

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



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

**Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall**  
Pastor

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

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## SEPTEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

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### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

*When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put away childish things. –1 Corinthians 13:11*

#### The child within

Remember when you were younger, and you just couldn't wait to grow up (or at least be bigger)? How often we heard it: *You're too little! You aren't old enough or tall enough!* How hard it was to watch older siblings hop on the roller coaster without us! And sometimes those things on the kids' menu just weren't what we wanted!

Be careful what you wish for, huh?

But you know what? Now that we are all grown up, research shows us we really do need to channel our inner child more often, cut loose and just *play*.

Dr. Stuart Brown did some research into the lives of murderers who otherwise had no criminal history. What he discovered was astonishing: 90% of those studied came from a home environment that severely restricted play when they were growing up. Ninety percent!

While Dr. Brown didn't continue to study adults, I daresay we, too, need to *play* more, especially when life is turned upside down and nothing seems to make sense.

Think about this: when God began creation, God wanted companionship. Someone to play with. God was lonely.

This COVID season is getting really old, isn't it? We are lonely. We want to *play!* We need to play! We just need to play carefully. . . .

So go ahead. Make a little mess. (Make a *big* mess!) Try something new, that you've always wanted to try. Make time to *do nothing at all*, if you want. Give yourself a break.

And as you do so, use your senses to find God. Settle in to God's presence. When Paul said to put away childish things, he only meant the icky trappings of adulthood. Find your inner child, and let them loose!

Tag—you're IT!

Playing in Peace and Promise,  
Pastor Heidi

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### ONLINE WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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**SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 6 – ONLINE**  
**Sacrament of Communion**  
*Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*  
Special Music: Dave Williams



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**SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 13 – ONLINE**  
*Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*  
Special Music: Gary Hackett  
**RALLY DAY!**

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**SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 20 – ONLINE**  
*Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

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**SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 27 – ONLINE**  
*Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost*

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### ROLLING RALLY DAY!

Celebrating our children as they return to school is something we have always looked forward to—but like so many other things, this year **Rally Day** will look a bit different.



On **Sunday, September 13 from 10:00-12:00**, church families are invited to drive through the church parking lot and greet the pastor and the Sunday School teachers. Children will receive a back-to-learning goodie bag. In this topsy turvy year, we want to remind our children how deeply your church family loves you. **(Please note: In order to comply with all state and local mandates and recommendations, this will be a drive-through event only.)** We are still working on other surprises, so stay tuned!

**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](http://strongsvilleucc.com), go to **Worship**, and click on **Service Videos**. Our YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCynOZfq4uKoX7HMnKORbXfQ/videos>

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**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, Lloyd Bridle, Mary Carey, Elaine Coffey, Rev.

Larry and Christina Craig, Robert Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Dan Davis, 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, Judy Maur, Laurie Meister, Michele Mihlack, Lola Millhoane, 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 Baldrige, 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.**

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**THANK YOU NOTES**



Pastor Heidi's mother, Muriel McKeever, truly appreciated the many birthday cards you sent for her 97th birthday! She was surprised, pleased-- and astounded that every single card was different.

Thank you so much!

**"I was originally going to send a thank you note to each of your church members who sent me a Birthday Card! My Goodness! I received 16 cards! Please send my thank you to all the church members. I really appreciated their thoughtfulness." Mom (Muriel McKeever)**



**We thank the Satori Winds:  
 Ken Mehalko-Alto Sax  
 Richard Ingersol, Jr.-Alto Sax  
 Brian Maskow-Tenor Sax  
 Dick Ingersol, Sr.-Baritone Sax  
 for sharing their music with us for worship.**

Many thanks to **Rev. Oommen Thomas** for his message during our worship service on August 16<sup>th</sup>. We are grateful for his insights and inspiration.

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**LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL**

The Executive Team will be meeting in early September to develop a plan and protocols for returning to in-person worship. The congregation will

be kept informed as the plans evolve. In the meantime, please keep watching our online services.

**UNSUNG HEROES**

Did you know that **Jim Joyce** brought his hedge trimmer to the church and trimmed the bushes on either side of the front doors around our new sign? Thanks for making the extra effort, Jim!



Did you know that our Panera Bread donations have been feeding families and seniors, plus drop-offs at St. Herman's and Salvation Army on 55th and Euclid? Thanks again to **Sharon Lempner** for transporting baked goods!

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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 \$203.58 from Amazon as of May, 2020. Every little bit helps!**

### 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 August 2

*Happy Birthday to Isabella Jannsohn on August 1<sup>st</sup>  
In loving memory of Brooke M. Akins  
With love, the Jannsohn-Joyce-Dickson family*

#### Week of August 9

*In loving memory of Erik O. Jannsohn and Aimée J. Jannsohn  
With love, the Jannsohn-Joyce-Dickson family  
Happy August Birthdays to Jim Heinrich  
and to Sharon Heinrich!*

*Happy Anniversary to Suzi & Tom Foley on August 12<sup>th</sup>!*

#### Week of August 16

*Happy Anniversary to Bill & Pam Craig on August 19<sup>th</sup>!  
Happy 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Madison Wentz on August 22<sup>nd</sup>!  
With love, Mom/Grammy*

#### Week of August 23

*Happy Birthday to Joe Craig & Nate Johnson  
on August 24<sup>th</sup>! With love, Mom*

*In loving memory of Betty Bushea, remembering her  
birthday on August 27<sup>th</sup>. Barb Fraunfelder*

#### Week of August 30

*Remembering our Aunt Rhea Clements on her 100<sup>th</sup>  
Birthday, August 28<sup>th</sup>! —Becky and Bill Robinson*



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](mailto: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.

### PENNY SUNDAY NEWS

#### PENNY SUNDAY

**Thank you to everyone who took the time to participate in our offering for St. Herman's House.**



**We sent them \$233.20!**

Live Penny Sunday collections will resume on the last Sunday of each month when our in-person worship services return. Please keep saving those pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and dollars!

### NEW SIGN IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH



On August 5<sup>th</sup>, a post and panel sign was installed, facing the intersection of Pearl and Royalton Roads. The sign has a clear address to allow for easier reading than our monument sign.

Thank you to Paul and Brian from Sign-A-Rama for their good work. The Memorial Fund financed this project.

**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.**







### BOMBAS SOCKS DONATION

Once again, our church has received 1,500 pairs of socks from the Bombas company. Many of those socks have already been given to St. Herman's House, St. Malachi's, Homeless Veterans' Outreach, Family Transitional Housing, Strongsville United Methodist Church's Big Blue Bus, and Church Street Ministries. Thank you to Judy Carte, Cathy Hawk, Sharon Lempner, and Linda Allwood for connecting with agencies that can get the socks to those in need.

### 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



On August 22, a Women's Fellowship Roster was emailed to all members of the group. Ladies, please check your email for your copy. If you cannot print yours, please email or call me and I will mail a copy to you.

The new roster has email addresses and birthdays.

If you are interested in Women's Fellowship, please call Sharon Heinrich at (440) 234-3025.

If you would like to support the Strongsville Food Bank, please note that cereal, canned veggies, soup, and pasta are their biggest needs.



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.

### STEWARDSHIP

Now, more than ever, your faithful support is needed and appreciated to maintain our church and its ministry.

### 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](http://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 July 26 through August 16, 2020.

This information also appears on a weekly basis in our worship bulletin.

Offering Needed \$13,893.08 for 4 Sundays  
Offering Received 12,  
Difference (- \$1,626.48)

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. Please remember: any activity being held at Strongsville UCC or on the grounds needs to be approved by the appropriate committee or board.

- Had the overgrown bushes around the church property trimmed.
- Voted on address signs for the parking lot and Royalton Road doors.
- Reviewed bids for painting the exterior of the Pearl Road House.

Thank you to our dedicated Trustees !

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**  
 Kristen Clotworthy

### 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

### 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



## ADDRESS CHANGES

To update your Church Directory:

Katie Lett  
 3315 Jefferson Avenue #28  
 Cincinnati, OH 45220

Jacob Williams  
 3304 Brookpark Road  
 Brooklyn, OH 44144

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## Hospice of the Western Reserve Virtual Volunteer Training

Are you looking for a way to help individuals in your community? Are you willing to engage with homebound patients and families by phone or by mail? Consider becoming a Hospice of the Western Reserve Volunteer. We are excited to announce virtual volunteer training for new volunteers. We also look forward to the day that in-person visits can resume safely. For more information, contact us at 216.255.9090 or fill out an online application [hospicewr.org/volunteers](http://hospicewr.org/volunteers). Volunteers who complete virtual training will be able to provide in-person visits when it is deemed safe.



## COMING NEXT MONTH:

### NEIGHBORS IN NEED

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



Dear United Church of Christ,

I pray that you are well during these difficult times. So much has changed in the world since last year's [Neighbors in Need](#) Special Mission Offering. Justice issues from disability to race to health disparities have been laid bare, making the Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering even more critical.

The United Church of Christ's history is rooted in supporting justice work, and through the use of virtual settings, we continue to bring programs and services to our communities in need of assistance. We are presenting webinars that inform and uplift and even held our first-ever online [National Youth Event](#) in July where nearly 2,000 youth and young adults participated.

Traci Blackmon, our Associate General Minister, and I thank you for your congregations' past support that helps us stand front and center with those working toward a just world for all.

Therefore, we invite your congregation to renew its commitment to [Neighbors in Need](#) on Sunday, October 4th.

Importantly, all of this year's resource materials are downloadable [here](#). Per your request, we will mail you a Neighbors in Need poster which can be displayed in a prominent space in your church if you have returned to worshipping onsite. Please make this request at [store@ucc.org](mailto:store@ucc.org) or 800-537-3394. We are available 24 hours a day.

In service with deep gratitude,

Bentley de Bardelaben-Phillips,  
Executive Associate, Justice and Local Church Ministries