



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, August 22, 2021 – 10 A.M.
The Sacrament of Holy Baptism



WELCOME!

*Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the best interests of others. –
Philippians 2:4*

For the safety and comfort of everyone, please continue to wear a mask in the Gathering Area and when entering or leaving the Sanctuary. When you are seated in the pews, you may lower your mask if you wish, while maintaining social distancing. **If you are not yet fully vaccinated, we ask that you continue to wear a mask at all times. Thank you.**

† *Please stand as you are comfortable.*

PRELUDE “Peace Like a River” Spiritual, arr. Raney

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce
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 complete your Attendance Card and place it in the offering plate.

INTROIT “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” Converse

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: To abide in you; to find strength in you; to worship you in these moments,

People: We gather together, O God.

Leader: To challenge the evil around us; to bring healing to the hurt;
to offer hope to the vulnerable,

People: We follow your path, O Jesus.

Leader: To learn how to live; to put away our old gods; to stick with God in every moment,

People: We listen for your voice, O Spirit of Love.

† **HYMN 790** “We Gather Together”
(If you wish to sing with us, please have your mask in place.)

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 84:1-4, 10-12
(New International Version)

How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty!
My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.
Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may have her young—a place near your altar,
Lord Almighty, my King and my God.
Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.
Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere;
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor;
no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.
Lord Almighty, blessed is the one who trusts in you.

Leader: The Word of God, for us, the people of God;

People: Thanks be to God.

SHARING OF 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 “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” Bradbury, arr. Raney

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Brecken David Raymond
Son of Lauren and Eric Raymond



WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY WORDS

CONGREGATIONAL PROMISE

Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support and care to Brecken and Charlotte, as well as their families, as they live and grow in Christ?
(We promise our love, support and care.)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES FOR THE FAMILY

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

Christ be with you. **(And also with you.)** Let us pray.
Gracious God, bless this water by your Holy Spirit. By that same Spirit, save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ, that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in these beautiful children of God, baptized this morning, that they may rise in Christ. All glory and honor be to you, Eternal God, who was, who is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

BAPTISM OF BRECKEN DAVID RAYMOND

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Charlotte Ann Boden
Daughter of Katelyn and Vincent Boden
Godparents: Rebecca Deertz and Matthew Boden



QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES FOR THE FAMILY

BAPTISM OF CHARLOTTE ANN BODEN

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Let us pray together:
Gracious God, You have filled the world with joy with the gift of Jesus. Bless these children, Brecken and Charlotte; fill them with your strength and courage for life’s journey; joy for all to see; freedom of love; hope for a new life. May they never be ashamed to confess their personal faith in You. Bless us, O God, that we, too, may be faithful to Your Word, united in the peace of Christ and the company of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

HYMN “Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”
Child of blessing, child of promise, Baptized with the Spirit’s sign;
With this water God has sealed you Unto love and grace divine.

Child of love, our love’s expression, Love’s creation, loved indeed
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits; Into joy and laughter lead.

Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God’s you are; from God you came.
Back to God we humbly give you;
Live as one who bears Christ’s name.

Child of God, your loving Parent, Learn to listen for God’s call.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship;
Trust and love God more than all.

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. Thank you. To give online, please go to:
<https://www.myeoffering.com/eonline/index.php/dashboard/login/5027>

OFFERTORY “Rock of Ages” Hastings

† **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 OLD TESTAMENT Joshua 24: 14-18
(The Message)

“So now: Fear God. Worship him in total commitment. Get rid of the gods your ancestors worshiped on the far side of The River (the Euphrates) and in Egypt. You, worship God. “If you decide that it’s a bad thing to worship God, then choose a god you’d rather serve—and do it today. Choose one of the gods your ancestors worshiped from the country beyond The River, or one of the gods of the Amorites, on whose land you’re now living. As for me and my family, we’ll worship God.”

SERMON “Nice Place You Got Here!”

† **HYMN 686** “Our God Our Help in Ages Past”
(If you wish to sing with us, please have your mask in place.)

† BENEDICTION

Now may the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Know that wherever you are, God is with you. **Amen.**

† **POSTLUDE** “Jesus Loves the Little Children” Root

SERVING

<u>TODAY – AUGUST 22</u>		<u>NEXT SUNDAY – AUGUST 29</u>
Serena Abruzzino & Bobbie Krisak	Greeters	Sharon & Karl Kuhlenschmidt
Herb Hampson	Liturgist	Sharon Maresco
Chuck McDougall	Ushers	Chuck McDougall
Tom Foley	Director of Music	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	Associate Director of Music	Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	Supplemental Organist	Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich	Sound	Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Carol Foley	Special Music	We Three Ring
Mary Densmore	Sunday School	Elaine Coffey

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 SPECIAL TREAT

To celebrate the baptisms of her great-grandchildren, Marty Winch has provided cake! Please enjoy something sweet to-go as we rejoice in these beautiful children and the love God has for all of us!

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The altar flowers are given—

Celebrating Ingrid & Irene's birthday yesterday

Greg Dickson & Jim Joyce

*Remembering our Aunt Rhea Clements
on her 101st birthday on August 28th!*

Becky and Bill Robinson

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

*Happy Birthday today to Maddison Wentz and to Joe
Craig and Nate Johnson on August 24th*

With Love, Grammy/Mom

Happy 88th Birthday to George Pavisich on August 26th!
Love, Judi



A NOTE OF THANKS

Thank you to **Carol Foley**, along with **Mike Elkins**, **Tom Foley**, and **Sharon Heinrich** their music today!



CAN YOU BE A TEMPORARY REPLACEMENT BREAD BUDDY?

Our usual Monday mall Panera pick-up person, Sally Herzog, is unable to do this task for a short while. If you can be at

Southpark Mall at 10 a.m. on a Monday to pick up bread and pastries for our bread ministry, please see Sally or contact the church office. No experience is necessary!

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MEMORIAL SERVICE TO CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF LONG-TIME MEMBER JEAN STRAUB



Jean joined our church in 1951 and was a member until her death on February 26, 2020. Because of the worldwide pandemic, her family was unable to celebrate her life with their Ohio friends and family. They are finally able to have a memorial service at our church on Wednesday, August 25th at 12:30 p.m., preceded by the interment at the Camden Cemetery (49840 Route 20, Oberlin, OH 44074) at 11 a.m. and followed by a luncheon in Pilgrim Hall.

RSVP for luncheon attendance is requested at 775-742-3061 (Jean's daughter, Kathy Herzing).

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CELEBRATE A CENTURY!

Our own Betty Jacobson will turn 100 years old on August 27th! Want to send a card? 18800 Westwood Place #412 Strongsville, OH 44136



OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Janet Kato, Marge McKinney, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

Church Family: Joan Beckwith, Eddy Bond, Mary Carey, Elaine Coffey, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Linda Elliott, Tom Gaumer, Sue Hawk, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Carole Kapcar, Pam Keenen, Tony Koussa, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Judy Maur, Laurie Meister, Roy Merkle, Michele Mhlack, Lola Millhoane, Gary Paul, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Jamie & Josh Trinckes, Sharon Wilson, Sally Vetovitz, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Mary Ellen and Bob Zimmerman

Extended Church Family: Dorene Baldrige, Fred Beba (Theresa's husband), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Judy Carte's son-in-law, Ryan, John Dickson (Greg's dad), Kim Filiautra (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Linda Harbison (Jan Meier's sister-in-law), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Pat Masuga (Dan's mom), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Kay McGinty (Judi Pavisich's aunt), Zachary McKeever (Pastor Heidi and Chuck's great-nephew), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Thomas O'Shea (Sandy's dad), Carrol Riley (Marjorie Morrison's dad), Terry Robson (Barb & Mark Camp's friend), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Sandra Wentz (Debbie's daughter-in-law), Daphne Wilson (Irene Jannsohn's niece)

Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain.



THRIFT SHOP

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

THRIFT SHOP BONUS HOURS

The 3rd **Thursday** of the month,
September 16, 2021 — 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(We're still open on our usual Thursdays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

Also, the Thrift Shop is still in need of volunteers to help out for a couple of hours—sorting, organizing, and selling on Thursdays. Please call Cathy Hawk (440-781-7512) if you can help!

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **August 24th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



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OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed	\$3,649.37
Last Week's Offering Received	<u>\$2,228.00</u>
Difference	(-\$1,421.37)

Thank you very much for your support.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP REGULAR MEETING FOR SEPTEMBER OUTDOOR PICNIC Wednesday, September 8th at 11 AM* East River Park Pavilion

7878 Lewis Road in Olmsted Falls (restroom near pavilion)

Please bring your own lunch and beverage.

Picnic will be held rain or shine. ***NOTE TIME CHANGE**

If it is raining heavily, we may move to the church parlor; please watch for texts on your cell phone.

Directions to the picnic are at the church.

As always, all ladies are welcome!

MUSICIANS NEEDED!



Would you like to be a part of the music program? Instrumentalists and vocalists are needed for our various music groups. If you are interested in joining us and sharing your musical talent, please contact **Tom Foley** or **Mike Elkins!**

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CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS RESUME THURSDAY, AUGUST 26 at 8 p.m. with safety measures in place. We have room in the choir loft for any singers (Tenors, Altos, Sopranos, and Basses are welcome!).

BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS RESUME THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 at 7p.m.

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FRESH ALTAR FLOWERS RETURNING

Would you like to commemorate a special occasion, honor a loved one, or celebrate the memory of someone dear? Say it with flowers!



You may provide fresh flowers on any Sunday you wish because multiple vases are accepted on Sunday mornings. The cost is \$15 for one vase, \$30 for two vases. Near the flower chart in Pilgrim Hall are forms for submitting your bulletin information or better yet, email the church at strongsvilleucc@gmail.com. Envelopes for enclosing your payment to the church office are also available. Thank you for placing flowers on the altar.

The 2021 Flower sign-up chart is posted on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall and almost all Sundays are available for the remainder of this year!

Strongsville U.C.C. Sunday School presents

RALLY DAY & BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS! SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th

It's time to welcome a new school year of learning and growing!

FAMILIES: PLEASE BRING A BACKPACK, BRIEFCASE, DIAPER BAG, OR ANY BAG FOR BLESSINGS!

Students, please report to Pilgrim Hall at 9:45 a.m. and we will sit with our classes. **We can't wait to see you there!**

