



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, April 28, 2024– 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.

BELL PRELUDE "Thine is the Glory" Handel, arr. Geschke

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Greg Dickson

BELL INTROIT "Amazing Grace" arr. Harris

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Here in this place of worship, with the congregation of the faithful,

People: We lay down our fears, to boldly sing God's praise.

Leader: Here in the vineyard of the Lord, with our sisters and brothers in Christ,

People: Grandparents tell stories of faith to little ones sitting on their laps.

Leader: Here where God waits to welcome us with Love,

People: We long to be so filled with God's love that we will eagerly serve others.

† HYMN 101 "All People that on Earth Do Dwell" (vv. 1, 4, & 5)

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 22:25-31

(New International Version)

From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you I will fulfill my vows.

The poor will eat and be satisfied; those who seek the Lord will praise him— may your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before God, for dominion belongs to the Lord and he rules over the nations.

All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him— those who cannot keep themselves alive.

Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord.

They will proclaim God's righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: God has done it!

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.

BELL ANTHEM "Softly and Tenderly" Thompson, arr. Harris

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Amamus Linguam Latinam" 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 15:1-8

(The Living Bible)

"Yes, I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in me and I in him shall produce a large crop of fruit. For apart from me you can't do a thing."

SERMON "I AM. (And so are you!)"

† HYMN "Dona Nobis Pacem" (sing twice) (Grant Us Peace)

Do-na no-bis pa-cem, pacem.

Do--na no-bis pa---cem.

Dona nobis pacem.

Dona nobis pa---cem.

Dona no--bis pacem.

Dona nobis pa---cem.

† BENEDICTION Nathan Nettleton, LaughingBird Ministries

Go now, and love one another, because love is from God. Proclaim God's salvation to every generation. Remain in Jesus Christ, and like branches of a vine, draw your life from him. And may God the vine grower tend you and make you fruitful; may Christ Jesus abide in you and give you life; and may the Holy Spirit cast out all fear and fill you with God's love. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord and one another, in the name of the Living Christ. Amen.

† POSTLUDE "Abide with Me" Monk, arr. Whitworth

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**.

TODAY – APRIL 28	SERVING	NEXT SUNDAY – MAY 5
Judi Pavisich	Greeters	Linda Plain
Sandy O'Shea	Liturgist	Judi Pavisich
Judi Pavisich	Ushers	Volunteers needed
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
Bell Choir	Special Music	Carol Foley, Chancel Choir



A NOTE OF THANKS—We thank our **Bell Choir**, and of course, **Tom Foley, Sharon Heinrich** and **Mike Elkins** for today's music!

The altar flowers are given—
In celebration of our Son, Geoff's, Birthday this month.
Love, Mom & Dad Reed
Happy Birthday to Judi Pavisich!

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 "Gramma P" Judi Pavisich on April 29th!

FROM OUR FRIENDS AT SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CHORUS



SWCC will have a Spring Concert, "When I Hear Music," **TODAY 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, Frank Jefferis, 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 **\$ 5,718.15**
Difference **+\$2,101.14**

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



FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL: PENNY SUNDAY TODAY!

The children will be collecting your coins, dollars, and checks to UCC for World Central Kitchen. The next Penny Sunday will be **May 26th**.



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.)



WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

We lovingly welcome **Alex Tomoff** to our church family. Alex, a Strongsville resident, has transferred his membership from Church of the Redeemer in Westlake. He and his wife, Karen, have two grown children and two grandchildren.

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, Kenn Oerkfritz, 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 Gheti (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

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.



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.



ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS!

Summer is just around the corner! We will be looking for folks to commit to teaching a single Sunday with our children. All lessons and materials will be provided in advance.

Start thinking about which Sunday you're available for this special ministry. A sign-up sheet is posted in Pilgrim Hall.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS



- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **May 14th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **May 21st** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Sunday of the month, **May 28th** 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.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—MAY

Daytime program on **May 1st at 1:00 p.m.** is "Meditation." Cherie Teagno will talk for 10 minutes on how to meditate and what happens when we meditate and present a 30-minute devotion (a story by Selena Nwula). We will then have sharing time. Evening program on **May 6th at 7:00 p.m.** is "Gardening Tips and Plant in a Mug." As always, all ladies are welcome to either or both programs.

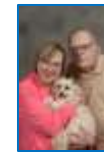
MISSION OUTREACH NEWS



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



A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

A memorial service for **Rick Teagno** will be held on **Saturday, May 11th** at the church at 11 a.m., with a luncheon in Pilgrim Hall following.

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!

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 strongvilleucc@gmail.com by **Sunday, May 26th**.

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 Pogozelski*

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

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.

