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

SEPTEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

RALLY DAY

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"The highest form of worship is the worship of unselfish Christian service. The greatest form of praise is the sound of consecrated feet seeking out the lost and helpless." Billy Graham

True worship.

Church has changed over the years. What used to be a time to come and spend time in God's presence, then spend time in community with friends and family has, in many places, become a performance to watch. We judge the "show" based on whether *I* have been entertained, whether God *personally* spoke to *me*.

The world's way of looking at a worship service is to see the worship leaders and musicians as the stars of the show; those in the pews are the audience. Whether the show is "any good" depends on how the "audience" responds. How many noses? How many nickels? Did they rise to their feet and applaud wildly? Is that what makes a good service?

What if instead, we realize that we are *all* part of the production, and the worship leaders are agents of God's Holy Spirit? What if *God* is the Star of the show—*and the* Audience?

What if a "good show" is measured not by the number of seats filled, but by the number of hearts moved?

What if every nickel dropped in the plate were truly given *joyfully*—and not grudgingly?

What if the only sound each member of the "show" desires is the whisper, deep within: **You** are my beloved Child. In **you** I am well pleased.

The world tries to convince us: *it's all about me. Me first;* everyone else, get in line. Truth is, within our lives, if we try to put *God* first, everything else falls in line with that desire. We discover we have *more* than enough to share with those who have less—and it feels *good*.

And we remind ourselves that the worship *God* desires is not unbridled applause or catchy tunes, but a contrite heart, open hands, and a voice for the voiceless (*Isaiah 58:3-14*).

I am grateful for your presence here, and for your unique gifts and voice.

Peace and Love, Pastor Heidi

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 – 10 a.m.

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Linda Plain Liturgist: Judi Pavisich Ushers: Volunteers needed

Special Music: Roger Davis & the SUCC Band Guest Minister: Rev. Bert Ambrose

Summer Sunday School: Volunteer needed

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 - 10 a.m.

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sacrament of Communion RALLY DAY

Greeters: Serena Abruzzino & Bobbie Krisak

Liturgist: Cherie Teagno
Ushers: Roz Fotos

Special Music: Chancel Choir returns
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FOLLOWING
THE WORSHIP SERVICE

------SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 – 10 a.m.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Judi Pavisich Liturgist: Herb Hampson Ushers: Judi Pavisich Special Music: Chancel Choir

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 - 10 a.m.

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

PENNY SUNDAY

Greeter: Elaine Coffey Liturgist: Pam Keenen

Ushers: Elaine Coffey, Roz Fotos Special Music: Chancel Choir

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 STOCK UP FOR
BACK-TO-SCHOOL
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.**



ATTENTION CHURCH MEMBERS: NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On September 11, 2022, immediately following the worship service, we will have a special congregational meeting to vote on the purchase and installation of new window blinds in the church building. Please plan to attend this brief meeting and cast your vote. (Nonmembers are welcome to stay for the meeting, but only official members are entitled to vote.)

MUSIC NOTES

Many thanks to Dick K. Ingersoll, the
Keenens, the Satori Winds---4 guys with 4
saxophones—(Dick E. Ingersoll, Dick K.
Ingersoll, Don Kubec, and Ken Mehalko),
Dave Williams, Carol Konet, Patti
Skvoretz, and Kelly Wilson, along with Tom Foley,
Sharon Heinrich, and Mike Elkins for their music in
August. And to our guest storytelling pastor, Rev. Bert
Ambrose for leading us in worship on 8/28 & 9/4!



ATTENTION SINGERS & RINGERS: Can you carry a tune? Why not share your voice in praise and worship with the Chancel Choir? A new season for 2022-23

begins with our first worship service on September 11th. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings at 8 p.m. We have a place for you!

Can't sing but can read music and ring? Check out the Bell Choir! Rehearsals begin on Thursday, September 8th at 7 p.m. Also, if you can play an instrument and are willing to play for worship, we would love to have you! Please see Tom Foley or Mike Elkins if you're interested in becoming a part of our Music Ministry.



RIVER VALLEY PAPER KEEP RECYCLING YOUR PAPER, MAGAZINES, AND CARDBOARD (Please break down cardboard.)

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY



Our deepest sympathy to Sally Herzog, Sarah & Dale Toth, Andrew & Mallory Herzog and Aiden, on the passing of Steve Herzog on July 29, 2022. Steve, a U.S. Navy veteran, had been a member of our church

since 1996. He was 73 years old. (*Pictured with Sally and their beloved dog Abby*)

Our sympathy is extended to **Irene Jannsohn** on the death of her brother, **Ben Herrebrugh**, on August 15, 2022 in Nevada, just a day shy of his 80th birthday.

DON'T FORGET!

Are you shopping online? If so, why not benefit the church while you make your purchases from Amazon? It's incredibly easy! Here's what you do:

 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.

THANK YOU NOTES

Note of Thanks from the Family of Steve Herzog:

We would like to thank all those who sent cards and provided support, in any way, during Steve's illness and after his passing. The love and support from our church family has been a great comfort to us during this difficult time. We love you all. Sally, Andrew & Mallory, Aiden, and Sarah & Dale

My dear friends--I was touched and overwhelmed by the outpouring of love I received for my birthday. Your notes and \$2 were truly appreciated and I am forever grateful for this church and this congregation, Thank you, thank you! Irene Joyce

PANERA PALS

Thank you so much to our faithful bread transporters and



sorters: Judy Carte, Neal & Cathy Flowerman, Maria Graeff, Linda Elkins, Linda & George Kapcar, Sharon Lempner, and Rick & Cherie Teagno, who continue to make the Panera Bread ministry possible! Also, thanks to Pastor

Heidi & Chuck, Cathy Hawk and **Irene Joyce** for delivering the bread downtown when needed.



RALLY DAY IS COMING!

Mark your calendar for September 11th, when we begin a new



Sunday School year of learning and growing together! Don't forget to bring your bags and backpacks for the Blessing of the Backpacks!

PENNY SUNDAY

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Penny Sunday collection in August. Our total was



\$211.93! The money went to backpacks and school supplies for needy children thought the Berea City School District, which serves 3 neighboring communities, as well as Ohio Guidestone (formerly Berea Children's Home) and the Aristocrat Berea, which serves severely ill children. Save those pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and yes, DOLLARS for our next Penny Sunday collection, **September 25**^{th!}

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, Eddy Bond, Lloyd Bridle, Mary Carey, Gina Cathcart, Kathy Cockrell, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sam Cuyler, Sr., Lidiya Dordzhiyeva, Sue Hawk, Bob Heddleson, Paul Hirt, Wayne Krisak,



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

Extended Church Family: Dorene Baldridge, Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Mary Ann Csory (Judi Pavisich's friend), 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), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Ed Kuhn (Sandy & Don Gleichauf's friend), Andrew Majoros (Michele Mihlack'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

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 Ponstingle** know.

NEW WINDOWS INSTALLATION



All of the windows have been installed and they look terrific! They are so much more energy efficient, sound reducing,

and aesthetically pleasing than the old windows. Please feel free to take a look around and see for yourself. Blinds will be coming soon.



Did you know that **Herb**

Hampson has completed the railing project on the side of the church building? Thank you so much, Herb!



Did you know that **Dale & Cathy Hawk** procured and transported a Sawz-all and tablesaw to Templed Hills? Thanks also to the **Thrift Shop** for paying for the tools and to **Cleveland Tool & Cutter** for the discounted pricing!

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 September would be Soup, Cereal, 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!

DISASTER RELIEF UPDATE

Remember all those Clean-Up buckets and personal hygiene kits our church put together for UCC Disaster Relief? They are headed to Kentucky and West Virginia to aid victims of the catastrophic flooding that destroyed so many communities and impacted so many lives. Thank you again to everyone who supported this project in any way.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - PICNIC!



The picnic date has changed to <u>Tuesday</u>, <u>September 13</u>, at 11:00 a.m. at East River Park in Olmsted Falls. Flyers with additional picnic information are on the cabinet in the Gathering Area where bulletins are distributed.

As always, all ladies are welcome!

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

As always, 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.

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR AUGUST

The altar flowers are given—
August 7th

Celebrating 40 years of marriage today! Happy Anniversary!--Dale & Cathy Hawk

In celebration of the wedding of Kevin J. Toth and Bethany Kriss, who were married last weekend in West Virginia. The happy parents are John and Barbara Toth. In loving memory of my mother, Helen Miller, on her birthday. Miss you, Mom! --Barbara and John Toth

August 14th

For all the children heading back to school this month Roger & Judy Davis

August 21st

In celebration of Ingrid & Irene's birthday today
Greg Dickson and Jim Joyce

In celebration of George Pavisich's 89th Birthday on August 26th!—Love, Judi

August 28th

Remembering our Aunt Rhea Clements on her birthday today! Love ya Aunt Rhea! --Becky & Bill Robinson
Happy Birthday to our daughter, Holly!
George & Joyce Reed

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 Sept. 11 (1), Oct. 16, 30 (1), Nov. 13 (1), Dec. 4 & 11 (1)

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STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of August 7th
Memory of Frik O. Jar

In Loving Memory of Erik O. Jannsohn and Aimée J. Jannsohn -- Irene Jannsohn In celebration of Jim Heinrich's birthday on August 5th and Sharon Heinrich's birthday on August 8th!

Week of August 14th

Happy Anniversary to Bill and Pam Craig on August 19th! --With love, Mom

Week of August 21st

Happy 20th Birthday to Madison Wentz on August 22nd
With love, Grammy

Happy Birthday to Joe Craig and Nate Johnson on August 24th --With love, Mom

Week of August 28th

In loving memory of Betty Bushea on her birthday, August 27th, Love Barb

Happy Birthday to Pastor Heidi on September 2nd! Happy 60th Anniversary to new members Mike & Mary Willis on September 1st!

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

Please email <u>strongsvilleuuc@gmail.com</u>. Thank you to everyone who lights our steeple!

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL HAS ROOM FOR YOU!

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





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.

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

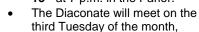
this area, please contact Cathy Hawk about how you can help.

Special thanks to all our dedicated volunteers!

LOOKING FOR A WISE MAN? Ours has arrived! Thank you to the Thrift Shop for purchasing the latest addition to our Outdoor Nativity scene. He'll look great leading **Charley the Camel!**



The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, September 13th at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



September 20th at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **September 27th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



meeting

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.

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 August 7 through August 28, 2022. Thank you to everyone who supports our church and its ministries.

Offering Needed \$14,597.48 for 4 Sundays Offering Received 10,327.75 +1,062.22

Pledge cards received to date: 65

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* Barbara White* Mary Ellen Cherie Teagno 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 Folev Mike Elkins

Stewardship Committee

Sue Gialiotti* Beth Giuliano* Judi Pavisich Bill Schneider** Richard Taylor Rob Toth

Mission and Outreach Committee

Sarah Hayes Bobbie Krisak Lora Rung* Judy Carte* Jennifer Sekorky Peter Smith ** Bev Wehr*

ADDRESS CHANGES/ADDITIONS

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

Kyra & T.J. Arnette 2432 Glen Mary Ave. #3

Linda Plain 146 Clearwater Drive Louisville, KY 40204 Brunswick, OH 44212

Sharon Maresco

New email: sharon.maresco@gmail.com

Ed Sobek

New email:edsobek@gmail.com

NEW MEMBERS

Sherry Ahern 619 Salem Lane Brunswick, OH 44212 330-321-4811

Bobbi & Wayne Cook 8127 Oxford Drive Road Strongsville, OH 44149 440-212-2778

Judy Maur

18284 Bishop Lane Strongsville, OH 44136 440-567-4298

Jean Bittinger

13217 Brazey Trail Strongsville, OH 44136 440-785-9059

Susann Lerch

17377 Ridge Creek Strongsville, OH 44136 440-238-3654

Jan Meier

6236 Mariana Drive Parma Hts, OH 44130 440-885-5394

Peter Smith 15101 Howe Road #418 Strongsville, OH 44136 203-885-9425

Mike & Mary Willis 14901 State Road North Royalton, OH 44133 440-628-9694 Sandy Smith 18445 Bunker Hill Drive Strongsville, OH 44136 440-638-4053

Phyllis Kurz 16650 Cowley Road Grafton, OH 44044

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Sherry Ahern, a resident of Brunswick, has been worshipping with us (up in the balcony) for nearly a year. She has 3 grown children, Shaun, Ryan, and Kristen. We are happy to welcome her into membership in our congregation. Sherry's sponsor is her longtime friend, Bobbie Krisak.



Jean Bittinger has been an active UCC member for many years at Middleburg Heights Community Church. She and her late husband, Russell, have a son named Mike. Jean has brought her grandson, Mason, to worship with us on a number of occasions. Jean has mentioned that she likes our warm,

friendly church and knows many of our members already. Her sponsor is Roz Fotos.

Wayne & Bobbi Cook come to us from Middleburg Heights Community Church and have been attending our church and activities for several months. The couple has been married for nearly 24 years and they live in Strongsville. The two of them have had an eventful life



together, Wayne and Bobbi like the size of our church and the friendliness of our people. Their sponsor is Bev Wehr.



Phyllis Kurz is the mother of the late Karen Morgan, the grandmother of Rachel Zielinski, and the great-grandmother of Oliver & Penny Zielinski. She has recently moved north from Florida, but has roots as well as a long history in Ohio and a long history with our church, helping

with the Garage Sale for years. She is a US Navy (WAVES) veteran. Ingrid Dickson, who grew up across the street from Phyllis and her late husband, Len, is her sponsor.

Susann Lerch has been worshipping with us for just a short time, but has found a home in our church. She and her husband, Bruce, live in Strongsville and are the parents of grown children: Wendy and Chad. Susann is retired. She has expressed how welcome she felt when she started coming here and



how much she enjoyed Pastor Heidi's sermons. Elaine Coffey is her sponsor.



Judy Maur has been attending our church and participating in our activities for a number of years and she has decided to join officially. Judy and her husband, Dave, live in Strongsville for five months of the year, then head to Florida for the winter months. They have two grown sons, Richard and Michael. Linda Kapcar is sponsoring Judy.

Jan Meier is joining our church while maintaining her membership at Middleburg Heights Community Church. Jan has already been serving with us as an usher and as a greeter. She has two grown children, Karen, and Kenneth, and lives in Middleburg Heights. Jan's sponsor is Diana Creecy.





Peter Smith has already incorporated himself into our church life, working at the Free Lunch for All every week and helping with meals. Peter has a strong passion for service and outreach and he is an excellent chef. We are happy to welcome him into our church family. Doug Thorn is his sponsor.

Sandy Smith has been a part of our Thrift Shop for many years, first as a customer, then as an invaluable volunteer. She is a retired nurse, a talented artist, and Thrift Shop fashion consultant. She's the mother of two grown sons, James and David, and lives in Strongsville. Sandy is a welcome addition to our church family. Her sponsor is Cathy Hawk.





Mike & Mary Willis were brought to our church during the COVID pandemic, as they were looking for the Strongsville Target and stopped in at the church to ask for directions. They are North Royalton residents and the parents of three grown children: Marya, Melinda, and Michael. Both Mary and Mike are

retired and are looking forward to being a part of church life. Irene Joyce is sponsoring Mike and Mary.



The United Church of Christ (Congregational) 13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, OH 44136

www.strongsvilleucc.com

COMING SOON... Mark your calendar for October 9th when our church will celebrate our 205th AMMIVERSARY!

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

