

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

MAY 2020 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

God is a God of the present. God is always in the moment, be that moment hard or easy, joyful and painful.
—Henri J. M. Nouwen

God Happens. (And other stuff, too!)

Wow. Virtual worship has been a really interesting experience for all of us, hasn't it? We are learning as we go, about camera angles and sound pickup (if it's the *same microphone*, why does the sound pick up better in the *pulpit* than on the floor??); about recording and transitioning, about camera angles. The pastor's wife is becoming a very skilled videographer, and the pastor is especially grateful to him, as well as Doug Thorn, who *volunteer their time* when we gather to worship (virtually) every week.

It's hard work. And sometimes, it's less than perfect. Odd sounds are picked up by the camera mic. Wrong hymns are announced. Words are stumbled over. Emergency vehicles scream past during silent prayer.

Sometimes, we back up and give ourselves a do-over. But on Sunday mornings, I don't get a do-over. As in Life, on Sunday mornings, I laugh, correct the course and try not to beat myself up over whatever goes awry. Because in worship, I believe, even when "stuff" happens, *God* happens, too.

For many people who may have been burned by a church, online worship has become a safe portal for re-entry. This time of pandemic may leave some folks anxious, wondering about a Supreme Being, by whatever name we choose to call God. On YouTube, they can peek around the corner, see what we are about. They can see that we love one another, a *lot*, and we are just ordinary people seeking time with one another and with the Almighty.

At the end of the day, I have no doubt in my heart that God has been glorified in our worship. God doesn't expect perfection. God expects us to show up and bring it: bring the joy and the love, as well as the brokenness and frustration.

I believe God celebrates our efforts, our *desire* to bring God our very best (even when we fall short). Stuff happens. (The Greek word for that is *skubalon*.) Whatever happens in life, God manages to turn it for good. And for that, I am forever grateful. (For *you*, I am forever grateful.)

As my mother would say . . . now go wash those little handy pandies!

Faith, Hope, Love--and Peace

Pastor Heidi

ONLINE WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY – MAY 3 – ONLINE
Sacrament of Communion
Fourth Sunday of Easter



SUNDAY – MAY 10 – ONLINE
Fifth Sunday of Easter



SUNDAY – MAY 17 – ONLINE
Sixth Sunday of Easter

SUNDAY – MAY 24 – ONLINE
Seventh Sunday of Easter

SUNDAY – MAY 31 – ONLINE
Pentecost Sunday



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>

I am the Church. You are the Church. We are the Church-- together!

Ever wonder what goes into getting the service up on YouTube every week?

- ♥ Beginning early in the week, **Pastor Heidi** pulls together the general order of worship, including Call to Worship and readings for the week. That goes out by email by Tuesday.
- ♥ **Irene Joyce** takes Pastor Heidi's pieces/ parts and arranges them in coherent order, while also beginning to work on her own roles in worship for the week, including liturgist and musician.
- ♥ Armed with the theme for the week, **Tom Foley** and **Mike Elkins** begin pulling together music for anthems and rehearsing the chosen hymns. They decide what will work and who will sing/ play what.
- ♥ Some weeks, Tom and Mike call upon others to provide special music, including:
 - **Sharon Heinrich**, organist extraordinaire, pianist and sometime vocalist;
 - Sarah Keenen, talented and beautiful soprano soloist;
 - **Ken Mehalko**, who has added clarinet and Native American flute to our virtual services, making them feel more like *home*, while also bringing many years of experience and musical contacts throughout the community to the mix;
 - **Tyler Martin**, student at University of Cincinnati, whose *wonderful* tenor voice added so much to our Palm Sunday service;
 - **Cindy Smith**, whose smooth vocals added *so much* to our recent services.
- ♥ Without volunteers **Doug Thorn**, **Jim Heinrich** and **Chuck McDougall**, the

services would never leave the building. Doug manages the sound board, while Chuck is our newest videographer. By Sunday morning, somehow, through the marvels of modern technology, all this comes together every week and shows up on our YouTube channel and our website.

- ♥ Then comes the (second) most important element of our worship experience: **YOU**. You show up, in your Sunday Best or your jammies, maybe with coffee in hand, and you join us. You pray with us and for us. You sing, I hope, and listen, and learn. You allow God's Holy Spirit (the *most* important element) to work in your heart and in your life. And then—with appropriate social distancing, of course—you take God's Message of Love out into the world.

We are the Church. Together. And I thank you, from the bottom of my heart.

OUR PRAYER LIST

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



Long-Term Care or Homebound: Janet Kato at Kemper House, Martha Liebert, Marge McKinney, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

Church Family: Joan Beckwith, Elaine Coffey, Rev. Larry and Christina Craig, Robert Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Dan Davis, Jim Dettmer, Sue Hawk, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Carole Kapcar, George Kapcar, Debbie Krause, Karl and Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Lacey Marshall, Judy Maur, Laurie Meister, Michele Mihlack, Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, John and Maggie Struhar, Josh Trinckes, Sharon Wilson, Rick Teagno, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Amy Carroll (sister of Marty Winch), Hunter Colao (grandson of Mark & Barb Camp), Lyla Joy Crowley (great grand-niece of Irene Jannsohn), Elaine Fuelling (friend of Judi Pavisich), Rebecca Gordon (niece of Irene Jannsohn), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Dana Hardy (wife of Craig), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Rev. Kent Knife (retired pastor from MHUCC), Diane Mason (friend of Lora Rung), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Zachary McKeever (great-nephew of Pastor Heidi and Chuck), Linda McNabb (sister-in-law of Ginger Rothel), Mae O'Shea (mom of Sandy O'Shea), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Terry Robson (friend of the Camps), Mike Rung (brother of Lora), Amanda Shannon (friend of Sarah & Jon Hayes), Sherry Sheeks (sister of Mark Camp), Brad Williams (friend of Judi Pavisich), Daphne Wilson (niece of Irene Jannsohn)

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



Double Congratulations to Great Grandmother **Lola Millhoane** and Grandparents **Vicky and Dan Masuga**, who welcomed two baby girls into their family in March. **Mila James Avramovich**, daughter of **Kyleen and Joe Avramovich** was born on March 17, 2020, and her cousin, **Audriana Patricia Masuga**, daughter of **Chase and Lauren Masuga**, was born on March 19, 2020!

Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of our Thrift Shop worker, **Carol Lesiak**, who passed away on April 20, 2020. We are grateful for her many years of service to the Thrift Shop. She will be missed by all who knew her. She was buried at Hope Memorial Gardens in Hinckley on April 27, 2020.



Welcome to the world, **Lena Violet Ashforth!** She arrived April 20, 2020 at 11:59 p.m., weighing in at 7 lbs 5 oz and 17.5 inches long. **Mama Nicole** and **Mommy Tiffany** are both doing very well, and **Big Brother Everett** is playing the part like a pro.



Congratulations to the **Hayes family** as they welcomed **Henry Harrison Hayes** on April 24, 2020 at 1:15 p.m., weighing in at 9 lbs. 1 oz. **Mom and Dad Sarah and Jon Hayes** are happy to add to their family and big brother **Jack** and big sister **Ella** will be a great help! **Papa and Nana, Dale and Cathy Hawk** couldn't be more proud!



UNSUNG HEROES

Did you know that **Cathy Hawk, Maria Graeff, Linda Kapcar, Elaine Coffey, Sharon & Jim Maresco, Judy Carte, John Toth, and Mary Ellen**

Zimmerman continue to pick up baked goods from Panera in order to maintain our program of receiving their donations? **Tony Koussa** then delivers the items to folks in need. Thank you, friends!



River Valley Paper Company

APRIL 19 - 25 IS BONUS WEEK!

KEEP RECYCLING YOUR PAPER, MAGAZINES, AND CARDBOARD!

The church (and everyone else) benefits any time you recycle, especially during bonus week where your paper donations count for more. Thank you!



EVEN IF OUR CONGREGATION IS NOT MEETING IN PERSON, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO REACH OUT TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY WITH A CALL, CARD, OR TEXT.



FIT CLUB

We watched the Metropolitan Opera Gala online in April. We will resume our activities once the COVID 19 crisis has abated.

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL

is suspended until further notice, but we are working on a plan to continue to serve the community during the COVID crisis.



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 earned another \$22.78 this past quarter. Every little bit helps!**



You can still order gift cards by calling the church at least two days in advance and then picking them up at the church

office with your payment.

SPONSOR CAROLINE IN INDIA

Thank you to everyone who signed up for 2020:

- January—The Sunday School
- February—Judy Carte
- March—Dorothy & Bill Ritchie
- April—The Hawks
- May—Gina Cathcart
- June—Richard & Mary Densmore
- July—Barbara & John Toth
- August—The Hawks
- September—Bill Robinson
- October—Bev Wehr
- November--Linda Plain
- December—Sharon & Jim Heinrich



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

STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of April 5

To the Glory of God
Rev. Oommen and Leela Thomas
Happy Birthday today to Barb Fraunfelder!

Week of April 12

Happy Birthday today to Beth Giuliano!

Week of April 19

In celebration on our 11B Anniversary!
Ingrid and Greg Dickson

Week of April 26

Happy Birthday to Irene Jannsohn on April 24th
Happy "Special" Birthday to Jen Barry on April 25th
Happy Birthday to Judi Pavisich on April 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 is suspended until further notice.



ALTAR FLOWER DONATION

April 5— Remembering our Dad on his Birthday, April 7th.

Miss you, Dad!

Becky and Bill Robinson



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. **Altar flowers are suspended until our in-person worship services resume.**

PENNY SUNDAY NEWS



Penny Sunday collections will resume on the last Sunday of each month when our in-person worship services return. Keep saving those pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and dollars!

THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is closed until further notice



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



Scheduled meetings/programs are suspended until further notice. Tentative plans:

- July 7 – "Outdoor Picnic in the Park"--TBD
- September 1 – "Go to a Movie" TBD
- October 6 – "A Harvest Craft"
- November/December – "Make Candy" as a fundraiser for the group
- December – "Bring-a-Friend Christmas Tea"

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 **April 5 through April 26 2020.**



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

Offering Needed	\$13,893.08 for 4 Sundays
Offering Received	<u>17,994.53</u>
Difference	\$4,101.45

Thank you to everyone who is maintaining their giving!

FROM THE KITCHEN:



Don't forget to mention Strongsville United Church of Christ when making any purchases at



GFS. Please label any items that are placed in the refrigerators with your NAME/GROUP and the DATE.

KEEP IN MIND FOR THE FUTURE:

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 large sour cream/cottage cheese/yogurt containers for the Altar Flowers and plastic grocery bags, too. **Kitchen users: please remember to take out the garbage after each use.**



Our church supports the Strongsville Emergency Food Bank. They are suspending food

donations through the month of May.

STEWARDSHIP

Now, more than ever, your faithful support is needed to maintain our church and its ministry.

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.

CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2020

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

Kristen Clotworthy

Board of Trustees

Eddy Bond* Greg Dickson Mike Clotworthy*

Myron Costin* Bill Giuliano

Dale Hawk Sandy Pogozeleski

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 Eddy Bond**

Sue Gigliotti* Beth Giuliano Sharon Heinrich**

Judi Pavisich** Bill Schneider**

Mission and Outreach Committee

Judy Carte Bobbie Krisak Tony Koussa*

Michele Mhlack Gary Paul Lora Rung*

Jennifer Sekorky** Bev Wehr

Many thanks to the dedicated officers of our church, who serve so faithfully and make our church run smoothly as we strive to be like Christ in the world.

To the Glory of God

virtual lilies are given...



In Celebration of our children and grandchildren: Brandt,
Gelin & Aidan Camp and Abby, Hunter & Hannah Colao
Mark and Barbara Camp

Happy Easter to My Mom and Dad and
In Loving Memory of My Grandparents—
Peter and Edna Lansell, LeRoy and Rusha Ritchie
Gina Cathcart

In Memory of Gordon Cockrell
Harry and Kathryn Johnson
Harold and Wava Cockrell
Kathryn Cockrell

In Loving Memory of Family and Friends
Jim and Linda Detmer

In Loving Memory of Bill Fraunfelder
and Betty & Don Bushea
Barb Fraunfelder

In Loving Memory of Our Parents and Grandparents,
Betty & Donald Babics
The Gigliotti and Kubancik Families

In Memory of Lois Anne Hampson
Herb Hampson

In Loving Memory of
Erik O. Jannsohn, James J. Joyce Sr. and Mary Joyce-Smith
Michael E. Dickson, Aimee J. Jannsohn, and Brooke M. Akins
Irene A. Jannsohn, Ingrid & Greg Dickson, Irene & Jim Joyce

In Celebration of Children and Grandchildren
Ken Mehalko & Bev Wehr

In Loving Memory of
Joyce Oerkfitz and Richard Churnega
With love, Kenn and Ginny

In Memory of Michael & Sarah Preidt
Stanly & Doris Jackson
Max & Elsie Dewitt
Walter & Agnes Perciak, Sarah Perciak
Tom & Debbie Perciak

In Loving Memory of
Paul and Eileen Mlincek
George Reed Sr. and Marie Wolf
George and Joyce Reed

In Loving Memory of Teddi Rose Reed, whose unconditional
love has touched my heart forever
Joyce Reed

In Loving Memory of Peter and Edna Lansell
In Loving Memory of LeRoy and Rusha Ritchie
Bill and Dorothy Richie

In Loving Memory of Our Grandparents,
Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Clements
In Loving Memory of Our Parents, Roger and Lorna Robinson
In Loving Memory of Our Aunt Rhea Clements
Becky and Bill Robinson

In Loving Memory of Our Parents, Grandparents,
and Great-Grandparents—
Jean and Joe Rung and Willie Mae and Jimmy Lee Cuyler
Lora, Sam, Samuel, and Braxden

In memory of Pat & Dutch Schultz
In Memory of Richard Washington
Patty Sasala

In loving memory of
Harold and Mabel Hamlin
Edward and Jean Sobek
Richard Churnega
Eddie and Cheryl Sobek

In Loving Memory of Tan and Gen Thorn, Bernice Cooper,
Susan Stevenson Tressa, Charles Garner, and Mike Lucan
And Happy Easter to all our friends
Sandy O'Shea, Doug, Schyler, and Devin Thorn

Because of the COVID 19 crisis, we will not be ordering Easter
Lilies this year. If you do not wish to donate the \$8 per plant
to the church and its ministries, please contact Sally Herzog,
treasurer, at camperzog@gmail.com.

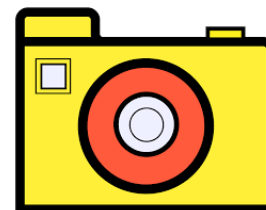
CHURCH OFFICE

The church office is open during regular
hours: Monday-Friday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
However, the doors will be locked and
folks are requested to ring the doorbell
for entry. To facilitate social distancing, email and
phone calls are encouraged. Thank you!



CONGREGATIONAL PHOTO POSTPONED!

The Congregational Photo
which had been scheduled for
Sunday, May 10th has been
postponed until further notice.
We will try to reschedule for a
later date.





A LETTER FROM THE HEARTLAND CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Recommendations to Pastors and Churches Regarding In-Person Worship in May

Dear Friends in Christ,

The season of the COVID 19 pandemic continues to lengthen testing our patience in many ways. There is a palpable, eager longing to gather and return to a sense of what is familiar. Especially there is a yearning to gather in person for worship. We certainly share this desire and also carry a deep concern for everyone's health and safety. Because of this, we write to offer our strong recommendation that congregations not gather for worship at least until May 31st and possibly beyond. We recognize that each congregation has the authority to make its own decisions in this matter but there are several concerns we feel are deeply worthy of your consideration.

First, there still remains the restriction from the Ohio Department of Health regarding large group gatherings and the importance of the continued practice of physical, social distancing. While the COVID 19 curve has been flattened, the potency of the virus remains. Those over age 65 and those with respiratory and autoimmune health issues are still at higher risk, even as we know that COVID 19 has claimed the lives of those much younger and those with no apparent prior health challenges.

Second, the re-engagement of in-person worship will require special planning and protocols that will be necessary to keep our gathered congregations safe. It will be vitally important to have these protocols well developed and well communicated in order to do our part to help prevent a resurgence that would again cause the need for sheltering at home. Now is the time to begin thinking carefully about the guidelines you will follow when the time to meet in person comes.

These weeks and months have been challenging indeed. We are so thankful for your leadership and care. We know this time has required new ways of engaging ministry at practically every level. As always, we hold you in our prayers and are glad to

be available as you consider the next phases of church life and the possibilities of re-gathering.

Blessings on you all!

- Rev. Patricia Battle - patricia.cseo@heartlanducc.org
- Rev. Nayiri Karjian - nayiri.agm@livingwaterone.org
- Rev. Carl Robinson - crobison@sonkaucc.org
- Rev. Dan Busch - dlbusch@nwoa.org
- Rev. Dave Long-Higgins - dave@heartlanducc.org



As governors are trying to figure out how to ease back in to a new normal, please remember:

- ☐ Some people don't agree with the state opening... that's okay. Be kind.
- 🏠 Some people are still planning to stay home... that's okay. Be kind.
- ☐ Some are still scared of getting the virus and a second wave happening....that's okay. Be kind.
- 💰 Some are sighing with relief to go back to work knowing they may not lose their business or their homes....that's okay. Be kind.
- 👤☐ Some are thankful they can finally have a surgery they have put off....that's okay. Be kind.
- 🗓️ Some will be able to attend interviews after weeks without a job....that's okay. Be kind.
- 🕒 Some will wear masks for weeks....that's okay. Be kind.
- 👗☐ Some people will rush out to get the hair or nails done.... that's okay. Be kind.
- ♥️☐ The point is, everyone has different viewpoints/feelings and that's okay. Be kind. We each have a different story. If you need to stay home, stay home. But be kind . If you need to go out, just respect others when in public and be kind!
- Don't judge fellow humans because you're not in their story. We all are in different mental states than we were months ago. So remember, be kind.

GRADUATES

Even though high schools and colleges are not holding in person graduations, we would still like to recognize our graduates. We do not know what form that recognition will take yet, but 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 of graduate:

School:

Graduation Date (month at least):

Church Family member:

Relationship to church member: _____

Activities:

Honors and Awards:

Diploma / Degree Earned:

Future Plans:

Parents/Grandparents:

Please email the above information, **along with a photo of the graduate**, to the church office at strongsvilleucc@gmail.com by **Sunday, June 7.**



CALL FOR CARDS

Our longest (and oldest) church member, Ramona Glaze will turn 100 years old on May 25, 2020. If you would like to send congratulations, please send a card to: Ramona Glaze 18036 Ledgepoint Place Strongsville, OH 44136

