

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)

NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

You and I, the people of God, have permission to come before the throne of Heaven at any time we will, and we are encouraged to come there with great boldness.
—Charles Spurgeon

Do I need permission?

There's a beautiful place in Barcelona, La Sacrada Familia Basilica, that's been under construction since 1882. Designed by Antoni Gaudi, the finished design will have eighteen towers, the tallest of which soars over 170 meters high. It is an architectural wonder, and isn't expected to be completed until 2026. In the meantime (and before the pandemic), tourists flock to this beautiful place every year by the millions.

But apparently, when the construction of the cathedral first began, the builders failed to get a construction permit. (Yes, those were required, even in 1882.) A hundred and thirty-eight years later, the city and the builders have worked out an agreement to pay fines of nearly 32 million pounds—for the oversight of not seeking permission in the first place.

Wouldn't it have been simpler to just do the right thing in the first place?

So often in life, people operate under the principle that it's easier to do whatever we think is best and ask forgiveness later, rather than seek permission in the first place. Every once in a while, that delayed permission comes with a hefty price tag. In God's Kingdom, grace and forgiveness prevail—even when we are foolishly careless.

How do you tend to operate in life? Do you storm through and expect to be forgiven, assuming you get results? When someone else does this and messes up, how easy is it for you to extend grace—even at a cost to your own interests?

As we approach the holidays, ponder the cost of God's generous grace in our lives.

Living in Peace and Hope,
Pastor Heidi

ONLINE WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 1 – ONLINE
Sacrament of Communion
All Saints Day
Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost
Special Music: Pam & Sarah Keenen



SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 8 – ONLINE
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
Special music: Sandy O'Shea

SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 15 – ONLINE
Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Special Music: Richard Densmore, organ

SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 22 – ONLINE
Hanging of the Greens
Reign of Christ
Special Music: Brad Holtman, cello

SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 29 – ONLINE
First Sunday of Advent
Special Music: Sharon Heinrich, organ



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>

THANKSGIVING BASKETS—A LITTLE DIFFERENT THIS YEAR



Due to the global pandemic, we will not be collecting food items and putting together actual Thanksgiving packages for those in need. We still want to provide food assistance to those who may need it, so we will be distributing food gift cards to the families on our list. To make a cash donation for Thanksgiving aid to the needy, please make your check payable to **Strongsville United Church of Christ**. On the memo line, write **Thanksgiving**. All financial donations will be gratefully accepted, whatever the amount. If you know someone who would appreciate a basket, please contact Pastor Heidi. Thank you for your support of this worthwhile project.

**ALL SAINTS DAY
November 1, 2020**

We remember those in our church family who have entered the Kingdom of Heaven this past year, as well as those who have gone on before.



- Barbara Sommers, mother of Sheri Martin (Nov. 2019)
- Betty Bushea (November 2019)
- Allan Haberkorn (December 2019)
- Bill Williamson
- Anita and Bill McKenna (parents of Dennis Smith)
- Carol Snyder (mother of Claudia Bader and Cris Bader)
- Bill Foley (father of Tom Foley)
- Janice C. Stough
- Joseph P. Trill (father of Dawn Rolland)
- Jean Straub
- Carol Lesiak (Thrift Shop volunteer)
- Milton Jacobson (husband of Betty Jacobson)
- Karen Densmore (step-mother of Richard Densmore)
- Jesse Bond (father of Eddy Bond)
- Janet Boggs (mother of Lois Reisinger)
- Janet Davis (grandmother of Chad Johnson)
- Ann Bitterman
- Rev. Larry Craig
- Debbie Churnega Krause
- Elaine Franzen (mother of Barbara Craig)



BABY CONGRATULATIONS!
Congratulations to **Kristopher Justice** and **Brandee Norris** on the birth of their son, **Kiefer Eugene Justice** on October 18, 2020. Kiefer was 8 lbs. 13 oz., 21" long! Congratulations also to proud grandparents **Janice** and **Bill Booth** and new uncle **Jonathan Justice!**



Our heartfelt sympathy to **Bill Bitterman** and the friends and family of **Ann Bitterman**, who passed away on October 9, 2020. Our love and prayers go out to their three granddaughters and all who knew Ann.

We are also deeply saddened by the passing of **Rev. Larry Craig**, who went to his eternal reward on October 14, 2020. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his wife, **Christina**, their children **Sean Craig (Nicole)** and **Heather Fabrey (Joel)** and their families. Pictured here with **Christina**, Larry was a friend of our church after having served at several churches, including West Park UCC, from where he retired.



Our most sincere sympathy to **Lee Krause, Alex Krause (Rose), Kyra Krause** and **Allison Sieving** on the death of **Debbie (Churnega) Krause** on October 21, 2020 due to COVID-19. Our love and prayers also go out to **Ginny Churnega** and **Kenn Oerkfitz, Cheryl** and **Ed Sobek, Dale Churnega** and family. Debbie was confirmed here at Strongsville UCC and had been a member for 42 years. Her family has been a part of our church for seven generations.

Our condolences to **Barbara** and **Joe Craig** and family on the death of **Elaine Franzen**, Barb's mom, who passed away on October 23, 2020 at the age of 92.



THANK YOU NOTES

We thank the **Satori Winds (4 Guys with 4 Saxophones and 4 Clarinets):**

Ken Mehalko, alto sax and clarinet

Dick Ingersoll Jr., alto sax and bass clarinet

Brian Maskow, tenor sax and clarinet

Dick Ingersoll Sr., baritone sax and clarinet for sharing their music with us for worship.

* * * * *

Many thanks to **Sarah Keenen, Dave Williams, Riley Sheppard & Ken Mehalko, Sharon Heinrich, and the Satori Winds** for sharing their music with us in October for our recorded worship services.

* * * * *

Thank you to **Ingrid and Greg Dickson** for donating a touch-less thermometer for use in our in-person worship service. Also, thanks to **Jim Joyce** for helping Greg Dickson and Rob Stepan set up Pilgrim Hall for the service.

* * * * *

Thanks also to **Rob and Linda Stepan** for donating a sound board for our Pilgrim Hall worship service.

From our members...

Thanks to everyone for their thoughtful cards, greetings, and good wishes for our 68th Wedding Anniversary! We are truly blessed with our long marriage and with our church family who cares about us! **Dorothy and Bill Ritchie**

UNSUNG HEROES

Did you know that **Erik Joyce** donated and installed a video doorbell at the church? He even took the time to train the church secretary in its use. Thanks, Erik!



Did you know that **John Marshall** spent his day off work trimming dead branches from the trees surrounding the church's parking lot? Thanks so much, John!

Did you know that **Linda Ponstingle** meticulously cleaned the long standing grape juice stains from the sanctuary carpet? She also brought her iron and worked on old wax stains on the pew cushions. Thank you, Linda!

Did you know that **Gina Cathcart** and **Bill Ritchie** procured a peck of pumpkins for our Penny Saturday drive-through event? We are truly grateful for your help in making that event a success!



OUR PRAYER LIST

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

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

Church Family: Joan Beckwith, Adria Bond, Eddy Bond, Mary Carey, Elaine

Coffey, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Linda Elliott, Don Gleichauf, Riley Hawk, Sue Hawk, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Carole Kapcar, George Kapcar, Tony Koussa, Lee Krause, Lori Kovatich, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Lacey Marshall, Brigitte Matchett, Judy Maur, Laurie Meister, Michele Mhlack, Lola Millhoane, Judi Pavisich, Joyce Reed, Bill Ritchie, Alysha Rolland, Ginger Rothel, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Jamie & Josh Trinckes, Sharon Wilson, Sally Vetovitz, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Ron, Yvonne, & Ronnie Adams (Judi Pavisich's friends), Dorene Baldrige, Jackie & Phil Berkheimer (Judi Pavisich's friends), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Judy Carte's son-in-law, Ryan, Ruby Cuyler (Sam's sister), Donna Fargo (Sally Herzog's mom), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Rev. Kent Knife (retired pastor from MHUCC), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Pat Masuga (Dan's mom), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Zachary McKeever (Pastor Heidi and Chuck's great-nephew), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Carrol Riley (Marjorie Morrison's dad), Terry Robson (the Camps' friend), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Sherry Sheeks (Mark Camp's sister), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Brad Williams (Judi Pavisich's friend), Daphne Wilson (Irene Jannsohn's niece)

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

GIFT CARDS

NEED AN EASY WAY TO CHRISTMAS SHOP?



You can still order gift cards by calling **Jim Joyce** at 216-267-5043 in advance with your order. He will be placing a gift card order at

the end of November, so that you will get your cards in time for Christmas. You may pick up your cards at the church office with your payment at a convenient time. **Thank you to those who continue to support this project by purchasing gift cards!**

Are you an online Christmas 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 received \$235.48 from Amazon as of August, 2020. Thank you!**

STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of October 4th

Happy 80th Birthday to Rev. Oommen Thomas!

With love, Leela

Happy Birthday on October 1st to Betty Dickson!

With love, Greg and Ingrid Dickson

Week of October 11th

With Love and in Celebration of daughter Chelsey Kay and Jeremy Cox's marriage on September 20th and my parents Bill & Dorothy Ritchie's 68th Wedding Anniversary on September 26th

Gina & Chris Cathcart

In loving memory of Alfred "Jiggs" Graves

Roberta Carpenter

Week of October 18th

Happy 21st Birthday to Samantha Wentz on October 16th

Happy Birthday to Kristina Craig on October 22nd

With love, Grammy

Week of October 25th

Happy Anniversary to Hayley & Joey McKane

On October 28th

Happy Anniversary to Natalia & Tracey Hill

on October 29th

Happy 14th Birthday to Gabe Sauter on October 31st

With love, Grammy



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 meets at 11:30 a.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month at Gourmé Restaurant 15315 Pearl Rd. in Strongsville.



OUR CHURCH IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Our church has been helping folks who reach out to us in need through the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

We have provided emergency temporary housing assistance to an out-of-work traveler as well as help with utility bills to a family in need. Our church has partnered with other Strongsville churches, including the Strongsville United Methodist Church, First Evangelical Lutheran Church, and St. Joseph Catholic Church, to be do Christ's work in the community.

SPONSORSHIP OF 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

Reaching The Unreached



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

PANERA BREAD REPORT



The bread and pastries our church picks up from Panera Bread have been distributed to the Salvation Army Residential Program on 55th and Euclid, a low-income senior complex on 89th and Carnegie, St. Malachi, St. Herman's

House of Hospitality, a group home, and out of work musicians. On several Mondays, when we have a large load, our partners distribute the food directly to people in impoverished neighborhoods in Cleveland. Thank you to Cathy Hawk, Linda Kapcar, Linda & Jim Dettmer, Rosie Remle, Judy Carte, Sharon & Jim Maresco, John Toth, Maria Graeff, Rick & Cherie Teagno, Mary Ellen Zimmerman, Kay Kispert, Sharon Lempner, and Dave Newhouse for making this ministry possible.

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. The next bonus week will be **November 15 -21**, but you don't have to wait until then to dispose of your papers. Thank you!



River Valley Paper Company

THRIFT SHOP



The Thrift Shop is OPEN on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. with enhanced safety protocols in place and

lots of interesting merchandise. Donations are being accepted, but you must call the church first to arrange a time for drop-off.

The Thrift Shop received a donation of an old violin, which Pastor Heidi and Chuck researched and put up for sale. The violin was purchased by Caraway Strings in Richardson, Texas for \$250.00 Thank to the Thrift Shop for donating the proceeds from the violin sale to our church's music ministry!



THRIFT SHOP BONUS HOURS
3rd Monday of the month—
NOVEMBER 16th
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Come on down and shop our fall/winter Bargains down at the Shop during these extra hours. (We're still open every Thursday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.)

Also, the Thrift Shop is in need of volunteers to help out for a couple of hours—sorting, organizing, and selling on Thursdays. Please call Cathy Hawk (440-781-7512) if you can help!

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We continue to email each other socially as well as about our group's activities. Ladies, please remember to check your email.



All women are most welcome to be part of Strongsville UCC's Women's Fellowship. Your participation is as much or as little as you choose. For more information, please contact Sharon Heinrich at (440) 234-3025 or Linda Elkins at (440) 655-8891.



The Strongsville Emergency Food Bank is still holding off on donations through December due to COVID. If someone wants to drop off a few items, the needs are still canned veggies and cereal. Thank you. **DONATIONS MAY BE TAKEN DIRECTLY TO THE FOOD BANK.** It is located on Zverina Lane behind the Strongsville Communications Building. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

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.**



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 **October 4 through October 25, 2020.** This information also appears on a weekly basis in our worship bulletin.



Offering Needed \$13,893.08 for 4 Sundays
Offering Received 13,654.50
Difference (- \$ 238.58)

Thank you to everyone who is maintaining their giving!

TRUSTEES UPDATE

You may already be aware, but the Board of Trustees has continued to meet through email meetings, doing the business of the church during this time.

- Had the door frame of our sanctuary doors and the exterior door facing Pearl Road off Pilgrim Hall painted.
- Purchased a portable sound system for Pilgrim Hall to use for in-person worship and meetings.
- Had the larger holes in our parking lot patched and sealed.
- Approved the installation of a video doorbell at the parking lot entrance.
- Voted to accept a bid to have the garage door repainted.

Thank you to our dedicated Trustees !



OUR ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE WILL NOT TAKE PLACE THIS YEAR DUE TO CDC GUIDELINES REGARDING CORONA VIRUS RESTRICTIONS.

MITTEN TREE—YES! WE'RE DOING IT

We will still collect hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, and socks for the needy this year. From now through December 6, 2020, bring your items to the church during office hours and they will be placed on the Mitten Tree. We will update you the progress of the tree as the collection grows.



This is last year's tree and the need this year is even greater.

ADDRESS CHANGES

To update your Church Directory:

Kyra Krause
4821 Columbia Rd. Apt 201
North Olmsted OH 44070

Don Gleichauf
440-382-4958

Sandy Gleichauf
440-382-4957



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

Board of Trustees

Eddy Bond* Greg Dickson Mike Clotworthy*
Myron Costin* Bill Giuliano
Dale Hawk Sandy Pogozelski
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 Sue Gigliotti*
Beth Giuliano Judi Pavisich** Bill Schneider**

Mission and Outreach Committee

Judy Carte Bobbie Krisak Tony Koussa*
Michele Mihlack Gary Paul Lora Rung*
Jennifer Sekorky** Bev Wehr

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:

The comfort of your spirit, The wisdom of your whisper,
The silence of your soul...Volunteers are vital to our mission and we welcome your involvement. Our work is possible because of people like you giving of themselves in service of others. Especially, giving comfort to patients and families dealing with the end of life.

Opportunities include but are not limited to:

- Companionship and support to patients and their family
 - Providing assistance with miscellaneous and clerical duties within our office
 - Assisting in our bereavement department
- No experience necessary.
Orientation and training provided.

InCareOhio Hospice

Martha Cromleigh, Volunteer Coordinator
330-335-9999 OR direct # 330-923-4554

Thank You!
Martha Cromleigh, Volunteer Coordinator
InCareOhio Hospice
Compassionate hearts inspired by Life