

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



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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall
Pastor

(Worship Online during COVID)

MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Is not God a God that shows mercy and keeps covenant?

Of all sins, it seems to me that the sin of unbelief is the most dishonoring to God.

—Elijah Parish Lovejoy

Promises, Promises.

Covenant is definitely a "church word," or once in a while, a legal beagle term. Its origins come from Latin, and mean "to come together in agreement." Kind of a handshake and a promise.

But when God makes a covenant, suddenly it becomes *more*.

God made a covenant with Abraham, and he becomes the father of nations, offspring too numerous to count, like the stars in the sky-- and he gets a late start in the game. Even when Abraham and his wife Sarah aren't completely faithful to God's plan-- God remains faithful.

God made a covenant with Noah and his family after the Great Flood, and promised never again to destroy all Creation. Even when Noah struggled to be faithful, God set his bow in the sky and remains faithful.

No matter what. God's covenant word is sure.

And so it is with each of us. *We* may not be capable of unwavering faithfulness, but the God who created us is *always* faithful.

Remember that, the next time things in life seem to be sliding south.

All the peoples of the earth will be blessed through you. It's the butterfly effect again, the idea that the flutter of an insect's wing, halfway around the world, can bring change wherever the air is stirred.

Think about *that* for a minute (or ten), and believe. *You* make a difference.

On our continuing journey through Lent, as we look at the promises God has made to God's children, trust in the One who promises Life and Hope—and Peace. No matter what we do, God will remain faithful in Love and Grace.

Peace, Hope and Promises,
Pastor Heidi

ONLINE WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY – MARCH 7 – ONLINE

Third Sunday in Lent

Sacrament of Communion

Special Music: Dave Williams



SUNDAY – MARCH 14 – ONLINE

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Special Music: Richard Densmore

SUNDAY—MARCH 21 – ONLINE

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Special Music: Sandy O'Shea

SUNDAY – MARCH 28 – ONLINE

Palm Sunday

Special Music: Tannis Merrimee



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**. Our You Tube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCynOZfg4uKoX7HMnKORbXfQ/videos>

BAPTISM

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Elliott James Joyce**, son of **Erik Joyce** and **Bryana Hitchens**, who was baptized on February 14, 2021. Congratulations also to his sponsors, **Evan Joyce** and **Elena Joyce**, grandparents **Irene** and **Jim Joyce** and great-grandmother, **Irene Jannsohn**.



IT'S A BOY!



Welcome to the world, **Brecken David Raymond**, who was born on February 11, 2021 at 7 lbs., 10 oz. and congratulations to parents **Lauren (Deertz)** and **Eric Raymond**. Congratulations also to grandmother **Lori Deertz**, grandfather **Dave Deertz**, and great grandmother, **Marty Winch!** We wish many blessings on this new addition to our church family!

THANK YOU NOTES



Many thanks to **Sarah Keenen, The Venner Clarinet Quartet, Carol Foley,** and **Brittany Fernandez** for sharing their music with us in February for our recorded worship services.

From our members and friends...

Thank you to my church family for the get well cards, wishes, and prayers of encouragement. They made my days better and brighter. Bless you all! **Lola Millhoane**

Dear SUCC members,
We at the Strongsville Food Bank want to thank you and your Sunday School for your "Penny Sunday" donation. How thoughtful of all of you to remember people in need of food during this COVID pandemic. You have helped so many people. You are all AWESOME!!
--Kelly Kling, Director of the Strongsville Food Bank

CHURCH LOCKS



The outdoor locks to the church, including the parking lot doors, the Royalton Road doors, and the kitchen have been changed. Church officers: please contact the office to be issued a new key.

OUR PRAYER LIST

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



Long-Term Care or Homebound:
Janet Kato, Marge McKinney, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

Church Family: Joan Beckwith, Adria Bond, Eddy Bond, Mary Carey, Elaine Coffey, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr.,

Linda Elliott, Don Gleichauf, Sue Hawk, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Elliott Joyce, Carole Kapcar, Tony Koussa, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Lacey Marshall, Brigitte Matchett, Judy Maur, Laurie Meister, Michele Mhlack, Lola Millhoane, Joyce Reed, Dorothy and Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Jamie & Josh Trinckes, Sharon Wilson, Sally Vetovitz, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Dorene Baldrige, Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Judy Carte's son-in-law, Ryan, Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Pat Masuga (Dan's mom), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Zachary McKeever (Pastor Heidi and Chuck's great-nephew), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Carrol Riley (Marjorie Morrison's dad), Terry Robson (the Camps' friend), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Richard Sazima & Kathy Sazima (Judi Pavisich's friends), Anneke Scholtz (Irene Jannsohn's sister), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Daphne Wilson (Irene Jannsohn's niece)

Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING

The annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be received throughout the month of March. The gifts you

give to OGHS are leveraged with those of others across the United Church of Christ, bringing a greater impact to the work being done with local and global partners. Your support enables the UCC to respond to a variety of global and local concerns by addressing advocacy, sustainable development, refugee and asylum issues, migration, and disasters, and assisting those most in need and vulnerable among us.

The COVID-19 pandemic, wildfires, earthquakes, hurricanes, and flooding have ravaged communities in the United States and worldwide, leaving families and communities in desperate need of assistance. Some of these disasters have occurred in our hometown, or in nearby communities, or to friends and neighbors in countries thousands of miles away. Your generosity ensures that, even in the midst of uncertainty, the transforming power of God's love continues to change lives here and around the world, as together we build a just world for all.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering is administered through Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ.

PANERA BREAD REPORT



The bread and pastries we pick up every week are distributed to people in need in Cleveland and surrounding areas. **This ministry feeds low income seniors, the homeless, people living in group homes, folks who are unemployed or underemployed, and families in impoverished neighborhoods.**

Thank you to the faithful bread transporters and sorters, **Judy Carte, Maria Graeff, Cathy Hawk, Sally Herzog, Linda Kapcar, Sharon & Jim Maresco, Sharon Lempner, Rick & Cherie Teagno, Sarah Toth, and Mary Ellen Zimmerman** who continue to make this ministry possible.

GIFT CARDS

YOU CAN SUPPORT THIS PROJECT IN A SAFE WAY THAT BENEFITS OUR CHURCH!



You can order gift cards by calling **Jim Joyce** at 216-267-5043 in advance with your

order. Limited stock is available, but special orders may be accommodated with advance notice. You may arrange to pick up your cards at the church office with your payment at a convenient time. **Thank you to those who continue to support this project by purchasing gift cards!**



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 have earned \$269.05 from Amazon through November. Thank you!**

STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of February 7th

*In celebration of Ella Hayes' 3rd Birthday on February 5th
Happy 2nd Birthday to Wally McKane on February 9th
With Love, Grammy*

Week of February 14th

Happy Birthday to the "bestest" daughters: Baby A—Valerie Hopkins and Baby B—Vicky Masuga! --With Love, Mom Lola Millhoane

*Congratulations to Elliott James Joyce on his baptism
Love "Banny" Lola*

*Happy Birthday to Barbara Craig on February 18th
With Love, Mom*

Week of February 21st

*In loving memory of our mothers' birthdays:
Carmella Norris on February 19th
and Nadine Burnand on February 26th
Love Ginger and Ron Rothe*

*Happy Birthday to Pam Craig on February 22nd
With Love, Mom*

Week of February 28th

*Happy Birthday to Larry Wentz on February 29th
And to Mikey Craig on March 2nd
With Love, Mom/Grammy*

Happy Birthday to Mike Elkins on February 29th



To light the steeple, the minimum donation is \$5.00. Thank you to all who light the steeple. **You may still light the steeple even though we are not meeting in person. Please email the church at strongsvilleuuc@gmail.com.**

MEN'S LUNCH BUNCH meets at 11:30 a.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month at Gourmé Restaurant 15315 Pearl Rd. in Strongsville.



UNSUNG HEROES

Did you know that **Jackie Foley** spent some of her precious time off from her studies at the University of Cincinnati to come and sort donations for the Thrift Shop? Thank you so very much, Jackie!



KEEP RECYCLING YOUR PAPER, MAGAZINES, AND CARDBOARD!

The church (and everyone else) benefits any time you recycle. Thank you!



River Valley Paper Company

THRIFT SHOP



The Thrift Shop is **OPEN** on **Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.** with enhanced safety protocols in place and

lots of interesting merchandise. Donations are being accepted, but you must **call** the church first to arrange a time for drop-off.

THRIFT SHOP BONUS HOURS

The **3rd Monday** of the month, **March 21, 2021 — 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.**

(We're still open on Thursdays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

Also, the Thrift Shop is in need of volunteers to help out for a couple of hours—sorting, organizing, and selling on Thursdays. Please call Cathy Hawk (440-781-7512) if you can help!

ADDRESS CHANGES

To update your Church Directory:

Steve & Roxy (Velva) & Owen Woodward

804 Ridgeview Terrace
Fremont, CA 94536

Kyle Woodward

40 E Cedar St. Apt. 14D
Chicago, IL 60611



The Strongsville Emergency Food Bank will accept donations again starting in

March. **DONATIONS MAY BE TAKEN DIRECTLY TO THE FOOD BANK.** It is located on Zverina Lane behind the Strongsville Communications Building. They are only going to be open Tuesday through Thursday 9:30 a.m. -11:00 a.m. So if you need to drop off...earlier the better...they have to take time now to sanitize the food bank each shift. The needs for the food bank in March would be **SOUP and VEGGIES!**

PENNY SUNDAY FOR THE FOOD BANK

Thank you to everyone who took the time and effort to donate coins, cash, and checks to the Strongsville Emergency Food Bank last month. We collected \$184.67!



SPONSORSHIP OF CAROLINE IN INDIA

Thank you to everyone who signed up for 2021:

January—Dale & Cathy Hawk

February—Ginger Rothel

March—Judy Carte

April—Ginger Rothel

May—Sue Gigliotti

June—Dorothy & Bill Ritchie

July—Dale & Cathy Hawk

August—Dale & Cathy Hawk

September—Bill Robinson

October—Dale & Cathy Hawk

November—Barb & Mark Camp

December—Gina Cathcart

Reaching The Unreached



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. **You may**

also mail a check to Strongsville UCC

13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, OH 44136 or drop it off in the church's mailbox.



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 31 through February 21, 2021**. This information also appears on a weekly basis in our worship bulletin.



Offering Needed \$14,597.48 for 4 Sundays

Offering Received 10,850.00

Difference (-\$3,747.48)

Thank you to everyone who is maintaining their giving!

CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2021

Officers elected on Jan. 26, 2020, have an asterisk* by their names.
** = appointed by the Official Board



Moderator Rachel Zielinski
Vice-Moderator Rob Toth*
Treasurer Sally Herzog
Clerk Judy Gaumer*

Sunday School Superintendent

Board of Trustees

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

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Irene Jannsohn* Joyce Reed

Diaconate

Jennifer Barry Barbara Camp Gina Cathcart*
 Kristen Clotworthy Elaine Coffey* Cathy Hawk*
 Sarah Hayes Linda Plain Linda Ponstingle
 Nicole Stevens Dawn Rolland* Marty Winch
 Barbara White* Mary Ellen Zimmerman*

Christian Education Committee

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

Music Committee

Richard Densmore* Ingrid Dickson
 Ken Mehalko Pam Keenen*
ex officio: Sharon Heinrich Tom Foley Mike Elkins

Stewardship Committee

Serena Abruzzino* Rosemary Bechtel Sue Gigliotti*
 Beth Giuliano Judi Pavisich** Bill Schneider**

Mission and Outreach Committee

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



The popular devotional guides, *The Upper Room*, are available at the church for anyone who would like to pick one up. The March/April edition is out. These devotional booklets come in regular pocket size or large print and are free of charge.

LENTEN PRAYER AND MEDITATION—
 The sanctuary of the church will be open on Sunday mornings, March 7th and March 14th from 9:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. (with more dates and times to be announced) to provide an opportunity for our members and friends to come in and be in prayerful communication with God. Stop in for a short time during that hour and let the Holy Spirit speak to you. Of course, safety protocols will be in place, including the requirement of mask wearing, social distancing, and sanitizing. Limited numbers will be allowed in the Sanctuary, and pews will be designated in order to maintain safety protocols.

Pastor Heidi will provide a printed meditation, should you desire a focus for your quiet time, and will be available for prayer and spiritual support as needed.

PLEASE NOTE: This worship opportunity is not a regular worship service. It is a chance for you to supplement your individual daily Lenten devotions, while our congregation takes a first, "baby step" towards eventually returning to in-person worship at some point.

May your Lenten journey be blessed.

