



**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
(Congregational)  
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[StrongsvilleUCC.com](http://StrongsvilleUCC.com)

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

**Sunday, April 26, 2026– 10 A.M.**  
**Penny 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** "Sheep May Safely Graze" Bach

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Lora Rung

**INTROIT** "Sacred Sounds for Betty" Mehalko  
Dedicated to our 80-year member, Betty Craig

**† CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: You clapped your hands, Holy God, and the sea rippled with waves, mountains turned cartwheels, and creation broke free of the chains of chaos.

**People: The God who feeds us and sets us free welcomes us here, and we come with joy.**

Leader: As the faithful rejoice in the Lamb of God, singing with loud voices: "God has gifted us with salvation!"

**People: We gather with neighbors and strangers, with our siblings in faith, to worship the Good Shepherd who wipes away our tears.**

† HYMN 688 "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

**A READING FROM THE PSALMS** Psalm 23  
(The Message)

God, you are my shepherd! I don't need a thing.  
You have bedded me down in lush meadows, you find me quiet pools to drink from.  
True to your word, you let me catch my breath and send me in the right direction.  
Even when the way goes through Death Valley,  
I'm not afraid when you walk at my side.

Your trusty shepherd's crook makes me feel secure.  
You serve me a six-course dinner right in front of my enemies.  
You revive my drooping head; my cup brims with blessing.  
Your beauty and love chase after me every day of my life.  
I'm back home in the house of God for the rest of my life.

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** "Hush! Somebody's Callin' My Name" arr. Dennard

**RECOGNITION OF 80-YEAR MEMBER** BETTY L. CRAIG

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** Penny Sunday

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" Dykes

† **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** Acts 2: 41-47  
(The Message)

That day about three thousand took him at his word, were baptized and were signed up. They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers.

**REFLECTION** "All Together Now"

† **HYMN 690** "He Leadeth Me"

† **BENEDICTION**

*As we go out in the world this week, come through the gate of joy and hope, moving into a world that desperately needs to hear the words of peace and hope. Journey in with all God's people, bringing the good news of Christ's abundant love for all God's children, including you. Amen*

† **POSTLUDE** "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" Hughes

**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](http://strongsvilleucc.com), select **Worship**, and click on **Service Videos**.

**SERVING**

| TODAY – APRIL 26        |                                    | NEXT SUNDAY – MAY 3     |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Judi Pavisich           | <b>Greeters</b>                    | Linda Plain             |
| Dale Hawk               | <b>Liturgist</b>                   | Judi Pavisich           |
| Carole Kapcar           | <b>Head Usher</b>                  | Judi Pavisich           |
| Tom Foley               | <b>Director of Music</b>           | Tom Foley               |
| Mike Elkins             | <b>Associate Director of Music</b> | Mike Elkins             |
| Sharon Heinrich         | <b>Organist</b>                    | Sharon Heinrich         |
| Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich | <b>Video/Sound</b>                 | Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich |
| Chancel Choir           | <b>Special Music</b>               | Chancel Choir           |

 **A NOTE OF THANKS**—We thank our **Chancel Choir, Mike Elkins, Tom Foley, and Sharon Heinrich** for their music this morning!

Our steeple will light the sky this week—


*Happy Birthday to the best bulletin-folder out there,  
Judi Pavisich on April 29<sup>th</sup>!*

*Happy Birthday yesterday to Jen Barry and to Mary Willis!*

**Happy Birthday today to Steven Woodward!**



**BOOK STUDY!**

 On May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m., our Book Study will continue. All are welcome to join us!

**FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL:**

**PENNY SUNDAY IS TODAY**—It's time to contribute those coins, dollars, and checks to UCC for **Northeast Ohio Collie Rescue!** The next Penny Sunday will be on **May 31<sup>st</sup>**.



**WE NEED YOU! A SIGN-UP FOR TEACHING SUNDAY SCHOOL IN THE SUMMER WILL BE POSTED IN PILGRIM HALL! Join the fun! Summer Sunday School begins May 31<sup>st</sup>.**

**OFFERINGS RECEIVED**

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 5,212.00  
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 9,552.00  
Difference + \$ 4,340.00

*Thank you very much for your support.*

**PLEDGES RECEIVED: 62**



**Join us for the Diaconate's Food, Friends, and Fun-Draiser--May 1<sup>st</sup>**

If you haven't bought your tickets yet for our Food . . . Friends . . . and FUN(D)-raiser, what are you waiting for???? NOT ONLY will you miss out on some guaranteed winnings with the Fish Bowl Drawings; you could win the Grand Prize "It's A Date" package worth \$500! The \$30 ticket includes all the pulled pork sliders (served in "pieces/ parts" you assemble

yourself), pasta, and salad you care to eat, plus beverages including wine and well drinks as well as fountain drinks-- and desserts donated by your wonderful and talented bakers! The only thing missing is YOU!

This is the Diaconate's only significant fundraising opportunity. NOT ONLY do they work behind the scenes making so many events, including Sunday worship, flow smoothly; their budget covers the cost of things like oil for the candles and Communion supplies, and supports our "Three with GLEE!" Capital Campaign, as well.

We are the church-- all of us-- TOGETHER. Thanks-- see you at **Grindstone Tap House in Berea, Friday, May 1, 5:30-8:30!**

**MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:**

**We are collecting new items for Laura's Home (Feminine pads with wings, baby wipes, Size 6 and 7 diapers or Pull-Ups, and Pedialyte) through May 3<sup>rd</sup>. There is a bin in the Gathering Area for your donations. As an alternative, you can purchase Amazon gift cards—available through our Gift Card program. See Jim Joyce or contact the church office to purchase (double benefit)!**



**UPCOMING BOARD MEETING**



The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **April 28<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

**OUR PRAYER LIST**

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

**Long-Term Care or Homebound:** Irene Jannsohn, Connie Rebar

**Church Family:** Serena Abruzzino, Jen Barry, Mark Camp, Judy Carte, Elaine Coffey, Betty "Grammy" Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Roger Davis, Colette Emerson, Roz Fotos, Sue Hawk, Frank Jefferis, Pam & Bruce Keenen, Erv Koch, Jill Kundtz, Jan Meier, Carol Konet, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Jim Maresco, Jan Meier, Amanda Moulton, Ginny & Kenn Oerkfitz, George & Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Ron Rothel, Jennifer Sekorky, Tracy Seneff, Peter Smith, Bruce Sperber, Linda Stepan, JoAnn Thomas, Debbie Wentz, Heather Williams, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

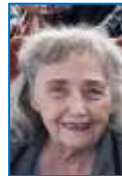


**Extended Church Family:** Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Allison Emerson (Colette's sister), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Joanne Gariepy (Sally Herzog's friend), Kathy Ghetti (friend of Ginger Rothel), Jennifer Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's daughter-in-law), Sarah & David Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's grandson & wife), Michaelene Hanrahan (Jim Joyce's sister), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Tiffany Hassel (Judi Pavisich's daughter-in-law), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel's parents), Maryanne Grega-Knotek (our florist), Helen Leckwatch (Dale Parson's mother-in-law), George Love (friend of the church), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Sylvia Pakish (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Jeff Peacock (former member), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Vicki Smith (Venner Clarinets), Jeaneane Steinmeyer (Greg Dickson's aunt), Don & Pauline Wills (Judi Pavisich's friends), the people of Ukraine, Sudan, Gaza, and Israel, victims of violence and natural disasters, First Responders

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

**IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY**

Our deepest sympathy is extended to **Marty Winch** and family on the death of her sister, **Amelia (Amy) Carroll**. Amy ended her earthly journey on April 3, 2026 after an extended illness. A memorial service will be held at our church on May 9, 2026 at 11 a.m with a luncheon in Pilgrim Hall following the service.



**FROM OUR FRIENDS AT SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CHORUS**

SWCC will have a Spring Concert, "**Celebrate America**" on **Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>** 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 **Jarred Sorauf**; some of the singers this season include **Craig Hardy, Ingrid Dickson, Irene Joyce, Sarah Keenen, Marianne Luca, Jo Ann Thomas, Dave Williams** and a few other familiar faces and voices. Tickets are \$15 will be available at the door or from our own choir members who sing with the chorus.

**FROM OUR FRIENDS AT ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH:**

St. Joseph's church (12700 Pearl Road) will be hosting an **Ecumenical Taizé Prayer Service for Peace TODAY at 7 p.m.** Come join our brothers and sisters in Christ as we pray for peace in the world. We will come together for a time of meditation, singing, and reflection, in gratitude for God's presence and love in our hearts and lives. There will be a small social following the service.



**80 YEAR MEMBER!**

**April 21<sup>st</sup>** marked the anniversary of the day that our own **Betty Craig** became a member of **Strongsville United Church of Christ in 1946!** Congratulations to "**Grammy**" Craig on your 8 decades of dedication and service! Please join us for a special treat after worship in celebration of Grammy.



**YOUTH GROUP NEWS**



On April 12<sup>th</sup>, our Youth Group kids had a fantastic time going rock climbing at Dick's Sporting Goods, followed by pizza at Gino's Restaurant. Thanks to everyone who made our outing so much fun!

**THREE WITH GLEE!**

Capital Campaign: We currently have \$64,362.08 in our capital campaign account. We are getting additional bids for the acoustic panels in Pilgrim Hall. A new roof for Pilgrim Hall and the church building may be on the horizon. Things are happening, but we still have more projects on the list. Please make sure you designate your donation for "*Capital Campaign*." Thanks for your continuing support.



**THANK YOU NOTE**

Thank you to Pastor Heidi for her services at Roy's funeral and burial. We appreciate her thoughtfulness and care. We also want to thank our Church Family for their thoughts, cards, and presence at the funeral. Roy enjoyed attending Strongsville UCC services and events so much. Fondly, **Sandy Pogozelski** and Family and **Carol Merkle**



**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 accepted during our Thursday sale hours, but please try to limit your donations to what you can carry downstairs. **Please do not abandon items outside the church doors.**



**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 (include middle name): \_\_\_\_\_

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](mailto:strongsvilleucc@gmail.com) by **Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>**.

**FREE LUNCH FOR ALL--Wednesdays**

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



A reminder: Donations are welcomed to support the increasing costs of this valuable program. **Thank you to all of our faithful volunteers!**

**YES! I'D LIKE TO BE PART OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY CARE TEAM.**



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**I AM INTERESTED IN:**

\_\_\_\_\_ OFFERING OR RECEIVING COMMUNION AT HOME

\_\_\_\_\_ CALLING FOLKS WHO WOULD LIKE TO JOIN PRAYER CHAIN, BUT DON'T USE EMAIL

\_\_\_\_\_ PREPARING AN EXTRA MEAL AND DELIVERING IT TO SOMEONE WHO'S HOMEBOUND

\_\_\_\_\_ HELPING COOK A DISH AND OR SERVE MEALS AT FUNERAL LUNCHEON

\_\_\_\_\_ BECOMING A "PHONE BUDDY" AND PERIODICALLY CHECK IN WITH SOMEONE WHO'S HOMEBOUND

\_\_\_\_\_ OFFERING AN OCCASIONAL RIDE TO TAKE MEMBERS TO APPOINTMENTS

\_\_\_\_\_ OFFERING AN OCCASIONAL RIDE TO OUR CHURCH SERVICES

\_\_\_\_\_ BE PART OF A CARD CREW TO SEND CARDS TO FOLKS ON HEIDI'S PRAYER LIST AND OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

\_\_\_\_\_ I WOULD BE WILLING TO...

**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.



**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**  
**If you are the last or almost the last person to leave the church building on any given day, please make certain that all the lights are off and most importantly, that the door to the kitchen and the parking lot doors are locked and PUSHED SHUT so the lock is latched. The Board of Trustees is addressing this issue, but in the meantime, it's all hands on deck to keep our church building secure. Thanks in advance for your diligence!**



**CHURCH OFFICERS 2026**

*\*Elected February 1, 2026*

**Moderator:** Rachel Zielinski \*

**Vice-Moderator:** Herb Hampson\*

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

**Sunday School Superintendent:** Linda Elkins

**Board of Trustees**

Karen Bates Jen Barry\* Greg Dickson\*  
 Bill Giuliano\* Chris Goff Les Fox\* Cathy Hawk  
 Sandy Pogozelski\* Bill Robinson \* Cheryl Sobek  
 Alex Tomoff Mike Willis

**Endowment Fund Subcommittee**

Linda Stepan\* Dave Williams\*

**Diaconate**

Jean Bittinger Elaine Coffey\* Diana Creecy\*  
 Bobbi Cook Wayne Cook Judy Davis  
 Judy Fox\* Pam Heimburger Marsha Hemphill\*  
 Cindy Hurley\* Lynne McCray\*  
 Linda Ponstingle Lora Rung

**Christian Education Committee**

Linda Elkins\* Colette Emerson\* Dale Hawk  
 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**

Ingrid Dickson Sue Gigliotti\* Linda Stepan  
 Rob Toth\* Sarah Toth Dave Williams

**Mission and Outreach Committee**

Jen Barry \* Gina Cathcart Bobbi Cook\*  
 Cathy Hawk Sarah Hayes\* Lora Rung  
 Mary Willis Mary Ellen Zimmerman

**THERE'S STILL TIME TO PLEDGE FROM YOUR H.E.A.R.T.!**

Hospitality, Engagement, Activities, Resources, Time, Talent, & Treasure

**United Church of Christ 2026 Estimate of Giving**

In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2026:

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 \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_



**For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Matthew 6:21**