



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, April 7, 2024– 10 A.M.

Holy Humor 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 "You've Got a Friend" King
Will Foley, guitar

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (+ JOKES) Irene Joyce

INTROIT "Good Old Days" Shield
Ken Mehalko, alto saxophone

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Praise God with clapping hands; praise God with hands comforting a child.

People: Praise God with silent hearts; praise God with hearts broken for the world.

Leader: Praise God with electric guitars; praise God with soft piano chords.

People: Praise God with be-bop and hip-hop; praise God with rhythms that don't stop.

Leader: Praise God with a hallelujah chorus; praise God with a Gregorian chant.

People: Praise God with dancing steps; praise God with feet walking for justice.

ALL: Praise God! Amen!

† HYMN 138 "Holy Ground" (sing twice)

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 133
(New International Version)

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!
It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard,
running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe.
It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion.
For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

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 "What the World Needs Now" Bacharach/David
Sandy O'Shea, vocals

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE & DAD JOKES

OFFERING

OFFERTORY Melody from "Oliver!" Bart

† **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 20:19-31
(The Message)

Later on that day, the disciples had gathered together, but, fearful of the Jews, had locked all the doors in the house. Jesus entered, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you."

SERMON "THEN what did you do?"

† **HYMN** "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus.

In Him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.

Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path,

and show me the way to the Father.

In Him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.

When we have run with patience the race,

We shall know the joy of Jesus.

In Him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

† **BENEDICTION** Adapted from Peter L. Haynes

Peace be with you, Jesus says to us, this day in this room. As the Father sent me, so now I send you. No doubt or fear will ever lock God out of our lives. Remember that, as you leave this place, sent forward to live by faith in a world where faith can be hard to come by. Hold these words in your heart and mind: *Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet have come to believe.* And all God's children said **Amen!**

† **POSTLUDE** "We Gotta Get Out of This Place" Mann/Weil

===== **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**.



A NOTE OF THANKS—We thank **Will Foley, Sandy O'Shea, Ken Mehalko, and Tom Foley, Sharon Heinrich and Mike Elkins** for our music today!

SERVING

TODAY—APRIL 7

Linda Plain
Elaine Coffey
Volunteers needed
Tom Foley
Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Sandy O'Shea, Will Foley

Greeters
Liturgist
Ushers
Director of Music
Associate Director of Music
Organist
Video/Sound
Special Music

NEXT SUNDAY—APRIL 14

Jean Bittinger
Mike Willis
Volunteers needed
Tom Foley
Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Dave Williams, Children, Choir

The altar flowers are given—

Happy 92nd birthday to Betty Craig with love from her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Wishing you health and happiness in the coming year.



Remembering our dad, Roger H. Robinson on his 113th birthday today. Love and miss you, Dad!--Becky & Bill Robinson

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—

In honor of our Grammy, Betty Craig's, birthday on April 8th!

Happy 35th Anniversary to Jim & Irene Joyce on April 8th!

Happy Birthday to Bruce Keenen on April 9th!

Happy Birthday today to Carol Woodward!

FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL:

PENNY SUNDAY Please start saving your coins, dollars, and checks to UCC for our next Penny Sunday collection: **April 28, 2024!** Money will go to World Central Kitchen. **PLEASE STAY**



FOR CAKE AFTER THE SERVICE TO SAY FAREWELL TO DEAR MEMBERS MARY & RICHARD DENSMORE AND SANDY SMITH, WHO ARE MOVING FAR AWAY ☹️

FROM OUR FRIENDS AT SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CHORUS



SWCC will have a Spring Concert, "When I Hear Music," on **Sunday, April 28th** 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, 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 \$ 4,609.00
Difference +\$ 991.99
Thank you very much for your support.





OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Joan Beckwith, 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, 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 Ghatti (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



Mark your calendars now for the Diaconate's Annual Wing Night! Friday, May 3rd at Grindstone Tap House in Berea—start thinking of your basket ideas now!

BOOK STUDY--A YEAR OF BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD

Continuing on April 15th, 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!



Join Megan Denman
TRI-C BENEFIT CONCERT

See celebrated Cleveland Pianist, Tri-C Alumna Megan Denman!

Saturday, April 13 at 7:00PM

Western Theatre at Cuyahoga Community College Campus, 11000 W. Pleasant Valley Rd., Parma.

Admission \$10 at the Door. Proceeds to support Tri-C Music Club's Ireland Travel Fund. A reception for Megan and our audience will be held in the lobby after the concert.



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

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.

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.



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **April 9th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
 - The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **April 16th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor
 - The Official Board will meet on the fourth Sunday of the month, **April 23rd** 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.



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!

HAPPENING TOMORROW!

A total solar eclipse will take place at the Moon's ascending node on **Monday, April 8, 2024, visible across North America and dubbed the Great North American Eclipse.**



WHAT IS HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY?

Holy Humor Sunday is an old Easter tradition begun by the Greek church, which has recently been resurrected (pun intended). Originally called "Bright Sunday," churches for centuries celebrated Jesus' resurrection with "days of joy and laughter," holding parties and picnics during the week after Easter Sunday. Today, we pick up on this tradition, making each other laugh (or groan) with jokes, puns, singing and thanksgiving.

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 ____/____/____