

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

MARCH 2018 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

When we first moved to Cleveland, I was mighty impressed with the way this city celebrates St. Patrick's Day! The parade, the music, the beer—everyone truly seems to become Irish for the day. But I wonder how much we generally know about St. Patrick, and decided to look him up.

- ♣ Did you know . . . Saint Patrick was never officially canonized by Rome? So he isn't really a saint, after all!
- ♣ Patrick was born in England, and was kidnapped by pirates at around age 14 and taken to Ireland, where he was put to work as a shepherd.
- ♣ Patrick's grandfather was a priest, but like so many teenagers, Patrick hadn't paid much attention to his faith—until he was alone in a foreign land.
- ♣ Patrick didn't really chase the snakes out of Ireland. Turns out, there were never any there, to begin with.
- ♣ After six years, Patrick was able to escape from Ireland and return home to England; however, when he was in his forties, through a dream he became convinced he was to return to Ireland and spread the gospel message. It was largely through Patrick that much of Ireland was converted from paganism to Christianity.
- ♣ One of Patrick's favorite illustrations to use when explaining the Trinity was the shamrock.
- ♣ Patrick wrote that while tending the sheep, he would often pray a hundred or more times a day! He grew very close to the God he hadn't known before.

Perhaps Patrick's most well-known prayer is this one, which I invite you to contemplate as our Lenten journey continues.

***Christ be with me, Christ within me.
Christ behind me, Christ before me.
Christ beside me, Christ to win me.
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me.
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger.
Christ in hearts of all that love me.
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.***

Happy, blessed St. Patrick's Day! See you in church!

Peace, Pastor Heidi

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY – MARCH 4 – 10:00 A.M.

*Third Sunday in Lent
Reception of New Members
The Sacrament of Communion*

Liturgist: Betty Craig

Greeter: Linda Plain

Ushers: Ted and Kelly Bickley, Linda Plain, Marty Winch

Coffee Hour: Gina Cathcart

*Lenten Study and Light Lunch in Pilgrim Hall at Noon
Concert at 3:00 P.M. – please see page 3.*

SUNDAY – MARCH 11 – 10:00 A.M.

*Fourth Sunday in Lent
Deadline for Easter Lily Orders*

Liturgist: Michele Mhlack

Greeter: Lynne McCray

Ushers: Chuck McDougall and Marty Winch

Coffee Hour: Volunteer Needed

Lenten Study and Light Lunch in Pilgrim Hall at Noon

SUNDAY – MARCH 18 – 10:00 A.M.

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Liturgist: Greg Dickson

Greeter: Chuck McDougall

Ushers: Chuck McDougall and Ray Suttle

Coffee Hour: Myron Costin

Lenten Study and Light Lunch in Pilgrim Hall at Noon

SUNDAY – MARCH 25 – 10:00 A.M.

Palm Sunday

Liturgist: Kenn Oerkfitz

Greeters: Mark and Barb Camp

Usher: Chuck McDougall

Coffee Hour: Volunteer Needed

Lenten Study and Light Lunch in Pilgrim Hall at Noon

Worship Opportunities continue on next page.

MAUNDY THURSDAY – MARCH 29 – 7:30 P.M.

Worship in Our Sanctuary

*A Quiet, Contemplative Service
Communion will be offered.*

Greeters: Volunteers Needed



GOOD FRIDAY – MARCH 30, 2018 – 8:15 P.M.

Ecumenical Tenebrae Service at Columbia United Methodist Church

25453 Royalton Road in Columbia Station
(Southeast Corner of Royalton + West River Roads)

*Our Chancel Choir will sing in the combined choir with
orchestra for the presentation of the cantata,
"Song of the Shadows."*

A reception will follow the service.

Please note:

*Our congregation will join our friends at Columbia United
Methodist Church. There will be no Good Friday service
at Strongsville UCC.*



PRAYER CHAIN

Do you know that our church has a Prayer Chain? If you would like to be part of the email or telephone prayer chain, please let us know on the back of your attendance card, or you can call the church, (440) 238-6697. If you are already a part of the prayer chain, there is no need for you to inform us again. Thank you!

HELP NEEDED IN NURSERY

Because of the increase in number of children, additional help is needed in the nursery on Sunday mornings during worship at 10:00 a.m. A sign-up sheet is in Pilgrim Hall. For questions, please contact Amanda Hawk, Sarah Hayes, or Kelly Bickley.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING

The annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be received throughout the month of March. Through One Great Hour of Sharing, United Church of Christ members reach out in the name of Christ to:

- support self-help programs in more than 80 nations to build sustainable communities that enable people and communities to stand against and rise above hunger, disease, illiteracy, and other forces of injustice that deny and destroy dignity.
- provide emergency and long-term assistance to people in the aftermath of hurricanes, tornados, storms, floods, tidal waves, fires, explosions, technological disasters, civil strife, war, or other natural or human-caused events. On average, OGHS responds to a disaster once every 2.5 days.
- respond with advocacy and help, hope and hospitality for people who have been uprooted from their home of origin. More than 30 million of the world's people are uprooted at any given time.

In cooperation with Global Ministries, Church World Service, Action by Churches Together, Interchurch Medical Assistance, Foods Resource Bank, Oikocredit, Freedom from Hunger and hundreds of local partners around the world, One Great Hour of Sharing is part of a remarkable network of service and caring that is efficient, effective and faithful. Administrative costs are typically less than eight percent annually.

The United Church of Christ unites with Christians in eight other Protestant denominations and Church World Service in One Great Hour of Sharing, thus multiplying the effectiveness and extent of our witness many times over.

The partnership we share with nearly 6,000 United Church of Christ congregations across the United States and Puerto Rico is where this remarkable miracle connecting UCC members to the world truly begins. The UCC annually channels more than \$3 million dollars through One Great Hour of Sharing to humanitarian needs in the world.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering is administered through Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ. An offering envelope is enclosed with this newsletter, and envelopes will also be in the pew racks in the sanctuary at church.



CONCERT SERIES

Jim's Little Big Band and Tanis Merimee, Cello
Sunday – March 4, 2018 – 3:00 p.m.

at Strongsville United Church of Christ

Following the concert, a reception with refreshments will be held in Pilgrim Hall.

\$10 – Adult \$4 – 6 to 12 years
Free – 5 years and under



Refreshments and help are needed for the reception. If you can provide a treat or help with the reception, please mark your attendance card or call the church, (440) 238-6697. Thank you.

Strongsville UCC

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT

ROAST PORK, KIELBASA + SAUERKRAUT DINNER

Saturday – March 10, 2018

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

Reservations Only: (216) 598-6198

Adults \$12.00 Ages 6-10 \$5.00 Under 6 Free

Help is needed. The sign-up sheet is posted on Pilgrim Hall's board. For safety reasons, no children under age 6 (with or without parent) can be helpers in any capacity during the serving hours of 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Children 6 to 10 must have a parent helping them.

The Thrift Shop will be open.



ADULT SOCIAL CLUB

The club will meet on the third Wednesday of the month, March 21, at 7:00 p.m.

Mark your calendar for Sunday, April 22, when the Adult Social Club will have Brunch at 12:30 p.m. at Perk Cup Café in Berea!

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

THANK YOU

I wish to thank members of the church congregation for your cards and well wishes during my recent hospitalization and recovery.

I also want to thank my wonderful wife Pam and daughters, Sarah and Diane, for their care and support.

Bruce Keenen

LENTEN STUDY

The study about the movie, *The Shack*, continues on the Sundays in Lent at noon. A light lunch will be provided.

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 **January 21 through February 11.**

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



| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Offering Needed | \$14,597.24 for 4 Sundays |
| Offering Received | 14,066.50 |
| Difference | (\$530.74) |

WHEN STRONGSVILLE CITY SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED

because of the weather:

The Wednesday Free Lunch Program will be closed
and
The Thrift Shop will be closed.



UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

DIACONATE WING NIGHT

Friday, May 4 – Grindstone Tap House – 6:30-9:30 p.m.



CONCERT

Sunday, May 6 – 3:00 p.m. in Our Sanctuary
Satori Winds – 1st half Broadway Bound – 2nd half
A reception with refreshments will follow in Pilgrim Hall.



RETREAT REPORT 2018

A total of 58 people attended all or some of the 2018 All Family Winter Retreat, including 52 overnight guests and 6 Saturday-only attendees. This year, we were back at Temple Hills Camp in Bellville, Ohio, after a four-year period wherein the camp had been closed and we went to Pilgrim Hills. Pilgrim Hills has been sold by United Camps, Conferences, and Retreats to Amish community members. Jeff Thompson, the manager at Pilgrim Hills, has moved to Temple Hills along with lots of furniture and equipment from the sold camp. Jeff and his crew worked diligently to get Temple Hills ready to host our group, which was the first since the camp reopened after being closed for four years. Memorial Lodge was not usable, so we had to use Heritage Hall down the hill and a hastily put-together Skipper Lodge for our stay. It was a little rough around the edges, and we had to make do with some cozy living quarters and rustic accommodations, but all in all everyone had a great time. Thank you to everyone for their patience and flexibility! A few 2018 highlights:

- The youngest Retreat attendee ever, Ella Rose Hayes, at 10 days old came with her mom, Sarah. Several families had 3 generations in attendance.
- First-time participants included John Marshall, Rob Toth, Izabella Abruzzino, and Gus Bembenick
- Saturday night Trivia winners: Team Big K (Karen Morgan, Diane Kuzmickas, Trevor Kuzmickas, Sarah Keenen, Pam Keenen, Evan Joyce, and Irene Joyce) Thanks to the Zielinskis for putting the game and prizes together!
- Scavenger Hunt winners: Kristen Burgess, Sarah Toth, Karen Morgan, Gary Zielinski, and Michele Mhlack
- On Saturday night, a few people enjoyed watching the movie, "The Shack", in preparation for Rev. Heidi's Lenten Bible Study.
- Dale Hawk and his crew of engineers constructed a locomotive called the Strongsville U.C.C. Express—engineer caps, bandanas, and train whistles were distributed to the railroad crew.
- Meals included: Saturday--eggs and coffee cake for breakfast, taco bar for lunch, baked chicken and mashed potatoes for dinner. Sunday—pancakes and sausage for breakfast, burgers for lunch
- Rachel Zielinski led the Sunrise Service with a theme of "Hope and Healing." 11 people attended.
- Irene Joyce led the 10 a.m. service with a theme of "Gratitude and Praise." Sandy O'Shea played the hymns on her guitar. (*Praise to the Lord the Almighty* and *Blest Be the Tie that Binds*)
- Irene Jannsohn was struck down with severe vertigo attacks, but was cared for by the 6 registered nurses in attendance—thank you to all of them!
- Seven people made the excursion into Bellville to go antique shopping, and many treasures were found. (Courtney Hanlon, Rachel Zielinski, Ingrid Dickson, Kristen Burgess, Elena Joyce, Evan Joyce, and Irene Joyce)
- Cathy Hawk made hot dogs and brats, and Steve Herzog sent his famous chili for our Saturday night snack.
- Kelly Bickley led a yoga and stretching session on Sunday with Lisa Pogozeleski, Sandy Pogozeleski, Sandy O'Shea, Izabella Abruzzino, Courtney Hanlon, Ingrid Dickson, Irene Joyce, Kristen Burgess, Elena Joyce, Abby Kuzmickas, and Riley Hawk.
- Dale Hawk, assisted by Greg Dickson, led an outdoor street hockey game for a group ages 2 and up. Dale also led a hike around the camp on Saturday afternoon with 15 hikers.
- Karen Morgan and Rachel Zielinski provided a fun sock bunny craft for the kids on Saturday.

Next year, we should be back in a refurbished Memorial Lodge, and Skipper Lodge should have some work done, too. Everyone is invited for President's Day weekend 2019!

THE THRIFT SHOP

We continue to be busy in the shop changing our displays as holidays come and go. Valentines are gone, but St. Patrick's Day and Easter are on the sales floor. Check out our low prices and holiday items before you pay full price somewhere else.

The Thrift Shop will be open during the Roast Pork dinner on March 10. Please be sure to stop in that evening. If you don't want to shop, just stop in to say "hello". We will have a special sale that evening.

With the change of seasons, please remember the Thrift Shop when cleaning closets. Clothing items for the entire family are always appreciated. Let the Thrift Shop be your recycling center!

Please remember not to place your donations on the stairs. Safety first!

OFFICIAL BOARD

Profit from the Swiss Steak Dinner on February 3 was \$1,336.76. Thanks again to all who supported the dinner in any way!

OUR PRAYER LIST

Hospitals no longer provide names of members who are patients. If you or a family member would like a visit, please call the church, (440) 238-6697. Please provide updates for this list. Thank you.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Betty Bushea, Janet Kato at Kemper House, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

Church Family: Lacey Marshall (daughter of Amanda and John), Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt at Northwestern Health Care Center in Berea, Margot James, Irene Jannsohn, Bruce Keenen, Millie Lantzer, Martha Liebert, Sandra Manos (mother of Eli), Sloane Masuga (daughter of Jake and Lauren), Joyce Reed, Betsey Santomen (wife of Rev. Joe Santomen), Leah Tressa Forget, Sally Vetovitz, Dave Woodward, Kyle Woodward

Extended Church Family: Luke Bazan (friend of Judi Pavisich's granddaughter), Donna Briggs (mother-in-law of Judi Pavisich's daughter), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Joyce Freeman (sister of Carol Woodward), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Sue Grunenwald (friend of the Heinrichs), Sam Harteis (friend of the Reeds), Diane Mason (friend of Lora Rung), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Muriel McKeever (mother of Pastor Heidi), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), the Sink family (friends of Judy Pavisich's granddaughter), Keith Stewart (cousin of Carol Woodward), Frank Toth (father of Rob), Sheena Toth (mother of Dale), Joe Valli (brother-in-law of Vicky and Dan Masuga)

ALTAR FLOWERS

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.

April 29 – 1 vase
June 3 – 2 vases
June 17 – 2 vases
July 8 – 2 vases
October 7 – 2 vases
October 21 – 1 vase
October 28 – 2 vases
December 2 – 2 vases
December 9 – 2 vases

Below 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.



STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of February 11, 2018

*Happy Belated Birthday to
Daughter A – Valerie Hopkins and
Daughter B – Vicky Masuga
on February 14
Love, Mom*

Week of February 18, 2018

*Happy Birthday
on February 18 to Barbara Craig and
on February 22 to Pam Craig
With love, Mom*

Week of February 25, 2018

*Happy Birthday
on February 28 to Larry Wentz and
on March 2 to Mikey Craig
With love, Mom*

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.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 701 PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

Saturday, March 10, is Boy Scout Troop 701's first annual Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser at Applebee's in Strongsville! Their goal is to raise \$2,500 to cover the transportation costs for Scouts to attend summer camp at Heritage Scout Reservation in the Laurel Highlands of Pennsylvania.

Tickets are \$10 per person or \$35 per family of four. Breakfast, which will be prepared by Applebee's staff, will include pancakes, bacon, breakfast potatoes, coffee, milk, juice, and soft drinks. Boy Scouts will be serving the meals, busing the tables, and greeting our guests. The event runs from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

For tickets or questions, contact Linda at lindaklaben@gmail.com

Online sales through PayPal at:
<https://scoutsales.org?1885.52.360>

Three Eagle Scouts from our church are former members of this troop.

Sandy O'Shea

