



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 16, 2023 – 10:00 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 "Unis Umbra Pallidus" Reid, Fisher and Brooker; arr. Nelson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

INTROIT "Good Old Days" Shield

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: The whole of creation rejoices; the birds sing from every tree.

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is in our midst!

People: Babies babble with sounds of joy; words cannot express our overflowing hearts.

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is our light forever!

People: Breathing peace on us in these moments; surrounding us with grace and hope.

† HYMN

"The More We Get Together"

The more we get together, together, together,
The more we get together the happier we'll be.

For your friends are my friends and my friends are your friends,
Oh, the more we get together, the happier we'll be.

The more we pray together, together, together,
The more we pray together, the happier we'll be.

For when I pray and you pray and we pray and they pray,
Oh, the more we pray together the happier we'll be.

The more we sing together, together, together,
The more we sing together, the happier we'll be.

For when I sing and you sing and we sing and they sing,
Oh, the more we sing together the happier we'll be.

A READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalms 150 (The Message)

Hallelujah!

Praise God in his holy house of worship, praise him under the open skies.

Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his magnificent greatness;

Praise with a blast on the trumpet; praise by strumming soft strings.

Praise him with castanets and dance; praise him with banjo and flute;

Praise him with cymbals and a big bass drum; praise him with fiddles and mandolin.

Let every living, breathing creature praise God!

Hallelujah!

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 "Put Your Hand in the Hand" MacLellan

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Blessing of Pet Donations

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Medley" arr. Elkins

† **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)

"Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

SERMON "Believing Thomas"

† **HYMN 586** "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"

† **BENEDICTION** from *Colossians 1*

As you go forth from this place, may you be strengthened by God's glorious might: the kind of strength that not only endures the unendurable, but spills over into joy and thanksgiving to God! Go in the peace of Christ! Amen.

† **RESPONSE/POSTLUDE** "Hey Hey Goodbye" Leka/DeCarlo /Frashuer

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 16	NEXT SUNDAY – APRIL 23
Jean Bittinger	Greeters Judi Pavisich
Mary Ellen Zimmerman	Liturgist Tom Gaumer
Roz Fotos	Ushers Judi Pavisich
Chris Abruzzino/Riley Marshall	Acolytes Luke Giuliano/Aidan Hurtig
Tom Foley	Director of Music Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	Associate Director of Music Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	Organist Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich	Sound Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Music Team, Ken Mehalko	Special Music Chancel Choir



A NOTE OF THANKS—

We thank **Ken Mehalko, Mike Elkins, and Sharon Heinrich** for sharing their music with us today. (Tom Foley is absent due to illness.)

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Our love and heartfelt prayers are extended to the family and friends of our own **Linda Kapcar**, who died just before midnight on April 8, 2023. Linda was an integral part of our church and the cornerstone of her family. Our condolences to her husband **George**, daughter **Elaine Coffey**, and sons **Brad** and **Greg**, as well as her grandchildren. Linda was 80 years old.



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.

The altar flowers are given—

In honor of a special Birthday today, Linda Plain!

Celebrating our Son Geoff's Birthday on April 11th.

George & Joyce Reed



Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthday to Evan Joyce on April 20th

Love, the Joyces & the Dicksons



Happy Anniversary today to Karen & Frank Busheal!

Happy Birthday today to Linda Plain and Rev. Thomas Olcott!

FRESH FLOWERS EACH WEEK! Please sign up for 2023 altar flowers on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Many Sundays are available to honor a special date or loved one.

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Joan Beckwith, Mary Carey, Laurie Meister, Ruth Milidonis, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Maggie Struhar

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Diana Creecy, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sam Cuyler, Sr., Tom Foley, Sue Hawk, Irene Jannsohn, Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Bruce Lerch, Reggie McCray, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkfitz, Gary Paul, Sandy Pogozelski, Cade Raymond, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, Lora Rung, Peter Smith, John Toth, Sharon Wilson, Janis Williamson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Ron & Yvonne Adams (Judi Pavisich's friends), Andy Anderson (Sandy & Don Gleichauf's friend), Dorene Baldrige, Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Ron Colosimo (Judi Pavisich's friend), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Jennifer Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's daughter-in-law), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Tom Irelan (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), 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), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Thomas O'Shea (Sandy's dad), Zora Roundtree (FL4A volunteer), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Tina Serrano (Elliott Joyce's grandma), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Vicky Smith (Venner Clarinets), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Tom (friend of Judi Pavisich), Weston (Chelsey Cathcart Cox's friend's son), Don Wills (friend of Judi Pavisich), Lee & Brad Wright (Sandy & Don Gleichauf's friends), The people of Ukraine, victims of violence, those affected by earthquakes and severe weather

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



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—
TASTY TREATS FOR SALE—GET THEM BEFORE THEY'RE GONE! Puppy Chow (for people) will be sold following worship today. A great snack to share (or not)! Only \$3.50 per package!

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS



- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **April 18th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **April 25th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

BEREA ARF COLLECTION—LAST DAY TODAY



The Sunday School children and youth thank you for your support of their donation drive to benefit Berea Animal Rescue Friends! \$279.65 was collected on Penny Sunday, March 26th and the large tote in the Gathering Area is overflowing with cat food, dog treats, and cat toys! Thank you so much for your generosity.

NEXT PENNY SUNDAY: APRIL 30th!

Please remember to bring your coins, dollars, and checks (to SUCC) for our Penny Sunday collection. All money collected will benefit **Laura's Home**.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Mike Elkins is set to retire as our church's Financial Secretary. Consequently, the church is in need of a person who is familiar with Excel and other financial software and who has some bookkeeping experience to fill his shoes. This is a compensated, (very) part-time position. If you are interested, or know of someone who is looking for supplementary employment, please contact Rachel Zielinski, chair of the Trustees, at cwgrlrm293@msn.com for a detailed job description or to apply.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,617.01
Last Week's Offering Received \$6,986.00
Difference \$3,368.99

Thank you very much for your support.

HELP WANTED!

Volunteers are needed to serve as tellers on Sunday mornings after church (usually less than an hour of your time). Please indicate on your attendance card if you can help.



Smile!



CONGREGATIONAL PHOTO MAY 14th

You may recall that our church had a congregational photo scheduled in 2020, which was cancelled by the global pandemic. Well, three years later, we are trying again! The congregational photo is important to the historic records of the church and the last group picture of our congregation was taken in 2010. Please try to include this rare event in your Mother's Day plans. (The photo is scheduled to be taken immediately following the benediction of the worship service, so you will still have plenty of time to take your mom to brunch.)



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CHORUS

SWCC will have a spring concert "The Music's Always There," on **Sunday, April 30th** 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**; some of the singers this season include **Jackie Foley, Craig Hardy, Sharon Maresco, Marianne Luca, Ingrid Dickson, Irene Joyce**, 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.

PANERA PALS—HELP NEEDED

Are you able to give less than an hour of your time on a Monday or Friday morning to pick up and/or sort Panera bread, bagels, and pastries? Please contact the church office if you can help with this worthwhile ministry.



BRIEF MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION NEXT WEEK!

A meeting of the Congregation will be held to vote on the installation of new gutters on the church building on **Sunday, April 23rd**, following the worship service. All are

welcome to attend, but only members are entitled to vote.

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 16th** through **May 14th**. 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
- Full size lotion
- Feminine hygiene products
- Twin sized sheets
- Twin sized blankets
- Diapers & pull-ups size 4, 5, 6
- Unexpired baby food and formula



DIACONATE "WING" NIGHT
FRIDAY, MAY 12th - 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
at the Grindstone Tap House in Berea.

It is \$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, starting TODAY in Pilgrim Hall. (Cash or check only).

In addition, we will be looking for basket donations for Wing Night. Sign up with your theme basket in Pilgrim Hall. Please see any member of the Diaconate if you'd like to donate or volunteer.

CAREGIVING PRESENTATION
SUNDAY, MAY 7th

Following the worship service

Wayne and Bobbi Cook have put together a presentation about the journey he and Bobbi have traveled in the past 10 years since her stroke.

They will discuss some tips they have learned to move on with Bobbi's after-stroke condition.

These tips and resources will help others in a similar situation of being either caregiver or the person needing a caregiver.

People of all ages and whatever reason for needing a caregiver are welcome to hear the Cooks' story.

Please join us for an informative and inspirational time—cake is included!



FREE LUNCH FOR ALL--Wednesdays

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

Our Free Lunch for All Program welcomes everyone to enjoy a nutritious meal and warm fellowship. Many thanks to our wonderful prepping, cooking, serving, and clean-up 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 being accepted during those

hours, but please try to limit your donations to what you can carry downstairs. **Thanks, as always, to our dedicated volunteers!**



CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2023 **Elected January 29, 2023*

Moderator: Greg Dickson **Vice-Moderator:** Jen Barry
Treasurer: Sally Herzog **Clerk:** Judy Gaumer

Sunday School Co-Superintendents

Linda Elkins Mary Densmore*

Board of Trustees

Diana Creecy Chris Goff* Herb Hampson Cathy Hawk
Sarah Hayes Cheryl Sobek* Dan Winrod*
Laura Winrod* Rachel Zielinski

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson Linda Stepan Dave Williams*

Diaconate

Teri Barbish Jean Bittinger* Elaine Coffey
Bobbi Cook* Wayne Cook* Judy Davis*
Carole Kapcar* Sharon Maresco Linda Ponstingle Cherie Teagno
Barbara White* Mary Ellen Zimmerman*

Christian Education Committee

Serena Abruzzino* Mary Densmore*
Linda Elkins Amanda Marshall Lora Rung

Music Committee

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

Stewardship Committee

Judi Pavisich Bill Schneider* Richard Taylor
Rob Toth Mary Willis*

Mission and Outreach Committee

Judy Carte* Sarah Hayes Bobbie Krisak Lora Rung*
Jennifer Sekorky Peter Smith* Bev Wehr
Mary Ellen Zimmerman*

=====

BEE A BUSY BEE IN 2023

Sign-up sheets in the Gathering Area are waiting for **your name** to be added as a greeter or an 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.

=====



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: _____

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 **Friday, June 2nd**.