

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



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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall
Pastor

FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

R U OK? (Or—Concussion Protocol, Part II)

It happens all the time in sports. (Just ask Patrick Mahomes.) Players run into each other; the equipment fails (or makes things worse) and one player winds up dazed and disoriented. The crowd falls silent as coaches and trainers run out onto the field, and a cheer erupts as the player seemingly returns to life. The game goes on—but the player is required to take a break. Sometimes a long one.

It's the same in Life, isn't it?

Things can be going along swimmingly, and all of a sudden, out of nowhere comes a bit of news that takes our breath away. A loved one has died; the lab report shows something unexpected; the job you love is coming to an end. (I haven't even mentioned a pandemic.) The news knocks the wind right out of us. We are stunned. People look deep into our eyes, asking the most important questions of all:

Are you all right? What do you need? How can I help?

Slowly, we begin to breathe again, literally and figuratively; the pain ebbs a bit; we try to keep up as life goes forward again. The people around us drift away—but if we are lucky, there is a true friend remaining who still stops by, still looks deeply in our eyes, and expects an honest answer to their question. Are you okay? Really—I care about you and won't leave you until I am sure.

Do you know who this person is in your life? Thank them.

But just as important: For whom can you be this person?

Peace,
Pastor Heidi

*If you are reading this,
you have survived your entire life up until this point.
You have survived traumas, heartbreak, devastation,
the different phases of Life—
and HERE YOU ARE! You-- are awesome. —Anonymous*

ONLINE WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 7 – ONLINE

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Sacrament of Communion

Special Music: Sarah Keenen



SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 14 – ONLINE

Transfiguration Sunday

Special Music: The Venner Clarinet Quartet

Sacrament of Baptism (aired with 2/21 worship)

SUNDAY—FEBRUARY 21 – ONLINE

First Sunday in Lent

Special Music: Carol Foley

SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 28 – ONLINE

Second Sunday in Lent

Special Music: Brittany Fernandez

PLEASE NOTE: Our worship services are video recorded each week and posted on our YouTube channel for all to enjoy. Just go to **strongsvilleucc.com**, go to **Worship**, and click on **Service Videos. Our You Tube Channel:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCynOZfg4uKoX7HMnKORbXfQ/videos>

ASH WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 17

As Lent approaches, we will be putting together a bag of helpful and fun items and devotional activities for you to use to enhance your journey. If you would be interested in receiving a bag, please let the church office know as soon as possible, so we can have one waiting for YOU. (Stay tuned for dates and pickup opportunities!)





Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of **Gary Koly**, the brother of **Jo Ann Thomas**.

Gary was a minister to the men with True Freedom Ministries. He passed away on January 11, 2021 at the age of 71.

Our most heartfelt sympathy goes out to **Sam Cuyler, Lora Rung, Samuel and Braxden Cuyler** on the loss of Sam's sister, **Ruby**, who passed away from a stroke on January 15, 2021.

MARRIAGE CONGRATULATIONS

Many blessings and many years of happiness are wished to **Barb Fraunfelder** and **Dennis Smith**, who were married in Florida on January 10, 2021.



UNSUNG HEROES

Did you know that **Linda Ponstingle** steam-cleaned our most stained pew cushions and has plans to do more? Thank you so very much, Linda!



THANK YOU NOTES



Many thanks to **Dave Williams, Richard Densmore, Sharon Metivier, and Ken Mehalko** for sharing their music with us in January for our recorded worship services.

From our members...

Thank you to all who have sent me cards, prayers, and encouragement!
Betty "Grammy" Craig

On behalf of our family, I would like to express our heartfelt thanks for your kind words, prayers, and expressions of sympathy on the passing of my mother, **Donna Fargo**. Your support was greatly appreciated.
The Herzog, Toth, Fargo and Timm Families



I would like to thank you all for the cards, kind words, thoughts and prayers for our family after the loss of my mother. We are truly blessed to be surrounded by such love.
Cathy Hawk and family

Thank you to everyone for their cards and prayers on the death of Mark's sister, **Sherry Sheeks**. It really meant a lot to us to know people cared.
Barb & Mark Camp

CHURCH LOCKS



The outdoor locks to the church, including the parking lot doors, the Royalton Road doors, and the kitchen are being changed. Church officers: please contact the office to be issued a new key.

PANERA BREAD REPORT



The bread and pastries we pick up every Monday and Friday are distributed to people in need in Cleveland and surrounding areas. **This ministry feeds low income seniors, the homeless, people living in group homes, folks who are unemployed or underemployed, and families in impoverished neighborhoods.** Thank you to the faithful bread transporters and sorters, **Judy Carte, Maria Graeff, Cathy Hawk, Sally Herzog, Linda Kapcar, Sharon & Jim Maresco, Sharon Lempner, Rick & Cherie Teagno, and Mary Ellen Zimmerman** who continue to make this ministry possible.

OUR PRAYER LIST

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



Long-Term Care or Homebound:
Janet Kato, Marge McKinney, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

Church Family: Joan Beckwith, Adria Bond, Eddy Bond, Mary Carey, Elaine Coffey, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Linda Elliott,

Don Gleichauf, Sue Hawk, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Elliott Joyce, Carole Kapcar, Tony Koussa, Lori Kovatich, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Lacey Marshall, Brigitte Matchett, Judy Maur, Laurie Meister, Michele Mihlack, Lola Millhoane, Judi Pavisich, Joyce Reed, Dorothy and Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Jamie & Josh Trinckes, Sharon Wilson, Sally Vetovitz, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Dorene Baldrige, Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Judy Carte's son-in-law, Ryan, Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Pat Masuga (Dan's mom), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Zachary McKeever (Pastor Heidi and Chuck's great-nephew), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Carrol Riley (Marjorie Morrison's dad), Terry Robson (the Camps' friend), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Richard Sazima & Kathy Sazima (Judi Pavisich's friends), Anneke Scholtz (Irene Jannsohn's sister), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Daphne Wilson (Irene Jannsohn's niece)

Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain.

GIFT CARDS

YOU CAN SUPPORT THIS PROJECT IN A SAFE WAY THAT BENEFITS OUR CHURCH!



You can order gift cards by calling **Jim Joyce** at 216-

267-5043 in advance with your order. Limited stock is available, but special orders may be accommodated with advance notice. You may arrange to pick up your cards at the church office with your payment at a convenient time. **Thank you to those who continue to support this project by purchasing gift cards!**



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 have earned \$269.05 from Amazon through November. Thank you!**

STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of January 3rd

Happy New Year to our Church Family!

Week of January 10th

*In loving memory of Carol L. Studer
Love and miss you—Jeff and Kathy*

*A salute to everyone who produced the CD
"Christmas Presence" for us! --Judy Carte*

Week of January 17th

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

*In honor of Rachel Zielinski's birthday on January 16th
In memory of Chris Morgan*

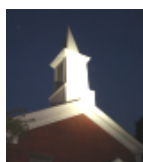
Week of January 24th

*In celebration of Jack Hayes' birthday on January 23rd
In honor of Linda Stepan's birthday on January 24th*

Week of January 31st

*In loving memory of Erik O. Jannsohn
The Jannsohn-Dickson-Joyce Family*

*In celebration of Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt's 57th
Wedding Anniversary on February 1st*



To light the steeple, the minimum donation is \$5.00. Thank you to all who light the steeple. **You may still light the steeple even though we are not meeting in person. Please email the church at strongsvilleuuc@gmail.com.**

MEN'S LUNCH BUNCH meets at 11:30 a.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month at Gourmé Restaurant 15315 Pearl Rd. in Strongsville.



ANNUAL WINTER RETREAT

February 12-14, 2021

at Tempel Hills Camp in Bellville, Ohio

Upon consultation with the leadership at Tempel Hills and the Heartland Conference Outdoor Ministries team, this year's Retreat has been cancelled for safety reasons.

Please save the dates for President's Day weekend, February 18-20, 2022!



KEEP RECYCLING YOUR PAPER, MAGAZINES, AND CARDBOARD!

The church (and everyone else) benefits any time you recycle. Thank you!



River Valley Paper Company



The Strongsville Emergency Food Bank thanks everyone who

participated in January's Peanut Butter Drive.



From Kelly Kling at the Food Bank:

I hope you are all staying healthy and safe! Last year was a crazy year and I am hoping to get back to some kind of normal SOON! We are going to accept donations again starting in March. We are only going to be open Tuesday through Thursday 9:30 a.m. -11:00 a.m. So if you need to drop off...earlier the better...we have to take time now to sanitize the food bank each shift.

Soooo...the needs for the food bank for March would be VEGGIES! Thank you so much for your help, Kelly

SPONSORSHIP OF CAROLINE IN INDIA

Thank you to everyone who signed up for 2021:

January—Dale & Cathy Hawk

February— Ginger Rothel

March—Judy Carte

April— Ginger Rothel

May—Sue Gigliotti

June—Dorothy & Bill Ritchie

July—Dale & Cathy Hawk

August—Dale & Cathy Hawk

September—Bill Robinson

October—Dale & Cathy Hawk

November—Barb & Mark Camp

December—Gina Cathcart



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

THRIFT SHOP



The Thrift Shop is OPEN on Thursdays from 10 a.m.

until 4 p.m. with enhanced safety protocols in place and

lots of interesting merchandise. Donations are being accepted, but you must call the church first to arrange a time for drop-off.

THE LATEST NEWS: The Thrift Shop has purchased and installed new display and shelving units from a retail store that was going out of business. The shop looks totally revamped and even more neat, organized, and "shoppable!" Come on down and see!

THRIFT SHOP BONUS HOURS

The 3rd Monday of the month,

February 21, 2021 — 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(We are still open on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.)

Also, the Thrift Shop is in need of volunteers to help out for a couple of hours—sorting, organizing, and selling on Thursdays. Please call Cathy Hawk (440-781-7512) if you can help!

ADDRESS CHANGES

To update your Church Directory:

Robert Craig

21452 Royalton Road Apt. 266
Strongsville, OH 44149



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. **You may**

**also mail a check to
Strongsville UCC**

**13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, OH 44136 or drop it
off in the church's mailbox.**

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 3 through January 24, 2021**.



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

Offering Needed \$14,597.48 for 4 Sundays

Offering Received 9,412.00

Difference (- \$5,185.48)

Thank you to everyone who is maintaining their giving!

Giving statements for the year 2020 have been sent to all contributors. If you have any questions, please contact Adria Bond at succfinancialsecretary@gmail.com.

Annual Report



This year, because of the global pandemic, so much is different. Our routines, our events, our activities have had to be adapted for safety and social distancing. Consequently, our Annual Meeting and elections did not take place as usual. Most of our church officers have agreed to add a year onto their terms—Thank you!

The Annual Report has been emailed to all households. However, there will be a limited number available for pick-up at the church office during office hours: Monday- Friday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

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

Board of Trustees

Greg Dickson	Mike Clotworthy*
Myron Costin*	Bill Giuliano
Dale Hawk	Sandy Pogozeleski
Ed Sobek	Linda Stepan
	Rob Stepan

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Irene Jannsohn*	Joyce Reed
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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*
<i>ex officio</i> : Sharon Heinrich	Tom Foley
	Mike Elkins

Stewardship Committee

Serena Abruzzino*	Rosemary Bechtel	Sue Gigliotti*
Beth Giuliano	Judi Pavisich**	Bill Schneider**

Mission and Outreach Committee

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



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