

**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**

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## MAY 2018 NEWSLETTER

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### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

A lot of churches these days are wondering what they're doing wrong. They tell the world everyone is welcome, and maybe even fly a rainbow flag out front. They have a dynamic preacher; their music, whether traditional, praise or both, is terrific. But for whatever reason, people just aren't showing up. In fact, some people are even *leaving* the church.

Where *are* all those spiritual people we hear about, anyway? Why aren't they interested in *us*?

That might be the wrong question to be asking. Better question: Are we living into Jesus' teachings of Love and Hope? Music changes, pastors move on or retire—but the core message of the gospel remains unchanging, and that's what churches need to offer, today more than ever. That message is *Love*. And that message is for *all*.

There are two phrases that occur frequently in the New Testament: *Don't be afraid* and *Come*.

Angels remind us there is nothing to fear; God, by his very nature, is Love. And in case we have any doubt whether that includes everyone, even poor, pitiful me, here comes Jesus, walking along the beach and into our lives, extending his hand to each one of us and simply saying, *Come*. Come and see what life is really all about. Join me on this adventure and be part of God's creation and plan. It won't be easy—and you won't be alone. Don't be afraid; I am with you *always*.

Jesus invited *you*; now it's your turn to invite others. The guest list is long. Who will *you* invite? Don't be afraid to reach out. You never, ever know whose life could be changed forever by a single word: *Come*.

Peace,  
Pastor Heidi



### WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**SUNDAY – MAY 6 – 10:00 A.M.**

*Sixth Sunday of Easter*  
Rev. Oommen Thomas, Guest Minister

**Strongsville Methodist Church uses Pilgrim Hall  
from 7:30 to 10:00 a.m.  
for their annual Confirmation Breakfast.**

**Liturgists:** Tom Gaumer and Aidan Hurtig  
**Greeter:** Linda Plain  
**Ushers:** Ted and Kelly Bickley  
**Coffee Hour:** Myron Costin

**Concert Series – 3:00 P.M. with reception afterwards**  
*Please see page 3 for more information.*

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**SUNDAY – MAY 13 – 10:00 A.M.**

*Seventh Sunday of Easter – Mother's Day*

**Liturgist:** Gina Gigliotti

**Greeters:**  
Dorothy Ritchie, Gina Cathcart, Sharon Ritchie  
**Usher:** Chuck McDougall  
**Coffee Hour:** Cathy Hawk

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**SUNDAY – MAY 20 – 10:00 A.M.**

*Pentecost Sunday – Confirmation*  
*Strengthen the Church Offering – Page 3*

**Liturgist:** Kenn Oerkfitz  
**Greeters:** Sharon and Karl Kuhlenschmidt  
**Usher:** Chuck McDougall  
**Coffee Hour:** Volunteer Needed

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**SUNDAY – MAY 27 – 10:00 A.M.**

*Trinity Sunday*

**Liturgists:** Ted Bickley and Teddy Bickley  
**Greeters:** Eddy and Adria Bond  
**Usher:** Chuck McDougall  
**Coffee Hour:** Myron Costin

## PULPIT SEARCH UPDATE

Greetings from your Pulpit Search Committee! As we continue in our mission to place our settled pastor, it seems as if it is taking a very long time. Please keep in mind that a typical search usually lasts anywhere from 12 to 18 months, or more. Your committee has been diligently evaluating over 40 ministerial profiles. It is only fair and right to give each profile its due process and thorough investigation. This takes time. We are committed to follow the process set by the UCC, and to ensure that we are fulfilling our obligation with due diligence. The Committee is exceedingly grateful for your continued patience, support and prayers.

Many thanks,

### **Your Pulpit Search Committee**

Ted Bickley, Judy Carte, Kristen Clotworthy,  
Jim Dettmer, Ingrid Dickson, Sally Herzog, Bill Schneider

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## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mr. Paul Hirt  
18627 Shurmer Road, #115  
Strongsville, OH 44136

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## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity? Do you enjoy spending time with seniors? The new Vitalia Living Center, 21452 Royalton Road, is looking for volunteers to assist with leading worship services or helping lead a Bible study for their residents in Assisted Living. If this sounds like something you'd like to know more about, please call **Olivia Vieta** at **216-403-9724**.

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## 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.

June 24 – 2 vases  
July 8 – 2 vases  
September 9 – 2 vases  
September 16 – 1 vase  
October 14 – 1 vase  
December 2 – 1 vase  
December 9 – 2 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.



## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

For our meeting on Wednesday, May 2, at 10:00 a.m.—we will discuss the Book of Forgiving by Desmond Tutu. After the meeting all are welcome to enjoy the Free Lunch Program in Pilgrim Hall.



The group will host a Women's Fellowship Tea on a Saturday in June—date to be announced. You can bring a friend, sister, mother, daughter or any other lady of your choice!



**Tote Bags** – Women's Fellowship Spring Project is to fill about 60 Tote Bags for the Strongsville Food Bank children, ages 5 to 12. The finished bag is about 11" x 12". Donations of any of the items listed below or monetary donations, so we may purchase items, would be appreciated. Monetary donations should be put into an envelope marked "Tote Bag Project" and placed in the church office.

Collection continues until mid-May 2018.

**The collection box is under the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall.** Travel size is best and can be found at Marc's or Target.

### PLEASE DO NOT BRING FAMILY-SIZE ITEMS.

soap (facial size or smaller)	small tissue packets
shampoo	small cars or trucks
body lotion	decks of cards
deodorant	activity books
tooth brushes	coloring books
toothpaste (small tubes)	small stuffed toys ( <i>no bigger than 8"</i> )
wash cloths	blowing bubbles (small bottles)
combs or brushes	sidewalk chalk
pencils	
crayons (16 or 24 count)	

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## WING NITE

*Diaconate Fundraiser*

**Friday – May 4, 2018 – 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.**

**Grindstone Tap House, 826 Front Street in Berea**

The event is on one floor and includes pizza, pasta, wings, salad, 5 types of domestic beer, well drinks, and wine. Tickets are \$25 per person and can be purchased from Kristen Clotworthy or any Diaconate member. We are looking for donations of theme-based baskets to auction at this event. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall for you to write your name and the type of basket you will provide. Thank you for your support of this Diaconate fundraiser.



**STRONGSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

and

**ARTS IN STRONGSVILLE**

**CONCERT SERIES**

**SUNDAY – MAY 6, 2018 – 3:00 P.M.**

**The Satori Winds**

4 Guys with 4 Clarinets and 4 Saxes  
and

**Broadway Bound**

Featuring BW Music Theatre Majors—  
Gillian Han and Friends

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

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



**Thank you** to everyone who supported the March 4 Benefit Concert for our Music Ministry programs. The first half of music by cellist, Tanis Merriman, and violinist, William Merriman, was sublime. The second half was a whole lot of toe tapping fun by Jim's Little Big Band featuring vocalist, Cindy Smith. \$866 was raised and donated to the Organ Restoration Fund. Special thanks to the Dicksons, Keenens, Joyces, Heinrichs, and Irene Jansohn for organizing the reception, with assistance from wine servers, Jennifer Barry and Kristen Clotworthy. Thanks also to Ken Mehalko for coordinating the concert and performers. Plus, thanks to our refreshment contributors and helpers—Bobbie Krisak, Bonnie Khavaran, Linda Elkins, and Marty Winch.

**ORC PANCAKE BREAKFAST**



Thank you to all who supported the breakfast for the renovation of our pipe organ on Sunday, April 15. We collected \$807 from ticket sales, \$160 from key stop sales, and \$1,310 in donations for a grand total of \$2,277!

In addition, we thank all volunteers who worked at the breakfast: Clara Barry, Myron Costin, Judy Gaumer, Bill Giuliano, Jim Heinrich, Jim Joyce, Bruce Keenen, Pam Keenen, Sarah Keenen, Bob Kovatich, John Maringer, Sandy O'Shea, Christian Scott, Ed Sobek, Doug Thorn, Josh Trinckes, and Clay Williams.

**BIRTHS**

Our congratulations to  
parents, Chad and Brittany and  
big brother, Cole  
on the birth of Owen Raymond Johnson  
on April 4, 2018!

Congratulations also to  
great-grandma, Lola Millhoane  
grandparents, Dan and Vicky Masuga and  
parents, Kyleen (Masuga) and Joe Avramovich  
on the birth of Luke Daniel Avramovich  
on April 12, 2018!



**THE THRIFT SHOP**

The Thrift Shop will be open every Thursday in May from 10 to 4, and we are stocked with lots of spring and summer items. We have décor for your home and clothing for the entire family. Why shop at Kohl's for summer clothing when the Thrift Shop can save you lots of cash? Doing any spring cleaning of closets? Recycle with the Thrift Shop. If you bring in clothing on hangers, please hang it on the coat rack in the gathering area and mark it Thrift Shop. We love receiving clothing on hangers because it doesn't get wrinkled. We will either recycle the hangers, sell them, or return them to you. Why buy hangers elsewhere when you can purchase them in the Thrift Shop?

If you aren't receiving a weekly email from the Thrift Shop, just let us know. We will add you to our email list of over 300 customers. When donating please remember safety first. Do not stack bags and boxes on the stairs.

**STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING**

**May 20, 2018**

The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. We will receive the STC offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 20, 2018.

## ADULT SOCIAL CLUB

The club meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the church. Their next meeting is May 16.

Mark your calendars now for these Sunday events!

### May 20

Hard Rock Casino (via Lakefront Bus)  
Depart from Senior Center at 12:00 Noon  
(\$20 in Free Play given)

### June 24

Cleveland Aquarium (via Lakefront Bus with meal stop)

### July 22

All Church Picnic at Volunteer Park on West Lunn Road

### August 19

Botanical Gardens (via Lakefront Bus)  
Dinner in Little Italy

### September 14

The Platters (Dinner & Show) at Carrie Cerino's

### September 16

Jilbert Winery & Brewery in Valley City

### October 7

The Ohio Mart at Stan Hywet Mansion  
(via Lakefront Bus)

### November 13

A Branson Country Christmas (Dinner & Show)  
at Carrie Cerino's

### December 12

Downtown Holiday Lights Tour  
(via Lakefront Bus with meal stop)

*To make reservations for any of these events,  
please contact Linda Plain at (440) 668-4848*

*For more information please contact Adria or Eddy Bond.*

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



## 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 **March 18 through April 15, 2018.**

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



Offering Needed	\$18,246.55 for 5 Sundays
<u>Offering Received</u>	<u>17,598.28</u>
Difference	(\$648.27)

## OUR PRAYER LIST

*If you or a family member would like a visit, please call the church at (440) 238-6697. Please provide updates for this list. Thank you.*

**Long-Term Care or Homebound:** Betty Bushea at Danbury Senior Living in Brunswick, Janet Kato at Kemper House, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

**Church Family:** Steve Herzog, Margot James, Bobbie Krisak, Karl Kuhlenschmidt, Martha Liebert, Sandra Manos (mother of Eli), Lacey Marshall (daughter of Amanda and John), Sloane Masuga (daughter of Jake and Lauren), Lynne McCray, Laurie Meister, Karen Morgan, Joyce Reed, Barbara Toth, 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), Michele Cortese (friend of Heinrichs), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Joyce Freeman (sister of Carol Woodward), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Karen Greenway and daughters (friends of Judi Pavisich), Sam Harteis (friend of Reeds), Diane Mason (friend of Lora Rung), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Muriel McKeever (mother of Pastor Heidi), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Keith Stewart (cousin of Carol Woodward), Frank Toth (father of Rob), Joe Valli (brother-in-law of Vicky and Dan Masuga)



## GIVING STATEMENTS

Giving statements for those who pledged are available for pickup in the Gathering Area after worship on Sunday mornings in May. If you do not pledge but you would like a statement, please contact Adria Bond at (440) 227-8410.

Please know we will accept pledge cards at any time and not just during the Stewardship campaign.



# STEEPLE LIGHTING

## Week of April 1, 2018

*Happy Birthday today to Rob Wentz  
With love, Grammy*

## Week of April 8, 2018

*In Memory of My Dad, Arthur Hirt,  
on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death on March 28  
Love, Paul*

## Week of April 15, 2018

*Happy Birthday, Mom  
I am without a doubt extremely blessed that God has  
given you to me and my children.  
Love, Serena*

*In Honor of  
Gary and Rachel Zielinski's 6<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary  
Karen Morgan*

## Week of April 22, 2018

*Remembering Allan and Barbara  
The Jim Dettmer Family*

*A special and HUGE thank you to our Thrift Shop ladies  
for their extra volunteer hours and effort  
the past two weeks  
to get the shop cleaned and ready  
for the new spring and summer line of merchandise!*

## Week of April 29, 2018

*In Loving Memory of My Father, Don Bushea  
Barb Fraunfelder*

*In Loving Remembrance of My Father, George Norris,  
on His Birthday Today  
Ginger Rothel*

*God Bless Lloyd and Barbara in California*

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.



# GRADUATES

Graduates will be recognized in church on Sunday, June 10, 2018. Please let us know if someone is graduating within your family. We are interested to have an accurate list of graduates from high school, college, and schools of higher learning.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Earned: \_\_\_\_\_

Activities: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Honors and Awards: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Future Plans: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The graduate will \_\_\_\_\_ will not \_\_\_\_\_ be in church on Sunday, June

If possible, we would appreciate a **graduation announcement and photo of the graduate** for our church graduation bulletin board that will be displayed in June. The announcement and photo will be returned to you.

Please leave this completed form in the church office, or call the church office at (440) 238-6697 with this information **by Sunday, May 27, 2018**. Thank you.