



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor
Sunday, April 23, 2023 – 10:00 A.M.



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 "Fairest Lord Jesus" arr. Raney

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

INTROIT "Earth and All Stars" Johnson

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In the beginning, the Spirit of God moved over the waters.

People: God said, "Let there be light! And there was light."

Leader: God spoke, and separated land from water, and God said, "It is good."

People: God created birds and bees, flowers and trees and all kinds of living creatures.

Leader: God spoke a final time, making creatures in God's own image.

People: God formed humans, male and female, to steward and care for all the God had made.

Leader: God saw that it was very good, and on the seventh day, God rested.

People: On this seventh day, we come to worship, and to remember and honor our role as partners in God's good creation.

† HYMN 63 "All Creatures of our God and King"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 116 (selected verses)
(New International Version)

I love the Lord, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy.

Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live.

The cords of death entangled me, the anguish of the grave came over me;

I was overcome by distress and sorrow.

Then I called on the name of the Lord: "Lord, save me!"

The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

The Lord protects the unwary; when I was brought low, he saved me.

Return to your rest, my soul, for the Lord has been good to you.

What shall I return to the Lord for all his goodness to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

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 "Gloria Deo" Lightfoot

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Earth Day 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 Luke 24:13-35
(New International Version)

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

SERMON "Heart Burn"

† **HYMN** "This Land is Your Land"

This land is your land; This land is my land.

From California to the New York island,
From the redwood forest, To the gulf stream waters,
This land was made for you and me!

As I went walking that ribbon of highway
I saw above me that endless skyway
I saw below me that golden valley
This land was made for you and me!

This land is your land; This land is my land.
From California to the New York island,
From the redwood forest, To the gulf stream waters,
This land was made for you and me!

When the sun comes shining, and I was strolling
And the wheat fields waving and the dust clouds rolling,
As the fog was lifting, a voice was chanting:
This land was made for you and me!

This land is your land; This land is my land.
From California to the New York island,
From the redwood forests, To the gulf stream waters
This land was made for you and me!

† **BENEDICTION** *A Gaelic Blessing*

Deep peace of the running wave to you. Deep peace of the flowing air to you. Deep peace of the quiet earth to you. Deep peace of the shining stars to you. Deep peace of the gentle night to you. Moon and stars pour their healing light on you. Deep peace of Christ, the light of the world to you. Amen.

† **RESPONSE** "For the Beauty of the Earth" Kocher

† **POSTLUDE** "Earth and All Stars" arr. Burkhardt



BRIEF MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION TODAY!
A meeting of the Congregation will be held to vote on the installation of new gutters on the church building today following the worship service. All are welcome to attend, but only members are entitled to vote.

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 23	NEXT SUNDAY – APRIL 30
Judi Pavisich	Greeters Elaine Coffey
Tom Gaumer	Liturgist Luke Giuliano
Judi Pavisich, Bill Schneider	Ushers Volunteers needed
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
Chancel Choir	Special Music Richard Densmore, Bell Choir



A NOTE OF THANKS—

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



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 celebration of our 11th Wedding Anniversary April 21st.
Rachel & Gary Zielinski



Our steeple will light the sky this week—
In loving memory of Aimée Jannsohn
Happy Birthday to Irene Jannsohn and Henry Hayes on April 24th
Happy Birthday to Mary Willis and Jen Barry on April 25th!
Happy Birthday to Judi Pavisich on April 29th!



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.

PENNY SUNDAY NEXT WEEK, APRIL 30th!

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





WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship program for May is "Happy Bird Day," when we will listen to bird songs and calls in Pilgrim Hall. Evening meeting is Monday, May 1, at 7 p.m. Daytime meeting is Wednesday, May 3, at 1 p.m. Please watch your email for details. As always, all ladies are welcome to either or both meetings!



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP PUPPY CHOW SALE

The members of our Women's Fellowship group made 109 bags of Puppy Chow. The profit from the sale was \$316.20. Many thanks to all those that helped make the tasty treat, to those that purchased it and to Cathy Hawk for donating the chocolate.

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., Sue Hawk, Irene Jannsohn, Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Bruce Lerch, Reggie McCray, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkfritz, 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), 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), Dr. Angelo Gagliani (Ingrid Dickson'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), Jeff Peacock (former member), Zora Roundtree (FL4A volunteer), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), 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 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

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 cwqrlm293@msn.com for a detailed job description or to apply.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,617.01
Last Week's Offering Received \$1,583.00
Difference (\$2,034.01)



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.

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.

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 size 4, 5, 6
- Pull up diapers 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 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.



UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

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

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 travelled 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!



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**.



UPCOMING MEMORIAL SERVICES

Linda Kapar—Saturday, May 20, 2023

Visitation: 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Service: 11:30 a.m.

Luncheon: 12:30 p.m.

Grace Koch—Saturday, May 27, 2023

Visitation: 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Service: 11:30 a.m.

Luncheon: 12:30 p.m.



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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*

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.



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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.



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!



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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!**



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