



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, April 21, 2024– 10 A.M.

Earth Day 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 "What a Wonderful World" Weiss/Theile
Dave Williams, soloist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Elaine Coffey

INTROIT "Hymn of Promise" Sleeth
Sarah Keenen, soloist

† **CALL TO WORSHIP** U.N. Environmental Sabbath Program

Leader: We have forgotten who we are.

People: We have alienated ourselves from the unfolding of the cosmos. We have turned our backs on the cycles of Life.

Leader: We have forgotten who we are.

People: We have sought only our own security; we have distorted our knowledge; we have abused our power.

Leader: We have forgotten who we are.

People: Now the land is barren, and the waters are poisoned; the air is polluted. The forests are dying and creatures are disappearing

Leader: We have forgotten who we are.

People: We ask forgiveness. We ask for the gift of remembering.

We ask for the strength and the courage to change.

All: Remind us, Creator God, who we are. Amen.

† **HYMN 143** "This is My Father's World"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 24

(New International Version)

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.

Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord?

Who may stand in his holy place?

The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.

They will receive blessing from the Lord and vindication from God their Savior.

Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, God of Jacob.

Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory?

The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

Who is he, this King of glory? The Lord Almighty— he is the King of glory.

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 "For the Beauty of the Earth" Larson

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Mother Nature's Son" Lennon/McCartney

† **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 3:16-24

(The Message)

My dear children, let's not just talk about love; let's practice real love.

This is the only way we'll know we're living truly, living in God's reality.

SERMON "Known by our Deeds"

† **HYMN** "Earth and All Stars"

Earth and all stars, Loud rushing planets,

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Hail, wind, and rain, Loud blowing snowstorm,

Sing to the Lord a new song! God has done marvelous things.

We will sing praises with a new song!

Steel and machines, Loud pounding hammers,

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Limestone and beams, Loud building workers,

Sing to the Lord a new song! God has done marvelous things.

We will sing praises with a new song!

Classrooms and labs, Loud boiling test tubes,

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Athlete and band, Loud cheering people,

Sing to the Lord a new song! God has done marvelous things.

We will sing praises with a new song!

Knowledge and truth, Loud sounding wisdom,

sing to the Lord a new song!

Daughter and son, Loud praying members,

Sing to the Lord a new song! God has done marvelous things.

We will sing praises with a new song!

† **UNISON BENEDICTION** from the *Sisters of the Precious Blood*

We pray for the waters of the rivers, that through God's grace we will fill them again with bountiful life. We pray for the soil of the earth, that through God's grace we will work for abundant harvests for all. We pray for the birds of the trees, that through God's grace we can offer them sheltering green leaves. We pray for all this sacred earth, that through God's grace and help, we will renew the music of Creation's pulsating life. Amen.

† **POSTLUDE** "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" Traditional

===== **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, Sarah Keenen, Ken Mehalko**, our **Chancel Choir**, and of course, **Tom Foley, Sharon Heinrich** and **Mike Elkins** for today's music!

===== **SERVING** =====

TODAY—APRIL 21	SERVING	NEXT SUNDAY—APRIL 28
Roz Fotos	Greeters	Judi Pavisich
Mary Ellen Zimmerman	Liturgist	Sandy O'Shea
Jean Bittinger	Ushers	Judi Pavisich
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
Choir, Dave Williams,	Special Music	Bell Choir
Sarah Keenen, Ken Mehalko		

The altar flowers are given—

Celebrating our family's April Birthdays!

Carol Woodward and family



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 "Oma" Irene Jannsohn on April 24th!

Happy 4th Birthday to Henry H. Hayes on April 24th!

Happy Anniversary today to Rachel & Gary Zielinski!

===== **FROM OUR FRIENDS AT SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CHORUS** =====



SWCC will have a Spring Concert, "When I Hear Music," next **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, Marianne Luca, 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 \$ 3,566.00
Difference -(\$ 51.01)



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



**FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL:
PENNY SUNDAY IS NEXT WEEK!**

Please bring your coins, dollars, and checks to UCC for our next Penny



Sunday collection: **April 28, 2024!** Money will go to World Central Kitchen.

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY



Our love and prayers are with **Cherie Teagno** and her children, **Noelle and Joe (Laura)**, and the Teagnos' grandchildren, **Sydney, Gabe, and Liam** on the death of **Richard G. Teagno**. Rick died on April 13, 2024 at the age of 82. He and Cherie became members of our congregation in 2018 and have been integral parts of our church family ever since. A memorial service for Rick will be held on **Saturday, May 11th** at the church at 11 a.m., with a luncheon following.

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!** (Please bring your baskets to the church by Thursday, May 2nd.)

BOOK STUDY--A YEAR OF BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD

Continuing on **May 20th**, 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!



**FREE LUNCH FOR ALL--
Wednesdays**

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

Thank you to all our faithful volunteers!

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.



THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you to all who sent birthday cards and encouragement cards on my recent move. A big THANK YOU to the Free Lunch for All volunteers for their generous housewarming gift. This church is the best!
Love, **Betty Craig aka "Grammy"**



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 MEETING

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 ____/____/____

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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
