

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
Minister

Worship at 10:00 A.M. on Sunday

JULY 2018 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

*For when I was hungry, you gave me something to eat;
when I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink. . . .
Whatever you do for the least of these, you do for me. –
Matthew 25:35, 40*

Good news! Strongsville United Church of Christ recently received word that our grant request for funding to continue the Wednesday Free Lunch for All program has been approved for another year! This grant provides approximately half our annual funding. Now, you might look around our neighborhood and think, ‘Well, do we *really* need to host a free lunch? *Every week?*’ The short answer is: you betcha.

Free Lunch for All is about so much more than food. And it’s about so much more than Strongsville. Here are some interesting tidbits:

- ♥ Every week, barring adverse weather, our willing volunteers prepare and serve a hot, delicious, nutritious meal to between 60-100 guests.
- ♥ Our guests don’t just come from the neighborhood; they come from Berea and Middleburg Heights, North Royalton and Brunswick. One young man takes buses from Lakewood to join us for lunch. *No one* has been turned away. Our guests range in age from very young (ages 4-5) to the young at heart (over 80 years old)!
- ♥ Even our volunteers come from all over; in fact, several aren’t even members of SUCC or any UCC—or *any church!* But they appreciate the outreach we perform, and want to be a part of the

Jesus Factor we offer. And we can always use another set of hands (yours).

- ♥ Besides the hot meal, we offer Panera pastries and bread, donated by the Panera Bakeries in Strongsville. And the Strongsville Food Bank also supports us in our efforts when they receive something they can’t use. We are so, so grateful!
- ♥ Not everyone comes for the food; many come because we offer a safe, nonjudgmental space where friends can gather, pray, be fed-- and be nourished spiritually, as well. (Kinda sounds like church is happening on Wednesday, too, doesn’t it?)

Whenever Jesus gathered folks together to teach, there was food. I am so pleased to be part of a congregation that appreciates the importance of feeding the hungry, and I invite you to support the Free Lunch for All as you are able, whether by coming to eat, coming to serve, praying for us or giving a cash donation to continue the mission. (Checks can be made to *Strongsville UCC*. On the memo line, simply write *Free Lunch*.) Truly, we **are** the Church—together.

Peace to your spirit,
Pastor Heidi



WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY – JULY 1 – 10:00 A.M.

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

*Sacrament of Communion
Sacrament of Baptism*



Liturgist: Kelly Bickley

Greeter: Linda Plain

Ushers: Linda Plain, Marty Winch, the Bickleys

Coffee Hour: Myron Costin

SUNDAY – JULY 8 – 10:00 A.M.

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Liturgist: Michele Mihlack

Greeter: Judy Carte

Usher: Roy Merkle

Coffee Hour: Myron Costin

SUNDAY – JULY 15 – 10:00 A.M.

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Recognition and Retirement Reception

Liturgist: Betty Craig

Greeter: Lola Millhoane

Usher: Volunteers needed

Coffee Hour: Volunteers needed

SUNDAY – JULY 22 – 10:30 A.M.

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Outdoor Worship and Picnic at Volunteer Park

Liturgist: Sharon Heinrich

Greeter: Judi Pavisich

Ushers: Volunteers Needed

SUNDAY – JULY 29 – 10:00 A.M.

*Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Penny Sunday*

Liturgist: Greg Dickson

Greeters: Abruzzino family

Ushers: Volunteers Needed

Coffee Hour: Volunteer Needed

UPDATE FROM THE PULPIT SEARCH COMMITTEE

After an exhaustive and thorough process of searching for our settled pastor, and prayerful consideration, your Pulpit Search Committee has chosen a candidate to lead our church. The Committee received almost fifty profiles which were carefully and diligently investigated. Through countless meetings, emails and most importantly, lots of prayer, it became clear to us that God had sent us the minister who is the best fit for our congregation. It is with great joy that we recommend to extend the call to **Reverend Heidi Denman McDougall** to be our settled pastor.

To that end, a **Congregational meeting** will take place on **August 12, 2018**, immediately following the worship service, for the purpose of voting to accept the Search Committee's recommendation. There will also be a "meet and greet" (for most of us, just a greet) on Saturday, August 11 to welcome and talk with Pastor Heidi and her husband Chuck.

The Committee would like to thank the congregation for its ongoing support, patience and prayers these past thirteen months, as we determined whom we would unanimously chose to recommend.

Your Pulpit Search Committee: Ted Bickley, Judy Carte, Kristen Clotworthy, Jim Dettmer, Ingrid Dickson, Sally Herzog. and Bill Schneider

ABOUT REV. HEIDI DENMAN MCDOUGALL

Pastor Heidi came to pastoral ministry later in life. She entered Ashland Theological Seminary at the age of . . . fifty . . . and discovered, with a little coaxing, the brain still worked well enough to complete her Master of Divinity in 2011, graduating With Honors. She became the Minister of Pastoral Care at University Circle United Methodist Church, serving alongside friend and colleague, Rev. Dr. Ken Chalker. After five years there, God saw fit to open a door in a new direction, and Heidi and her husband Chuck followed God's leading to Strongsville United Church of Christ. Together, they are the proud parents of seven grown children and twelve grandchildren. They are excited about what God might have planned next for their lives together and for their church—together.



CELEBRATION FOR SHARON HEINRICH

On Sunday, July 15th, following the worship service, we will have a reception, complete with cake, punch, and refreshments to celebrate our newly retired Church Secretary, Sharon Heinrich, who has served with dedication and faithfulness for 26 years. If you have not already done so, please complete a message sheet for Sharon (located on the table in the Gathering Area) and slip it under the church office door.

Unsung Heroes

Did you know that Judy Carte comes in every Friday and folds all the bulletins? Thanks, Judy for volunteering your time!

Did you know that members of the Trustees and their families vacuumed, swept, mopped, and cleaned the church until our Summer Custodian could begin her position? Thank you to our faithful board members!

Did you know that Doug Thorn sets up the Bell Choir tables and stands, carrying all the equipment from upstairs whenever the Bell Choir plays? Thank you, Doug, for your hard work!

Did you know that Ryan Heinrich saved the day (and the week) by coming in and fixing the church's phone system as soon as he read the email saying that the phones were out? We are so grateful to you, Ryan, for being so responsive!

Did you know that Kathie and Gary Paul and Melinda Slavik come up to the church to plant then water the flowers all season long? We appreciate their efforts to beautify our church grounds!

Did you know that Jan Stough counts hundreds and hundreds of pennies and other coins each month for our Penny Sunday program? Thank you, Jan, for your assistance with this task!

Did you know that Greg Dickson and Jim Joyce installed new faucets in the upstairs washrooms? Many thanks for completing this much needed job!



In Sympathy—Strongsville UCC extends our sympathies to the family and friends of **Megan McGaw**, who died earlier in June. Megan is the daughter of Mike and Rev. Vicki McGaw, who served this congregation a number of years ago when Rev. Morris was on sabbatical. Rev. Vicki is currently the minister at Middleburg Heights Community Church. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Coming Soon!

Strongsville UCC

OUTDOOR WORSHIP AND PICNIC at Volunteer Park in Strongsville

12410 Lunn Road

just west of Prospect, between Prospect and Foltz

Sunday – JULY 22, 2018 – 10:30 A.M.

Outdoor Worship in the Pavilion

followed by Potluck Picnic Meal and Games

Pavilion with Picnic Tables and Electricity
Restrooms – Playground – Horseshoe Pits
Bocce Ball Courts – Baseball Fields
Batting Cages

Hot dogs, buns, beverages, paper plates and disposable silverware will be provided; please bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share.



MISSION AND OUTREACH

Mission Outreach receives monthly statements from the Strongsville Food Bank. Halfway through the year, our wonderful congregation has donated an estimated total of **\$1,340!** That is an amazing amount from amazing people. Summer donations decline because the different community groups that do special collections, such as school groups, postal carriers and others are conducted during the school year. Our donations are transported to the Food Bank every week and the collection area is in Pilgrim Hall at the entrance by the bulletin board. It is helpful, if possible, when they are in bags. Peanut butter, jelly, tuna are always needed, but all contributions are very appreciated. Thank you for your generosity!

Judy Carte

Mission and Outreach Committee

MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in becoming a member of Strongsville UCC, please contact Pastor Heidi or call the church office, 440-238-6697.



ALTAR FLOWERS

June altar flowers were given

June 3 - In Celebration of Ginger's Sister Catherine (Cookie) Pousen's Birthday on June 1 from Ron and Ginger Rothel

In Celebration of Our First Wedding Anniversary.
I married my soul mate June 3, 2017! Love always, Jamie

June 10 - Happy 86th Birthday to our Mom & Grandma, Betty Babics! from the Gigliotti and Kubancik Families
Congratulations to all the 2018 Graduates!
from the Gigliotti Family

June 17 - In Loving Memory of the Wilson Family
Doris Soucie

June 24 - In honor of Sharon Heinrich's many years of service as our Church Secretary.
from Bill and Dorothy Ritchie,
Gina Cathcart and Sharon Ritchie

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. As of this printing, below are dates when vases are still needed so that two vases are on the altar for Sunday worship.



July 8 – 1 vase
August 12 – 1 vase
September 9 – 2 vases
October 14 – 1 vase
December 9 – 2 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.

FIT CLUB



We continue to meet every Wednesday at 7 p.m. Our group is small, but enthusiastic and we welcome anyone, of any age or fitness level to join us and get moving.

You do not have to be fit to be a part of Fit Club!
(We will not meet on the 4th of July.)

THANK YOU

Dear Church Friends,

I'd like to take this opportunity to tell you how GREAT it was to see the entire UCC-Strongsville church family when Joe and I were in Ohio. I can't tell you how many times Joe and I relive church events - dinners, garage sales, hayrides, retreats etc. etc. - and remember all the wonderful folks who have been in our lives. Wishing you all the best and a happy, healthy, and safe summer to all!!

Barbara Craig

Thank you to the Bell Choir and the church, Elena Taylor and Sharon Heinrich for recognizing me for ringing in the Bell Choir since it started in 1975 with Barb Fraunfelder. The engraved bell is beautiful. I have enjoyed playing all these years and am looking forward to listening to the bells instead of playing them.

Irene Jannsohn

Congratulations to our Sunday School Scholarship recipients: Gina Gigliotti, Jenna Miller, and Lisa Pogozelski! We wish them all the best in the future!

Irene Joyce and Jamie Trinckes
Sunday School Superintendents

THE THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is looking forward to July and our many summer sales. We will have a special sale each week and if you want to know the sale and hours, please check the Church website or even better, receive a personal email each week. Just sign up on line at UCCThriftShop@yahoo.com.

Did you know the Thrift Shop sells magazines? Rather than put them in the recycling bin, donate them to the shop and we will sell them. Any magazines that don't sell are then put into the bin. If you don't have time to remove your name and address from the magazine cover, we will remove it for you.

Need any hangers? The Thrift Shop sells all kinds of hangers which are reasonably priced. Don't buy them at the dollar store, stop in the shop first. Have a teen getting ready for college? Let the Thrift Shop help outfit a dorm room.

The shop will be open Thursdays July 12, 19 and 26 from 10 to 4 and we hope you will visit us soon.
We will be closed for the holiday on July 5th.

CHURCH KITCHEN

Please check with Betty Craig before you leave donations for the kitchen, but know that donating to the coffee hour jar is the best way to ensure that needed supplies are purchased. Thank you very much for your cooperation and support.



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, Ohio from the drop-down list of charities.
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.

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Summer Sunday School combined classes continue



Parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, friends are invited to sign up to teach a lesson for our combined class on a Sunday in the summer. Materials are provided

and no experience is necessary. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall if you are willing to help. Classes will meet in the Confirmation classroom adjacent to Pilgrim Hall.

Thanks to Kelly Bickley for putting together the lessons, based on "Fruit of the Spirit." Thank you to our June teachers: Kelly Bickley, Cherie Teagno, Irene Joyce, and Linda Elkins!

Penny Sunday – Thank you so much to everyone who contributes to our Penny Sunday collections. On May 27, our students collected \$111.56 for scholarships and programs. Our next Penny Sunday collection is July 29 and will go toward our own Sunday School programs and scholarships.



NEWS FROM OUR FRIENDS AT THE STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY BAND

Upcoming Concerts:

Friday, July 6 at 7:30 PM at the Strongsville Historical Village. "A Tribute To American Composers" will include classics by George Gershwin, Cole Porter, John Philip Sousa and others. (In case of rain the concert will be held at the **Strongsville Methodist Church at 13500 Royalton Rd.**)

Friday, July 13 at 7:30 PM on the Strongsville Commons. "Lets Go To Disney" will take you on a musical journey to the wonderful world of Disney. *Audiences are invited to wear attire of their favorite Disney characters.* (In case of rain the concert will be held at the Ehrnfelt Senior/Recreation Center).

Friday, August 3 at 7:30 PM at the Ehrnfelt Senior/Recreation Center. This concert will be part of the Strongsville Rotary Picnic and will include many of songs of yesterday including the Salute To The Armed Forces.

Friday, August 10 at 7:30 PM at the Ehrnfelt Senior/Recreation Center. The **Strongsville City Jazz Swing Band** will present jazz and swing classics from the Great American Songbook.

Friday, August 17 at 7:30 PM on The Strongsville Commons. The summer concert series will conclude with a musical journey- "Around The World In 80 Minutes" with songs from around the world. Trumpet Soloist, Jack Brndiar of Baldwin Wallace University and vocalist Cindy Smith will be guest artists. (In case of rain the concert will held at the Ehrnfelt Senior/Recreation Center).

ORC UPDATE

More Good News! The final phase of the nearly decade long organ restoration project has begun! On June 19, technicians from Leek Organ Company began work on phase 12 of 12. Work will continue throughout the summer months and should be completed by September. Thank you to everyone for their patience, enthusiasm, and generous support of this huge undertaking.



MUSIC MINISTRY

Elena Taylor's last Sunday as our Music Director will be August 19. On that day, we will have a reception for her to wish her and her family well on her new adventures as they move to New Jersey! We have truly enjoyed Elena's talent, faithfulness, and musicianship during her time with us, first at Organist, then as Music Director. She will be missed, but we know that she will continue to bring glory to God wherever she goes.



MUSIC MINISTRY RECOGNITION 2017-18

Thank you to all of our dedicated musicians who make a joyful noise unto the Lord each week!

THE BELL CHOIR

Elena Taylor, Director

Adria Bond Ingrid Dickson Linda Elkins
 Mike Elkins Irene Joyce Karen Morgan
 Linda Ponstingle Sarah Toth Rob Toth
 Barbara Fraunfelder* Sharon Heinrich*
 Irene Jannsohn* Evan Joyce*
 Eli Manos* Ken Mehalko*

Doug Thorn +

* Substitute + Provides setup for Bell Choir



THE CHANCEL CHOIR

Elena Taylor, Director

Mike Elkins, Accompanist

Eli Manos, Accompanist

Ingrid Dickson Gary Hackett Irene Jannsohn
 Evan Joyce* Irene Joyce Bruce Keenen
 Pam Keenen Sarah Keenen Sharon Metivier*
 Karen Morgan Kenn Oerkfitz Sandy O'Shea
 Jim Studer* Rob Toth Sarah Toth
 Clay Williams Dave Williams Jacob Williams*

*Special supplemental singers

STRONGSVILLE UCC BAND and SPECIAL INSTRUMENTALISTS

Mike Elkins Gary Hackett

Ken Mehalko Mike Soltis Rob Toth

SOUND TECHNICIANS

Jim Heinrich Doug Thorn



OUR PRAYER LIST

If you or a family member would like a visit, please call the church at (440) 238-6697. Please provide updates for this list. Thank you.

Long-Term Care or Homebound:

Betty Bushea at Danbury Senior Living in Brunswick, Janet Kato at Kemper House, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields



Church Family: Eddy Bond, Christina Craig, Steve Herzog, Margot James, Bobbie Krisak, Karl Kuhlenschmidt, Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Martha Liebert, Sandra Manos (mother of Eli), Lacey Marshall (daughter of Amanda and John), Lynne McCray, Laurie Meister, Karen Morgan, Joyce Reed, Barbara Toth at Fairview Hospital, Leah Tressa Forget, Sally Vetovitz, Dave Woodward, Kyle Woodward

Extended Church Family: Luke Bazan (friend of Judi Pavisich's granddaughter), Michele Cortese (friend of the Heinrichs), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Joyce Freeman (sister of Carol Woodward), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Karen Greenway and daughters (friends of Judi Pavisich), Sam Harteis (friend of Reeds), Diane Mason (friend of Lora Rung), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Keith Stewart (cousin of Carol Woodward), Frank Toth (father of Rob), Joe Valli (brother-in-law of Vicky and Dan Masuga)

NEW STAFF AT STRONGSVILLE UCC

Our new Church Secretary, Irene Joyce, has begun her service with us. Olivia Clotworthy has been serving as the summer Custodian while Jovo Batkovic is in Europe settling his late mother's estate.



ADULT SOCIAL CLUB

The club meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the church. Their next meeting is June 20.

Please note: We will carpool to these events. There will **not** be any buses.



July 22 – Sunday

All Church Picnic at Volunteer Park on West Lunn Road

August 19 – Sunday

Botanical Gardens and Dinner in Little Italy

September 14 – Friday

The Platters (Dinner and Show) at Carrie Cerino's

September 16 – Sunday

Jilbert Winery & Brewery in Valley City

October 7 – Sunday

The Ohio Mart at Stan Hywet Mansion

November 13 – Tuesday

A Branson Country Christmas (Dinner & Show)
at Carrie Cerino's

December 12 – Sunday

Downtown Holiday Lights Tour

*To make reservations for any of these events,
please contact Linda Plain at (440) 668-4848*

For more information please contact Adria or Eddy Bond.

*As always, all adults are welcome
to the meetings and events!*

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL

will NOT be served on the Wednesday of the

Fourth of July Holiday

**Also, The Thrift Shop
will be closed on July 5th**



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 **May 20 through June 17, 2018.**

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



Offering Needed	\$18,246.60 for 5 Sundays
Offering Received	13,020.00
Difference	(\$5,226.60)

STEWARDSHIP

Just a reminder that the church still has expenses during the summer months when you may be away and church activities slow down. If possible, please continue your regular giving by mailing your offering to the church: Strongsville UCC, 13740 Pearl Road, Strongsville, OH 44136. For your convenience, church-addressed mailing envelopes are available in the Gathering Area on the cabinet.

Another option is electronic giving for anyone interested. 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.



**STRONGSVILLE
HOMECOMING PARADE
SALUTE TO AMERICA!**

Our church will have a float in the Strongsville Homecoming Parade on Wednesday, July 25, meeting at the church at 5 p.m. for a 5:30 p.m. start. Help is needed—float decorators, marchers, riders, and candy distributors! Please see Kristen Clotworthy, Sarah Hayes, or Rachel Zielinski if you would like to be a part of this fun event.



STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of June 3, 2018

*Happy Anniversary today to Patti and Nate Johnson.
With love, Mom*

In honor of Sharon Heinrich for her many years of exemplary service as our church secretary. With gratitude from her trainee

Week of June 10, 2018

*Happy Birthday to Dan Sauter on
June 14! With love, Grammy
Happy Birthday, Bill Ritchie*

From your daughters, Gina and Sharon, with love

Week of June 17, 2018

*In gratitude to Ryan Heinrich for saving the day and
fixing the church's phone system in early June.*

Week of June 24, 2018

*Happy Anniversary to Rob and Sandra Wentz
on June 27
With love, Grammy*

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.



CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2018

Officers elected on January 28, 2018, have an asterisk
by their names.*

Moderator	Rachel Zielinski
Vice-Moderator	Bill Schneider
Treasurer	Lori Kovatich *
Clerk	Karen Morgan

Sunday School Superintendents
Irene Joyce Jamie Trinckes

Board of Trustees

Ed Bond *	Tom Gaumer *
Lloyd Bridle	Dale Hawk
Mike Clotworthy *	Jim Heinrich
Myron Costin *	Bob Kovatich *
Jim Dettmer	Kenn Oerkfitz
Greg Dickson	Ed Sobek

Endowment Fund Subcommittee
Irene Jannsohn * Joyce Reed *

Diaconate

Serena Abruzzino *	Judy Gaumer *
Jennifer Barry	Cathy Hawk *
Kelly Bickley	Sarah Hayes
Barbara Camp	Linda Plain
Gina Cathcart	Dawn Rolland *
Kristen Clotworthy	Marty Winch

Christian Education Committee

Kelly Bickley	Sandy O'Shea
Irene Joyce	Lora Rung
	Jamie Trinckes

Music Committee

Ingrid Dickson	Ken Mehalko
Pam Keenen *	Elena Taylor

Stewardship Committee

Rosemary Bechtel *	Sue Gigliotti *
Adria Bond	Beth Giuliano *
Ed Bond	Sharon Heinrich
Barbara Bridle	Laurie Meister

Mission and Outreach Committee

Judy Carte	Gary Paul
Brandi Garsteck	Lora Rung *
Michele Mhlack	Bev Wehr

