

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)

## JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER

### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

*To love means loving the unlovable. . . . Faith means believing the unbelievable. Hope means hoping when everything seems hopeless.*  
—Gilbert K. Chesterton

### Seriously. In public???

It happens all the time, and just about everywhere. In the grocery store, in the park—even in church. And it's not always a welcome sight; it can make one feel awkward, cynical, old—uncomfortable.

The internet moniker for it is *PDA*, Public Displays of Affection. I'm not talking about holding hands, or a quick kiss on the lips. I'm talking about young couples who just can't keep their hands off each other, who wrap themselves around each other like ivy around a tree trunk, leading the rest of us to mutter, *Get a room, already!*

Most of us have been taught from an early age that such behavior is inappropriate; but somehow, when you're young, and that "certain someone" comes into your life. . . . You just can't help yourself!

So why is it, then, that as followers of Jesus who profess such Love for God, we often struggle to *show* that love to the world? We often seem embarrassed by our beliefs; we find it difficult to share God's unconditional love with those who need it most.

Jesus excelled at *showing* God's Love: He fed the hungry; he healed the sick; he clothed the naked; he loved the seemingly unlovable. Amazing public displays of affection that we can show today. And no reasonable person will be disgusted.

Peace, Hope—and Love,  
Pastor Heidi

### WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY, JUNE 7 – 10 a.m.

Second Sunday after Pentecost

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

Greeter: Linda Plain

Liturgist: Linda Ponstingle

Music: Chancel Choir

Summer Sunday School: Linda Elkins



SUNDAY, JUNE 14 – 10 a.m.

Third Sunday after Pentecost

**Recognition Sunday**

Greeter: John O'Boyle

Liturgist: Herb Hampson

Music: Chancel Choir

Summer Sunday School:



SUNDAY, JUNE 21 – 10 a.m.

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

**Father's Day**

Greeter: Cindy Hurley

Liturgist: Lynne McCray

Music: Megan Denman

Summer Sunday School: Sharon Heinrich



SUNDAY, JUNE 28 – 10 a.m.

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

**Penny Sunday**

Greeter: Roger &

Judy Davis

Liturgist: Sharon Maresco

Music: The Venner Clarinets

Summer Sunday School:



**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/UCynOZfg4uKoX7HMnKORbXfQ/videos> Thanks to Doug Thorn for posting these each week.

**BAPTISM  
CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to **Beckham Hayes Wade**, son of **Nicole (née Giuliano)** and **Brett Wade**, who was baptized on May 31, 2026! His uncle **Luke Giuliano** served as his sponsor. Proud Grandparents are **Beth & Bill Giuliano** and **Elba & Diane Wade**.



**YOUTH GROUP**

Stay tuned for news of upcoming events and activities!

**Thank you to everyone who supported the Diaconate's Food and Friends FunD-raiser!**

We earned a record profit of \$8,024! \$2,000 will go toward our Capital Campaign and we are brainstorming new ideas to do good things for the church and the community!



**IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY**



Our deepest sympathy goes out to **Bev Wehr** and **Ken Mehalko** and family, on the death of Bev's brother, **Donald Allen Wehr** in South Carolina. Don was an Air Force veteran, a graduate of Bowling Green State University, father of five, grandfather of eight, and great-grandfather of three. He was 93 years old.

**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.



**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)!

**THANK YOU NOTES**



To everyone involved with my special Sunday:  
It was a big surprise to me and made me remember how special this church

has always been to me over those 80 years. I've seen many changes, ministers and members come and go—some to their Heavenly Father. That stool I sit on is very special as Barb Camp brought it to me when my hip was so bad. The pillow was Lola Millhoane's. There are not enough "Thank You's" for what Sunday meant to me. My grandsons many years ago told me to "Just say Thank You!" So, THANK YOU!

God bless, with love, **Betty Craig (aka Grammy)**

At the end of April, Pastor Heidi used funds from the Fresh Start Fund to assist a person with a car payment to keep her in her vehicle so that she could commute to her new job. She wrote:

*Thank you so much Pastor Heidi and Strongsville UCC. I hope you continue to help people like me. You changed my life!*  
*Sincerely, R.N.*

I cannot get over the kindness and generosity of this church. I get so emotional with every card, meal and gift card i get. Please share my gratitude with everyone. Even for those that the most they are able to do is pray. This experience has made me very appreciative and grateful for all the love.

**Jennifer Barry**

**FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL:**



**A SIGN-UP FOR TEACHING SUNDAY SCHOOL IN THE SUMMER**

**IS POSTED IN PILGRIM HALL! Join the fun! No experience is required and lessons are provided.**



**PENNY SUNDAY**



Thank you to everyone who contributed to May's Penny Sunday for **Blessing House**, which is a children's crisis care center that provides residential care for children birth through 12 whose parents or caregivers are facing a crisis or emergency or are experiencing a high level of stress that might put their children at risk of abuse or neglect. The next Penny Sunday will be on **June 28<sup>th</sup>** and will go to Ohio Guidestone, formerly known as Berea Children's Home, which cares for foster children in Cuyahoga County.



**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 21<sup>st</sup>** at 7 p.m.



**OUR PRAYER LIST**

*Please provide updates for this list to the church office.*



**Long-Term Care or Homebound:** Irene Jansohn, Connie Rebar

**Church Family:** Serena Abruzzino, Jen Barry, Jean Bittinger, Mark Camp, Judy Carte, Elaine Coffey, Sam Cuyler Jr.,

Roger Davis, Colette Emerson, Roz Fotos, Sue Hawk, Frank Jefferis, Pam & Bruce Keenen, Erv Koch, Jill Kundtz, Jan Meier, Carol Konet, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Jim Maresco, Jan Meier, Amanda Moulton, Ginny & Kenn Oerkitz, George & Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Ron Rothel, Jennifer Sekorky, Tracy Seneff, Peter Smith, Bruce Sperber, Linda Stepan, Debbie Thomas, John Toth, Heather Williams, 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 Ghatti (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), Tiffany Hassel (Judi Pavisich's daughter-in-law), 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), 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](mailto:h.e.denman@gmail.com)

**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!



**MUSIC NOTES**

Many thanks to our **Children's Choir, Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, Ken Mehalko, Ralph**

**Heimburger, Sandy O'Shea, Jim Heinrich,** and of course, **Tom Foley, Mike Elkins,** and **Sharon Heinrich,** for their music in May!

**SUMMER MUSIC PROGRAM**



If you've always wanted to be a part of our church's music program, but can't commit to a weekly band/choir/bell choir rehearsal, you have a chance to sing or play one Sunday in the summer! Please

see Tom Foley or Mike Elkins if you would like to sign up for a Sunday this summer!

**FROM OUR FRIENDS AT STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY BAND:**



Mark your calendar for: **SUMMER CONCERTS 2026**

**June 12<sup>th</sup>, June 26<sup>th</sup>, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, July 10<sup>th</sup>, July 24<sup>th</sup>** (new date, Rotary cookout) and **August 7<sup>th</sup>**. Our first concert of the summer will be held at the Strongsville Center amphitheater. Future locations will be announced. Bring a lawn chair or blanket for outdoor concerts.

**FROM OUR FRIENDS AT BRECKSVILLE UCC:**

Brecksville United Church of Christ proudly presents Sorella Quartet on **Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>** at 3 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. A freewill offering will be collected. Reception with light refreshments to follow. Brecksville United Church of Christ Located at the intersection of Routes 82 & 21 23 Public Square in Brecksville.



**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.**



**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—**



Members of Women's Fellowship had a wonderful time at their *Cinco de Mayo* gathering on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Their combined daytime/evening group picnic is June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS**



- The Mission Outreach Committee will meet on the second Sunday of the month, **June 14<sup>th</sup>** following the worship service.
- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **June 9<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **June 16<sup>th</sup>** at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **June 23<sup>rd</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

**ADDRESS CHANGES/ADDITIONS**

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

**Jacob Williams & Gwen Bellus**  
150 Cross Creek Drive Unit 58  
Brunswick, OH 44212

**Kyle & Jane Woodward**  
911 W. Roscoe Street #1  
Chicago, IL 60657



**MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:**

**THANK YOU** to everyone who contributed needed items or Amazon gift cards to our drive for Laura's Home.



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

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**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 June would be Oatmeal Cylinders or Boxed /8-10 Pack Oatmeal, Beef Stew (any brand or size), Tuna Fish (5oz & 12oz cans), Jelly (Med & Large), Cream of Broccoli, Mushroom and/or Celery Soup, Canned Ravioli; Beef-a-Roni; Spaghetti & Meatballs; Spaghetto's.

**PASTRY PALS**

Are you able to give less than an hour of your time on a Monday or Friday morning to pick up and/or sort Panera bread, bagels, and pastries? Please contact the church office if you can help with this worthwhile ministry.



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!



**UNSUNG HEROES**

Did you know that **Cathy Hawk, Sharon Lempner, and Irene Joyce** packed, loaded, unloaded, and unpacked three entire pallets of chicken, donated by **Grocery Outlet**? Thank you, ladies, for hauling those heavy boxes and making sure that the food went to where it was supposed to go! Thank you also to **Dale Hawk** for helping on the second day of donations!

Did you know that **Kathie Paul** is back at it, beautifying the church grounds with flowers? Thank you very much for your green thumb, Kathie!



**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.

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



**Special Thanks to Grocery Outlet in Strongsville (12421 Pearl Road) for their donation of three pallets of chicken to our program!**

You may be asking--what are they doing with all of this chicken? Well, besides using it for Tex-Mex chicken chili, chicken enchilada casserole, chicken & rice soup, barbecue chicken tenders, and a whole bunch of future recipes, we shared our bounty with the Pentecostal Church of Christ in Cleveland, Lakewood United Methodist Church, Mary Queen of Peace in Cleveland, Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries, and an outreach ministry for the needy downtown. We're spreading the love to our fellow Christians!

Thank you also to our own **Gina Cathcart** for donating several dozen eggs for our lunch!

And Thank You to **LongHorn Steakhouse** Strongsville for donating potatoes and sweet potatoes to our program.



Then, we got a huge donation of produce from Costco, some of which will be usable for our lunch program. Thanks to **Cindy Hurley**

and **Karen Bates** for transporting all of that fruit and **Wayne Cook** for helping unload and to **Rachel Zielinski, Penny Zielinski, Irene Joyce, and Dale & Cathy Hawk** for dealing with the items we couldn't use.



# IT'S HAPPENING!

## CHURCH GARAGE SALE



FRIDAY, JULY 17<sup>th</sup> from 6 P.M. – 8 P.M. AND SATURDAY, JULY 18<sup>th</sup> from 9 A.M. – 2 P.M.

Donations will be accepted from June 15<sup>th</sup> through July 17<sup>th</sup>.

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)!**

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### 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 17<sup>th</sup> before 6 p.m. or Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup> before 9 a.m.

### THREE WITH GLEE!

Capital Campaign: We currently have \$66,340.08 in our capital campaign account. We have

chosen a contractor for the acoustic panels in Pilgrim Hall. 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 27<sup>th</sup>.

## 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.**

**THANK YOU TO OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS, THE CHURCH, AND THE COMMUNITY FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT.**

### 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](http://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 May 3 through May 24, 2026.



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

Offering Needed \$20,848.00 for 4 Sundays

Offering Received \$15,772.34

- \$(5,075.66)

**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.

## ALTAR FLOWERS

### ALTAR FLOWERS FOR LAST MONTH



The altar flowers are given—  
May 3<sup>rd</sup>

*Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary to Erik & Bryana Joyce!  
Love, Irene & Jim Joyce*

May 10<sup>th</sup>

*Birthday wishes to my mom, Dorothy Ritchie!  
Gina Cathcart*

*In loving memory of my husband, Georgie, on our 36<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Love, Short Stuff*

May 17<sup>th</sup>

*Celebrating our Grandson Tucker Reed's Birthday this  
month and George and Joyce Reed's 57<sup>th</sup> Wedding  
Anniversary. The Reeds*

*To the Glory of God—celebrating our church family  
Linda Plain*

May 24<sup>th</sup>

*Remembering our mom, Lorna M. Robinson on her  
birthday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. Love and miss ya, Mom!  
Becky and Bill Robinson*

*In celebration of our Son Geoff's Birthday in April  
Love Mom & Dad Reed*

May 31<sup>st</sup>

*In honor of my family members who have birthdays this  
year of ages ending in "0" or "5"—Roger, Barb, Dennis,  
Karen, Sue, Sally, Paul, Jen, Beth, Jess, Violet, Helen,  
Oscar, and William! Barb Fraunfelder*

**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 May 3<sup>rd</sup>

*Remembering my dear twin, Karen, on our  
birthday, May 1<sup>st</sup>.--Sharon Maresco*

*Happy Birthday to Hayley McKane on May 7<sup>th</sup> and to  
Debbie Wentz on May 9<sup>th</sup>  
With love, Grammy/Mom*

*Happy Birthday to Greg Dickson on May 6<sup>th</sup>!  
Love your in-laws*

Week of May 10<sup>th</sup>

*Happy Birthday to Patti Johnson May 11<sup>th</sup>!  
Happy Birthday to Dan Rapp on May 15<sup>th</sup>!*

Week of May 17<sup>th</sup>

*In honor and appreciation of Cathy Hawk on her Birthday  
Love, your church family*

*Happy Birthday to Iris Craig on May 21<sup>st</sup>!  
Happy Anniversary to Ryan Craig & Tracey Hill on May 22<sup>nd</sup>!  
With love, Grammy*

*Happy Birthday to Gina Cathcart on May 15<sup>th</sup> Love, Mom*

Week of May 24<sup>th</sup>

*Happy Anniversary to Stacie & Dan Sauter and to Adam  
& Kristina Craig May 25<sup>th</sup> and*

*Happy Birthday to Sandra Wentz on May 28<sup>th</sup>!  
With love, Grammy*

Week of May 31<sup>st</sup>

*Congratulations to Beckham Wade on his Baptism Day!  
Happy Anniversary to Patti & Nate Johnson on June 3<sup>rd</sup>!  
Love, Mom*

To light the steeple, the minimum donation is  
\$5.00. Multiple dedications are welcomed for each  
week. Please email [strongsvilleuuc@gmail.com](mailto: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 Pogozelski\* 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 Pinstingle 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

## 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



**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 will be recognized June 14<sup>th</sup>.**

**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

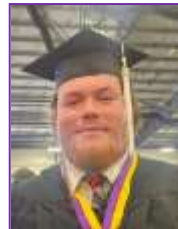


Department Scholar; and received the 2026 Engineering Academic Achievement Award, 2026 Capston Senior Project award, was inducted into the Materials Science Honor Society and inducted into the Order of the Engineer. Jack has secured employment with Howmet Aerospace in their Engineering Training Program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

**Parent: Annette Hazapis**  
**Grandparents: Mary Ellen and the late Bob Zimmerman**

**Kristen Frances Mehalko  
Case Western Reserve  
University  
Masters in Bioethics**

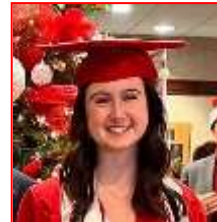
Kristen graduated with her Master's Degree in Bioethics and the next day, received her Juris Doctor, a three-year graduate professional degree required to practice law in the United States. Kristen completed this program to master legal foundations and will now study for the Ohio Bar exam to become a 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 NCU, Makenna has taught gymnastics. She studied in London, for a semester. She 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 & George Reed**

**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**



**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**



**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**



**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.

**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 \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**

**Matthew 6:21**



**FROM OUR FRIENDS AT STRONGSVILLE CITY JAZZ SWING BAND**

Please join us for our concert **Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.** at the Ehrnfelt Ballroom at the Strongsville Recreation Center.

The "kick-off" performance for

the Strongsville Band's summer season features talented guest saxophonist Steve Kortyka and vocalist Cindy Smith, and promises to delight jazz enthusiasts with timeless classics.

The selection of songs like "The Man I Love," "Love for Sale," and "How High the Moon" is sure to create a nostalgic atmosphere, transporting the audience to a different era.

Ending the concert on a high note will undoubtedly uplift spirits and set a joyous tone for the weekend ahead. It's a wonderful opportunity to enjoy great music and connect with the community!



**The United Church of Christ (Congregational)**

**13740 Pearl Road**

**Strongsville, OH 44136**

[www.strongsvilleucc.com](http://www.strongsvilleucc.com)

