

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



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

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall
Pastor

Worship Sundays at 10 a.m. (+online)

OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

--Ephesians 3:18-21

No room for big buts

Too often when we say something meant to make things better or smooth things over, we ruin it by adding a big *but*.

- * I apologize for yelling at you, *but*. . . .
- * You know I really love you, *but*. . . .
- * Don't take this the wrong way, *but*. . . .
- * I know I was wrong, *but*. . . .

We have the best intentions; we really do want to make that other person feel better, to fix what's broken. *But*. . . we also somehow can't quite just leave it at the apology, the confession—the *Love*. We have to add on an explanation, a qualifier—an asterisk.

God's Love comes without asterisks. Without buts of any size. God loves you. Period.

Somehow, having that sense of *knowing* God loves us even when we might not feel we deserve it is why we seem to need to put conditions on how we love one another. As if those conditions will somehow reassure the recipient that we *really mean it*.

Loving others comes naturally when we first love God—and also love ourselves. It's not always easy, *but*. . . .

Start right now. Take a moment to look in the mirror. Look deep into your own eyes, smile and remind yourself:

I am a Beloved Child of God. God loves me. And God loves you, too.

Peace,
Pastor Heidi

You carry so much Love in your heart. Give some to yourself. (Anonymous)

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6 – 10 a.m.

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost



WORLD
COMMUNION
SUNDAY

Sacrament of Holy
Communion

Greeter: Linda Plain
Liturgist: Barb
Fraunfelder

Music: Chancel Choir

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13 – 10 a.m.

Church Anniversary Sunday

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Greeters: Roger & Judy Davis

Liturgist: Mike Willis

Music: Chancel Choir



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20 – 10 a.m.

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost



Laity Sunday

Greeter: Nancy Garber

Liturgist: Pastor Heidi

Music: Bell Choir

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 – 10 a.m.

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Sacrament of Baptism

Penny Sunday

Greeter: Susann Lerch

Liturgist: Pam Keenen

Music: Chancel Choir



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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.

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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)!

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY



Our sympathy to the family and friends of **Marilyn L. Raum**, who died in Florida on July 29, 2024 at the age of 86. She and her husband, John were married here 63 years ago. Her memorial service will be held at our church on October 5th.

Our love and prayers are extended to the friends and family of **Sandy Shipley**, who died on September 18, 2024 at the age of 83. Sandy was a dear friend of the Zielinski family and a great supporter of our church events.



BOOK STUDY TURNING THE PAGE

On **October 21st**, Pastor Heidi and Linda Elkins will be winding up and recapping the monthly book study based on Rachel Held Evans's *A Year of Biblical Womanhood*. The monthly book study will continue with one last look at the book we have been studying, and then there will be some Advent activities.



At the beginning of the calendar year, we will begin a study of a book called *Sisterhood*. They will continue to meet on the **third Monday of each month at 7 p.m.**

THANK YOU NOTES



Thank you, Church Family. We are truly grateful for your thoughts, cards, and prayers. They have been a great comfort and support to us. **Dorothy Ritchie and Family**

I am so grateful to everyone at Strongsville UCC for their kindness and generosity. I loved playing with the awesome music team and will never forget my time at and the people of the church. I know your prayers will go with me as I start a new chapter of my life in Florida.

Eddy Zak

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST 50 YEAR MEMBERS!

The following church members will be recognized at our worship service on October 13, 2024.

Dale Hawk (04/07/1974)

Linda Clark (04/11/1974)

Lynn Milhorn (08/16/1974)

FINGER FOODS WANTED!

We will be celebrating our church's 207th anniversary on October 13th. We will have cake, but we would like folks to bring appetizers or snacks to share for our party. We have a sign-up sheet posted in Pilgrim Hall to let us know what you will bring.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

JOIN US FOR SOME FUN WITH OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27th 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.

Thanks to everyone who donated in September. We collected \$ toward our Live Nativity Animals. Please save your coins, dollars, and checks (to UCC) for our next Penny Sunday on **October 27, 2024**. The money will go to our Thanksgiving Basket Project.



RALLY DAY PRIMARY CLASS

Colette Emerson, teacher

Everett Ashforth Lena Ashforth Ella Hayes
Henry Hayes Alaya Hitchens
Lacey Marshall Ember Schneider

INTERMEDIATE CLASS

Linda Elkins, teacher

Mason Bittinger Jack Hayes Autumn Schneider
Oliver Zielinski Penny Zielinski

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Lora Rung, teacher

Riley Marshall Autumn Zoscak
Summer Zoscak



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.

ADDRESS CHANGES/ADDITIONS

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

Janice & Bill Booth

12-142 The Fields
Williamstown, WV 26187

Lola Millhoane

18090 Pearl Road #217
Strongsville, OH 44136
440-666-2766



OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Irene Jannsohn, Laurie Meister, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Maggie Struhar



Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Judy Carte, Sam Cuyler Jr., Brandi Garsteck, Sue Hawk, Bruce Keenen, Sarah Keenen, Kay Konicek, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Jim Maresco, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Ginny & Kenn Oerkfitz, Gary Paul, Judi Pavisich, George & Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Peter Smith, Gayle Sperber, Linda Stepan, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Yvonne Adams (Judi Pavisich's friend), Dorene Baldrige, Denece (Sherry Ahern's sister-in-law), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), John Dickson (Greg's dad), Allison Emerson (Colette's sister), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Joanne Gariepy (Sally Herzog's friend), Kathy Ghetti (friend of Ginger Rothel), Jennifer Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's daughter-in-law), Sarah & David Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's grandson & wife), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel's parents), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), 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), The people of Ukraine, Sudan, Gaza, and Israel, 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



BE A GREETER! A new sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area is waiting for your name to be added as a greeter. No experience is necessary—we will show you everything you need to know. Being a greeter is a wonderful way to get to know people and welcome them to worship.

MUSIC NOTES

Many thanks to our **Chancel Choir**, **Dave Williams**, **Eddy Zakrzewski**, **Ken Mehalko**, **Sandy O'Shea**, **Mike Willis**, and of course, **Tom Foley**, **Mike Elkins**, and **Sharon Heinrich**, for their music in September!



ATTENTION SINGERS & RINGERS: BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS ARE THURSDAYS AT 7 P.M. AND CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS ARE ON THURSDAYS AT 8 A.M.



Can you carry a tune? There's room in the choir loft for YOU! Can you read music? Come ring with us in Bell Choir! Please see Tom Foley or Mike Elkins if you'd like to be a part of our Music Ministry.

GIFT CARDS

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR

PROGRAM. You may place orders by calling **Jim Joyce** at 216-346-4161 in advance. **Limited stock is available for purchase on Sunday mornings.**

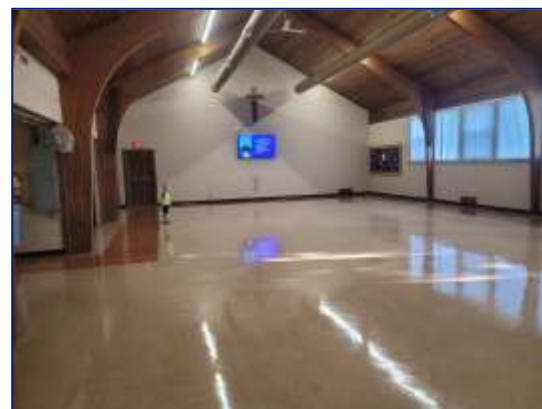


UNSUNG HEROES

Did you know that **Barb Fraunfelder**, **Dale & Cathy Hawk**, **Sally Herzog**, and **Irene Joyce**

cleared away the tables and chairs in Pilgrim Hall so that it could be stripped and waxed? Also, Cathy Hawk single-handedly put away the last 6 tables and 36 chairs after the Thursday Night AA meeting. Thanks also to those folks who put Pilgrim Hall back together on Sunday morning, including the aforementioned crew with the additions

of **Rob Toth**, **Ingrid Dickson**, **Elliot Joyce**, **Elaine Coffey**, **Teri Barbish**, and **Wayne & Bobbi Cook**.



Did you know that **Rachel Zielinski** took time out of her busy schedule and cleaned the carpet in the Gathering Area, complete with spot-treating the most egregious stains? Thanks a bunch, Rachel!

MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:



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 3rd through December 1st**, bring your items to the church during office hours and they will be placed on the Mitten Tree. After the 1st, 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!



MANY THANKS FROM SNOW SCHOOL!

Thank you to everyone who has donated stuffed animals and other items to our friends at J & G Snow School in Berea. Special thanks go out to members of our Diaconate and the Church Family Care Team who put on a lovely conference dinner for the staff on Snow School. They were very appreciative!



Members of our Diaconate pictured with **Tami Klammer**, principal of Snow School.

We would like to continue to support Snow School throughout the school year. They have a school "store" to reward appropriate behavior and help students learn money management skills. If you would like to contribute items for their school store, we will have a bin in the Gathering Area for:

- NEW Small toys, puzzles, or games for kids
- NEW marker sets, journals
- NEW Water bottles
- NEW fun socks or hats for kids
- Children's books (ages 5 and up)
- Fun snacks or candy (non-perishable)

For the most part, clothing is given directly to Ohio Guidestone for distribution to the kids, but Tami will offer special clothing items in the store from time to time. Please note: they cannot accept anything sharp or things that can be used for injurious behavior. Pictured: The school store at Snow School.



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.

FROM OUR FRIENDS AT THE FOOD BANK:



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, and canned tuna.

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, Colette Emerson, Carole Kapcar, Roz Fotos, Maria Graeff, Linda Elkins, Cherie Teagno, Wayne & Bobbi Cook, and Sharon Lempner**, who are enabling the Panera Bread ministry to continue!



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!

ROYAL OAK PAPER RECYCLING—NEW COMPANY!



Our paper recycling bin will now be serviced by Royal Oak Recycling. Please continue to deposit your **FLATTENED** cardboard and your papers in the bin. However, please do not place papers/cardboard outside the bin if it's full. Thanks!

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL--Wednesdays 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Thank you to our faithful volunteers—of all ages!

On September 4th, our friends at Westwood Place provided dessert for everyone at the Free Lunch and on October 2nd, Spry Seniors will be supplying dessert for our Free Lunch. Many thanks to our community partners!



Insider tip: Everyone's favorite, Gourmet Grilled Cheese sandwiches will be served on October 16th.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS



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

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.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP— October



Our monthly program is "Planning Our Calendar for 2025" – Please bring ideas!

Daytime meeting is **Wednesday, 10/2/24**, at 1pm at church.

Evening meeting is **Monday, 10/7/24**, at 7pm - NOT at church -please contact Sharon Heinrich for evening meeting details.

As always, all ladies are welcome!

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 accepted during our Thursday sale hours, but please try to limit your donations to what you can carry downstairs. **Please do not abandon items outside the church doors.**

THANK YOU TO OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS, AND ALL THE SUPPORT FROM OUR CONGREGATION AND COMMUNITY!

THANKS TO THE HILLS



Thanks to the Hills, a time to gather for gratitude, thanksgiving and celebration at Templed Hills, will be **November 16th, 10am to 4pm**. Mark your calendars today and save the date! They will have activities all day

including hiking, crafts, sing-a longs, gaga ball, archery, fishing, campfires with treats, a garage sale and silent auction of Templed Hills memorabilia, and a Closing Worship and farewell blessing of Templed Hills.

The event will be free. A potluck style Thanksgiving lunch is scheduled, and the Conference will provide all the hot food. Guests are invited to bring cold or shelf stable sides, salads, and desserts to share. A free will offering will also be taken. Guests will also have the option to "rent a room/continental breakfast" to share with family or friends for Friday and/or Saturday night. We will have the traditional camp coffee cake, fruit and other goodies for the Continental breakfast. Saturday night dinner and evening activities are on your own. However, we will keep the campfire going weather and interest permitted.

Reservations for Saturday event are highly encouraged and reservations for Friday and/or Saturday night are required.

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR LAST MONTH



The altar flowers are given—

September 1st

Happy Birthday to Gary Zielinski with lots of love!

Rachel, Penny & Oliver

Happy 30th Birthday to Casey Coffey!

Love you a bushel and a peck! Mom

September 8th

To all our wonderful church children—Welcome Back!

Happy Rally Day! Serena Abruzzino

In honor of Irene Jannsohn--Dianne Maringer

September 15th

Celebrating our 33rd Anniversary on September 21st!

Barbara & John Toth

With gratitude to Linda Elkins for her work with our

Sunday School

September 22nd

Celebrating our Grandson Weston Reed's

and Great Granddaughter Quinn's Birthdays

this month.--Love, Grandpa George and

Grandma Joyce Reed



September 29th

Celebrating our 11th Anniversary on October 12th!

Deborah and Bill Schneider

Thinking of you, mom—Love, Gina Cathcart

THE FLOWER CHART FOR 2024 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 \$36 for two vases; \$18 for one.



STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of September 1st

Happy Birthday tomorrow and welcome home to Pastor Heidi!

In loving memory of "Big K" Karen Morgan.

We miss her very much—Chancel & Bell Choirs

Week of September 8th

Happy Birthday to Stacie Sauter on September 9th

and Eli Sauter on September 12th!

With love, Grammy

Week of September 15th

Happy Birthday to Abby Craig on September 21st!

With love, Grammy

Happy Birthday to Peter Smith, whose birthday was September 13th! Love, "Smiley"

Week of September 22nd

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

Week of September 29th

Happy Birthday to Luke Giuliano on September 30th!

In memory of Mary L. Joyce-Smith's birthday on October 1st and in celebration of Betty Dickson's Birthday on October 1st--The Joyces & the Dicksons

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!

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 don't need to be a member of the Diaconate to participate, and you may come and go as you are led.)



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.

CHURCH OFFICERS 2024

**Elected January 28, 2024 **Appointed by Official Board*

Moderator: Greg Dickson* **Vice-Moderator:** Jen Barry*

Treasurer: Sally Herzog* **Clerk:** Judy Gaumer*

Sunday School Co-Superintendents

Linda Elkins Mary Densmore

Board of Trustees

Bill Giuliano* Chris Goff Mike Elkins*

Les Fox* Herb Hampson* Cathy Hawk

Sarah Hayes* Sandy Pogozeleski* Cheryl Sobek

Dan Winrod Laura Winrod Rachel Zielinski*

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson* Dave Williams*

Diaconate

Teri Barbish* Jean Bittinger Elaine Coffey*

Bobbi Cook Wayne Cook Judy Davis Judy Fox*

Carole Kapcar Cherie Teagno* Barbara White

Mary Ellen Zimmerman

Christian Education Committee

Serena Abruzzino Mary Densmore Linda Elkins*

Colette Emerson* Sarah Hayes** Amanda Marshall*

Lora Rung

Music Committee

Karen Bates* Ingrid Dickson*

Pam Keenen Ken Mehalko Mike Willis

ex officio: Sharon Heinrich Tom Foley Mike Elkins

Stewardship Committee

Sue Gigliotti* Judi Pavisich Bill Schneider

Rob Toth* Mary Willis

Mission and Outreach Committee

Diana Creecy* Sarah Hayes* Lora Rung

Jennifer Sekorky* Peter Smith Bev Wehr*

Mary Ellen Zimmerman

PLAYER PIANO?

If you or anyone you know is interested in a refurbished player piano, please contact Mark Camp at 330-697-1407.



HAPPENINGS AROUND THE CHURCH

Your church boards and committees have been busy this past month, working on projects:

- Caulking around the building and concrete around the church has been completed.
- The floor in Pilgrim Hall was stripped and waxed on September 13th.
- The chimney and vent flashings on the roof were replaced on September 25th. Thanks to **Les Fox** for coordinating this project with the contractors.
- Work has been done at the Pearl Road property to address the water drainage issues. The City of Strongsville is handling this project. Thanks to **Dale Hawk** for serving as liaison.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR LIVE NATIVITY EVENT ON NOVEMBER 24th!

Attention Bakers: We will be needing donations of cookies for our celebration.

**New Creche
Being Built for 2024**

Oliver Sekorky is building our church a new Creche to replace the 40 plus year old Creche for his Eagle Scout Project.



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 The United Church of Christ (Congregational) 13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, OH 44136 or drop it off in the church's mailbox.

If you would like to contribute to this project, Oliver has established a Go Fund Me:

https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-rebuild-strongsvilles-ucc-beloved-creche?attribution_id=sl:adf86d76-719b-4701-901b-0c2918a8deca&utm_campaign=man_ss_icons&utm_content=amp9c&utm_medium=customer&utm_source=copy_link

FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

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 1 through September 22, 2024.**



Thank you to everyone who supports our church and its ministries.

Offering Needed \$14,468.04 for 4 Sundays
 Offering Received \$19,275.25
 +\$4,807.21

PLEDGE CARDS RECEIVED : 51

A NEW STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN FOR 2025

WHAT DO YOU BRING TO THE CAMPFIRE?



United Church of Christ 2025 Estimate of Giving

In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2025:

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/savings account.

Signed _____

Date ____/____/____



TELLERS NEEDED! If you have less than 30 minutes to spare after worship periodically, we are in need of tellers. No experience is necessary.

Please see Gary Zielinski if you can help.



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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(Congregational)
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