



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136
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StrongsvilleUCC.com

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, April 5, 2026– 10 A.M.
Resurrection 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 "Above All" Smith

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Joyce Reed

CHORAL INTROIT "Easter Call to Worship" Grosvenor

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made!

People: Hope tiptoes us awake; light guides us through the shadows.

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made!

People: God plants joy in our winter hearts; drowns out despair's cries with laughter.

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made!

People: The day grace does cartwheels in graveyards; resurrection wonder outshines the brightest sun; an empty tomb fills us with good news. Christ is risen! Alleluia!

† HYMN 365 "Alleluia! Alleluia!"

A READING FROM THE PROPHETS Jeremiah 31:1-6
(The Message)

"And when that happens"—God's Decree—"it will be plain as the sun at high noon: I'll be the God of every man, woman, and child in the land, and they shall be my very own people."
* * *

This is the way God put it:

"They found grace out in the desert, these people who survived the killing. My children, out looking for a place to rest, met God out looking for them!"

God told them, "I've never quit loving you and never will. Expect love, love, and more love!

And so now I'll start over with you and build you up again, dear beloved children.

You'll resume your singing, grabbing tambourines and joining the dance.

You'll go back to your old work of planting vineyards on the Samaritan hillsides,

And sit back and enjoy the fruit— oh, how you'll enjoy those harvests!

The time's coming when watchmen will call out from the hilltops of Ephraim:

'On your feet! Let's go to Zion, go to meet our God!'"

Leader: The Word of God, for us, the people of God;

People: Thanks be to God.

PRAYING IN SILENCE

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy, **ALL: Hear our prayers. Amen.**

CHORAL ANTHEM "On the Third Day" Pote

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" Traditional

† **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 Matthew 28:1-10
(The Message)

After the Sabbath, as the first light of the new week dawned, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to keep vigil at the tomb. Suddenly the earth reeled and rocked under their feet as God's angel came down from heaven, came right up to where they were standing. He rolled back the stone and then sat on it.

REFLECTION "Deep in Wonder, Full of Joy"

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor: We are Easter people, yet we also know how often we live in the shadows, afraid to follow the light. We wander in the gardens of the world, looking for you, never even noticing you at our side. Let us confess how we have failed to be God's people, as we pray together:

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

All: We come on this day, Dispeller of fears, walking through the shadows of our lives. Too often, we believe our foolishness is hidden from you; too often, we stand before the open door of hope, wondering if we dare enter. Uncertain of the good news offered to us, we would rather return to the comfort of our familiar ways rather than trusting in you. Yet you come, as persistent as Mary at the tomb, Joy of our hearts, to open the gates of hope, so we might walk in the gardens of hope; you come, to open the gates of grace, so we might plant peace in the wilderness of the world; you come, to open the gates of resurrection, so we might know our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. (silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: This is a day of resurrection and new life. This is the day God offers us steadfast hope and love which will never end.

All: We will sing and dance on this day! We will rejoice and give thanks to the God who saves us. Amen.

A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

"The Strife is O'er" arr. Hopson and arr. Callahan

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.

† **HYMN 367** "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

† **BENEDICTION** Franciscan Benediction


May God bless you with Discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart. May God bless you with Anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace. May God bless you with Tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy. And may God bless you with the Foolishness of a child to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done. Amen.

† **POSTLUDE** "Hallelujah Chorus" from *Messiah* G.F. Handel
Keyboard Trio: Mike Elkins, Carol Foley, Sharon Heinrich

Please join in singing hymn #39 the second time through.


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 5		TODAY – APRIL 5	NEXT SUNDAY – APRIL 12
Linda Plain	Greeters		Roger & Judy Davis
Greg Dickson	Liturgist		Mike Willis
John Toth	Head Usher		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
Bells, Choir, Brass, Keyboard trio	Special Music		Music Team


 **A NOTE OF THANKS**—We thank **Tom Nazelli, Ken Mehalko, Carol Foley, Sarah Keenen**, our **Bell Choir members** (Elaine Coffey, Sharon Heinrich, Linda Elkins, and Rachel Zielinski), our **Chancel Choir** (Rob Toth, Dave Williams, Craig Hardy, Mike Willis, Toni Newborn, Sarah Keenen, Marianne Luca, Irene Joyce, Ingrid Dickson, Jo Ann Thomas, Sharon Maresco, Riley Marshall, Sandy O'Shea, Sarah Toth, and Bobbi & Wayne Cook), along with **Tom Foley, Mike Elkins, and Sharon Heinrich** for their music today.

Our steeple will light the sky this week—
Happy Birthday to Betty "Grammy" Craig on April 8th!
With lots of love from your church family
Remembering our dad, Roger H. Robinson on his birthday, April 7th. Love and miss ya, Dad! --Becky & Bill Robinson

Happy Birthday today to Barb Fraunfelder and Lena Raymond!

FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL:
PENNY SUNDAY--Please bring your coins, dollars, and checks to UCC on **April 26th** for Penny Sunday. The money will go to the Northeast Ohio Collie Rescue. 

 **The children will have an Easter Egg Hunt during our Sunday School classes today. Kids of all ages are welcome to participate!**

SPECIAL THANKS to Dale Hawk and the breakfast crew for prepping, cooking, serving and cleaning up our Easter breakfast this morning! 



DON'T MISS IT!
PLEASE BE SURE TO JOIN US NEXT SUNDAY,
APRIL 12th, FOR HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY!—Bring
 your favorite (clean) joke--Because God has the
 last laugh over death!

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 4,359.00
 Last Week's Offering Received \$ 2,484.00
 Difference - (\$2,728.00)

Thank you very much for your support.
PLEDGES RECEIVED: 62



**WANT TO ENJOY A COUPLE OF HOURS OF
 FUN, FOOD, AND FELLOWSHIP WITH YOUR
 CHURCH FAMILY?** How about joining us for
 our **FAMILY GAME GATHERING** from 2 p.m. –
 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 18th? Bring a savory
 or sweet snack to share, your favorite board
 games, and your friends and family.



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, Roy Merkle, 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: Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), 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**

FROM OUR FRIENDS AT SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CHORUS

SWCC will have a Spring Concert, "Celebrate
America" on **Sunday, May 3rd** 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.



**Mark your calendars now for the
 Diaconate's Food, Friends,
 and Fun-Draiser!**
Friday, May 1st at Grindstone Tap House—
start thinking of your basket ideas!
TICKETS ARE \$30 and are ON SALE NOW!

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
 Mother's Day. We will have 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!)



To the Glory of God

Easter flowers were given:

For all those struggling with mental health—You're not alone—
 we see you. Jesus is with us—He is Risen!
 The Abruzzino Family

In honor of my family, with thanks for taking care of me
 Judy Carte

In Loving Memory of my Dad, Bill Ritchie
 With love to my mom, Dorothy Ritchie
 In Loving Memory of my Grandparents—
 Peter and Edna Lansell, LeRoy and Rasha Ritchie
 Gina Cathcart

In Memory of Gordon Cockrell,
 Harry and Kathryn Johnson, and
 Harold and Wava Cockrell
 Kathryn Cockrell and Family

For the loving Davis & Heglund families
 For the loving Demichei & Penasa families
 Roger and Judy Davis

In Loving Memory of John W. Dickson and
 Michael E. & Deborah M. Dickson
 Ingrid and Greg Dickson and Family

In Honor of our Musicians
 Carol Foley

In Loving Memory of Bill Fraunfelder
 Barb Fraunfelder

In Loving Memory of Our Parents and Grandparents,
 Betty and Don Babics
 The Gigliotti & Kubancik Families

In Loving Memory of Our Parents and Grandparents,
 JoAnn & Louis Gigliotti, Sr.
 The Gigliotti Family

In Loving Memory of Our Parents and Grandparents,
 Don and Lois Winch and Bill and Ruth Giuliano
 In Memory of Mark Giuliano—Always in our Hearts
 Bill and Beth Giuliano,
 Nicole, Brett, & Beckham Wade, and Luke Giuliano



In Loving Memory of Charles and Thelma Hawk
 In Loving Memory of Richard and Sally Mack
 Dale and Cathy Hawk
 For the Joy of our Hearts:
 Riley, Jack, Lacey, Ella, and Henry
 (Nana & Papa) Cathy and Dale Hawk

In Memory of George Hemphill,
 In Memory of Tom & Nancy Stewart
 Marsha Hemphill

In Loving Memory of our Parents
 Frank and Beatrice Jefferis and Paul and Dorothy Jackson
 Frank and Pat Jefferis

In Loving Memory of Erik O. Jannsohn,
 James J. Joyce Sr. and Mary Joyce-Smith
 Eric R. Jannsohn, Aimee J. Jannsohn, and Brooke M. Akins
 Irene A. Jannsohn, Ingrid and Greg Dickson,
 Irene and Jim Joyce

In Memory of the Pastor's wife; In Memory of the Pastor's parents
 In Honor of the Pastor's children & grandchildren
 Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall

Happy Easter, Trevor & Abby!
 Love, Aunt Sarah Keenen

In Loving Memory of Bruce Lerch, Mary & William Hackman,
 and Winifred & Carl Lerch
 Susann Lerch

Happy Easter with love to All!
 Ken Trehalko & Bev Wehr

Wishing my family a Blessed Easter—I love you All!
 Grama P. (Judi Pavisich)

In Memory of Walter & Agnes Perciak, Gregory Perciak,
 James Perciak, Sarah Perciak, Max & Elsie DeWitt,
 Elton & Virginia Bedford. Mike & Erma Kalinick
 Tom & Debbie Perciak

In Loving Memory of Family Members
 who are no longer with us!
 George and Joyce Reed

In Loving Memory of Our Grandparents,
 Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Clements
 In Loving Memory of Our Parents, Roger and Lorna Robinson
 In Loving Memory of Our Aunt Rhea Clements
 In Memory of Our Uncle Bill Clements
 Becky and Bill Robinson

In Loving Memory of our parents and grandparents, Jean and Joe Rung
 and Willie Mae and Jimmy Lee Cuyler
 In Loving Memory of Ruby Jean and Jimmy Lee Cuyler, Jr.
 Sam, Lora, Samuel, and Brayden

In Memory of Vernon & Zora Dick and Kalman & Lillian Gubics
 Bill, Deborah, Autumn, and Ember Schneider

In Loving Memory of: Tad & Gen Thorn, Bernice Cooper, Tom O'Shea, Mae O'Shea,
 Alan Van Kramer, Susan Tressa, Charles Garner, Mike Lucan, Jan Stough, and Thomas
 Raymond. In Honor of Dick Colmer.
 A very Happy and Blessed Easter to all.
 Sandy O'Shea, Doug, Schyler, Devin, and Leo Thorn

In Thanks for our Family
 John and Barbara Toth

In Honor of our Grandchildren:
 Isaac, Jonah, Luke, Leila, and Hannah
 Mike and Mary Willis



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...

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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!**

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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 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.**



THREE WITH GLEE!

Capital Campaign: We currently have \$61,634.08 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.

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 Heimbürger 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

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UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **April 14th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **April 21st** at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **April 28th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



BOOK STUDY!

On April 20th at 7 p.m., Our Book Study will continue. All are welcome to join us!

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

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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!

