



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 2, 2023 – 10 A.M.
Palm/Passion Sunday
The 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.

As you enter the sanctuary, welcome one another.
As you hear the chimes ring, settle your mind in silence.
As worship begins, welcome God's Holy Spirit.

PRELUDE "O Worship the King" arr. Raney

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Greg Dickson

† PROCESSIONAL "Hosanna! Jesus is the Rock"
The congregation is invited to stand, wave their palms,
and join in singing the Palm Processional:

Hosanna! Jesus is the Rock! Jesus is the Rock of my salvation.
Hosanna! Jesus is the Rock! Jesus is the Rock of my salvation.

I will magnify the Lord, for He is worthy to be praised.
I will magnify the Lord, for He is worthy to be praised.

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Honor, praise, and glory are yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

People: In celebration, we join the crowds of old, waving branches, giving honor to the Messiah.

Leader: Yet, our celebration is bittersweet, for our story doesn't end here. We know the pain of what lies ahead.

People: Today, we anticipate the rest of the story: a story of betrayal and death; a story of hope and resurrection.

† HYMN 297 "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 118:1-2; 19-29
(New International Version)

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.
Let Israel say: "His love endures forever."
Open for me the gates of the righteous;
I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord through which the righteous may enter.
I will give you thanks, for you answered me;
You have become my salvation.

The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;
the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

The Lord has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.
Lord, save us! Lord, grant us success!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
From the house of the Lord we bless you.

The Lord is God, and he has made his light shine on us.
With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar.
You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

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 "Let the Gates of the City Outward Swing" Hopson

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "You Are My All in All" Jernigan, arr. Carter

† 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 Matthew 26:14-27:66

SERMON "The Passion of the Christ"

HYMN 319 (remain seated) "Near the Cross"

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor: In these days, when it seems as if we have more time to be worried and fearful, God longs for us to spend more time sitting by the still waters of love. Our isolation can confuse us, our loneliness can heighten our doubts. Our doubts can lead us to question: Am I truly a beloved child of God? Let us bring our prayers to the One who will restore us with goodness and mercy, as we pray together, saying,

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

People: Like Cinderella, Loving God, we sit in the ashes of our hopes; still, you see us as your beloved children. We ignore the opportunities we have to share from our wealth with others who are in need. You continue to burst forth, bringing hope and newness into the world in unexpected places.

Have mercy on us, God of forgiveness, and open our eyes to your presence among us. As you look at our hearts, may we see others in a different way, not as enemies or strangers, but sisters and brothers of the same family, kin to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen. (silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: The Spirit of the Lord has come upon us, bringing hope, life, and forgiveness for each person. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Now we are sent forth as God's children, sent to bring the good news to everyone we meet. Amen

A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP "How Beautiful" Paris
Sarah Keenen, vocalist

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.

RESPONSE "Christ, We Do All Adore Thee" Dubois

BENEDICTION

From Palm Sunday to Holy Saturday, may God in his infinite mercy grant you a journey of renewal and hope; a time of prayer and reflection; and joyful anticipation of our Lord's resurrection. May you live and serve this week in remembrance of Christ's love. Go in peace and live the church. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE "Were You There?" arr. Elkins

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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**.

<u>SERVING</u>	
<u>TODAY – APRIL 2</u>	<u>NEXT SUNDAY – APRIL 9</u>
Linda Plain	Greeters Roz Fotos (10 a.m.)
Linda Ponstingle	Liturgist Dale Hawk
B. Schneider, W. & B Cook, T. Barbish	Ushers Judi Pavisich, Jan Meier
Luke Giuliano/Aidan Hurtig	Acolytes Oliver & Matilda Sekorky
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
Choir, Congregation	Special Music Choir, Brass Ensemble


A NOTE OF THANKS—

 We thank the **Choir, Sarah Keenen, Tom Foley, Mike Elkins** and **Sharon Heinrich** for sharing their music with us today.

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The altar flowers are given—

Congratulations to Izzy Abruzzino for making the Dean's List at BGSU. Proud of you. Love you. Love Mum

 Our steeple will light the sky this week—
Happy Birthday to Barb Fraunfelder on April 5th!
Happy Birthday to Betty "Grammy" Craig on April 8th!



Happy Anniversary today to Kyle & Jane Woodward!
Happy Birthday today to Jamie Trinckes!

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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.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL— The children will have an Easter Egg Hunt following worship today. Kids of all ages are welcome to participate!



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., Sue Hawk, Betty Jacobson, Irene Jannsohn, Linda Kapcar, Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Bruce Lerch, Reggie McCray, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkfitz, Gary Paul, Sandy Pogozeleski, 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), 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), Patty Kubancik (Sue Gigliotti's sister), Ed Kuhn (Sandy & Don 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), 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

PENNY SUNDAY THANK YOU!

Many thanks to everyone who donated to last week's Penny Sunday for the Berea Animal Rescue Friends. We collected \$279.65. The next Penny Sunday will be on **April 30th**!



The Sunday School children and youth are holding a donation drive to benefit Berea Animal Rescue Friends through Sunday, April 16th. Three specific items will be collected per the recommendation of the shelter manager:

- **Small bags (approx. 3 lbs.) of any brand dry cat food** (Meow Mix, Purina Cat Chow...)
- **Bags of soft, small treats for dogs for training**
- **"Kicker" toys for cats** (with or without catnip).

The donation box will be located in the Gathering Area. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Densmore.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,617.01
Last Week's Offering Received \$1,978.00
Difference -(\$1,639.01)

Thank you very much for your support.

Pledge cards received to date: 62



LENTEN STUDY: Discovering the S.A.C.R.E.D. Pastor Heidi and Linda Elkins will be offering a six-week Lenten study by Ann Voskamp, whose contemplative, hope-filled teachings will help us rediscover the need for meditative, quiet time in our lives. Our last session is April 5th at 7 p.m. in the Gathering Area.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—

Monday, April 3rd at 7 p.m.


Make Puppy Chow (for people) with Sally Herzog

Wednesday, April 5th at 1 p.m.

Make Puppy Chow (for people) with Sally Herzog

Puppy Chow will be sold following the 10 a.m. Easter Worship service. Perfect to add into your Easter baskets!

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.)

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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 items from April 16th through May 14th. The collection bin will be in the Gathering Area of the church.



DIACONATE "WING" NIGHT

FRIDAY, MAY 12th from 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 April 16th, in Pilgrim Hall. (Cash or check only). **In addition, we will be looking for basket donations for Wing Night.**

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL--Wednesdays

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

Our Free Lunch for All Program received a \$4,000 grant from the Deaconess Foundation.

We are grateful for community support that helps us provide nutritious meals and fellowship!



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS



- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **April 11th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- 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.

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.



HOLY WEEK

Thursday, April 6th

Maundy Thursday

Worship service with Sacrament of Holy Communion in the Sanctuary at 7 p.m.



Friday, April 7th

Good Friday

"Song of the Shadows" at 7:30 p.m.

Ecumenical collaboration

At Strongsville United Methodist Church
(13500 Royalton Road—enter off Webster Road)



Sunday, April 9th

Easter

Sunrise Service at 7 a.m.



Easter Breakfast 8 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Traditional Worship with Brass at 10 a.m.

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* Linda 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*

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!**



GIFT CARDS

PLEASE DON'T FORGET ABOUT THIS EASY, CONVENIENT PROGRAM THAT BENEFITS THE CHURCH.

You can order gift cards by calling **Jim Joyce** at 216-267-5043 in advance with your order. **Limited stock is available for purchase on Sunday mornings.**



EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

United Church of Christ Disaster Relief Ministry is on the ground providing humanitarian aid in Turkey and Syria. To donate to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) go to [https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/turkey-syria-emergency-](https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/turkey-syria-emergency-appeal/donate?inf_contact_key=f5bc4cb2d41410f840a0988bee0ee0b7842e902fbefb79ab9abae13bfcb46658)

[appeal/donate?inf_contact_key=f5bc4cb2d41410f840a0988bee0ee0b7842e902fbefb79ab9abae13bfcb46658](https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/turkey-syria-emergency-appeal/donate?inf_contact_key=f5bc4cb2d41410f840a0988bee0ee0b7842e902fbefb79ab9abae13bfcb46658) and follow the prompts.



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.

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!

