



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor
Sunday, August 17, 2025– 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.

BELL PRELUDE “Prayer for the Innocents” arr. Davidson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Elaine Coffey

INTROIT “Here I Am to Worship” Hughes

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The One who commands the clouds, calls us to be poured out for others.

People: We can, by faith, be the waters of peace which quench the fires of hatred.

Leader: The One who creates mercy and hope, longs for a world of fair play and grace.

People: We can, by faith, let righteousness and justice be our constant companions.

Leader: The One who is with us in every moment composes a love-song for our hearts.

People: We can, by faith, teach this song to everyone we meet.

† HYMN 2 “Holy God, We Praise Thy Name”

A READING FROM THE PROPHETS **Jeremiah 23:23-28**
(New International Version)

“Am I only a God nearby,” declares the Lord, “and not a God far away?
Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them?”
declares the Lord.

“Do not I fill heaven and earth?” declares the Lord.

“I have heard what the prophets say who prophesy lies in my name.

They say, ‘I had a dream! I had a dream!’

How long will this continue in the hearts of these lying prophets,
who prophesy the delusions of their own minds?

They think the dreams they tell one another will make my people
forget my name, just as their ancestors
forgot my name through Baal worship.

Let the prophet who has a dream recount the dream,
but let the one who has my word speak it faithfully.

For what has straw to do with grain?” declares the Lord.

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 “Be Thou Still” arr. Prins

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Abide with Me” Monk

† 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 EPISTLES **Hebrews 11:29-12:2**
(New International Version)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

REFLECTION “Imperfect Faith of our Fathers”

† HYMN 767 “For All the Saints”

† BENEDICTION

Friends, as we go from here, let us rid ourselves of every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily impedes our progress. Let us run the race that God has set before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus Christ, on whom our faith depends, from start to finish. And as we run, know that the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the presence of the Holy Spirit, is always with you. Amen.

† BELL POSTLUDE “His Grace” arr. Saker

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.



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 17	NEXT SUNDAY – AUGUST 24	
Lynne McCray	Greeters	Susann Lerch
Sharon Maresco	Liturgist	Herb Hampson
Teri Barbish	Head Usher	Carole Kapcar
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
EKCO Ringers, Praise Band	Special Music	Lisa Heinrich
Cathy Hawk	Summer Sunday School	Ingrid Dickson/Irene Joyce

Today’s altar flowers are given—

*Happy Birthday to Riley Marshall today and
Amanda Marshall on Tuesday!*
Dale & Cathy Hawk



*Thank you to Irene Joyce and Ingrid Dickson for all
you do—*Lojuanna & Jeff Udvardy and Cannon Schuler

A 2025 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 2025!

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 Birthday today to Riley Marshall!

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 4,359.00
Last Week’s Offering Received \$ 7,303.25
Difference +\$2,944.25

Thank you very much for your support.
PLEDGES RECEIVED: 61



A NOTE OF THANKS

We thank the **EKCO Ringers (Ed Krzes and Cheryl Onesky)**, and their accompanist, **Carmen Massaro**, and our **Praise Band (Karen Bates, Sharon Maresco, Mike Willis, Rob Toth, Irene Joyce)** and of course, **Mike Elkins, Tom Foley, and Sharon Heinrich** for providing our music today!



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Summer Sunday School needs YOU! We still have a couple of Sundays left to sign up to teach this summer! All lessons and materials will be provided in advance. The sign-up sheet is posted in Pilgrim Hall!

PENNY SUNDAY NEXT WEEK!

Please bring your coins, cash, and checks (to UCC) for the next Penny Sunday, which will be on **August 24, 2025** (note date change) for Berea Animal Rescue Friends (Berea ARF).

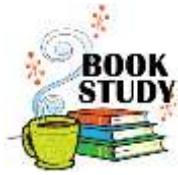


RALLY DAY IS COMING! Mark your calendars for a brand new Sunday School year beginning September 14th! We will be holding a Blessing of the Backpacks, Bags, and Briefcases during worship.

RALLY DAY SPECIAL OFFERING

Envelopes will be in the pews for a special collection to offset the cost of curriculum and Sunday School supplies.

BOOK STUDY--SISTERHOOD!
Tomorrow, Monday, August 18th at 7 p.m., Our Sisterhood Book Study will continue. All are welcome!



IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy is extended to our dear Free Lunch volunteers, **Jane Kossin** and **Mary Lou Shuey** and their family on the death of their brother, **Glenn R. Kossin**, who passed away on August 8, 2025 in Florida. Glenn had been suffering from brain cancer. He was 76 years old.



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, Mark Camp, Judy Carte, Elaine Coffey, Betty "Grammy" Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sue Hawk, Bruce Keenen, Erv Koch, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Roy Merkle, Amanda Moulton, Ginny & Kenn Oerkfitz, George & Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Ron Rothel, Jennifer Sekorky, Tracy Seneff, Peter Smith, Bruce Sperber, Linda Stepan, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Amorie Acevedo (Dennis Smith's daughter), 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), Karen Greenway (Judi Pavisich's friend), Michaelene Hanrahan (Jim Joyce's sister), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel's parents), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Sylvia Pakish (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Mike Pavisich (Judi's step-son), Jeff Peacock (former member), The Price Family, Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Jim Schock (Judi Pavisich's friend), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Vicki Smith (Venner Clarinets), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Brad Wilkson (Susan Lerch's friend), The people of Ukraine, Sudan, Gaza, and Israel, victims of violence, those affected by 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

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL--Wednesdays 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Special thanks to our young helpers, who will be returning to school this coming week. We were very grateful for their help and their enthusiasm!



The Church Office will be closed on Wednesday, August 20th.



ARE YOU INTERESTED?

The Board of Trustees needs someone to fill an unexpired term on the board. The Trustees oversee the building, property, and finances of the church. The Trustees meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. The Official Board would appoint the willing volunteer to complete the term ending in 2027.

The church will be needing a new treasurer at the beginning of the year, as our treasurer, Sally Herzog, will be completing her 3rd term of service. The treasurer position is an elected office and is responsible for facilitating the payment of the church's bills and working closely with the Financial Secretary. The term would commence in February, 2026. Sally is willing to thoroughly train her successor. Please see Rachel Zielinski or Cathy Hawk if you can serve in either capacity.

CALL FOR CARDS!

Our own **Betty Jacobson** will be turning **104** on August 27, 2025 and we would love to shower her with at least 104 birthday cards! Can you send her a card?

Betty Jacobson
18800 Westwood Place #412
Strongsville, OH 44136



COMING NEXT SUNDAY: A WONDERFUL EVENT—The return of Sanyuka Children's Choir from Uganda to Strongsville UCC! Sunday, August 24th at 2 p.m.

The Sanyuka Children's Choir will return to our church and present their high-energy music and movement program. This performance is part of their ministry to support more than 60 orphaned and vulnerable children in Uganda. A free-will offering will be received for their ministry. Please join us in our sanctuary for this joyful celebration of culture and compassion!



Following their presentation, a meal will be served to the Sanyuka choir in Pilgrim Hall. Donations of food are requested from the congregation, and there is a list of items on the sign-up sheet in Pilgrim Hall. There are about 25 people in their group. Thank you very much for helping feed the choir!



SAVE THE DATE!

THE OFFICIAL BOARD WILL BE HOSTING A PIG ROAST FUNDRAISER AT THE CHURCH ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18TH! BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR DETAILS!



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Diaconate will meet via email this month.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **August 26th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:

The Tunnel to Towers Foundation is a charitable organization that honors the legacy of Stephen Siller, a New York City firefighter who died on 9/11, by supporting America's heroes. The foundation focuses on providing mortgage-free homes to families of fallen first responders and catastrophically injured veterans, as well as helping to eradicate veteran homelessness. We would like to sponsor 2 veterans/first responders a month. The cost is \$11 for 1 and \$22 for both. Please sign up for a month on the sign-up sheet in Pilgrim Hall. (Checks to UCC)



A NEW BACK-TO-SCHOOL PROJECT

Purchase a \$25 Target, Walmart, or Amazon card to help with the start of a new school year. Teachers in the Strongsville City School District or at Snow School will benefit from your generosity. See Jim Joyce to buy a gift card from the Organ Preservation Fund, which helps the church, too! Gift card ministry runs through September 14th.



OUTDOOR WORK PARTY—SEPTEMBER 6th!



Join us for a bit of much-needed work in the area outside the kitchen door. Come and give an hour or two and stay for lunch, which will be provided. Bring garden tools and a can-do attitude. See Rachel Zielinski with questions.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—

Many thanks to everyone who participated in our Showers for Snow School in August! We delivered two suv-loads of school supplies, items for the school store, snacks, suitcases/backpacks, and hygiene products, all of which were thoroughly appreciated and will be put to good use by Principal Tami Klammer and her staff.

THANK YOU FROM TAMI KLAMMER AT SNOW

SCHOOL: Oh my goodness! I cannot express enough how blessed we are to have all of you. I cried when I saw ALL the donations! I am also going to have the Snow staff plan a way for the students to show their appreciation. I will let you know when we get something figured out. Your church is a true blessing and I am so thankful for you!



THREE WITH GLEE!



Capital Campaign: We have collected just over \$56,705.05 so far for our capital campaign, after purchasing the paint for the kitchen door (Thanks again to Les Fox for the free labor!). We are still working on the handicap openers and are dealing with

the contractors for that project. We are on the schedule for the important tuck and point of the church building next week, after a delay due to a family emergency within the company we have contracted. The next project will be improving the acoustics in Pilgrim Hall and the Trustees are reviewing the proposals that have been submitted. Also, some general maintenance around the church and its property is being addressed, including new light fixtures in the hallway adjacent to Pilgrim Hall (Thanks Jim Joyce for the free labor!). Make sure you designate your donation for "Capital Campaign." Yellow pledge cards are available in the Gathering Area. Thank you for your continuing support.

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 yourself.
Please do not abandon items outside the church doors.

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**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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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
also have a Life-vac choking device to assist in the event that
someone is choking. It is located just beneath the AED.

CHURCH OFFICERS 2025

**Elected January 26, 2025 ** appointed by Official Board*

Moderator: Greg Dickson **Vice-Moderator:** Jen Barry
Treasurer: Sally Herzog **Clerk:** Judy Gaumer
Sunday School Superintendent: Linda Elkins

Board of Trustees

Bill Giuliano Chris Goff* Mike Elkins
Les Fox Herb Hampson Cathy Hawk*
Sandy Pogozeleski Bill Schneider* Cheryl Sobek*
Alex Tomoff* Mike Willis* Rachel Zielinski

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson* Dave Williams*

Diaconate

Teri Barbish Jean Bittinger* Elaine Coffey*
Bobbi Cook* Wayne Cook* Judy Davis*
Judy Fox Pam Heimbürger* 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

Gina Cathcart* Bobbi Cook** Myron Costin*
Diana Creecy Cathy Hawk* Sarah Hayes
Lora Rung* Peter Smith Mary Willis*
Mary Ellen Zimmerman

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STEWARDSHIP

WHAT DO YOU BRING TO THE CAMPFIRE?

UCC 2025 Estimate of Giving

In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the
following commitment for 2025:

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.

