

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

OCTOBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The Love in your heart wasn't put there to stay. Love isn't love till you give it away. –Oscar Hammerstein

Ya gotta ask. . . .

It's that time of year when we start to receive *even more* requests from groups like St. Jude Children's Hospital and National Wildlife Federation, groups whose very existence depends on the generosity of strangers who believe these groups matter. Their actions make a difference. They can change the world.

There's another group on that list: **Strongsville United Church of Christ.**

A lot of folks don't think churches should ever, *ever* talk about money. That's the stuff the *world* cares about. Didn't Jesus say we cannot serve God *and* money (*Matthew 6:24*)? He did.

But—in context, what Jesus is telling his followers (that's us) to do is to take the things the *world* finds valuable and use them *for the advancement of Christ's Reign*, rather than for our own personal wealth and glory.

During his brief three year ministry, Jesus spoke about money more than any other single topic. The rich young ruler went away sad after Jesus told him to give away all he had (*Mark 10:17-31*), but perhaps as he walked he realized he *did* have much more than he needed. . . .

The farmer who stored up grain in his silo till it rotted (*Luke 12:13-21*). The son who squandered his inheritance (*Luke 15:11-32*). The woman who wasted expensive perfume on Jesus—and received his blessing for her extravagance (*Luke 7:36-50*).

In each case, Jesus Christ taught his followers a *better* way to express gratitude for God's generosity. And in each case, his followers got the hint: Open your hearts; give extravagantly.

So. As our Stewardship campaign gets underway *for the first time in two years*, I invite you to spend deliberate time in prayer, asking God to guide your heart. How much are you willing to return to the One Who so generously gives to you and your family? Time, talents and treasure?

Together, we can do *so much more* than we can ever do alone.

Peace, Love and Hope,
Pastor Heidi

Here I am. Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, where you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart. –John Michael Talbot

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3 – 10 a.m.

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sacrament of Communion

Welcoming New Members

Greeter: Linda Plain

Liturgist: Dale Hawk

Ushers: Linda Plain

Special Music: Carol Foley



SUNDAY – OCTOBER 10 – 10 a.m.

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

204th Anniversary Sunday

Greeter: Ginger Rothel

Liturgist: Linda Ponstingle

Ushers: Chuck McDougall

Special Music: The Bell Choir



SUNDAY—OCTOBER 17 – 10 a.m.

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Penny Sunday

Greeter: Judi Pavisich

Liturgist: Rick Teagno

Ushers: Judi Pavisich

SUNDAY – OCTOBER 24 – 10 a.m.

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Greeters: Sharon & Karl Kuhlenschmidt

Liturgist: Herb Hampson

Ushers: Volunteers needed

SUNDAY – OCTOBER 31 – 10 a.m.

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Ginger Rothel

Liturgist: Lynne McCray

Ushers: Elaine Coffey



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>

WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO BE A GREETER OR AN USHER?

Check out the sign-up sheets in Pilgrim Hall and add your name!

Remember : 4 ushers are needed every Sunday, so please feel free to fill up the line for each week.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



New Members Are Joining

On World Communion Sunday, October 3rd, new members will be welcomed into our church family!

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- **The Board of Trustees** will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **October 12th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- **The Diaconate** will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **October 19th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- **The Official Board** will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **October 26th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



MARRIAGE CONGRATULATIONS



Many wishes for a long and happy marriage to **Jason and Dr. Sarah (Falbo) Pogozelski**, who were married in Akron on September 25, 2021. Jason, who was born and raised in our church and has been a member since his confirmation in 2008, is the son of Sandy and Bob Pogozelski and the grandson of Carol and Roy Merkle.

PENNY SUNDAY OCTOBER 17th

You know you've been saving those pennies, dimes, nickels, and quarters—or maybe even a nice, crisp bill or two.



The Sunday School will be collecting on Sunday, October 17th during worship. Proceeds will benefit our Free Lunch Program. (Checks to Strongsville UCC)



THANK YOU NOTES

Many thanks to **Ken Mehalko, Cindy Smith, Dave Williams**, and of course, our faithful **Chancel Choir** for sharing their music with us in September for our worship services.



BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS

Welcome to the Family of God, **Kennedy Parker Mustee**, daughter of **Melissa and Ian Mustee**, who was baptized in our church on September 19, 2021. Kennedy's godparents are **Andrew Steltzer** and **Carly Boyd**.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to **Dan and Vicky Masuga** and family on the death of Dan's mom, **Pat Masuga**, who passed away in hospice on August 29, 2021, surrounded by family. Pat had been on our prayer list for a long time.





YOU ARE INVITED!

Would you like to be a part of the music program? Instrumentalists and vocalists are needed for

our various music groups. If you are interested in joining us and sharing your talent, please contact **Tom Foley** or **Mike Elkins!**

CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS ARE ON THURSDAYS at 8 p.m. with safety measures in place. We have room in the choir loft for any singers (Tenors, Altos, Sopranos, and Basses are welcome!).

BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS ARE ON THURSDAYS at 7p.m.

OUR PRAYER LIST

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

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

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

Extended Church Family: Dorene Baldrige, Fred Beba (Theresa's husband), 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), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Kay McGinty (Judi Pavisich's aunt), 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), Mike Pavisich (Judi's Pavisich's stepson), 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.



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KEEP RECYCLING YOUR PAPER, MAGAZINES, AND CARDBOARD!

The church (and everyone else) benefits any time you recycle. Thank you!

PLEASE FLATTEN ALL BOXES WHEN RECYCLING CARDBOARD.



River Valley Paper Company
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PANERA PALS!

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, John Toth, and Mary Ellen Zimmerman who continue to make the Panera Bread ministry possible!

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ADDRESS CHANGES/ADDITIONS

To update your Church Directory:

Diana Creecy

15267 Forest Park Drive
Strongsville, OH 44136

Roger & Judy Davis

12383 Altis Court
Strongsville, OH 44136

Manar & Spencer Falvo

17010 Valley Creek Drive
Strongsville, OH 44136

Neal & Cathy Flowerman

10243 Crystal Springs Drive
North Royalton, OH 44133

Carol Foley

26376 John Road #220
Olmsted Township, OH 44138

Martha & John Hattery

20142 Wynnewood Place
Strongsville, OH 44149

Bob Heddleson

14019 Pine Forest Drive #206
North Royalton, OH 44133

Pat Morchak

10237 Crystal Springs Drive
North Royalton, OH 44133

Peter Smith

15101 Howe Road #412
Strongsville, OH 44136





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 annual gift has been delayed until 2022. Mission Outreach would appreciate your help with donations of **men's crew socks (Med./Lg./XL)** or **regular sized candy bars** deposited in the container in Pilgrim Hall. Monetary donations may be placed in the offering plate, labeled "VETERANS."

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

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



Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that

supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the [Council for American Indian Ministry](#) (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

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, October 21, 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.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

views the movie

"YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN"

at their meeting on

Wednesday — October 6 — 10 AM

in Pilgrim Hall

OPTIONS: Dress up for Halloween

— or — wear DJ's —

or come as you are!

All ladies are welcome!

UNsung HEROES



Did you know

that **Dale Hawk** took time off work to stain the outdoor picnic table that he had previously power-washed? Thanks, Dale!

Did you know that **John Toth** and **Herb Hampson** were out restriping the parking lot on the hottest, most humid days of the summer? Not only did they complete that task, but they also repaired the doorjamb to the parking lot door, which was broken and affecting the operation of the door. Wow—thanks, gentlemen!



Did you know that **Nate Johnson** has more skills than just making delicious mashed potatoes for our church dinners? Nate also works for Xerox and reestablished the communication between the church's computer and the printer/copier. Thanks a bunch, Nate!

MISSION-OUTREACH COMMITTEE



The Strongsville Emergency Food Bank has always been supported by our congregations. 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 October would be **PASTA & SAUCE, JUICE BOXES FOR KIDS!**

GIFT CARDS

EASY SHOPPING THAT BENEFITS THE



CHURCH!

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 September 5th

Happy Birthday to Stacie Sauter on September 9th

With love, Grammy

In remembrance of all those who perished in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

Week of September 12th

Happy Birthday today to Eli Sauter

With love, Grammy

Week of September 19th

Happy Birthday to Abby Craig on September 21st!

Happy Birthday to Sally Herzog on September 22nd!

Happy 30th Birthday to Erik Joyce on September 23rd!

Happy not 30th Birthday to Dale Hawk on September 23rd!

Week of September 26th

Happy Birthday to Bill Robinson on September 25th!



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

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

The altar flowers are given—

September 5th

Remembering September 11, 2001

God Bless America!

Ginger Rothel

September 12th

Celebrating our 51st Wedding Anniversary

Pam & Bruce Keenen

Welcoming the return of the Chancel Choir!

Ingrid Dickson & Irene Joyce

September 19th

Celebrating our 30th Wedding Anniversary

on September 21st!

John & Barbara Toth

In celebration of our grandson Weston's Birthday and soon to be our fifth Great-grandchild's Birthday this month! Grandparents Joyce & George Reed

September 26th

Celebrating Bill & Dorothy Ritchie's 69th Wedding Anniversary

Gina Cathcart & family



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 strongsvilleuuc@gmail.com. Envelopes for enclosing your payment to the church office are also available. Thank you!

The 2021 Flower sign-up chart is posted and there are still some Sundays available for 2021.

With the return of fresh altar flowers, we are in need of large plastic sour cream/cottage cheese/chip dip containers to transport the flower arrangements home. If you have some clean containers to donate, please bring them to the church.



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.



SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE OFFICE STAFF AT THE STRONGSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FOR USE OF THEIR COPIER FOR PRINTING SUNDAY BULLETINS WHILE WE WAIT FOR A PART FOR OURS!



A TRIBUTE TO BROADWAY

to benefit SCT Scholarship Fund

Presented by Strongsville Community Theatre

Friday, October 29th & Sat. October 30th

at the Strongsville Rec Center

Many familiar Strongsville UCC faces will be participating in this event featuring music and food.

Call 440-879-8817 or

www.strongsvillecommunitytheatre.com

for reservations and ticket purchases.



**OUR CHURCH IS
LOOKING TO
HIRE A PART-
TIME CUSTODIAN.**

If you or someone
you know may be

interested, please contact a member of
the Board of Trustees for more
information and an application.



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 **September 5
through September 26, 2021. Thank you to everyone
who supports our church and its ministries.**

Offering Needed \$14,597.48 for 4 Sundays

Offering Received 11,979.25

(-\$2,618.23)



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* 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

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL RETURNS!

**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
OCTOBER DATES: 10/13 AND 10/27**



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FALL
blessings