



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 21, 2022 – 10:00 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 welcome here.

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE "Be Thou My Vision" arr. Raney

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Ingrid Dickson

INTROIT "Here I am to Worship" Hughes

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Before we got up this morning and decided to come to church,

People: God was waiting for us, to welcome us with grace.

Leader: When we are unsure of what to do; when we falter before the next step,

People: We come to listen for God's voice, to learn from the One who teaches us all we ever need to know.

Leader: When we are surrounded by cruelty and injustice; when our fears cripple our souls,

People: God delivers us with steadfast love; we are set free to be God's sons and daughters.

† HYMN 788 "Now Thank We All Our God"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 103:1-8
(New Revised Standard Version)

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.*

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—
who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,*

who redeems your life from the Pit,

who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

who satisfies you with good as long as you live

so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

The Lord is merciful and gracious,

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

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 "The Lord's Prayer" Isensee

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

INTRODUCTION AND RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

QUESTIONS TO THE CANDIDATES

QUESTIONS TO THE CONGREGATION

Friends, do you profess Jesus as the center and cornerstone of your faith? **We do.**

Will you be faithful to these new friends as they join this congregation and begin the next leg of their journey of faith?

We promise our faithful companionship to these new members of our family.

Will you challenge them to strive to become the very best versions of themselves, upholding them in Christian love and holding them accountable to the Way of the Christ?

We will lovingly challenge these new members to strive to become the very best versions of themselves, guiding them to live into the faith they profess.

Will you allow yourself to be challenged and changed, shaped and transformed by these new members, together seeking God's will for our lives together?

With the help of God's Spirit, we will allow ourselves to be challenged and changed, shaped and transformed, living even more fully into our called identity as the family of faith, Strongsville United Church of Christ.

Let us pray together:

O God, we give you thanks, first for calling us to believe, then leading us to join together and gather into this church, the Body of Christ. We give you thanks for this Family of faith, and rejoice that you have led these newest members into our midst, adding their gifts and talents to ours. Together, may we live more fully in the Spirit, building one another up in Love, sharing in the life and worship of the church, and serving the world for the sake of the Kingdom of God. Amen.

OFFERING

Thank you for your continuing commitment to giving freely of your talents and your treasure, as you are able, in service to Christ in the world. You are the Hands and Feet of Jesus in the world.

OFFERTORY "This is My Father's World" arr. Chung

† 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 PROPHETS Isaiah 58:9-14
(New International Version)

The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

SERMON

"BASIC Understanding"

† HYMN 589 "Here I Am, Lord"

† BENEDICTION Malcolm Doney

May the love which overcomes all differences, which heals all wounds, which puts to flight all fears, which reconciles all who are separated, be in us and among us, now and always, and may the blessing of God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you this day and for ever more. **Amen.**

† RESPONSE "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" Wyeth

† POSTLUDE "Ode to Joy" Beethoven

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 21 NEXT SUNDAY – AUGUST 28

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Judi Pavisich | Greeters | Elaine Coffey |
| Dave Williams | Liturgist | Linda Ponstingle |
| Judi Pavisich | Ushers | Elaine Coffey/Roz Fotos |
| Oliver & Matilda Sekorky | Acolytes | Chris Abruzzino/Riley Marshall |
| 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 |
| Carol Konet/Patti Skvoretz | Special Music | Kelly Wilson |
| Linda Elkins | Summer Sunday School | Linda Elkins |
| | Special Guest Minister | Rev. Bert Ambrose |

The altar flowers are given—

In celebration of Ingrid & Irene's birthday today!

Greg Dickson and Jim Joyce

*In celebration of George Pavisich's 89th Birthday
on August 26th!—Love, Judi*



Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy 20th Birthday to Madison Wentz on August 22nd

With love, Grammy

Happy Birthday to Joe Craig and Nate Johnson on August 24th

With love, Mom

Happy Birthday today to Ingrid Dickson, Irene Joyce, Elena Taylor, and Erin Butler!

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Weekly Offering Needed | \$3,649.37 |
| Last Week's Offering Received | <u>\$2,918.70</u> |
| Difference | -(\$730.67) |

Thank you very much for your support.



PLEDGE CARDS RECEIVED TO DATE: 65



A NOTE OF THANKS—

Many thanks to our musicians **Carol Konet, Patti Skvoretz, and Dave Williams** to **Tom Foley, Mike Elkins, and Sharon Heinrich** for sharing their music with us today.

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL

Wednesdays 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

We have room for YOU! Please join us for a nutritious meal and warm fellowship.



OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Ruth Milidonis, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Joan Beckwith, Eddy Bond, Lloyd Bridle, Mary Carey, Gina Cathcart, Kathy Cockrell, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sam Cuyler, Sr., Lidiya Dordzhieva, Sue Hawk, Bob Heddleson, Paul Hirt, Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Len Lane, Judy Maur, Reggie McCray, Heidi & Chuck McDougall, Laurie Meister, Roy Merkle, Michele Mhlack, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkitz, Gary Paul, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, Tracey Seneff, Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Sharon Wilson, Janis Williamson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Mary Ellen Zimmerman



Extended Church Family: Dorene Baldridge, Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Mary Ann Csory (Judi Pavisich's friend), John Dickson (Greg's dad), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Joyce Glasgow (friend of the church), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Ed Kuhn (Sandy & Don Gleichauf's friend), Andrew Majoros (Michele Mhlack's cousin), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Rudy Matjazic (Judi Pavisich's friend, Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Zachary McKeever (Pastor Heidi and Chuck's great-nephew), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Heather Overman (friend of Judi Pavisich), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Thomas O'Shea (Sandy's dad), Jeff Peacock, Terry Robson (Barb & Mark Camp's friend), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Tina Serrano (Elliott Joyce's grandma), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Vicky Smith (Venner Clarinets), Bruce Unger (Steve & Sally Herzog's friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Weston (Chelsea Cathcart's friend's baby), Tom (friend of Judi Pavisich), The people of Ukraine, victims of violence, those affected by severe weather

Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain. h.e.denman@gmail.com

MUSIC NEWS

Can you carry a tune? Why not share your voice in praise and worship with the Chancel Choir? A new season for 2022-23 begins with our first rehearsal on **Thursday, August 25th** at 7:30 p.m. We have a place for you! (Rehearsals will be at 8 p.m. starting on

September 8th.) **Can't sing but can read music and ring? How about checking out the Bell Choir?** Rehearsals begin on **Thursday, September 8th** at 7 p.m. Also, if you can play an instrument and are willing to play for worship, we would love to have you! Please see **Tom Foley** or **Mike Elkins** if you're interested in becoming a part of our Music Ministry.

PHONE A FRIEND!

Are you interested in praying for others, but don't use email? Your Church Family Care Team has a number of folks who are willing to call you, typically once a week, to share with you the prayer requests Pastor Heidi shares via email. Please let **Linda Ponstingle** know.

IDEAS WANTED!



The Long Range Planning Committee is interested in your ideas on ways to make improvements for our Church. Some feedback already provided includes an extension of our parking lot and a new structure on the Royalton Road lot that could house outdoor gatherings. If you have any ideas, please email them to Sandy Pogozeleski at pogoze5@gmail.com. All ideas will be discussed at the Board of Trustees meeting for feasibility, funding and prioritization. Projects exceeding \$5,000 require approval by our Congregation.



ATTENTION CHURCH MEMBERS: NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On September 11, 2022, immediately following the worship service, we will have a special congregational meeting to vote on the purchase and installation of new window blinds in the church building. Please plan to attend this brief meeting and cast your vote. (Non-members are welcome to stay for the meeting, but only official members are entitled to vote.)



SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL is underway!

Who Do YOU Say I Am?

Investigating the Mystery of Jesus
Using Detective Work and Mystery Solving
We have a couple of Sundays still available to teach before the end of summer—please sign up in Pilgrim Hall. Please call **Linda Elkins, (440) 655-8891** with questions.



COMING SOON...

Penny Sunday will be next August 28th to benefit ministries. Save those nickels, dimes, quarters, checks (to SUCC)!



Sunday, Backpack pennies, dollars, and

Mark your calendar for September 11th, when we begin a new Sunday School year of learning and growing together!

THRIFT SHOP IS BACK!

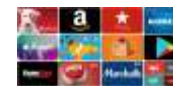
The Thrift Shop is OPEN on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. with a whole new line of fall/winter merchandise. Donations are being accepted, but you must call the church first to arrange a time for drop-off.



GIFT CARDS

GET YOUR BACK-TO-SCHOOL SHOPPING DONE AND BENEFIT THE CHURCH!

You can order gift cards by calling **Jim Joyce** at 216-267-5043 in advance with your order. Limited stock is available for purchase on Sunday mornings.



UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

- The **Official Board** will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **August 23rd** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

DON'T FORGET!

Are you shopping online? If so, why not benefit the church while you make your purchases from Amazon? It's incredibly easy! Here's what you do:



- Instead of typing amazon.com into your search bar, type in **smile.amazon.com**.
- Select United Church of Christ Congregational Strongsville by clicking this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-1298100>
- Shop as you would normally—that's it!

Your addresses, billing information, and shopping cart are still saved and your Prime membership privileges still apply. A small percentage of your purchase price will go toward supporting the church. To date, our church has received **\$516.12**.

CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2022

Elected January 30, 2022 * = 1 year term
**appointed by the Official Board

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

Sunday School Co-Superintendents
Linda Elkins Serena Abruzzino

Board of Trustees

Myron Costin Diana Creecy Bill Giuliano*
Herb Hampson Dale Hawk Sarah Hayes
Sandy Pogozeleski* Dave Sekorky Ed Sobek*
Rachel Zielinski

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson Linda Stepan Joyce Reed*

Diaconate

Teri Barbish Barbara Camp* Elaine Coffey
Cathy Hawk* Linda Kapcar Bobbie Krisak
Sharon Maresco Linda Ponstingle Cheryl Sobek* Cherie Teagno
Barbara White* Mary Ellen Zimmerman**

Christian Education Committee

Serena Abruzzino* Mary Densmore
Linda Elkins Amanda Marshall Lora Rung

Music Committee

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

Stewardship Committee

Sue Gigliotti* Beth Giuliano* Judi Pavisich
Bill Schneider** Richard Taylor Rob Toth

Mission and Outreach Committee

Judy Carte* Sarah Hayes Bobbie Krisak
Lora Rung* Jennifer Sekorky Bev Wehr*

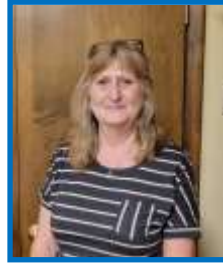
UNCLAIMED ITEMS



A few dishes and platters are still left from recent events in Pilgrim Hall. Please check the kitchen if you're missing yours. Also, if you are missing a black jacket or a tan raincoat, they can be found on the coat rack in the Gathering Area.

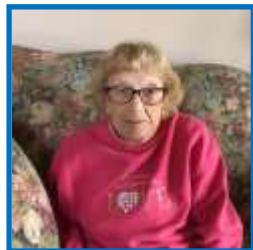
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Sherry Ahern, a resident of Brunswick, has been worshipping with us (up in the balcony) for nearly a year. She has 3 grown children, Shaun, Ryan, and Kristen. We are happy to welcome her into membership in our congregation. Sherry's sponsor is her longtime friend, Bobbie Krisak.



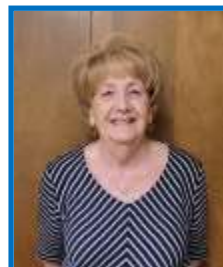
Jean Bittinger has been an active UCC member for many years at Middleburg Heights Community Church. She and her late husband, Russell, have a son named Mike. Jean has brought her grandson, Mason, to worship with us on a number of occasions. Jean has mentioned that she likes our warm, friendly church and knows many of our members already. Her sponsor is Roz Fotos.

Wayne & Bobbi Cook come to us from Middleburg Heights Community Church and have been attending our church and activities for several months. The couple has been married for nearly 24 years and they live in Strongsville. The two of them have had an eventful life together, Wayne and Bobbi like the size of our church and the friendliness of our people. Their sponsor is Bev Wehr.



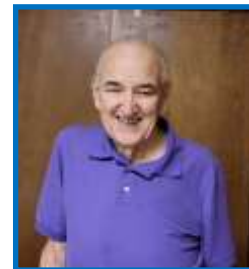
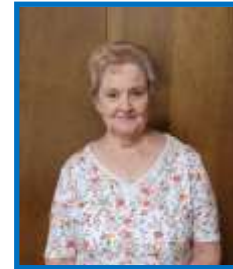
Phyllis Kurz is the mother of the late Karen Morgan, the grandmother of Rachel Zielinski, and the great-grandmother of Oliver & Penny Zielinski. She has recently moved north from Florida, but has roots and a long history in Ohio as well as a long history with our church, helping with the Garage Sale for years. She is a US Navy (WAVES) veteran. Ingrid Dickson, who grew up across the street from Phyllis and her late husband, Len, is her sponsor.

Susann Lerch has been worshipping with us for just a short time, but has found a home in our church. She and her husband, Bruce, live in Strongsville and are the parents of grown children, Wendy and Chad. Susann is retired. She has expressed how welcome she felt when she started coming here and how much she enjoyed Pastor Heidi's sermons. Elaine Coffey is her sponsor.



Judy Maur has been attending our church and participating in our activities for a number of years, and has decided to join officially. Judy and her husband, Dave, live in Strongsville for five months of the year, then head to Florida for the winter months. They have two grown sons, Richard and Michael. Linda Kapcar is sponsoring Judy.

Jan Meier is joining our church while maintaining her membership at Middleburg Heights Community Church. Jan has already been serving with us as an usher and as a greeter. She has two grown children, Karen, and Kenneth, and lives in Middleburg Heights. Jan's sponsor is Diana Creecy.



Peter Smith has already incorporated himself into our church life, working at the Free Lunch for All every week and helping with meals. Peter has a strong passion for service and outreach and he is an excellent chef. We are happy to welcome him into our church family. Doug Thorn is his sponsor.

Sandy Smith has been a part of our Thrift Shop for many years, first as a customer, then as an invaluable volunteer. She is a retired nurse, a talented artist, and Thrift Shop fashion consultant. She's the mother of two grown sons, James and David, and lives in Strongsville. Sandy is a welcome addition to our church family. Her sponsor is Cathy Hawk.



Mary & Mike Willis were brought to our church during the COVID pandemic, as they were looking for the Strongsville Target and stopped in to ask for directions. They are North Royalton residents and the parents of three grown children, Marya, Melinda, and Michael. Both Mary and Mike are retired and are looking forward to being a part of church life. Irene Joyce is sponsoring Mike and Mary.

Wherefore receive ye
one another, as Christ
also received us to
the glory of God.
Romans 15:7

