

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

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall
Pastor

Worship at 10:00 A.M. on Sunday

JANUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

*Kindness in words creates confidence.
Kindness in thinking creates profoundness.
Kindness in giving creates Love.*
--Lao Tzu

Hey, what'd ya get?

Remember the old Charlie Brown Halloween special, when all the kids went out trick or treating? When they looked in their bags, each child would announce what they got:

*I got a giant candy bar!
I got three pencils! And some jelly beans!
I got peanut butter kisses—my favorite!*

And at every single house, Charlie Brown got the same thing:

*I got—a **rock**.*

Makes you wonder how he fared at Christmas, doesn't it?

We have come off a record-breaking holiday spending season. Estimates are, we spent around *one trillion dollars* on gifts this year!

And you know what's really sad? Of those gifts, chosen *just for us*, nearly \$280 *billion* worth will be returned! Wow. . . .

Christmas is a season of love, a time when we pause and focus on the story from long ago when a child was born, a child who would change the world. The perfect gift of a perfect God.

Here's my challenge to you: instead of focusing on the gift—wrong size, hate the color, doesn't go with my décor—focus on the giver. Focus on the Love. And if you must return something? How about returning the Love to the giver? I guarantee it's just what they want (and need)!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Peace and Love,
Pastor Heidi

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY – JANUARY 5 – 10:00 A.M.

Second Sunday after Christmas

Sacrament of Communion

Liturgist: Betty Craig

Greeter: Elaine Coffey

Ushers: Linda Plain

Coffee Hour: Volunteer needed

Special Music: Mike Elkins, Tom Foley, Sharon Heinrich



SUNDAY – JANUARY 12 – 10:00 A.M.

The Baptism of Christ

Liturgist: TBD

Greeter: Volunteer needed

Ushers: Volunteer needed

Coffee Hour: Elaine Coffey

Special Music: Chancel Choir

SUNDAY – JANUARY 19 – 10:00 A.M.

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Liturgist: TBD

Greeters: Jan Stough

Ushers: Elaine Coffey

Coffee Hour: Volunteer needed

Special Music: Chancel Choir

SUNDAY – JANUARY 26 – 10:00 A.M.

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Penny Sunday

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Liturgist: TBD

Greeter: Linda Plain

Ushers: Volunteers needed

Coffee Hour: Pancake Breakfast

Special Music: Bell 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**.



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: Dolores Bail, Jen Barry, Joan Beckwith, Elaine Coffey, Rev. Larry and Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Dan Davis, Sue Hawk, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Carole Kapcar, Debbie Krause, Karl Kuhlenschmidt, Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Lacey Marshall, Judy Maur, Laurie Meister, Michele Mhlack, Bill Ritchie, Alysha Rolland, Ginger Rothel, John and Maggie Struhar, Josh Trinckes, Bill Williamson, 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), Bill Foley, (father of Tom), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Jeff and Tiffany Hassel (son and daughter-in-law of Judi Pavisich), 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.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place **Sunday, January 26, 2020**, and will be preceded by the traditional Pancake Brunch. All are encouraged to attend this meeting and be a part of our family of faith. You do not have to be a member of the church to attend the meeting, but only members are entitled to cast a vote.



Friends, as many of you know, every other Sunday we have guests who join us from Vitalia Senior Center. One of those visitors was **Judy Munshower**. She passed

away peacefully on December 24, 2020. Judy started coming to SUCC around Easter 2019. Please keep her husband, **Bill**, her daughter, **Kelley Anderson** (Dave), **Karrie Palmer** (Rick), and **Kristin Lutz** (Nate) in your prayers. Judy was planning to become a member of our church in January. Memorials may be given to SUCC.



Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to **Betty Yarnell** and the family and friends of **Allan Haberkorn**, who passed away suddenly on December 29, 2020.



CHURCH CHRISTMAS MAIL BOX



Please don't forget to check the church mailbox for any cards or greetings you may have received from your church friends. The card boxes will be removed the second week of January.

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. **Help will be needed in January/February/March to pick up Panera bakery donations on Monday mornings. Please sign up on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall to volunteer.**



UNSUNG HEROES



Did you know that **Cathy Hawk, Sharon & Jim Maresco, Jim & Linda Dettmer, John & Barbara Toth**, along with regulars **Kenn & Ginny Oerkfitz**, have stepped up to help with the Panera pick up on Mondays! Thanks also to **Linda Kapcar, Judy Carte, and Kathie Paul**, who have been sorting the pastries and bread. Thanks also to our Friday crew, **Mary Ellen Zimmerman, Maria Graeff, Rick & Cheri Teagno**. We appreciate your efforts to keep our congregation well-fed!



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.**



Pastor Heidi and Chuck (aka the Pastor's Wife) send a big **THANK YOU** to one and all for the many, many cards, treats and goodies that have helped make our Christmas even more festive! We are so fortunate to be leading this generous, God-loving congregation into the next year and beyond. Thank you so much!

The Music Ministry extends its deepest thanks to the anonymous donor, whose extra gift made it possible to have additional musicians and music for our worship services during the Christmas season. We also thank our stellar music staff; Tom Foley, Mike Elkins, and Sharon Heinrich as well as the guest musicians who supplemented our usual staff and volunteers: Will Foley, Lisa Heinrich, Sharon Metivier, Tyler Martin, Craig Hardy, Bobby Foley, and Jimmy 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!

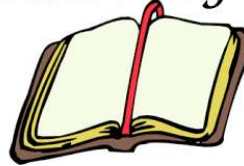
Your addresses, billing information, and shopping cart are still saved and your Prime membership privileges still apply. A small percentage of your purchase price will go toward supporting the church. **We earned another \$22.78 this past quarter. Every little bit helps!**



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!**

Bible Study



UPPITY WOMEN—Part III!

All are welcome to join us as we explore the Book of Esther starting on January 8th at 1 p.m. for a continuation of our Uppity Women of the Bible series. The class should last 6 weeks. We will have a special guest for some of our sessions, Rabbi Enid! Mark your calendar now and see **Linda Elkins** for more information.

MUSIC COMMITTEE NEWS

Many thanks to everyone who helped with or supported the Christmas Jazz Concert! We extend our special appreciation to the Strongsville City Swing Jazz Band under the direction of **Jim Wonnacott** and **Ken Mehalko** and to Counterpoint (**Gary Hackett** and **Craig Hardy**) for donating their talents. We also express our gratitude to everyone who contributed goodies for the reception. \$1,150.00 was raised for our Music Ministry.



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 Thursday, January 2nd.**



SPONSOR CAROLINE IN INDIA

Our generous church members and friends have been sponsoring Caroline Y. in India for several years and the sign-up sheet for 2020 is posted in Pilgrim Hall. The cost is \$30 for one month. The Sunday School will be the sponsor for the month of January.

STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of December 1, 2019

*In remembrance of our parents and
in remembrance of my twin aunts, Catherine and
Frances--Ginger and Ron Rothel*

Week of December 8, 2019

*In memory of loved ones--Corrine Jackson
In memory of Jane C. Graves--Roberta Carpenter
Happy Birthday to the Pastor's Wife on December 5th!
Happy Birthday to Suzi Foley on December 10th!
Tom & the gang*

Week of December 15, 2019

*Happy Birthday to Bill Craig on December 17th!
With Love, Mom*

Week of December 22, 2019

*Happy Birthday to Marty Winch!
With love, your church family
Happy Anniversary to Ryan and Tony on December 24th!
With love, Grammy*

*Happy 35th Birthday to Jonathan on December 18th and
Happy 50th to Rachel on December 30th
Love, Dianne & John Maringer*

Week of December 29, 2019

*In loving memory of Brooke M. Akins
With love from the Jannsohn-Joyce-Dickson family
With special thanks to the anonymous donor whose
generosity provided funds for extra music and musicians
for Christmas--The Music Committee*

*Happy Birthday TODAY to my little sister, Becky
Robinson, Still "two-two" --From Bill*

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

December 1 – *Happy Birthday to Sarah Keenen on
December 6th Love, Mom & Dad*

December 8– *In celebration of the holiday season.
Ginger and Ron Rothel*

December 15 – *In celebration of our 55th Anniversary.
Tom and Judy Gaumer
Mom and Dad, Happy Anniversary
to you both in heaven.
Love, Margaret Stayrook*

December 22 -- *Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!
Peace on Earth—Lola Millhoane*



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. Sign up early for your choice of dates!

PENNY SUNDAY NEWS



The **November Penny Sunday** collection of \$177.65 will go to National Youth Advocate Program (NYAP) for foster children in Cuyahoga County. NYAP has provided cost effective, community based services and support to children, youth and families since 1978. They offer flexible, creative, outcome-based solutions to meet the unique needs of the communities we serve and the individual needs of the youth and families involved in our programs and services. The December Penny Sunday of \$173.50 also went to NYAP. **January 26** is the next one.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



*This group is on hiatus in
January, 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. **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.

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



Strongsville UCC All-You-Can-Eat

SWISS STEAK DINNER

Saturday – January 18, 2020

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

Reservations Only: (216) 598-6198

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

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

Help is needed – especially on Friday for browning meat. 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.

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 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

October 27 through November 24, 2019.

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

Offering Needed \$17,610.10 for 5 Sundays
Offering Received 27,067.07
Difference **\$9,456.97**



Thank you to everyone for your faithful support!

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 Judy Gaumer**

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 Stevens*
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 Eddy Bond** Sue Gigliotti*
Beth Giuliano Sharon Heinrich** Bill Schneider**

Mission and Outreach Committee

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

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.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Many offices in the church will be available for the coming year. Please consider saying **YES** when a member of the Nominating Committee asks you to serve. Some of the positions that are available include serving on the:

Moderator, who presides over the Official Board and represents the church in the community

Vice-Moderator, who works in tandem with the Moderator, serves on the Nominating Committee, and enlists volunteers for dinners and other Official Board events.

Treasurer: Manages the outgoing finances of the church in conjunction with the Financial Secretary

Diaconate, which oversees the worship operations and church services. The committees of the Diaconate are Acolytes, Altar, Coffee Hour, Funeral, Greeters, Membership, Nursery, Pastoral Relations, Special Events and Ushers.

Board of Trustees, which oversees the finances and physical plant of the church. The committees of the Trustees are Building and Grounds, Finance, and Long-Range Planning and Memorial/Endowment.

Mission & Outreach, which sponsors projects and our church's benevolence in the local, national, and international communities, including the 5 for 5 offerings through the United Church of Christ

Stewardship, which administers a yearly campaign to assess and inspire giving of time, talent, and treasure

Christian Education, which oversees the Sunday School and Adult Education programs

Music Committee, which supervises all aspects of the Music Ministry

Remember the old but true saying, *Many hands make light work*. Plan to be a part of one of these boards or committees. Thank you for your consideration.

IN THE WORKS

Some projects on which your boards are working for the coming year:

TRUSTEES

- An improved ramp for better wheelchair access to Pilgrim Hall
- Re-keying the outdoor locks to the church building and creating an improved system of key distribution

OFFICIAL BOARD

- New inserts for our outdoor sign. (The Plexiglas has already been replaced.)
- A new **Congregational Photo** on **Sunday, May 10th** (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.



ANNUAL ALL FAMILY WINTER RETREAT

February 14 - 16, 2020

Templed Hills Camp
in Bellville, Ohio



The Church's Annual All-Family Winter Retreat will take place on President's Day weekend 2020: February 14, 15 and 16. The sign-up sheet to attend and the sign-up sheet for things to bring and to volunteer will soon be posted on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Please reserve your spot and room now, as rooms will be first-come, first-served. The cut-off to sign up—January 19—will be strictly enforced this year. We will not have the same luxury as we've had in the past, in which we were able to take reservations up until the event weekend. Space is limited to 75 attendees. Also, please let us know if you have any special dietary needs. Finally, those that wish to come down on Saturday only—we would be happy to have you there, but we also need your reservation by January 19, and the cost is \$10 per meal. Please contact Irene Joyce or Rachel Zielinski if you have any questions.

Here is the cost (no change from last year):

ADULTS (12 and up): \$70

CHILDREN (6-11): \$15

CHILDREN (5 and under): FREE

Important dates to remember:

JANUARY 19, 2020: Reservations close; **MONEY DUE**

JANUARY 26, 2020: Special dietary needs reported

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

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!

January

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Christmas Pageant, The Birth of Our Savior, on December 15th was a terrific success! Thanks to everyone who made it happen:

Directed by Serena Abruzzino
Music Director: Tom Foley

Narrator: Emma Clotworthy
Papa: Ben Clotworthy
Grandma: Clara Barry
Teen: Alysha Rolland
Child: Jack Hayes
Child: Penny Zielinski
Child: Lacey Marshall
Innkeeper/Wise Man: Bobby Foley
Wise Man: Ian Rolland
Wise Man: Ollie Zielinski
Joseph: Christopher Abruzzino
Mary: Autumn Zoscak
Angel: McKenzi Abruzzino
Angel: Riley Hawk
Angel: Summer Zoscak
Shepherd: Luke Giuliano

Special Thanks to Serena Abruzzino for writing the script, to our Sunday School Superintendent Kristen Clotworthy, to Rachel Zielinski for her assistance, and as always, our Sunday School families



Thank you also to everyone who lit the Advent Candles during this season:

December 1:

Lora Rung,
Sam & Braxden Cuyler

December 8:

The Zielinski Family

December 15:

Elaine Coffey & Teri Barbish

December 22:

Tony Koussa & Gabby Grace

Christmas Eve 7 p.m.:

The Sekorky Family

Christmas Eve 11 p.m.:

Ken Mehalko & Bev Wehr

JANUARY 2019 DATES TO REMEMBER

- 1 Wed New Year's Day (No Free Lunch for All)
- 2 Thurs Thrift Shop CLOSED
No Bell Choir Rehearsal
No Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 5 Sun **Worship 10am with Communion**
Coffee Hour
- 8 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am to 12:30pm
Bible Study 1pm
Fit Club 7:15pm
Band Rehearsal 8:15pm
- 9 Thurs Thrift Shop 10am-2pm
Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8pm
- 11 Sun **Worship 10am**
Children's Choir
Coffee Hour
- 14 Tues Trustees Meeting 7pm
- 15 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am to 12:30pm
Bible Study 1pm
Fit Club, 7:15pm
Band Rehearsal 8:15pm
- 16 Thurs Thrift Shop 10am-2pm
Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8pm
- 17 Fri Swiss Steak prep 9am
- 18 Sat **Swiss Steak Dinner 5pm & 6:30pm**
- 19 Sun **Worship 10am**
Payment due for Retreat
Children's Choir
Coffee Hour
- 20 Mon Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 21 Tues Diaconate Meeting 7pm
- 22 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am-12:30pm
Bible Study 1pm
Fit Club 7:15pm
Band Rehearsal 8:15pm
- 23 Thurs Thrift Shop 10am-2pm
Men's Lunch at Gourmé 11am
Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8pm
- 26 Sun **Worship 10am--Penny Sunday**
Annual Meeting & Pancake Brunch
- 28 Tue Official Board Meeting, 7pm
- 29 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am-12:30pm
Bible Study 1pm
Fit Club 7:15pm
Band Rehearsal 8:15 pm
- 30 Thurs Thrift Shop 10am-2pm
Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8pm

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.

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.

