



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136

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StrongsvilleUCC.com

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, April 12, 2026– 10 A.M.

Holy Humor Sunday



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 stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE "Easy to be Hard" MacDermot

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (+ JOKES) Bill Schneider

INTROIT "Good Old Days" Shield

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Praise God with clapping hands; praise God with hands comforting a child.

People: Praise God with silent hearts; praise God with hearts broken for the world.

Leader: Praise God with electric guitars; praise God with soft piano chords.

People: Praise God with be-bop and hip-hop; praise God with rhythms that don't stop.

Leader: Praise God with a hallelujah chorus; praise God with a Gregorian chant.

People: Praise God with dancing steps; praise God with feet walking for justice.

ALL: Praise God! Amen!

† HYMN 209 "This is the Day"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 16: 5-11 (New International Version)

Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure.

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.

I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.

I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor let your faithful one see decay.

You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Leader: The Word of God, for us, the people of God;

People: Thanks be to God.

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

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.

ANTHEM "I'm a Believer—Didymus version" Diamond

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE & DAD JOKES

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Three Coins in the Fountain" Styne

† **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.

† **DEDICATING OUR LIVES AND OUR GIFTS**

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS John 20:19-31 (New International Version)

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

REFLECTION "Believe-- and Trust"

† **HYMN 602** "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

† **BENEDICTION** Thom M. Shuman
Go now, with pockets full of laughter, with eyes squinting from the brightness of grace, with hearts wide open to holy surprises. Be bold in your joy. Be generous with your giggles. Tell the good news with a grin; live like resurrection is the punchline that changes everything (because it does). May your steps be light, your burdens be lifted, and your spirit be as free as child on a swing in the sunshine. The world needs our joy. Let us go now to share it with all people, everywhere! And all God's children said: Amen!

† **POSTLUDE** "Happy Trails" Evans

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 – APRIL 12		NEXT SUNDAY – APRIL 19
Roger & Judy Davis	Greeters	Barbara & John Toth
Mike Willis	Liturgist	Sandy O'Shea
Judi Pavisich	Head Usher	Teri Barbish
Tom Foley	Director of Music	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	Associate Director of Music	Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	Organist	Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich	Video/Sound	Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
K. Mehalko, M.Willis, W. Foley	Special Music	Bell Choir

A NOTE OF THANKS—We thank **Ken Mehalko, Will Foley, Mike Willis, Ingrid Dickson, Irene Joyce, Tom Foley, Mike Elkins, and Sharon Heinrich** for our music this morning!

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthday tomorrow to our brother, Charles Jannsohn!

Ingrid Dickson & Irene Joyce

Happy Birthday to Linda Plain on April 16th!—A friend

Happy Birthday today to Les Fox and Beth Giuliano!



FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL:

PENNY SUNDAY--Please bring your coins, dollars, and checks to UCC on **April 26th** for Penny Sunday. The money will go to the Northeast Ohio Collie Rescue.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 4,359.00
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 7,353.00
Difference + \$ 2,141.00

Thank you very much for your support.

PLEDGES RECEIVED: 62



WANT TO ENJOY A COUPLE OF HOURS OF FUN, FOOD, AND FELLOWSHIP WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY? How about joining us for our FAMILY GAME GATHERING from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 18th? Bring a savory or sweet snack to share, your favorite board games, and your friends and family.



Mark your calendars now for the Diaconate's Food, Friends, and Fun-Draiser! Friday, May 1st at Grindstone Tap House—start thinking of your basket ideas! TICKETS ARE \$30 and are ON SALE NOW!



MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:

We are collecting new items for Laura's Home (Feminine pads with wings, baby wipes, Size 6 and 7 diapers or Pull-Ups, and Pedialyte) through Mother's Day. We will have a bin in the Gathering Area for your donations. As an alternative, you can purchase Amazon gift cards—available through our Gift Card program. See Jim Joyce or contact the church office to purchase (double benefit)!



BOOK STUDY! On April 20th at 7 p.m., Our Book Study will continue. All are welcome to join us!

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Irene Jannsohn, Connie Rebar

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Jen Barry, Mark Camp, Judy Carte, Elaine Coffey, Betty "Grammy" Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Roger Davis, Colette Emerson, Roz Fotos, Sue Hawk, Frank Jefferis, Pam & Bruce Keenen, Erv Koch, Jill Kundtz, Jan Meier, Carol Konet, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Jim Maresco, Jan Meier, Roy Merkle, Amanda Moulton, Ginny & Kenn Oerkfitz, George & Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Ron Rothel, Jennifer Sekorky, Tracy Seneff, Peter Smith, Bruce Sperber, Linda Stepan, JoAnn Thomas, Debbie Wentz, Heather Williams, Claire Wills, Marty Winch



Extended Church Family: Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Allison Emerson (Colette's sister), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Joanne Gariepy (Sally Herzog's friend), Kathy Ghetti (friend of Ginger Rothel), Jennifer Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's daughter-in-law), Sarah & David Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's grandson & wife), Michaelene Hanrahan (Jim Joyce's sister), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Tiffany Hassel (Judi Pavisich's daughter-in-law), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel's parents), Maryanne Grega-Knotek (our florist), Helen Leckwatch (Dale Parson's mother-in-law), George Love (friend of the church), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Sylvia Pakish (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Jeff Peacock (former member), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Vicki Smith (Venner Clarinets), Jeaneane Steinmeyer (Greg Dickson's aunt), Don & Pauline Wills (Judi Pavisich's friends), the people of Ukraine, Sudan, Gaza, and Israel, victims of violence and natural disasters, First Responders

OPT-IN: Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain. h.e.denman@gmail.com

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **April 14th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **April 21st** at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **April 28th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



APRIL 17, 2026 7PM

In Memory

The People Who Shape Our Stories

Megan Denman, piano

Classical and jazz works by Denman, Kuzmenko, Jarrett and more.

All Saints Episcopal Church
8911 W Ridgewood Dr, Parma, OH 44130

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, FREE WILL DONATION

FROM OUR FRIENDS AT SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CHORUS



SWCC will have a Spring Concert, "Celebrate America" on **Sunday, May 3rd** at 3 p.m. at the Berea United Methodist Church (170 Seminary Street in Berea). The Chorus is under the direction of **Tom Foley**, accompanied by **Jarred Sorauf**; some of the singers this season include **Craig Hardy, Ingrid Dickson, Irene Joyce, Sarah Keenen, Marianne**

Luca, Jo Ann Thomas, Dave Williams and a few other familiar faces and voices. Tickets are \$15 will be available at the door or from our own choir members who sing with the chorus.

YES! I'D LIKE TO BE PART OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY CARE TEAM.

NAME _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____



I AM INTERESTED IN:

_____ OFFERING OR RECEIVING COMMUNION AT HOME

_____ CALLING FOLKS WHO WOULD LIKE TO JOIN PRAYER CHAIN, BUT DON'T USE EMAIL

_____ PREPARING AN EXTRA MEAL AND DELIVERING IT TO SOMEONE WHO'S HOMEBOUND

_____ HELPING COOK A DISH AND OR SERVE MEALS AT FUNERAL LUNCHEON

_____ BECOMING A "PHONE BUDDY" AND PERIODICALLY CHECK IN WITH SOMEONE WHO'S HOMEBOUND

_____ OFFERING AN OCCASIONAL RIDE TO TAKE MEMBERS TO APPOINTMENTS

_____ OFFERING AN OCCASIONAL RIDE TO OUR CHURCH SERVICES

_____ BE PART OF A CARD CREW TO SEND CARDS TO FOLKS ON HEIDI'S PRAYER LIST AND OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

_____ I WOULD BE WILLING TO...



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.

THREE WITH GLEE!

Capital Campaign: We currently have \$61,359.08 in our capital campaign account. We are getting additional bids for the acoustic panels in Pilgrim Hall. A new roof for Pilgrim Hall and the church building may be on the horizon. Things are happening, but we still have more projects on the list. Please make sure you designate your donation for "Capital Campaign." Thanks for your continuing support.



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 (include middle name): _____

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 24th**.

CHURCH OFFICERS 2026

**Elected February 1, 2026*

Moderator: Rachel Zielinski *

Vice-Moderator: Herb Hampson*

Treasurer: Sally Herzog* **Clerk:** Judy Gaumer*

Sunday School Superintendent: Linda Elkins

Board of Trustees

Karen Bates Jen Barry* Greg Dickson*
Bill Giuliano* Chris Goff Les Fox* Cathy Hawk
Sandy Pogozelski* Bill Robinson * Cheryl Sobek
Alex Tomoff Mike Willis

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Linda Stepan* Dave Williams*

Diaconate

Jean Bittinger Elaine Coffey* Diana Creecy*
Bobbi Cook Wayne Cook Judy Davis
Judy Fox* Pam Heimburger Marsha Hemphill*
Cindy Hurley* Lynne McCray*
Linda Ponstingle Lora Rung

Christian Education Committee

Linda Elkins* Colette Emerson* Dale Hawk
Sarah Hayes Amanda Marshall* Lora Rung

Music Committee

Karen Bates* Ingrid Dickson*
Pam Keenen Ken Mehalko Mike Willis
ex officio: Sharon Heinrich Tom Foley Mike Elkins

Stewardship Committee

Ingrid Dickson Sue Gigliotti* Linda Stepan
Rob Toth* Sarah Toth Dave Williams

Mission and Outreach Committee

Jen Barry * Gina Cathcart Bobbi Cook*
Cathy Hawk Sarah Hayes* Lora Rung
Mary Willis Mary Ellen Zimmerman

THERE'S STILL TIME TO PLEDGE FROM YOUR H.E.A.R.T.!

Hospitality, Engagement, Activities, Resources, Time, Talent, & Treasure

United Church of Christ 2026 Estimate of Giving

In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2026:

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 ____/____/____

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. *Matthew 6:21*



**FREE LUNCH FOR ALL--
Wednesdays**

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

A reminder: Donations are welcomed to support the increasing costs of this valuable program. **Thank you to all of our faithful volunteers!**



THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is OPEN on Thursdays 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.**

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

If you are the last or almost the last person to leave the church building on any given day, please make certain that all the lights are off and most importantly, that the door to the kitchen and the parking lot doors are locked and PUSHED SHUT so the lock is latched. The Board of Trustees is addressing this issue, but in the meantime, it's all hands on deck to keep our church building secure. Thanks in advance for your diligence!

