

## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)  
13740 Pearl Road  
Strongsville, Ohio 44136



Church Telephone: (440) 238-6697

Email: [StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com](mailto:StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com)

Website: [www.strongsvilleucc.com](http://www.strongsvilleucc.com)

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall  
Pastor

Worship at 10:00 A.M. on Sunday

# FEBRUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

*Your net worth to the world is usually determined by what remains after your bad habits are subtracted from your good ones. –Benjamin Franklin*

### What's on your plate?

A French physiologist is credited as the first to tell us, *You are what you eat*. The computer-age equivalent of this is *Garbage In; Garbage Out*. Whatever goes into my mouth has a direct effect on how my body and mind look and feel and function. It seems pretty obvious, doesn't it?

The same holds true of our "spiritual bellies." Whatever we feed our spirit day after day after day forms and shapes the way we view the world around us. It influences how we grow to interact with our fellow travelers on this journey called *Life*.

As Christians, we are instructed to feed our spirit on whatever is true, noble, right, pure and lovely (*Philippians 4:8*), and to cultivate the fruits of the spirit (*Galatians 5:28*). These are the things we need to grow stronger in our faith and more Christ-like in our walk.

By contrast, if we are not careful, the evening news and the internet can feed us a steady diet of fear and hatred, uncertainty and even outright lies. It can be enticing (and even tasty at times) to believe the world really is as broken and horrible as some would like us to believe.

As Christians, Lent becomes a time to take a step back and be sure our diet, both physical and spiritual, is balanced. Am I eating right? Fruits and veggies and plenty of water? And—am I *reading* right? Do I spend time each day with Scripture? Do I make time to listen for God's guidance *every day*, not just when things are difficult? Or am I starving my spirit of something it *really* needs?

Beginning **Wednesday, March 4 at 1:00**, we will be offering a five week study called *Living in the Light*, by John Birch. Together, we will reflect on God's relationship with humankind from the beginning, ponder our own temptations, and walk with Jesus on the way to the cross, and reflect on the roles of darkness *and* light in our own lives.

I hope you will join me, even if you cannot make all five weeks. See you next time!

Peace and Hope,  
Pastor Heidi

## WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 2 – 10:00 A.M.

*Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*

**Sacrament of Communion**  
**Installation of Officers**

**Liturgist:** Judi Pavisich

**Greeter:** Elaine Coffey

**Ushers:** Linda Plain

**Coffee Hour:** Volunteer needed

**Special Music:** Chancel Choir



### SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 9 – 10:00 A.M.

*Fifth Sunday after Epiphany*

**Liturgist:** Michele Mhlack

**Greeter:** Volunteer needed

**Ushers:** Volunteer needed

**Coffee Hour:** Volunteer needed

**Special Music:** Chancel Choir

### SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 16 – 10:00 A.M.

*Sixth Sunday after Epiphany*

**RETREAT SUNDAY**

**Liturgist:** Jim Studer

**Greeters:**

**Ushers:**

**Coffee Hour:** Volunteer needed

**Special Music:** Sharon Heinrich

### SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 23 – 10:00 A.M.

*Transfiguration*

**Penny Sunday**

**Liturgist:** Greg Dickson

**Greeter:** Linda Plain

**Ushers:** Volunteers needed

**Coffee Hour:** Volunteer needed

**Special Music:** Bell Choir



### WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 26 – 7:00 P.M.

*Ash Wednesday*

**Evening Worship and Imposition of Ashes**

**Special Music:** Chancel Choir

**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](http://strongsvilleucc.com), go to **Worship**, and click on **Service Videos**.

## WELCOME BABY GIRL!



Congratulations to mom and dad, **Deborah and Bill Schneider**, and big sister **Autumn**, as they welcomed **Ember Marie Schneider** into the world on January 18, 2020. We are so happy for our growing church family!



## OUR PRAYER LIST

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



### Long-Term Care or Homebound:

Janet Kato at Kemper House, Martha Liebert, Marge McKinney, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

**Church Family:** Joan Beckwith, Elaine Coffey, Rev. Larry and

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

**Extended Church Family:** Amy Carroll (sister of Marty Winch), Hunter Colao (grandson of Mark & Barb Camp), Lyla Joy Crowley (great grand-niece of Irene Jannsohn), Elaine Fuelling (friend of Judi Pavisich), Rebecca Gordon (niece of Irene Jannsohn), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Dana Hardy (wife of Craig), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Rev. Kent Knife (retired pastor from MHUCC), Diane Mason (friend of Lora Rung), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Zachary McKeever (great-nephew of Pastor Heidi and Chuck), Linda McNabb (sister-in-law of Ginger Rothel), Mae O'Shea (mom of Sandy O'Shea), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Terry Robson (friend of the Camps), Mike Rung (brother of Lora), Amanda Shannon (friend of Sarah & Jon Hayes), Sherry Sheeks (sister of Mark Camp), Brad Williams (friend of Judi Pavisich), Daphne Wilson (niece of Irene Jannsohn)

### Our church has an e-mail prayer chain.

Please see Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others.

**Just a reminder:** Pastor Heidi will never send out an email asking you to "do me a favor" or anything like that. There are a number of scams going around right now that ask folks to purchase gift cards or other such things. **Please do not be taken in by these scams.** (And if I do ask you to buy gift cards, be sure to get them on Sunday morning from Jim Joyce!)



**WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS**  
Our wishes for a long and happy marriage to **Kari and Nathan Romansky**, who were married here at our church on January 29, 2020. Pictured here with their son, Elliot, the couple

visited our church for the Open House and Live Nativity and asked Pastor Heidi to marry them.



We send our deepest sympathy to the family

and friends of **Bill Williamson**, especially his wife **Janis**. Bill died on January 2, 2020. Services were on January 5 in Warren.



Our sincere sympathy is with **Tom, Suzi, Jimmy, Jackie, and Bobby Foley** as they mourn the passing of Tom's dad, **Bill Foley** on January 3, 2020. Please keep Bill's wife **Carol**, sons **Will** and **Ken** and their families in your prayers. There will be Memorial Service on Sat. Feb. 22 (Bill's Birthday) at the Federated Church in Chagrin Falls at 11:00 a.m.



Our heartfelt condolences to **Dennis Smith and Barb Fraunfelder** on the death of Dennis's mother, **Anita McKenna**, on January 1, 2020. Funeral services were held in Elyria on Monday, January 6.

Our sympathy is extended to church members **Claudia Bader and Cris Bader**, whose mother, **Carol Snyder**, passed away on Monday, January 13, 2020.

Love and prayers to **Corrine Jackson**, who lost her brother, John Preidt, in early January.

Also, our sympathy goes out to **Laurie Meister**, whose sister, Phyllis, passed away suddenly in mid-January.



We are deeply saddened by the unexpected passing of **Janice Stough**. Our sympathy and love surround all her family and friends as we pray for comfort.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP OUT?



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

Don't know how to do any of those things? No worries—we will show you everything you need to know! No experience is needed and everyone is welcome to be a part of our church life. **Please sign up on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall to volunteer.**



## UNSUNG HEROES

Did you know that **Jim Heinrich** quietly effects repairs around the church, including replacing lightbulbs and batteries, fixing broken things, and maintaining various appliances and systems.

Plus, he procured new, genuine Kleenex for church use. We truly appreciate your efforts, Jim!



## INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CHURCH?

Pastor Heidi will be offering a membership class soon. Contact the church office if you would like to join.



## FIT CLUB

We welcome any new participants, of any age or fitness level to join us and get moving on most Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m. We also go on field trips for our cultural fitness. In November, we saw *Kinky Boots* at Baldwin Wallace University. Why not make it your New Year's resolution to increase your fitness and have a little fun?

**YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR FREE LUNCH FOR ALL WEDNESDAYS 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**



**Thank You** to the members and friends of Strongsville UCC for the prayers, cards, and caring expressed during Bill's illness and passing, especially Pastor Heidi and Elaine Coffey for their visits. Even though we were new to this

church, we felt truly surrounded by the comfort offered by SUCC. --Janis Williamson and family

The family of Betty Bushea wishes to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, cards and expressions of love during the recent loss of our mother. She was a beautiful person and loving mother and is greatly missed!

--Barb Fraunfelder, Frank Bushea, Sue Citino, Sally Bushea

The Foley family extends its thanks to the Strongsville UCC for their support, concern, and sympathy during the difficult time of the loss of Tom's dad, Bill Foley. Your love and care was a great comfort.

Tom, Suzi, Jackie, Jimmy, & Bobby Foley



Are you an online shopper? If so, why not benefit the church while you make your purchases from Amazon? It's incredibly easy! Here's what you do:

1. Instead of typing amazon.com into your search bar, type in **smile.amazon.com**.
2. Select United Church of Christ Congregational Strongsville by clicking this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-1298100>
3. Shop as you would normally—that's it!

Your addresses, billing information, and shopping cart are still saved and your Prime membership privileges still apply. A small percentage of your purchase price will go toward supporting the church. **We earned another \$22.78 this past quarter. Every little bit helps!**

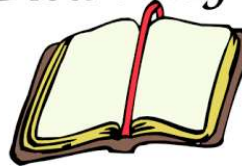


And since you're in a shopping mood...you can benefit the church even more by buying Amazon (or many other)

**gift cards** from Jim Joyce in Pilgrim Hall prior to whipping out that credit card. **Please keep us in mind for your everyday shopping and gift-giving needs!**

## LENTEN STUDY!

### Bible Study



Pastor Heidi will be leading a five-week study during Lent entitled *Living in the Light*, by John Birch. We will gather on Wednesday at 1:00, beginning March 4. Please sign up with your name and "Lent Study" on the back of your attendance card. See you then!

## MUSIC COMMITTEE NEWS

A brand new D7 bell was purchased in memory of longtime bell ringer, **Betty Bushea**. Her spirit will continue to ring on in our church!



## THRIFT SHOP

**NEW WINTER HOURS:** The Thrift Shop is open on Thursdays, from 10 a.m. until **2 p.m.**, with a bonus Free Lunch for All sale day on Wednesdays once a month from 11 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. Thank you to everyone who donates to, helps at, or buys from the Thrift Shop! **Please note: The Thrift Shop will be closed on Thursdays, April 2 & 9 for changeover to spring merchandise .**



## SPONSOR CAROLINE IN INDIA



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. The cost is \$30 per month. Thank you to everyone who signed up for 2020:

- January—The Sunday School
- February—Judy Carte
- March—Dorothy & Bill Ritchie
- April—The Hawks
- May—Gina Cathcart
- June—Richard & Mary Densmore
- July—Barbara & John Toth
- August—The Hawks
- September—Bill Robinson
- October—Bev Wehr
- November--Linda Plain
- December—Sharon & Jim Heinrich

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

## STEEPLE LIGHTING

### Week of January 5, 2020

*In loving memory of Michael E. Dickson  
Greg and Ingrid Dickson*

### Week of January 12, 2020

*In loving memory of friend, Bill Foley  
The Music Ministry*

### Week of January 19, 2020

*Happy Birthday to Tony Tran on January 20<sup>th</sup>  
With Love, Grammy*

### Week of January 26, 2020

*In honor of Lou and Joanne Gigliotti's 64<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
on January 28<sup>th</sup>  
With Love, The Gigliotti Family*

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.



† † † † † † †

## ALTAR FLOWERS

**January 5** – *In memory of Betty Bushea*

*In memory of Aimée Jannsohn  
Hank Klink and Dorene Baldrige*

**January 12**– *In loving memory of our mom,  
Carol L. Studer*

*Kathy Ketchum and Jeff Studer*

**January 19** – *Celebrating Sharon Ritchie's birthday on  
January 18<sup>th</sup>*

*With love from her family*

**January 26** -- *In loving memory of Don Tomlinson's  
birthday. Thank you for being our gentle, kind, caring  
father, grandfather, and best friend to us.*

*The Coffey/Kapcar Family*



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 for worship.

## A NEW FLOWER CHART FOR 2020 IS NOW POSTED.

**Many dates are still available!**

## PENNY SUNDAY NEWS



The **January Penny Sunday** collection of \$202.25 went toward providing relief for those affected by the Australian bushfires through the Salvation Army in Australia. **February 23** is the next Penny Sunday.

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



*This group is on hiatus in February, but all ladies (and friends) are welcome to our programs when we resume in the spring. You need not be a member of Strongsville UCC to join in the fun!*

## FROM THE KITCHEN:

**Please label any items that are placed in the refrigerators with your NAME/GROUP and the DATE.**

**Also**, 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. Also, we could use empty, clean large sour cream/cottage cheese/yogurt containers for the Altar Flowers and plastic grocery bags, too. **Kitchen users: please remember to take out the garbage after each use.**





Our church supports the Strongsville Emergency Food Bank. They are especially in need of

peanut butter & jelly, soup, tuna, and canned fruit. Please bring donations of non-perishable food items and place them in the collection box nestled in the corner of Pilgrim Hall next to the bulletin board. Thanks, as always, to everyone who donates and especially to **Sharon** and **Karl Kuhlenschmidt** who transport all the food to the Food Bank every week.

Strongsville UCC All-You-Can-Eat

Strongsville UCC

**ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT  
ROAST PORK, KIELBASA + SAUERKRAUT  
DINNER**

**Saturday – March 7, 2020**

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

*Reservations Only: (216) 598-6198*

**Adults \$12.00    Ages 6-10 \$5.00    Under 6 Free**

Help is needed. 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.

**Our Swiss Steak profit was \$1,538.89, which is very good for a small crowd. Thank you all!**



**STEWARDSHIP**

To date for the Stewardship Campaign, we have received 75 pledges totaling \$155,384.00. (Last year, we received a total of 78 pledges for \$134,932.00)

**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](http://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



**January 5 through January 26, 2020.**

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

Offering Needed \$13,893.08 for 4 Sundays  
Offering Received 12,181.85  
Difference **(-\$1,711.23)**

Thank you to everyone for your faithful support!

**CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2020**

*Officers elected on Jan. 26, 2020, have an asterisk\* by their names.  
\*\* = appointed by the Official Board*



**Moderator** Rachel Zielinski  
**Vice-Moderator** Rob Toth\*  
**Treasurer** Sally Herzog  
**Clerk** Judy Gaumer\*

**Sunday School Superintendent**  
Kristen Clotworthy

**Board of Trustees**

Eddy Bond\* Greg Dickson Mike Clotworthy\*  
Myron Costin\* Tom Gaumer Bill Giuliano  
Dale Hawk Sandy Pogozeleski  
Ed Sobek Linda Stepan Rob Stepan

**Endowment Fund Subcommittee**  
Irene Jannsohn\* Joyce Reed

**Diaconate**

Jennifer Barry Barbara Camp Gina Cathcart\*  
Kristen Clotworthy Elaine Coffey\* Cathy Hawk\*  
Sarah Hayes Linda Plain Linda Ponstingle  
Nicole Stevens Dawn Rolland\* Marty Winch  
Barbara White\* Mary Ellen Zimmerman\*

**Christian Education Committee**

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

**Music Committee**

Richard Densmore\* Ingrid Dickson  
Ken Mehalko Pam Keenen\*  
ex officio: Sharon Heinrich Tom Foley Mike Elkins

**Stewardship Committee**

Serena Abruzzino\* Rosemary Bechtel Eddy Bond\*\*  
Sue Gigliotti\* Beth Giuliano Sharon Heinrich\*\*  
Judi Pavisich\*\* Bill Schneider\*\*

**Mission and Outreach Committee**

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

**Many thanks to the dedicated officers of our church, who serve so faithfully and make our church run smoothly as we strive to be like Christ in the world.**

**MEN'S LUNCH BUNCH** All men are invited the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 11:30 a.m. to Gourmé Deli & Restaurant. (15315 Pearl Road in Strongsville)



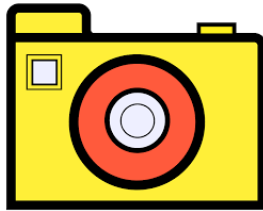
**WEST PARK KIWANIS CHILDREN'S READING CENTERS IN NEED OF BOOK DONATIONS:**



The West Park Kiwanis set up a few children's reading centers in our area and it's been going really well. It's encouraging children to read and they are allowed to take a book with them. The Kiwanis are getting low on books and are looking for anyone who has children's books that would be willing to donate to their reading centers. If you have any to donate, please contact **Herb Hampson** at **216-287-3871** to arrange pick up or delivery. Thank you from our West Park Kiwanis and the kids in our area.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

A new **Congregational Photo** on **Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>** (Mother's Day) The last group picture of our congregation was taken in 2010. Please try to include this rare event in your Mother's Day plans.



**OUR PHOTO DIRECTORY!**

Directories still available. If you were not photographed by Lifetouch, you may purchase a directory for \$5 through the church office. Folks who were professionally photographed at the photo sessions in August receive a copy at no charge.

**CHURCH SECURITY**

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



**DIACONATE WING NIGHT WILL BE FRIDAY, MAY 1 AT GRINDSTONE TAP HOUSE** in Berea. Make plans now to attend this fun and important fundraiser!

**ANNUAL ALL FAMILY WINTER RETREAT**  
**February 14 - 16, 2020**



Templed Hills Camp in Bellville, Ohio Please contact Irene Joyce or Rachel Zielinski if you have any questions.

**Important date to remember:**

**FEBRUARY 9, 2020:** Retreat planning meeting in the church after the worship service

**SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN**

Summer Camp has made a lasting impression on everyone who attends. Your child is invited to make a lifetime memory at Templed Hills Camp this year. Registration for 2020 Summer Camp is now open! Register today to lock-in early bird prices (the early bird deadline is **April 15**) and to ensure your place at camp.

You will also have the opportunity to purchase a camp t-shirt (even if you don't plan on attending camp). The t-shirt is currently in the final stages of its design, but that design will be made public soon. The deadline to pre-order a t-shirt is **May 10**.

Here is the link to register:  
<https://heartlanducc.campbrainregistration.com/>



**AED IS HERE**

The church has purchased an AED with funds from the Memorial Fund. It is located just outside the interior entrance to Pilgrim Hall. Rachel Zielinski and Dale Hawk will soon be instituting a program to teach people how to use it to save someone's life.



River Valley Paper Company

**KEEP RECYCLING YOUR PAPER, MAGAZINES, AND CARDBOARD!** The church (and everyone else) benefits any time you recycle. Thank you!

**FEBRUARY 2020 DATES TO REMEMBER**

- 2 Sun **Worship 10am with Communion**  
Installation of Officers  
Coffee Hour
- 5 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am to 12:30pm  
Bible Study 1pm  
Fit Club to see Porgy & Bess 6:30pm
- 6 Thurs Thrift Shop 10am-2pm  
Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8pm
- 8 Sun **Worship 10am**  
Retreat planning meeting  
Children's Choir  
Coffee Hour
- 11 Tues Trustees Meeting 7pm
- 12 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am to 12:30pm  
Bible Study 1pm  
Fit Club, 7:15pm  
Band Rehearsal 8:15pm
- 13 Thurs Thrift Shop 10am-2pm  
Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8pm
- 14 Fri **ALL FAMILY WINTER RETREAT**
- 15 Sat **RETREAT AT TEMPLED HILLS**
- 16 Sun **Worship 10am**  
**RETREAT SUNDAY**  
Coffee Hour
- 17 Mon President's Day
- 18 Tues Diaconate Meeting 7pm
- 19 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am-12:30pm  
Fit Club 7:15pm  
Band Rehearsal 8:15pm
- 20 Thurs Thrift Shop 10am-2pm  
Men's Lunch at Gourmé 11:30am  
Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8pm
- 23 Sun **Worship 10am--Penny Sunday**  
Children's Choir  
Coffee Hour
- 25 Tue Official Board Meeting, 7pm
- 26 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am-12:30pm  
Bible Study 1pm  
**Ash Wednesday Worship 7pm**
- 27 Thurs Thrift Shop 10am-2pm  
Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8pm

**During the Free Lunch for All Program on**



**Wednesday, February 26,**  
**Pastor Heidi will offer the**  
**imposition of ashes to**  
**anyone who wishes to**  
**receive them. That evening,**  
**a quiet worship service**  
**with the opportunity for**  
**receiving ashes will be held**  
**at 7 p.m.**

**LOST & FOUND**

**Are you missing a sweater, outer garment, umbrella, dish, glasses, or any other item you may have inadvertently left here at the church?**

Many items have been found around the church and are currently being stored on top of the coat racks adjacent to Pilgrim Hall. Please check and see if any of these things belong to you. Any objects not reunited with their rightful owners will be given to the Thrift Shop at the beginning of March. Thanks for checking!



**FROM OUR FRIENDS AT STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY THEATRE**

**A Tribute to Broadway**  
**to benefit the Strongsville Community Theatre**  
**and celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**featuring Jim's Little Big Band and the**  
**Strongsville Community Theatre Singers**

Saturday, March 14, 2020  
at the Strongsville Recreation and Senior Complex  
Get tickets at  
[www.strongsvillecommunitytheatre.com](http://www.strongsvillecommunitytheatre.com)  
or call 440-879-8817



## Strongsville United Church of Christ

### PROTOCOL FOR CANCELLATION OF ACTIVITIES

Approved by the Official Board on 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.

