



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 (Congregational)
 13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136
 (440) 238-6697
StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com
StrongsvilleUCC.com



Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor
Sunday, January 17, 2021 – Online

OPENING MUSIC "Pastorale" Zipole

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT "Sweet, Sweet Spirit" Akers

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the silence of a lonely night, in the songs children sing in the morning, God calls to us, whispering God's love. When we think we can go it alone, when we think no good can be found anywhere in our world, Jesus calls to us, reminding us of God's goodness. When we think we are free to do whatever we want, when we think our lives are our own, the Spirit calls to us, showing us a better Way. **Come, Lord Jesus. Come.**

HYMN "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
 In light inaccessible Hid from our eyes
 Most blessed, most glorious, The Ancient of Days
 Almighty, victorious--Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unchanging, And silent as light,
 Nor wanting, nor wasting Thou rulest in might;
 Thy justice, like mountains, High soaring above;
 Thy clouds, which are fountains Of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest--To both great and small;
 In all life thou livest-- The true life of all.
 Thy wisdom so boundless, Thy mercy so free,
 Eternal Thy goodness for naught changeth thee.

CCLI Song # 124466 Walter Chalmers Smith © Words: Public Domain
 Music: Public Domain

FIRST READING **Psalm 139** Excerpts (*New International Version*)

You have searched me, LORD, and you know me.
 You know when I sit and when I rise;
 you perceive my thoughts from afar.

You discern my going out and my lying down;
 you are familiar with all my ways.
 Where can I go from your Spirit?
 Where can I flee from your presence?
 If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
 if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
 If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
 if I settle on the far side of the sea,
 even there your hand will guide me,
 your right hand will hold me fast.
 If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me
 and the light become night around me,"
 even the darkness will not be dark to you;
 the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

SHARING AND PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

MUSIC "Be Still My Soul" Sibelius

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

BEING COMMUNITY WHEN WE ARE APART

OFFERTORY "Word of God Speak" Millard/Kiple
 As the United Church of Christ, we profess to believe that God is still speaking. As followers of the Christ, we are charged with listening—and acting. As the new year gets underway in earnest, we continue to commit our lives and our resources to finding new, innovative ways to continue to walk with Jesus, even during this season of pandemic. We appreciate your commitment to giving freely of your talents and your treasure, as you are able. Thank you. To give online, you may go to:
<https://www.myoffering.com/eonline/index.php/dashboard/login/5027>

or mail your offering to **Strongsville UCC 13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, OH 44136**. You may also save a stamp and drop your envelope in the church mailbox at any time.

SECOND READING **1 Samuel 3:1-10** (The Message)

The boy Samuel was serving GOD under Eli's direction. This was at a time when the revelation of GOD was rarely heard or seen. One night Eli was sound asleep (his eyesight was very bad—he could hardly see). It

was well before dawn; the sanctuary lamp was still burning. Samuel was still in bed in the Temple of GOD, where the Chest of God rested. Then GOD called out, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Yes? I'm here." Then he ran to Eli saying, "I heard you call. Here I am." Eli said, "I didn't call you. Go back to bed." And so he did. GOD called again, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, "I heard you call. Here I am." Again Eli said, "Son, I didn't call you. Go back to bed." (This all happened before Samuel knew GOD for himself. It was before the revelation of GOD had been given to him personally.) GOD called again, "Samuel!"—the third time! Yet again Samuel got up and went to Eli, "Yes? I heard you call me. Here I am." That's when it dawned on Eli that GOD was calling the boy. So Eli directed Samuel, "Go back and lie down. If the voice calls again, say, 'Speak, GOD. I'm your servant, ready to listen.'" Samuel returned to his bed. Then GOD came and stood before him exactly as before, calling out, "Samuel! Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Speak. I'm your servant, ready to listen."

REFLECTION Ready to listen?

HYMN "Take My Life and Let it Be"

Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord to Thee;
Take my moments and my days-- Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my voice and let me sing Always, only, for my King;
Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my love--my Lord I pour At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee.

CCLI Song # 1390 Frances Ridley Havergal | Henri Abraham Cesar Malan ©
Words: Public Domain Music: Public Domain

BENEDICTION

Now may the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Know that wherever you are, God is with you. Amen.

POSTLUDE "Das Alte Jahr Vergangen Ist (The Old Year has Past)" Bach

The steeple will light the sky this week—

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

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

SERVING		
TODAY – JANUARY 17		NEXT SUNDAY – JANUARY 24
Irene Joyce	Liturgist	Irene Joyce
Tom Foley	Director of Music	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	Associate Director of Music	Mike Elkins
Doug Thorn	Sound	Doug Thorn
Chuck McDougall	Video	Chuck McDougall
Richard Densmore	Special Music	Ken Mehalko

Additional song credits

Pastorale Domenico Zipoli from *Sonata d'intavolatura* Italian, 18th Century
Music: Public Domain

Sweet, Sweet Spirit CCLI Song # 18204 Doris Akers © 1962. Renewed 1990 Manna Music, Inc. (Admin. by ClearBox Rights, LLC)

Be Still My Soul CCLI Song # 96910 Jane Laurie Borthwick | Jean Sibelius | Kathrina Amalia von Schlegel Finlandia © Wordsand music: Public Domain

Word of God Speak CCLI Song # 3912788 Bart Millard | Pete Kiple ©2002 Songs From The Indigo Room (Admin. by CURB | Word Music Publishing) Simpleville Music (Fair Trade Music Publishing [c/o Essential Music Publishing LLC]) Curb Wordspring Music (Admin. by W.C.M. Music Corp.)

Das Alte Jahr Vergangen Ist (The Old Year has Past)
Johann Sebastian Bach from *Orgelbüchlein* (Little Organ Book) 18th century
Public Domain

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Many thanks to Richard Densmore for recording organ music for today's service!

Happy Birthday today to Teddy Bickley and Happy Anniversary to Ted & Kelly Bickley!

OFFERINGS RECEIVED



Weekly Offering Needed	\$ 3,649.37
Last Week's Offering Received	\$ 3,776.00
Difference	\$ 126.63

Thank you very much for your support of our church and its ministries.

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

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, Jackie & Phil Berkheimer (Judi Pavisich's friends), 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), Pam Hassell, (Judi Pavisich's daughter-in-law), 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.



THRIFT SHOP NEWS

The Thrift Shop will be back in business on Thursday, January 21st from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Come on down and see the fabulous new “refresh” with new merchandise, new displays, and new floor plan!



MARRIAGE CONGRATULATIONS

Many blessings to **Barb Fraunfelder** and **Dennis Smith**, who were married in Florida on January 10, 2021.



THANK YOU

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



ANNUAL REPORTS

Although we are not meeting in person, we will still be compiling our Annual Report. Chairs of church organizations: Annual reports are due in the church office ASAP.

Please email your report to strongsvilleucc@gmail.com and be kind to the Church Secretary by getting your reports in promptly during this unusual time.

Thank you to everyone who has already submitted their report!

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Financial Officers of all church organizations: Please submit your financial records, reports, and bank statements to the church office for audit as soon as possible.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

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 will not take place as usual. Most of our church officers have agreed to add a year onto their terms. The Annual Report will be emailed to all households and there will be a limited number available for pick-up at the church office during office hours in late January.

PEANUT BUTTER DRIVE FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

The Strongsville Emergency Food Bank is in need of peanut butter—all sizes and brands, crunchy or creamy. Please bring new, unopened jars of peanut butter to the church during office hours: Monday - Friday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.



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.

ANNUAL WINTER RETREAT

Upon consultation with the leadership at Temple 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!**



PENNY SUNDAY TO BENEFIT THE FOOD BANK



In-person drop-off of your coins, checks, and dollars will be on **Sunday, January 31st from 10 a.m. – Noon**. Can't make it then? Please stop by during church hours: Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.



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 is extended 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.