

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 10 a.m. (+online)

MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

*There are no strangers here;
only friends you haven't met yet.*
--William Butler Yeats

DO talk to strangers!

Recently I was inching my way down Pearl Road in heavy traffic, hitting red light after red light. I noticed the license plate on the car in front of me: **5 N PROUD**. Every time we stopped for the light, I wondered what that could *possibly* be about, and I decided if *they* were going where *I* was going, I would ask them what the plate meant.

Wouldn't you know it? That car pulled right in where I was going, and a tall Black gentleman in his 40s got out of the car.

As I stood in line behind him, I finally spoke. *I couldn't help but notice your license plate. What does it mean?*

He got a faraway look in his eye for a moment, then smiled. *Five and Proud*, he said. *It's my momma's car. She and my daddy raised five sons, and they are very proud of us! We all finished college, and we all have good jobs. It wasn't easy for them, I know—but they did it. And we did it!*

We talked some more about marriage and raising kids and Life in general. He told me he was divorced, but thinking about getting married again. He just wasn't quite sure. I told him I was twice widowed, and would do it all again.

Then it was his turn; he said it was nice chatting, smiled and went on his way.

It was nice chatting, and I am so glad I stepped out of my comfort zone to talk with someone who looked nothing like me; yet we had so much in common! In encounters like these, the Reign of God is nurtured and strengthened. Take a chance. Make a friend.

Peace, Hope and Kingdom Love,
Pastor Heidi

*Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby
some have entertained angels unawares.*
—Hebrews 13:2 (King James Version)

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



SUNDAY, MAY 5 – 10 a.m.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Greeter: Linda Plain

Liturgist: Judi Pavisich

Ushers: Volunteers needed

Music: Chancel Choir, Carol Foley

SUNDAY, MAY 12 – 10 a.m.

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Greeter: Judi Pavisich

Liturgist: Dave Williams

Ushers: Judi Pavisich, Jean Bittinger

Music: Chancel Choir, Children's Choir



SUNDAY, MAY 19 – 10 a.m.

Pentecost Sunday

Greeter: Susann Lerch

Liturgist: Dan Winrod

Ushers: Volunteers needed

Music: Bell Choir

SUNDAY, MAY 26 – 10 a.m.

First Sunday after Pentecost

Penny Sunday

Greeter: Jean Bittinger

Liturgist: Cherie Teagno

Ushers: Volunteers needed

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)!

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY



Our deepest condolences to the family of **Mark E. Deertz**, brother of **Dave Deertz** and uncle of **Lauren Raymond, Katelyn Boden, and Rebecca Deertz**. Mark died unexpectedly on March 29, 2024 at the age of 63. He was the father of **DJ, Nicole, and Mackenzie Deertz**.

A memorial service was held at our church on April 11th.

Our most heartfelt sympathy to the family, especially **Kim Beckwith**, who cared for her mom for many years, and friends of longtime member **Joan C. Beckwith**, who died on April 7, 2024. Joan became a member of our congregation in 1964. She attended worship regularly and knit items for the Mitten Tree until she was no longer able to do so. Joan was 93 years old. She was the beloved mother of **Richard Beckwith (Jill)** and grandmother of **Amanda Beckwith** and **Sean Beckwith (Julie)**; and the great-grandmother of **Jacob, Kayla, Lewis, Mason, and Nathaniel**. Joan was preceded in death by her husband, Arthur, and three of her children. A Service of Thanksgiving for Joan's life was held on April 12th at Jardine Funeral Home.



Our love and prayers are with **Cherie Teagno** and her children, **Noelle** and **Joe (Laura)**, and the Teagnos' grandchildren, **Sydney, Gabe, and Liam** on the death of **Richard G. Teagno**. Rick died on April 13, 2024 at the age of

82. He and Cherie became members of our congregation in 2018 and have been integral parts of our church family ever since. A memorial service for Rick will be held on **Saturday, May 11th** at the church at 11 a.m., with a luncheon following.

BOOK STUDY--A YEAR OF BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD

Continuing on **May 20th**, 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

Thank you to all who sent birthday cards and encouragement cards on my recent move. A big THANK YOU to the Free Lunch for All volunteers for their generous housewarming gift. This church is the best! Love, **Betty Craig aka "Grammy"**

A message from **Lola Millhoane**: Thank you to my church family for your cards and prayers. It means so much and I'm so thankful to all of you. Love ya all!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Summer is just around the corner! We will be looking for folks to commit to teaching a single Sunday with our children.

All lessons and materials will be provided in advance. Start thinking about which 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 April. We collected \$414.05 for World Central Kitchen. Please save your coins, dollars, and checks (to UCC) for our next Penny Sunday on **May 26, 2024**.

DIACONATE "WING" NIGHT

FRIDAY, MAY 3rd

5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Grindstone Tap House in Berea.



ALMOST SOLD OUT! Ticket includes boneless wings, pizza, pasta, salad, draft beer, well drinks, wine, soda. There will be a basket raffle, sideboards, and a great chance to socialize. We already have some amazing baskets waiting to be won! (Cash only at the venue, please).

If you are donating one of those amazing baskets, please bring it to the church by **Thursday, May 2nd**.

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, Kay Konicek, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Jim Maresco, Reggie McCray, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkitz, Gary Paul, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Peter Smith, Linda Stepan, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Edward and Sharon Acton (Sally Herzog's friends), Dorene Baldrige, Ron & Yvonne Adams (Judi Pavisich's friends), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), John Dickson (Greg's dad), Allison Emerson (Colette's sister), Ed Fabian (the Bagley's Grill girls' friend), 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), Rudy Matjazic (Judi Pavisich'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), Tom (friend of Judi Pavisich), Don Wills (friend of Judi Pavisich), 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



WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

We lovingly welcome **Alex Tomoff** to our church family. Alex, a Strongsville resident, has transferred his membership from Church of the

Redeemer in Westlake. He and his wife, Karen, have two grown children and two grandchildren.

ADDRESS CHANGES/ADDITIONS

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

Betty Craig cell phone only 440-476-5308

Linda Plain
18548 Royalton Road #103
Strongsville, OH 44136

Sandy Smith
266 Stonegate Drive
Russellville, AK 72802

The Sekorky Family
2472 Edgerton Road
University Heights, OH 44118

Alex Tomoff
12319 Altis Court
Strongsville, OH 44149



Did you know that **Jim Heinrich** procured a rack for the music stands in the music room? It really frees up a lot of space—thanks, Jim! The Memorial Fund paid for the rack.

Did you know that **Dale Hawk**, assisted by **Ed Sobek**, has been helping with a basement flooding issue at our Pearl Road property and trimming the bushes so that concrete repairs on that property may be completed? Thanks so much, Dale and Ed!

FAMILY GAME GATHERING—THANK YOU!

We had a great turnout at the Family Game Gathering (about 50 people) and would love to do it again. Thank you to the Zielinskis who provided hot dogs & brats, Myron Costin & Jen Barry who made Puerto Rican pulled pork, and to everybody for contributing to a Retreat-worthy snack table. Thanks to everyone who supported this fun event!



MUSIC NOTES



Many thanks to the **Bell Choir**, the **Chancel Choir**, the **Children's Choir**, **Sarah Keenen**. **Sandy O'Shea**, **Carol Foley**, **Ken**

Mehalko, **Dave Williams**, **Will Foley**, and of course, **Tom Foley**, **Sharon Heinrich**, and **Mike Elkins** for their music in April!



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY BAND:

Come to our free concert on **Sunday, May 19th** at 3 p.m. at the Strongsville Middle School—featuring **Cindy Smith** on vocals!

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.**



BE 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:

MAY IS STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH MONTH!



The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively

build up the UCC. The Heartland Conference and the National setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. Your generosity to Strengthen the Church (STC) provides the funds that allow The Heartland Conference to Support the development our Ministry Networks and support our General Synod Delegates. In the National setting funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.



In honor of Mother's Day, Mission Outreach will be collecting items for Laura's Home in the West Park Neighborhood of Cleveland. Laura's Home is a complex with

"166 beds and 55 rooms, offering specialized, wraparound services designed to empower families and individuals to live healthy lives."

We will be collecting the following items from **April 14th** through **May 12th**. The collection bin will be in the Gathering Area of the church. **All items must be new and unopened.**

- Full size body wash
- Full size deodorant (Old Spice or Dove)
- Full size lotion
- Feminine hygiene products
- Twin sized sheets
- Twin sized blankets
- Diapers size 4, 5, 6
- Pull up diapers size 4, 5, 6
- Unexpired baby food and formula



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 May would be peanut butter & jelly and canned tuna.

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, Linda Elkins, Pam Heimburger, Cherie Teagno, Wayne & Bobbi Cook, and Sharon Lempner**, who are enabling the Panera Bread ministry to continue! Special thanks to **Pastor Heidi, Cathy Hawk, and Irene Joyce** who transport the bread and pastries downtown when needed.

RIVER VALLEY PAPER RECYCLING

KEEP RECYCLING YOUR PAPER, MAGAZINES, AND CARDBOARD (Please break down cardboard.) PRO TIP: The bin is usually emptied on Mondays.



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.

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.



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.



Our church received a \$1,000 donation from The **SWINE (Successful Women Impacting Neighborhoods Everywhere) Sisters** organization for our Free Lunch Program!

Please note: If the Strongsville City Schools are closed due to inclement weather on a Wednesday, the Free Lunch will not be served on that day.



PHOTO DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE

We still have a few extra directories. They may be purchased for \$10 each



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **May 14th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **May 21st** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Sunday of the month, **May 28th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—MAY

Daytime program on **May 1st** at **1:00 p.m.** is "Meditation."

Cherie Teagno will talk for 10 minutes on how to meditate and what happens when we meditate and present a 30-minute devotion (a story by Selena Nwula). We will then have sharing time.

Evening program on **May 6th** at **7:00 p.m.** is "Gardening Tips and Plant in a Mug." As always, all ladies are welcome to either or both programs.

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.

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 Strongsville UCC 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 **April 7 through April 28, 2024**. *Thank you to everyone who supports our church and its ministries.*



Offering Needed	\$14,468.04 for 4 Sundays
Offering Received	\$21,055.65
	+\$ 6,554.61

PLEDGE CARDS RECEIVED: 50



Due to a bank change, 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—

April 7th



Happy 92nd birthday to Betty Craig with love from her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Wishing you health and happiness in the coming year.

Remembering our dad, Roger H. Robinson on his 113th birthday today. Love and miss you, Dad!

Becky & Bill Robinson

April 14th

In celebration of our 35th Wedding Anniversary on April 8th and the Dicksons' 15B Anniversary on April 19th

Irene & Jim Joyce



April 21st

Celebrating our family's April Birthdays!

Carol Woodward and family

April 28th

In celebration of our son, Geoff's, Birthday this month. Love Mom & Dad Reed

Happy Birthday to Judi Pavisich on April 29th!

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 April 7th

In honor of our Grammy, Betty Craig's, birthday on April 8th!

Happy 35th Anniversary to Jim & Irene Joyce on April 8th!

Week of April 14th

Happy Birthday to Charles Jannsohn on April 13th and to Evan Joyce on April 20th!

Week of April 21st

Happy Birthday to "Oma" Irene Jannsohn on April 24th!

Happy 4th Birthday to Henry H. Hayes on April 24th!

Week of April 28th

Happy Birthday to "Grama P" Judi Pavisich on April 29th!--With love from your Church Family

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.)



HAPPENINGS AROUND THE CHURCH
Your Trustees have been extra busy this past month. We have been working on planned and unplanned projects including:

- A backed-up toilet at the Pearl Road was repaired by Bill Craig. During that project, it was discovered that the sanitary sewer is damaged and will need extensive repairs. Bids are being received to complete repair and replace the sanitary sewer from the church to Pearl Road. Thanks to Dale Hawk and Ed Sobek for taking point on acquiring the estimates.
- After a storm, the basement of the Pearl Road property flooded and the sump pump needed to be replaced. Replacement of the sump pump did not reduce the water and it was found that the storm sewer needed repairs. The City of Strongsville found crushed pipe and will affect repairs within the next few weeks.
- The Trustees are evaluating our cleaning service and have contacted the cleaning company that the church has had since 2021. Thanks to Cheryl Sobek and Sarah Hayes for handling this project.
- The large crack at the entrance to the kitchen floor is slated to be repaired within the next week or two. The kitchen will not be accessible through that entrance for about 24 hours after the repair. Thank you to John Marshall, Sr. for doing the work.
- The tall, overgrown bushes outside the north-facing sanctuary windows have been removed in preparation for the sewer work. New landscaping options are being investigated for when the work is done. Thanks again to Dale Hawk.



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.

If the Strongsville City Schools are closed due to inclement weather on a Thursday, the Thrift Shop will be closed on that day.

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 ____/____/____



**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 starting June 16th
through 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, too—

On the days of the sale and every evening the week before, beginning around 6 p.m. and sorting until about 9 p.m.

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.

GRADUATES

Our church would like to recognize our graduates, so please let us know if someone is graduating within your family. Send the following information and a **PHOTO** of your high school, college, or tech graduate.

Name of graduate: _____

Graduate's address: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date (month at least): _____

Church Family member: _____

Relationship to church member: _____

Activities: _____

Honors and Awards: _____

Diploma / Degree Earned: _____

Future Plans: _____

Parents/Grandparents: _____

Please email the above information, along with a photo of the graduate, to the church office at strongsvilleucc@gmail.com by **Sunday, May 26th**.





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