

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)
13740 Pearl Road
Strongsville, Ohio 44136

Worship 10 a.m. (+online)



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

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall
Pastor

OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

*To him shall prayers unceasing and daily vows ascend;
His Kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.
--James Montgomery (UMH #203)*

That time of year again. . . .

It's that time of year again, when churches everywhere begin grappling with stewardship issues (read: *budgets and money*) and we revisit once more who we are and who we are called to be as Christ's church. My monthly newsletter offering to you, in a sense, becomes a stewardship offering of prayer, to guide us along our path as we seek to draw ever closer to God and to one another. Many are drawn to this place, with the same desire: to draw closer to God.

People might come to Strongsville UCC for the first time because we are near where they live or work, or they saw our beautiful steeple or heard our bells. (A recent visitor told me she and her husband rode by this church on their motorcycle *forty-two years ago*, and she told him: *Someday, we're going to go to church there!* Never underestimate the power of a planted seed.) Maybe they heard about our magnificent music; but they will *return* because they experience the irresistible, winsome love of the Christ moving in our midst. And they like what they experienced. They long for *more*.

We don't get to "choose" who walks through our doors. God sends whom God sends. Our primary task is to open our hearts, to see the divine image of the Creator in whomever crosses our threshold, and to mean it in our hearts *and* in our words when we say, "All are welcome here."*

Peace, Love and Welcome,
Pastor Heidi

**(No asterisks. As God welcomes us, now we are called to welcome others.)*

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1 – 10 a.m.

*Eighteenth Sunday after
Pentecost*

World Communion Sunday

Greeter: Linda Plain

Liturgist: Irene Joyce

Ushers: Jean Bittinger

Special Music: Chancel Choir



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8 – 10 a.m.

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Church's Anniversary Sunday

Sacrament of Baptism

Greeter: Barbara Toth

Liturgist: Dave Williams

Ushers: Volunteers needed

Special Music: Tyler Martin, Chancel Choir



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15 – 10 a.m.

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Laity Sunday

Greeter: Judi Pavisich

Liturgist: Linda Ponstingle

Ushers: Judi Pavisich

Special Music: Chancel Choir

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22 – 10 a.m.

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Jean Bittinger

Liturgist: Herb Hampson

Ushers: Roz Fotos

Special Music: Chancel Choir

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29 – 10 a.m.

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

Penny Sunday

Greeter: Susann Lerch

Liturgist: Youth

Ushers: Jean Bittinger

Special Music: Bell Choir

TRUNK OR TREAT

In the parking lot after worship!



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> **Thanks to Doug Thorn for posting these each week.**



ALL ARE WELCOME AT GOD'S TABLE!

As we seek to walk ever more closely with Jesus and welcome all without question

or singling anyone out, we will now be offering gluten-free bread to ALL who come forward to the Table for Holy Communion. ALL means ALL at The United Church of Christ (Congregational)!

BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Edison Guinty Woodward**, who was baptized on September 24, 2023! Edison is the son of **Steve** and **Roxanne Woodward**, brother of **Owen Woodward**, and grandson of **Carol Woodward**. Godparents are **Chelsea Guinty** and **Chance Guinty**.



SUB NEEDED!

(Not that kind of sub!) We will soon be needing a substitute camera operator to record our worship services on Sunday mornings. If you are willing to learn how to use the church's video camera, please contact Doug Thorn.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST 50 YEAR MEMBERS!

The following church members will be recognized at our worship service on October 8, 2023.

- Timothy Baker** (04/19/1973)
- Barb Camp** (04/19/1973)
- Mark Camp** (04/19/1973)
- Irene Jannsohn** (06/10/1973)
- Cheryl Morgan** (04/15/1973)
- Sharon Ritchie** (04/15/1973)
- Ann Sullen** (04/15/1973)
- Keith Sullen** (04/15/1973)
- Marty Winch** (10/01/1973)

FINGER FOODS WANTED!

We will be celebrating our church's 106th anniversary on October 8th. We will have cake, but we would like folks to bring appetizers or snacks to share for our party. Please contact **Jen Barry** at (440) 315-2264 if you can bring something.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

JOIN US FOR SOME FUN WITH OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29th 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!**



PENNY SUNDAY

Thank you to everyone who contributed to September's Penny Sunday. We collected \$423.05 for New Life at Calvary Church in Cleveland. The roof was torn off their building during August's tornadoes and the damage was extensive to their sanctuary. Please save your coins, dollars, and checks (to UCC) for our next Penny Sunday on **October 29th**. Money collected will go to the **Strongsville Emergency Food Bank**.



NEW CHURCH MEMBERS!

Welcome to our church family to these folks, who joined our congregation on September 17th



Karen Bates and her partner, Colette, are Strongsville residents, who have been together for 28 years. Karen has come to our church seeking community and spiritual guidance and instruction.

Karen is a musician and sings and plays guitar. She has already been “voluntold” to serve communion and usher. Karen’s sponsors are **Linda and Mike Elkins**.



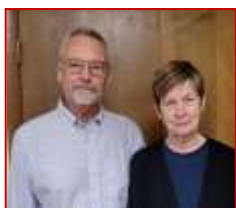
Colette Emerson lives in Strongsville with her partner of 28 years, Karen, and their cats, Bella and Biscuit. Colette came to our church seeking community and shared faith and believes she has found that here. She has taught Sunday School classes

this summer already and is signed up to be a substitute teacher this fall. **Linda and Mike Elkins** are serving as Colette’s sponsors.



Judy and Les Fox live in Valley City and come to us from University Circle United Methodist Church. They have found many old and new friends here at Strongsville UCC and are happy to be

joining our friendly, loving community. Les and Judy have been married for 23 years and have 5 grown children and 10 grandchildren. **Mary Ellen Zimmerman**, a friend from UCUMC, is their sponsor.



Pam and Doug Hansen, Strongsville residents, were invited to come to our worship services by their friend, Martha Hattery. They tried it and they liked the sense of belonging that they felt here. Pam and

Doug have been married for almost 19 years and have 5 grown children between them. **Martha and John Hattery** are sponsoring them.



Audrey McQueen has been attending our worship services for several years and has decided to become a member and make it official. Audrey lives in Strongsville and works part-time at McDonald’s.

Judy Carte is sponsoring Audrey.

Ken Wills lives in Cleveland, but has lived in several places all over the country. He has been bringing his mom, Claire Wills, to church for a number of years. Ken is a teacher and has recently started the next step of his teaching career at Menlo Park Academy. Ken’s sister, Allison

Miller, and her family are long-time members. Ken is being sponsored by **Elaine Coffey**.



ADDRESS CHANGES/ADDITIONS

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

Tom & Judy Gaumer (no landline)

Judy: 440-823-8274

Tom: 440-781-3772

Karen Bates & Colette Emerson

22450 Ethel Drive
Strongsville, OH 44149
K=216-215-2788
C=440-246-8049

Judy & Les Fox

6081 Boston Road
Valley City, OH 44028
9257837843

Pam & Doug Hansen

19737 Braemar Way
Strongsville, OH 44149
440-567-5976

Audrey McQueen

14045 Niagara Drive
Strongsville, OH 44136
440-732-6486

Ken Wills

13525 Highlandview Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44135
216-209-3083



THANK YOU TO
EVERYONE WHO GOT
THEIR PICTURE TAKEN
FOR OUR CHURCH’S
DIRECTORY!

Smile!



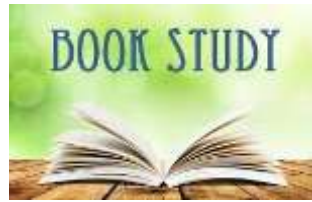
We will keep you posted as to when the directories will be ready.

A SPECIAL NOTE TO VOTE!



Election Day is **November 7th**. As the general election approaches, it does not matter *how* you vote; it matters *that* you vote. Instructions on how to register and applications for absentee ballots can be found at voteohio.gov.

**BOOK STUDY
A YEAR OF BIBLICAL
WOMANHOOD**



Beginning on **October 16th**, Pastor Heidi and Linda Elkins will be leading a monthly book study based on Rachel Held Evans's wonderful book, *A Year of Biblical Womanhood*. Based on Old Testament rituals and practices, the book chronicles Rachel's attempts to follow these ancient practices in a modern world. The group will meet on the **third Monday of each month at 7 p.m.**, for one hour. Please let Pastor Heidi or Linda know if you're planning to join us! **If you need a copy of the book, Elaine Coffey will be ordering them in bulk. Please text or call her at (502) 214-0426 if you'd like to place an order.**

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Joan Beckwith, Laurie Meister, Ruth Milidonis, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Maggie Struhar



Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Barb Camp, Jennifer Cockrell, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sue Hawk, Irene Jannsohn, Carole Kapcar, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Bruce Lerch, Reggie McCray, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkfitz, Gary Paul, George Pavisich, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Bill Schneider. Peter Smith, Robert Sperber, John Toth, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Edward and Sharon Acton (Sally Herzog's friends), Dorene Baldrige, Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Angie Colosimo (Judi Pavisich's friend), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Joanne Garipey (Sally Herzog's friend), Kathy Ghetti (friend of Ginger Rothel), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Vic Irelan (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Rudy Matjazic (Judi Pavisich's friend), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Thomas O'Shea (Sandy's dad), Sylvia Pakish (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Jeff Peacock (former member), Zora Roundtree (FL4A volunteer), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Vicki Smith (Venner Clarinets), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Tom (friend of Judi Pavisich), Don Wills (friend of Judi Pavisich), The people of Ukraine, victims of violence, those affected by natural disasters

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

RIVER VALLEY PAPER RECYCLING

KEEP RECYCLING YOUR PAPER, MAGAZINES, AND CARDBOARD (Please break down cardboard.) PRO TIP: The bin is usually emptied on Mondays.



NEWS FROM THE TRUSTEES:

- Employee reviews are underway.
- Our Royalton Road tenant is back in his home and once again paying rent.
- Trustees will be developing a background check policy in order to standardize this process for future employees and volunteers across the board.
- Per the changes in the constitution, we will be hiring a private firm to audit the main accounts of the church due to the change in Financial Secretary.
- The Trustees will be re-stripping the parking lot and installing new handicap parking signs.



Did you know that **Jeff Eichmuller** from Peak Pest Control came out immediately (on his own

time) when called to deal with a live mouse that had invaded our church?

Did you know that **Roz Fotos, Barbara White,** and **Mary Ellen Zimmerman,** along with **Pastor Heidi** and **Irene Joyce** helped check folks in for their photo directory appointments last month? Thank you so much for your willingness to help, ladies! P.S. Thanks also to Irene Joyce for providing snacks!

THANK YOU NOTES



Thank you to the people of the Music Ministry for the gift cards, card, and cake and to Pastor Heidi and the congregation for the nice send-off. I miss everyone, but have a positive outlook for my

*future here in North Carolina. **Clay Williams***



IMPORTANT INFO—Do you know where the AED and First Aid Kit are located in the church? They are adjacent to the doorway in Pilgrim Hall, just to the right of the confirmation classroom.

MUSIC NOTES

Many thanks to **Brittany Fernandez,** **Tyler Martin,** **Ken Mehalko,** the returning **Chancel Choir,** and of course, **Tom Foley, Sharon Heinrich,** and **Mike Elkins** for their music in September.



PANERA PALS

Are you able to give less than an hour of your time on a Monday or Friday morning to pick up and/or sort Panera bread, bagels, and pastries? Please contact the church office if you can help with this worthwhile ministry.



Thank you so much to our faithful bread transporters: **Teri Barbish, Carole Kapcar, Roz Fotos, Maria Graeff, Linda Elkins, Jane Kossin, Cherie Teagno, Wayne & Bobbi Cook, and Sharon Lempner**, who are enabling the Panera Bread ministry to continue! Special thanks to **Pastor Heidi, Cathy Hawk, and Irene Joyce** who will be transporting the baked goods downtown during the month of October.

BE A BUSY BEE IN 2023



New sign-up sheets in the Gathering Area are waiting for your name to be added as a greeter or usher. No experience is necessary—we will show you everything you need to know! Everyone is welcome to be a part of our church life.

GIFT CARDS

PLEASE DON'T FORGET ABOUT THIS EASY, CONVENIENT PROGRAM



THAT BENEFITS THE CHURCH. You can order gift cards by calling **Jim Joyce** at 216-346-4161 in advance with your order. **Limited stock is available for purchase on Sunday mornings.**



PLEASE DON'T FALL FOR A SCAM! Pastor Heidi will never ask you for cash or gift cards via text or email. If there is a need, she will approach you in person.

NEWS FROM THE KITCHEN

Did you know? The "tip jar" you see next to the coffee on Sunday mornings is there for a reason. The "tips" go directly to keeping the coffee, tea, sugar, creamer, etc., supplied. Your generosity is appreciated!



FREE LUNCH FOR ALL Wednesdays

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

Thank you to all our faithful volunteers!



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS



- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **October 10th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet not meet in October, but will meet on **November 7th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **October 24th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:

"OODLES OF NOODLES" OCTOBER PASTA DRIVE!



Please bring donations of dry or canned pasta and cans or jars of pasta sauce to the receptacle in Pilgrim Hall!



The Strongsville Food Bank is searching for a coordinator for the Food Bank. It is a compensated volunteer

position. The coordinator is paid for 20 hours per week, however it may entail 30+ hours to fulfill the duties of the position, therefore the volunteer designation.

Qualifications for this job include organizational skills, effective communication skills, and Word/Excel knowledge for record keeping.

If you are interested or want more information about this position, please ask for a complete job description or send a resume at strongsvillefoodbank@gmail.com.

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 Pasta & Pasta Sauce.

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.



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 collect hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, and socks for the needy this year. From **November 5th through December 3rd**, 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!



STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of September 3rd

Happy Birthday to Stacie Sauter on September 9th

With love, Grammy

In loving memory of Pat Masuga—love and miss ya!

Lola Millhoane and the Masuga family

Happy Birthday yesterday to Pastor Heidi!

Week of September 10th

Happy Birthday Eli Sauter on September 12th!

With love, Grammy

Celebrating our Sunday School staff and students as they begin a brand new year of learning and growing!

Week of September 17th

Happy 21st Birthday to Abby Craig on September 21st!

With love, Grammy

Happy Birthday to Sally Herzog on September 22nd and to Erik Joyce and to Dale Hawk on September 23rd!

Week of September 24th

Happy 71st Anniversary to Bill & Dorothy Ritchie on September 26th!

With love from your family

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

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

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR LAST MONTH

The altar flowers are given—

September 3rd

Celebrating Gary Zielinski's Birthday on September 1st

In loving memory of Karen K. Morgan

Rachel, Penny, and Oliver

September 10th

To our lovely children of Sunday school, Welcome back! Miss Serena Abruzzino

September 17th

Celebrating our 32nd Anniversary on September 21st!

Barbara & John Toth

September 24th

Happy Anniversary to our daughter Holly and son-in-law

Marty on September 27th and Happy Birthday to our

grandson Weston and great-granddaughter Quinn on

September 24th!—George & Joyce Reed

To the Glory of God and in Gratitude for my Church

Linda Plain



THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is OPEN every Thursday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Come and shop lots of interesting merchandise

at amazing prices. Donations are being accepted during those hours, but please try to limit your donations to what you can carry downstairs.

As always, special thanks to our dedicated volunteers and to everyone who supports the Thrift Shop with donations or by shopping!

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—

Monday, October 2nd at 7 p.m.

"What Do You Do When You're Not at Church?" Each participant is invited to speak briefly about what she likes to do—Halloween Costumes are encouraged!



Wednesday, October 4th at 1 p.m.

"What Do You Do When You're Not at Church?" Each participant is invited to speak briefly about what she likes to do—Halloween Costumes are encouraged!

Everyone is welcome at all our programs!

THE FLOWER CHART FOR 2023 IS POSTED IN PILGRIM HALL. Please sign up for fresh flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one or just for yourself. Cost is \$30 for two vases; \$15 for one vase. WE HAVE A FEW SUNDAYS STILL AVAILABLE!

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Girl Scout Troop #71363 is stocking and maintaining a "Hygiene Library," which is located on the lawn near the parking lot facing Royalton Road.





CHURCH FAMILY CARE 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.)

CHURCH OFFICERS IN 2023

**Elected January 29, 2023*

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

Sunday School Co-Superintendents
Linda Elkins Mary Densmore*

Board of Trustees
Diana Creecy Chris Goff* Herb Hampson
Cathy Hawk* Sarah Hayes Cheryl Sobek*
Dan Winrod* Laura Winrod* Rachel Zielinski

Endowment Fund Subcommittee
Greg Dickson Linda Stepan Dave Williams*

Diaconate
Teri Barbish Jean Bittinger* Elaine Coffey
Bobbi Cook* Wayne Cook* Judy Davis*
Carole Kapcar* Sharon Maresco Linda Ponstingle
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* Mike Willis*
ex officio: Sharon Heinrich Tom Foley Mike Elkins

Stewardship Committee
Judi Pavisich Bill Schneider* Richard Taylor
Rob Toth Mary Willis*

Mission and Outreach Committee
Judy Carte* Sarah Hayes Bobbie Krisak Lora Rung*
Jennifer Sekorky Peter Smith* Bev Wehr
Mary Ellen Zimmerman*

GIVING OPTIONS



If you are interested in giving electronically, you can set up your giving through Bill Pay on your bank's website or on our church's website: www.strongsvilleucc.com. You may also mail a check to Strongsville UCC 13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, OH 44136 or drop it off in the church's mailbox.

FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Mike Elkins/Gary Zielinski

Below is a monthly report listing the budget income we need to receive from Pledges and Offerings and the amount received from **September 3 through September 24, 2023. Thank you to everyone who supports our church and its ministries.**



Offering Needed \$14,468.04 for 4 Sundays
Offering Received \$17,665.00
+\$3,196.96

Pledge cards received so far for 2023: 62

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2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

M. A.P.L E.



M- Making and moving
A- Accepting and Acknowledging
P- People
L - Learning and Loving
E- Encompassing

**Strongsville United Church of Christ
2024 Estimate of Giving**

In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2024:

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 ____/____/____

=====



Due to a bank change, all checks to the church should be made out to **United Church of Christ or UCC or United Church of Christ (Congregational).**

Please do not use "Strongsville" or "SUCC" in the "Pay to the Order of" line. Thanks!

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The United Church of Christ
(Congregational)
13740 Pearl Road
Strongsville, OH 44136
www.strongsvilleucc.com



OCTOBER BLESSINGS

May the month lead you
to progress and prosperity
in health, wealth and love.

Stay Blessed and Happy !!

snapchamp