



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor
Sunday, August 23, 2026– 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.

PRELUDE "You Are My All in All" Jernigan, arr. Larson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Ingrid Dickson

INTROIT "As the Deer" Nystrom, arr. Larson

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In sacred times of word, wonder, and awe, in ordinary days of work and play:

People: In every moment, God is with us.

Leader: Whether we are stuck in doubt's mud, or standing on faith's shoreline:

People: In every place, God is with us.

Leader: In those who teach us and those who trouble us; in those who surprise us, and those who forgive us:

People: In every person, God is with us.

† HYMN 403 "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 138
(New International Version)

I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart;
before the "gods" I will sing your praise.
I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name
for your unfailing love and your faithfulness,
for you have so exalted your solemn decree that it surpasses your fame.
When I called, you answered me; you greatly emboldened me.
May all the kings of the earth praise you, Lord,
when they hear what you have decreed.
May they sing of the ways of the Lord, for the glory of the Lord is great.
Though the Lord is exalted, he looks kindly on the lowly;
though lofty, he sees them from afar.
Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life.
You stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes;
with your right hand you save me.
The Lord will vindicate me; your love, Lord, endures forever—
do not abandon the works of your hands.

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 "Hymn of Promise" Sleeth, arr. Larson

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Dona Nobis Pacem" Traditional

† **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 Romans 12:1-8
(New International Version)
Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

REFLECTION "Different is good. Different is God."

† **HYMN 597** "Take My Life and Let it Be Consecrated" (vv. 1-4)

† **BENEDICTION** Kellyann
Do not be conformed to the ways of the world, to its cynicism, its fear, its divisions. Rather, let your mind and heart continually be open to transformation, to goodness, to all the possibilities of life lived under the loving umbrella of God's Love and Grace. Go in peace: transform the world, do good, embody in your life all that is possible through God. Amen.

POSTLUDE "Great is the Lord" Smith, arr. Larson

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.



A NOTE OF THANKS—We thank Lisa Heinrich and Robin Ingratta as well as our Music Team of Mike Elkins, Tom Foley, and Sharon Heinrich for our music today!

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**.



UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **August 25th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

SERVING

TODAY – AUGUST 23

Judi Pavisich
Irene Joyce
Teri Barbish
Tom Foley
Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Lisa Heinrich/Robin Ingratta
Colette Emerson

Greeters
Liturgist
Head Usher
Director of Music
Associate Director of Music
Organist
Video/Sound
Special Music
Summer Sunday School

NEXT SUNDAY – AUGUST 30

Roger & Judy Davis
Riley Marshall
Herb Hampson
Tom Foley
Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
EKCO Ringers/We 3 Ring
Volunteer needed

Today's altar flowers are given—

Remembering our aunt, Rhea Clements on her birthday, August 28th Love and miss ya! Also, Happy Birthday on August 25th to our "middle" brother, Dave Robinson! Becky & Bill Robinson

*Happy Heavenly Birthday, George
Love and Miss you, Short Stuff*

*Celebrating our 49th Wedding Anniversary!
Wayne & Bobbie Bobbie Krisak*



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 a few Sundays available in 2026!

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthday tomorrow to Joe Craig and to Nate Johnson!--With love, Mom

Happy Birthday today to Brandt Camp!

+++++

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 5,212.00
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 2,847.00
Difference -(\$2,365.00)

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.



PLEASE SIGN-UP FOR TEACHING SUNDAY SCHOOL IN THE SUMMER!

We still have two 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.**





ATTENTION SINGERS & RINGERS:
CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS
BEGIN AUGUST 27th at 7:30 p.m., AND
WILL SWITCH TO 8 P.M. WHEN BELL
CHOIR REHEARSALS START ON
SEPTEMBER 17th at 7 p.m.

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



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

Many thanks to all of our faithful volunteers, especially our young people who are helping out during their summer break!

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, Cindy Hurley, Carole Kapcar, Pam & Bruce Keenen, Bonnie Khavaran, Erv Koch, Jill Kundtz, Carol Konet, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Jim Maresco, Ken Mehalko, Amanda Moulton, Ginny & Kenn Oerkfitz,

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 Ghatti (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), Tami Klammer (principal of Snow School); 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

THANK YOU NOTES



Thank you to **Rev. Pat Jefferis** for leading worship and serving communion during my vacation. Her message was inspirational and we are truly grateful for her willingness to serve. **Pastor Heidi**



Special thanks to **Elaine Coffey** who was brave enough to lead worship and deliver a very meaningful message while I was away. **Pastor Heidi**

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.



THREE WITH GLEE!

Capital Campaign: We currently have \$65,530.72 in our capital campaign account. The parking repairs are nearly complete—thank you for your patience during this very

necessary project. The acoustic tiles in Pilgrim Hall will be installed on Tuesday, August 25th. 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.

CHURCH OFFICERS 2026

**Elected February 1, 2026 ** appointed by the Official Board*

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 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

Jen Barry * Gina Cathcart Bobbi Cook*
Cathy Hawk Cindy Hurley** Sarah Hayes*
Lora Rung Mary Willis Mary Ellen Zimmerman



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.

HELP NEEDED!

Can you spare a few moments after coffee hour today to move chairs and tables in Pilgrim Hall so that our acoustic panels can be installed on Tuesday? If so, please help us out!



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...

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*

Open from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. every Thursday, our Thrift Shop offers quality items--gently used and some new--at unbeatable prices. All monies raised go toward supporting our church and its ministries. *If you are kind enough to donate items to our Thrift Shop, please only bring what you can carry downstairs yourself. Thanks!*

