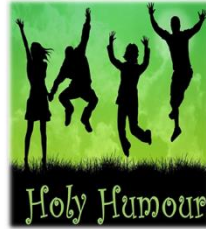




THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 (Congregational)
 13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136
 (440) 238-6697
StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com
StrongsvilleUCC.com

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, April 11, 2021 – Online
Holy Humour Sunday
The Sacrament of Baptism



OPENING MUSIC “Dance of the Lunatics” Allen, arr. Truesdail

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (+ JOKES)

INTROIT “Comedy Tonight” Sondheim

CALL TO WORSHIP

Joy breaks loose, in the wiggles and giggles of little children, in the whispers of the youth, in the smiles of adults. We thank you, God, for this amazing day! Let our worship and praise burst forth in unlikely places and in silly ways. Let our songs be loud and filled with joy! Let our laughter be deep, for we are God's people.

HYMN “I’ve Got the Joy (Down in My Heart)”

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy Down in my heart, (where?)
 Down in my heart (where?), Down in my heart.
 I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy Down in my heart (where?).
 Down in my heart to stay!

And I'm so happy, So very happy!
 I've got the love of Jesus in my heart (Down in my heart)
 And I'm so happy, so very happy! I've got the love of Jesus in my heart!

I've got the peace that passeth understanding
 Down in my heart (where?), Down in my heart, (where?)
 Down in my heart. I've got the peace that passeth understanding
 Down in my heart (where?), Down in my heart to stay!

CCLI Song # 4857031 Carol Tornquist | George Willis Cooke
 © Words: Public Domain Music: 2006, 2007 Curb Word Music (Admin. by WC Music Corp.)

FIRST READING 1 John 1:1-4 (New International Version)

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life

appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete.

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 “Amazing Grace” Traditional Folk Song

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Lena Violet Ashforth
Child of Tiffany and Nicole Ashforth



WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY WORDS

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES FOR THE FAMILY

CONGREGATIONAL PROMISE

Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support and care to the one about to be baptized, as she lives and grows in Christ?
(We promise our love, support and care.)

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

Christ be with you. **(And also with you.)**
 Let us pray.

Gracious God, bless this water by your Holy Spirit. By that same Spirit, save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ, that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in the one baptized this morning, that she may rise in Christ. All glory and honor be to you, Eternal God, who was, who is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

BAPTISM OF LENA VIOLET ASHFORTH

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Let us pray together:

Gracious God, You have filled the world with joy with the gift of Jesus. Bless this child, Lena Violet; fill her with your strength and

courage for life's journey; joy for all to see; freedom of love; hope for a new life. May she never be ashamed to confess her personal faith in You. Bless us, O God, that we, too, may be faithful to Your Word, united in the peace of Christ and the company of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

HYMN "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"

Child of blessing, child of promise, Baptized with the Spirit's sign;
With this water God has sealed you Unto love and grace divine.

Child of love, our love's expression, Love's creation, loved indeed
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits; Into joy and laughter lead.

Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God's you are; from God you came.
Back to God we humbly give you; Live as one who bears Christ's name.

Child of God, your loving Parent, Learn to know whose child you are.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship; Trust and love God more than all.

CCLI Song # 1727790 Ronald S. Cole-Turner | Vicar Earle Copes © Words: 1981 Cole-Turner, Ronald S. Music: 1960. Renewed 1988 Hope Publishing Company

BEING COMMUNITY WHEN WE ARE APART

We are all in this together. Jesus came, that we might have life in abundance. Goodness and joy and hope—and the promise of newer and brighter tomorrows. Kingdom work goes on. Life goes on—together. We are committed to finding new, innovative ways to celebrate Christ Jesus, who defeated death. Make every breath count. Laugh, and love, and live to the fullest. We are committed to continuing Christ's work in the world, and are grateful for your help. Thank you for giving freely of your talents and your treasure, as you are able. Thank you. To give online, 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.

OFFERTORY "Sabre Dance" Khachaturian

SECOND READING 1 John 1:5-10 (The Message)

This, in essence, is the message we heard from Christ and are passing on to you: God is light, pure light; there's not a trace of darkness in him. If we claim that we experience a shared life with him and continue to stumble around in the dark, we're obviously lying through our teeth—we're not living what we claim. But if we walk in the light, God himself being the light, we also experience a shared life with one another, as the sacrificed blood of Jesus, God's Son, purges all our sin.

If we claim that we're free of sin, we're only fooling ourselves. A claim like that is errant nonsense. On the other hand, if we admit our sins—simply come clean about them—he won't let us down; he'll be true to himself. He'll forgive our sins and purge us of all wrongdoing. If we claim that we've never sinned, we out-and-out contradict God—make a liar out of him. A claim like that only shows off our ignorance of God.

REFLECTION No Laughing Matter

HYMN "Good Christians All Rejoice"

Good Christians all rejoice, With heart and soul and voice!
Give ye heed to what we say: News! News! Jesus Christ is born today
Ox and ass before Him bow And He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christians all rejoice, With heart and soul and voice!
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door And man is blessed forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christians all rejoice, With heart and soul and voice!
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all To gain His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

CCLI Song # 85158 John Mason Neale © Words: Public Domain
Music: Public Domain

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 "Hey Hey Goodbye" Leka, DeCarlo Frashuer

<u>SERVING</u>	
TODAY – APRIL 11	NEXT SUNDAY – APRIL 18
Judi Pavisich	Irene Joyce
Tom Foley	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	Mike Elkins
Doug Thorn	Doug Thorn
Chuck McDougall	Chuck McDougall
Venner Clarinet Quartet	Robert Foley
Brass Ensemble	Brass Ensemble
Robert Foley	Carol Foley

The steeple will light the sky this week—

*Happy (belated) Birthday to Rob Wentz on April 1st!
With Love, Grammy
Happy Birthday to Charles Jannsohn on April 13th!*



Many thanks to the Venner Clarinet Quartet: Amy Dragga, Dick K. Ingersoll, Marc Paige, and Vicki Smith, the Brass Ensemble: Eric Dregne, Mike Elkins, Robert Foley, Tom Foley, and Tom Nazelli, for providing music for our worship.

Thanks also Judi Pavisich, for serving as liturgist.

Happy Birthday today to Michael Fischer and Geoff Reed!

OFFERINGS RECEIVED



Weekly Offering Needed \$ 3,649.37
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 7,215.00
Difference \$ 3,565.63

Thank you very much for your support of our church and its ministries

Additional song credits

Dance of the Lunatics by Thomas Allen, arranged by Gary Truesdail.
Played by the Venner Clarinet Quartet

Comedy Tonight by Stephen Sondheim from the musical A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum

Amazing Grace CCLI Song # 4755360 John Newton © Words: Public Domain Music: "Rising Sun Blues" Traditional Folk Melody

Sabre Dance by Aram Khachaturian from the ballet *Gayane* (1942)

Na Na Na Na Kiss Him Goodbye by Paul Leka, Gary DeCarlo and Dale Frashuer, early 1960's, played by the Brass ensemble

CCLI License # 11237335

MAY/JUNE UPPER ROOM

AVAILABLE—LARGE PRINT AND POCKET SIZE

Pick up your free copy at the church anytime during church office hours (9 a.m. – 4 p.m M-F) or on a Sunday morning.

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

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

Church Family: Joan Beckwith, Adria Bond, Eddy Bond, Mary Carey, Elaine Coffey, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Linda Elliott, Don Gleichauf, Sue Hawk, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Elliott Joyce, Carole Kapcar, Tony Koussa, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Lacey Marshall, Brigitte Matchett, Judy Maur, Laurie Meister, Michele Mihlack, Lola Millhoane, Joyce Reed, Dorothy and Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Jamie & Josh Trinckes, Sharon Wilson, Sally Vetovitz, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch



Extended Church Family: Dorene Baldrige, Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Judy Carte's son-in-law, Ryan, John Dickson (Greg's dad), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Pat Masuga (Dan's mom), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Zachary McKeever (Pastor Heidi and Chuck's great-nephew), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Carrol Riley (Marjorie Morrison's dad), Terry Robson (the Camps' friend), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Anneke Scholtz (Irene Jannsohn's sister), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Daphne Wilson (Irene Jannsohn's niece)

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



IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES

**Starting Sunday, May 2, 2021
9 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.**

**(Reservations required—
call 440-238-6697)**

(Safety protocols will be in place.)

A COMBINED SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS WILL BE OFFERED AT THE 10:30 A.M. SERVICE.

Recorded worship online will still be available through the month of April, while we have open sanctuary for 2 more weeks (April 18 and April 25).