



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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StrongsvilleUCC.com



Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, August 27, 2023 – 10:00 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 welcome here.

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

BELL PRELUDE "Recueillir (Meditation)" arr. Wissinger

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Greg Dickson

INTROIT "Bless This House" Taylor/Brahe

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In a time of bitterness and pain,

People: God raised up Moses, and changed the lives of a people.

Leader: From the shadow of death,

People: God raised up Jesus, and changed the lives of all people.

Leader: In every time, and in every place,

People: God raises up witnesses, people whose lives are changed forever.

Leader: For these times, in this place,

People: God is raising up new leaders for just such a time as this.

† HYMN "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!

Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!

He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;

To take away transgression, and rule in equity.

He comes with rescue speedy to those who suffer wrong;

To help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;

To give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,

Whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;

And love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.

Before him on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go,

And righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

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.

BELL ANTHEM "Day by Day the Shepherd Leads" arr. Mallory

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Penny Sunday

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Lamb of God" Paris, arr. Larson

† 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
(The Message)

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering.

SERMON "Gifted to Love"

† HYMN 552 "I Am Thine, O Lord"

† BENEDICTION

Go out into the world knowing you are God's beloved children and knowing each person you meet is beloved by God. Be transformed by your time here in this place and by the people you meet here and when you leave this place. Be humble knowing you are blessed by God with talents and gifts, just as every other person in the whole wide world is blessed by God with gifts and talents, too. Look for God in those you meet. Spend more time listening than talking to those you love and those you try to love. And always remember that you are not alone because God the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer is with you always. **Amen.**

† RESPONSE/POSTLUDE "Symphonia on Hyfrydol" arr. McChesney

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 27

NEXT SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 3

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Jean Bittinger | Greeters | Linda Plain |
| Sharon Maresco | Liturgist | Judi Pavisich |
| Roz Fotos | Ushers | Jean Bittinger |
| Tom Foley | Director of Music | Tom Foley |
| Mike Elkins | Associate Director of Music | Mike Elkins |
| Sharon Heinrich | Organist | Sharon Heinrich |
| Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich | Sound | Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich |
| We3Ring/EKCO, Keenens | Special Music | Brittany Fernandez |
| Colette Emerson | Summer Sunday School | Volunteer needed |

A NOTE OF THANKS—



We thank our special guests, **We3Ring/EKCO Ringers (Nicki Haire, Ed Krzes, and Cheryl Onesky)**, and **Sarah Keenen, Pam & Bruce Keenen**, along with **Mike Elkins, Tom Foley, and Sharon Heinrich** for their music today.

The altar flowers are given—

Celebrating our daughter Holly's Birthday on August 30th

George & Joyce Reed

Remembering our aunt, Rhea Clements, on her birthday,

August 28th! Love ya, Aunt Rhea!--Becky and Bill Robinson

In memory of Mary Carey

--from the Strongsville Cafeteria Lunch Bunch

Our steeple will light the sky this week—



Lighting the way for our friend and choir member, Clay

Williams and his brother, Jake, as they begin

the next step on their life's journey

The Music Ministry



Happy 102nd Birthday today to Betty Jacobson!

Happy Birthday today to Dave Matchett!

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Are you interested in joining our congregation?

Pastor Heidi will be offering a membership class

after worship (and after cake) **TODAY** 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-- Thank you to everyone who has signed up to teach a lesson this summer!

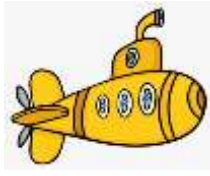
PENNY SUNDAY TODAY- Thank you for your coins, dollars, and checks (to

UCC). Money collected will go to the UCC Disaster Relief Fund for wildfire victims in Maui, Hawaii.



RALLY DAY IS COMING!

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



SUB NEEDED!

(Not that kind of sub!) We will soon be needing a substitute camera operator to record our worship services on Sunday mornings. If you are willing to learn how to use the church's video camera, please indicate your interest on the back of your attendance card.



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.

ATTENTION SINGERS & RINGERS: CHANCEL CHOIR

REHEARSALS ARE UNDERWAY ON THURSDAY EVENINGS & 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.



IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Our love and sympathy to the family and friends of 54 year member, **Mary Carey**, who died on August 22, 2023. Mary was a long-time helper in the Thrift Shop. She was 90 years old. No services are planned at the present time.



OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.



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

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 Oerkfritz, Gary Paul, George

Pavisich, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Bill Schneider. Peter Smith, Robert Sperber, John Toth, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Edward and Sharon Acton (Sally Herzog's friends), Dorene Baldrige, 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 Garipey (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

STAY FOR CAKE!

Please join us for cake after worship, provided by the Music Ministry to say farewell to choir member Clay Williams and his brother, Jake, who are moving to NC.



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 \$ 4,767.00
Difference +\$ 1,149.99



Thank you very much for your support.



PLEASE BE AWARE: Due to a bank change, all checks to the church should be made out to **United Church of Christ or UCC or United Church of Christ (Congregational)**. Please do not use "Strongsville" or "SUCC" in the "Pay to the Order of" line. Thanks!

SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT RIGHT AWAY!

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 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!



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.

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: In September, Online scheduling will be disabled on the weekends to allow for in-person sign-ups.**



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **September 12th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **September 19th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **September 26th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



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.**



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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.

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.



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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

Richard Densmore Ingrid Dickson
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*