



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

Sunday, August 3, 2025– 10 A.M.
Sacrament of Holy Communion



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 “Lamb of God” Paris

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Greg Dickson

INTROIT “I Love to Tell the Story” Fischer

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God of the past who whispered in the prophets' ears; who rescued us from sin's slavery:

People: We are here to thank you.

Leader: God of the future, who is tearing down the old world,

People: We are here because we trust you.

Leader: God of the present who, in the giftedness of our diversity, creates us to be one people:

People: We are here to praise you.

Leader: God of life that surprises us when we find it within us:

People: We celebrate your grace.

† HYMN 713 “Seek Ye First”

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 107:1-9
(New International Version)

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story—

those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,

those he gathered from the lands,

from east and west, from north and south.

Some wandered in desert wastelands,

finding no way to a city where they could settle.

They were hungry and thirsty, and their lives ebbed away.

Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble,

and he delivered them from their distress.

He led them by a straight way to a city where they could settle.

Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love

and his wonderful deeds for mankind,

for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

PRAYING IN SILENCE

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy, **ALL: Hear our prayers. Amen.**

ANTHEM “Restless” Asaad/Maher

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Our Offerings” Elkins

† 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 GOSPELS Luke 12:13-21

(New International Version)

God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

“This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

REFLECTION “Our True Inheritance”

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

When we could be revived by God's grace, we find ourselves fearing God's judgment, doubting God's joy in us, fearing God has turned away from us. Let us come to the One who heals us and calls each of us by name. Please join me as we pray together:

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

How can we forget them, Calling God, those who have been thrown aside by the world, those whose cries are no longer heard by the powerful? How can we judge them, those who make choices with which we disagree, those who are so different from us? How can we still follow those who hurl angry words, those who purvey hatred and prejudice?

God of grace, continue teaching us better ways of living and doing. Gather us from our foolishness; lead us to acts of mercy. Redeem us from our mistakes so we might bend down and feed those who hunger for hope. May your compassion, so warm and tender, is gifted to us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, in whose name we pray. (*silent prayer*)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Do not be afraid. More than anything else, God would rather turn fetid swamps into pools of crystal clear water; bonds of sin into cords of compassion; sinners into servants.

All: God loves us. God forgives us. God lifts us to new life.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP “How Beautiful” Paris

† 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.

† HYMN 788 “Now Thank We All Our God”

† BENEDICTION

Let us go with God to offer life to those around us, gathering up the broken pieces of life to offer the healing Love of Christ. Let us go with Jesus to wrap people in hope, reaching out to feed the hungry and shelter the homeless, offering them new life in the way of Christ. Let us go with the Spirit to love all those in our midst who have been forgotten, taking them in our arms and welcoming them into the Family of Christ. Amen.

† POSTLUDE “Ashokan Farewell” Unger

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.



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 3	NEXT SUNDAY – AUGUST 10
Linda Plain	Greeters Mary Ellen Zimmerman
Elaine Coffey	Liturgist Mike Willis
John Toth	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
Sarah Keenen	Special Music Megan Denman
Colette Emerson	Summer Sunday School Sharon Heinrich

Today’s altar flowers are given—

In loving memory of Ellie Heinrich

The Heinrich-Hileman Families

In loving memory of John Garsteck—Happy Heavenly

Birthday--Brandi Garsteck



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 some Sundays available in 2025!

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthday this week to Jim Heinrich and to Sharon Heinrich!

In loving memory of Rebecca Oerkfitz-Garcia

With love from the Music Ministry



Happy Birthday today to Lee Krause and Marjorie Morrison!

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 4,359.00

Last Week’s Offering Received \$ 1,539.75

Difference - (\$2,819.25)

Thank you very much for your support.

PLEDGES RECEIVED: 61





A NOTE OF THANKS—We thank **Sarah Keenen, Tom Foley, Sharon Heinrich, and Mike Elkins** for their music today.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Summer Sunday School needs YOU! We are still looking for folks to commit to teaching a single Sunday with our children. 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!

Please start saving your coins and dollars for the next Penny Sunday, which will be on **August 24, 2025** (note date change) for Berea Animal Rescue Friends (Berea ARF).



IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

A Celebration of Life for **Rebecca Joy Oerkfitz-Garcia** will be held here at the church this afternoon at 3 p.m., followed by refreshments in Pilgrim Hall. Rebecca died on May 12, 2025 at the age of 56.



OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

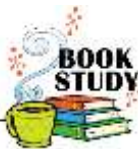
Long-Term Care or Homebound: Irene Jannsohn, Connie Rebar

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Judy Carte, Elaine Coffey, Betty "Grammy" Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sue Hawk, Bruce Keenen, 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), Michaelene Hanrahan (Jim Joyce's sister), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel's parents), Glenn Kossin (Jane Kossin & Mary Lou Shuey's brother), 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 stepson), Jeff Peacock (former member), The Price Family, Mike Rung (Lora's brother), 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

OPT-IN: Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain. h.e.denman@gmail.com



BOOK STUDY--SISTERHOOD!

On **Monday, August 18th** at 7 p.m., Our *Sisterhood* Book Study will continue. All are welcome!



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **August 12th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **August 19th** at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **August 26th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

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 \$49,444.00 so far for our capital campaign. We are working on the handicap openers and are moving forward with contractors for that project.

We are on the schedule for the important tuck and point of the church building in early August. The next project will be improving the acoustics in Pilgrim Hall and the Trustees are reviewing the proposals that have been submitted. Also, some general maintenance around the church and its property is being addressed, including new light fixtures in the hallway adjacent to Pilgrim Hall. Make sure you designate your donation for "Capital Campaign." Yellow pledge cards are available in the Gathering Area. Thank you for your continuing support.



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 one and \$22 for both. Please sign up for a month on the sign-up sheet in Pilgrim Hall.**



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY BAND:

The last concert of the summer will be on **Friday, August 8th** at 7:30 p.m. at the new Town Center (in case of rain, the concert will be held at the Senior Center).



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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR A WONDERFUL EVENT— The return of Sanyuka Children's Choir from Uganda to Strongsville UCC!

Sunday, August 24th 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!



Following their presentation, a meal will be served to the Sanyuka choir in Pilgrim Hall. Donations of food are requested from the congregation, and there is a list of items on the sign-up sheet in Pilgrim Hall. There are about 25 people in their group. Thank you very much for helping feed the choir!

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP – SHOWERS FOR SNOW SCHOOL
Monday, August 4 – 7:00 p.m. – Parlor

and
Wednesday, August 6 – 1:00 p.m. – Parlor

Anyone interested is most welcome to attend the showers.



SHOWER GIFT SUGGESTIONS:

- Dove body wash
- Duffle bags
- Suitcases
- Backpacks
- Fun snacks (individually bagged) or candy (non-perishable)
- Good hair conditioner
- New children's books (ages 5 and up)
- New fun hats
- New fun socks
- New games for kids
- New journals
- New marker sets
- New puzzles
- New small toys
- New stuffed animals ("stuffedies")
- New water bottles
- Old Spice deodorant
- Toothbrushes, Toothpaste

Please note: The school cannot accept anything sharp or things that can be used for injurious behavior (like spirals of a notebook, paper clips, glass mirrors, anything made of metal).

Thank you for supporting this outreach for the students at Snow School.

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...

OUTDOOR WORK PARTY—COMING SOON!

Please watch this space for 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.



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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.
