

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 2022 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. . . . All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. . . . They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.
—Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)

Life's curveballs

I am a *huge* baseball fan, especially of our Cleveland Guardians. I worked for the club for ten years; watching them grow and gel as a team—well, it's a sight to behold. (Brownies, you'll get your chance; right now, let these Boys of Summer enjoy the spotlight!)

What strikes me most about the team is the way there's always someone there, sliding in effortlessly, making a crucial play. One night, it's Steven Kwan stretching to make a catch, landing on his belly with the ball teetering on the tip of his glove; the next, it's José at third, or Hedgie behind the plate. At the end of the night, they celebrate—*together*. Seldom does one person deserve the credit; the victory belongs to all of them.

So it should be in Life—and so it has been these past couple of weeks, as Chuck and I coughed and sniffled and slept our way through a close encounter of the COVID kind.

At the last minute, you stepped up. When I couldn't preach, you pulled something out of your life experiences. God's Love was taught; hearts were strangely warmed, and God was glorified.

It did my heart good to see how well you were able to carry on when we were down for the count. Because as we have sung since we were little children: The church is not a building; the church is not its preacher :) *The church is not a resting place—the church is the people.*

Thank you, thank you, thank you for showing up and truly being Christ's hands and feet, in so many different ways! We are grateful to be back—and especially grateful to have been blessed by your presence during our absence.

Peace, Love and Hope,
Pastor Heidi & Chuck

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2 – 10 a.m.

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sacrament of Communion

Greeter: Linda Plain

Liturgist: Judi Pavisich

Ushers: Volunteers needed

Special Music: Chancel Choir



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9 – 10 a.m.

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Strongsville UCC 205th Anniversary
Recognition of 50 year members

Greeters: Sharon & Karl

Kuhlenschmidt

Liturgist: Dave Williams

Ushers: Roz Fotos

Special Music: Bell Choir, Richard Densmore



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16 – 10 a.m.

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Judi Pavisich

Liturgist: Rick Teagno

Ushers: Judi Pavisich

Special Music: Chancel Choir, Roger Davis

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23 – 10 a.m.

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeters: Barbara & John Toth

Liturgist: Sharon Maresco

Ushers: Judi Pavisich

Special Music: Chancel Choir

SUNDAY, October 30 – 10 a.m.

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

PENNY SUNDAY

Greeters: Jean Bittinger & Elaine Coffey

Liturgist: Bruce Keenen

Ushers: Elaine Coffey, Roz Fotos

Special Music: Chancel Choir

Pumpkin Decorating Party during Sunday School
TRUNK OR TREAT after church



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>

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



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.**

COMING SOON...

Mark your calendar for October 9th when our church will celebrate our 205th ANNIVERSARY!

We will recognize our newest 50 year members during worship and enjoy cake and refreshments following the service.



If you would like to help with:

- Setting up
- Centerpieces for the tables
- Providing a finger food/snack item
- Clean-up

Please contact Jennifer Barry at jenbarry425@gmail.com

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY



Our deepest sympathy to **Brigitte & Dave Matchett, Megan Matchett, Ben Matchett and Freya Matchett**, on the sudden passing of Brigitte's mom, **Mary J. Gapas** on August 27, 2022. Mary was 79 years old.

Love and prayers to **Carol & Roy Merkle.**

Carol's sister, **Rita Hansford Cooper**, passed away on August 31, 2022 in Kansas. Rita, the aunt of **Sandy Pogozelski**, had attended our church many times when she was in town.



We were very saddened by the news of the death of **Eddy Bond** on September 3, 2022.

Our love and prayers go out to **Adria Bond**, his wife of 41 years, and their family, Michael (Caroline) Bond, Timothy

(Cathy) Bond, and Melanie (Nathaniel) Larkin, and granddaughter Brianna Bond. Eddy was 76 years old.



Our sympathy goes out to the family and friends of **Robert Heddleson**, a member of our church since 2021. He had been ill for a number of years. Bob died on September 21, 2022 at the age of 63.



Our condolences also to the Gigliotti family, **Sue, Lou, Louis, Nick & Courtney**, and **Gina**, on the death of Lou's dad, **Louis Gigliotti, Sr.** on September 26, 2022.

CONGRATULATIONS

50 YEAR MEMBERS!

- Betty Jacobson** (03/03/1972)
- Valerie Hopkins** (03/26/1972)
- Vicky Masuga** (03/26/1972)
- Dave Matchett** (03/26/1972)
- Becky Robinson** (03/26/1972)
- Barb Bridle** (03/30/1972)
- Lola Millhoane** (03/30/1972)
- Richard Sullen** (03/30/1972)
- Sharon Wilson** (03/30/1972)

MUSIC NOTES

Many thanks to **Roger Davis, Clay Williams, Rob Toth, Ken Mehalko, Carol Foley**, and the **Chancel Choir**, along with **Tom Foley, Sharon Heinrich, and Mike Elkins** for their music in September.



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!**

THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you to the team who stepped in and said "Here I Am" to fill in for Pastor Heidi on September 18th: **Elaine Coffey, Tom Foley, Herb Hampson, Irene Joyce**, and **Linda Ponstingle** and to the September 25th team: **Joyce Reed, Pam Keenen, Elaine Coffey, Cathy Hawk, Linda Elkins, and Herb Hampson.**



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.**

JOIN US FOR SOME FUN WITH OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30th at NOON- 1 P.M. in the church parking lot.



Decorate your vehicle, bring some candy to share, and wear a costume, if you'd like! **Don't forget, we'll be decorating pumpkins and doing crafts during Sunday School class time!**



COMING SOON...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." **Also, if you know of someone in need, please contact Pastor Heidi or the church office.**

And the Mitten Tree...

We will still 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!



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.

PANERA PALS



Thank you so much to our faithful bread transporters and sorters: **Judy Carte, Neal & Cathy 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 & Chuck, Cathy Hawk, Sally Herzog** and **Irene Joyce** for delivering the bread downtown when needed.

PENNY SUNDAY

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Penny Sunday collection in September. Our total was \$222.00. Save those pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and yes, DOLLARS for our next Penny Sunday collection, **October 30th!**



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 Pongstingle** 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, Trish Shields

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 Dordzhiyeva, Sue Hawk, Paul Hirt, Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Len Lane, Judy Maur, Reggie McCray, Heidi & Chuck McDougall, Laurie Meister, Roy Merkle, Michele Mhlack, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkfitz, Gary Paul, Sandy Pogozelski, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, Tracey Seneff, Peter Smith, Maggie Struhar, Sharon Wilson, Janis Williamson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Mary Ellen Zimmerman



Extended Church Family: Yvonne & Ron Adams (friends of Judi Pavisich), 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), Joyce Glasgow (friend of the church), 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 Mhlack'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 (Steve & 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



UNsung HEROES

Did you know that **Judi Pavisich** made new curtains for the cabinets in the upstairs Sunday School rooms and donated all her labor? They look great—thanks Judi!

Did you know that **Kathie & Gary Paul** are still hard at work behind the scenes tending the flowering plants around the church grounds? Your work is truly appreciated, Gary & Kathie!

Did you know that **Jim Heinrich** installed nice new paper towel dispensers in the upstairs washrooms and common area? Thank you for taking the time and effort, Jim!

Did you know that **Bill Craig** replaced the inner workings of a malfunctioning toilet in the Pilgrim Hall ladies' room? We are so grateful for your skill and generosity, Bill!

NEW WINDOW BLINDS INSTALLATION

UPDATE:

On Sunday, September 11th, the congregation, with the recommendation of the Board of Trustees, voted to approve a bid for purchase and installation of vertical blinds for all the windows in the church building (except the sanctuary). Budget Blinds will begin work in the coming weeks.



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 Pogozelski 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

Welcome to the newest member of our committee, **Peter Smith**, who was appointed by the Official Board!



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 October would be Veggies and Pasta.

HELP WANTED: We need a volunteer to transport the items collected to the Strongsville Food Bank every other week. Please see **Sarah Hayes** or **Jennifer Sekorky** if you can help!

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 this year. Mission Outreach would appreciate your help with donations of **men's crew socks (Med./Lg./XL)** or **regular sized candy bars THROUGH OCTOBER 30th**, deposited in the container in the Gathering Area. Monetary donations may be placed in the offering plate, labeled "VETERANS."





A TRIBUTE TO BROADWAY

to benefit SCT Scholarship Fund
Presented by Strongsville Community Theatre
Friday, October 28th & Sat. October 29th
at the Center for Innovation and Growth at
Baldwin Wallace University

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.



THRIFT SHOP

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

THERE IS A MORATORIUM ON ACCEPTING DONATIONS UNTIL OCTOBER 20th. Please hold your items until then.

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!

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS



- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **October 11th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **October 18th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **October 25th** 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.

Insider tip: On October 12th, we will be serving everyone's favorite: Gourmet Grilled Cheese Sandwiches!



ALTAR FLOWERS FOR SEPTEMBER



The altar flowers are given—

September 4th

*Happy Birthday to Gary Zielinski on September 1st!
In loving memory of Karen K. Morgan
Love, Rachel, Penny, and Oliver*

September 11th

*To honor all those whose lives were lost on
this day 21 years ago*

The Abruzzino-Krisak Family

*In loving memory of our moms, Anna Bond and
Joyce Solderitsch—Eddy & Andria Bond*

September 18th

*Happy Birthday to Dale Hawk on September 23rd
Love, your family*

*Special Happy Birthday to our Grandson Weston's 11th
and Great Granddaughter Quinn's 1st Birthdays both on
September 24th—George and Joyce Reed*

September 25th

*In celebration of Dorothy & Bill Ritchie's 70th Wedding
Anniversary on September 26th!*

With love from their family

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.



THE FLOWER CHART FOR 2022 IS POSTED IN

PILGRIM HALL—We still have several Sundays

available, including Oct. 30 (1),

Nov. 13 (1), Dec. 4 & 11 (1)

STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of September 4th

*Happy Birthday to Stacie Sauter on
September 9th*

With love, Grammy

Week of September 11th

*Happy Birthday to Eli Sauter on
September 12th!*

With love, Grammy

*Happy Anniversary to Bruce & Pam Keenen on
September 12th!*

In memory of Eddy Bond

Week of September 18th

*Happy Birthday to Abby Craig on September 21st!—with
love, Grammy*

Happy Birthday to Sally Herzog on September 22nd!

Happy Birthday to Erik Joyce on September 23rd!

Happy Birthday to Dale Hawk on September 23rd!

Week of September 25th

Happy Birthday to Luke Giuliano on September 30th!

--With love, your church family!



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

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

OUR 2023 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN WILL BEGIN IN OCTOBER!

Service Offering Community Kindness Sanctuary



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.**

ATTENTION ELECTRONIC GIVERS:

We are discontinuing our use of my e-offering and switching to a free donation service. If you have a recurring gift set up through my e-offering, please sign in at <https://members.myeoffering.com/#/landing> and cancel all donations. The church will be establishing a new online donation system by the first week of October. Please see Mike Elkins with any questions. Thank you for giving.



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 4 through September 25, 2022. Thank you to everyone who supports our church and its ministries.**



Offering Needed \$14,597.48 for 4 Sundays
 Offering Received 11,718.70
 -(\$2,878.78)

Pledge cards received in 2022: 65

ADDRESS CHANGES/ADDITIONS

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

Irene Joyce
 New email address: ij3ejoy@gmail.com



Carol Merkle
 15101 Howe Road #413
 Strongsville, OH 44136

Billie Cantrell
 1166 Lafayette Rd. Lot H-1
 Medina OH 44256

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 Pogozelski* 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*

UPCOMING EVENTS



October 5 – Program on Medical Ministry – 1:00 P.M.

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

December 4 – Sunday – Christmas Tea

All ladies are welcome to attend all our events.

WF TO INCLUDE ALL LADIES

Women's Fellowship wants to include all interested ladies of the church in its activities, and plans to offer additional day and time options for its programs. If you'd like to participate but cannot attend the current weekday, daytime programs, please complete this form; and you will be contacted with more information.

Name _____

Phone (_____) _____

Email _____

Thank you for your interest in Women's Fellowship. Please turn in this form to the church office.



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