



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



**Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor**  
**Sunday, April 30, 2023 – 10:00 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** "Praise the Father" arr. Page

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Joyce Reed

**BELL INTROIT** "Jesus Loves Me" Bradbury

**† CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Lift your voices to God.

**People: We call on the One who promises to hear us.**

Leader: In life, in death, in every moment, God deals graciously with us.

**People: We rejoice in the One who saves us.**

Leader: We will break the Bread of life in thanksgiving to God.

**People: We will lift up the Cup of salvation, drinking deeply from it.**

† **HYMN 118** "His Name is Wonderful"

† **A READING FROM THE PSALMS** Psalm 23 (King James Version)  
*(Unison-- Remain Standing)*

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
He leadeth me beside the still waters.  
He restoreth my soul:

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;  
Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:  
Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

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** "How Firm a Foundation" arr. Page

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** Penny Sunday

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** "Impromptu" Bliss

† **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 BOOK OF ACTS** Acts 2:14a; 36-47  
(New International Version)  
All the believers were together and had everything in common.

**SERMON** "Together"

† **HYMN 690** "He Leadeth Me"

† **BENEDICTION** Malcolm Doney, *Uniting Church*  
May the love which overcomes all differences, which heals all wounds, which puts to flight all fears, which reconciles all who are separated be in us and among us, now and always. And may the blessing of God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you this day and for ever more. **Amen.**

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

**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 30		NEXT SUNDAY – MAY 7
Sharon Maresco	<b>Greeters</b>	Linda Plain
Luke Giuliano	<b>Liturgist</b>	Judi Pavisich
Volunteers needed	<b>Ushers</b>	Volunteers needed
Oliver & Matilda Sekorky	<b>Acolytes</b>	Chris Abruzzino/Riley Marshall
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>Sound</b>	Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Bell Choir, Richard Densmore	<b>Special Music</b>	Chancel Choir



**A NOTE OF THANKS—**

Thank you to the **Bell Choir, Richard Densmore, Tom Foley, Mike Elkins, and Sharon Heinrich** today's music!

**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 loving memory of John B. Millhoane—Love & miss ya!--  
Lola Millhoane, the Hopkins & Masuga families



Our steeple will light the sky this week—  
Happy Birthday to Greg Dickson on May 6<sup>th</sup>



**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 TODAY!**

We are ready to collect your coins, dollars, and checks (to UCC) today. All money collected will benefit **Laura's Home**. Our next Penny Sunday will be May 28<sup>th</sup>.

**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 Oerkfitz, 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), 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), 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](mailto: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 [cwqrlrm293@msn.com](mailto:cwqrlrm293@msn.com) for a detailed job description or to apply.

**OFFERINGS RECEIVED**

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,617.01  
Last Week's Offering Received \$2,347.00  
Difference -(\$1,270.01)

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.



## 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!

### CONGREGATIONAL PHOTO MAY 14<sup>th</sup>

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," 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; 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.

### 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 16<sup>th</sup> through May 14<sup>th</sup>. 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 and Pull-Ups size 4, 5, 6
- Unexpired baby food and formula



### UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS



- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **May 9<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **May 16<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will have an email meeting on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **May 23<sup>rd</sup>** at 7 p.m.



DIACONATE "WING" NIGHT  
FRIDAY, MAY 12<sup>th</sup> - 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.

### CAREGIVING PRESENTATION SUNDAY, MAY 7<sup>th</sup>

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!



### 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.



### 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.

### 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!



### 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!



### PLEASE BE AWARE:

Due to a bank change, all checks to the church should be made out to **United Church of Christ or UCC or United Church of Christ (Congregational)**. Please do not use

"Strongsville" or "SUCC" in the "Pay to the Order of" line.

Thanks!

### BE 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.



### 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](mailto:strongsvilleucc@gmail.com) by **Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>**.

## 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\*

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



**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!**

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## MAY IS STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH MONTH!



The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. The Heartland Conference and the National setting equally share the gifts given by

members and friends through their local congregations.

Your generosity to Strengthen the Church (STC) provides the funds that allow The Heartland Conference to Support the development our Ministry Networks and support our General Synod Delegates.

In the National setting funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.