



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 (Congregational)
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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor
Sunday, July 12, 2020 – Online

OPENING MUSIC "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" Traditional

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT "Morning Has Broken" Stevens

CALL TO WORSHIP

God of all that is, we are weary. We have grown tired of the virtual, and hunger for the real. Some days, our hearts feel hard and dry, hungry for your word but unable to be nourished. In this time, Lord of all Creation, soften our hearts. Sprinkle us with the waters of Life. In you alone may we find the desire to continue to do what's right; to love one another in big ways and small; to encourage one another through these stress-filled times. Hold us, Spirit of Love. Come, Holy Spirit, come. Amen.

HYMN "Bind Us Together"

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together
 With cords that cannot be broken.
 Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord,
 Bind us together in love.

There is only one God, there is only one King,
 There is only one Body, that is why we sing:

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together
 With cords that cannot be broken.
 Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord,
 Bind us together in love.

Though there are many branches, there is only one vine,
 We are one in Christ Jesus, that is why we sing:

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together
 With cords that cannot be broken.
 Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord,
 Bind us together in love.

FIRST READING **Matthew 13:1-8** (*The Message*)

At about that same time, Jesus left the house and sat on the beach. In no time at all a crowd gathered along the shoreline, forcing him to get into a boat. Using the boat as a pulpit, he addressed his congregation, telling stories.

"What do you make of this? A farmer planted seed. As he scattered the seed, some of it fell on the road, and birds ate it. Some fell in the gravel; it sprouted quickly but didn't put down roots, so when the sun came up it withered just as quickly. Some fell in the weeds; as it came up, it was strangled by the weeds. Some fell on good earth, and produced a harvest beyond his wildest dreams.

"Are you listening to this? Really listening?"

SHARING AND PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

MUSIC "Hymn of Promise" Sleeth

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

BEING COMMUNITY WHEN WE ARE APART

OFFERTORY "Sowing the Seeds" Elkins

We really miss being together, don't we? This virtual worship can be so *hard!* Pause for a moment and focus on the Spirit of Love that binds us all together as one in the Body of Christ. We hold one another up; we celebrate as one; we mourn losses—together. This is the Body of Christ. Together, we commit our lives and our resources to finding new, innovative ways to continue to walk with Jesus, even during this season of pandemic. We appreciate your commitment to giving freely of your talents and your treasure, as you are able. Thank you. You may go to: <https://www.myoffering.com/eonline/index.php/dashboard/login/5027>

or mail your offering to **Strongsville UCC 13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, OH 44136. You may also save a stamp and drop your envelope in the church mailbox at any time.**

DEDICATING OUR LIVES AND OUR GIFTS

SECOND READING **Isaiah 55:10-13** (*New International Version*)

"As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it

yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper, and instead of briars the myrtle will grow. This will be for the LORD's renown, for an everlasting sign, that will endure forever."

REFLECTION Till the Work is Finished

HYMN "For the Beauty of the Earth"

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth, over and around us lies.

Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This, our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour, of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light,

Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This, our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,

Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This, our hymn of grateful praise.

BENEDICTION

Now may the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Know that wherever you are, God is with you.

Amen.

POSTLUDE "When Morning Gilds the Skies" Barnby

SERVING

TODAY – JULY 12		NEXT SUNDAY – JULY 19
Irene Joyce	Liturgist	Irene Joyce
Tom Foley	Director of Music	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	Associate Director of Music	Mike Elkins
Doug Thorn	Sound	Doug Thorn
Chuck McDougall	Video	Chuck McDougall

The steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Anniversary on July 14th to Joe & Barbara Craig

With love, Mom

Happy Birthday on July 16th to a great friend, Joyce Reed

With love, Betty C.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 3,473.27
Last week's Offering Received \$ 5,447.00
Difference +\$ 1,973.73



Thank you very much for your support of our mission and ministry.

Happy Anniversary today to Mike & Linda Elkins and Chad & Brittany Johnson!

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Janet Kato, Martha Liebert, Marge McKinney, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

Church Family: Joan Beckwith, Lloyd Bridle, Judy Carte, Mary Carey, Elaine Coffey, Rev. Larry and Christina Craig, Joe Craig, Robert Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Dan Davis, Sue Hawk, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Carole Kapcar, George Kapcar, Debbie Krause, Lori Kovatich, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Lacey Marshall, Judy Maur, Laurie Meister, Michele Mihlack, Joyce Reed, Bill Ritchie, Alysha Rolland, Ginger Rothel, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Jamie & Josh Trinckes, Sharon Wilson, Sally Vetovitz, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Ron, Yvonne, & Ronnie Adams (friends of Judi Pavisich), Dorene Baldrige, Amy Carroll (sister of Marty Winch), Lyla Joy Crowley (great grand-niece of Irene Jannsohn), Gwen Giddings (sister of Linda Dettmer), Rebecca Gordon (niece of Irene Jannsohn), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Dana Hardy (wife of Craig), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Rev. Kent Knife (retired pastor from MHUCC), Diane Mason (friend of Lora Rung), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Donna McDonald (friend of the Ritchies), Zachary McKeever (great-nephew of Pastor Heidi and Chuck), Linda McNabb (sister-in-law of Ginger Rothel), Mae O'Shea (mom of Sandy O'Shea), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Terry Robson (friend of the Camps), Mike Rung (brother of Lora), Amanda Shannon (friend of Sarah & Jon Hayes), Sherry Sheeks (sister of Mark Camp), Brad Williams (friend of Judi Pavisich), Daphne Wilson (niece of Irene Jannsohn)

Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain.

THE THRIFT SHOP IS REOPENING THURSDAY, JULY 16th! Hours will be 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., with enhanced safety protocols in place.

