

**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

**Worship at 10:00 A.M. on Sunday**

**Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall**

Pastor

**NOVEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER**

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

**Now thank we all our God**

You may already know my first college degree was in English Literature. One of my favorite poets is the inimitable e. e. cummings. He has a way of painting pictures with words that have opened my eyes and sometimes left me gasping in wonder.

As we move into November and approach Thanksgiving, take a few moments and read this untitled poem of gratitude; let cummings' words settle in your heart. Then take a few minutes and offer your own poetry of thanks to God.

*i thank you god for most this amazing day;  
for the leaping greenly spirits of trees and a blue  
true dream of sky;  
and for everything which is natural which is infinite  
which is **yes**  
(i who have died am alive again today, and this is  
the sun's birthday;  
this is the birth day of life and love and wings  
and of the gay great happening of the illimitably  
earth)  
how should tasting touching hearing seeing  
breathing any-lifted from the no of all nothing-  
human merely being doubt unimaginal You?  
(now the ears of my ears awake and the eyes of  
my eyes are opened)*

As the leaves have turned and dropped, as the heavy grey clouds of November hang heavy and whisper of the cold winter that's just around the corner, pause. Find a quiet space. Let the Spirit move in your heart. Enjoy the beauty of *right here and right now.*

Even in this season of death and darkness, there is much beauty to be found in Creation. With the Psalmist, we proclaim the glory of the Lord:

*Make a joyful noise to God all the earth;  
Sing the glory of God's name; give to God glorious  
praise!*

Peace,  
Pastor Heidi

**WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

**SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 3 – 10:00 A.M.**

*Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost*

**Sacrament of Communion**

**All Saints Sunday**

**Liturgist:** Greg Dickson

**Greeter:** Linda Plain

**Ushers:** Linda Plain/Judi Pavisich

**Coffee Hour:** Volunteer needed

**Special Music:** The Choir & SUCC Band, Ken Mehalko



**SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 10 – 10:00 A.M.**

*Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost*

**Stewardship Sunday**

**Liturgist:** Judi Pavisich

**Greeter:** Betty Craig

**Ushers:** Volunteers needed

**Coffee Hour:** Sharon Heinrich

**Special Music:** The Chancel Choir & SUCC Band

**SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 17 – 10:00 A.M.**

*Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost*

**Liturgist:** Bruce Keenen

**Greeters:** Elaine Coffey/Teri Barbish

**Ushers:** Teri Barbish/Elaine Coffey

**Coffee Hour:** Volunteer needed

**Special Music:** The Bell Choir

**SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 24 – 10:00 A.M.**

*Reign of Christ*

**Penny Sunday**

**Live Nativity and Open House**

**Liturgist:** Betty Craig

**Greeter:** Roy Merkle

**Ushers:** Roy Merkle

**Coffee Hour:** Volunteer needed

**Special Music:** The Chancel Choir & SUCC Band



**WEDNESDAY – NOVEMBER 27–**

**7:00 P.M.**

**Ecumenical Thanksgiving  
Worship**

**at First Lutheran Church**



**ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING EVE  
WORSHIP SERVICE  
November 27 at 7 p.m.**

This year, First Evangelical Lutheran church (just down Royalton Road) is hosting the community Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service. Worship with fellow Christians as we give Thanks for the many blessings God has bestowed upon us. Our own Pastor Heidi will be delivering the message. Clergy and choir members from our sister churches here in Strongsville will be participating in the service. Won't you join your fellow Christians for a time of gratitude and praise?

**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](http://strongsvilleucc.com), go to **Worship**, and click on **Service Videos**.

**HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE & LIVE NATIVITY  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24 5 P.M. – 8 P.M.**

Join the Strongsville Community, your church family, Charlie the camel, Pete the donkey, and their furry friends for the Live Nativity and Open House. Bask in the glow as the City of Strongsville lights the town square and our church welcomes families and friends into our worship home for cookies and hot cider. There are many ways to be involved in this major event: See the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall and sign up to be a part of inviting the community into our church with fellowship, warmth, music, and celebration.



**LOOKING AHEAD TO ADVENT  
Mark your calendars for a busy and  
blessed Christmas season:**

**December 1: 1st Sunday of Advent—10 a.m.**

**December 8: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent—10 a.m.**

**December 13: Christmas Jazz Concert  
Friday evening at 7:30 p.m.**

**December 15: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent—10 a.m.  
Christmas Pageant followed by reception  
and visitor from the North  
**Blue Christmas Service**  
Sunday evening at 7 p.m.**

**December 22: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent—10 a.m.**

**December 24: Christmas Eve Worship  
Tuesday at 7 p.m. & 11 p.m.**

**December 29: Last Sunday worship of 2019**



**OUR PRAYER LIST**

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



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

**Church Family:** Izabella Abruzzino, Serena Abruzzino, Dolores Bail, Jen Barry, Joan Beckwith, Elaine Coffey, Rev. Larry and Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sue Hawk, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Carole Kapcar, Kay Konicek, Debbie Krause, Bobbie Krisak, Karl Kuhlenschmidt, Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Phyllis Kurz (mother of Karen Morgan), Millie Lafave, Lacey Marshall, Judy Maur, Laurie Meister, Michele Mihlack, Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, John and Maggie Struhar, Josh Trinckes, Sally Vetovitz, Bill Williamson, Sharon Wilson, Marty Winch, Kyle Woodward

**Extended Church Family:** Ron & Yvonne Adams (friends of Judi Pavisich), Amy Carroll (sister of Marty Winch), Lyla Joy Crowley (great grand-niece of Irene Jannsohn), Joanne Gigliotti (mom of Lou), Rebecca Gordon (niece of Irene Jannsohn), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), 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), 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), 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.**





## WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS

Marriage blessings to Lynsey and Alejandra Oblisk, who were married by Pastor Heidi on September 29, 2019 at Diamond Event Center in Brunswick.

## WELCOME BABIES!

Congratulations to Grandparents **Mary and Richard Densmore** and parents **Ben and Tonia Densmore** on the birth of their son, **Quest Montgomery R. Densmore** on at 3:30 p.m. on October 20 at Fairview Hospital.



Congratulations also to Grandparents **Dawn and Ken Rolland** and parents **Emily Trill and Connor Crosby** on the birth of their son **Zacari Emmanuelle Crosby**, born on Sunday, October 20 at Fairview Hospital at 3:47 p.m.

Welcome to the world, **Allison Frances Niemira!** Allison arrived Sunday, October 27. Her parents are **Michelle & Steve Niemira**; Allison's siblings are **Jillian and Peter**; and the proud grandparents are **Linda & Dan Ponstingle**.



Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of **Richard Tressa**, who passed away on October 6.

Richard and his late wife, **Susan Stevenson Tressa**, were members here for many years. Prayers go out to their daughters, Judy Holmes (Chris), Tammy Beckett (Michael), and Leah and their families. The memorial service was on October 20 at Jardine's Funeral Home.

On October 26, **Leanna (Leah) Tressa** (Forget) passed away after a long battle with breast cancer. She was 41.

## RECOGNITION OF 50 YEAR MEMBERS



This year, our church celebrated the 50 year memberships of:

**Mary Carey** (joined April 3, 1969)

**Joe Craig** (joined October 5, 1969)

**Gayle Sperber** (joined October 5, 1969)



CONGRATULATIONS!

## OUR PHOTO DIRECTORY!

Directories will be sent to the church and should be available before Thanksgiving for distribution. If you were not photographed by Lifetouch, you may purchase a directory for \$5 through the church office when they arrive. Folks who were photographed at the photo sessions in August receive a copy at no charge.



## STYLE SHOW

featuring fashions from the Thrift Shop

Sponsored by Women's Fellowship

EMCEE: John Toth ASSISTANT: Clay Williams

MAESTRO: Mike Elkins

SOUND: Jim Heinrich/Doug Thorn

STYLISTS: Ingrid Dickson/Irene Joyce/Claire Wills

ORGANIZER: Sharon Heinrich



## MODELS:

Penny Zielinski, Ollie Zielinski, Cherie Teagno

Summer Zoscak, Autumn Zoscak, Bobbie Krisak

Herb Hampson, Elaine Coffey, Gabby Grace

Marley Scott, McKenzi Abruzzino, Serena Abruzzino

Christopher Abruzzino, Judi Pavisich, Irene Jannsohn,

Teri Barbish, Rob Toth, Alysha Rolland, Sandy O'Shea

Extra Special thanks to our Diaconate members for their work setting up, serving, and cleaning up in the kitchen at the Potluck!

## HOW CAN YOU HELP OUT?

Sign-up sheets in Pilgrim Hall are waiting for **your name** to be added as a communion server, greeter, usher, coffee hour helper, bread/pastry sorter, or nursery helper! 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. **Help will be needed in January/February/March to pick up Panera bakery donations on Monday mornings. Please see Kenn Oerkfitz to volunteer.**



**UNSUNG HEROES**



Did you know that **Jim Heinrich** replaced all the lightbulbs in the upstairs bell choir rehearsal space? Now the bell ringers have no more excuses because they can see their music now! Thanks, Jim!

Did you know that **Bill & Dorothy Ritchie** and daughter **Gina Cathcart** donated and delivered all the pumpkins for the Women's Fellowship project and the Sunday School Pumpkin Party? Much appreciated!

Did you know that **Bill Craig** donated his services and materials to repair a leaky toilet in the ladies' room adjacent to Pilgrim Hall? Thank you so much, Bill!

Did you know that **John Toth** repaired the Pilgrim Hall door stop so that it is now operational? Thank you, John!



**INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CHURCH?**

Pastor Heidi will be offering a membership class after the new year. Contact the church office if you would like to be a part of it.



**FIT CLUB**

We welcome any new participants, of any age or fitness level to join us and get moving on most Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m. We also go on field trips to see operas for our cultural fitness. In November, we have *Madama Butterfly* at Strongsville Cinemark on the schedule for the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR FREE LUNCH FOR ALL WEDNESDAYS 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**



Thank you once again to **Bryan Roub** and the **Roub Family Foundation** for their generous donation to the Free Lunch for All program.

Bryan is a 50 year member of Strongsville UCC who resides in Marco Island, Florida. Many folks may remember his mom, **Pearl Roub**, who was a beloved Sunday School teacher, Bell Choir ringer, Women's Fellowship member, and 50 year member.

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. **Every little bit helps!**



And since you're in a shopping mood...you can benefit the church even more by buying Amazon (or many

other) **gift cards** from Jim Joyce in Pilgrim Hall prior to whipping out that credit card. **Please keep us in mind for your upcoming holiday shopping and gift-giving needs!**

**TURKEY DINNER**

Join us on **Saturday, November 9** for an all-you-can-eat meal of roasted turkey with all the trimmings! Seatings are at 5 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. and tickets are \$12 for adults; \$5 for kids 6 – 10, and free for kids under 6. Please see **Beth Giuliano** to reserve your tickets, starting October 6, or call her at 216-598-6198.



**Volunteers will also be needed for this dinner, so please sign up on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall!**

**THE THRIFT SHOP WILL BE OPEN DURING THE TURKEY DINNER, TOO!**

**THRIFT SHOP**

The **Thrift Shop** is open on Thursdays, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., with a bonus Free Lunch for All sale day on Wednesdays once a month from 11 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. Thank you to everyone who donates to, helps at, or buys from the Thrift Shop!







## THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Our goal is to prepare 50 baskets for needy families within our community. Each week we will bring to church the following designated items:

- Oct. 13 cans of green beans, cans of corn boxes of stuffing (like Stove Top) & jars of gravy
- Oct. 27 dessert mixes (like brownies, cake mixes, or cookie mixes) and cans of icing
- Nov. 3 cans of cranberry sauce and boxes of corn muffin mix
- Nov. 10 boxes of instant mashed potatoes or a 5-pound bag of fresh potatoes, canned or fresh yams
- Nov. 17 turkeys or hams

To make a cash donation instead, please make your check payable to **Strongsville United Church of Christ**. On the memo line, write **Thanksgiving Basket**. \$20 covers the cost of the turkey or ham; \$40 covers the cost of a whole basket. All financial donations will be gratefully accepted, whatever the amount. If you know someone who would appreciate a basket, please write the information on your attendance card, or tell Pastor Heidi. Thank you for your support of this worthwhile project.

**IF YOU ARE AVAILABLE ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25 AT 9 A.M., PLEASE COME AND HELP PACK THE FOOD.**

## STEEPLE LIGHTING

### Week of October 6, 2019

*In loving memory of Alfred "Jiggs" Graves  
Love, his daughter Roberta Carpenter  
Happy 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to Pastor Heidi & Chuck!*

### Week of October 13, 2019

*Happy 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Samantha Wentz on October 16<sup>th</sup>  
Love, Grammy  
In remembrance of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary  
of Charles & Aimee Jannsohn's wedding on October 12<sup>th</sup>*

### Week of October 20, 2019

*Happy "Big 40" Birthday to Kristina Craig on October 22<sup>nd</sup>!  
With love, Grammy*

### Week of October 27, 2019

*Happy Anniversary to Hayley & Joey McKane on  
October 28<sup>th</sup>  
and to Trace & Natalia Hill on October 29<sup>th</sup>  
Happy 13<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Gabe Sauter on October 31<sup>st</sup>  
With love, Grammy*

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.



† † † † † † †

**NEW FLOWER CHARTS FOR 2020 WILL BE POSTED IN DECEMBER.**

**Sign up early for your choice of dates!**

## ALTAR FLOWERS



**October 6** – *In celebration of our 5<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary  
Heidi and Chuck McDougall  
In loving memory of my Mom, Margaret Haught  
Jennifer Barry*

**October 13**– *In loving memory of Lois Anne Hampson  
Herb Hampson  
In celebration of our 6<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary  
Deborah and Bill Schneider*

**October 20** – *In loving memory of Bill Fraunfelder  
Barb Fraunfelder  
In loving memory of Karen Morgan for her dedication to  
the choir when I was director--Hank Klink*

**October 27** -- *In loving memory of Chris & Karen Morgan--The Zielinski Family  
In memory of my friend Ray Suttle--Hank Klink*

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. 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.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Christmas Pageant will be on **December 15**. Please watch your bulletins for more info.



The **September Penny Sunday** collection of \$168.33 went toward Sanyuka Children's ministries. The **October** collection of \$137.67 went to UCC Disaster Ministries. The **November** collection will go to National Youth Advocacy Program (NYAP) for foster children in Cuyahoga County.  
\* \* \* \* \*



## SUNDAY SCHOOL PUMPKIN DECORATING PARTY!



## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



Please mark your calendar for upcoming events:

**Tuesday – November 5**  
**10:00 a.m. Meeting in the Parlor at Church**

**Program:** Christmas Tea favors,

Election of Officers, Planning our Christmas Tea

**Sunday – December 1 – Christmas Tea**  
**1:30 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall**



**Women's Fellowship** will host a **Christmas Tea** in Pilgrim Hall on the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend. All ladies of the church are welcome. Please sign up (even if you are a "maybe") on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall, so quantities of food and supplies can be planned. Thank you.

*All ladies (and friends) are welcome to all programs. You need not be a member of Strongsville UCC to join in the fun!*

### FROM THE KITCHEN:

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

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. **Kitchen users: please remember to take out the garbage after each use.**



**MEN'S LUNCH BUNCH** All men are invited the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 11:30 a.m. to Gourmé Deli & Restaurant. (15315 Pearl Road in Strongsville)



Our church supports the **Strongsville Emergency**



**Food Bank. They are especially in need of peanut butter & jelly, soup, tuna, and canned fruit.**

Please bring donations of

non-perishable food items and place them in the collection box nestled in the corner of Pilgrim Hall next to the bulletin board. Thanks, as always, to everyone who donates and especially to **Sharon and Karl Kuhlenschmidt** who transport all the food to the Food Bank every week.



## STEWARDSHIP

Prepare your hearts: a new stewardship campaign, "A Rainbow of Giving" is underway

Stewardship moments will take place during worship through November 3, culminating in the dedication of all pledges on **Stewardship Sunday, November 10**. Plan now to pledge for 2020. Your support is appreciated!

### 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](http://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.

### 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

**September 29 through October 27, 2019.**

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

Offering Needed \$17,610.10 for 5 Sundays

Offering Received 23,690.81.

Difference **(\$6,080.71)**

We also received \$367.00 in the month of October for the Neighbors in Need and \$280.00 for OCWM



River Valley Paper Company

### KEEP RECYCLING YOUR PAPER, MAGAZINES, AND CARDBOARD!

The final recycling bonus week of 2019 is **November 3 – 9**; during that week, the church receives an extra percentage from our paper bin from River Valley Paper Company. Of course, the church (and everyone else) benefits anytime you recycle. Thank you!

**THANKS** to everyone who signed up to water the **Cleveland Pear tree in Karen Morgan's memory:**



Ingrid Dickson, Maria Graeff, Cathy Hawk, Irene Joyce, Sarah Keenen, Judi Pavisich, Ginger Rothel, Cherie Teagno, John Toth, and Sarah Toth  
*(Pictured: Karen's daughter, Rachel Zielinski and her mom, Phyllis Kurz)*



**NOVEMBER 2019 DATES TO REMEMBER**

- 3 Sun **Worship 10am with Communion**  
**All Saints Sunday, dedicate memorials**  
Children's Choir
- 5 Tues Election Day
- 6 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am to 12:30pm  
Fit Club 7:15pm  
Band Rehearsal 8pm
- 7 Thurs Thrift Shop 10am-4pm  
Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8pm
- 8 Fri Prep for Turkey Dinner 9am
- 9 Sat Turkey Dinner 5pm & 6:30pm
- 10 Sun **Worship 10am Stewardship Sunday**  
Children's Choir
- 11 Mon Veteran's Day
- 12 Tues Trustees Meeting 7pm
- 13 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am to 12:30pm  
Fit Club to *Madama Butterfly*  
Band Rehearsal 8pm
- 14 Thurs Thrift Shop 10am-4pm  
Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8pm
- 17 Sun **Worship 10am**  
Children's Choir
- 19 Tue Diaconate Meeting, 7pm
- 20 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am-12:30pm
- 21 Thurs Thrift Shop 10am-4pm  
Men's Luncheon 11:30am  
Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8pm
- 24 Sun **Worship 10am Penny Sunday**  
Children's Choir  
**Open House & Live Nativity 5pm**
- 25 Mon Distribute Turkey Baskets 9am
- 26 Tues Official Board Meeting 7pm
- 27 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am to 12:30pm  
**Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship 7pm**
- 28 Thurs Thanksgiving Day  
(Thrift Shop Closed)



**SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CHORUS  
CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2019**

The **Southwest Community Chorus** and Chamber Singers will present their 2019 Christmas concert on **Sunday, December 8, at 3:00 p.m.** in the United Methodist Church at 170 Seminary Street in Berea.

This year's performance features our Music Director, **Tom Foley** as director, accompanist **Carol Konet**, and church singers: **Ingrid Dickson, Gary Hackett, Irene Joyce, Bruce Keenen, Pam Keenen, Sarah Keenen, Sharon Maresco**, and UCC guest singer, **Craig Hardy**.

Tickets are available in advance at a cost of \$12.50 for adults, \$15 at the door and free for children 12 and under. Save a few bucks by purchasing your tickets from any of the above choir members! You'll enjoy the music, and we'll get you in the Christmas mood. We like looking into the audience and seeing our fellow church members. Thank you!

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**



Many offices in the church will be available for the coming year. Please consider saying **YES** when a member of the Nominating Committee asks you to serve. Some of the positions that are available include serving on the following boards and committees:

**Diaconate**, which oversees the worship operations and church services. The committees of the Diaconate are Acolytes, Altar, Coffee Hour, Funeral, Greeters, Membership, Nursery, Pastoral Relations, Special Events and Ushers.

**Board of Trustees**, which oversees the finances and physical plant of the church. The committees of the Trustees are Building and Grounds, Finance, and Long-Range Planning and Memorial/Endowment.

**Mission & Outreach**, which sponsors projects and our church's benevolence in the local, national, and international communities, including the 5 for 5 offerings through the United Church of Christ

**Stewardship**, which administers a yearly campaign to assess and inspire giving of time, talent, and treasure

**Christian Education**, which oversees the Sunday School and Adult Education programs

**Music Committee**, which supervises all aspects of the Music Ministry

(Next year, **Moderator, Vice Moderator** and **Treasurer** will be up for election.)

Remember the old but true saying, *Many hands make light work*. Plan to be a part of one of these boards or committees. Thank you for your consideration.

**MITTEN TREE ~ FAMILY OF FAITH TREE**



The **Mitten Tree** will be in the Gathering Area from November 10<sup>th</sup> to December 8<sup>th</sup> for collecting hats, gloves, mittens and scarves for Strongsville Food Bank. .

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, the hats, gloves, mittens and scarves will be removed, and the tree will become

the **Family of Faith Tree**, which we will decorate with Christmas ornaments donated by members and friends.

**If you have not yet donated an ornament – or – if you'd like to donate an additional ornament, please bring it to the church office and include your name.** Official Board will prepare a tag with your name, attach the tag to your ornament, and hang the ornament on the Family of Faith Tree. Please know that **your ornament will NOT be returned to you**, but it will become part of the Christmas decorations each year. **Please do not bring expensive heirloom ornaments.**

Thank you for celebrating with your church family in the Mitten Tree, as well as the Family of Faith Tree!

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE  
CHRISTMAS JAZZ CONCERT  
Friday, December 13 at 7:30 p.m.**



Join the Strongsville City Jazz Swing Band for an evening of your favorite Christmas tunes with a little toe-tapping swing! Tickets are only \$10 at the door, \$5 for kids 6-12 and Free for kids under age 6  
**Followed by a wine & cheese reception!**

**CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2019**

*Officers elected on Jan. 27, 2019, 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**

Greg Dickson\* Mike Clotworthy  
Myron Costin Tom Gaumer Bill Giuliano\*  
Dale Hawk\* Bob Kovatich Sandy Pogozelski\*  
Ed Sobek\* Linda Stepan\* Rob Stepan\*

**Endowment Fund Subcommittee**

Irene Jannsohn\* Joyce Reed \*

**Diaconate**

Serena Abruzzino Jennifer Barry\* Eddy Bond\*  
Barbara Camp\* Kristen Clotworthy\*  
Judy Gaumer Cathy Hawk Sarah Hayes\*  
Linda Plain\* Linda Ponstingle\*\* Nicole Stevens\*  
Dawn Rolland Marty Winch\*

**Christian Education Committee**

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

**Music Committee**

Ingrid Dickson\* Ken Mehalko\*  
Pam Keenen Tom Foley Mike Elkins

**Stewardship Committee**

Rosemary Bechtel Eddy Bond\*\* Sue Gigliotti\*  
Beth Giuliano Sharon Heinrich\*\* Bill Schneider\*\*

**Mission and Outreach Committee**

Judy Carte\* Bobbie Krisak\* Tony Koussa\*\*  
Michele Mhlack\* Gary Paul\* Lora Rung Bev Wehr\*



**ANNUAL ALL FAMILY WINTER  
RETREAT**

**February 14 - 16, 2019**

Templed Hills Camp in Bellville, Ohio

The Church's Annual All-Family Winter Retreat will take place on President's Day weekend 2020: February 14, 15, and 16. The sign-up sheet to attend and the sign-up sheet for things to bring and to volunteer will soon be posted on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Please reserve your spot and room now, as rooms will be first-come, first-served. Please contact Irene Joyce or Rachel Zielinski if you have any questions. More information will be coming soon.

**ALTAR POINSETTIA FOR CHRISTMAS EVE**

Order deadline is EARLY: Sunday, November 17, 2019. Please complete this form and place it to the Church office with your cash or check payment. The cost is \$7.00.

Wording for bulletin: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of plants: \_\_\_\_ X \$7.00 / plant = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to **Strongsville United Church of Christ**, and place it with your order in the offering plate, under the office door, or mail it to:

**Strongsville United Church of Christ  
13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, OH 44136**

*Thank you for placing a poinsettia plant on the altar!*

**For Church Treasurer's Records  
2019 Christmas Poinsettia**

Total number of plants: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Offering envelope number: \_\_\_\_\_

Cash/Check No. \_\_\_\_\_

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



**Order deadline is Sunday, November 17, 2019.**