

Strongsville United Church of Christ

The Church on the Commons

Pipe Organ Restoration Campaign

Our Church

In 1817 the people of the community that became Strongsville Township founded the First Congregational Church of Strongsville and met in the homes of local residents. In 1819 the congregation and the townspeople built a log cabin which was located on the southeast corner of what is now the town commons. The cabin was used for township business, school and the church. In 1836 a new church was built at the current location, which today is the northwest intersection of Pearl and Royalton Roads. It was known as “The Old White Church” in the center of Strongsville. In 1853 a brick church was erected at the same site. Approximately a century later, the church became the Strongsville United Church of Christ. Throughout Strongsville’s history, the church has been an active supporter of the religious and civic communities. Currently members of the church participate in the Strongsville Christmas Lighting Ceremony on the Commons by erecting and portraying a live nativity scene for the enjoyment of attendees and local residents.

Our Organ

In 1973-74 the church built a beautiful Pipe Organ, with 24 ranks and 1531 pipes, from pipes and components refurbished from the existing church organ and another organ. It is truly unique. Since then the organ has been played by church and guest organists at Sunday services and hundreds of weddings, funerals and special musical performances. In February, 2010, the beautiful and historic pipe organ became unusable. The organ’s sound and functionality has been declining for a few years. Concerned members of the congregation have worked tirelessly over the years to keep the organ in working order, and new chimes were installed in 2008. The time had come, however, to refurbish the organ completely and restore its beautiful sound and grandeur.

The Pipe Organ Restoration Fund



Through fundraising and donations, Phase I of the pipe organ restoration was completed in October 2011 with the rebuilding of the organ console in the sanctuary. The outdated electronics were replaced with new state of the art electronics from the organ console and into the organ loft. Phase I made the pipe organ playable, and brought the organ back into our worship. There is much work yet to be done on the chests and leathers in the pipe loft. Completing the organ restoration in Phase 2 consists of three separate phases of \$30,000 each, and our continued fundraising efforts are working towards those goals. The organ will remain in playable condition and be part of our worship during each phase. Strongsville UCC is grateful to everyone who helped us reach Phase I, and we look forward to continued support and enthusiasm as we approach the remaining phases.

Why is supporting the Strongsville United Church of Christ organ restoration a good investment?

- ♪ Restoring the organ is an investment for future generations, as it will serve for decades before needing this type of service again. Other options generally have a service life of 10 to 20 years, and will cost more per year to provide music which, while wonderful, is not the same as the inspirational tones of our pipe organ.
- ♪ A pipe organ “sings” by blowing wind through pipes, much as people sing. Its distinctive sound makes it extremely effective in leading our church congregation in song.
- ♪ The presence of a pipe organ serves as a catalyst for church music programs. The finest organists and musicians are attracted to our church by the opportunity to create beautiful music enhanced by our pipe organ.
- ♪ A pipe organ is truly an investment, as it generally gains value over the years. Our pipe organ is valued at well over twice the amount we need to restore it.
- ♪ A pipe organ is considered integral to the structure in which it is housed, so it is insured right along with our church building.
- ♪ The pipe organ can be updated, expanded or revoiced in the future to meet new uses or musical interests. It can also be moved if needed. These adjustments are generally a fraction of the organ’s original cost.
- ♪ Restoring our beautiful organ is ultimately an act of faith. We believe in giving our best in all areas of worship, including our music. We believe that, just as past generations have, it is important for future generations to enjoy and be inspired by its beautiful music.