

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)

SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

How strange it is that so many people seem to want to define their religion by drawing out its boundaries and then guarding their frontiers so only those who agree can enter in to claim a place among the chosen. . . . I think houses of God should not be bunkers, but meadows, with room for children to play, and room for seekers to breathe. – Rt. Rev Steven Charleston

Room for all.

Every church everywhere eventually has the discussion: *How can we grow the church?* Dozens of books have been written; speakers regularly hold seminars offering their expert advice.

But at the end of the day, there's only one *proven* and *effective* way to grow the church.

Oh, sure, it helps to offer worship opportunities for children *and* adults. And Sunday School and Bible studies are also important. Great music? Of course! All those things are for nothing, however, if people don't feel welcomed and comfortable when they get here. (You *know* how well we do this! Truly, when you're here, you *are* Family.)

But how do people looking for *something* they might not be able to name find their way to Strongsville UCC? Facebook helps; our website helps. One thing works better than *all* these things.

How to get folks to come to our church and discover what they didn't know was missing in their lives? **Ask them!** Invite someone you care about to *join* you for worship . . . or Free Lunch for All . . . or Thrift Shop Thursday. *Nothing* is more effective than a personal invitation.

Rally Day is September 8. The time we return to our "usual" schedule for Sunday School. Sharing Communion together.

What better time to welcome someone to the Family of Christ?

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. . . . For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." –Matthew 11:28-29

See you Sunday!
Peace, Hope and Welcome!
Pastor Heidi

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 – 10 a.m.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Labor Day Weekend

Greeter: Linda Plain

Liturgist: Linda Ponstingle

Music: Roger Davis, Music team



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 – 10 a.m.

Sacrament of Holy Communion/Rally Day

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeters: Roger & Judy Davis

Liturgist: Sandy O'Shea

Music: Chancel Choir returns!



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 – 10 a.m.

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Judi Pavisich

Liturgist: Pam Keenen

Music: Chancel Choir

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 – 10 a.m.

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Jean Bittinger

Liturgist: Dan Winrod

Music: Chancel Choir

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 – 10 a.m.

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Penny Sunday

Greeter: Judi Pavisich

Liturgist: Luke Giuliano

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> 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)!

Welcome New Members!

We are so happy to welcome these new members into our church family!

Alex Tomoff, Sally Harper, Sarah Hwang, Tony & Jo-Ann Hoty, Jane Linscott, Nancy Garber, Erv Koch with their sponsors



THANK YOU NOTES



Pastor Heidi and Strongsville UCC, Thank you so much for your wonderful gift card and well-wishes for my graduation! It means a lot to me knowing

there are those out there who think of me and pray for me. Wishing you all the best and God bless! **Jay Sander (grandson of Mary & Ron Mortus)**

Dear Pastor Heidi and Strongsville UCC, Thank you for all you've done for me and my family during our time at Strongsville UCC! Thank you for the graduation gift, too! I love McDonald's quarter pounder burgers. As for my plans, now I will be attending the University of Akron seeking a bachelor's in Aerospace Engineering. Thank you again, **Christian Scott—Go Zips!**

Pastor Heidi & SUCC, Thank you for your card for my recent graduation from High School and for the gift card! **Jessica Haney (granddaughter of Barb Fraunfelder)**

Thank you to everyone for the prayers and cards as I recover from surgery. Special thanks to Judy Davis and Linda Ponstingle for bringing me meals. It has really helped me in my healing.

Sharon Wilson

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Many in our congregation knew **Cordetta Valthausen**, a local church musician. She died on July 29, 2024 at the age of 87. Our sympathies go out to her family and friends. A memorial service was held on August 28th at Middleburg Heights Community Church.

BOOK STUDY--A YEAR OF BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD

Continuing on **September 16th**, Pastor Heidi and Linda Elkins are leading a monthly book study based on Rachel Held

Evans's wonderful book, *A Year of Biblical Womanhood*. The group will meet on the **third Monday of each month at 7 p.m.**, for one hour. It's not too late to join us!



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Thank you to everyone who taught Sunday School during the summer!



PENNY SUNDAY.

Thanks to everyone who donated in August. We collected \$330.00 for the students and staff at J&G Snow School. Please save your coins, dollars, and checks (to UCC) for our next Penny Sunday on **September 29, 2024** and will go toward funding the animals (including Charlie the Camel!) for our church's Live Nativity in November.



RALLY DAY IS COMING! Mark your calendars for a brand new Sunday School year beginning September 8th!

ADDRESS CHANGES/ADDITIONS

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

Brandi Garsteck
1081 Oakbrooke Drive
Medina, OH 44256
Lynne McCray
New phone #: 216-217-5944



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.

DO MORE IN 2024!

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.





Did you know that **Wayne Cook** jumped in to help vacuum the soggy carpet when a hose from the janitor's closet escaped the bounds of the sink and leaked water everywhere? Wayne also gingerly shoveled an injured raccoon out of the parking lot and gently placed in under a grove of pine trees where Strongsville Animal Control could do their job and take care of it. Thanks so much, Wayne!

Did you know that **Jim Heinrich** came to the rescue when our sound system was broadcasting out on the Strongsville town square during the outdoor worship service of Christ Church? Jim figured out who to contact and how to adjust the bandwidth on the microphone to solve the issue. Thanks for saving the day, Jim!

MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:

THANK YOU to everyone who donated deodorant for the kids at Snow School in Berea and to the principal of Snow School, **Tami Klammer**, for speaking at our church on August 25th! So many folks were inspired to help the staff and students of Snow School. Our committees are looking into ways of facilitating donations—so stay tuned!



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 September would be peanut butter & jelly and canned tuna.

MUSIC NOTES

Many thanks to **Sue McLaughlin, Dave Williams, Will Foley, Robert Foley, Carol Foley, Megan Denman, The Satori Winds (Dick E. Ingersoll, Dick K. Ingersoll, Brian Maskow, and Ken Mehalko)**, and of course, **Tom Foley, Mike Elkins, and Sharon Heinrich**, for their music in August!



ATTENTION SINGERS & RINGERS: CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS ARE UNDERWAY ON THURSDAY EVENINGS at



8PM AND BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS RESUME SEPTEMBER 12th at 7 PM. 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.



CHILDREN'S CHOIR STARTS SEPTEMBER 15th FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE!

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.**



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!



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, Jan Meier, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Ginny & Kenn Oerkfitz, Gary Paul, George & Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Peter Smith, Linda Stepan, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Yvonne Adams (Judi Pavisich's friend), Dorene Baldrige, 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), Karen Pavisich (Judi's daughter-in-law), Jeff Peacock (former member), Zora Roundtree (FL4A volunteer), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Sandy Shipley (the Zielinskis' friend), Vicki Smith (Venner Clarinets), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), The people of Ukraine, 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



CARB CREW

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!

RIVER VALLEY PAPER RECYCLING—ON BORROWED TIME



River Valley Paper company is reducing its routes and will be removing our paper/cardboard recycling bin at some point. We will be contacting other companies to see about getting another bin. You may bring your cardboard and paper as long as the bin is in our parking lot, but an alternative site will be needed in the future. Thank you to everyone who has supported this program.



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **September 10th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **September 17th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **September 24th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—September FUN & GAMES!

Daytime: **Wednesday, September 4th, 1PM:** Trivia with Cherie Teagno
Evening: **Monday, September 9th, 7PM:** Trivia & Game Night
As always, all ladies are welcome!

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.



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. Feel free to add items to the box.



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.

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 **August 4 through August 25, 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

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!

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!

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



Thank you to our faithful volunteers—of all ages!



ALTAR FLOWERS FOR LAST MONTH

The altar flowers are given—
August 4th

God Bless our Church!--Susann Lerch

August 11th

In loving memory of Erik O. Jannsohn and Aimée J. Jannsohn--The Dicksons & the Joyces

August 18th

Celebrating our Daughter Holly's Birthday this month. Love, Mom & Dad Reed

Happy Birthday to Riley Marshall on August 17th and Amanda Marshall on August 19th!

Love, Dale & Cathy Hawk

Happy 21st Birthday, Kenna!--Love Gramma P.

August 25th

Remembering our Aunt, Rhea Clements on her birthday, August 28th! Love and miss ya, Aunt Rhea! Also, Happy 70th Birthday today to our middle brother, Dave

Robinson!--Becky & Bill Robinson

With gratitude to my lovely daughters for their care during my recovery--Judy Carte



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 August 4th

Happy Birthday to our mom, Bryana Hitchens, on August 10th! Love, Alaya & Elliott

Week of August 11th

Celebrating our 29th Anniversary tomorrow!
Tom & Suzi Foley

In loving memory of my father, John McKeever, who was both born on and died August 8. 1917-2009-Pastor Heidi.

Week of August 18th

In honor of my daughter Megan Denman for her generous gift of music on Sunday morning
From her proud mother, Pastor Heidi

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

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

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

Welcome Home, Cannon! We missed you!
Lojuanna & Jeff Udvardy

Happy Birthday to Ingrid Dickson & Irene Joyce on August 21st!

Week of August 25th

Happy Birthday to Sue Gigliotti on August 26th!
Happy 103rd Birthday to Betty Jacobson on August 27th!



LIGHT THE NIGHT SKY FOR A LOVED ONE!

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.)



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.



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PLEDGE!
2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN --M.A.P.L.E.
M- Making and moving
A- Accepting and Acknowledging
P- People
L- Learning and Loving
E- Encompassing



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/savings account.

Signed _____

Date ____/____/____



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

