



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor
Sunday, August 31, 2025– 10 A.M.



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 “Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho” Traditional

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Joyce Reed

INTROIT “Sometimes I Feel Like A Motherless Child” Traditional

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather today to honor “labor.”

Friends: We honor those who have worked hard to build up our nation, whether soldiers, police, firefighters, nurses and doctors construction workers, teachers, trash collectors, administrators, custodians and housecleaners, bankers, singers, politicians, artists, lawyers, pastors and so many others.

Leader: All those who labor for themselves, for their families and for others.

Friends: Working is hard work, whatever the job or profession.

Leader: So it takes all of us working together to get the job done!

All: We work because God has given us life and gifts to share with others.

† HYMN 151 “A Mighty Fortress is our God”

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 146: 1-7, 10-11
(New International Version)

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.

God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.

Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

God says, “Be still, and know that I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”

The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.”

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 “Oh Freedom!” Traditional

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot” Traditional

† 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 Colossians 3:12-17, 23-24
(New International Version)

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

HYMN 583 “You Are My All in All”

REFLECTION Rev. Mary Snell Willis

† HYMN 586 “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”

† BENEDICTION Numbers 6:24-26
The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. Amen.

† POSTLUDE “Go Down, Moses” Traditional

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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 the **Satori Winds (Dick E. Ingersoll, Dick K. Ingersoll, Don Kubec, and Ken Mehalko)** and of course, **Mike Elkins, Tom Foley, and Sharon Heinrich** for providing our music today! Special thanks to **Rev. Mary Snell Willis** for her message this morning!

SERVING		
TODAY – AUGUST 31	NEXT SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 7	
Judi Pavisich	Greeters	Linda Plain
Mike Willis	Liturgist	Judi Pavisich
Judi Pavisich	Head Usher	Sharon Heinrich
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
The Satori Winds	Special Music	Venner Clarinets, Sarah Keenen
Cindy Hurley	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—

Celebrating our Daughter Holly's Birthday this month.
Love Mom & Dad Reed

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 to Gary Zielinski tomorrow!

Happy Anniversary to Mike & Mary Willis tomorrow!

Happy Birthday to Pastor Heidi on September 2nd!
With love, your Church Family

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 4,359.00
Last Week’s Offering Received \$ 2,935.50
Difference -(\$1,423.50)

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



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Summer Sunday School needs YOU! We just have one more Sunday to teach--NEXT SUNDAY! All lessons and materials will be provided in advance. There is one more space on the sign-up sheet in Pilgrim Hall!

PENNY SUNDAY--THANK YOU!

We collected \$340.41 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.

BOOK STUDY--SISTERHOOD!

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





ATTENTION SINGERS & RINGERS: CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS CONTINUE THIS THURSDAY, September 4^h at 7:30 P.M. AND WILL BE ON THURSDAY EVENINGS at 8 P.M. AFTER SEPTEMBER 4th. BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS WILL START SEPTEMBER 11th at 7 P.M.

Can you carry a tune? There's room in the choir loft for YOU! Can you read music? Come ring with us in the Bell Choir! Please see Tom Foley or Mike Elkins if you'd like to be a part of our Music Ministry.

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.

All are welcome to share food and fellowship! Thank you, as always, to our amazing volunteers!



The church office will be closed tomorrow in observance of Labor Day.

DISHES, and BOWLS, and PLATES--Oh My! They're starting to accumulate again.

Many folks have been kind enough to bring dishes to the church for funeral luncheons or other events. After the delicious food is eaten, the dishes are sometimes forgotten. If you are missing one of your bowls, utensils, or containers, please pick it up from the kitchen right away. Abandoned dishware will be sold at the Thrift Shop.



THREE WITH GLEE!

Capital Campaign: We have just over \$60,022.05 currently for our capital campaign. We are still working on the handicap openers and are dealing with the contractors for that project. The tuck pointing of the church building has nearly been completed. 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.



SANYUKA—THANK YOU!

Many thanks to everyone who made time to celebrate the song, dance, and mission of Sanyuka Children's Choir last Sunday! It was a wonderful afternoon of music and movement!



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 21st.



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.

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

THERE IS 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.

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 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 Heimbürger* 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

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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.



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...

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.**



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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.