

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
13740 Pearl Road
Strongsville, Ohio 44136



Church Phone: (440) 238-6697
Email: StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com
Website: www.strongsvilleucc.com

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall
Pastor

Worship Sundays at 10 a.m. (+online)

JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important commandment.

The second is like it: Love your neighbor as you love yourself. All of Moses' Teachings and the Prophets depend on these two commandments."

--Matthew 22:37-40

Yes, even them. Especially them.

I hadn't been in seminary very long when I was talking to my favorite professor about a certain church member. I was serving as the Staff Parish Relations chairperson, and this man knew how to get on my every last nerve—and seemed to enjoy doing so.

I sighed, and said, "But I know, I know: He, too, is a beloved Child of God, and I am called to love *even him*."

My professor looked at me and shook her head. "Oh, no, no, no," she said. "Yes, *even he* is a beloved Child of God—but you are called to love *especially him*." I was stunned to silence.

Even this power-hungry bully who seemed angry all the time? Who seemed to enjoy taunting us all? Even *him*???

Yes. Even him. *Especially him*. And not just when he is around me.

Words matter. How we speak of one another matters. It's not important whether we like someone or not; our words, our language—even our facial expressions, as best as we are able, should reflect who we are as followers of the Christ.

It can be a tall order. But when we truly allow God to light our way, it will become easier (some days). It's always a journey. And we are on it together.

Peace, Joy and Hope for the journey,
Pastor Heidi

A person's a person, no matter how small.
--Horton

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



SUNDAY, JULY 5 – 10 a.m.

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Greeter: Linda Plain

Liturgist: Mary Ellen Zimmerman

Music: Dave Williams

Summer Sunday School: Irene Joyce



SUNDAY, JULY 12 – 10 a.m.

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Volunteer needed

Liturgist: Carol Konet

Music: Carol Konet/Foley Family

Sunday School: M.E. Zimmerman



SUNDAY, JULY 19 – 10 a.m.

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Volunteer needed

Liturgist: Ingrid Dickson

Music: Sue McLaughlin

Summer Sunday School: Sarah Hayes



SUNDAY, JULY 26 – 10 a.m.

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Church Picnic!

Greeter: Volunteer needed

Liturgist: Sharon Maresco

Music: Sandy O'Shea

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**. **HERE'S THE LINK TO OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCynOZfg4uKoX7HMnKORbXiQ/videos> Thanks to Doug Thorn for posting these each week.

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Our deepest condolences to Rachel & Gary Zielinski and family on the death of Rachel's uncle, **Richard (Dick)**

Deutsch on June 6, 2026. Dick and his wife, **Jane**, always supported functions at our church and Jane is the artist who crafted the quilted runners and cloths that we use around the church. Dick was 85 years old.



Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to **Joyce Reed** and family on the death of **George Mellon Reed** on June 9, 2026. They were married for 58 years. George was a member of our church for 47 years and had been active during that time, including serving on the Board of Trustees. He was 90 years old. The funeral was held on June 13, 2026.



ALL ARE WELCOME AT GOD'S TABLE!

As we seek to walk ever more closely with Jesus and welcome all without question or singling anyone out, we offer gluten-free bread to ALL who come forward to the Table for Holy Communion. ALL means ALL at The United Church of Christ (Congregational)!

=====



FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL:

A SIGN-UP FOR
TEACHING SUNDAY
SCHOOL IN THE SUMMER

IS POSTED IN PILGRIM
HALL! Join the fun—we
still have a few spots left!
No experience is required
and lessons are provided.



PENNY SUNDAY

Thank you to everyone who contributed to May's Penny Sunday for **Blessing House**. We collected \$328.40. Our June Penny Sunday was for Ohio Guidestone, formerly known as Berea Children's

Home, which cares for foster children in Cuyahoga County. We collected \$349.25. The next Penny Sunday will be on **August 30th** and will go to Snow School.



CHURCH GARAGE SALE

**FRIDAY, JULY 17th from 6 P.M. – 8 P.M. AND
SATURDAY, JULY 18th from 9 A.M. – 2 P.M.**

Donations will be accepted until July 17th.

We accept household items, home décor, sporting equipment, craft supplies, books, games, toys, small electronics, furniture, kitchenware and dishes, plus clothing & shoes (for the Thrift Shop)

We DO NOT accept liquids of any kind, hazardous materials, or large televisions.

Please keep in mind: "If you wouldn't buy an item in the condition it's in, please don't foist it on the church." Also, please plan to carry your items yourself or bring a helper (or two). Thanks!

We'll need lots of volunteers, too—

On the days of the sale and every day the week before, sorting the items. Come in the morning, afternoon, or evening.

Please see Rachel Zielinski or Irene Joyce if you can give a couple of hours of your time to help sort donations either day or evening from July 12 - 16 (or just show up)!

=====

WE ALSO NEED LARGE SHOPPING BAGS! (Marc's Bags) If you can spare some, please bring them to the church office anytime.



BAKE SALE TO BENEFIT THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

At the Garage Sale

Please bring your wrapped/bagged baked goods on Friday, July 17th before 6 p.m. or Saturday, July 18th before 9 a.m.



=====

CHURCH PICNIC SUNDAY, JULY 26th



On our church grounds following outdoor worship. Please bring a lawn chair, and a salad, side dish, or dessert—

the main dish and beverages will be provided. Sign up with your side dish in Pilgrim Hall.

WEAR YOUR FAVORITE HAWAIIAN/TROPICAL SHIRT!
We're having a contest ☺





YOUTH GROUP

Our youth group members and friends have been helping serve at our Free Lunch for All on Wednesdays this summer. It's a win-win-win!

Our youth get to participate in an important ministry of our church--our volunteers welcome the help--our guests get to see smiling young faces when they come to eat!

BE A GREETER! A new sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area is waiting for your name to be added as a greeter. No experience is necessary—we will show you everything you need to know. Being a greeter is a wonderful way to get to know people and welcome them to worship.



OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.



Long-Term Care or Homebound: Irene Jannsohn, Connie Rebar

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Jen Barry, Jean Bitteringer, Mark Camp, Judy Carte, Diana Creecy, Sam Cuyler Jr., Roger

Davis, Colette Emerson, Roz Fotos, Sue Hawk, Jim Joyce, Pam & Bruce Keenen, Erv Koch, Jill Kundtz, Carol Konet, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Jim Maresco, Jan Meier, Ken Mehalko, Amanda Moulton, Ginny & Kenn Oerkfitz, Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Ron Rothel, Jennifer Sekorky, Tracy Seneff, Peter Smith, Sandy Smith, Bruce Sperber, Linda Stepan, Debbie Thomas, Barbara White, Heather Williams, Jan Williamson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Jim Wonnacott

Extended Church Family: Teresa Beba (Free Lunch friend), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Allison Emerson (Colette's sister), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Joanne Gariepy (Sally Herzog's friend), Kathy Ghetti (friend of Ginger Rothel), Jennifer Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's daughter-in-law), Sarah & David Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's grandson & wife), Ellen Harrison (Linda Elkins' friend), Michaelene Hanrahan (Jim Joyce's sister), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), McKenna Hassel (Judi Pavisich's granddaughter), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel's parents), Ben Hoty (Tony & Jo-Ann Hoty's son), Helen Leckwatch (Dale Parson's mother-in-law), George Love (friend of the church), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Sylvia Pakish (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Jeff Peacock (former member), Michael & Judy Richter (Roz Fotos' friends), Bob Ritchie (Dorothy's grandson), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Vicki Smith (Venner Clarinets), Jeaneane Steinmeyer (Greg Dickson's aunt), Don & Pauline Wills (Judi Pavisich's friends), the people of Ukraine, Sudan, Gaza, Iran, and Israel, victims of violence and natural disasters, First Responders

OPT-IN: Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain. h.e.denman@gmail.com



THANK YOU NOTES

To the Congregation of Strongsville UCC,
My sincere thanks for all the get-well wishes, cards, and prayers during my recent hospitalization. I am on the mend and hope to be playing again after I get better.

Thanks again, **Jim Wonnacott**

To all of you,
Many thanks for the beautiful card and many prayers for me and my husband. How very kind of you. Thank you again and prayers for you.

Jane Deutsch

PLEASE DON'T FALL FOR A



SCAM! Pastor Heidi will never ask you for cash or gift cards via text or email. If there is a need, she will approach you in person.

BOOK STUDY—The Book Study is on hiatus for the summer and will resume meeting on **Monday, September 21st** at 7 p.m.



AN EASY WAY TO HELP OUR CHURCH AND ENJOY QUALITY MEATS!



When you shop at **Smitty's Meats** (12966 Prospect Road Strongsville), mention the church's phone number--**440-**

238-6697 and 10% of your bill will be donated to our church at the end of the year!



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Mission Outreach Committee will meet on the second Sunday of the month, **July 12th** following the worship service.
- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **July 14th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **July 21st** at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will have an email meeting in July.

GIFT CARDS

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR PROGRAM. You may place orders

by calling **Jim Joyce** at 216-346-4161 in advance. **Limited stock is available for purchase on Sunday mornings.**





MUSIC NOTES

Many thanks to our **Chancel Choir** (Frank Jefferis, Mike Willis, Rob Toth, Dave

Williams, Toni Newborn, Bobbi Cook with Wayne Cook, Sarah Keenen, Irene Joyce, Riley Marshall, JoAnn Thomas, Sharon Maresco, Sandy O'Shea, Sarah Toth, and Ingrid Dickson), Megan Denman, the Venner Clarinets (David Ciucevich, Dick K. Ingersoll, Marc Paige, Caroline Stilwell, and Suzanne Taber) and of course, **Tom Foley, Mike Elkins**, and **Sharon Heinrich**, for their music in June!

FROM OUR FRIENDS AT STRONGSVILLE



COMMUNITY BAND:

Mark your calendar for: **SUMMER CONCERTS 2026** July 3rd, July 10th, July 24th (new date, Rotary cookout) and **August 7th**. Concerts will be held on the

Strongsville Middle School lawn. Bring a lawn chair or blanket for outdoor concerts. In case of inclement weather, the location will be the Ehrnfelt center.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—



Members of Women's Fellowship had a wonderful time at their combined daytime/evening group

picnic on June 1st.

Our Daytime group will meet on Wednesday, July 1st, at 1 p.m.

Our Evening group, Monday, July 6th, at 7 p.m. The Women's Fellowship July meetings will be a discussion on charitable giving and what it means to us. All ladies are welcome.

CARB CREW



Thank you so much to our faithful bread transporters & sorters: **Teri Barbish, Colette Emerson, Carole Kapcar, Roz Fotos, Linda Elkins, Cherie Teagno, Wayne & Bobbi Cook, Jane Kossin & Ed Geyer, Irene Joyce, Pastor Heidi**, and **Sharon Lempner**, who are enabling the Panera Bread ministry to continue!

NEWS FROM THE KITCHEN

Did you know? The "tip jar" you see next to the coffee on Sunday mornings is there for a reason. The "tips" go directly to keeping the coffee, tea, sugar, creamer, etc., supplied. Your generosity is appreciated!



ADDRESS CHANGES/ADDITIONS

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

Sharon & Karl Kuhlenschmidt
9500 Broadview Rd., Apt. 106
Broadview Heights, OH 44147
Home: 440-262-2586

Kristen Burgess
2471 Struhar Drive #1
Rocky River, OH 44116



MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:

THANK YOU to everyone for their support of Laura's Home in May! We collected 10 hair brush sets, 15 hair products, 25 Homemade bibs, 140 feminine products, 10 packs Baby wipes, 9 bottles of Pedialyte, Over 300+ diapers/pull ups, plus 50 pairs of Bombas socks.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUBMIT YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO TUNNEL TO TOWERS IF YOU SIGNED UP TO DONATE!

The Tunnel to Towers Foundation is a charitable organization that focuses on providing mortgage-free homes to families of fallen first responders and catastrophically injured veterans, as well as helping to eradicate veteran homelessness. We are sponsoring 2 veterans/first responders a month. The cost is \$11 for 1 and \$22 for both. (Checks to UCC) THANK YOU to everyone who has already signed up for 2026!



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT THE FOOD BANK:



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 July would be instant oatmeal packets, canned Ravioli; Beef-a-Roni; Spaghetti & Meatballs; PB & J.

THE STRONGSVILLE EMERGENCY FOOD BANK WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 19th through JULY 25th DUE TO THE ANNUAL STRONGSVILLE HOMECOMING FESTIVITIES. They will not receive or distribute food during that week.



Did you know that **Dale Hawk, Riley Marshall**, and **Jack Hayes** swept and power-washed the new outbuilding in preparation for the floor treatment? Thank for your hard work on a hot day!

Did you know that **Jim Heinrich** cleaned up and organized the garage at the north end of the parking lot? He also fixed the 2 emergency lights that weren't functioning properly, so that we could pass our fire inspection. Thanks, Jim!

**FREE LUNCH FOR ALL-
-Wednesdays
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**



PLEASE NOTE: ON JULY 15th, FREE LUNCH WILL BE CARRY-OUT ONLY.
Lunches must be reserved in advance.



Special Thanks to **Dale & Cathy Hawk, Irene Joyce, and Sharon Lempner** for their weekly transportation and distribution of donations from **Grocery Outlet in Strongsville** (12421 Pearl Road). And thank you to **Cindy Hurley, Karen Bates, and Jane Kossin & Ed Geyer** for picking up food donations from Strongsville **Costco**. Some other organizations that we are helping with the bounty we received: Pentecostal Church of Christ Cleveland, Lakewood United Methodist Church, Mary Queen of Peace in Cleveland, St. Malachi, Westside Catholic Center, Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries, and an



outreach ministry for the needy downtown. Thank you also to **Ginny Churnega**, who picked up 3 cases of hambones from Honeybaked Ham for our free lunch recipes.



THREE WITH GLEE!

Capital Campaign: We currently have \$63,954.72 in our capital campaign account. The acoustic tiles in Pilgrim Hall project is underway. A new roof for Pilgrim Hall and the church building may be on the horizon. Things are happening, but we still have more projects on the list. Please make sure you designate your donation for "*Capital Campaign*." Thanks for your continuing support.

POLE BARN UPDATE

The concrete for the driveway and pavilion was poured on Wednesday, May 27th and the gutters were installed on June 18th.



THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is OPEN every Thursday from 10 a.m. until 4

p.m. Come and shop lots of interesting merchandise at amazing prices. Donations are accepted during our Thursday sale hours, but please try to limit your donations to what you can carry downstairs. **Please do not abandon items outside the church doors.**

THE THRIFT SHOP WILL BE OPEN DURING THE GARAGE SALE ON JULY 17th & 18th! Plus... A special Garage Sale preview day for our Thrift Shop customers on July 16th!

GIVING OPTIONS

If you are interested in giving electronically, you can set up your giving through Bill Pay on your bank's website or on our church's website:

www.strongsvilleucc.com. You may also mail a check to The United Church of Christ (Congregational) 13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, OH 44136 or drop it off in the church's mailbox.



+++++

FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Gary Zielinski

Below is a monthly report listing the budget income we need to receive from Pledges and Offerings and the amount received from **June 7 through June 28, 2026.**



Thank you to everyone who supports our church and its ministries.

Offering Needed \$20,848.00 for 4 Sundays
Offering Received \$20,601.01
- (\$ 249.99)

PLEDGE CARDS RECEIVED: 62



PLEASE REMEMBER THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL.



All checks to the church and its organizations should be made out to United Church of Christ or UCC or United Church of Christ (Congregational).



YOU CAN ACCESS RESOURCES FROM AND INFORMATION ABOUT OUR HEARTLAND CONFERENCE OF THE UCC! Looking for a way to get connected for ministry resources in the wider church? Just scan the QR code.

SERMONS AVAILABLE!

Ever hear something in the sermon on Sunday morning and wish you could hear it again? Our services are always available on YouTube, but if something *really* catches your heart, send Pastor Heidi an email and she will send you her manuscript.



+++++



IN OUR COMMUNITY--Girl Scout Troop #71363 is stocking and maintaining a "Hygiene Library," located on the lawn near the parking lot facing Royalton Road.

=====

ALTAR FLOWERS

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR LAST MONTH



The altar flowers are given—
June 7th

Celebrating our grandson Grant's college graduation.

Joyce & George Reed

June 14th

Birthday love and wishes to my amazing children: Kenneth, Izzy, & Christopher. Heavenly Birthday love to my Jay Jay.—Serena Abruzzino

Happy Birthday to Sarah Hayes on June 15th!

Cathy & Dale Hawk

June 21st

Celebrating our 62nd Wedding Anniversary!

Jim & Linda Dettmer

Happiest Birthday to my youngest, hitting that 16 notch.

Chris, here's to you, kid! Love You!

Love mom, Serena Abruzzino

June 28th

In loving memory of Lloyd & Barbara Bridle

Love, their children: Laura, Sue, and Ken

THE FLOWER CHART FOR 2026 IS POSTED IN PILGRIM HALL. Please sign up for fresh flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one or just for yourself. Cost is \$36 for two vases; \$18 for one. WE STILL HAVE A FEW SUNDAYS LEFT!



STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of June 7th

Happy Heavenly Birthday to Bill Ritchie!

Always loved, always remembered—the Ritchie family

*Happy Birthday to our fearless leader, Tom Foley!
With love, the Bell, Chancel, and Children's Choirs*

Week of June 14th

Happy Birthday to Dan Sauter on June 14th!

With love, Grammy

*Happy Birthday tomorrow to Sarah Hayes
& Brandi Garsteck!*

*In celebration of Linda & Rob Stepan's Anniversary
on June 15th!*

Week of June 21st

Happy Anniversary to Rob & Sandra Wentz on June 27th!

With love, Grammy

Week of June 28th

Happy Birthday on June 30th to Josh Sauter!

With love, Grammy

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

CHURCH OFFICERS 2026

**Elected February 1, 2026*

Moderator: Rachel Zielinski *

Vice-Moderator: Herb Hampson*

Treasurer: Sally Herzog **Clerk:** Judy Gaumer*

Sunday School Superintendent: Linda Elkins

Board of Trustees

Karen Bates Jen Barry* Greg Dickson*
Bill Giuliano* Chris Goff Les Fox* Cathy Hawk
Sandy Pogozeleski* Bill Robinson * Cheryl Sobek
Alex Tomoff Mike Willis

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Linda Stepan* Dave Williams*

Diaconate

Jean Bittinger Elaine Coffey* Diana Creecy*
Bobbi Cook Wayne Cook Judy Davis
Judy Fox* Marsha Hemphill* Cindy Hurley*
Lynne McCray* Linda Ponstingle Lora Rung

Christian Education Committee

Linda Elkins* Colette Emerson* Dale Hawk
Sarah Hayes Amanda Marshall* Lora Rung

Music Committee

Karen Bates* Ingrid Dickson*
Pam Keenen Ken Mehalko Mike Willis
ex officio: Sharon Heinrich Tom Foley Mike Elkins

Stewardship Committee

Ingrid Dickson Sue Gigliotti* Linda Stepan
Rob Toth* Sarah Toth Dave Williams

Mission and Outreach Committee

Jen Barry * Gina Cathcart Bobbi Cook*
Cathy Hawk Sarah Hayes* Lora Rung
Mary Willis Mary Ellen Zimmerman

YOU CAN STILL PLEDGE FROM YOUR

H.E.A.R.T.!

**Hospitality, Engagement, Activities,
Resources, Time, Talent, & Treasure**



United Church of Christ 2026 Estimate of Giving

In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2026:

Name _____

Address _____

I plan to give \$_____ each

☐ week ☐ month ☐ other _____ to be used for

Our Congregation's Ministries and Operations

\$_____

Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)

\$_____

☐ I would like to talk with someone from the Endowment Committee about including the church or church-related institution in my Will.

☐ I would like to talk with someone about using the automatic deduction plan from my checking/savings account.

Signed _____ Date ____/____/____

CHURCH FAMILY CARE 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 would LOVE to have you



be
be

a part of our team! (You don't need to be a member of the Diaconate to participate, and you may come and go as you are led.)

YES! I'D LIKE TO BE PART OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY CARE TEAM.

NAME _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

I AM INTERESTED IN:

_____ OFFERING OR RECEIVING
COMMUNION AT HOME

_____ CALLING FOLKS WHO WOULD LIKE TO
JOIN PRAYER CHAIN, BUT DON'T USE EMAIL

_____ PREPARING AN EXTRA MEAL AND
DELIVERING IT TO SOMEONE WHO'S
HOMEBOUND

_____ HELPING COOK A DISH AND OR SERVE
MEALS AT FUNERAL LUNCHEON

_____ BECOMING A "PHONE BUDDY" AND
PERIODICALLY CHECK IN WITH SOMEONE
WHO'S HOMEBOUND

_____ OFFERING AN OCCASIONAL RIDE TO
TAKE MEMBERS TO APPOINTMENTS

_____ OFFERING AN OCCASIONAL RIDE TO
OUR CHURCH SERVICES

_____ BE PART OF A CARD CREW TO SEND
CARDS TO FOLKS ON HEIDI'S PRAYER LIST
AND OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

_____ I WOULD BE WILLING TO...

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY GRADUATES!

Graduates were recognized June 14th.

Jackson Stafford Bowling Michigan Technological University Bachelor of Science in Materials Science & Engineering and Applied Physics

Jackson participated in many activities and received many honors during his college career at MTU. He was in the Thompson Scholars, The Society of Physics Students, and president of the Golf Club for three years. He graduated *Summa cum Laude* with a 4.0 GPA; was the 2025 Materials Sciences

Department Scholar; and received the 2026 Engineering Academic Achievement Award, 2026 Capston Senior Project award, was inducted into the Materials Science Honor Society and inducted into the Order of the Engineer. Jack has secured employment with Howmet Aerospace in their Engineering Training Program in Hampton Virginia as a process engineer.

Parents: Melanie & Cody Bowling

Grandparents: Pat & Frank Jefferis



Hunter Michael Colao Ashland University Bachelor of Arts in Education Studies

Hunter completed his bachelor's degree in Education Studies while continuing his athletic endeavors for

Ashland University, including playing football and wrestling. His grandparents also graduated from Ashland University, so he continues a family tradition. Hunter has secured a position coaching football and wrestling at his alma mater, Mentor High School. Go Cardinals!

Parents: Abby Camp Colao and Todd Colao

Grandparents: Mark and the late Barb Camp

Sister: Hannah Colao

Elliott James Clark Home School Academy Lilburn, Georgia

Elliott is receiving his high school diploma after having participated in Debate Club and Photography during his high school years. He also served as a Youth Group Leader at his church. His future plans include studying Software Engineering at Rochester Institute of Technology in New York state.

Parents: Laura & Joshua Clark

Grandparents: John & Barbara Toth

Siblings: Charlotte and Bennett Clark



Ruby Catherine Fraunfelder
Lakewood High School

Ruby is an exceptional athlete, playing varsity basketball, soccer, and lacrosse at LHS. She has been part of the student athlete leadership team, National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, Student Council, and volunteered for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and club soccer. While in high school, she has been participating in a college level sports, exercise, and physiology program in addition to her regular classes. Ruby plans to attend the College of Wooster with a major in Biology, on the Pre-Med track with an eye toward becoming an orthopedist. She also plans to play soccer on the women's soccer team in college.

Parents: Jen & Bill Fraunfelder

Grandparents: the late Bill Fraunfelder and Barb Fraunfelder & Dennis Smith

Siblings: Helen Fraunfelder and Will Fraunfelder



Emma Cherie Haney
Bowling Green State University
Bachelor of Science in Education

In addition to her major, Tourism, Hospitality and Event Management in the College of Education and Human Development, Emma also minored in Human Resources while earning her bachelor's degree. She was a part of Greek life at KSU. Emma worked her way through high school and college working at Chik-fil-a, so she knows the value of hard work and customer service. She now plans to explore her options in putting her degree to good use.

Parents: Kelly & Paul Haney

Grandparents: the late Bill Fraunfelder and Barb Fraunfelder & Dennis Smith

Sister: Jessica Haney



McKenna Shae Hassel
Kent State University
Bachelor of Fine Arts

McKenna is very talented in musical theater and has performed in countless plays and musicals throughout her college years. She has graced the stages of the

Weathervane Playhouse, Porthouse Theater, and numerous Kent State productions. She graduated *Magna cum Laude* and received the Milward Sterling Award, as well as being on the President's List for all five years. McKenna's future plans include performing on stage in New York City, Chicago, Cleveland, Las Vegas, and anywhere her talent takes her.

Parents: Tiffany & Jeff Hassel

Grandparents: Judi & the late George Pavisich

Brother: Jay Hassel



Caroline Mae Hazapis
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine
Medical Doctor

Caroline has a three year residency at the University of Vermont Medical Center beginning on June 15, 2026. She is looking forward to building her career in medicine and practicing the healing arts.

Caroline has another reason to celebrate: she married Rick Zieser in May!

Parent: Annette and the late Lou Hazapis

Grandparents: Mary Ellen and the late Bob Zimmerman

Kristen Frances Mehalko
Case Western Reserve University
Masters in Bioethics

Kristen graduated with her Master's Degree in Bioethics and the next day, received her Juris Doctor, a three-year graduate professional degree required to practice law in the United States. Kristen completed this program to master legal foundations and will now study for the Ohio Bar exam to become a licensed attorney. While she prepares, she will work in the area of Biotech Investment and Venture Capital.

Parents: Scott & Candace Mehalko and Megan Mehalko

Grandparents: Ken Mehalko & Bev Wehr

Brother: Taylor Mehalko



Makenna Gail Miles
North Carolina State University

Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering

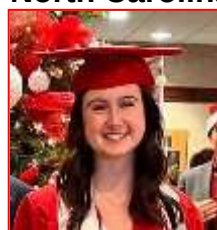
During her years at NCSU, Makenna has taught gymnastics. She studied in London, for a semester. Makenna, who graduated *Magna cum Laude*, served as a Chancellor's Aide, greeting and accompanying the

Chancellor, his staff, and university guests to various campus activities, representing the student body.

Makenna's team won the state and then the national award for an environmental engineering project. After graduating in December 2025, she is employed as an environmental engineer at Hazen and Sawyer, specializing in waste water and drinking water treatment.

Parents: Stephanie & Davis Miles

Grandparents: Pat & Frank Jefferis





Grant Mellon Reed
Mississippi State University
Bachelor of Science Secondary Education

Concentration in Social Studies & Mathematics While completing his education at Mississippi State,

Grant was on the Dean's List. He participated in the Mississippi State Dance Marathon Group and New Maroon Camp (Mentor for incoming students). His passion for education has taken him to his new position as a seventh grade math teacher at Olive Branch Middle School in Olive Branch, Mississippi.

Parents: Geoffrey & Noebeth Reed and Sara Reed
Grandparents: Joyce & the late George Reed



Oliver Roger Sekorky
Hawken Upper School

Oliver, who has been a member of our church since 2022, is an Eagle Scout, a varsity soccer and lacrosse player, the editor of the school yearbook, the editor of the multi-media section of the school newspaper, the co-founder and

leader of the Hawken Filmmakers' Society, and chair of the Hawken Sustainability Council. He is also the co-executive of the Hawken Associated Student Body, Editor-in-Chief of the Calliope literary art magazine at Hawken, and a member and volunteer for The Nest club at Hawken. He has received numerous awards and scholarships, including: Placed in the top 10 at Hawken's STEMM Research Symposium for scientific research conducted at Cleveland State University, 2nd Place, 11th-12th grade, Engineering, Rockwell Automation – best project in the areas of automation, electrical engineering, or software, Water Environment Federation Stockholm Junior Water Prize, Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society – Best project relating to birds and/or to conservation with emphasis on the local watersheds, Invitation to the Bridging Engineering, Science, and Technology (BEST) Medicine conference, James A. Hawken Merit Scholarship Award Recipient, Scouting America - National Outdoor Achievement Awards (5) Gold, Silver, and Bronze Eagle Palm for Merit Badge, and Best Edited Short Film at the Williston Film Festival. In the fall, Oliver will attend Northeastern University in Boston and study Mechanical Engineering.

Parents: Jen & Dave Sekorky
Grandparents: Judy & Roger Davis
Sister: Matilda Sekorky



Dylan David Turnbull
Adams High School Rochester, Michigan



Dylan is not only a scholar, but also an athlete. He is interested in and has avidly played hockey during his high school career. His future plans include enrolling in Central Michigan University to advance his education and explore further opportunities. While in college, he will decide on a major and future career path.

Parent: David Turnbull
Grandparents: Doug Turnbull & Greta Rich

Nicholas Daniel Zimmerman
University of Cincinnati

Bachelor of Arts in Accounting
 Nick has received the Students in STEM Scholarship and was on the Dean's List all four years of his college career. He has a contract to work for the accounting firm of Cohen and Company in Cleveland.

Parents: Mark & Colleen Lisi
Grandparents: Mary Ellen and the late Bob Zimmerman



Autumn Dale Zoscak
Strongsville High School

Autumn has been a member of Strongsville United Church of Christ since 2025 and attends worship regularly, bringing her grandmother. She has participated in Youth Group activities with the church. Autumn is

an avid rugby player and has traveled with her team, while balancing work. She has also wrestled in High School. She plans on attending the Honors College at Kent State University College of Nursing in the fall.

Parent: Mindy Carte
Grandparents: Judy and the late Dale Carte
Sister: Summer Zoscak

Summer Anne Zoscak
Strongsville High School

Summer joined the Strongsville United Church of Christ in 2025 and brings her grandmother to attend worship services faithfully. She has participated in Youth Group activities with the church.

She is a student ambassador, engineering ambassador, and a member of the National Honor Society. She attended Polaris and is now a Certified CNC machinist and a member of the National Technical Honor Society. Summer plays club rugby, and is also gainfully employed. She plans on attending Kent State University to major in Human Resources Management.

Parent: Mindy Carte
Grandparents: Judy and the late Dale Carte
Sister: Autumn Zoscak





IMPORTANT INFO—Do you know where the AED and First Aid Kit are located in the church? They are adjacent to the doorway in Pilgrim Hall, just to the right of the confirmation classroom



The United Church of Christ
(Congregational)
13740 Pearl Road
Strongsville, OH 44136
www.strongsvilleucc.com