



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
13740 Pearl Road
Strongsville, Ohio 44136

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall
Designated Minister

OCTOBER 15, 2017 – 10:00 A.M.

WELCOME!

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

For questions about our church and ministries, you may call the church at (440) 238-6697. Please complete your Attendance Card and place it into the offering plate. We hope to see you again soon!

† *Please stand as you are comfortable.*

PRELUDE *What You Have Done for Me* Tony Alonzo

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rachel Zielinski

† **CALL TO WORSHIP** Pastor Becky

One: We have told stories of faith in Jesus Christ—

All: 200 years of love and service.

One: We give thanks and rejoice—

All: 200 years of challenge, struggle and blessing.

One We pray that the eyes of our hearts be opened to embrace a future with wisdom and grace;

All: May we come to know our God more fully and recognize the hope to which we have been called.

One: Resurrection power is at work in the world, making all things new!

All: We rejoice!

† **OPENING HYMN 404** *Faith of Our Fathers*

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

Prayer Response Native American Flute

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Leader: We invite Heidi Denman McDougall and Chuck McDougall to come forward, who wish to affirm their baptism by uniting with us in this household of faith.

Leader: Friends in Christ, we are all received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. Heidi and Chuck have found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. Through

prayer and study, they have been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm their baptism and to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the church. They are here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts which the Holy Spirit bestows.

Leader: Hear the words of Jesus:
I am the vine, you are the branches. Anyone who abides in me, and I in that person, is the one who bears much fruit. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Leader: Heidi and Chuck, do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ? (*I do.*)

Leader: Do you renounce the powers of evil, and desire the freedom of new life in Christ? (*I do.*)

Leader: Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior? (*I do.*)

Leader: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best as you are able? (*I do.*)

Leader: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, and furthering Christ's mission in the world? (*I promise, with God's help.*)

Leader: Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world? (*I do, with God's help.*)

Leader: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God. Do you believe in God?

People: I believe in God.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

Leader: Let us, the members of Strongsville United Church of Christ, express our welcome to Heidi and Chuck and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

People: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together

in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior. (*Please be seated.*)

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of Strongsville United Church of Christ, we extend to you the hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the company of this local church. Now together, as a family of faith, let us pray the prayer the Lord taught us to pray...

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.

CHOIR ANTHEM *They'll Know We Are Christians* Peter Scholtes
arr. by Lloyd Larson

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Rev. Heidi

THE OFFERING *Find Us Faithful* John Mohr

† **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

SCRIPTURES Philippians 4:1-9 Pastor Becky

SERMON *Keep on Keepin' On* Rev. Heidi

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
All are welcome to come forward to partake of the Lord's Supper, or the communion servers will come to you if you wish.

MUSIC during Communion *I Can Only Imagine* Bart Millard

† **CLOSING HYMN 589** *Here I Am, Lord*

† BENEDICTION

† **RESPONSE** *We Are Family of God* Don Besig

† **POSTLUDE** *When We All Get to Heaven* Emily D. Wilson

This morning's altar flowers are given—

Happy 40th Birthday to Ted Bickley on October 17! We love you so much.
Love, Kelly, Teddy, Russell, and Anna

Happy 85th Birthday, Mom! We love you!
Valerie and Vicky

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy 18th Birthday on Monday, October 16, to Samantha Wentz
With love, Grammy

Happy Birthday today to John Stayrook!

Advertising Committee will meet on Tuesday, October 17, at 7:00 p.m.
Diaconate will also meet on Tuesday, October 17, at 7:00 p.m.

Adult Social Club will meet Wednesday, October 18, at 7:00 p.m.

For those with reservations – Strongsville UCC's 200th Anniversary Luncheon is today at 1:00 p.m. at the Strongsville Recreation Center.

Mission Outreach has their baskets displayed in Pilgrim Hall today. Be sure to stop by to view, enjoy and take advantage of this final week to make your silent bid. Also, we have a basket of Chinese fortune cookies. There are enough for everyone to take one and have fun sharing your fortune. Be prepared to bring your wallet or checkbook next week. There will be one last brief opportunity to submit a final bid before we ring the bell (which is also from a different country).

Picture Re-take – Please contact Sarah Hayes or Cathy Hawk today to get your picture re-taken for our photo directory. Thank you.

Wednesday Lunch Program really needs volunteers—especially in January when four regular volunteers will go south for the winter. If you can help, please see Kenn Oerkfitz or Betty Craig, or call the church at (440) 238-6697. Thank you!

Giving Statements – If you would like a to receive a year-to-date statement on the status of your pledge, please email Financial Secretary, Adria Bond, at succfinancialsecretary@gmail.com or call her at 440-227-8410. Otherwise, we are just planning on sending the year-end statements in January.

The Turkey Dinner is Saturday, November 4, 2017, with two seatings at 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Ticket prices are \$12 for Adults, \$5 for Children 6-10 years, and free under 6 years. After church today, tickets will be available for purchase in Pilgrim Hall. Help is needed for the dinner. Please see the signup sheet on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. The phone number for reservations is (216) 598-6198.

Hurricane and Earthquake Relief – Mission Outreach and Official Board have been approached by some church members regarding plans to provide help to those affected by the recent hurricanes and earthquakes. In our country, Houston has been greatly affected. Puerto Rico and so many Caribbean Islands have been devastated so badly that it will be years of recovery. The needs will continue for a long time and we, along with other church members, are investigating the most effective ways to help. You will be updated as information becomes available. Please see the poster board of information in the gathering area. Also, the UCC denomination has this link for helping with the relief programs:

http://www.ucc.org/disaster_hurricane_2017_relief

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,865
Weekly Offering Received 10/8/2017 \$2,812
Difference - \$1,053



SERVING TODAY

Director of Music: Elena Taylor
Greeter: Lola Millhoane
Ushers: Jim and Linda Dettmer
Coffee Hour: Myron Costin

UPDATE FROM YOUR PULPIT SEARCH COMMITTEE

Your Pulpit Search Committee has completed and submitted our church profile to the association and is receiving profiles from interested candidates. Even though the Diaconate has found Heidi Denman McDougall to be our designated pastor, the work of the Pulpit Search Committee continues. (Heidi, as a designated pastor, is eligible to apply for the permanent, settled pastor position. This is a change from previous ministerial searches, since previously the interim pastor was not permitted to be considered for the settled pastor position.) The PSC continues to request your ongoing support and prayers while we search for the one whom God is calling to lead us long term.

Thanksgiving Baskets – Our goal is to prepare 75 baskets for needy families. Collection begins today. Each week we will bring to church the following items, which will be placed in our sanctuary:

- Oct. 15 cans of green beans, cans of yams
- Oct. 22 boxes of stuffing (like Stove Top) and jars of gravy
- Oct. 29 dessert mixes (like brownies, cake mixes, or cookie mixes) and cans of icing
- Nov. 5 cans of cranberry sauce and boxes of corn muffin mix
- Nov. 12 boxes of instant mashed potatoes or a 5-pound bag of fresh potatoes or fresh yams
- Nov. 19 turkeys or hams

To make a cash donation instead, please make your check payable to **Strongsville United Church of Christ**. On the memo line, write **Thanksgiving Basket**. \$20 covers the cost of the turkey or ham; \$40 covers the cost of a whole basket. All financial donations will be gratefully accepted, whatever the amount. If you know someone who would appreciate a basket, please write the recipient's name, address and phone number on the back of your attendance card, or tell Rev. Heidi. Thank you for your benevolence.

OUR PRAYER LIST

If you or a family member would like a visit, please call the church at (440) 238-6697. Please provide updates for this list. Thank you.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Betty Bushea, Margot James, Janet Kato at Kemper House, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

Church Family: Betty Babics, The Grabski/Williams Family, Lacey (daughter of Amanda Hawk), Steve Herzog, Martha Liebert, Michele Mhlack, Betsey Santomen (wife of Rev. Joe Santomen) at Parkside Villa, Jan Stough, Rev. Oommen Thomas, Leah Tressa Forget, Kyle Woodward

Extended Church Family: Audrey Curry (mother of Pam Keenen), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Joyce Freeman (sister of Carol Woodward), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Diane Mason (friend of Lora Rung), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Piper Masuga (granddaughter of Dan and Vicky and great-granddaughter of Lola Millhoane), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Keith Stewart (cousin of Carol Woodward), Frank Toth (father of Rob), Sheena Toth (mother of Dale), Joe Valli (brother-in-law of Vicky and Dan Masuga), Karla Wood (daughter of John and Barbara Toth)

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY – OCTOBER 22, 2017

Liturgist: Gina Gigliotti **Greeters:** The Bickley Family
Ushers: Ted and Kelly Bickley **Coffee Hour:** Kenn and Ginny Oerkfitz

Neighbors In Need Offering is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the U.S. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. NIN grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. Funding is provided through donations to the Neighbors in Need offering. The offering will be received throughout this month of October.

Strongsville Community Band will present a benefit concert for hurricane relief victims, "Help and Hope through Music", on Sunday, October 29, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. at Strongsville Middle School Auditorium, 13200 Pearl Road. There is no admission charge, but concert goers will have the opportunity to make a donation to the relief efforts. All donations will go to the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army. Concert music will reflect the American spirit. Prior to the concert, **Strongsville City Jazz Swing Band** will perform in the cafeteria at 2:30 p.m.

OCTOBER 2017

- 17 Tue Advertising Committee Meeting, 7pm
Diaconate Meeting, 7pm
- 18 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30-12:30pm
Fit Club, 7pm
Adult Social Club Meeting, 7pm
- 22 Sun Mission and Outreach "Around the World" Silent Auction
Thanksgiving Food Collection continues.
Stewardship Campaign begins.
- 24 Tue Official Board Meeting, 7pm
- 25 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30-12:30pm
Men's Luncheon, 11:30am
Fit Club, 7pm 29
- 29 Sun Sunday School Pumpkin Decorating Party during class time
Thanksgiving Food Collection continues.
Stewardship Campaign continues.

MUSIC REHEARSALS DURING THE WEEK

Band (Adults and Students in Grades 6 through 12)
8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays

Bell Choir – 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays

Chancel Choir – 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays

STRONGSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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