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 Join U. Sunday, August 20, 2023 – 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP



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

"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"

Paul Manz

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Irene Joyce

INTROIT

"Sanctuary"

Thompson/Scruggs

+ CALL TO WORSHIP

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

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 they are beloved siblings in Christ's family.

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 418

"Make Us One" (sing twice)

A READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 67

(New International Version)

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on usso that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.

May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you. May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples with equity and guide the nations of the earth.

May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you. The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us. May God bless us still, so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.

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

"Girl with the Flaxen Hair"

Claude Debussy

† 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."

SERMON

"Jesus said What???"

† HYMN 581

"Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" vv. 1, 2, 4

+ BENEDICTION

World Day of Prayer 2022

We thank you, loving God, that we have gathered in your presence and shared in worship. Now may we go forth into the world, confident that we are your children, knowing that you have called us by name. In our daily life, may we align ourselves to your will, seeking direction to follow the plans you have for us which give us a hope and a future in Jesus Christ, and may we have patience in the waiting. In the challenges and joys we face, may we be assured that we do not face them alone. Let us go in peace, hope and love, in the name of our compassionate and powerful God the Son our Saviour, and the comforting Holy Spirit. Amen.

† RESPONSE/POSTLUDE

TODAY-AUGUST 20

"BWV 556"

J.S. Bach

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

NEXT SUNDAY – AUGUST 27

Sharon Heinrich Greeters Jean Bittinger Herb Hampson Liturgist **Sharon Maresco** Volunteer needed Ushers Roz Fotos Tom Folev **Director of Music** Tom Foley Mike Elkins **Associate Director of Music** Mike Elkins **Organist** Sharon Heinrich Sharon Heinrich Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich Sound Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich Megan Denman, Dave Williams Special Music We3Ring/EKCO, Keenens Sharon Heinrich **Summer Sunday School** Colette Emerson

A NOTE OF THANKS—

We thank our special guest, Megan Denman (daughter of Pastor Heidi) as well as Dave Williams, Clay Williams, and Rob Toth along with Tom Foley,

and Mike Elkins for their music today.

The altar flowers are given—

Celebrating tomorrow's birthdays: Ingrid Dickson & Irene Joyce Love, Greg & Jim



Our steeple will light the sky this week—



Happy Birthday to Ingrid & Irene on August 21st With Love from the Heinrich Family Happy Birthday to Madison Wentz on August 22nd and to Joe Craig and Nate Johnson on August 24th With Love, Grammy/Mom

Happy Anniversary today to Kay & Ken Konicek!

PANERA PALS

Are you able to give less than an hour of your time on a Monday or Friday morning to pick up and/or sort Panera bread, bagels, and pastries? Please contact the church office if you can help with this worthwhile ministry.



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.





UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, August 22nd at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Are you interested in joining our congregation? Pastor Heidi will be offering a membership class after worship on August 27th and **September 10th**, with new members being

received on **September 17th**. Please contact her or the church office if you would like to become a member of the Strongsville UCC.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Summer Sunday School is underway -- Thank you to everyone who has signed up to teach a lesson this summer!



PENNY SUNDAY-The next Penny Sunday will be on August 27, 2023. Money collected will go to the UCC Disaster Relief Fund for wildfire victims in Maui, Hawaii. If you'd like to wear a Hawaiian shirt next Sunday in solidarity with our brothers and sisters

who were affected by this tragedy, please do so! _____

RALLY DAY IS COMING!

Mark your calendar for September 10th, when we begin a new Sunday School year of learning and growing together!



CHOIR

ATTENTION SINGERS & RINGERS: CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS BEGIN PRACTICE AUGUST 24th & BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS **RESUME SEPTEMBER 7th.**

Can you carry a tune? There's room in the choir loft for YOU! Can you read music? 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.

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Joan Beckwith, Mary Carey, Laurie Meister, Ruth Milidonis, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Maggie

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Barb Camp, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sue Hawk, Irene Jannsohn, Carole Kapcar, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Bruce Lerch, Reggie McCray, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkfitz, Garv Paul, Jovce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Bill Schneider. Peter Smith, John Toth, Sharon Wilson, Dave Williams, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Edward and Sharon Acton (Sally Herzog's friends), Dorene Baldridge, Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Angie Colosimo (Judi Pavisich's friend), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Joanne Gariepy (Sally Herzog's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Vic Irelan (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), 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), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Thomas O'Shea (Sandy's dad), 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, 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



THRIFT SHOP

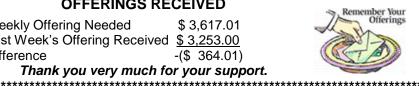
The Thrift Shop is OPEN on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Come and shop lots of interesting merchandise at amazing prices. Donations are being accepted during those

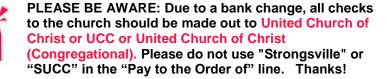
hours, but please try to limit your donations to what you can carry downstairs. Thanks, as always, to our dedicated volunteers!

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 3.617.01 Last Week's Offering Received \$ 3,253.00 -(\$ 364.01) Difference

Thank you very much for your support.







FREE LUNCH FOR ALL—

Wednesdays 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Our Free Lunch for All Program welcomes everyone to enjoy a nutritious meal and warm fellowship.

GIFT CARDS

PLEASE DON'T FORGET ABOUT THIS **EASY, CONVENIENT PROGRAM THAT** BENEFITS THE CHURCH. You can order gift



cards by calling **Jim Joyce** at 216-346-4161 in advance with your order. Limited stock is available for purchase on Sunday mornings.

COMING IN THE FALL...

A NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY!

It's time for a new photo-directory. Each family that is photographed for the directory will receive a free 8x10 of their photo and a free copy JUNIVERSAL of the directory. So much has changed since our last pictorial directory and this is an excellent opportunity to have a studio portrait of you or



your family. We would like EVERYONE to be included!

Do you know someone who would like their senior or engagement photos taken? There is NO COST except if you would like to purchase photos. Anyone can sit for portraits, even if they are not a part of the directory.

We will have in-person and online scheduling available so that you can come when it's convenient. Dates for photography will be:

Wednesday, September 20th 2 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Thursday, September 21st 2 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Friday, September 22nd 2 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Saturday, September 23rd 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

We need volunteers to help with the sign-up process for our families. Please see Irene Joyce if you can help.

ALSO, IF YOU HAVE ANY UPDATES TO YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION. PLEASE MAKE SURE THE CHURCH HAS YOUR **CURRENT INFORMATION—THANKS!**

CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2023 *Elected January 29, 2023

Moderator: Greg Dickson Vice-Moderator: Jen Barry Treasurer: Sally Herzog Clerk: Judy Gaumer

Sunday School Co-Superintendents

Linda Elkins Mary Densmore*

Board of Trustees

Diana Creecy Chris Goff* Herb Hampson Cathy Hawk Sarah Hayes Cheryl Sobek* Dan Winrod* Laura Winrod* Rachel Zielinski

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson Linda Stepan Dave Williams*

Diaconate

Teri Barbish Jean Bittinger* Elaine Coffey Bobbi Cook* Wayne Cook* Judy Davis* Carole Kapcar* Sharon Maresco Linda Ponstingle Cherie Teagno Barbara White* Mary Ellen Zimmerman*

Christian Education Committee

Serena Abruzzino* Mary Densmore* Linda Elkins Amanda Marshall Lora Rung

Music Committee

Ingrid Dickson Richard Densmore Pam Keenen Ken Mehalko* Mike Willis* ex officio: Sharon Heinrich Tom Foley Mike Elkins

Stewardship Committee

Judi Pavisich Bill Schneider* Richard Taylor Rob Toth Mary Willis*

Mission and Outreach Committee

Judy Carte* Sarah Hayes Bobbie Krisak Lora Rung* Jennifer Sekorky Peter Smith * Bev Wehr Mary Ellen Zimmerman*

ONLINE SCHEDULING INSTRUCTIONS FOR FAMILY APPOINTMENT SETTING

- ♦ Go to the Universal Church Directories website (www.ucdir.com)
- ♦ Click on the box on the right side of the homepage entitled "photography appointment scheduling login"
- ♦ Enter your church code **oh2687** Enter your church password photos
- ♦ Click on the Enter button
- ♦ Click on the desired photography date
- ♦ Click on the Reserve Time button beside the desired photography appointment time
- ♦ Enter the appropriate information in all required fields (indicated by the asterisk *)
- ♦ Click on the Schedule Appointment button at the bottom of the screen to reserve the photography appointment time in your family's name
- ♦ If you have more than six family members being photographed, please reserve two appointments consecutively (such as 6:00 and 6:10)
- ♦ Print the next screen to use as a reminder of your family's photography appointment
- ♦ Contact your church's online scheduling administrator to change or cancel your photography appointment.
- **♦ PLEASE NOTE: Online scheduling will be** disabled on the weekends to allow for in-person sign-ups.

BEE A BUSY BEE IN 2023—August - November

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.





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.