

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)

JULY 2024 NEWSLETTER

In this way we are like the various parts of a human body. Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole, not the other way around. The body we're talking about is Christ's body of chosen people.

Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of his body.

—Romans 12:4 (The Message)

Part by part.

Some people believe they have nothing to say about God. They feel their lives are too ordinary, too insignificant to matter to God or anyone else. But out of Jesse's *eight sons*, God chose David, the smallest and youngest, to defeat Goliath and go on to become king.

Some people believe it takes hours of seminary to be entitled to speak from a pulpit of what God is doing in the world. But in Jesus' time, it was the Pharisees and Sadducees, who were well-educated, who tended to become stumbling blocks in Jesus' path and ministry.

In some denominations, to serve as a deacon requires a degree and a special license. Thank goodness we believe—and serve—differently.

In the United Church of Christ, *everyone* is a deacon. That word comes from the Greek, *diakonos*, which simply means *servant* or *helper*. Each person brings a unique perspective to their life of faith; together, we paint a beautiful picture of the greater fullness of God than we ever could alone.

I am so grateful to have so many folks, each with their own story to tell, willing to share and serve as we continue together on our journey with God. You matter. Your story matters. Without your part, the story is incomplete.

Living in Peace, Hope and Love,
Pastor Heidi

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



SUNDAY, JULY 7 – 10 a.m.

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Greeters: Roger & Judy Davis

Liturgist: Judi Pavisich

Music: Cindy Smith

Summer Sunday School: Volunteer needed

SUNDAY, JULY 14 – 10 a.m.

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Carole Kapcar

Liturgist: Dave Williams

Music: Brittany Fernandez

Summer Sunday School: Cathy Hawk

SUNDAY, JULY 21 – 10 a.m.

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Teri Barbish

Liturgist: Mary Ellen Zimmerman

Music: EKCO Ringers/We 3 Ring

Summer Sunday School: Volunteer needed

SUNDAY, JULY 28 – 10 a.m.

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Church Picnic

Outdoor Worship

Greeter: Volunteer needed

Liturgist: Barb Fraunfelder

Music: Music team

Summer Sunday School: Rachel Zielinski

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.**

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 2024.



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 love and prayers are extended to **Lynne McCray** and family, on the death of her husband, **Reginald (Reggie) McCray**, on June 23, 2024. He was 67 years old and had been on our prayer list for many months. Reggie has been cremated and no service is scheduled at this time.



CHURCH MEMBERSHIP



Become Part of Our Church Family

Are you interested in joining our congregation? Pastor Heidi will be offering a membership class following worship on

July 7th and 14th, and receiving new members into our church family on **July 21st**. Please contact her or the church office if you would like to become a member of the Strongsville UCC.

BOOK STUDY--A YEAR OF BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD

Continuing on **July 15th**, 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!



THANK YOU NOTES

To our Church family,



Our heartfelt thanks for your many kind thoughts, prayers, cards, and condolences as we grieve the passing of our Uncle Bill who helped our Mom guide us thru life after our father died.

We are also very grateful to Pastor Heidi for preparing and delivering her comforting messages at Uncle Bill's funeral and interment services.

Blessings to all from the **Robinsons, Becky, Dave, and Bill**

PICNIC SUNDAY, JULY 28th

On our church grounds following outdoor worship. Please bring a lawn chair, and a salad, side dish, or dessert—the main dish and beverages will be provided. Sign up with your side dish in Pilgrim Hall.



IT'S HAPPENING!

CHURCH

GARAGE SALE

FRIDAY, JULY 12th from 6 P.M. – 8 P.M.

AND

SATURDAY, JULY 13th from 9 A.M. – 2 P.M.



Donations will be accepted June 16th - July 11th.

We accept household items, home décor, sporting equipment, craft supplies, books, games, toys, small electronics, furniture, kitchenware and dishes, plus clothing & shoes (for the Thrift Shop)

We DO NOT accept liquids of any kind, hazardous materials, or large televisions.

Please keep in mind: "If you wouldn't buy an item in the condition it's in, please don't foist it on the church." Also, please plan to carry your items yourself or bring a helper (or two). Thanks!

We'll need lots of volunteers—Please see Rachel Zielinski or Irene Joyce if you can give a couple of hours of your time to help sort donations either day or evening from July 7 - 12 (or just show up)!

WE ALSO NEED LARGE SHOPPING BAGS! (Marc's Bags) If you can spare some, please bring them to the church office anytime.



BAKE SALE TO BENEFIT THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

At the Garage Sale
Please bring your wrapped/bagged baked goods on Friday, July 12th before 6 p.m. or Saturday, July 13th before 9 a.m.



OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

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



Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Judy Carte, Jennifer Cockrell, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sue Hawk, Irene Jannsohn, Jim Joyce, Kay Konicek, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Jim Maresco, Jan Meier, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkfitz, Gary Paul, George & Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ember Schneider, Peter Smith, Linda Stepan, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Mary Ellen Zimmerman

Extended Church Family: Edward and Sharon Acton (Sally Herzog's friends), Dorene Baldrige, Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), John Dickson (Greg's dad), Keana Dickson (Greg & Ingrid's daughter), 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), 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, 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

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Summer Sunday School is such a pleasure! We are still looking for folks to commit to teaching a single Sunday with our children. All lessons and materials will be provided in advance. Please sign up for a Sunday you're available for this special ministry--a sign-up sheet is posted in Pilgrim Hall!

PENNY SUNDAY.



Thanks to everyone who donated in June. We collected for St.

Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral in Cleveland, which was severely damaged by fire in May. Please save your coins, dollars, and checks (to UCC) for our next Penny Sunday on **August 25, 2024.**



ADDRESS CHANGES/ADDITIONS

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



Did you know that **Linda Ponstingle** took the time and elbow-grease to clean the parking lot doors? Then she topped off her handiwork with a beautiful summer wreath. What an improvement—thanks, Linda!

Did you know that **Kathie & Gary Paul** are at it again, putting beautiful flowers around the church?



Your gardening talents are much appreciated!

Did you know that we got new plastic 8' tables to replace the old wooden, heavy ones? They were delivered on June 12th and thanks to **Dale & Cathy Hawk**, the entire **Hayes family, Wayne & Bobbi Cook**, and **Irene Joyce**, they were unloaded, unpacked, and put away (with **Erik Joyce's** help). Special thanks to **Jane Kossin** for facilitating the sale of the old tables. Thanks, friends.



MUSIC NOTES

Many thanks to the **Chancel Choir - Chancel Choir (Ingrid**

Dickson, Barb Fraunfelder, Frank Jefferis, Irene Joyce, Bruce & Pam Keenen, Sarah Keenen, Sharon Maresco, Sandy O'Shea, Rob Toth, Sarah Toth, Dave Williams, Mike Willis, Karen Bates, Roger Davis, Ken Wills, Irene Joyce, The Venner Clarinets (David Ciucevich, Dick K. Ingersoll, Marc Paige, Caroline Stilwell, and Suzanne Taber), Lisa Heinrich, Ken Mehalko, and of course, Tom Foley, Mike Elkins, and Sharon Heinrich, for their music in June!



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY BAND:

Grab your lawn chair and come to our free concerts on **Friday, July 5th** and **Friday, July 12th at 7:30 p.m.**

on the Strongsville Middle School lawn (In case of rain, outdoor concerts will be at the Ehrnfeltdt Center). On **Friday, July 19th**, the Strongsville City Jazz Swing Band will play **at 7:30 p.m.** at Strongsville United Methodist Church.

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.



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.

MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:

Mission Outreach will be collecting **OLD SPICE** and **DOVE** deodorant for **Snow School in Berea through August 25th**. The students who attend that school are in foster care, transitional care, or wards of the county and while Ohio Guidestone provides hospital grade deodorant, having a name brand product makes a big difference to these young people. (The principal of Snow School suggested Old Spice and Dove because they are popular and having a consistent product promotes harmony among the kids.) Mark your calendar for **Sunday, August 25th**, during our worship service, when **Tami Klammer**, the principal of Snow School, will speak about their work and mission serving kids in crisis.



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 July would be canned veggies and canned tuna.



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.

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, Neal Flowerman, Linda Elkins, Pam Heimburger, Cherie Teagno, Wayne & Bobbi Cook, and Sharon Lempner**, who are enabling the Panera Bread ministry to continue!

NO MORE RIVER VALLEY PAPER RECYCLING



River Valley Paper company is reducing its routes and will be removing our paper/cardboard recycling bin. We will be contacting other companies to see about getting another bin. In the meantime, please bring your cardboard and paper elsewhere. Thank you to everyone who has supported this program.



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!

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL--Wednesdays

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

On May 29th, Strongsville Chief of Police Tom O'Deens visited our Free Lunch!



More News: Our Free Lunch Program received a Faith in Action Grant of \$1,549.31 from the UCC Living Water Association. Thanks to Pastor Heidi for writing and applying for this grant and to all of our dedicated volunteers who make the lunch happen every week!

FREE LUNCH WILL BE SERVED ON A TO-GO BASIS ONLY ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 10th. (Reservations only) PLEASE CALL 440-476-5308 TO RESERVE A LUNCH.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS



- The Board of Trustees will have an email meeting in July.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **June 18th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor
- The Official Board will meet via email this month.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—Coming in August

Our Daytime program on **Wednesday, August 7th at 1 p.m.** is Movie watching with Sharon Maresco
 Evening program on **Monday, August 5th at 7 p.m.** is Movie Night—bring snacks and popcorn! As always, all ladies are welcome to either or both programs.

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.strongsvilleuuc.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 **June 2 through June 23, 2024.**



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

Offering Needed \$14,468.04 for 4 Sundays
 Offering Received \$22,315.10
 +\$ 7,847.06

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!

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR LAST MONTH

The altar flowers are given—



June 2nd

May God continue to bless our Church
 Susann Lerch

June 9th

Wishing Izabella a Happy Birthday!
 The Abruzzino Family



With Gratitude to everyone who contributes their talents to our music ministry!

June 16th

In memory of Gigi on for her 100th birthday
 The Zielinski Family

June 23rd

My June Boys, Ken & Chris. Happy Birthday-Love, Mum
Remembering our Wedding Day, June 23, 1962
 Irene A. Jannsohn

June 30th

In Celebration of our Wedding Anniversary today!
 Pat & Frank Jefferis

THE FLOWER CHART FOR 2024 IS NOW 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 June 2nd

Happy Anniversary to Patti & Nate Johnson on June 3rd!

With love, Mom

Congratulations to my granddaughter, Violet Fraunfelder, on her graduation from Cleveland School of the Arts on June 4th!

With love, Grandma Barb Fraunfelder & Dennis Smith

Week of June 9th

Celebrating my Dad, Bill Ritchie, on his birthday, June 7th!-With love, Gina Cathcart

Happy Birthday to Dan Sauter on June 14th!
 With love, Grammy

Week of June 16th

Happy Birthday on June 15th to Sarah Hayes & Brandi Garsteck!

In celebration of Linda & Rob Stepan's Anniversary on June 15th!

Week of June 23rd

Happy Anniversary today to Rob & Sandra Wentz
 With love, Grammy

Week of June 30th

Happy Birthday today to Josh Sauter!
 With love, Grammy

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



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.

THE THRIFT SHOP WILL BE CLOSED ON THE 4TH OF JULY, but will be open during the Garage Sale on July 12th and 13th.

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 ____/____/____

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE CHURCH
Your Trustees have been busy this past month, working on projects:

- After some sewer back-up issues surfaced at our Pearl Road rental property, it was determined that the sanitary sewer line from the church to Pearl Road needed to be replaced. 4 bids were received and reviewed and Strongsville Excavating began work on this unglamorous, but very necessary major project on May 30th.



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 Pogozielski* 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 Susann Lerch* 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

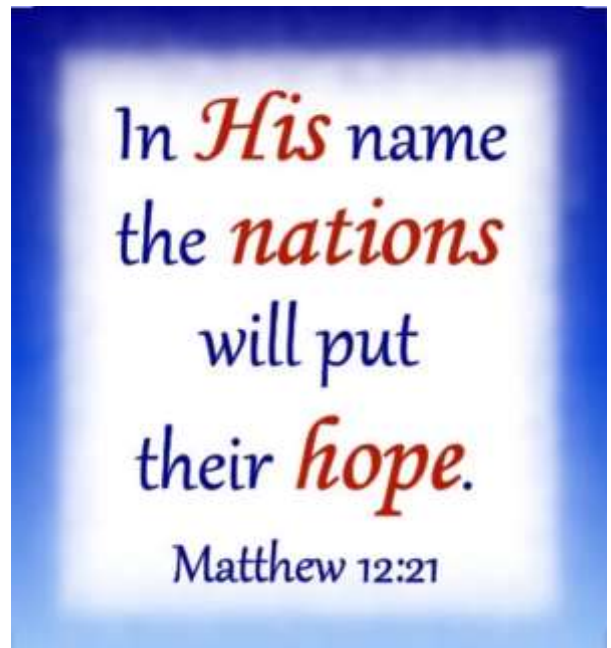
Mission and Outreach Committee
Diana Creecy* Sarah Hayes* Lora Rung
Jennifer Sekorky* Peter Smith Bev Wehr*
Mary Ellen Zimmerman



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.

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.



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