



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, March 15, 2020 – 10:00 A.M.

Third Sunday in Lent

WELCOME!

We are grateful you chose to worship with us this morning. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Please complete your Attendance Card and place it in the offering plate.

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE "At the Cross" Zschech/Morgan

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

INTROIT "Golden Slumbers" Lennon/McCartney

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come, for God gathers us here, with that community called faith:

People: Where the hungry are served first, where the thirsty drink life's water.

Leader: We come, for God welcomes us here into that home called grace:

People: Where the naked are clothed in robes of hope; where the stranger is embraced as the long-lost prodigal.

Leader: We come, for God reunites us here, sisters and brothers in that family called love:

People: Where the imprisoned model justice, where the sick are cradled in God's peace.

† **HYMN 479** "Softly and Tenderly"

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

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.

PRAYER RESPONSE "Three-fold Amen" Traditional

ANTHEM "When Jesus Wept" Billings

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Mary Densmore

THE OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "Be Thou My Vision" Traditional Irish Melody

† **DOXOLOGY 815** Tune: *Old Hundredth*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below. Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

† **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS Luke 15: 11-24

SERMON "Once there was a way to get back home."

† **HYMN 488** "Just As I Am"

† **BENEDICTION**

† **RESPONSE** "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee" Dykes

† **POSTLUDE** "It Is Well With My Soul" Bliss

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, select **Worship**, and click on **Service Videos**.

SERVING

TODAY – MARCH 15		NEXT SUNDAY – MARCH 22	
Mary Ellen Zimmerman	Liturgist	Judi Pavisich	
Sharon & Karl Kuhlenschmidt	Greeters	Mary Ellen Zimmerman	
Elaine Coffey	Ushers	Volunteers needed	
Volunteer needed	Coffee Hour	Elaine Coffey	
Tom Foley	Director of Music	Tom Foley	
Mike Elkins	Associate Director of Music	Mike Elkins	
Sharon Heinrich	Supplemental Organist	Sharon Heinrich	
Rev. Jim Longworth	Guest Minister		

The altar flowers are given—
In loving memory of Mary L. Joyce-Smith
Jim, Irene, Erik, Evan, and Elena Joyce

Our steeple will light the sky this week—
In loving memory of Edith Graves
With love from her daughter, Roberta Carpenter
Happy Birthday on March 17th to Natalia & Mia Hill
With love, Grammy

Happy Birthday today to Kevin McKenzie!

The Diaconate will meet Monday, March 16 at 7 p.m.



This morning, we welcome and thank Rev. Jim Longworth to our worship.

Rev. Longworth became a United Methodist pastor in 1971, and has served churches in Ashtabula, Massillon, Girard;

and most recently in Parma, retiring in 2007, after serving for 16 years as pastor of Ridgewood United Methodist Church in Parma. He became friends with Rev. Heidi while attending University Circle United Methodist Church in Cleveland. He and his wife Maria live in Middleburg Heights; they have two adult children, and two grandchildren.

Golden Slumbers by Paul McCartney and John Lennon

Once there was a way to get back homeward
Once there was a way to get back home
Sleep, pretty darling, Do not cry
And I will sing a lullaby,
Golden slumbers fill your eyes, Smiles await you when you rise
Sleep pretty darling, Do not cry
And I will sing a lullaby
Once there was a way to get back homeward
Once there was a way to get back home
Sleep, pretty darling, Do not cry
And I will sing a lullaby

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,473.27
Last Week's Offering Received \$4,259.00
Difference +\$785.73

To date for the Stewardship Campaign, we have received 75 pledges totaling \$155,384.00. **If you have not yet returned your Estimate of Giving card, the church will gratefully accept it at any time. Thank you very much for your support.**



Our next **Penny Sunday** collection, **March 29**, will again go to the United Church of Christ Outdoor Ministries, which runs camps for all ages at Templd Hills in Bellville, Ohio. Our Annual Winter Family Retreat is held at Templd Hills.

PLEASE SIGN UP TO PLACE ALTAR FLOWERS IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF SOMETHING OR SOMEONE SPECIAL. MANY DATES ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR 2020. Cost is only \$15 per vase (\$30 for both). There is a chart in Pilgrim Hall along with envelopes and order forms. YOU MAY ALSO LIGHT THE STEEPLE IN A LOVED ONE'S MEMORY OR IN HONOR OF A SPECIAL OCCASION. Envelopes and order forms are located on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. You may give any amount you choose, but the minimum is \$5.00.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING

OGHC provides support to health, education, refugees, agriculture and emergency relief initiatives. Coronavirus is a new concern that has now been added to their list. Your contribution to this annual special donation is a way to do your part, knowing that it goes directly to these needs without being diverted for administrative fees. Envelopes are in the pews.



MISSION OUTREACH



Mission Outreach is still collecting donations of tissues and cough drops for **Laura's Home**, an outreach for women and children through the City Mission. A box is located in Pilgrim Hall.

SEDER FIELD TRIP CANCELLED

For those who are signed up, the field trip to the Annual Passover Seder at Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple has been cancelled as a precautionary measure.



OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

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

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

Extended Church Family: Amy Carroll (sister of Marty Winch), Hunter Colao (grandson of Mark & Barb Camp), Lyla Joy Crowley (great grand-niece of Irene Jannsohn), Elaine Fuelling (friend of Judi Pavisich), 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), 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)

Our church has an e-mail prayer chain.

Please see Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others.



PUPPY CHOW FOR PEOPLE

The ladies will be selling the products of last meeting's labors today after church. Only \$2.50 will get you a bag of everyone's favorite tasty treat. Proceeds will go toward the programs of Women's Fellowship.



SAVE A LIFE

**Free Training for Strongsville United Church of Christ
Wednesday, March 25 from 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.**

at the Strongsville Fire Department on Prospect Road
More than 30,000 lives could be saved each year with effective bleeding control.

Please see Irene in the church office to sign up for the training or sign up on the back of your attendance card by writing "Stop the Bleed" on the back and placing it in the offering plate.

*"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you."* (Isaiah 43:1-2)

A few gentle reminders from your pastor:

- ♥ **If you are feeling unwell, please stay home. We will miss your beautiful presence, but your name will not be removed from The Book if you miss church. Be safe. You can always watch the service during the week on our website: strongsvilleucc.com/worshipvideos**
- ♥ **The best thing you can do to prevent coronavirus, flu and other illness? Wash your hands. If soap and water are not available, alcohol-based hand sanitizers are a terrific second line of defense.**
- ♥ **If you feel a cough or sneeze coming on . . . try very hard to grab a tissue. Coughing into your elbow still leaves droplets that can transmit illness.**
- ♥ **Especially during this season, don't be offended if folks prefer to bump elbows or offer an "air five" in lieu of a hug. You are still, always, God's Beloved Child. ☺**

*Peace, Hope, and Health,
Pastor Heidi*

As circumstances evolve, the church will continue to communicate updates through e-mail and Facebook, or you may call the church at 440-238-6697.

LOOKING AHEAD TO APRIL:



Holy Week

Palm Sunday is April 5 with special music by the choir and of course, the Palm Sunday processional!

Maundy Thursday is April 9 with worship at 7 p.m.

Good Friday is April 10 with a combined service, "Song of the Shadows" at 8:15 p.m. at the Columbia United Methodist Church.

Easter Sunday is on April 12 with two services: Sunrise Service at 7 a.m. and Traditional Worship with Brass at 10 a.m. Breakfast will be served in between.

Holy Humor Sunday is April 19 with a relaxed service celebrating that God got the last laugh over death.

Penny Sunday for April will be on April 26 and the Arts in Strongsville Benefit Concert for our Music Program will be at 3 p.m. on that Sunday, featuring the Satori Winds and Broadway Bound II.

EASTER LILIES ORDER FORM

Orders are now being accepted. Please complete this form and place it in the Church Office or offering plate with your cash or check payment by the deadline of **Sunday, March 22, 2020**. The cost is **\$8.00**.

Wording for bulletin: _____

Given by: _____

Total number of plants: _____

I will take my plant(s). I will leave my plant(s) for someone who needs some cheer.

Please make your check payable to **Strongsville UCC**, and place your order (with payment) in the church office, or mail it to:

**The United Church of Christ
13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, OH 44136**

Thank you for placing a lily on the altar on Easter Sunday morning.

For Church Records 2020 Easter Lily

Total number of plants: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Offering envelope number: _____

Cash/Check No. _____

Name: _____



HOW CAN YOU HELP OUT?

New Sign-up sheets for 2020 in Pilgrim Hall are waiting for **your name** to be added as a communion server, greeter, usher, coffee hour helper, bread/pastry sorter, or nursery helper! Don't know how to do any of those things? No worries—we will show you everything you need to know! No experience is needed and everyone is welcome to be a part of our church life. **Also, please bring in any extra plastic grocery bags for the kitchen, if you can spare them!**

MARCH 2020 DATES TO REMEMBER

- 15 Sun Worship 10am**
Coffee Hour
Children's Choir Rehearsal
- 16 Mon** Diaconate Meeting, 7pm
- 18 Wed** Free Lunch for All, 11:30am to 12:30pm
Lenten Study 1pm
Band Rehearsal 8:15pm
- 19 Thurs** Thrift Shop 10am-2pm
Choir Rehearsal at Columbia UMC 7:45pm
- 22 Sun Worship 10am**
Coffee Hour, Children's Choir Rehearsal
Easter Lily order deadline
- 24 Tues** Official Board Meeting 7pm
Interfaith Passover Seder CANCELLED
- 25 Wed** Free Lunch for All, 11:30am to 12:30pm
Lenten Study 1pm
STOP THE BLEED TRAINING-SFD 7pm
Band Rehearsal 8:15pm
- 26 Thurs** Thrift Shop 10am-2pm
Men's Lunch 11:30am
Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8pm
- 29 Sun Worship 10am with Baptism--Penny Sunday**
Coffee Hour