble fingered ladies for risking paper cuts to keep our bulletin supply flowing.

Did you know that **Karl and Sharon Kuhlenschmidt** bring your non-perishable food donations to the Strongsville Emergency Food Bank each week? Thank you for your time and energy hauling the cans, boxes and bags of food, Sharon and Karl!

Do you know of someone who deserves thanks and/or recognition for going above and beyond the call of duty for the church? If so, please call, email, text, or talk to Irene Joyce in the church office. Thanks!



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

January altar flowers were given

January 6 – *With loving memories of Carol Studer*
Kathy Ketchum and Jeff Studer

January 13 -- *Happy birthday to Rachel on the 16th and*
Kennedy on the 20th

Love the Morgan-Zielinski families

In loving memory of Lois-Ann Habart on the anniversary
of her death, but remembered always. From Jamie,
Josh, and Christian

January 20 – From the Sekorky Family: Jennifer, Dave,
Oliver, and Tilly

In loving memory of our beloved cousin, Gerald
Thompson, who went to be with God on January 12. We
love you; rest in peace.

From The Abruzzino-Krisak Family

January 27 – *In memory of Rev. Martin*
Luther King, Jr. -- Bob and Sue Gross



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 and several Sundays are still available for this year!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Penny Sunday –The Sunday School students voted and the \$173.07 collected from the December Penny Sunday went 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 again to the Post-Confirmation class for sorting the coins and especially to Jan Stough for counting them!**

In December, the Sunday School also sponsored a family through NYAP's new Adopt a Family program, with \$200 in gift cards so that they were able to purchase Christmas necessities for a family of two adults and four foster kids living on the west side of Cleveland.



January's Penny Sunday was collected for Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary in Ravenna, Ohio and \$139.50 was collected.

Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary rescues, rehabilitates and re-homes criminally abused, neglected and abandoned

farm animals.

Rescue – working in cooperation with law enforcement and county humane organizations, we provide our service to Ohio and any state beyond requesting assistance.

Rehabilitation – providing the veterinary attention, nutrition and maintenance care and nurture to each animal who enters the sanctuary.

Re-home – networking to find loving and forever homes for each animal based on the best match of people, personalities and facilities.

Happy Trails does NOT accept owner surrenders.

However, the organization provides guidance and networking in an effort to be a support for the community under these circumstances.

OUR PRAYER LIST



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

Church Family: Betty Babics, Rev. Larry and Christina Craig, Danny Davis, Steve Herzog, Margot James, Elena Joyce,

Bobbie Krisak, Karl Kuhlenschmidt, Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Phyllis Kurz (mother of Karen Morgan), Martha Liebert, Lacey Marshall (daughter of Amanda and John), Laurie Meister, Michele Mhlack, Karen Morgan, Harvey Pincombe, Joyce Reed, Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, Linda Stepan, Ray Suttle, Barbara Toth, Sally Vetovitz, Kyle Woodward

Extended Church Family: : Adams Family (friends of Judi Pavisich), 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), Jeff Perrin (cousin of Barb Fraunfelder), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Frank Toth (father of Rob), Joe Valli (brother-in-law of Vicky and Dan Masuga)

CARDS/NOTES DESIRED

Church member **Martha Liebert** had to leave the Strongsville area to live with family members in New Jersey due to health reasons. She would love to hear from her friends at Strongsville UCC. Here is Martha's address: **P.O. Box 467 Hammonton, NJ 08037-0467**

Ginger Rothel has been experiencing serious health issues and would like to thank her church friends for their cards and prayers.



CHURCH SECURITY

Friendly reminder: If you are the last person to leave the building, please make sure doors are locked and lights are turned out. Also, please push or pull on the doors to make sure they are secure. Thanks!



MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS SOON!

Strongsville UCC All-You-Can-Eat

RESCHEDULED SWISS STEAK DINNER

Saturday – March 2, 2019

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

Reservations Only: (216) 598-6198

Adults: \$14, Kids 6-12: \$6, 5 & Under: Free

If you have previously paid for tickets for the January date, they will be honored on the new date.

Join us for this delicious all-you-can-eat meal which supports the Official Board and its programs.

Help is needed. The sign-up sheet will be 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.



**FREE LUNCH FOR ALL!
WEDNESDAYS 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**



For safety reasons: If the Strongsville City Schools are closed due to inclement weather, the lunch will not be served.

FROM THE KITCHEN:

If you have any large plastic serving trays with domed covers, round or rectangular, that you do not need, please donate them to the kitchen for our Coffee Hour pastries.



STEWARDSHIP



As of this writing, the church received 70 Estimate of Giving cards, totaling \$112,192. A poster board of this up-date-information is on display in Pilgrim Hall. Thanks

to all who already submitted their cards. Please know that the church will accept Estimate of Giving cards at any time, and additional Estimate of Giving cards are on the greeters' cabinet in the Gathering Area, where the bulletins are distributed.

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.

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

November 28 through December 30, 2018, including Christmas offerings. This information also appears on a weekly basis in our worship bulletin.

Offering Needed \$18,246.60 for 5 Sundays
Offering Received 19,985.50
Difference (\$1,738.90)



FEBRUARY 2019 DATES TO REMEMBER

- 3 Sun **Worship 10am with Communion**
Installation of Officers
Children's Choir
- 6 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am to 12:30pm
Fit Club 7:15pm
Band Rehearsal 8:15pm
- 7 Thurs Thrift Shop 10am-4pm
Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm
- 10 Sun **Worship 10am**
Retreat meeting after worship
Children's Choir
- 12 Tues Trustee Meeting 7pm
- 13 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am to 12:30pm
Adult Social Club Meeting 7pm
Fit Club, 7:15pm
Band Rehearsal 8:15pm
- 14 Thurs Thrift Shop 10am-4pm
Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm
- 15 Fri **Retreat at Templd Hills through 2/17**
- 17 Sun **Worship 10am**
- 18 Mon President's Day
- 19 Tues Diaconate Meeting, 7pm
- 20 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am-12:30pm
Fit Club 7:15pm
Band Rehearsal 8:15pm
- 21 Thurs Thrift Shop 10am-4pm
Men's Lunch 11am
Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm
- 24 Sun **Worship 10am--Penny Sunday**
Children's Choir
- 26 Tues Official Board Meeting 7pm
- 27 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am-12:30pm
Fit Club 7:15pm
Band Rehearsal 8:15 pm
- 28 Thurs Thrift Shop 10am-4pm
Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm



FIT CLUB

We continue to meet on most Wednesdays, 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. In January, we went to see *Adriana Lecouvreur* and February's field trip is to see *Carmen* on the 6th. Please join us for more information and dates. **You do not have to be fit to be a part of Fit Club!**

EXCHANGE STUDENT OPPORTUNITY

The Rotary Club of Strongsville has the opportunity to host a Rotary Exchange Student next year. A student from the country of Brazil has expressed an interest in coming to Strongsville as an exchange student for the next school year. She is 15 and a dancer. They would need 2-3 families willing to host her for 4-5 months at a time. Host families must live in Strongsville. If you are interested please contact Jay Dzurilla at dzperson@aol.com or (440)268-6749 (and leave a message if the phone call is not immediately picked up).

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.**

STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of January 6, 2019

In loving memory of Michael E. Dickson

Greg & Ingrid Dickson

Week of January 13, 2019

In loving memory of Chris Morgan

The Morgan and Zielinski families

Week of January 20, 2019

Happy Birthday today to Tony Tran. With Love, Grammy

In memory of Rev. Ken Morris

Week of January 27, 2019

*In loving memory of David Halley SHS Class of '81,
brother of their son-in-law*

Jim and Linda Dettmer

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.



Congratulations

Congratulations to Opal (Papp) and Gary Glaze, who were married at our church on January 26, 2019. Gary is the son of our oldest living member, **Ramona Glaze**.



RESTROOM REFURBISHING

The restroom formerly known as the men's room adjacent to the Gathering Area is now a unisex washroom. It has been repainted and refreshed, with a new floor installed. Thank you to an anonymous donor along with the Memorial Fund for funding this much needed improvement.

CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2019

Officers elected on Jan. 27, 2019, have an asterisk by their names.*

***= appointed by the Official Board*



Moderator Rachel Zielinski*
Vice-Moderator Rob Toth*
Treasurer Sally Herzog*
Clerk Karen Morgan*

Sunday School Superintendent
 Kristen Clotworthy*

Board of Trustees

Greg Dickson* Mike Clotworthy
 Myron Costin Tom Gaumer Bill Giuliano*
 Dale Hawk* Bob Kovatich Sandy Pogozelski*
 Ed Sobek* Linda Stepan* Rob Stepan*

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Irene Jannsohn* Joyce Reed *

Diaconate

Serena Abruzzino Jennifer Barry* Eddy Bond*
 Barbara Camp* Kristen Clotworthy*
 Judy Gaumer Cathy Hawk Sarah Hayes*
 Linda Plain* Linda Ponstingle** Nicole Rachid*
 Dawn Rolland Marty Winch*

Christian Education Committee

Kristen Clotworthy Mary Densmore* Linda Elkins*
 Suzi Foley* Sandy O'Shea* Lora Rung*

Music Committee

Ingrid Dickson* Ken Mehalko*
 Pam Keenen Tom Foley Mike Elkins

Stewardship Committee

Rosemary Bechtel Sue Gigliotti*
 Beth Giuliano Bill Schneider**

Mission and Outreach Committee

Judy Carte* Bobbie Krisak* Tony Koussa**
 Michele Mhlack* Gary Paul* Lora Rung Bev Wehr*

ANNUAL ALL FAMILY WINTER RETREAT

February 15 - 17, 2019

Templed Hills Camp
 in Bellville, Ohio



The Church's Annual All-Family Winter Retreat will take place on President's Day weekend 2019: February 15,16, and 17. Registration is now closed. We are planning for 61 overnight guests and about a dozen Saturday day-trippers.

FEBRUARY 10, 2019: Retreat planning meeting in the church after the worship service.

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS!



Teri Barbish attended Strongsville UCC as a child, accompanying her grandmother. She and her husband, Gary, truly enjoy their 5 grandchildren, plus one on the way. She is joining us because she found a welcoming home here after having attended University Circle United Methodist Church in Cleveland for a number of years. Her fellowship friend is Bev Wehr.

Elaine Coffey has recently returned to the Cleveland area after having lived in Kentucky for nearly 30 years. She has a grown son named Casey. She grew up in Strongsville and has found our church to be a friendly place where she fits right in. She has already joined the Bell Choir and they are so thrilled to ring with her. Ken Mehalko is her fellowship friend.

Mary Densmore is a Strongsville resident. She and her husband, Richard, who is an organist, have three sons: Ken, Ben, and Alex. Mary was on staff at the Middleburg Heights Community Church for 16 years and still helps with their children's program. She is a member of our Bell Choir and has already volunteered to fold bulletins along with her fellowship friend, Irene Joyce.

Carole Kapcar began worshipping here as a child with her mother. She and her husband, Frank have two grown children, two grandchildren, and a lot of extended family. Carole was a member at University Circle United Methodist Church, as was her sister-in-law Linda Kapcar. She shares her fellowship friend, Bev Wehr, with her daughter, Teri (Barbish).

Linda Kapcar and her husband, George had been married for over 55 years. She attended University Circle United Methodist Church. Linda worked at the Strongsville City Schools and got to know Ken Mehalko, who is serving as her fellowship friend. He invited Linda and George to the Free Lunch and now they have been drafted to pick up the baked goods at Panera on Mondays. The Kapcars have three children, Elaine (Coffey), Brad, and Greg as well as one grandson.

Nicole Rachid was invited here by her fellowship friend, Tony Koussa. She and her fiancé, Lewis Stevens, felt welcome here. Nicole said that she has found a church home here after having attended Arabic Church and School as she was growing up. She has been bringing Lewis's nieces, **Lily** and **Anna** and nephew, **Richard** to worship here as well.

Patty Sasala moved to Strongsville from Parma and lives in the Olympia development, where many of our members reside. She first attended Strongsville United Methodist Church, but found it too big for her taste. Prior to moving, she had not worshipped in church in nearly 40 years, but now has found a place to fill the missing piece she had in her life. She has 5 adult step children, 12 grandchildren, and 7 great grandchildren. Linda Dettmer is her fellowship friend.

Jennifer and David Sekorky began had been attending Lakewood Congregational UCC, but were looking for a church upon moving to Strongsville. Jennifer and Dave have two children who are a part of our Sunday School: **Oliver**, a 5th grader, and **Tilly**, a 2nd grader. The Sekorky family has already contributed to our worship, lighting the Advent candles on Christmas Eve. Their fellowship friend is Kristen Clotworthy.

Mary Ellen and Bob Zimmerman come to us by way of University Circle United Methodist Church, where they were very dedicated members. It was there they met Pastor Heidi and Chuck McDougall. Chuck is their fellowship friend. The Zimmermans live in Berea and have four adult children and seven grandchildren.



Bob, Mary Ellen, Patty, Nicole, Linda, Carole, Mary, Elaine, Teri

(Not pictured: David and Jennifer)



FROM THE OFFICIAL BOARD:

It is not too late to serve on a board or committee for the coming year! Please see Rachel Zielinski, Bill Schneider, Kristen Clotworthy, Sharon Heinrich, or Pastor Heidi if you would like to volunteer. We still have openings on some of our groups and YOU would be a great addition to our team!

Strongsville United Church of Christ

PROTOCOL FOR CANCELLATION OF ACTIVITIES

Approved by the Official Board
January 22, 2019

Let's face it: while we would all prefer to have Strongsville United Church of Christ open every Sunday for worship, things happen. Here is what Pastor Heidi is recommending for notifying folks:

1. In the event of a building emergency (no heat, fire, etc.), the decision will need to be made with little or no advance notice. Notification will go out via email and Facebook; in addition, we will need to have a specific list at hand of phone numbers for members and regular attendees who do not use the internet regularly. If the emergency occurs on Sunday morning, the pastor and/or moderator and/or secretary should plan to be at the church to inform people who do not receive word.

2. Cancellation of scheduled meetings/rehearsals (Trustees, Official Board, Choirs, etc.) for weather or other last-minute reasons will be at the discretion of the chairperson/leader of the particular group, while informing the pastor immediately when a cancellation is being made. **The decision to cancel** should be made no less than two hours prior to the scheduled starting time (e.g., 5:00 for a 7:00 meeting). **It is the responsibility of the chairperson/ group leader to notify all members of the group.** All chairpersons and group leaders are responsible for having and maintaining an up-to-date list of members' contact information.

3. Cancellation of Sunday Morning Worship due to weather will, in a perfect circumstance, be a decision made by the Pastor, Moderator, Secretary and Chairperson of the Board of Trustees. The decision will be made based on forecast conditions, as well as what local authorities decide. **If a Level 2 or 3 Emergency is declared for Cuyahoga County, SUCC will not be open.** Additionally, given that Cuyahoga County rarely declares such emergencies, **if the surrounding counties declare Level 2 or 3 emergencies, depending on what's actually happening, SUCC may also close based on their declaration.**

Decisions made regarding cancellation of Sunday Morning Worship will be made as early as reasonably possible; however, the nature of Northeast Ohio weather often makes such things difficult. After an official decision has been made:

- The Pastor and Secretary will have at hand a list of members' and regular attendees' contact information for those who do not frequent the internet, and will call or text as soon as the decision is made.
- An **email chain** for members and regular attendees will be activated to reach out as soon as a decision is made.
- The church's **Facebook page and website** will be updated to reflect the cancellation; members on Facebook are encouraged to share this information widely.
- **Channel 5** is the one station whose closing list is easily accessible by churches, therefore, folks should be encouraged to tune in there for information.
- The **contracted snowplow company** will need to be notified that we will not need priority plowing.

There may be a rare occasion when the church remains open for Worship, but the Pastor cannot get there. In such instances, worship may take the form of a hymn sing or other community activity. **When the church chooses *not* to close in the face of challenging conditions, it is the responsibility of every member to make the decision that's best for them, keeping their own safety and the safety of their families in mind.** God does not take attendance to worship; God only attends to our hearts.

