



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, August 2, 2026– 10 A.M.

Sacrament of Holy Communion



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 "What a Friend" arr. Raney

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Bill Schneider

INTROIT "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" Traditional Spanish Melody

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: All who are thirsty, come!

People: God is the fountain for our lives.

Leader: All who are hungry, come!

People: Jesus feeds us with goodness and grace.

Leader: Rich and poor, young and old, neighbor and guest, come!

People: The Holy Spirit gathers everyone around the Table.

† HYMN 406 "Wonderful Words of Life"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
(New Revised Standard Version)

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger
and abounding in steadfast love.

The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.

The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.

You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.

The Lord is just in all his ways and kind in all his doings.

The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

He fulfills the desire of all who fear him;

he also hears their cry and saves them.

The Lord watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.

My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,

and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever.

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.

ANTHEM "The Servant Song" Gillard

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Offering Song" Elkins

† 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 14:13-21
(The Message)

He took the five loaves and two fish, lifted his face to heaven in prayer, blessed,
broke, and gave the bread to the disciples. The disciples then gave the food to
the congregation. They all ate their fill.

REFLECTION "Don't Waste Your Time..." Rev. Patricia Jefferis

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

The Lord is not mean-spirited or vengeful. God is gracious and
merciful, always willing to listen to our prayers, and to hear our
hearts. Let us lift our voices in the prayer for forgiveness, saying,

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

We are sure we do not have enough to end hunger in our
communities, Holy God. Forgive us that we forget that, by your
presence and power, very little can do so much. We believe we
are the only ones who carry heartache around with us. Forgive
us, Compassion's Heart, that we do not see, or embrace the
despair of those around us. We think we do not have the words
with which to offer hope and healing to strangers. Forgive us,
Welcoming God, for not having the courage to run up to them
with your grace. We convince ourselves that we need to devote
all our time, our energy, our resources, our lives on keeping up
with others. Forgive us for not living that joyful, gracious life
modeled for us by you, Jesus our Brother.

(silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Listen! Come to the One who covers us with compassion,
who feeds us on grace and mercy.

All: What good news! Everyone who thirsts is given water;
everyone who hungers is fed; everyone Whoever sins, has been
forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP "Lamb of God" Paris

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 426 "Blest Be the Tie that Binds"

† BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" arr. Raney

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 Ingrid Dickson
and Irene Joyce, and our music team: Mike Elkins, Tom
Foley, and Sharon Heinrich for our music today! Special
thanks to Rev. Pat Jefferis for leading worship this morning!

SERVING

TODAY—AUGUST 2

Linda Plain
Judi Pavisich
John Toth
Tom Foley
Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Music Team
Mary Ellen Zimmerman

NEXT SUNDAY—AUGUST 9

Greeters Lynne McCray
Liturgist Mike Willis
Head Usher Bill Robinson
Director of Music Tom Foley
Associate Director of Music Mike Elkins
Organist Sharon Heinrich
Video/Sound Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Special Music Praise Band
Summer Sunday School Sharon Heinrich

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.



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Today's altar flowers are given—

Celebrating our Wedding Anniversary on August 7th!

Cathy & Dale Hawk

In loving memory of John Garsteck—Happy Heavenly
Birthday--Brandi Garsteck



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 some Sundays available in 2026!

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthday this week to Jim Heinrich & Sharon Heinrich!

In loving memory of John W. Dickson--Ingrid and Greg Dickson

In loving memory of Brooke M. Akins—The Joyces & Dicksons



Happy Birthday today to Autumn & Summer Zoscak!

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UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Mission Outreach Committee will meet next
week, August 9th following the worship service.
- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the
month, August 11th at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- 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.

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OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 5,212.00
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 2,575.00
Difference -(\$2,637.00)

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

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.**



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—



SHOWERS FOR SNOW SCHOOL
Monday, August 3, 2026 – 7:00 p.m. – Pilgrim Hall
and **Wednesday, August 5, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.**

– Pilgrim Hall

Anyone interested is most welcome to attend the showers.

SHOWER GIFT SUGGESTIONS

Dove body wash	Duffle bags
Footballs/soccer balls	Backpacks
New fun hats	New fun socks
New games for kids	New journals
New marker sets	New puzzles
New small toys	New stuffed animals (“stuffies”)
New water bottles	Old Spice deodorant
Toothbrushes	Toothpaste
Good hair conditioner/lotion/shampoo	
New children’s books (ages 5 and up)	
Fun snacks (individually bagged) or candy (non-perishable)	
Snack-sized chips (Like Takis)	
Power drinks (like Prime)	

Please note: The school cannot accept anything sharp or things that can be used for injurious behavior (like spirals of a notebook, paper clips, glass mirrors, anything made of metal).

Thank you for supporting this outreach for the students at Snow School.



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

Thank you to all of our faithful volunteers, especially our young people who are helping out during their summer break! Our program received a Faith in Action grant from the Living Water Association of the UCC for \$4,000! We are so grateful!



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY BAND:

Mark your calendar for **THE LAST SUMMER CONCERT OF 2026: August 7th**. The Concert will be held on the Strongsville Middle School lawn. Bring a lawn chair or blanket for outdoor concerts. In case of inclement weather, the location will be moved to the Ehrnfelt center.



IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy is extended to **Tom Williamson** and family on the death of his mom, **Jean Lorene Williamson**, who died on July 16, 2026, just 3 days after her 90th birthday. Jean was the mother of 4, grandmother of 10, and great-grandmother of 10. Funeral services were on July 24th at Parma South Presbyterian Church.

We were deeply saddened to hear of the death of church member **Janice Lorene Meier**, who completed her earthly journey on July 25, 2026 at the age of 88. Our love and prayers go out to her daughter, **Karen Thomas**, and Jan's family and many friends. Memorials to Jan may be given to Strongsville UCC or Middleburg Heights Community Church. A celebration of Jan's life will be held at a later date.



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, Jim Joyce, Pam & Bruce Keenen, Erv Koch, Jill Kundtz, Carol Konet, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Jim Maresco, Ken Mehalko, Amanda Moulton, Ginny & Kenn Oerkfritz, 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 Ghetti (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), 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



Prayers for Pastor Heidi as she is on vacation this week and next. She is on an Alaskan cruise with her sister, Alice, and will return to the office after next week. Thanks again to Rev. Pat Jefferis for serving this morning.

THREE WITH GLEE!

Capital Campaign: We currently have \$65,037.72 in our capital campaign account. The wall in the kitchen has been repaired with the necessary point and tuck work. 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.



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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 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

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* Cindy Hurley

Lora Rung Mary Willis Mary Ellen Zimmerman



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, no water is running, and most importantly, that the door to the kitchen and the parking lot doors are locked and “undogged” using the Allen key provided. Thanks in advance for your diligence.



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.



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...

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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*

