

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
13740 Pearl Road
Strongsville, Ohio 44136

(Worship at 10:00 A.M. on Sunday)



Church Telephone: (440) 238-6697
Email: StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com
Website: www.strongsvilleucc.com

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall
Pastor

OCTOBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge, but imagination. —Albert Einstein

What do you see?

One of the things I loved most about teaching young children is their ability to see things that aren't really there. Things that come purely from their wild, busy little minds. Things that, as we grow older, we might no longer see or hear or experience.

Chris Van Allsburg wrote a wonderful book, *The Polar Express*. It's the story of a young boy who is invited to go along on a Christmas Eve adventure. As we ride with him aboard the Polar Express, we are reminded of the wonders of childhood, and the joy of sharing a very special secret.

At the end of the book, the boy and his sister receive a gift from the Visitor from the North: a silver bell, whose tinkling jingle is nothing short of divine. Imagine their surprise when they show the bell to their parents—and they hear nothing!

They have lost their ears that hear. They have grown up.

Throughout Scripture, we find messages that remind us to have *eyes to see* and *ears to hear*. If we lose the innocence of childhood, we can become inured to the beauty of Creation all around us. We might even have a hard time recognizing God's presence in those we love. How tragic would that be?

As we continue travelling this uncertain path into an unknown future, use your imagination. Look for the beautiful and the best in the world. It's still there, sometimes nearly hidden behind the horrible headlines and noisy newsmakers. Don't be afraid—God is still speaking. . . .

Living in Peace and Hope,
Pastor Heidi

P. S. Did you know? Every book Chris Van Allsburg wrote and illustrated contains a hidden picture of his bull terrier Winston? Let a little child lead you to find him.

ONLINE WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY – OCTOBER 4– ONLINE
Sacrament of Communion
Drive-through Blessing of Pets
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost



SUNDAY – OCTOBER 11 – ONLINE
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY!
Contemplative Worship in Pilgrim Hall
10 a.m. – sign up required

SUNDAY – OCTOBER 18 – ONLINE
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

SUNDAY – OCTOBER 25 – ONLINE
Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

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

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Donations accepted for this special offering throughout the month of October.



BLESSING OF THE BEASTS

Sunday, October 4, in addition to our recorded Service of Holy Communion, Pastor Heidi will be honoring St. Francis of Assisi with a **Blessing of the Beasts**. Round up your four-leggers, your reptiles (in cages, please!) and even your stuffed furry friends, and join us between **10:00 and 12:00** to drive through the church parking lot and have your animals receive a blessing (and possibly a treat, as well)! We look forward to trying this fresh expression of our faith in the One who created every living thing and called them *blessed*. Questions? Give the church a call or drop an email off to strongsvilleucc@gmail.com.



COMING SOON...

Sunday, October 11, at 10:00, we will celebrate the 203rd Anniversary of Strongsville United Church of Christ with an **In-person Worship Service**. The service will be contemplative in nature. Tom Foley will provide reflective piano music during the

service. Here is what you need to know and do if you wish to participate:

- ♥ **The service will be held in Pilgrim Hall.**
- ♥ **Masks are required.** If you do not have a mask, we will have some available.
- ♥ **Temperatures will be taken** before you enter the worship space. (If you are feeling unwell, or if you have an underlying health condition, including age, please stay home, even if you have made a reservation.)
- ♥ **Hand sanitizer** will be available.
- ♥ **Reservations are required!** Attendance will be limited to only **40 guests**, in family groups as arranged in advance. Please call the office if you are interested.

Entry into the building will be through the parking lot doors; exit will be through the north door of Pilgrim Hall. **The doors will open at 9:55.** After the service, folks are invited to exit Pilgrim Hall and continue their fellowship in the parking lot. We look forward to this celebratory event!

Please note: This service will **not** be recorded. However, your Worship Team will continue recording the usual service in the Sanctuary, posted to YouTube on Sunday morning.

THANK YOU NOTES



To the best church family & friends ever,
Many thanks for the beautiful cards, get-well wishes, and prayers. It means a lot when

you have to be isolated. I appreciate all the encouragement and will do my best to get well. Love ya all! God Bless, **Lola Millhoane**

Pastor Heidi & church members,
Thank you for remembering and praying for me this year. I appreciate the sweet book as well, that will remind me of all that God hopes for me in my life. Love, **Makenna Hampson** (2020 graduate-granddaughter of Herb)

Strongsville UCC:

Please convey my heartfelt thank you to the congregation for the many 90th birthday wishes I received. I even had several phone calls.

Thanks again, **Lloyd Bridle**

Thank you to **Linda Ponstingle** for creating a mask for every kid in the Sunday School for their Rolling Rally Day gift bags, to **Judi Pavisich** for making soft crinkly tactile toys for the babies, and to **Betty Craig** for crocheting mini blankets for our babies! We are blessed to share the work of your hands with the youngest members of our church family.



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, Gary Hackett, Sharon Heinrich, and the Satori Winds** for sharing their music with us in September for our recorded worship services.



Our sympathy is extended to **Chad and Brittany Johnson**, sons **Cole and Owen**, on the death of Chad's

grandmother, **Janet Davis**, on September 20, 2020.



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, Eddy Bond, Mary Carey, Elaine Coffey, Betty

Craig, Rev. Larry and Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Linda Elliott, Riley Hawk, Sue Hawk, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Carole Kapcar, George Kapcar, Debbie Krause, Tony Koussa, 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 Baldridge, Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Judy Carte's son-in-law, Ryan, Ruby Cuyler (Sam's sister), Elaine Franzen (Barbara Craig'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.

UNSUNG HEROES

Did you know that **Evan Joyce** volunteered his time—11+ hours—to procure and install a new computer for the church office? Thanks so much, Evan!

Heartfelt
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!



Did you know that **Kathie** and **Gary Paul** once again beautified our church grounds with new fall flowers, along with maintaining the plant life around the church building? Your efforts are truly appreciated!

amazonsmile
You Shop. Amazon Gives.

Are you an online shopper? If so, why not benefit the church while you make your purchases from Amazon? It's incredibly easy! Here's what you do:

1. Instead of typing amazon.com into your search bar, type in **smile.amazon.com**.
2. Select United Church of Christ Congregational Strongsville by clicking this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-1298100>
3. Shop as you would normally—that's it!

Your addresses, billing information, and shopping cart are still saved and your Prime membership privileges still apply. A small percentage of your purchase price will go toward supporting the church. **We received \$235.48 from Amazon as of August, 2020. Thank you!**

GIFT CARDS



You can still order gift cards by calling the church in advance with your order. Then 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!**

STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of September 6

In celebration of our 50th Wedding Anniversary on September 12th—Pam and Bruce Keenen
Happy Birthday to Stacie Sauter on September 9th and Eli Sauter on September 12th!—With love, Grammy

Week of September 13

In gratitude for Kristen Clotworthy's service as Sunday School Superintendent
In memory of my parents, Pat and Dutch Schultz and my husband, Richard Washington--Patty Sasala

Week of September 20

Happy Wedding Day to Chelsey Cathcart & Jeremy Cox on September 20th!
Happy Anniversary to Lisa & Brian Bird on September 23rd

In celebration of Bill & Dorothy Ritchie's 68th Wedding Anniversary on September 26th!
With love, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie

Happy Birthday to Abby Craig on September 21st!
With love, Grammy

Week of September 27

Happy September Birthdays to Nina Jannsohn and Erik Joyce--With love, Oma



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.**

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

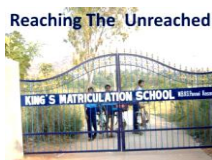
August—The Hawks

September—Bill Robinson

October—Bev Wehr

November—Linda Plain

December—Sharon & Jim Heinrich



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, and out of work musicians. Thank you to Cathy Hawk, Linda Kapcar, Linda & Jim Dettmer, Rosie Remle, Judy Carte, Sharon & Jim Maresco, John Toth, Maria Graeff, Mary Ellen Zimmerman, Kay Kispert, Sharon Lempner, and Dave Newhouse for making this ministry possible.

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.



THRIFT SHOP



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

new look with fresh paint, and lots of interesting merchandise. Donations are once again being accepted, but you must **call** the church first to arrange a time for drop-off. **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 have been emailing each other about how we have been doing. Ladies, if you have not recently checked your email, please do so.



All women are welcome to be part of Women's Fellowship. Your participation can be as much or as little as you wish.

For more information about the group, please contact either of us. We look forward to emailing or talking with you.

If you are interested in Women's Fellowship, please call 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 **September 6 through September 27, 2020**. This information also appears on a weekly basis in our worship bulletin.



Offering Needed \$13,893.08 for 4 Sundays

Offering Received 10,006.50

Difference (- \$3,886.58)

Thank you to everyone who is maintaining their giving!

TRUSTEES UPDATE

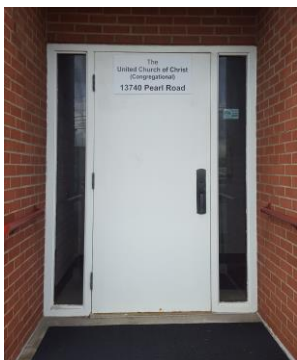
You may already be aware, but the Board of Trustees has continued to meet through email meetings, doing the business of the church during this time.

- Had address signs made and installed on the church doors on the parking lot and Royalton Road doors.
- Voted to approve the purchase and installation of a new computer for the church office, purchased with Memorial funds.
- Hired a painting company to paint the exterior of the building on Pearl Road.

Thank you to our dedicated Trustees !

ADDRESS SIGNS INSTALLED

To facilitate more accurate deliveries and assist visitors, the parking lot door and the Royalton Road doors now have our church name and address prominently displayed.



PEARL ROAD HOUSE REPAINTED



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

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
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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 Mhlack	Gary Paul	Lora Rung*
Jennifer Sekorky**	Bev Wehr	

GOOD NEWS



Betty "Grammy" Craig is on the mend after her hospital stay and rehab. She thanks everyone for their cards, prayers, phone calls, and Get-Well wishes!

ROLLING RALLY DAY

Thank you to everyone who drove through to celebrate Rally Day with us—a different way! Special thanks to **Doug Thorn** for all his work with setting up.

Thanks to our band: **Ken Mehalko, George Kiteley, Tom Foley, Mike Elkins, and Brian King!**



Thank you also to our Rally Day greeters/cheerleaders:
Linda Elkins, Irene Joyce, Pastor Heidi & Chuck McDougall, Lora Rung, and Mary Densmore!



PENNY SATURDAY

On Saturday, October 31, 2020,
between 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Drive through the church parking lot and donate your pennies, dimes, nickels, quarters, dollars, and checks to UNICEF and receive a pumpkin from the Sunday School (as well as a treat to start filling your Trick or Treat bags)!



ADDRESS CHANGES

To update your Church Directory:

Gary Hackett and Cheryl Foster
1006 Pinehurst Drive
Peachtree City, GA 30269

Erik Joyce
15392 Sylvia Drive
Brook Park, OH 44142

Barb Fraunfelder
440-227-9051

Bruce Keenen
216-789-6314

Pam Keenen
440-724-0540

Ken Mehalko
440-212-0862

Bev Wehr
440-212-1410

Claire Wills
c/o 17950 Heritage Trail
Strongsville, OH 44136

(Claire is home, but mail is c/o her daughter.)



DON'T GIVE UP ON THIS YEAR.
KEEP FIGHTING FOR THE GOOD.
KEEP SHOWING UP.
KEEP LOVING.
KEEP GIVING BACK.
KEEP BEING KIND.
KEEP BEING BRAVE.
KEEP CARING.
KEEP TRYING NEW THINGS.
KEEP SHOWING GRACE.
KEEP ON.
THIS WORLD NEEDS YOU
TO BELIEVE IN THE GOOD.