



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136
(440) 238-6697

StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com
StrongsvilleUCC.com



Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, August 16, 2026– 10 A.M.

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 always welcome here.

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE "Blessed Assurance" Knapp

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

INTROIT "10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)" Myrin/Redman

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Here we can come together, people searching for healing and hope:

People: Here we are met by the One who would bless us with abundant life.

Leader: Here we are called to gather as the family of God:

People: We may find those who are strangers, yet are beloved siblings of ours.

Leader: Here we discover the truth that God makes no distinctions among us:

People: Here we are welcomed and embraced by the One whose arms are open to all.

† HYMN 101 "All People That on Earth Do Dwell"

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 "Word of God Speak" Millard/Kipley

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Melodien Zieht Es" Brahms

† 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 15: 10-20
(New International Version)
Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand.
What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them,
but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them."

REFLECTION "Even Jesus"

† HYMN 788 "Now Thank We All our God"

† BENEDICTION
We came together to worship; now may we go to serve others with God's grace and love. We were called to this place as members of God's family; now we head out into the world to discover strangers are but siblings of Jesus, like us. We have been reminded that there are no differences between any of us; now may we journey with the Spirit to welcome each person into the embrace of hope and justice. Amen.

POSTLUDE "Peace Like A River" Traditional

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.



A NOTE OF THANKS—We thank Dave Williams, as well as our Music Team of Mike Elkins, Tom Foley, and Sharon Heinrich for our music today!

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 – AUGUST 16		NEXT SUNDAY – AUGUST 23
Ingrid & Greg Dickson	Greeters	Judi Pavisich
Dave Williams	Liturgist	Sandy O'Shea
Judi Pavisich	Head Usher	Teri Barbish
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
Dave Williams	Special Music	Lisa Heinrich/Robin Ingratta
Linda Elkins	Summer Sunday School	Colette Emerson

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING



- The Diaconate will not meet in August.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, August 25th at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

Today's altar flowers are given—
Remembering our Wedding Anniversary, August 17th, 1963
Susann Lerch



A 2026 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. We still have a few Sundays available in 2026!

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Anniversary to Bill & Pam Craig on August 19th!

With love, Mom

Happy Birthday to Maddie Wentz on August 22nd!

With Love, Grammy

Happy Birthday to Ingrid Dickson & Irene Joyce on August 21st!

Happy Anniversary today to Mary & Richard Densmore!

+++++

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 5,212.00

Last Week's Offering Received \$ 2,587.00

Difference -(\$2,625.00)

Thank you very much for your support.

PLEDGES RECEIVED: 62

=====



FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL: PENNY SUNDAY

Save your coins, dollars, and checks to UCC! The next Penny Sunday will be August 30th and will go to Snow School.

A SIGN-UP FOR TEACHING SUNDAY SCHOOL IN THE SUMMER IS POSTED IN PILGRIM HALL! We still have some slots left!



THRIFT SHOP

PLEASE NOTE: FOR SAFETY REASONS, THE THRIFT SHOP WILL BE CLOSED ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 20th DUE TO THE CONSTRUCTION IN OUR PARKING LOT.



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT COLUMBIA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:

OUTDOOR WORSHIP
& CELEBRATION OF MUSIC
Saturday, August 22nd at 5 p.m.

Music provided by Mayhem Quartet

Bring your own chair or sit in our pavilion.

If weather is extreme, we will meet in the sanctuary.

25453 Royalton Road Columbia Station

+++++

WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP—



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED TO OUR “SHOWER” FOR SNOW SCHOOL!

We truly appreciate our congregation supporting this outreach for the students at Snow School.



FREE LUNCH FOR ALL— NO LUNCH ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19th.

Due to the construction and repairs occurring in our parking lot. The Free Lunch is cancelled for this coming week.

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, Jean Bittinger, Mark Camp, Judy Carte, Diana Creecy, Sam Cuyler Jr., Roger Davis, Colette Emerson, Roz Fotos, Sue Hawk, Cindy Hurley, Carole Kapcar, Pam & Bruce Keenen, Bonnie Khavaran, Erv Koch, Jill Kundtz, Carol Konet, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Jim Maresco, Ken Mehalko, Amanda Moulton, Ginny & Kenn Oerkfitz,

Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Ron Rothel, Jennifer Sekorky, Tracy Seneff, Peter Smith, Sandy Smith, Bruce Sperber, Linda Stepan, Debbie Thomas, Barbara White, Heather Williams, Jan Williamson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Jim Wonnacott

Extended Church Family: Teresa Beba (Free Lunch friend), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf’s friend), Allison Emerson (Colette’s sister), David Fargo (Sally Herzog’s brother), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen’s friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung’s friend, Kathy Ghatti (friend of Ginger Rothel), Jennifer Gleichauf (Don & Sandy’s daughter-in-law), David Gleichauf (Don & Sandy’s grandson), Ellen Harrison (Linda Elkins’ friend), Michaelene Hanrahan (Jim Joyce’s sister), Dana Hardy (Craig’s wife), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel’s parents), Ben Hoty (Tony & Jo-Ann Hoty’s son), Tami Klammer (principal of Snow School); 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), Jeff Peacock (former member), Michael & Judy Richter (Roz Fotos’ friends), Bob Ritchie (Dorothy’s grandson), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes’ friend), Vicki Smith (Venner Clarinets), Don & Pauline Wills (Judi Pavisich’s friends), Julia Wright (Sandy & Don Gleichauf’s granddaughter), the people of Ukraine, Sudan, Gaza, Iran, 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

WELCOME BACK, PASTOR HEIDI!

Thank you to everyone who helped things run smoothly while Pastor Heidi was on vacation!



ATTENTION SINGERS & RINGERS: CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS BEGIN AUGUST 27th at 7:30 p.m., AND WILL SWITCH TO 8 P.M. WHEN BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS START ON SEPTEMBER 17th at 7 p.m.

Can you carry a tune and read music? There’s room in the choir loft for YOU! Can you read music and count? Come ring with us in Bell Choir! Please see Tom Foley or Mike Elkins if you’d like to be a part of our Music Ministry.

THREE WITH GLEE!

Capital Campaign: We currently have \$65,403.72 in our capital campaign account. The parking lot is currently under repair—thank you for your patience as the work is completed. The acoustic tiles in Pilgrim Hall project has some additional work to be done prior to installation. 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 FAMILY CARE TEAM

If you like to cook or bake or reach out to others in love . . . as winter and circumstances continue to make it hard to stay connected, your Diaconate would LOVE to have you be a part of our team! (You don’t need to be a member of the Diaconate to participate, and you may come and go as you are led.)

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...

CHURCH OFFICERS 2026

*Elected February 1, 2026 ** appointed by the Official Board

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 Pogozeleski* 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* Marsha Hemphill* Lynne McCray* Linda Ponstingle Lora Rung Cherie Teagno**

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 Cindy Hurley** 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



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.

