



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

Sunday, August 30, 2026– 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.

BELL PRELUDE "Romance without Words" arr. Jordan
EKCO Ringers

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Joyce Reed

BELL INTROIT "Trust Medley" arr. Donaho
We 3 Ring

† 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. Today, we are those people. Thanks be to God.

† HYMN 399 "We Are God's People"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 26: 2-8
(New International Version)

Test me, Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind;
for I have always been mindful of your unfailing love
and have lived in reliance on your faithfulness.

I do not sit with the deceitful, nor do I associate with hypocrites.

I abhor the assembly of evildoers and refuse to sit with the wicked.

I wash my hands in innocence, and go about your altar, Lord,
proclaiming aloud your praise and telling of all your wonderful deeds.
Lord, I love the house where you live, the place where your glory dwells.

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 "When Jesus Wept" arr. Wagner
We 3 Ring with choral ensemble

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Penny Sunday

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "The Rainbow Connection" Williams

† **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 12:9-21
(New International Version)
Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. . . .
"If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."
Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

REFLECTION "Dolly would."

† **HYMN 424** "The Servant Song"

† **BENEDICTION** Rev. Talitha Arnold
Go out into the world in peace. Have courage. Hold onto what is good. Return no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted. Support the weak. Help the suffering. Honour all persons. Honour all creation. Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And may the love of God, the Light of Christ, and the power and communion of that Spirit be with us all. Go in peace. Amen.

BELL POSTLUDE "He Walks with Me" arr. Stephenson
EKCO Ringers

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 EKCO Ringers (Ed Krzes and Cheryl Onesky) and We 3 Ring (with the addition of Nicki Haire), our choral ensemble, 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**.

SERVING

TODAY—AUGUST 30

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

NEXT SUNDAY—SEPTEMBER 6

Greeters Linda Plain
Liturgist Herb Hampson
Head Usher Judi Pavisich
Director of Music Tom Foley
Associate Director of Music Mike Elkins
Organist Sharon Heinrich
Video/Sound Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Special Music Ken Mehalko
Summer Sunday School Volunteer needed

Today's altar flowers are given—

Celebrating our Daughter, Holly's, Birthday this month.

Love Mom, Joyce Reed

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 to Gary Zielinski on September 1st!

Happy Anniversary to Mike & Mary Willis September 1st!

Happy Birthday to Pastor Heidi on September 2nd!

With love, your Church Family



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Mission Outreach Committee will meet on the second Sunday of the month, **September 13th** following the worship service.

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **September 8th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **September 15th** at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **September 22nd** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 5,212.00
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 3,044.00
Difference -(\$2,168.00)

Thank you very much for your support.

PLEDGES RECEIVED: 62



FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL: PENNY SUNDAY IS TODAY!



It's time to donate your coins, dollars, and checks to UCC to Snow School. The next Penny Sunday will be **September 27th** and will go to the Alzheimer's Association.

A SIGN-UP FOR TEACHING SUNDAY SCHOOL IN THE SUMMER IS POSTED IN PILGRIM HALL! We still have one Sunday left! RALLY DAY IS SEPTEMBER 13th, the start of a new, exciting Sunday School year!



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING TO PLAN THE 2027 CAMPAIGN:
Sunday, September 20th following worship.

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 ARE ON THURSDAYS 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, Barbara Morgan, 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 Ghetti (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, Venezuela 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

Our heartfelt condolences go out to Martha and John Hattery, Joe Hattery, and Mary Martha Krutsch on the death of Martha’s father, Edwin L. Vardiman, Sr., at the age of 98 on August 26, 2026.



WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP— WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP OUTING! On Monday, September 14th, at 5:30 p.m., the daytime and evening groups will combine for dinner at Kalaveras Modern Mexican Cocina & Bar, 11204 Royalton Road, North Royalton. For a headcount to the restaurant and if you plan to attend, please contact Sharon Heinrich by Sunday, September 13th. Thank you.

MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:

We would like to support our local teacher staff at the Strongsville Elementary schools by providing some with \$25 gift cards to Target; Amazon, and Walmart. You can purchase a gift card from our own gift card program—very convenient and it helps the church, too!



THREE WITH GLEE! Capital Campaign: We currently have \$59,612.43 in our capital campaign account, after spending \$6,343.29 for the balance of the acoustic panels. Parking lot repairs are completed. 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.

PIG ROAST! THE OFFICIAL BOARD WILL BE HOSTING A PIG ROAST FUNDRAISER AT THE CHURCH ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD! 5 P.M. – 7 P.M.



WE HAVE A LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS. THEY ARE \$30 AND ARE ON SALE SEPTEMBER 6TH THROUGH SEPTEMBER 27TH. (INCLUDES ROAST PORK, SMOKED CHICKEN, CHOICE OF 2 SIDES, ROLL & BUTTER, BEVERAGE, & DESSERT) (HOT DOG MEAL AVAILABLE FOR KIDS: \$10) THERE WILL BE A SIGN-UP FOR DESSERT DONATIONS POSTED IN PILGRIM HALL.

SAFE SPACES IN THE CHURCH In the case of a weather or other emergency, designated safe spaces in the church include the basement, the Parlor, the restrooms, and other spaces without windows such as interior hallways. In the event of an emergency, we will proceed in an orderly fashion to these areas.



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 Pogozielski* 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

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

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



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.





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...

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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.



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