

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)
13740 Pearl Road
Strongsville, Ohio 44136

Worship 10 a.m. (+online)



Church Telephone: (440) 238-6697

Email: StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com

Website: www.strongsvilleucc.com

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall
Pastor

FEBRUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Characterize people by their actions, and you will never be fooled by their words. –Anonymous

“C” for yourself.

I remember back when we first became part of this wonderful church family. We would talk about the Strongsville United Church of Christ . . . and cookies . . . and coffee . . . and more. I think it's time we took another look at who we are, the United Church of Christ and:

- ♥ **Conversation.** Through it all and through it all, we manage to keep talking, learning from one another, finding a deeper understanding as followers of the Christ.
- ♥ **Consideration.** Sometimes, we need to do something that we would rather not, but we do it because it's better for others. We do that with grace and love.
- ♥ **Caring.** So much love, and generosity, and joy in being together! We like us! We really like us!
- ♥ **Courage.** These past two years of pandemic life have been exhausting—and sometimes scary. As we begin to see some light, we *know* and *trust* and *believe* we can continue to lean on one another. We are safer together, because we love one another so deeply.
- ♥ **Chefs and Cooks.** As we find new ways to reach out to those who need a little extra caring, Chuck and I have discovered this congregation has a *lot* of really talented makers of food! And we are truly, truly grateful.
- ♥ **Communion.** Many of you agreed to reach out and offer Communion to those who are unable to be with us on Sunday morning right now—and those who received the elements were *thrilled* to be included. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Have I missed anything? Is there a time you've experienced extra grace and love in this wonderful place? Tell me about it. We are all in this-- *together*.

Peace, Love and Community,
Pastor Heidi

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6 – 10 a.m.

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Sacrament of Communion

Installation of Officers

**Greeters: Greta Rich & Doug
Turnbull**

Liturgist: Judi Pavisich

Ushers: Volunteer Needed

Special Music: Chancel Choir

SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 13 – 10 a.m.

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Greeters: Laura & Dan Winrod

Liturgist: Dave Williams

Ushers: Volunteers needed

Special Music: Chancel Choir

SUNDAY—FEBRUARY 20 – 10 a.m.

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Retreat Sunday

Greeter: Judi Pavisich

Liturgist: Lynne McCray

Ushers: Judi Pavisich

**Special Music: Tom Foley, Mike Elkins, Sharon
Heinrich**

SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 27 – 10 a.m.

Transfiguration Sunday

Greeter: Elaine Coffey

Liturgist: Bruce Keenen

Ushers: Elaine Coffey

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**, go to **Worship**, and click on **Service Videos**.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCynOZfg4uKoX7HMnKORbXfQ/videos>

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

We recently found out that long-time friend of the church, **Mildred Pavlik**, passed away on March 16, 2021. She was 104 years old.

† † † † †

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to **Greg** and **Ingrid Dickson**, and the Dickson family on the sudden death of **Deborah Dickson** on December 31, 2021 at the age of 55. Please keep her children, **Ryan** and **Hannah**, in your prayers; their dad, Greg's brother, Mike died suddenly on January 3, 2013.

† † † † †

Our deepest sympathy is extended to **Myron Costin**, **Jen Barry**, and family on the death of Myron's father, **David Deering**, on January 4, 2022 after a long illness. He was 69 years old.

† † † † †

Our condolences to **George** and **Judi Pavisich**; George's younger brother, **Danny**, died unexpectedly on Sunday, January 23, 2022.

† † † † †

Love and prayers go out to **Bryana Hitchens** and **Erik Joyce**, **Alaya Hitchens**, and **Elliott Joyce**.

Bryana's grandfather, **Kenneth Carroll**, passed away on January 25, 2021 in South Carolina at the age of 82.

BABY CONGRATULATIONS

Welcome to the world, **Cayden John Barwise**, who was born on December 28, 2021. He is the son of **C.J. Barwise** and his lady **Brittney**, grandson of **Rachel McBride**, and the great-grandson of **Dianne & John Maringer!**



Ash Wednesday is March 2nd.

Pastor Heidi will offer three opportunities for those who wish to receive ashes. The Sanctuary will be open **6:45-7:30 A.M.** for quiet meditation and to receive a blessing and the mark of the Cross. Come and go as you wish. Then at **10:00 A.M.**, Women's Fellowship will meet for fellowship, but will begin their time together with a brief service and imposition of ashes for those who desire to participate. At **7:00 P.M.**, Pastor Heidi will lead a meditative service, culminating in the reception of ashes. All are welcome to join us.



OUR PRAYER LIST

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

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



Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Joan Beckwith, Eddy Bond, Mary Carey, Elaine Coffey, Kathy Cockrell, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sam Cuyler, Sr., Linda Elliott, Tom Foley, Ramona Glaze, Sue Hawk, Bob Heddeson, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, George Kapcar, Tony Koussa, Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Vicky Masuga, Judy Maur, Reggie McCray, Heidi & Chuck McDougall, Laurie Meister, Roy Merkle, Michele Mhlack, Lola Millhoane, Gary Paul, Judi Pavisich, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothe, Peter Smith, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Doug Thorn, Sharon Wilson, Sally Vetovitz, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Mary Ellen & Bob Zimmerman

Extended Church Family: Dorene Baldrige, Fred Beba (Theresa's husband), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Jerry Cergol, (Barb Fraunfelder & Dennis Smith's friend), Hunter Colao (Barb & Mark Camp's grandson), Ron Colosimo (Judi Pavisich's friend), Lou Conté (Diana Creecy's partner), Mary Ann Csory (Judi Pavisich's friend), John Dickson (Greg's dad), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Marty Hassel (Judi Pavisich's friend), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Andrew Majoros (Michele Mhlack's cousin), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Zachary McKeever (Pastor Heidi and Chuck's great-nephew), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothe's sister-in-law), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Thomas O'Shea (Sandy's dad), Terry Robson (Barb & Mark Camp's friend), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Sandra Wentz (Debbie's daughter-in-law)

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

h.e.denman@gmail.com

WE NEED YOU IN 2022!

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



MUSIC NOTES

Many thanks to **Roger Davis**, **Jennifer Sekorky**, **Craig Hardy**, **Ken Mehalko**, **Carol Foley**, **Sharon Heinrich**, **Tom Foley**, **Mike Elkins**, and of course, our faithful **Chancel Choir** and the **Bell Choir (with subs Mike Elkins & Nicki Haire)** for sharing their music with us in January for our worship .



THANK YOU NOTES

On January 2nd, our church received a voicemail from a veteran living in Cleveland, thanking our church for the Christmas bag with the socks and candy. He was so grateful, that he got a little emotional as he was leaving the message, especially when he thanked "Lacey" for the special note he received. We don't always hear thanks when we try to do good in the world, but this veteran took the time to let our church know that he appreciated our work. It was a beautiful message to hear.

Oh, my goodness! We had no idea there were so many talented cooks in our congregation! We have enjoyed yummy dishes ranging from meatloaf to pulled pork, pasta to delicious soups—and desserts! A million thanks to you all as we travel this journey together.

Peace, **Pastor Heidi and Chuck.**

From Olympia via the Strongsville Rotary Club and **Jim Dettmer**: *"Thank you for donating to the Kentucky Blanket Drive. Your efforts motivated others to join the Drive and we ended up with contributions from CVS Pharmacy/Caremark, Penske Trucking, Huntington Bank and the Rotary Club of Strongsville. We were able to donate over 530 blankets, 500 first aid kits, 500 sanitizers, 6000 masks. Total value was approximately \$13,000... This is a great way to end 2021 and may we all continue to keep our warm hearts open to those in need for 2022. Bless you all."*

Special Thanks to **Bobbie Krisak for the beautiful handmade blankets she donated!

We were so touched and comforted by the cards, prayers, and words of sympathy at the sudden loss of our sister-in-law, Deb Dickson. It means so much to us that we have the support of our caring, loving church family. Thank you to everyone who took the time to offer us their condolences.

Greg and Ingrid Dickson



CARB COMRADES!

Thank you so much to our faithful bread transporters and sorters: **Judy Carte, Jim Dettmer, Maria Graeff, Mike Elkins, Cathy Hawk, Sharon Heinrich, Sally Herzog, Linda Kapcar, Sharon & Jim Maresco, Sharon Lempner, and**

Rick & Cherie Teagno, who continue to make the Panera Bread ministry possible! Special thanks to **Cathy Hawk** and **Irene Joyce**, who delivered the bread and pastries to the Pentecostal Church of Christ in Cleveland for distribution In January.



PENNY SUNDAY

Save those pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and yes, DOLLARS for our next Penny Sunday collection, February 25th! All money collected will go

to Heifer Project, International.

In other news, our upstairs painting project is complete! Thank you to everyone who has made this long-awaited project happen and to **Drew Scalero**, our painter!



"NAME THAT BEAST"

COMPLETE! The naming of the camel election took place on January 16th. Amongst our choices, supplied by the children of the Sunday School, of Caramel, Charley,

Jolly, Joy, Lyric, Mistletoe, Myrrh, and Sheep, "**Charley**" was the winner!

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY TEAM



If you like to cook . . . or bake . . . or reach out to others in love . . . as winter and circumstances continue to make it hard to stay connected, your Diaconate is organizing a Pastoral Care Ministry Team and would LOVE to

have you take part! (You do not need to be a member of the Diaconate to participate, and you may come and go as you are led.) Watch for more details to come!

GIFT CARDS

AN EASY WAY TO BENEFIT THE CHURCH!



You can order gift cards by calling **Jim Joyce** at 216-267-5043 in advance with your order. **Limited stock is available for purchase on Sunday mornings.**

Thank you to those who continue to support this project by purchasing gift cards!

KEEP RECYCLING YOUR PAPER, MAGAZINES, AND CARDBOARD!

PLEASE FLATTEN ALL BOXES WHEN RECYCLING CARDBOARD.



River Valley Paper Company



Are you shopping online? 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. Strongsville UCC has received \$433.77 from Amazon to date.

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WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP – 2022

The group will not meet in February, but please mark your calendars for these programs on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in Pilgrim Hall at church (unless noted otherwise):

March 2 – Game Day

Each lady brings a game to play or a puzzle to put together.

April 6 – Make Puppy Chow (for people) as a fundraiser

May 4 – Getting to Know You – Part 1

Each lady talks 2 to 5 minutes about herself—her hobbies, interests, collections, etc.

June 1 – Getting to Know You – Part 2

A continuation of the previous month's program

July 6 – Program on Pets

September 7 – 11:00 A.M.

Outdoor Picnic at East River Park in Olmsted Falls

October 5 – Program on Medical Ministry

November 2 – Plan Our Christmas Tea,
Plan Programs for Next Year, Elect Officers

December 4 – Sunday – Christmas Tea

As always, all ladies of the church are welcome to attend those programs that interest them.

MISSION-OUTREACH COMMITTEE



The Strongsville Emergency Food Bank has always been supported by our congregation. Please remember, we do not accept

expired goods. The needs for the food bank in February would be PORK & BEANS, and TUNA.

SPONSORSHIP OF CAROLINE IN INDIA

Our church sponsors a child in India through the United Church of Christ. If you would like to sponsor Caroline for a month in 2022, please sign up on the list in Pilgrim Hall. Cost is \$30 and the check should be made payable to Strongsville UCC with "Child Sponsorship" in the memo line. Thank you!

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL HAS RESUMED!



2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month at 11:30 a.m.

(Limited space for seating; carryout is available with reservations)

Reservations only. Please call 440-238-5389 by the Friday prior.

What a lovely surprise we received to start the New Year! The **Deaconess Foundation** has awarded our Free Lunch for All program a grant for \$5000 to continue this ministry that offers so much to our community, and we are so very grateful for the support. Thank you to all our volunteers who help make the Free Lunch possible. We cannot do it without you! –Pastor Heidi

Reminder: *When the Strongsville City Schools are closed for weather, the Free Lunch for All will not be served that day. We love you and want you to stay safe.*

UNSUNG HEROES

Did you know that **Jim & Irene Joyce** drove up to Bronner's in Frankenmuth, Michigan to pick up the camel for the outdoor Nativity scene? Thank you also to **Greg & Ingrid Dickson** and **Dale & Cathy Hawk** for helping to unload the camel upon its Strongsville arrival!



GOD'S WORK—OUR HANDS
Our 2022 Stewardship campaign: pledge cards received to date: 60



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.strongsvilleuuc.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

Mike Elkins



Below is a monthly report listing the budget income we need to receive from Pledges and Offerings and the amount received from **January 2 through January 23, 2022. Thank you to everyone who supports our church and its ministries.**

Offering Needed \$14,597.48 for 4 Sundays
 Offering Received 13,225.40
 (-\$1,372.08)

STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of January 2nd

Happy Birthday today to our "Little K," Kristen Burgess
 Love, Ingrid Dickson & Irene Joyce

Week of January 9th

In loving memory of Michael & Deborah Dickson
 Ingrid & Greg Dickson

Week of January 16th

Happy Birthday to Tony Craig on
January 20th!
 Love, Grammy

Week of January 23rd

Happy 6th Birthday to Jack Emerson Hayes!
 Love, Your Church Family

Week of January 30th

In loving memory of Erik O. Jannsohn on his birthday,
February 2nd
 Irene Jannsohn and family

To light the steeple, the minimum donation is \$5.00. Multiple dedications are welcomed for each week. **Please email the church at strongsvilleuuc@gmail.com. Thank you to everyone who lights our steeple!**

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR JANUARY

The altar flowers are given—

January 9th

In celebration of Abby Kuzmickas' birthday today!
 Pam & Bruce Keenen

In loving memory of Mark's sister, Sherry Sheeks
 Mark & Barb Camp

A new year, new beginnings, let us work on ourselves and our lives walking with the Lord our beloved savior
 Krisak Abruzzino Familia



January 16th

Celebrating Abby's 49th Birthday!
 Mark & Barb Camp
Happy Birthday to Rachel!
 The Zielinski Family

January 23rd

In memory of Carol L. Studer—Happy Birthday Mom.
 Kathy & Jeff

January 30th

Thank you to Jen Barry, Greg Dickson, and Rachel Zielinski for chairing their Boards for 5 years.

You may provide fresh 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 or better yet, email the church at strongsvilleuuc@gmail.com. Envelopes for enclosing your payment to the church office are also available. Thank you!

A NEW FLOWER CHART FOR 2022 IS POSTED IN PILGRIM HALL-We still have many Sundays available!

ADDRESS CHANGES/ADDITIONS

If you move or change your phone number, please be so kind as to let the church office know—thanks!

To update your Church Directory:

Karen Rak
 12799 Doula Lane #119
 North Royalton, OH 44133

Denny & Sheri Martin
 6647 Amber Way
 North Ridgeville, OH 44039

Betty Yarnell
 674 Sloan Rd.
 Lyman SC 29365
 216-470-1271



**THANK YOU TO THESE
CHURCH OFFICERS FOR THEIR EXTRA
SERVICE IN 2021**

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 Co-Superintendents
Linda Elkins** Serena Abruzzino**

Board of Trustees

Greg Dickson Mike Clotworthy*
Myron Costin* Bill Giuliano
Dale Hawk Sandy Pogozelski
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 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* Sue Gigliotti* Beth Giuliano
Judi Pavisich** Bill Schneider**

Mission and Outreach Committee

Judy Carte Sarah Hayes** Bobbie Krisak
Michele Mhlack Gary Paul Lora Rung*
Jennifer Sekorky** Bev Wehr

THRIFT SHOP



The Thrift Shop is OPEN on
**Thursdays from 10 a.m.
until 4 p.m.** with lots of
interesting merchandise.
Donations are being
accepted, but you must call
the church first to arrange a time for drop-off.

THRIFT SHOP BONUS HOURS

The 3rd **Thursday** of the month,
February 17, 2022 — 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
(We're still open on Thursdays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

Special thanks to all our dedicated volunteers!

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- **The Board of Trustees** will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **February 14th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- **The Diaconate** will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **February 21st** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- **The Official Board** will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **February 28th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



Please note: Outgoing presiding officers are asked to attend the February meeting of their boards.

ANNUAL ALL FAMILY WINTER RETREAT

February 18 - 20, 2022

Templed Hills Camp
in Bellville, Ohio

**It's not too late to join us
on Saturday!** Please see
Irene Joyce by February 6th if
you'd like to come and be a
part of the fun.



The Church's Annual All-Family Winter Retreat will take place on President's Day weekend 2022.

**Retreat planning meeting in the church
after the worship service FEBRUARY 6,
2022 (This meeting has been moved up a
week because of new requirements and
stricter payment policies.)**



FEBRUARY 2022

CALENDAR

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1
AA 9-11 AM
AA 6-9:45PM

2
AA 6-9:30 PM

3
THRIFT SHOP
10 AM – 4 PM
AA 6-9 PM
BELL CHOIR
7-8 PM
CHANCEL
CHOIR
8 PM–9:30 PM

4
Panera Bread
ministry

5

12
Pilgrim Hall in
use

6
WORSHIP
10 AM
Sacrament of
Holy Communion
Installation of
Officers
Retreat Meeting



7
Panera Bread
ministry

8
AA 9-11 AM
AA 6-9:45PM
Trustee
Mtg. 7 PM

9
FREE LUNCH
11:30 AM
Reservations
Only
AA 6-9:30 PM
Jazz Rehearsal
6:30 PM

10
THRIFT SHOP
10 AM – 4 PM
AA 6-9 PM
BELL CHOIR
7-8 PM
CHANCEL
CHOIR
8 PM–9:30 PM

11
Panera Bread
ministry

13
WORSHIP
10 AM

14
Panera Bread
ministry



15
AA 9-11 AM
AA 6-9:45PM
Diaconate
Mtg. 7 PM

16
AA 6-9:30 PM
Jazz Rehearsal
6:30 PM

17
THRIFT SHOP
10 AM – 4 PM &
6 – 8 PM
AA 6-9 PM
BELL CHOIR
7-8 PM
CHANCEL
CHOIR
8 PM– 9:30 PM

18
Panera Bread
ministry
Retreat at
Templed Hills



19
Retreat at
Templed Hills



20
WORSHIP
10 AM
Panera Bread
ministry
Retreat at
Templed Hills



21
Panera Bread
ministry



22
AA 9-11 AM
AA 6-9:45PM
Official
Board
Mtg. 7 PM

23
FREE LUNCH
11:30 AM
Reservations
Only
AA 6-9:30 PM

24
THRIFT SHOP
10 AM – 4 PM
AA 6-9 PM
BELL CHOIR
7-8 PM
CHANCEL
CHOIR
8 PM–9:30 PM

25
Panera Bread
ministry

26

27
WORSHIP
10 AM

28
Panera Bread
ministry



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