### THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational) 13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136

Worship 10 a.m. (+online)



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

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall
Pastor

# MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER

### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

One way to define spiritual life is getting so tired and fed up with yourself you go on to something better, which is following Jesus. –Eugene H. Peterson

### **Footprints**

I'm sure you are familiar with the popular poem about walking along the beach with Jesus, and seeing two sets of footprints in the sand, but only one set during the really difficult challenges of life. And when questioned, Jesus replies: My child, it was then that I carried you. It's a comforting image, especially when one is having a lousy day (or two).

But if you think about it, if we are truly seeking to be disciples of the Christ, there should always be only one set of footprints.

And the tracks we see—and follow-- should be those of Jesus.

Imagine a fresh snowfall in the woods. It's pretty deep, and you haven't got your snow boots. Someone has gone ahead of you, a brave soul who knows the way, and left clear tracks for you to follow if you choose. It's a good path, so you step gingerly into the first boot print, then the next, and the next, feeling no need to blaze a fresh trail when this one is going right where we need to go.

At some point, we see other ways, other tracks we could follow. They tempt us, but the tracks aren't as clear. Maybe the footsteps are too big. Maybe the new path is deep or muddy in spots, or fraught with brambles, leaving us questioning why we ever felt the need to go that way in the first place. So back we go, to the original way we were shown and taught. Back to the clear path Jesus himself describes as the Way (John 14:6).

One set of tracks, belonging to Jesus. How will you follow in Christ's footsteps this Lenten season?

Peace, Hope and Quiet, Pastor Heidi



# **WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 2 - 7 p.m.

Ash Wednesday

Imposition of Ashes 6:45 a.m., 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Worship Service



SUNDAY, MARCH 6 - 10 a.m.

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First Sunday in Lent
Sacrament of

Sacrament of Communion

Greeters: Greta Rich & Doug Turnbull

Liturgist: Linda Ponstingle Ushers: Volunteers Needed Special Music: Chancel Choir



SUNDAY - MARCH 13 - 10 a.m.

Second Sunday in Lent

Greeters: Laura & Dan Winrod
Liturgist: Bruce Keenen
Ushers: Volunteers needed

Special Music: Kelly Wilson, flute



### SUNDAY—MARCH 20 – 10 a.m.

Third Sunday in Lent



Greeter: Judi Pavisich Liturgist: Pam Keenen Ushers: Judi Pavisich Special Music: Dick Ingersoll

and Sharon Heinrich

SUNDAY - MARCH 27 - 10 a.m.

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Greeter: Elaine Coffey Liturgist: Herb Hampson Ushers: Elaine Coffey Special Music: Chancel Choir



**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: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCynOZfg4uKo">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCynOZfg4uKo</a> X7HMnKORbXfQ/videos

# IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy to **Adria** and **Eddy Bond** and family on the death of Adria's mother, **Joyce Solderitsch** on January 26, 2022 at the age of 93.



**† † † † †** 



Our condolences to the family and friends of church member, **Peg Weakley**, who passed away on January 25, 2022. She had been a member here since 2015. Peg was 88 years old.

† † † † †

Our most heartfelt sympathy to Margaret Stayrook

and Blain Stayrook and family on the loss of their brother, John D. Stayrook, on February 6, 2022. John served on the Medina County Drug Task Force. Our prayers go out to his wife, Pam, and their two children, Jacqueline and Adam. He had been a member here



since 1975. He was 60 years old.

**† † † † †** 



Our sympathy is extended to Larry and Debbie Wentz and family on the death of Larry's dad, Robert R. Wentz on February 13, 2022, at the age of 85. Robert was a Freemason, the father of five, the grandfather of

nine, and great-grandfather of eleven.

### **CONGRATULATIONS**



Rev. John D. King, our interim pastor from 2010-2012 was installed as the settled pastor at Brecksville United Church of Christ on February 20, 2022.

#### **COURTESY PLEASE!**

Tissues are provided in the sanctuary for people's use. Please be considerate and do not leave used tissues in the pews; dispose of them as you leave the service. **Thanks!** 





Ash Wednesday is March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Pastor Heidi will offer three opportunities for those who wish to receive ashes. The Sanctuary will be open **6:45-7:30 A.M.** for quiet

meditation and to receive a

blessing and the mark of the Cross. Come and go as you wish. Then at **10:00 A.M.**, Women's Fellowship will meet for fellowship, but will begin their time together with a brief service and imposition of ashes for those who desire to participate. At **7:00 P.M.**, Pastor Heidi will lead a meditative service, culminating in the reception of ashes. All are welcome to join us.

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### **LENTEN BIBLE STUDY**

Beginning Wednesday, March 9, Pastor Heidi, along with Linda Elkins, will be leading a six-week Lenten Bible Study called, "Reading Between the



Lines: Exploring Our Story through Biblical

**Stories.**" We will meet from 1:00-2:00 p.m., in Pilgrim Hall. Materials will be provided; if you wish to bring your Bible, please do so. The study will center around the Lectionary passages from Luke. Feel free to email Pastor Heidi with any questions. If you are interested in joining us, please let Pastor Heidi or the church office know.

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# New Members Are Joining

# NEW MEMBER CLASS

Are you interested in becoming a member of our congregation? Pastor Heidi will lead 2 "Getting to Know Us" classes following the

worship services on March 6<sup>th</sup> and March 13<sup>th</sup>, with reception of new members on **March 20<sup>th</sup>**. Please contact Pastor Heidi or the church office if you are interested in joining our church.

# WE NEED YOU IN 2022!



Sign-up sheets in Pilgrim Hall are waiting for **your name** to be added as a communion server, greeter, usher, coffee hour helper, or bread/pastry

sorter. Don't know how to do any of those things? No worries—we will show you everything you need to know! No experience is needed and everyone is welcome to be a part of our church life.

### **OUR PRAYER LIST**

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Thank you.

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

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Joan Beckwith, Eddy Bond, Mary Carey, Kathy Cockrell, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sam Cuyler, Sr., Linda Elliott, Tom Foley, Ramona Glaze, Sue Hawk, Bob Heddleson, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Judy Maur, Reggie McCray, Heidi & Chuck McDougall, Laurie Meister, Roy Merkle, Michele Mihlack, Lola Millhoane, Gary Paul, Judi Pavisich, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, Peter Smith, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Doug Thorn, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Owen Woodward, Mary Ellen & Bob Zimmerman

Extended Church Family: Ron Adams (Judi Pavisich's friend), Dorene Baldridge, Fred Beba (Theresa's husband), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Jerry Cergol, (Barb Fraunfelder & Dennis Smith's friend), Hunter Colao (Barb & Mark Camp's grandson), Lou Conté (Diana Creecy's partner), Mary Ann Csory (Judi Pavisich's friend), John Dickson (Greg's dad), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Andrew Majoros (Michele Mihlack's cousin), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend) Rudy Matjazic (Judy Pavisich's friend, 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), Thomas O'Shea (Sandy's dad), Terry Robson (Barb & Mark Camp's friend), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Tina Serrano (Elliott Joyce's grandma), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Sandra Wentz (Debbie's daughter-in-law), Weston (Chelsea Cathcart's friend's baby)

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

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h.e.denman@gmail.com

## **MUSIC NOTES**

Many thanks to Carol Foley, Sharon
Heinrich, Tom Foley, Mike Elkins, Matt
Horwich, Brian King, Robert Foley,
Richard Densmore and of course, our
faithful Chancel Choir and the Bell Choir
(with subs Mike Elkins & Nicki Haire) for
sharing their music with us in February for our worship.



The Strongsville Community Band will perform a free concert on Sunday, March 6 at 3:00 PM in the Strongsville Middle School Auditorium. The concert will highlight music

The concert will highlight music from Swing Era. Vocalist

Brittany Fernandez will also be featured in music from *The Sound of Music*.

TIOTI THE SOURCE OF WILSTS.

### THANK YOU NOTES

I would like to thank Pastor Heidi and the many members of the congregation who supported my dad (Carrol Riley) through prayer, especially over the last few months. I also greatly appreciate the cards and support offered to me after his passing. It is a blessing to have a caring church family.

Marjorie Morrison

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DIACONATE "WING" NIGHT FRIDAY, MAY 6<sup>th</sup> from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. at Grindstone Tap House in Berea This year—BONELESS

This year—BONELESS WINGS--along with other tasty foods, beverages,

baskets, raffles, and FUN! We will be needing donations of baskets, so please keep our fundraiser in mind.



The United Church of Christ responds to humanitarian and development needs in the world. Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing<sup>®</sup> carries God's message of love and

hope to people in crisis. Through our work with local churches, conferences, international partners and organizations, One Great Hour of Sharing provides sources of clean water, food, education, health care, small business micro-credit loans, advocacy, resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, emergency relief and rehabilitation as well as disaster preparedness and response. We will be collecting throughout the month of March.

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### **DON'T BE A VICTIM!**

Neither the church nor Pastor Heidi will ever ask you to exchange gift cards for cash or purchase gift cards on



their behalf. If you receive a call, text, or email about this dubious proposition, please disregard.

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# KEEP RECYCLING YOUR PAPER, MAGAZINES.

RECYCLING CARDBOARD.

AND CARDBOARD! PLEASE FLATTEN ALL BOXES WHEN

### **PASTRY PATROL**

Thank you so much to our faithful bread transporters and sorters:
Judy Carte, Maria Graeff, Mike Elkins, Sharon Heinrich, Sally Herzog, Linda Kapcar, Sharon & Jim Maresco, Sharon Lempner, and Rick & Cherie



**Teagno**, who continue to make the Panera Bread ministry possible! Special thanks to **Cathy Hawk** and **Irene Joyce** for transporting the baked goods downtown when needed.

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### **NEW WINDOWS COMING SOON**



At a special meeting of the congregation on Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, the congregation unanimously voted to accept a

unanimously voted to accept a proposal from Smart Choice Windows to replace the windows upstairs and downstairs in the Sunday School wing of the church

windows • Siding • Gutters School wing of the church building, including the Nursery, classrooms, stairwells, and Pastor's office. Measurements were taken on Tuesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> windows were ordered the next day. It takes 10-12 weeks for the windows to be delivered. This project is underway! Smart Choice (formerly known as Solar Windows & More) installed the windows in our sanctuary and the side room in 2018.

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### **PENNY SUNDAY**

Save those pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and yes, DOLLARS for our next Penny Sunday collection, March 27<sup>th</sup>! All money collected will go to Disaster Relief Ministries.

THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to our Sunday School for Penny Sunday in February! We collected a total \$304.00 for Heifer Project, International.

### **UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS**

 The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

### PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY 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 is organizing a Pastoral Care Ministry Team and would LOVE to

have you take part! (You do not need to be a member of the Diaconate to participate, and you may come and go as you are led.) Watch for more details to come!

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### **GIFT CARDS**

### AN EASY WAY TO BENEFIT THE CHURCH!



You can order gift cards by calling **Jim Joyce** at 216-267-5043 in advance with your order. **Limited stock is available for purchase on Sunday mornings.** 

Thank you to those who continue to support this project by purchasing gift cards!

### HAVEN'T YOU DONE THIS YET?



Are you shopping online? 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. Strongsville UCC has received \$433.77 from Amazon to date.

### ADDRESS CHANGES/ADDITIONS

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

### To update your Church Directory:

#### Karen Rak

8555 Alexandra Drive North Royalton, OH 44133



Church directory update

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#### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - 2022

The ladies will meet on **Wednesday**, **March 2**, at **10 a.m.** In observance of Ash Wednesday, Pastor Heidi will administer ashes and then we will enjoy "Game Day." Various games will be set up on the tables in Pilgrim Hall, so you can choose what you'd like to play. Please join us for a morning of fellowship. If you want and your schedule permits, bring your lunch and beverage; and we will have lunch together. As always, all ladies are welcome to attend all our events.

Please mark your calendars for these programs on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in Pilgrim Hall at church (unless noted otherwise):

### March 2 - Game Day

Each lady brings a game to play or a puzzle to put together.

**April 6 – Make Puppy Chow** (for people) as a fundraiser

May 4 – Getting to Know You – Part 1
Each lady talks 2 to 5 minutes about herself—
her hobbies, interests, collections, etc.

**June 1 – Getting to Know You** – Part 2 A continuation of the previous month's program

July 6 - Program on Pets

September 7 - 11:00 A.M.

Outdoor Picnic at East River Park in Olmsted Falls

October 5 - Program on Medical Ministry

**November 2 – Plan Our Christmas Tea**, Plan Programs for Next Year, Elect Officers

December 4 - Sunday - Christmas Tea

As always, all ladies of the church are welcome to attend those programs that interest them.

### MISSION-OUTREACH COMMITTEE



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 March would be SOUP, VEGGIES, and TUNA.

#### COMING SOON

Plans are underway for our church to lead a community-wide project to put together Disaster Relief kits and fill a



trailer with these much-needed supplies for victims of any sort of disaster. STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION!

# FREE LUNCH FOR ALL HAS ROOM FOR YOU!



2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month at 11:30 a.m.

(Limited space for seating; carryout is available with reservations)

Reservations only. Please call 440-238-5389 by the Friday prior.

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**Reminder**: When the Strongsville City Schools are closed for weather, the Free Lunch for All will not be served that day. We love you and want you to stay safe.

### **UNSUNG HEROES**

Did you know that **Len Lane** saved his BINGO
winnings and donated
395 quarters to
January's Penny



Sunday? Thanks for supporting our Sunday School, Len!

Did you know that **Ingrid Dickson** and **Irene Joyce** shoveled snow on the steps and sidewalks prior to the worship service on Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup>—in heels? Thanks, twins, for clearing the way!

Did you know that **Sarah Hayes** took the initiative and cleaned out and organized the janitor's closet? Thanks for taking care of this unseen, but much-needed, task!



# GOD'S WORK—OUR HANDS Our 2022 Stewardship campaign: pledge cards received to date: 62

### **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 <a href="https://www.strongsvilleucc.com">www.strongsvilleucc.com</a> 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

### Mike Elkins

Below is a monthly report listing the budget income we need to receive from Pledges and Offerings and the amount received from February 6 through February 27, 2022. Thank you to everyone who supports our church and its ministries.

Offering Needed \$14,597.48 for 4 Sundays
Offering Received 10,516.00
(-\$4,081.48)

### **CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2022**

Elected January 30, 2022 \*= 1 year term

ModeratorGreg DicksonVice-ModeratorJennifer BarryTreasurerSally HerzogClerkJudy Gaumer

### **Sunday School Co-Superintendents**

Linda Elkins Serena Abruzzino

#### **Board of Trustees**

Myron Costin Diana Creecy Bill Giuliano\* Herb Hampson Dale Hawk Sarah Hayes Sandy Pogozelski\* Dave Sekorky Ed Sobek\* Rachel Zielinski

### **Endowment Fund Subcommittee**

Greg Dickson Linda Stepan Joyce Reed\*

### **Diaconate**

Teri Barbish Barbara Camp\* Elaine Coffey
Cathy Hawk\* Linda Kapcar Bobbie Krisak
Sharon Maresco Linda Ponstingle Cheryl Sobek\*
Cherie Teagno Barbara White\*

### **Christian Education Committee**

Serena Abruzzino\* Mary Densmore Linda Elkins Amanda Marshall Lora Rung

### **Music Committee**

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

### **Stewardship Committee**

Sue Gigliotti\* Beth Giuliano\* Judi Pavisich Richard Taylor Rob Toth

### **Mission and Outreach Committee**

Judy Carte\* Sarah Hayes Bobbie Krisak Lora Rung\* Jennifer Sekorky Bev Wehr\*

### ANNUAL ALL FAMILY WINTER RETREAT

49 attendees (35 overnight guests) had a great time sledding, playing games, socializing, and of course, eating at Templed Hills Camp in



Bellville, Ohio. Please mark your calendars for President's Day weekend next year:

February 17-19, 2023 and plan to join in the fun!

### STEEPLE LIGHTING

### Week of February 6<sup>th</sup>

Happy 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Ella Rose Hayes on February 5<sup>th</sup>!

Love, Your Church Family

Happy 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday to Walter McKane on February 9<sup>th</sup>!

# With love, Grammy Week of February 13<sup>th</sup>

Happy Birthday to Barbara Craig on February 18<sup>th</sup>! Love, Mom

Happy Valentine's Birthday to Valerie
Hopkins & Vicky Masuga, the "bestest" daughters ever—
Love, Mom Lola Millhoane

### Week of February 20th

Happy Birthday to Pam Craig on February 22<sup>nd</sup>! Love, Mom

### Week of February 27th

Happy Birthday to Larry Wentz on February 29<sup>th</sup>! Love, Mom

To light the steeple, the minimum donation is \$5.00. Multiple dedications are welcomed for each week. Please email the church at <a href="mailto:strongsvilleuuc@gmail.com">strongsvilleuuc@gmail.com</a>. Thank you to everyone who lights our steeple!

### ALTAR FLOWERS FOR FEBRUARY

The altar flowers are given—

# February 6<sup>th</sup>

With Gratitude for my Church Family Judy Carte

### February 13<sup>th</sup>

In celebration of our Granddaughter Hilary's Birthday on Valentine's Day. Love Always, Grandpa George & Grandma Joyce

Celebrating Christ's love for us—Happy Valentine's Day!
Pastor Heidi & Chuck

### February 20<sup>th</sup>

In loving memory of William J. Foley
Always in our hearts, Carol Foley and the Foley Family

## February 27<sup>th</sup>

Happy 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Mike Elkins on February 29<sup>th</sup>! Love, Linda

In Celebration of Penny & Oliver's 7<sup>th</sup> birthday on February 24<sup>th</sup>! The Zielinski Family

You may provide fresh 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 or better yet, email the church at <a href="mailto:strongsvilleucc@gmail.com">strongsvilleucc@gmail.com</a>. Envelopes for enclosing your payment to the church office are also available. Thank you!

A NEW FLOWER CHART FOR 2022 IS POSTED IN PILGRIM HALL-We still have several Sundays available!

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## THRIFT SHOP



The Thrift Shop is OPEN on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. with 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month,
March 17, 2022 — 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
(We're still open on Thursdays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

Special thanks to all our dedicated volunteers!







The United Church of Christ (Congregational) 13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, OH 44136

www.strongsvilleucc.com

