



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor
Sunday, August 24, 2025– 10 A.M.
Penny Sunday



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 “2nd Menuet in E Flat Major” Bizet

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

INTROIT “Amazing Grace” Traditional, arr. Rosenhause

† CALL TO WORSHIP

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

People: God was waiting for us, welcoming us with grace and open arms.

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 1 “Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 71:1-6
(New International Version)

In you, Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame.

In your righteousness, rescue me and deliver me;
turn your ear to me and save me.

Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go;
give the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of those who are evil and cruel.

For you have been my hope, Sovereign Lord,
my confidence since my youth.
From birth I have relied on you;
you brought me forth from my mother's womb.
I will ever praise you.

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 “Lamb of God” Paris, arr. Larson

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Penny Sunday

OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Dance of the Blessed Spirits” Gluck

† 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 Jeremiah 4:1-10
(The Message)

“Before I shaped you in the womb, I knew all about you.
Before you saw the light of day, I had holy plans for you:
A prophet to the nations— that's what I had in mind for you.”

REFLECTION “But--But--”

† HYMN 589 “Here I Am, Lord”

† BENEDICTION Rev. Steven Charleston

May neither the watchful eye nor the healing hand be far from you. May your path find its own way and your mission be fulfilled. May the angels go before you and the ancestors walk at your side. May what you have planted prosper and what you need most be supplied. May the work of your heart bless all you love. May you be hopeful, even in difficult times. May you give freely from what you have, just as you have freely received what has been given. May your prayers always be answered in ways both marvelous and mysterious. Go now in the peace and love of Almighty Creator. Amen.

† POSTLUDE “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” Temple arr. Larson

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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**.

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A NOTE OF THANKS

We thank **Lisa Heinrich** and of course, **Mike Elkins, Tom Foley**, and **Sharon Heinrich** for providing our music today!

SERVING		
TODAY – AUGUST 24	NEXT SUNDAY – AUGUST 31	
Susann Lerch	Greeters	Judi Pavisich
Herb Hampson	Liturgist	Mike Willis
Carole Kapcar	Head Usher	Judi Pavisich
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
Lisa Heinrich	Special Music	Satori Winds
Ingrid Dickson/Irene Joyce	Summer Sunday School	Volunteer needed



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—

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

In loving memory of George on his 92nd birthday on August 26th –Love, Judi Pavisich

Happy 48th Anniversary to Bobbie & Wayne Krisak!
Love, Serena and the kiddos



A 2025 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 2025!



Our steeple will light the sky this week—
Happy Birthday today to Joe Craig and to Nate Johnson!
With love, Mom

Happy Anniversary today to Bobbie & Wayne Krisak!

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 4,359.00
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 5,775.50
Difference +\$1,416.50

Thank you very much for your support.
PLEDGES RECEIVED: 61



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Summer Sunday School needs YOU! We still have two Sundays left to sign up to teach, including NEXT SUNDAY! All lessons and materials will be provided in advance. Please sign up for a Sunday you're available for this special ministry--a sign-up sheet is posted in Pilgrim Hall!

PENNY SUNDAY IS TODAY!

It's time to donate your coins, cash, and checks to UCC for Berea Animal Rescue Friends (Berea ARF). The next Penny Sunday will be **September 28th** for Sanyuka Children's Ministries.



RALLY DAY IS COMING! Mark your calendars for a brand new Sunday School year beginning September 14th! We will be holding a Blessing of the Backpacks, Bags, and Briefcases during worship.

RALLY DAY SPECIAL OFFERING

Envelopes will be in the pews for a special collection to offset the cost of curriculum and Sunday School supplies.



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, Mark Camp, Judy Carte, Elaine Coffey, Betty “Grammy” Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sue Hawk, Bruce Keenen, Erv Koch, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Roy Merkle, Amanda Moulton, Ginny & Kenn Oerkfitz, George & Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Ron Rothel, Jennifer Sekorky, Tracy Seneff, Peter Smith, Bruce Sperber, Linda Stepan, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Amorie Acevedo (Dennis Smith’s daughter), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch’s sister), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf’s friend), Allison Emerson (Colette’s sister), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen’s friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung’s friend), Joanne Gariepy (Sally Herzog’s friend), Kathy Ghetti (friend of Ginger Rothel), Jennifer Gleichauf (Don & Sandy’s daughter-in-law), Sarah & David Gleichauf (Don & Sandy’s grandson & wife), Karen Greenway (Judi Pavisich’s friend), Michaelene Hanrahan (Jim Joyce’s sister), Dana Hardy (Craig’s wife), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel’s parents), Diane Mason (Lora Rung’s friend), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel’s sister-in-law), Sylvia Pakish (Don & Sandy Gleichauf’s friend), Mike Pavisich (Judi’s step-son), Jeff Peacock (former member), The Price Family, Mike Rung (Lora’s brother), Jim Schock (Judi Pavisich’s friend), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes’ friend), Vicki Smith (Venner Clarinets), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung’s friend), Brad Wilkson (Susan Lerch’s friend), The people of Ukraine, Sudan, Gaza, and Israel, victims of violence, those affected by 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

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL--

Wednesdays

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

Come and join us for food and fellowship!



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 yourself.

Please do not abandon items outside the church doors.



THREE WITH GLEE!

Capital Campaign: We have collected just over \$ 57,867.05 so far for our capital campaign. We are still working on the handicap openers and are dealing with the contractors for that project.

The tuckpointing of the church building has commenced. The next project will be improving the acoustics in Pilgrim Hall and the Trustees are reviewing the proposals that have been submitted. Make sure you designate your donation for “*Capital Campaign.*” Yellow pledge cards are available in the Gathering Area. Thank you for your continuing support.



THIS AFTERNOON: A WONDERFUL EVENT— The return of Sanyuka Children’s Choir from Uganda to Strongsville UCC!

Today at 2 p.m.

The Sanyuka Children’s Choir will return to our church and present their high-energy music and movement program. This performance is part of their ministry to support more than 60 orphaned and vulnerable children in Uganda. A free-will offering will be received for their ministry. Please join us in our sanctuary for this joyful celebration of culture and compassion!



MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:



The Tunnel to Towers Foundation is a charitable organization that honors the legacy of Stephen Siller, a New York City firefighter who died on 9/11, by supporting America's heroes. The foundation focuses on providing mortgage-free homes to families of fallen first responders and catastrophically injured veterans, as well as helping to eradicate veteran homelessness.

We would like to sponsor 2 veterans/first responders a month. The cost is \$11 for 1 and \$22 for both. Please sign up for a month on the sign-up sheet in Pilgrim Hall. (Checks to UCC)

A NEW BACK-TO-SCHOOL PROJECT

Purchase a \$25 Target, Walmart, or Amazon card to help with the start of a new school year. Teachers in the Strongsville City School District or at Snow School will benefit from your generosity. See Jim Joyce to buy a gift card from the Organ Preservation Fund, which helps the church, too! Gift card ministry runs through September 14th.



OUTDOOR WORK PARTY—SEPTEMBER 6th! Please note the new date!

Join us for a bit of much-needed work in the area outside the kitchen door. Come and give an hour or two and stay for lunch, which will be provided. Bring garden tools and a can-do attitude. See Rachel Zielinski with questions.



BOOK STUDY--SISTERHOOD!

Next month, Monday, September 15th at 7 p.m., Our *Sisterhood* Book Study will continue. All are welcome!

SAVE THE DATE!

THE OFFICIAL BOARD WILL BE HOSTING A PIG ROAST

FUNDRAISER AT THE CHURCH ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18TH!

5 P.M. – 7 P.M.

TICKETS WILL BE \$25 AND WILL GO ON SALE ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR DETAILS!

WE WILL HAVE A SIGN-UP FOR DESSERT DONATIONS POSTED IN PILGRIM HALL.



ARE YOU INTERESTED?

The Board of Trustees needs someone to fill an unexpired term on the board. The Trustees oversee the building, property, and finances of the church. The Trustees meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. The Official Board would appoint

the willing volunteer to complete the term ending in 2027. The church will be needing a new treasurer at the beginning of the year, as our treasurer, Sally Herzog, will be completing her 3rd term of service. The treasurer position is an elected office and is responsible for facilitating the payment of the church’s bills and working closely with the Financial Secretary. Sally is willing to thoroughly train her successor. Please see Rachel Zielinski or Cathy Hawk if you can serve in either capacity.



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **September 9th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **September 16th** at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **September 23rd** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

CALL FOR CARDS!

Our own **Betty Jacobson** will be turning **104** on August 27, 2025 and we would love to shower her with at least 104 birthday cards!

Can you send her a card?
Betty Jacobson
1880 Westwood Place #412
Strongsville, OH 44136



CHURCH OFFICERS 2025

*Elected January 26, 2025 ** appointed by Official Board

Moderator: Greg Dickson **Vice-Moderator:** Jen Barry
Treasurer: Sally Herzog **Clerk:** Judy Gaumer
Sunday School Superintendent: Linda Elkins

Board of Trustees

Bill Giuliano Chris Goff* Mike Elkins
Les Fox Herb Hampson Cathy Hawk*
Sandy Pogozeleski Bill Schneider* Cheryl Sobek*
Alex Tomoff* Mike Willis* Rachel Zielinski

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson* Dave Williams*

Diaconate

Teri Barbish Jean Bittinger* Elaine Coffey*
Bobbi Cook* Wayne Cook* Judy Davis*
Judy Fox Pam Heimbarger* 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

Gina Cathcart* Bobbi Cook** Myron Costin*
Diana Creecy Cathy Hawk* Sarah Hayes
Lora Rung* Peter Smith Mary Willis*
Mary Ellen Zimmerman

_____ 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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**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. We also have a Life-vac
choking device to assist in the event that someone is choking.
It is located just beneath the AED.**

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



STEWARDSHIP
WHAT DO YOU BRING TO THE CAMPFIRE?
UCC 2025 Estimate of Giving

In recognition of God’s many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the
following commitment for 2025:

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.

