

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 Online during COVID)

JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

*Can anything be sadder than work left unfinished?
Yes, work never begun. –Christina Rossetti*

Grab a fork. You know how it is.

It's Saturday morning: time to pick up around the house a bit. I start out in the dining room, hoping to find the tabletop again under the week's accumulation of stuff. There's a book on the table that belongs in my office, so I head down the hallway to put it back on the shelf. Along the way, I spot a dirty sock in the hallway, so I head to the laundry room. There's a stack of clean clothes on the dryer. Gotta put 'em away, of course.

And before I know it, I am standing back in the dining room, holding a book in one hand and a dirty sock in the other, wondering what on earth I was going to do. It's enough to make a grown woman weep. I set out with grand intentions, but wind up spinning my wheels.

Starting a new year can make us pause, take a look at our lives and see loose ends, vowing (again) to tie them up, once and for all. But where to begin?

It's a bit like eating an elephant, really.

The way to be successful at a task is to take it one "bite" at a time. Deciding to learn to read Greek, or reading the entire Bible in a month may seem daunting, but commit to reading even a few verses each day (in English), and before you know it, you've finished the Gospel.

What seemingly elephantine spiritual undertaking is begging you to take the first bite? As we continue to be family at a distance, maybe 2021 is the year to focus on a spiritual discipline you've always wanted to understand more fully. Besides **reading the Bible more deliberately**, consider learning more about **prayer** or **meditation**; maybe you've wondered if **fasting** might enhance your Journey; or the twin disciplines of **generosity**, reaching out to others, and **solitude**, reaching inward towards God. Or maybe what your heart is really longing for is **worship**, simply spending time in full-on gratitude and love.

There are many pathways that lead us closer to the Heart of God. As the New Year begins, ponder where your journey of faith is leading. If you are a resolution-maker, consider starting here. (Need help? Here I am.)

Happy New Year! Ready or not. . . .

Peace,
Pastor Heidi

ONLINE WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY – JANUARY 3 – ONLINE
Second Sunday after Christmas
Special Service from the United Church of Christ



SUNDAY – JANUARY 10 – ONLINE
Sacrament of Communion
The Baptism of Christ—First Sunday after Epiphany
Special Music: Dave Williams



SUNDAY – JANUARY 17 – ONLINE
Second Sunday after Epiphany
Special Music: Richard Densmore

SUNDAY—JANUARY 24 – ONLINE
Third Sunday after Epiphany
Special Music: Sharon Heinrich

SUNDAY – JANUARY 31 – ONLINE
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Special Music: Sharon Metivier

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>



The Heartland, Illinois South, and Indiana-Kentucky Conferences of the UCC have collaborated to provide your congregation with a full-length video worship service intended for use on January 3.

Our hope and prayer is that this service is a gift to pastors, church musicians, church staffs, and worship teams across our three Conferences. We trust it is a gift that helps you to have some relief from the planning of socially-distanced worship, and a gift that lets you get to know the people who staff our three Conferences.



Our love and prayers to **Rachel and Gary Zielinski, Oliver and Penny** on the death of their uncle, **Toby Morgan**. Our sympathy is also extended to **Grant, Terri, Kennedy, Madison, and Reagan Morgan** and to **Jane and Dick Deutsch**, Toby's sister and brother-in-law. The funeral was held on December 11, 2020.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to **Sally** and **Steve Herzog, Andrew and Mallory Herzog** and **Aidan, and Sarah and Dale Toth** on the death of Sally's mom, **Donna Fargo**, on December 14, 2020. Our love and prayers also to Sally's sisters **Mary Fargo** and **Lisa Timm** and their families.





We were also deeply saddened to hear that **Sally Mack, Cathy Hawk's** mom, passed away on December 27, 2020. Our sympathy goes out to **Cathy and Dale Hawk, Sarah, Jon, Jack, Ella, and Henry Hayes, and Amanda, John, Riley, and Lacey Marshall**, as well as all of Sally's daughters, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and friends.

We send our condolences and prayers to **Irene Jannsohn**, who lost her brother-in-law, **Kenneth Jacoby** on November 26 and another brother-in-law, **Lukas Scholtz**, on December 24, 2020.

Our sympathy is also sent to the **Mark and Barb Camp**, as well as the family and friends of **Sherry Sheeks**, Mark's sister, who passed away on December 24, 2020 after a lengthy battle with breast cancer. Love and prayers also to Sherry's son, **Rick Dennison**.

BABY CONGRATULATIONS



Many blessings to **Erik Joyce** and **Bryana Hitchens** on the birth of their son, **Elliott James Joyce**, on December 9, 2020. Congratulations also to big sister **Alaya Hitchens**, grandparents **Jim and Irene Joyce**, great-grandmother **Irene Jannsohn**, and uncle **Evan Joyce** and aunt **Elena Joyce** too!

THANK YOU NOTES

Many thanks to **Dave Williams, the Venner Clarinet Quartet, Barb Fraunfelder, Will Foley, Sharon Metivier, Sarah Keenen, and Sharon Heinrich** for sharing their music with us in December for our recorded worship services and to the readers and musicians who participated in our Christmas Eve service:



Pastor: **Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall**
 Director of Music: **Thomas M. Foley**
 Associate Director of Music: **Mike Elkins**
 Video Editing/Sound: **Doug Thorn**
 Additional Video: **Chuck McDougall**

READERS

Barb Fraunfelder
Sandy O'Shea
Pam and Bruce Keenen
Judi Pavisich
Dave Williams
Linda Ponstingle
Irene Joyce
Dale Hawk

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS

The Miller Family: Allison, Nick, Jenna, and Jordyn

MUSICIANS

William Foley, vocalist
Sarah Keenen, vocalist
Sharon Metivier, vocalist
The Satori Winds (4 Guys with 4 Saxophones and 4 Clarinets): Ken Mehalko, alto sax and clarinet
Dick E. Ingersoll, alto sax and bass clarinet
Brian Maskow, tenor sax and clarinet
Dick K. Ingersoll, baritone sax and clarinet

The SUCC Chancel Choir from 2018:

Sopranos: **Sandy O'Shea, Ingrid Dickson, Sharon Maresco Sarah Toth, Pam Keenen, Irene Joyce**
 Altos: **Karen Morgan, Irene Jannsohn, Sarah Keenen, Jackie Foley**
 Tenors: **Gary Hackett, Chuck McDougall**
 Basses: **Rob Toth, Jake Williams, Clay Williams, Dave Williams, Bruce Keenen**

From our members...

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks for your prayers, expressions of sympathy and the support of the members of Strongsville United Church of Christ. It was a real shock and surprise when our Debbie died. Your support mattered a great deal to us all.

The **Churnega, Krause, and Sobek** family

UNSUNG HEROES

Did you know that **Doug Thorn** worked countless hours scheduling recording sessions, editing video, and putting together our Christmas Eve online worship service? Thank you so very much for your dedication and skills, Doug!



Did you know **Mike Elkins**, along with **Tom Foley** and **Ken Mehalko**, organized the recording, submitting, and production of our Christmas present to the congregation, "Christmas Presence?" Thank you to all of the musicians who shared their talents, as well!

ANNUAL REPORTS

Annual Report



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 on January 8, 2021. 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!!!

Financial Officers: Please submit your financial records, reports, and bank statements to the church office for audit by January 4, 2021.

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 Mhlack, 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, Ruby Cuyler (Sam's sister), 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), Anneke Scholtz (Irene Jannsohn's sister), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Brad Williams (Judi Pavisich'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 STILL SUPPORT THIS PROJECT!



You can order gift cards by calling **Jim Joyce** at 216-267-5043 in advance with your order. Hurry—limited stock available! You may

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 December 6th

*In honor of Sarah Keenen's Birthday - Your church family
In loving and respectful memory of all the men and women who sacrificed their lives for our country's freedom during wartime and in gratitude to their families who sacrificed their loved ones.*

In honor of veterans wherever and whenever they served.--Lola Millhoane

*In memory of Jane C. Graves
Roberta Carpenter*

Week of December 13th

*Happy Birthday to Bill Craig on December 17th
--Love Mom*

*My Christmas Card to all my church family
With Love, Betty (Grammy) Craig*

Week of December 20th

*Happy Anniversary to Ryan and Tony Craig on
December 24th*

With love, Grammy

Wishing all my church family, friends, and relatives a blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with love, joy, peace, and good health. God bless everyone!

Love, Lola Millhoane

Week of December 27th

*In honor and memory of loved ones
Corrine Jackson*



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.



SIGN UP NOW! ANNUAL WINTER RETREAT

February 12-14, 2021

at **Templed Hills Camp in Bellville, Ohio**

We are planning for this event to take place in whatever safe form presents itself. This Retreat will be different than any other year, but we hope it will still be a time for fellowship with your family and perhaps a change of scenery. Plans will be extremely flexible and subject to change based on the camp's safety protocols, up to and including cancellation.

SPACE WILL BE LIMITED.

More information, including payment deadlines and procedures, will be disseminated through email and Facebook. **Here is the cost:**

ADULTS (12 and up): \$75

CHILDREN (6-11): \$20

CHILDREN (5 and under): FREE

Please sign up by emailing the number of people (and their age categories) to the church at strongvilleuuc@gmail.com by January 10, 2021.



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 is suspending accepting any

donations through January due to COVID-19. Thank you!

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.

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.** We could not offer this ministry without someone willing to pick up the baked goods from Southpark Mall on Mondays at 11 a.m. or from the store on Route 82 on Mondays and Fridays at 9 a.m. If you can give a half hour of your time to help, please call Cathy Hawk at 440-781-7512 or the church office. (Thank you to the faithful bread transporters and sorters who continue to help!)

MITTEN TREE

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the Mitten Tree!

Report from Sharon Lempner: Because we are nearing the end of the Christmas Support Season with multiple gatherings, it has taken a while to distribute the vast quantity of items from the Mitten Tree to organizations and individuals in need. God has taken your generous collection and multiplied its impact on the community. Hats and mittens have been distributed to the homeless who make their regular stops under the pavilion at Saint Malachi's on Franklin Avenue. The large-sized men's gloves and work gloves were a Major item for the homeless men at 2100 Lakeside run by Lutheran Ministries. These worked very well because many of the men are working and really appreciated the gloves that fit their large hands. On Saturday, children's hats, gloves and mittens were a major part of the Coats for Kids distribution

in Cleveland's 9th Ward. It was a team effort with the Cleveland Fire Department, Cleveland Police Department, the Ward 9 Councilman, your church and our church. The distribution was on three floors of a large, 120-unit apartment complex with 184 children under the age of 18. The hats, mittens and scarves were distributed on the second floor. A set of adult caps were also sent to a women's shelter. Here, women with substance issues are working to improve their lives and live up to their potential. Even a few children's scarves made it all the way to Washington D.C. There is an organization there called SOME (So Others Might Eat) which uses volunteers to feed three meals a day. It is the place where Barack and Michelle Obama volunteered to serve meals on Thanksgiving Day. Well, SOME also does a shoebox distribution at Christmas and a volunteer from a D.C. Rotary Club needed 4 more children's scarves for a box. Four of your scarves were then driven to Washington and put in those boxes. So, again, your Mitten Tree was widely and completely dispersed to children, men and women who not only needed them, but greatly appreciated them. One of the true blessings during this pandemic is that churches, communities and individuals have joined hands and given freely to make the world a better place. Thank you!



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, **January 18, 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!

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 **December 6 through December 27, 2020**. This information also appears on a weekly basis in our worship bulletin.



Offering Needed \$13,893.08 for 4 Sundays

Offering Received 13,872.00

Difference (- \$ 21.08)

Thank you to everyone who is maintaining their giving!

ADDRESS CHANGES

To update your Church Directory:

Ken & Kay Konicek
1515 Mitchell Wharf St.
Daniel Island, S C. 29492



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

Eddy Bond*	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*
ex officio: 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	



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.