

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)
13740 Pearl Road
Strongsville, Ohio 44136



Church Telephone: (440) 238-6697

Email: StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com

Website: www.strongsvilleucc.com

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall
Pastor

Worship at 10:00 A.M. on Sunday

MARCH 2019 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?"

--Isaiah 58:6-7

A different kind of fasting.

Ash Wednesday, March 6, marks the beginning of Lent, the 40-day period when Christians reflect on the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, leading up to his ultimate crucifixion and resurrection. For many, Lent is a time of quiet introspection. Some choose to make these forty days a tithe, or 10%, of the year of their lives, giving something up as a sacrifice to God. Maybe we decide to quit smoking for forty days, or give up eating chocolate. But what if, this year, we decided to take a different approach?

What if, instead of *giving up* something for Lent, we chose to *let something go*? Let go of speaking too quickly or impatiently. Let go of an old resentment or broken relationship. Let go of insisting on doing things "my way or the highway."

When we let go of things that hold us back from serving God fully, a remarkable thing happens. In place of impatience, God creates a space for listening. In releasing resentment, God gives a new sense of peace and belonging. And believe it or not . . . in letting go of the need to be in charge, we begin to more fully become the person we were created to be.

Or—we could *add something* to our spiritual practices for this season. Add ten minutes (or more) of quiet meditation to the morning, or a walk at the end of the day. Add an extra item to our grocery cart every shopping trip, and donate to the local food bank. Give an extra kind word to everyone we meet. So many little things that can change the world we live in!

Pause right now. Take a deep breath . . . and let it out s-l-o-w-l-y. Listen for God's whisper in your heart. What change is God calling you to undertake for this season of Lent? How will *you* fast to change the world?

Peace,

Pastor Heidi



STARTING MARCH 10...Lenten Study with

Pastor Heidi. Plan to participate in this meaningful 5-week course, *Interfaith: Being Love in the World*, beginning at noon. A light lunch will be provided each Sunday for those who attend the studies. Please indicate your interest on your attendance card or by contacting the church office, so that we may plan accordingly.



Please join us on **Wednesday, March 6** at 7 p.m. for a quiet, contemplative service commemorating Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent.



CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Are you interested in joining our family of fellowship by becoming a member of the Strongsville UCC? Please contact her or the church office if you would like to be a part of the next class of members or indicate your interest on your attendance

card and place it in the offering plate.



WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY – MARCH 3 – 10:00 A.M.

Transfiguration

Sacrament of Communion



Liturgist: Dan Masuga

Greeter: Linda Plain

Ushers: Linda Plain/Judi Pavisich

Coffee Hour: Volunteers needed

Special Music: Chancel Choir and Band

WEDNESDAY – MARCH 6 – 7 P.M.

Ash Wednesday



Greeter: Volunteer needed

Special Music: Mike Elkins

SUNDAY – MARCH 10 – 10:00 A.M.

First Sunday of Lent

Liturgist: Linda Ponstingle

Greeter: Billie Cantrell

Ushers: Bill Schneider

Coffee Hour: Nicole Rachid

Special Music: SUCC Choir and Band

SUNDAY – MARCH 17– 10:00 A.M.

Second Sunday of Lent

Liturgist: Lynne McCray

Greeter: Elaine Coffey

Ushers: Volunteers needed

Coffee Hour: Volunteers needed

Special Music: SUCC Choir and Band

SUNDAY – MARCH 24 – 10:00 A.M.

Third Sunday of Lent

Guest Minister

Liturgist: Kenn Oerkfitz

Greeter: The Rolland Family

Usher: Volunteer needed

Coffee Hour: Nicole Rachid

Special Music: SUCC Bell Choir and Band

SUNDAY – MARCH 31 – 10:00 A.M.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Penny Sunday

Liturgist: Ben and Emma Clotworthy

Greeter: Dan and Linda Ponstingle

Usher: Volunteer needed

Coffee Hour: Volunteer needed

Special Music: SUCC Choir & Band



Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of **Margot James**, who passed away on January 31, 2019. Margot, who grew up in WWII Germany, was a cherished member of our congregation for 25 years. Her son, Mark James and daughter-in-law, Nancy Marchant, along with their children Chris Haslam, Bill James, and Robin James, are also members. Margot's memorial was February 23, 2019.

* * *

Heartfelt condolences also to the family and friends of **Ray Suttle**, who died on Thursday, February 14, 2019 after a brief illness. Ray and his wife Flo, who died in 2013, were long-time, active members of this congregation. In fact, Ray was a member for 52 years. His memorial service was held on February 24, 2019.



* * *

We also express our sincere sympathy to Donna Dickinson and family on the death of **Donald Dickinson**, who was a member of our church since 1947. He went home to the Lord on February 23, 2019. His memorial service will be at Jardine's Funeral Home on March 13.



YOU'RE INVITED!

Members of the church and friends of **Kyra Krause** are invited to her baby shower on Friday, March 8, 2019 from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. Please RSVP to Kyra at 440-444-8938 if you would like to attend. She is registered at Buy Buy Baby and Target.

WELCOME TO THE WORLD!

Congratulations to parents **Hayley (Craig) and Joey McKane** on the birth of **Walter Jones McKane** on February 9, 2019. Congratulations also to grandparents **Joe and Barbara Craig** and Great-Grammy, **Betty Craig!**



CHILD SPONSORSHIP

The Mission and Outreach Committee, through the Child Sponsorship Program, Global Ministries, sponsors Caroline Y, from the King's Matriculation Higher Secondary School in Vellore, India. With our congregation maintaining this sponsorship, Caroline will continue her studies and escape a life of poverty.

Reaching The Unreached



CHILD SPONSORSHIP SIGN-UP

If you would like to sponsor Caroline for a month this year, a sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area. The cost is \$30.

The Child Sponsorship Program is a part of Global Ministries, United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ (Christian) Churches.



PLEASE SAVE YOUR PLASTIC BOTTLE CAPS!

A friend of Amanda Hawk is making a memorial bench constructed of plastic bottle caps. A container to collect them is located in Pilgrim Hall by the coffee pots.

UNSUNG HEROES

Did you know that **Doug Thorn** records our worship services each Sunday and **Jim Heinrich** posts them on our website for all to enjoy? Here is how you access the video recordings of our services each week: Go to www.strongsvilleucc.com and select WORSHIP, then click on SERVICE VIDEOS and choose the date you would like to watch. Thank you to Doug and to Jim for making this online ministry possible!

Did you know that **Pam Polansky** spends many extra hours organizing the Thrift Shop? Thanks for your special efforts!

Do you know of someone who deserves thanks and/or recognition for going above and beyond the call of duty for the church? If so, please call, email, text, or talk to Irene Joyce in the church office. Thanks!



Are you an online shopper? If so, why not benefit the church while you make your purchases from Amazon? It's incredibly easy! Here's what you do:

1. Instead of typing amazon.com into your search bar, type in **smile.amazon.com**.

2. Select United Church of Christ Congregational Strongsville by clicking this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-1298100>

3. Shop as you would normally—that's it!

Your addresses, billing information, and shopping cart are still saved and your Prime membership privileges still apply. A small percentage of your purchase price will go toward supporting the church. **We've made \$45.35 through December 2018!**

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. **Please keep us in mind for your upcoming shopping needs!**



ALTAR FLOWERS

February altar flowers were given

February 3 – *In loving memory of Erik O. Jannsohn*—from the Jannsohn-Dickson-Joyce Families
Happy Birthday to Rebecca Deertz!—Love, Grandma Marty Winch

With loving memories of Carol Studer
Kathy Ketchum and Jeff Studer

February 10 – *Happy Birthday on February 14 to Baby A & Baby B, Valerie Hopkins & Vicky Masuga*
Love Mom Lola Millhoane

In loving memory of Lois-Ann Habart on the anniversary of her death, but remembered always. From Jamie, Josh, and Christian

February 17 – *Happy Birthday to Olivia Clotworthy!*

February 24 – *Happy 4th Birthday to Penny and Ollie.* – The Zielinskis



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. 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.

2019 Flower sign-up chart is posted and several Sundays are still available for this year!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Penny Sunday –Thanks again to the **Post-Confirmation class** for sorting the coins and especially to **Jan Stough** for counting them!

January's

Penny Sunday was collected for **Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary** in Ravenna, Ohio and \$139.50 was collected. In the spring, Happy Trails would like to bring some animals to our church for a visit.



February's Penny Sunday collection was for St. Herman House of Hospitality in Cleveland: We collected \$144.71. Here is a little of what they do:

FOOD

In the past year, we served over 73,000 hot meals. We are one of the only shelters in Ohio, and in the nation, that serves three hot meals a day, seven days a week, every day of the year. Additionally, the last five working days of every month, we provide grocery bags for women with dependent children. As part of our hospitality outreach, we have available emergency food, bread, and pastries whenever needed. Also, we own and operate a 75-acre farm that we use in our farm-to-table initiative, and which is being developed as a recovery ranch for persons struggling with addiction.

OCCUPATION

The St. Herman's jobs program, "Program Services," provides employment for eligible men in our shelter. We partner with local Churches, businesses, and residencies to provide employment for our shelter residents..

CLOTHING

Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday we open up our Clothing Pantry which provides clothing, shoes, and hygiene products to all who come. Over 500 men avail themselves to the Clothing Pantry each year.

UNDERSTANDING

Each morning we open up our doors for 'hospitality time,' providing shelter, snacks, and fellowship to those who have nowhere else to go. Every morning at and every afternoon we pray in our chapel, and invite all who wish to join us. Each Tuesday night we conduct a Bible study in our dining room, all are welcome

SHELTER

At any given time, we can shelter up to 28 men. In recent years, we have shelter 50 to 70 men and should reach our goal of 80 to 100 men each year by partnering with other agencies that can aide us in the challenging work of transitioning men from homelessness to independent living.

Thank you to everyone who generously supports our Penny Sunday collections. The next Penny Sunday is **March 31, 2019** and will go to **Laura's Home for Women and Children** through the City Mission.

OUR PRAYER LIST

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Betty Bushea at Danbury Senior Living in Brunswick, Janet Kato at Kemper House, Martha Liebert, Marge McKinney, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields



Church Family: Betty Babics, Rev. Larry and Christina Craig, Danny Davis, Steve Herzog, Elena Joyce, Bobbie Krisak, Karl and Sharon

Kuhlenschmidt, Phyllis Kurz (mother of Karen Morgan Fred and Kathe Lombardo, Lacey Marshall (daughter of Amanda and John), Laurie Meister, Michele Mhlack, Karen Morgan, Harvey Pincombe, Joyce Reed, Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, Linda Stepan, Sally Vetovitz, Kyle Woodward

Extended Church Family: Adams Family (friends of Judi Pavisich), Luke Bazan (friend of Judi Pavisich's granddaughter), Amy Carroll (sister of Marty Winch), Michele Cortese (friend of the Heinrichs), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Joyce Freeman (sister of Carol Woodward), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Sam Harteis (friend of Reeds), Margaret Haught (mother of Jen Barry), Rev. Erv Koch, Diane Mason (friend of Lora Rung), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Zachary McKeever (great-nephew of Pastor Heidi and Chuck), Jeff Perrin (cousin of Barb Fraunfelder), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Frank Toth (father of Rob), Joe Valli (brother-in-law of Vicky and Dan Masuga), Brad Williams (friend of Judi Pavisich)

Our church has an e-mail prayer chain. Please see Pastor Heidi if you would like to be added.

DIACONATE WING NIGHT



Mark your calendar for a terrific night of filling food, refreshing suds, basket raffles, side boards, and hanging out with the coolest folks around! **Friday, May 3,**

2019 is the date. 6:30 p.m. will be the time.

Grindstone Tap House in Berea will be the place. More information on tickets will be coming soon. As always, many volunteers will be needed for Wing Night to be successful and the committee will be recruiting helpers.

In the meantime, please be thinking of a themed basket you might like to donate to the event. Any and all donations will be gratefully accepted!

Please watch your newsletters and bulletins for more information in the coming months. Thank you in advance for supporting this important fundraiser for the Diaconate, which supplies all of the worship needs of our church.

THANK YOU NOTES RECEIVED

To the members of Strongsville UCC:
My family and I send our deepest gratitude for the many cards, calls, and messages of support in the loss of our beloved husband, father, and grandfather, **Ken Morris**. It meant so much to us that Pastor Heidi and so many of you who shared in Ken's ministry while with you attended the service of celebration of his life. Please know that your expressions of love are so appreciated and are reminders of God's love surrounding us on this difficult journey.
Blessings to all, **Linda Morris**



Thank you Strongsville UCC.
We here at **Templed Hills** enjoyed hosting your group. We loved how much energy your group brought to camp. We truly hope you all had a wonderful weekend retreat and we hope to see you all back again next year!
Blessings, **Miranda and Andy**

CHURCH SECURITY

Friendly reminder: If you are the last person to leave the building, please make sure doors are locked and lights are turned out. Also, please push or pull on the doors to make sure they are secure. Thanks!



DID YOU KNOW? Our church supports the **Strongsville Emergency**

Food Bank. They are especially in need of peanut butter & jelly, soup, and family meals Please bring donations of non-perishable food items and place them in the collection box nestled in the corner of Pilgrim Hall next to the bulletin board. Thank you to **Sharon and Karl Kuhlenschmidt** for delivering the donations to the Food Bank each week.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!

Strongsville UCC All-You-Can-Eat

RESCHEDULED SWISS STEAK DINNER

Saturday – March 2, 2019

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

Reservations Only: (216) 598-6198

Adults: \$14, Kids 6-12: \$6, 5 & Under: Free

If you have previously paid for tickets for the January date, they will be honored on the new date.

Join us for this delicious all-you-can-eat meal which supports the Official Board and its programs.



**FREE LUNCH FOR ALL!
WEDNESDAYS 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**



For safety reasons: If the Strongsville City Schools are closed due to inclement weather, the lunch will not be served.

FROM THE KITCHEN:

If you have any large plastic serving trays with domed covers, round or rectangular, that you do not need, please donate them to the kitchen for our Coffee Hour pastries. **Also, we could use empty, clean sour cream containers for the Altar Flowers.**



STEWARDSHIP

As of this writing, we have received 75 pledges totaling \$128,232.00.



Thanks to all who already submitted their cards. Please know that the church will accept Estimate of Giving cards at any time, and additional Estimate of Giving cards are on the greeters' cabinet in the Gathering Area, where the bulletins are distributed.

GIVING OPTIONS

If you are interested in giving electronically, Here's how: You can customize your giving based on how, when, and how much through **E-Offering**. Log on to our church website at www.strongsvilleucc.com and click "Donate Now". You will be taken to the church's myEoffering page. Simply click on the "Sign-up" button and you will then fill in your personal information and "Register". Follow the prompts to set up your payment, one-time or ongoing. You can also set up your giving through Bill Pay on your bank's website.

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 6 through February 3, 2019**, including the cancelled service on January 20. This information also appears on a weekly basis in our worship bulletin.



Offering Needed \$18,246.60 for 5 Sundays
Offering Received 16,522.95
Difference (- \$1,723.65)

MARCH 2019 DATES TO REMEMBER

- 3 Sun** **Worship 10am with Communion**
Children's Choir
- 6 Wed** Free Lunch for All, 11:30am to 12:30pm
Ash Wednesday Worship 7pm
- 7 Thurs** Thrift Shop 10am-4pm
Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm
- 8 Fri** Baby Shower 6pm to 9pm
- 10 Sun** **Worship 10am**
Lenten Study Noon
Children's Choir
- 12 Tues** Trustee Meeting 7pm
- 13 Wed** Free Lunch for All, 11:30am to 12:30pm
Adult Social Club Meeting 7pm
Fit Club, 7:15pm
Band Rehearsal 8:15pm
- 14 Thurs** Thrift Shop 10am-4pm
Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm
- 17 Sun** **Worship 10am**
Lenten Study Noon
Children's Choir
- 19 Tues** Diaconate Meeting, 7pm
- 20 Wed** Free Lunch for All, 11:30am-12:30pm
Fit Club 7:15pm
Band Rehearsal 8:15pm
- 21 Thurs** Thrift Shop 10am-4pm
Men's Lunch 11am
Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm
- 24 Sun** **Worship 10am—Guest minister**
Children's Choir
- 26 Tues** Official Board Meeting 7pm
- 27 Wed** Free Lunch for All, 11:30am-12:30pm
Fit Club 7:15pm
Band Rehearsal 8:15 pm
- 28 Thurs** Thrift Shop 10am-4pm
Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm
- 31 Sun** **Worship 10am--Penny Sunday**
Lenten Study Noon
Children's Choir
Easter Lily order deadline

FIT CLUB



Our group is small, but enthusiastic. We welcome any new participants, of any age or fitness level to join us and get moving on most Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m. Plus, once a month, we have a field trip to the Opera at the movies! In February, we went to see *Carmen*. Please join us for more information.

HOW CAN YOU HELP OUT?

Sign-up sheets in Pilgrim Hall are waiting for **your name** to be added as a communion server, greeter, usher, coffee hour helper, or nursery helper! No experience is needed and everyone is welcome to be a part of our church life. Extra help is needed on Monday or Friday mornings to pick up, sort, and organize the bread and pastry donations from Panera Bread. Please contact the church office if you are interested in helping out.



THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is open for business on Thursdays, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., with a bonus Free Lunch for All sale day on Wednesdays once a month from 11 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. **WE NEED HELP!** If you can spare a few hours on Thursdays to volunteer in our Thrift Shop, please consider helping at the Thrift Shop. **We are grateful for your donations of usable items to the Thrift Shop. However, it is very important that you do not place bags, boxes, or items in the stairwells. Doing so is a safety hazard. Thank you for your cooperation.**

STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of February 3, 2019

*In loving memory of David Halley SHS Class of '81, brother of their son-in-law
Jim and Linda Dettmer*

Week of February 10, 2019

*Happy Birthday on February 8 to our new member, Nicole Rachid!
From your new church family*

Week of February 17, 2019

Happy Birthday to Barbara Craig on February 18 and to Pam Craig on February 22 and Welcome Walter Jones McKane, born February 9--Love, Mom/Grammy

Week of February 24, 2019

*Happy Birthday to Larry Wentz on February 29th and Mikey Craig on March 2nd
Love, Grammy
In loving memory of Susan Stevenson Tressa
From The Music Ministry*

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.



We sincerely thank these fine folks, who have finished their terms, for their service to our church and its mission:

- Bill Schneider, Vice Moderator
- Lori Kovatich, Treasurer
- Jamie Trinckes, Sunday School Co-Superintendent
- Eddy Bond, Jim Dettmer, Jim Heinrich, and Kenn Oerkfritz, Trustees
- Gina Cathcart and Kelly Bickley, Diaconate
- Adria and Eddy Bond, Sharon Heinrich, and Laurie Meister, Stewardship
- Brandi Garsteck, Mission and Outreach



CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2019

Officers elected on Jan. 27, 2019, have an asterisk* by their names.

** = appointed by the Official Board



Moderator Rachel Zielinski*
Vice-Moderator Rob Toth*
Treasurer Sally Herzog*
Clerk Karen Morgan*

Sunday School Superintendent
 Kristen Clotworthy*

Board of Trustees

Greg Dickson* Mike Clotworthy
 Myron Costin Tom Gaumer Bill Giuliano*
 Dale Hawk* Bob Kovatich Sandy Pogozelski*
 Ed Sobek* Linda Stepan* Rob Stepan*

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Irene Jannsohn* Joyce Reed *

Diaconate

Serena Abruzzino Jennifer Barry* Eddy Bond*
 Barbara Camp* Kristen Clotworthy*
 Judy Gaumer Cathy Hawk Sarah Hayes*
 Linda Plain* Linda Ponstingle** Nicole Rachid*
 Dawn Rolland Marty Winch*

Christian Education Committee

Kristen Clotworthy Mary Densmore* Linda Elkins*
 Suzi Foley* Sandy O'Shea* Lora Rung*

Music Committee

Ingrid Dickson* Ken Mehalko*
 Pam Keenen Tom Foley Mike Elkins

Stewardship Committee

Rosemary Bechtel Sue Gigliotti*
 Beth Giuliano Bill Schneider**

Mission and Outreach Committee

Judy Carte* Bobbie Krisak* Tony Koussa**
 Michele Mihlack* Gary Paul* Lora Rung Bev Wehr*

ANNUAL ALL FAMILY WINTER RETREAT

Templed Hills Camp in Bellville, Ohio



A whopping 73 people attended our Retreat this year, with 62 overnight guests and 11 Saturday day trippers. 17 of the attendees were first-timers and a great time was had by all! Please mark your calendars for next year's Retreat on **February 14, 15, & 16, 2020!**



From our friends at St. John Neumann Catholic Church:

Starting March 15, they will be hosting Fish Frys every Friday through April 12th. Proceeds from these meals will help the needy in El Salvador and support St. John Neumann's Hope Fund. Their address is 16271 Pearl Road in Strongsville and the Fish Frys will be held in their Activity Center. For times and prices, please call 440-238-1770 or check www.sjohio.com



River Valley Paper Company

KEEP RECYCLING YOUR PAPER GOODS!

Yearly Impact Report from our program:

Weight in Lbs.	47,156 lbs.
6 month tonnage	23.58 tons
Cubic yds. of landfill saved	77.81 cubic yds.
Gallons of water saved	165,046 gallons
Kilowatts of Electricity	96,669.80 kw
Lbs. of air pollutants saved	1,414.68 lbs.
Enough to heat for 6 mos.	24 homes
\$ earned for our church	\$540.23

Four times a year, River Valley has bonus weeks, which earn even more money for our church. The next bonus week will be **April 14-20, 2019.**

Thank you to everyone who deposits their paper, flattened cardboard, magazines, and newspapers in our bin!



LOOKING AHEAD TO GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2019:

We will join our friends from the **Columbia United Methodist Church**

for Joseph Martin's *Song of the Shadows* tennebrae service, with orchestra, combined choir, readings, and soloists. Please plan to attend this meaningful worship experience.

EASTER LILIES ORDER FORM

Orders are now being accepted. Please complete this form and place it in the Church Office or offering plate with your cash or check payment by the deadline of **Sunday, March 31, 2019**. The cost is **\$8.00**.

Wording for bulletin:

Given by:

Total number of plants: _____

I will take my plant(s). I will leave my plant(s) for someone who needs some cheer.

Please make your check payable to **Strongsville United Church of Christ**, and place your order (with payment) in the church office, or mail it to:

**The United Church of Christ
13740 Pearl Road
Strongsville, OH 44136**

Thank you for placing a lily on the altar on Easter Sunday morning.

Additional lily order forms **and envelopes** are available in the Gathering Area at the church.

For Church Records **2019 Easter Lily**

Total number of plants: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Offering envelope number: _____

Cash/Check No. _____

Name: _____

Order deadline is
Sunday, March 31, 2019.



Strongsville United Church of Christ

PROTOCOL FOR CANCELLATION OF ACTIVITIES

Approved by the Official Board

January 22, 2019

Let's face it: while we would all prefer to have Strongsville United Church of Christ open every Sunday for worship, things happen. Here is what Pastor Heidi is recommending for notifying folks:

1. In the event of a building emergency (no heat, fire, etc.), the decision will need to be made with little or no advance notice. Notification will go out via email and Facebook; in addition, we will need to have a specific list at hand of phone numbers for members and regular attendees who do not use the internet regularly. If the emergency occurs on Sunday morning, the pastor and/or moderator and/or secretary should plan to be at the church to inform people who do not receive word.

2. Cancellation of scheduled meetings/rehearsals (Trustees, Official Board, Choirs, etc.) for weather or other last-minute reasons will be at the discretion of the chairperson/ leader of the particular group, while informing the pastor immediately when a cancellation is being made. **The decision to cancel** should be made no less than two hours prior to the scheduled starting time (e.g., 5:00 for a 7:00 meeting). **It is the responsibility of the chairperson/ group leader to notify all members of the group.** All chairpersons and group leaders are responsible for having and maintaining an up-to-date list of members' contact information.

3. Cancellation of Sunday Morning Worship due to weather will, in a perfect circumstance, be a decision made by the Pastor, Moderator, Secretary and Chairperson of the Board of Trustees. The decision will be made based on forecast conditions, as well as what local authorities decide. **If a Level 2 or 3 Emergency is declared for Cuyahoga County, SUCC will not be open.** Additionally, given that Cuyahoga County rarely declares such emergencies, **if the surrounding counties declare Level 2 or 3 emergencies, depending on what's actually happening, SUCC may also close based on their declaration.**

Decisions made regarding cancellation of Sunday Morning Worship will be made as early as reasonably possible; however, the nature of Northeast Ohio weather often makes such things difficult. After an official decision has been made:

- The Pastor and Secretary will have at hand a list of members' and regular attendees' contact information for those who do not frequent the internet, and will call or text as soon as the decision is made.
- An **email chain** for members and regular attendees will be activated to reach out as soon as a decision is made.
- The church's **Facebook page and website** will be updated to reflect the cancellation; members on Facebook are encouraged to share this information widely.
- **Channel 5** is the one station whose closing list is easily accessible by churches, therefore, folks should be encouraged to tune in there for information.
- The **contracted snowplow company** will need to be notified that we will not need priority plowing.

There may be a rare occasion when the church remains open for Worship, but the Pastor cannot get there. In such instances, worship may take the form of a hymn sing or other community activity. **When the church chooses not to close in the face of challenging conditions, it is the responsibility of every member to make the decision that's best for them, keeping their own safety and the safety of their families in mind.** God does not take attendance to worship; God only attends to our hearts.