



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, April 14, 2024– 10 A.M.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

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 "The Gift of Love" arr. Raney

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Joyce Reed

INTROIT "Jesus Loves Me" Traditional Children's Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Word of life spoke:

People: So we could hear the 'Alleluias!' of the angels.

Leader: The Word of life reached out:

People: So we could touch the hope which heals us.

Leader: The Word of life walked out of death's dread tomb:

People: So we could follow him into life forever.

HYMN 460 "Let Us Break Together"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 4 (New International Version)

Answer me when I call to you, my righteous God.

Give me relief from my distress;

have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

How long will you people turn my glory into shame?

How long will you love delusions and seek false gods?

Know that the Lord has set apart his faithful servant for himself; the Lord hears when I call.

Tremble and do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent.

Offer the sacrifices of the righteous and trust in the Lord.

Many, Lord, are asking, "Who will bring us prosperity?"

Let the light of your face shine on us.

Fill my heart with joy when their grain and new wine abound.

In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

PRAYING IN SILENCE

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy, ALL: Hear our prayers. Amen.

ANTHEM "Ave Verum Corpus" Mozart

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Oh How He Loves You and Me" Kaiser

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 EPISTLES 1 John 3:1-7 (The Message)

What marvelous love the Father has extended to us!

Just look at it—we're called children of God!

That's who we really are.

SERMON "Hidden Identity"

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

This is the table, not of the church but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and who want to love him more. So come, you who have much faith and you who have little; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time or ever before; you who have tried to follow and you who have failed; come, not because the Church invites you; it is Christ, and Christ himself invites you to meet him here.

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

In this holy space, we are aware of just how weak and wobbly our faith can be. Forgive us, Eternal One, for spending more time with our gadgets than with our God; for following Facebook more closely than we follow Jesus; for giving in to fearful false prophets and listening to those talking heads over your Voice in our hearts. (silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: This is the good news: God does not go back on the promises made so long ago. God does not reject us, God redeems us. God does not withhold love; God pours Love into every corner of our barren lives.

People: Forgiven of our sins, filled with hope, living in relationship with God and one another - we are a new people. We are Christ's people, created to love. Thanks be to God. Amen.

A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

"How Deep the Father's Love for Us" Townend Dave Williams, vocals

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.

HYMN 399

"We Are God's People"

BENEDICTION

Dan Nighswander

As you go from this place, be blessed by the knowledge that you belong to Jesus; you belong to God. Look around: you are surrounded by sisters and brothers who also belong to God. One day the whole family of God's children will gather to sing in every language and worship in every expression of praise. We have practiced for that today. Now, as you go out from here, share the grace of Jesus Christ with each other. Be immersed together in God's love. Enjoy fellowship in the Holy Spirit with your family of faith. Amen.

POSTLUDE "Allegretto Sostenuto in B Flat" Henselt

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.



A NOTE OF THANKS—We thank Dave Williams, our Chancel Choir, and of course, Tom Foley, Sharon Heinrich, and Mike Elkins for today's music!

SERVING

Table with 3 columns: TODAY - APRIL 14, SERVING, NEXT SUNDAY - APRIL 21. Lists roles like Greeters, Liturgist, Ushers, Director of Music, etc.

The altar flowers are given—

In celebration of our 35th Wedding Anniversary on April 8th and the Dickson's 15B Anniversary on April 19th

Irene & Jim Joyce



A 2024 SIGN-UP SHEET FOR ALTAR FLOWERS IS POSTED IN PILGRIM HALL. Please note: the cost of flowers is \$18 for 1 vase and \$36 for 2 vases.



Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthday to Charles Jannsohn on April 13th and to Evan Joyce on April 20th!

Happy Birthday today to Dianne Maringer, Lynne McCray, and Aidan Hurtig!

FROM OUR FRIENDS AT SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CHORUS



SWCC will have a Spring Concert, "When I Hear Music," on Sunday, April 28th 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 Carol Konet and Jarred Sorauf some of the singers this season include Craig Hardy, Sharon Maresco, Ingrid Dickson,

Irene Joyce, Pam & Bruce Keenen, and Sarah Keenen and a few other familiar faces and voices. Tickets will be available at the door or from our own choir members who sing with the chorus.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 3,617.01
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 3,727.50
Difference +\$ 110.49



Thank you very much for your support.
PLEDGES RECEIVED: 50

FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL:

PENNY SUNDAY Please start saving your coins, dollars, and checks to UCC for our next Penny Sunday collection: **April 28, 2024!** Money will go to World Central Kitchen.



OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Laurie Meister, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Maggie Struhar

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Judy Carte, Jennifer Cockrell, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sue Hawk, Irene Jannsohn, Kay Konicek, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Jim Maresco, Reggie McCray, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Gary Paul, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Peter Smith, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Edward and Sharon Acton (Sally Herzog's friends), Dorene Baldrige, Ron & Yvonne Adams (Judi Pavisich's friends), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), John Dickson (Greg's dad), Allison Emerson (Colette's sister), Ed Fabian (the Bagley's Grill girls' friend), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Joanne Gariepy (Sally Herzog's friend), Kathy Ghetti (friend of Ginger Rothel), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel's parents), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Rudy Matjazic (Judi Pavisich's friend), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Sylvia Pakish (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Jeff Peacock (former member), Zora Roundtree (FL4A volunteer), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Vicki Smith (Venner Clarinets), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Tom (friend of Judi Pavisich), Don Wills (friend of Judi Pavisich), The people of Ukraine, Gaza, and Israel, victims of violence, those affected by natural disasters

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

**DIACONATE "WING" NIGHT
FRIDAY, MAY 3rd**



5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Grindstone Tap House in Berea.
TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW-- \$25 per ticket. Ticket includes boneless wings, pizza, pasta, salad, draft beer,

well drinks, wine, soda. There will be a basket raffle, sideboards, and a great chance to socialize. Tickets are on sale every Sunday, in the Gathering Area (Cash or check only, please). **In addition, we are looking for basket donations for wing night—Let's see those creative ideas and help us with our fundraiser!**

BOOK STUDY--A YEAR OF BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD

Continuing tomorrow, **April 15th**, Pastor Heidi and Linda Elkins are leading a monthly book study based on Rachel Held Evans's wonderful book, *A Year of Biblical Womanhood*. The group will meet on the **third Monday of each month at 7 p.m.**, for one hour. It's not too late to join us!



IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Our deepest condolences to the family of **Mark E. Deertz**, brother of **Dave Deertz** and uncle of **Lauren Raymond, Katelyn Boden, and Rebecca Deertz**. Mark died unexpectedly on March 29, 2024 at the age of 63. He was the father of DJ, Nicole, and Mackenzie Deertz. A memorial service was held at our church on April 11th.



Our most heartfelt sympathy to the family, especially **Kim Beckwith**, who cared for her mom for many years, and friends of longtime member **Joan C. Beckwith**, who died on April 7, 2024. Joan became a member of our congregation in 1964 and attended worship regularly until she was no longer able to do so. Joan was 93 years old. She was the beloved mother of **Richard Beckwith** and was preceded in death by her husband, Arthur, and three of her children. A Service of Thanksgiving was held on April 12th.



**FREE LUNCH FOR ALL--
Wednesdays**

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

Thank you to all our faithful volunteers!

Our program received a donation of **\$1,000 from the S.W.I.N.E. (Successful Women Impacting Neighborhoods Everywhere) Sisters!** Please note: If the Strongsville City Schools are closed due to inclement weather on a Wednesday, the Free Lunch will not be served on that day.



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.

DO MORE IN 2024! New sign-up sheets in the Gathering Area are waiting for your name to be added as a greeter or usher. No experience is necessary—we will show you everything you need to know! Everyone is welcome to be a part of our church life.



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **April 16th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Sunday of the month, **April 23rd** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



ATTENDANCE CARDS ARE IN YOUR BULLETIN!

Please take a moment to complete the card that is in your bulletin and place it in the offering plate. You may write prayer requests on the reverse side, if you wish to have us pray for someone and add a name to the prayer chain.



THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is **OPEN every Thursday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.** Come and shop lots of interesting merchandise at amazing prices. Donations are being accepted during those hours, but please try to limit your donations to what you can carry downstairs. **MANY THANKS, AS ALWAYS, TO OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS!**



MISSION OUTREACH NEWS

In honor of Mother's Day, Mission Outreach will be collecting items for Laura's Home in the West Park Neighborhood of Cleveland. Laura's Home is a complex with "166 beds and 55 rooms, offering specialized, wraparound services designed to empower families and individuals to live healthy lives."



We will be collecting the following items from **April 14th through May 12th**. The collection bin will be in the Gathering Area of the church. **All items must be new and unopened.**

- Full size body wash
- Full size deodorant (Old Spice or Dove)
- Full size lotion
- Feminine hygiene products
- Twin sized sheets
- Twin sized blankets
- Diapers size 4, 5, 6
- Pull up diapers size 4, 5, 6
- Unexpired baby food and formula

2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN --M.A.P.L.E.

- M- Making and moving**
 - A- Accepting and Acknowledging**
 - P- People**
 - L- Learning and Loving**
 - E- Encompassing**
- Strongsville United Church of Christ 2024 Estimate of Giving**



In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2024:

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 ____/____/____

PLEASE REMEMBER!

If you're the last one to leave the church, please make sure that lights are out and that the doors are locked!



CHURCH OFFICERS IN 2024

**Elected January 28, 2024 **Appointed by the Official Board*

Moderator: Greg Dickson* **Vice-Moderator:** Jen Barry*

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

Sunday School Co-Superintendents

Linda Elkins Mary Densmore

Board of Trustees

Bill Giuliano* Chris Goff Mike Elkins* Les Fox*

Herb Hampson* Cathy Hawk Sarah Hayes* Sandy Pogozeleski*

Cheryl Sobek Dan Winrod Laura Winrod Rachel Zielinski*

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson* Dave Williams*

Diaconate

Teri Barbish* Jean Bittinger Elaine Coffey* Bobbi Cook Wayne Cook

Judy Davis Judy Fox* Carole Kapcar Susann Lerch* Cherie Teagno*

Barbara White Mary Ellen Zimmerman

Christian Education Committee

Serena Abruzzino Mary Densmore Linda Elkins*

Colette Emerson* 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

Sue Gigliotti* Judi Pavisich Bill Schneider Rob Toth* Mary Willis

Mission and Outreach Committee

Diana Creecy* Sarah Hayes* Lora Rung

Jennifer Sekorky* Peter Smith Bev Wehr* Mary Ellen Zimmerman
