

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 2022 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.
Ecclesiastes 4:12

Nice SOCKS!

These past few weeks have taught us all a lot about Life: how unpredictable it can be, how joy-filled yet bittersweet each moment can seem, whether we realize it or not. I have also learned a great deal about you, the Body of Christ at Strongsville United Church of Christ.

This year's stewardship theme could not be more apt. Each week, as we ponder the next letter together (and that's the operative word), I am struck by how beautifully this acronym has played out in the life of our congregation:

- * When a need has appeared, whether for Sunday morning ushers, someone to help move a TV, or someone in need of companionship or dinner, you have appeared to **SERVE** one another as Christ.
- * As Rev. Mary put it on Sunday, this congregation is the *givingest* congregation! You **OFFER** not only from your wallets, but from your hearts and from your lives. Your spiritual gifts flow freely, and I am grateful.
- * The strength of this church family together as **COMMUNITY** truly shows how deeply we love one another! Watching the children come forward, eager to see one another, is a gratifying experience, each and every week.
- * And over all, and through all, there is woven a thread of **KINDNESS**. We don't do these things because we have to; we do these things because we want to. Your hearts, like the Grinch, seem to be constantly growing and growing, filled to overflowing with the Love of God.
- * Where would we all be without our **SANCTUARY** in which to gather? Well, knowing this bunch . . . I suspect we would be wherever God has called us to be: in a parking lot, or a nursing home, or the living room of someone in need—because wherever two or more are gathered in my name, says the Lord, I am there among you (*Matthew 18:20*).

All this is simply my way of saying thank you for showing me and Chuck such loving grace as we journey together. The page is turning, but the story continues. I cannot wait to see where God will lead us next, as we continue to dream, to mourn, to hope—together.

Peace,
Pastor Heidi

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6 – 10 a.m.

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Sacrament of Communion
All Saints Sunday



Greeters: Roger & Judy Davis
Liturgist: Elaine Coffey
Ushers: Judi Pavisich
Special Music: Chancel Choir



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13 – 10 a.m.

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Stewardship Sunday



Greeters: Dale & Cathy Hawk
Liturgist: Mary Ellen Zimmerman
Ushers: Bobbie Krisak
Special Music: Bell Choir

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20 – 10 a.m.

Reign of Christ

Greeter: Judi Pavisich
Liturgist: Herb Hampson
Ushers: Judi Pavisich
Special Music: Chancel Choir



LIVE NATIVITY at 5 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27 – 10 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent

PENNY SUNDAY



Greeter: Elaine Coffey
Liturgist: Pam Keenen
Ushers: Elaine Coffey
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**. **HERE'S THE LINK TO OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL:**

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



RIVER VALLEY PAPER COMPANY
RECYCLING BONUS WEEK—NOV. 6 - 13.

Please bring your clean paper and cardboard to the bin in the parking lot.

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY



We are profoundly saddened by the death of our "Pastor's Wife," **Chuck McDougall**, on Monday, October 17, 2022 and our heartfelt sympathy is extended to **Pastor Heidi**, their whole family, and all of their many friends. Memorial gifts may be given to Strongsville United Church of Christ or St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. **A Celebration of Life will be held on December 29th at 11 a.m. at Strongsville UCC, with a luncheon to follow.**

Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of **Millie Lafave**, who died on Wednesday, October 19, 2022, just a day after her 94th birthday. Our love and prayers are extended to **Gail & Brian Butler**, and to Millie's grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Millie had been a member of our church for 25 years. A memorial service will be held at a later date.



MARRIAGE CONGRATULATIONS

Wishing a long and happy marriage to church members **Kristen (Burgess) and Brian Kohler**, who were married at our church on October 22, 2022.

MUSIC NOTES

Many thanks to the **Bell Choir** and the **Chancel Choir**, **Richard Densmore**, **Dave Williams**, **Roger Davis**, along with **Tom Foley**, **Sharon Heinrich**, and **Mike Elkins** for their music in October.



YOU ARE INVITED! Would you like to be a part of the music program for Christmas? **We are planning a cantata, entitled "Peace" by Joel Raney, for December 18th with the Columbia United Methodist church choir.** If you are interested in joining us and sharing your talent for the Christmas season, please contact **Tom Foley** or **Mike Elkins!**

CONGRATULATIONS

50 YEAR MEMBERS!

Our church's 205th Anniversary Celebration was extra special with 6 out of our 9 newest 50 year members attending our service!



Congratulations to **Betty Jacobson** (at age 101), twins **Valerie Hopkins** and **Vicky Masuga**, **Lola Millhoane** (celebrating her 90th birthday), **Becky Robinson** (from Texas), and **Sharon Wilson!**



Dave Matchett, **Barb Bridle** (in Irvine,



California), and **Richard Sullen** (Not pictured. He lives in Ft. Myers, Florida) were honored from afar.



Thank you to **Jennifer Barry** and her crew for organizing a lovely reception!



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CHORUS:

Please mark your calendar for Sunday, **December 4th** at 3 p.m. for our Christmas

concert at the Berea United Methodist Church (170 Seminary Street in Berea). After 2 years without a Christmas concert, we are back under the direction of Tom Foley, accompanied by Carol Konet. Many of our own SUCC Chancel Choir members also sing in the Southwest Community Chorus. We hope you will support our singers and celebrate the Christmas season with music!

THANK YOU NOTES

I would like to thank the congregation for the cards and prayers after the loss of my mother.

Brigitte Matchett

I would like to convey my deep appreciation to the congregation for all the prayers and the many cards. **THANK YOU!**

Christina Craig

LIVE NATIVITY AND OPEN HOUSE:

For this year's Open House on **Sunday, November 20th**, we

will offer an event similar to last year's and celebrate outside with the community. Once again, we will not be offering indoor hospitality but we will have all the favorite live animals, including Charlie! 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.



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DON'T FORGET!

If you're doing your holiday shopping online, 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. To date, our church has received \$516.12.

GIFT CARDS THE PERFECT WAY TO TAKE CARE OF UPCOMING HOLIDAY SHOPPING AND AN EASY WAY TO BENEFIT THE CHURCH. ORDER



NOW! You can order gift cards by calling **Jim Joyce** at 216-267-5043 in advance with your order. **Limited stock is available for purchase on Sunday mornings.**

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PANERA PALS



Thank you so much to our faithful bread transporters and sorters: **Judy Carte, Neal Flowerman, Maria Graeff, Linda Elkins, Linda Kapcar, Sharon Lempner, and Rick & Cherie Teagno**, who continue to make

the Panera Bread ministry possible! Also, thanks to **Pastor Heidi, Cathy Hawk, Sally Herzog and Irene Joyce** for delivering the bread downtown when needed.

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PENNY SUNDAY

Thank you to everyone who contributes to our Penny



Sunday collection. Update on September's total: \$238.00; thank you also to everyone who participated in October. Save those pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and yes, DOLLARS for our next Penny Sunday collection, **November 27th!**



THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT IS COMING!

Rehearsals will take place during and after Sunday School classes each week prior to

December 18th—OUR PAGEANT DAY, during the worship service!

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NOW COLLECTING...Thanksgiving "Basket" project

We will not be collecting actual food items for those in need, but we still want to provide food assistance to those who may require it, so we will be accepting monetary donations or donations of food gift cards for the families on our list. If you would like to contribute, please give the gift cards to the church office or place a check in the offering plate, labeled



"THANKSGIVING" through **November 13th**. Also, if you know of someone in need, please contact **Pastor Heidi or the church office.**

And the Mitten Tree...

We will collect hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, and socks for the needy this year. From **November 6th through December 4th**, bring your items to the church during office hours and they will be placed on the Mitten Tree. After the 4th, 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!



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Did you know that **Dale Hawk** hauled the old, discarded Pilgrim Hall blinds and about 20 bags of garbage to the dump

for us? Thank you, Dale, for your help!

Did you know that **Herb Hampson**, with help from **John Toth**, installed sturdy railings along the parking lot wall's sidewalk? Your work is helping to make everyone safer, gentlemen—thank you!

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY TEAM



If you like to cook . . . or bake . . . or reach out to others in love . . . as winter and circumstances continue to make it hard to stay connected, your Diaconate is organizing a Pastoral Care Ministry Team and would LOVE to have you take part! (You do not need to be a member of the Diaconate to participate, and you may come and go as you are led.)

PHONE A FRIEND!

Are you interested in praying for others, but don't use email? Your Church Family Care Team has a number of folks who are willing to call you, typically once a week, to share with you the prayer requests Pastor Heidi shares via email. Please let **Linda Ponstingle** know.

OUR PRAYER LIST

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

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Ruth Milidonis, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Joan Beckwith, Lloyd Bridle, Mary Carey, Gina Cathcart, Kathy Cockrell, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sam Cuyler, Sr., Lidiya Dordzhieva, Sue Hawk, Paul Hirt, Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Len Lane, Judy Maur, Reggie McCray, Laurie Meister, Roy Merkle, Michele Mihlack, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkfritz, Gary Paul, Sandy Pogozeleski, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, Autumn Schneider, Tracy Seneff, Peter Smith, Maggie Struhar, Sharon Wilson, Janis Williamson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Rachel Zielinski, Mary Ellen Zimmerman



Extended Church Family: Dorene Baldrige, Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), John Dickson (Greg's dad), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Tiffany Hassel (Judi Pavisich's daughter-in-law), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Ed Kuhn (Sandy & Don Gleichauf's friend), Andrew Majoros (Michele Mihlack's cousin), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Rudy Matjazic (Judi Pavisich's friend), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Zachary McKeever (Pastor Heidi and Chuck's great-nephew), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Heather Overman (friend of Judi Pavisich), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Thomas O'Shea (Sandy's dad), Jeff Peacock, Terry Robson (Barb & Mark Camp's friend), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Tina Serrano (Elliott Joyce's grandma), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Vicky Smith (Venner Clarinets), Bruce Unger (Sally Herzog's friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Weston (Chelsea Cathcart's friend's baby), Tom (friend of Judi Pavisich), The people of Ukraine, victims of violence, those affected by severe weather

EMAIL PRAYER CHAIN—OPT IN

Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain.
h.e.denman@gmail.com



NEW WINDOW BLINDS INSTALLATION

UPDATE: This project was completed on October 28th.

The new blinds look great! Take a look around.

IDEAS WANTED!

The Long Range Planning Committee is interested in your ideas on ways to make improvements for our Church. Some feedback already provided includes an extension of our parking lot and a new structure on the Royalton Road lot that could house outdoor gatherings. If you have any ideas, please email them to Sandy Pogozeleski at pogoze5@gmail.com. All ideas will be discussed at the Board of Trustees meeting for feasibility, funding and prioritization. Projects exceeding \$5,000 require approval by our Congregation.



MISSION-OUTREACH COMMITTEE



The Strongsville Emergency Food Bank has always been supported by our congregation. Please remember, we do not accept expired goods. The needs for the food bank in November would be Veggies and Pasta.

CHRISTMAS FOR VETERANS

For many years, our congregation has provided a small gift for our military veterans of Cuyahoga County that are served by Church Street Ministries of Berea, helping those with needs, especially those transitioning from homelessness. Between 60-100 veterans are served. We include two pairs of socks, along with candy bars. Our Bombas Socks are due to arrive sometime in November. Mission Outreach would appreciate your help with donations of **men's crew socks (Med./Lg./XL) or regular sized candy bars until November 6th**, deposited in the container in the Gathering Area. Monetary donations may be placed in the offering plate, labeled "VETERANS."



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 during those hours, but please try to limit your donations to what you can carry downstairs.

HELP WANTED: Do you know anything about collectibles and/or antiques? If so, we need you! From time to time, donations come into the Thrift Shop that may be worth selling online or in a consignment shop. If you have any knowledge in this area, please contact Cathy Hawk about how you can help.

Special thanks to all our dedicated volunteers!

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR SEPTEMBER

The altar flowers are given—

October 2nd

*In loving memory of Lois A. Hampson--
Herb Hampson*

October 9th

*To honor and remember all those affected by the
devastating hurricanes in Florida--Peter Smith*

October 16th

*In gratitude to Cathy Hawk for all her work in so many of
our church's ministries.*

October 23rd

*In celebration of Granddaughter Gabbie's 20th Birthday
on October 18th and Grandson Grant's 19th Birthday on
the 24th! -Grandpa George & Grandma Joyce Reed*

*Congratulations to "Little k" and Brian on the one day
anniversary of their wedding--The Dicksons & the Joyces*

October 30th

*Happy Birthday tomorrow to Beth (Fraunfelder) Lewis!
Love, Barb Fraunfelder & Dennis Smith*

IMPORTANT: Please pray for Marianne Grega-Knotek,
our florist. She is experiencing health issues and is
unable to provide fresh flowers for a while. If you have
already paid for flowers, please contact the church office.
Also, dedications in the weekly bulletins are still
welcome.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **November 8th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **November 15th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **November 22nd** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL

Wednesdays

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

We have room for YOU!

Please join us for a nutritious meal and warm
fellowship.

ADDRESS CHANGES/ADDITIONS

If you move or change your phone number, please be so
kind as to let the church office know—thanks!

Laurie Meister

18840 Falling Water Road #111
Strongsville, OH 44136

Rev. Oommen & Leela Thomas

26376 John Road #209
Olmsted Falls, OH 44138



STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of October 2nd

*Happy Birthday to Betty Dickson October 1st!
Ingrid & Greg Dickson*

*In memory of Mary L. Joyce-Smith on her
birthday, October 1st--Irene & Jim Joyce*

*Happy Anniversary October 3rd to Martha &
John Hattery*

Week of October 9th

*Happy, happy anniversary to my favorite Pastor's Wife!
Love, Pastor Heidi*

*Happy "Special" Birthday on October 7th to Lola
Millhoane!*

In memory of Alfred "Jiggs" Graves—Roberta Carpenter

Week of October 16th

*Many thanks to my church family and friends for
celebrating my 90th birthday with me. God Bless you all!
Lola Millhoane*

*A Big THANK YOU to the Hopkins and Masuga families
for an awesome weekend of 90th birthday celebrations.*

It was the "bestest" ever—Love, Mom

*Happy Birthday today to Samantha Wentz and to Kristina
Craig on October 22nd!*

With Love, Grammy

Week of October 23rd

*Happy Anniversary to Hayley & Joey McKane on
October 28th and to Tracey & Natalia Hill on October 29th!*

With love, Grammy

In loving memory of Chuck McDougall

Love, your church family

Week of October 30th

Happy 16th Birthday to Gabe Sauter!

With love, Grammy

To light the steeple, the minimum donation is \$5.00.
Multiple dedications are welcomed for each week.

Please email strongsvilleuuc@gmail.com. Thank you
to everyone who lights our steeple!

GIVING OPTIONS



If you are interested in giving electronically,
you can 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.**

2023 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

S.O.C.K.S.

**Service Offering Community Kindness Sanctuary
An Estimate of Giving (Pledge) card is included
with this newsletter. Please prayerfully
consider your gifts to support the ministry of
your church. Pledges will be dedicated during
worship on November 13th.**



ATTENTION ELECTRONIC GIVERS:
zeffy Our new online giving platform, Zeffy, is live! If you would like to give electronically, please go to www.strongsvilleuucc.com and click on the donate button. The MyEoffering service has been terminated. Please see Mike Elkins with any questions. Thank you for giving.

CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2022

*Elected January 30, 2022 * = 1 year term
 **appointed by the Official Board*

Moderator: Greg Dickson **Vice-Moderator:** Jen Barry
Treasurer: Sally Herzog **Clerk:** Judy Gaumer

Sunday School Co-Superintendents

Linda Elkins Serena Abruzzino

Board of Trustees

Myron Costin Diana Creecy Bill Giuliano*
 Herb Hampson Dale Hawk Sarah Hayes
 Sandy Pogozeleski* Dave Sekorky Ed Sobek*
 Rachel Zielinski

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson Linda Stepan Joyce Reed*

Diaconate

Teri Barbish Barbara Camp* Elaine Coffey
 Cathy Hawk* Linda Kapcar Bobbie Krisak
 Sharon Maresco Linda Ponstingle Cheryl Sobek*
 Cherie Teagno Barbara White* Mary Ellen
 Zimmerman**

Christian Education Committee

Serena Abruzzino* Mary Densmore
 Linda Elkins Amanda Marshall Lora Rung

Music Committee

Richard Densmore Ingrid Dickson
 Pam Keenen* Ken Mehalko* Rob Stepan
ex officio: Sharon Heinrich Tom Foley Mike Elkins

Stewardship Committee

Sue Gigliotti* Beth Giuliano* Judi Pavisich
 Bill Schneider** Richard Taylor Rob Toth

Mission and Outreach Committee

Judy Carte* Sarah Hayes Bobbie Krisak Lora Rung*
 Jennifer Sekorky Peter Smith ** Bev Wehr*

**Strongsville United Church of Christ
 2023 Estimate of Giving**

In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2023:

Name _____

Address _____

I plan to give \$_____ each

week month other _____

to be used for

Our Congregation's Ministries and Operations

\$_____

Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)

\$_____

I would like to talk with someone from the Endowment Committee about including the church or church-related institution in my Will.

I would like to talk with someone about using the automatic deduction plan from my checking account.

Signed _____

Date ____/____/____



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 2 through October 23, 2022. Thank you to everyone who supports our church and its ministries.**

Offering Needed \$14,597.48 for 4 Sundays
 Offering Received 14,003.05
 -(\$ 594.43)

Pledge cards received in 2022: 65

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP--
 UPCOMING EVENTS**



November 2 – 1:00 P.M. – Plan Our Christmas Tea, Plan Programs for Next Year, Elect Officers

The Women's Fellowship will be making candy in November and selling it to members of the congregation in December. We will make dark and light chocolate candies – chocolate with peanuts or raisins or coconut, pretzel bark, and pecan bark. **If you are interested in helping, we will be making candy on two dates:**

- **Friday, 11/18, 10 am – 2 pm** (bring your own lunch if you wish)
- **Monday, 11/21, 7 pm - ?**

We will then package candy:

- **Monday, 11/28, 10 am – 2 pm** (bring your own lunch if you wish)

We will sell candy after our worship services:

- **Sunday, 12/4/22**
- **Sunday, 12/11/22**

All women of the church are welcome to join the fun and fellowship!

Please contact **Barb Fraunfelder** with any questions – bfraunfelder@gmail.com or 440-227-9051



**December 11 –
 Sunday – Christmas Tea (Please note change in date.)
 All ladies are welcome to attend all our events.**



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

www.strongsvilleucc.com

Thanksgiving Blessings to You

The Lord is good; His steadfast
love endures forever

Psalm 100:5