



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor



Sunday, August 28, 2022 – 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.

PRELUDE "Suite Antique, I. Prelude" Rutter

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Greg Dickson

INTROIT "Un Jouer de Flûte Berce Les Ruines" Poulenc

† CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather, centered in the promises of God

All: Caught in the web of grace

One: Whirled in wonder and joy

All: Welcomed into the house of blessing

One: We gather, surrounded by a cloud of witnesses

All: Lifted by stories of faith

One: Moved by challenging words and heartfelt prayers

All: Touched by joyous music and the powder of God's love.

One: Let us pray:

All: Creating God, who continually makes all things new: Grant us the faith to trust that you seek only our good as you mold us and remake us into your own image; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!

† HYMN 434 "Revive Us Again"

A READING FROM THE EPISTLES Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

(New Revised Standard Version)

Let mutual affection continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever... Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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 "Kokopeli" Hoover

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Penny Sunday

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 "Le Réjouissance (The Rejoicing)" Handel

† 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

All: Lord, we might not always find it possible to invite strangers, the homeless, the sick into our homes, but we present these gifts and pray that they may be used to help meet the needs of our neighbors near and far. Amen!

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS Luke 14:1, 7-14 (New Revised Standard Version)

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

SERMON Rev. Bert Ambrose

† HYMN 692 "God Will Take Care of You"

† BENEDICTION Romans 12:9-11 The Message
Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle. Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame, and be cheerfully expectant, alert servants of the Lord. Amen!

† RESPONSE "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" Traditional

† POSTLUDE "Come Thou Almighty King" De Giardini

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 NOTE OF THANKS—

Many thanks to our musicians Kelly Wilson, to Tom Foley, Mike Elkins, and Sharon Heinrich for sharing their music with us today. We also welcome and thank Rev. Bert Ambrose for leading our worship service this morning!

SERVING

TODAY – AUGUST 28

NEXT SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 4

Table with 3 columns: Today's roles (Elaine Coffey, Linda Ponstingle, etc.), Next Sunday's roles (Greeters, Liturgist, etc.), and specific names (Linda Plain, Judi Pavisich, etc.).

The altar flowers are given—

Remembering our Aunt Rhea Clements on her birthday today!

Love ya Aunt Rhea! --Becky & Bill Robinson

Happy Birthday to our daughter, Holly!

Joyce & George Reed

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

In loving memory of Betty Bushea on her birthday, August 27th

Love, Barb

Happy Birthday to Pastor Heidi on September 2nd!

Happy 60th Anniversary to new members Mike & Mary Willis on September 1st!

Happy Birthday today to Roz Fotos and Cherie Teagno!

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Table with 2 columns: Offering type and amount. Weekly Offering Needed \$3,649.37, Last Week's Offering Received \$1,948.00, Difference -(\$1,701.37)

Thank you very much for your support.

PLEDGE CARDS RECEIVED TO DATE: 65

TODAY IS PENNY SUNDAY!



The Penny Sunday collection will benefit Backpack ministries, through a program via the Berea City School District, which serves students in need at Guidestone (formerly Berea Children's Home) and the Aristocrat for seriously ill children, as well as other underprivileged students in the area. Contribute those pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, dollars, and checks (to SUCC)!

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

THANK YOU

Note of Thanks from the Family of Steve Herzog:

We would like to thank all those who sent cards and provided support, in any way, during Steve's illness and after his passing. The love and support from our church family has been a great comfort to us during this difficult time. We love you all. Sally, Andrew & Mallory, Aiden, and Sarah & Dale



OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care/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 Dordzhiyeva, Tom Foley, 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 Mihlack, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkfitz, Gary Paul, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, Tracey Seneff, Peter Smith, Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Sharon Wilson, Janis Williamson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Mary Ellen Zimmerman



Extended Church Family: Dorene Baldrige, 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 Mihlack'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

**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.)

THRIFT SHOP

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.



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 Pogozelski* 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 Peter Smith ** Bev Wehr*

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Last Sunday, we welcomed 12 new members into our congregation: Sherry Ahern, Jean Bittinger, Wayne & Bobbi Cook, Phyllis Kurz, Susann Lerch, Judy Maur, Jan Meier, Peter Smith, Sandy Smith, and Mike & Mary Willis! Congratulations!

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 MEETINGS



- The **Board of Trustees** will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **September 13th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The **Diaconate** will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **September 20th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The **Official Board** will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **September 27th** 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**.

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.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - PICNIC!

The picnic date has changed to **Tuesday, September 13, at 11:00 a.m. at East River Park in Olmsted Falls.** Flyers with additional picnic information are on the cabinet in the Gathering Area where bulletins are distributed. As always, all ladies are welcome!



WF TO INCLUDE ALL LADIES

Women's Fellowship wants to include all interested ladies of the church in its activities, and plans to offer additional day and time options for its programs. If you'd like to participate but cannot attend the current weekday, daytime programs, please complete this form; and you will be contacted with more information.

Name _____

Phone (_____) _____

Email _____

Thank you for your interest in Women's Fellowship. Please turn in this form to the church office.

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 has begun; our next rehearsal is **Thursday, September 1st** at 7:30 p.m. We have a place for you! (Rehearsals will begin 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 Pogozelski 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.