

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 2023 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

When walking, you see things that you miss in a motor car or on the train. You give your mind space to ponder.
-Tom Hodgkinson

Lift your eyes

Did you know that on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, some congregations find creative ways to literally bury the *Alleluia* in the ground, and for the forty days of Lent, no songs with an *Alleluia* refrain are sung during worship? This serves as a reminder that Jesus was buried in a tomb and left for dead.

Just as Jesus is resurrected on Resurrection Sunday, so then, too, on Easter morning the *Alleluia*

is lifted from its resting place. Typically, we rejoice in worship by singing *Christ the Lord is risen today! Alleluia!* Our fasting is finished; our hearts are light.

The implication is that during Lent, we should be sad. Our minds should be filled with thoughts of despair. All in all, it can be a pretty dark time.

I wonder if maybe we are called, not to be sad, but *reflective*. Maybe the purpose behind burying the *Alleluia* is to remind us that the destination matters less than the journey to get there.

These forty days of Lent are a time to slow down, to lean upon the plow and wonder anew with an amazing, hope-filled heart as we reflect on the cross and Christ's path to get there. Our own path may be filled with potholes; this year may be smooth sailing. However we begin Lent, don't rush things. Pause. Take your time. Listen for God's whispered, promised *Alleluia*. It will come.

Peace, Love and Hope,
Pastor Heidi

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY, MARCH 5 – 10 a.m.

Second Sunday in Lent



**Sacrament of
Communion**



Greeter: Linda Plain

Liturgist: Judi

Pavisich

Ushers: Volunteers needed

Special Music: Chancel Choir

SUNDAY, MARCH 12 – 10 a.m.

Third Sunday in Lent



Greeter: Judi Pavisich

Liturgist: Elaine Coffey

Ushers: Judi Pavisich

Special Music: Chancel Choir

SUNDAY, MARCH 19 – 10 a.m.

Fourth Sunday in Lent



Greeter: Volunteer needed

Liturgist: Herb Hampson

Ushers: Roz Fotos

Special Music: Chancel Choir

SUNDAY, MARCH 26 – 10 a.m.

Fifth Sunday in Lent



Penny Sunday

Greeter: Roz Fotos

Liturgist: Pam Keenen

Ushers: Roz Fotos

Special Music: Bell 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:**
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCynOZfg4uKoX7HMnKORbXfQ/videos> **Thanks to Doug Thorn for posting these each week!**

HOLY WEEK

**Sunday, April 2nd
Palm Sunday**

With the traditional processional
of the Palms



**Thursday, April 6th
Maundy Thursday**

Worship service with Sacrament of Holy
Communion in the Sanctuary at 7 p.m.



**Friday, April 7th
Good Friday**

“Song of the Shadows” at 8:15 p.m.
Ecumenical collaboration

At Strongsville United Methodist Church
(13500 Royalton Road –enter of Webster Road)



**Sunday, April 9th
Easter**

Sunrise Service at 7 a.m.



Easter Breakfast 8 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Traditional Worship with Brass at 10 a.m.



Sunday, April 16th



IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Our love and prayers are extended to **Barbara Bridle** and the Bridle family on the death of **Lloyd Bridle** on February 1, 2023. Lloyd had been a member here since 1962 and he and Barbara moved to California in 2018. He was 92 years old. Contributions in Lloyd’s



memory may be given to our Memorial Fund.

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Our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of **Carolyn Frey**, daughter of **John and Jill Frey**, the director of Templed Hills. Carolyn died suddenly of a pulmonary embolism on January 23, 2023. She was 22 years old.



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Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the family and friends of **Len Lane**, who passed away on February 3, 2023. Len was an active member of our church for many years and a wonderful baritone in the choir. He was 93 years old.



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Our condolences also to **Lynne & Reggie McCray** and family on the death of Lynne’s mother, **Laura Urbanic** on February 6, 2023 at the age of 89. A memorial was held at Jardine’s on February 10th.

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BABY BLESSINGS

Cade James Raymond entered the world on February 18, 2023. Proud parents are Lauren & Eric Raymond, plus, Cade will be surrounded by love from his big brother **Brecken**, Grandmother **Lori Deertz** and great-grandmother **Marty Winch**, as well as his church family!



Congratulations to **Kevin & Rachel McKenzie**, new parents to **Ava Jane**, who was born on February 21, 2023. Grandparents are **Kim & Dave McKenzie**.

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LENTEN STUDY: Discovering the S.A.C.R.E.D. Pastor Heidi and Linda Elkins will be offering a six-week Lenten study by Ann Voskamp, whose contemplative, hope-filled teachings will help us rediscover the need for meditative, quiet time in our lives.

We will meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 in the parlor, beginning **March 1**. Mark your calendar now and plan to join us!

CONGREGATIONAL PHOTO MAY 14th



You may recall that our church had a congregational photo scheduled in 2020, which was cancelled by the global pandemic. Well, three years later, we are trying again! The congregational photo is

important to the historic records of the church and the last group picture of our congregation was taken in 2010. Please try to include this rare event in your Mother's Day plans. (The photo is scheduled to be taken immediately following the benediction of the worship service, so you will still have plenty of time to take your mom to brunch.)

PANERA PALS

Thank you so much to our faithful bread transporters and sorters: **Linda Kapcar, Sharon Lempner, and Cherie Teagno**, who continue to make the Panera Bread ministry possible!



PENNY SUNDAY



Thank you to everyone who contributes to our Penny Sunday collection. On January 29th, we collected \$287.35 for World Central Kitchen in Ukraine. In February, we collected \$230.95 for Tabled Hills outdoor ministries. Save those pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and yes, DOLLARS for our next Penny Sunday collection, **March 26, 2023!**

MUSIC NOTES

Many thanks to the **Bell Choir** and the **Chancel Choir**, **The Venner Clarinets (David Ciucevich, Amy Dragga, Dick K. Ingersoll, Marc Paige, and Caroline Stillwell)**, **Ken Mehalko**, and of course, **Tom Foley, Sharon Heinrich, and Mike Elkins** for their music in February. Our choir will be collaborating with the Strongsville UMC and Columbia choirs, along with singers and orchestra musicians from many churches to present Joseph Martin's "Song of the Shadows" on Good Friday, April 7th. This year, the cantata will be held at the Strongsville United Methodist Church.



BEE A BUSY BEE IN 2023



Sign-up sheets in the Gathering Area are waiting for **your name** to be added as a greeter or usher. No experience is necessary—we will show you everything you need to know! Everyone is welcome to be a part of our church life.

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!



Did you know that **Jim Heinrich** installed new toilet seats in the Gathering Area restrooms? Many thanks

from everyone!

Did you know that **Bill Craig** removed the leaking hot water tank (noticed by **Jim Heinrich**) and immediately procured and installed a new one with a one-day turnaround? Thanks a million, Bill!

Did you know that **Jim Joyce** unpacked and assembled the new chairs for the Gathering Area? Many thanks to the Memorial Fund for purchasing these chairs.



IN OUR COMMUNITY

Girl Scout Troop #71363 has placed, and will be stocking and maintaining a weather-proof box with hygiene items on the church's property for people in need. The "Hygiene Library," is located on the lawn facing Royalton Road.



GIFT CARDS PLEASE DON'T FORGET ABOUT THIS EASY, CONVENIENT PROGRAM THAT



BENEFITS 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.**



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.

TRUSTEES NEWS:

- Thank you to all the members of the Board of Trustees and to Ed Sobek for overseeing the repairs to the Royalton Road house that was damaged by a burst water pipe over Christmas weekend. The house should be habitable soon.
- Vestibule project: Take a look at the rear of the sanctuary at the Pearl Road entrance. Beautiful new closets have been built to store service items such as the paraments, acolyte robes, offering plates, envelopes, and candles. Thank you to Diana Creecy for taking the lead on this project and to the Thrift Shop and Diaconate for assisting with funding.
- The Memorial Fund has purchased new chairs for the Gathering Area. Thank you to those who contribute to the Memorial Fund.
- Upcoming issues that the board is addressing include: gutters, tree removal, and tuck-pointing.

OUR PRAYER LIST

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

Long-Term Care or Homebound:

Joan Beckwith, Mary Carey, Laurie Meister, Ruth Milidonis, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Maggie Struhar

Church Family:

Serena Abruzzino, Diana Creecy, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sam Cuyler, Sr., Sue Hawk, Irene Jannsohn, Bruce Keenen, Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Reggie McCray, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkfitz, Gary Paul, Sandy Pogozelski, Cade Raymond, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, Peter Smith, John Toth, Sharon Wilson, Janis Williamson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Ron & Yvonne Adams (Judi Pavisich's friends), Dorene Baldrige, Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Ron Colosimo (Judi Pavisich's friend), Kim Filiautraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Jennifer Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's daughter-in-law), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Tom Irelan (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Patty Kubancik (Sue Gigliotti's sister), Ed Kuhn (Sandy & Don Gleichauf's friend), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Rudy Matjazic (Judi Pavisich's friend), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Thomas O'Shea (Sandy's dad), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Tina Serrano (Elliott Joyce's grandma), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Vicky Smith (Venner Clarinets), Bruce Unger (Sally Herzog's friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Tom (friend of Judi Pavisich), The people of Ukraine, victims of violence, those affected by earthquakes and severe weather

EMAIL PRAYER CHAIN—OPT IN

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

h.e.denman@gmail.com



ADDRESS

CHANGES/ADDITIONS

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

Evan Joyce
28521 West Oviatt Road
Bay Village, OH 44140

Lauren, Eric, Brecken & Cade Raymond
19760 Stoughton Drive
Strongsville OH 44136

Katelyn, Vince, Charlotte & Emma Boden
16085 Lake Forest Drive
Strongsville OH 44136



MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF MARCH
One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves

you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery. Envelopes are in the pews.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our "Souper Bowl" canned soup drive for the Strongsville Emergency Food Bank! We collected 211 cans of soup!



UPDATE ON OUR UKRAINIAN FAMILY

They found a furnished home to rent in the Parma area near many other Ukrainian families. They have started taking "official" English language lessons. Now that they have a house address, they will be able to register the children in school.



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 large sized peanut butter and canned fruit.



THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is OPEN every Thursday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., but be on the lookout for some extended hours on Thursdays. Come

and shop lots of interesting merchandise at amazing prices. Donations are being accepted during those hours, but please try to limit your donations to what you can carry downstairs.

As always, special thanks to our dedicated volunteers and to everyone who supports the Thrift Shop with donations or by shopping!

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR LAST MONTH

The altar flowers are given—

February 5th

Happy 5th Birthday to Ella! —Love, Nana & Papa

February 12th

Happy Birthday to Valerie Hopkins and Vicky Masuga on February 14th!

With Love, Mom

February 19th

In loving memory of William J. Foley—With love, Carol

February 26th

*Happy Birthday to Penny & Oliver Zielinski yesterday!
With Love, Mom & Dad*



THE FLOWER CHART FOR 2023 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 \$30 for two vases; \$15 for one vase. WE HAVE LOTS OF SUNDAYS AVAILABLE—especially in July & October!

STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of February 5th

Happy Birthday to Walter McKane on February 9th!

With Love, Grammy

Week of February 12th

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

February 19th

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

February 26th

*Happy Birthday to Mike Craig on March 2nd!
With love, Grammy*



To light the steeple, the minimum donation is \$5.00. Multiple dedications are welcomed for each week.

Please email strongsvilleuuc@gmail.com. Thank you to everyone who lights our steeple!

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL

Wednesdays

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

New partnership: We were able to share some of the Chik-Fil-A chicken we receive from the Strongsville Emergency Food Bank with Lakewood United Methodist Church for their monthly meal!

Reminder: For the safety of our volunteers and friends, when the Strongsville City Schools are closed on a Wednesday for the weather, the Free Lunch for All will not be serving lunch.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—

Wednesday, March 1st at 1 p.m.

“Guess Who” Bring an old photo of yourself!

Monday, March 6th at 7 p.m.

“Guess Who” Bring old photo of yourself!

Sunday, March 12th Pie Day for π Day (3/14).

Participants are invited to bring a pie to share for Coffee Hour in honor of Pi Day.



CHURCH OFFICERS IN 2023

**Elected January 29, 2023*

Moderator: Greg Dickson **Vice-Moderator:** Jen Barry

Treasurer: Sally Herzog **Clerk:** Judy Gaumer

Sunday School Co-Superintendents

Linda Elkins Mary Densmore*

Board of Trustees

Diana Creecy Chris Goff* Herb Hampson
Cathy Hawk Sarah Hayes Cheryl Sobek*
Dan Winrod* Laura Winrod* Rachel Zielinski

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson Linda Stepan Dave Williams*

Diaconate

Teri Barbish Jean Bittinger* Elaine Coffey
Bobbi Cook* Wayne Cook* Judy Davis*
Carole Kapcar* Linda Kapcar Sharon Maresco
Linda Ponstingle Cherie Teagno Barbara White*
Mary Ellen Zimmerman*

Christian Education Committee

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

Music Committee

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

Stewardship Committee

Judi Pavisich Bill Schneider* Richard Taylor
Rob Toth Mary Willis*

Mission and Outreach Committee

Judy Carte* Sarah Hayes Bobbie Krisak Lora Rung*
Jennifer Sekorky Peter Smith* Bev Wehr
Mary Ellen Zimmerman*

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. **You may also mail a check to Strongsville UCC 13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, OH 44136 or drop it off in the church's mailbox.**

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 5 through February 26, 2023. Thank you to everyone who supports our church and its ministries.**

Offering Needed \$14,468.04 for 4 Sundays
 Offering Received \$12,629.59
 -(\$1,838.45)

Pledge cards received so far for 2023: 62



Please know that you may use any envelope to give your offering--we still need your donations to maintain our ministries! Envelopes are also in the pews and in the Gathering Area for your use.



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **March 14th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **March 21st** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **March 28th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

FROM OUR FRIENDS AT THE STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY BAND

Come and hear live music for FREE on Sunday, March 5th at 3 p.m.

The Strongsville Community Band Winter Concert on Sunday, March 5, 2023, will feature a program of exciting music which will include Klezmer Classics, a selection of well known Jewish songs performed in a traditional Klezmer style. Also being featured on the program will be vocalist Carl Fernstrum, music director of the Strongsville Methodist Church, performing music from Les Misérables. The free concert is on Sunday, March 5 in the Strongsville Middle School Auditorium at 13200 Pearl Rd.

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 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.)



EASTER FLOWERS ORDER FORM

You may choose lilies, hyacinths, or tulips (no color choice). To order, please email the church prior to the deadline of **Sunday, March 19, 2023 at NOON.** The cost is **\$8.00.** Payment is due **March 19, 2023.**

Wording for bulletin:

Given by:

(# of plants) Lilies _____ (x \$8)

Tulips _____ (x \$8)

Hyacinths _____ (x \$8)

Total amount due: \$ _____

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 call or email the church with your order.

For Church Records 2023 Easter Flowers

Total number of plants: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Offering envelope number: _____

Cash/Check No. _____

Name: _____

Order deadline is **Sunday, March 19 at NOON.**
 Payment deadline is **March 19, 2023.**



RETREAT REPORT 2023

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT YOUR CHURCH FRIENDS DO ON PRESIDENT'S DAY WEEKEND EVERY YEAR?

In 2023, 37 guests stayed overnight and 13 came up for the day on Saturday, 1 on Sunday. We used the 8 rooms at Memorial Hall and the newly-reconfigured 4 rooms at Skipper Lodge. We had our hot dog feast, supplemented by the Herzog family recipe chili (made by Sarah Toth), on Friday evening. Jill Frey from UCC Outdoor Ministries, made a presentation on Saturday morning about the financial and physical state of Temple Hills and asked for volunteers to serve on some committees to develop and implement a plan for the camp to "Survive and Thrive."

On Saturday, Rachel Zielinski and Cathy Hawk had cooked up a bunch of taco meat and we had walking tacos with all the fixings for lunch, plus seasoned chicken for variety. Myron Costin brought pulled pork, Rachel Zielinski made cheesy potatoes, and Cathy Hawk made 7-layer salad for dinner. Sunday's lunch was leftover smorgasbord extravaganza. The camp served breakfast only and next year, we may do our own breakfast as well. The oldest attendee was Bruce Keenen and the youngest was Leo Thorn. Along with Leo, first time visitors included Jennifer Olivarez, who came with Evan Joyce and Bobbi & Wayne Cook, who came up for the day on Saturday. Mary Fargo came from the farthest away—New York state. Saturday had mild enough weather to bring even the youngest kids on a hike, where we discovered a cat carcass—ah nature! The antiquers found a new shop in town that supports veterans and we came away with a gorilla suit wearing a coconut bra, some interesting reading materials, and other treasures—good times!

On Saturday night, Rachel & Gary Zielinski organized a game with attendees' high school mascots and a game with celebrities sharing birthdays with our attendees, but the biggest hit was karaoke! All ages enjoyed renditions of songs ranging from Elvis Presley to Disney to the Backstreet Boys and beyond. Dale Hawk constructed a fine-looking horse and the kids were all provided with cowboy hats, bandanas, and sheriff's badges. We limited the amount of prizes for the kids' Crazy Bingo and that worked out well. Also on Saturday night, all the toilets in Skipper were clogged and Andy Lacefield, the camp manager, came out to deal with it, suggesting that we relieve ourselves in the woods. Toilets were back in service late Sunday morning.

The snack table was as bountiful as ever. 7 early risers attended the Sunrise Service and Tom Foley came up on Sunday to play music for the 10 a.m. service. As always, games were played, bellies were filled, friendships were strengthened, and God was present. We need more families to come if we want to be able to have the entire camp to ourselves next year. Everyone is invited to next year's Retreat on President's Day weekend. Please consider joining us for a terrific time of food, fellowship, and FUN!



We'd love for YOU to be in next year's picture!

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RIVER VALLEY PAPER



KEEP RECYCLING YOUR PAPER, MAGAZINES, AND CARDBOARD (Please break down cardboard.) PRO TIP: The bin is usually emptied on Mondays.

is usually emptied on Mondays.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE! You may pledge anytime.

2023 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

S.O.C.K.S.

**Service Offering Community Kindness Sanctuary
Strongsville United Church of Christ
2023 Estimate of Giving**

In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2023:

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 account.

Signed _____

Date ____/____/____





**The United Church of Christ
(Congregational)
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