

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

NOVEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the one who finds refuge in God. –Psalm 34:8

Here in Ohio, autumn is upon us. The green leaves of summer are changing to brilliant shades of red, yellow and orange. Squirrels are busy, busy, busy gathering nuts and lining their nests for the chilly months ahead. In my closet, the t-shirts once more give way to sweaters; sandals are replaced by hiking shoes with warm, woolly socks awaiting their turn.

I love this time of year, even as it serves as a harbinger of winter, a reminder that all good things must come to an end.

But guess what?

In the circle of Life, in God's perfect time and season, winter will once more give way to spring. A new cycle of rebirth will return, reminding us that every single season brings its own beauty and mystery.

Every. Single. Season. Even the difficult, ugly times. If we have eyes to see and a heart to believe, the grace and wonder of our loving Creator are there, right under our noses!

Walk gently. Notice the changes. Feel the warmth of nature beneath your feet. As the weather turns, give thanks. You are alive! You are aware! God's good creation is yours to explore.

Peace, Love and Hope,
Pastor Heidi & Chuck



WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7 – 10 a.m.

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost



Sacrament of Communion

Greeter: Linda Plain

Liturgist: Pam Keenen

Ushers: Linda Plain

Special Music: Dave Williams

SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 14 – 10 a.m.

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Ginger Rothel

Liturgist: Cherie Teagno

Ushers: Chuck McDougall

Special Music: The Bell Choir

SUNDAY—NOVEMBER 21 – 10 a.m.

Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Judi Pavisich

Liturgist: Dave Williams

Ushers: Judi Pavisich

Special Music: Chancel Choir

SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 28 – 10 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent

Hanging of the Greens



Greeters: Sharon & Karl Kuhlenschmidt

Liturgist: Judi Pavisich

Ushers: Volunteers needed

Special Music: Chancel 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**.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCynOZfg4uKoX7HMnKORbXfQ/videos>

THANKSGIVING BASKETS—A LITTLE DIFFERENT THIS YEAR



Due to the remaining effects of 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. Grocery gift cards may be donated through the church office. If you know someone who would appreciate food assistance, please contact the church office. Thank you for your support of this worthwhile project.

MITTEN TREE—FAMILY OF FAITH TREE



We are collecting hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, and socks for the needy this year. From now through December 5, 2021, bring your items to the church during office hours and they will be placed on the Mitten Tree. After the 5th,

the items will be given to the homeless shelter and the tree will become the Family of Faith tree. If you have not donated an ornament for yourself/your family, you may bring it to the church office and your ornament will join the others on our tree!

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY



Our deepest condolences are extended to **Clay and Jake Williams** on the death of their grandmother, **Arlene Bislich**, who passed away on October 2, 2021. Arlene was **Nancy (Bislich) Grabski's** mother.

The funeral service was held at Jardine's Funeral Home on October 8th.

Our sympathy also to **Judi Pavisich**, whose aunt **Kay McGinty**, passed away on October 5, 2021. Kay had been on our prayer list for a while.

Our heartfelt sympathy to **Tony & Laura Koussa**, and **Gabby Grace** on the unexpected death of Gabby's mom, **Jennifer L. Koussa**, age 36, on October 11, 2021. Jennifer had another daughter, Courtney Mason. A memorial service was held on October 17th at Clearview Church in Columbia Station.



Our condolences to **Jim & Irene Joyce** on the death of Jim's uncle, **Robert J. Helman**, on October 11, 2021 in Windber, PA. Bob died of complications due to COVID-19. He was 88.



Church member **Eileen Pincombe** passed away on September 30, 2021. She was 89 years old. Our sincere sympathy goes out to her family and friends.

PENNY SUNDAY

Thank you to everyone who participated in last month's Penny Sunday. **\$607.40** (a Penny Sunday record!) will benefit our Free Lunch Program.



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS



- **The Board of Trustees** will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **November 9th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- **The Diaconate** will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **November 16th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- **The Official Board** will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **November 23rd** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

OUR PRAYER LIST

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

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



Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Joan Beckwith, Eddy Bond, Mary Carey, Elaine Coffey, Kathy Cockrell, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Linda Elliott, Tom Foley, Ramona Glaze, Sue Hawk, Bob Heddleson, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, George Kapcar, Tony Koussa, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Judy Maur, Reggie McCray, Chuck McDougall, Laurie Meister, Roy Merkle, Michele Mihlack, Lola Millhoane, Gary Paul, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, Peter Smith, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Sharon Wilson, Sally Vetovitz, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Mary Ellen & Bob Zimmerman

Extended Church Family: Dorene Baldrige, Fred Beba (Theresa's husband), Jackie Berkheimer (Judi Pavisich's friend), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Judy Carte's son-in-law, Ryan, Mary Ann Csory (Judi Pavisich's friend), John Dickson (Greg's dad), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Linda Harbison (Jan Meier's sister-in-law), Tiffany Hassel (Judi Pavisich's daughter-in-law), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Diane Gregoire (Judi Pavisich's cousin), 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), Thomas O'Shea (Sandy's dad), Carrol Riley (Marjorie Morrison's dad), Terry Robson (Barb & Mark Camp's friend), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Sandra Wentz (Debbie's daughter-in-law)

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

THANK YOU NOTES

Many thanks to **Carol Foley, Richard Densmore, Sharon Heinrich, Ken Mehalko** and of course, our faithful **Chancel Choir** and the **Bell Choir** for sharing their music with us in October for our worship services.



I was incredibly touched, profoundly moved, and ridiculously surprised by the warm recognition from the congregation, Pastor Heidi, Tom Foley, and Mike Elkins during the October 10th worship service. I am truly blessed to serve as your Church Secretary and I will continue to strive to be deserving of your support and kindness.

Thank you so very much! **Irene Joyce**

During a time like this, we realize how much our friends really mean to us. Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered.

Clay and Jake Williams and family

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR HEIDI & CHUCK

As the seasons change, Chuck and I find ourselves entering a new season together, and are increasingly grateful for you. In case you have not yet heard, as of October 26, this is what we know:

- ♥ The pastor's wife (Chuck) has been diagnosed with Stage IV cancer. We went to the hospital with what seemed to be pneumonia, but the pleural effusion around his left lung revealed malignant cells.
- ♥ Chuck has been poked, prodded, X-rayed and scanned, with more tests to come. As of today, the doctors are still not able to determine where the cells came from.
- ♥ We visited the internal doctor 10/25. Chuck's vitals were strong, as is his positive attitude. As the effusion is slowly drawn off, one liter at a time, his breathing is improving.

Here's what we ask from you:

- ♥ We absolutely covet your prayers.
- ♥ Cards and love notes are wonderful! Please make them light and joy-filled. We are committed to positive thinking, and ask that you be, as well.
- ♥ We may need help with food down the line. Judi Pavisich has agreed to spearhead this effort.
- ♥ Prayers. We LOVE your prayers.
- ♥ Please understand: we will be as open and transparent as we are comfortable being, and ask that you do respect the boundaries we put up. I will provide updates as I am able, but right now, there is literally nothing to share.
- ♥ Did I mention prayers? ☺ ☺ ☺

I have been preaching about the power of being *together* since before we even knew this was our path. The truth remains: We are stronger together, and we will get through this—*together*. Thank you for being the Christ follower you are.

Peace,
Pastor Heidi & Chuck
16101 Westdale Avenue
Cleveland OH 44135

GOD'S WORK—OUR HANDS

Our 2022 Stewardship campaign wraps up on November 14th and we will gather pledge cards during our worship service and dedicate them to the glory of God as we do His work in our church.



MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS



Diana Creecy comes to us via the Middleburg Heights Community UCC and she has been worshipping with us for several months, after our church reopened for in-person worship. She has already joined the Chancel Choir and has said that Strongsville UCC feels like the right place for her. Diana lives in

Strongsville. Her sponsor is Tom Foley.

Manar & Spencer Falvo were married in our church in July of this year and have been coming on Sunday mornings after their honeymoon in Egypt. Manar has two grown sons, Joseph and Yehia. Spencer and Manar feel welcome here and are looking forward to getting to know everyone. The newlyweds live in Strongsville. Their sponsors are Irene and Jim Joyce.



Neal Flowerman has had an interesting faith journey. He is originally from New York and was raised in the Jewish faith. After losing his wife in 2016, he was searching for spiritual guidance. After attending several services, he says he feels a sense of belonging in our congregation. He has already started helping in the Thrift Shop. In 2019, he

married Cathy and they currently reside in North Royalton. Neal's sponsor is Dave Williams.

Carol Foley is a talented musician and a retired music educator. She and her late husband, Bill, were instrumental to the music team at the Federated United Church of Christ in Chagrin Falls and countless other music groups. Carol recently moved to Olmsted Falls and has already been contributing musically to our services. She has three grown sons: Will, Ken, and Tom, and 5 grandchildren. Carol's longtime friends Ken Mehalko and Bev Wehr are sponsoring her.



Martha & John Hattery have been married for 34 years! Martha grew up in the denomination, baptized and confirmed in the UCC. She has been attending our church and brought John along with her, so they both decided to join. Martha expressed appreciation for the relationship our church has with AA. They have a

son named Joseph. The Hatterys live in Strongsville. Judy Carte is their sponsor.

Bob Heddleson feels that God has brought him to our church and that he has found a place here with us. He has been worshipping with us since we reopened for in-person services several months ago. His wife, Beverly passed away in December, 2020. Bob lives in North Royalton. His sponsor is John Toth.



Pat Morchak has been coming to our church off and on for a number of years and she says that the people here kept her coming back. She believes that she can find hope here and a way to take charge of her faith. She and her late husband have two sons, Michael, and Steven. Pat resides in North Royalton, near the Flowermans. Her sponsor is Linda Kapcar.



Women's Fellowship will meet Wednesday, November 3, at 10 a.m. in Pilgrim Hall. We will plan our

Christmas Tea, make Tea centerpieces, and elect officers. **If you have a glue gun, please bring it for making the centerpieces.** Anyone wishing to socialize after the meeting, please bring your own lunch and beverage. As always, all ladies are welcome.



LIVE NATIVITY AND OPEN HOUSE:

For this year's Open House on **Sunday, November 21st**, from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. We will offer a modified event and celebrate safely outside. In an abundance of caution, we will not be offering indoor hospitality this year.



However, we are planning music outdoors. We need volunteers to participate in the Live Nativity (in shifts). Easy to wear costumes are provided and all ages are encouraged to be a part of this wonderful tradition.

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL HAS RESUMED!
2nd & 4th



Wednesdays of the month at 11:30 a.m.
(Limited space

for seating, carryout is available with reservations)

Reservations only. Please call 440-238-5389 by the Friday prior
NOVEMBER DATES: 11/10 AND 11/24

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
SWINGIN' SOUNDS OF THE
SEASON CHRISTMAS
JAZZ CONCERT**



**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17th
at 7 p.m. LIVE MUSIC featuring
Strongsville's Jazz Band!** Tickets
will be \$10 (\$5 for kids under 10)
and we will have a wine & cheese
reception following the concert.

More info coming soon...

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

BONUS WEEK! November 14th – 20th, 2021
PLEASE FLATTEN ALL BOXES WHEN
RECYCLING CARDBOARD.



River Valley Paper Company

BREAD BUDDIES!

Thank you so much to our
faithful bread transporters and
sorters: **Judy Carte, Jim
Dettmer, Maria Graeff, Mike
Elkins, Cathy Hawk, Sharon
Heinrich, Sally Herzog, Linda
Kapcar, Sharon & Jim
Maresco, Pastor Heidi &
Chuck McDougall, Sharon Lempner, Rick & Cherie
Teagno, and John Toth** who continue to make the
Panera Bread ministry possible!



**ADDRESS
CHANGES/ADDITIONS**

To update your Church Directory:

Bryan & Judith Roub
9780 S Tropical Trail
Merritt Island, FL 32952



**THE NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2021 UPPER
ROOM DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE** is available
(large print and pocket size) in the Gathering
Area. Pick up your free copy any Sunday
morning!

UNSUNG HEROES

Did you know that **Jim
Heinrich, Dale & Cathy
Hawk**, and the Thrift

Shop arranged the new safety lighting throughout the
building? Thanks so much!



MISSION-OUTREACH COMMITTEE



The Strongsville Emergency
Food Bank has always been
supported by our
congregation. We would like

to resume having you drop donations off at the
church. The Kuhlenschmidts have agreed to
transport the non-perishable food items to the Food
Bank for us, which makes this ministry possible.
Many thanks to Karl and Sharon. Please
remember, we do not accept expired goods. The
needs for the food bank in November would be
CANNED CORN and **CANNED FRUIT!**

CHRISTMAS FOR VETERANS

Thank you to everyone who donated
socks and candy bars for our Veterans'
Project. Thanks also to Irene Joyce who
donated the sport bags to put the items in.
More than 50 veterans experiencing
homelessness will receive a package with a positive
message, socks, and candy in a reusable bag.



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**

Mike Elkins

Below is a monthly report listing the
budget income we need to receive from Pledges and
Offerings and the amount received from **October 3**
through **October 24, 2021**. *Thank you to everyone
who supports our church and its ministries.*

Offering Needed \$14,597.48 for 4 Sundays
Offering Received 11,694.00
(-\$2903.48)



FIT CLUB RETURNING! Time to "Work-y off that
Turkey." Fit Club will be starting
up again on Wednesdays with a
meeting for interested folks on
November 10 at 5 p.m.



SPONSORSHIP OF CAROLINE IN INDIA

Thank you to everyone who signed up for 2021:

January—Dale & Cathy Hawk February—Ginger Rothel
March—Judy Carte April—Ginger Rothel
May—Sue Gigliotti June—Dorothy & Bill Ritchie
July—Dale & Cathy Hawk August—Dale & Cathy Hawk
September—Bill Robinson October—Dale & Cathy Hawk
November—Barb & Mark Camp
December—Gina Cathcart

Sign-ups for 2022 will be coming soon!

THRIFT SHOP



The Thrift Shop is OPEN on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. with lots of interesting merchandise. Donations are being

accepted, but you must call the church first to arrange a time for drop-off.

THRIFT SHOP BONUS HOURS

The 3rd Thursday of the month,

November 18, 2021 — 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(We're still open on Thursdays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

TOTE BAGS NEEDED!



The Thrift Shop is in need of large reusable tote bags (like the ones you can get at Marc's). Please bring them to the Thrift Shop if you can spare a bag or two.

GIFT CARDS

THINK AHEAD FOR CHRISTMAS!

Please order your Christmas gift cards early-- AN EASY WAY TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR



HOLIDAY SHOPPING NEEDS!

You can order gift cards by calling Jim Joyce at 216-267-5043 in advance with your order. Limited stock is available, but special orders may be accommodated with advance notice.

Thank you to those who continue to support this project by purchasing gift cards!

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.

STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of October 3rd

Happy Birthday to Dave Williams on October 1st!
Happy Anniversary today to Martha & John Hattery!

Week of October 10th

Happy Birthday to Samantha Wentz on October 16th!
With Love, Grammy

Week of October 17th

Happy Birthday to Kristina Craig on October 22nd!
With Love, Grammy

Week of October 24th

Happy Anniversary to Hayley & Joey McKane on October 28th and to Tracey and Natalia Hill on October 29th! --With Love, Grammy

Week of October 31st

Happy Birthday to Gabe Sauter on October 31st!
With Love, Grammy

To light the steeple, the minimum donation is \$5.00. Multiple dedications are welcomed for each week. Please email the church at strongsvilleucc@gmail.com. Thank you to everyone who lights our steeple!

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

The altar flowers are given—

October 3rd

In loving memory of Lois A. Hampson
Herb Hampson

October 10th

Remembering our dad, Roger H. Robinson—51 years since God called you home. Love ya, Dad!
Becky and Bill Robinson

October 17th

Celebrating our Granddaughters Gabbie and Mallory and Grandson Grant's Birthdays this month! --Joyce & George Reed

In honor of my church family--Linda Plain

October 24th

For all our families. Deceased and living.
Roger & Judy Davis

October 31st

Happy Halloween with love from the
Abruzzino-Krisak family

In honor of my longtime neighbors and friends, Dean & Arlene McKay—Irene Jannsohn

You may provide fresh 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 or better yet, email the church at strongsvilleucc@gmail.com. Envelopes for enclosing your payment to the church office are also available. Thank you!

CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2021

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 Co-Superintendents

Linda Elkins** Serena Abruzzino**

Board of Trustees

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 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* Sue Gigliotti* Beth Giuliano
Judi Pavisich** Bill Schneider**

Mission and Outreach Committee

Judy Carte Sarah Hayes** Bobbie Krisak
Michele Mihlack Gary Paul Lora Rung*
Jennifer Sekorky** Bev Wehr

Moderator, who presides over the Official Board and represents the church in the community

Vice-Moderator, who works in tandem with the Moderator, serves on the Nominating Committee, and enlists volunteers for dinners and other Official Board events.

Treasurer: Manages the outgoing finances of the church in conjunction with the Financial Secretary

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

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.

WOULD YOU LIKE A WAY TO SERVE GOD AND SERVE YOUR CHURCH AT THE SAME TIME?

How about volunteering to serve on a church board or committee?



The Nominating Committee, through the Official Board, will be looking for church members to fill the many open positions on our boards. 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:





The United Church of Christ
(Congregational)
13740 Pearl Road
Strongsville, OH 44136

www.strongsvilleucc.com

