



**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

(Congregational)

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[StrongsvilleUCC.com](http://StrongsvilleUCC.com)

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, August 6, 2023 – 10:00 A.M.

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

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 welcome here.

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

**PRELUDE** "Rondo from Sonata in D Major, Op. 6" Beethoven

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Irene Joyce

**INTROIT** "The Heavens are Telling" Beethoven

**† CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We come to this place of worship, to encounter the One who has called us here.

**People: This Holy One - our God: is with us in every moment.**

Leader: God is in our celebrations and joys; God is in our darkest nights of loneliness.

**People: This Holy God - our God: blesses us and calls us by name.**

Leader: In the beauty of a new day, we meet the One who saves us - even from ourselves.

**People: This God - our Holy God: touches us with the Spirit of hope.**

† **HYMN 90** "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (verses 1 & 2)

**A READING FROM THE PROPHETS** **Isaiah 55: 1-5**  
(New International Version)

"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters;  
and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.

Why spend money on what is not bread,  
and your labor on what does not satisfy?

Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,  
and you will delight in the richest of fare.

Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live.

I will make an everlasting covenant with you,  
my faithful love promised to David.

See, I have made him a witness to the peoples,  
a ruler and commander of the peoples.

Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations you do not know  
will come running to you, because of the Lord your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor."

**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**

"Sonata #13, 2<sup>nd</sup> Movement"

Beethoven



**THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

**Nora Rose Stanislav**  
**Rocco Vincent Stanislav**  
**Children of Natalie Eden Stanislav and**  
**Nicholas Rocco Stanislav**

Godparents: David and Aubrey Albaugh  
Shane and Ariel Smith



**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY WORDS**

**QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES FOR THE FAMILY**

**CONGREGATIONAL PROMISE**

Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to Nora and Rocco and their family, as they are baptized and learn to live and grow in Christ? **(We promise our love, support and care.)**

**PRAYER OF BAPTISM**

Christ be with you. **(And also with you.)** Let us pray.  
Gracious God, bless this water by your Holy Spirit. By that same Spirit, save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ, that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in the ones baptized this morning, that they may rise in Christ. All glory and honor be to you, Eternal God, who was, who is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

**BAPTISMS OF NORA STANISLAV AND ROCCO STANISLAV**

**CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER**

Let us pray together:

**Gracious God, You have filled the world with joy with the gift of Jesus. Bless these children, Nora and Rocco; fill them with Your strength and courage for life's journey; joy for all to see; freedom of love; hope for a new life. May they never be ashamed to confess their personal faith in You. Bless us, O God, that we, too, may be faithful to Your Word, united in the peace of Christ and the company of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**HYMN**

**"Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"**

**Child of blessing, child of promise, Baptized with the Spirit's sign;  
With this water God has sealed you Unto love and grace divine.**

**Child of love, our love's expression, Love's creation, loved indeed  
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits; Into joy and laughter lead.**

**Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God's you are; from God you came.  
Back to God we humbly give you; Live as one who bears Christ's name.**

**Child of God, your loving Parent, Learn to know whose child you are.  
Grow to laugh and sing and worship; Trust and love God more than all.**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

"Moonlight Sonata"

Beethoven

† **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**

**Matthew 14: 13-21**

(The Message)

Jesus said, "There is no need to dismiss them. You give them supper."  
"All we have are five loaves of bread and two fish," they said.

**SERMON**

"Real-Life Parables"

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

We pick on our siblings; we argue with our partners; we fight with friends and neighbors - we all live broken lives. We even end up struggling with God, seeking to make God do our bidding. But it is God who heals our brokenness, God who reconciles our differences, God who makes us families once again. Let us confess our brokenness together, seeking God's promised blessing for each of us, as we pray in one voice:

**UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

**Here at the river's edge, Healing God, we are hesitant to cross over. For on the other side are all the people we have hurt. On that far shore is everyone we have ridiculed, scorned, ignored. Across the water stand the poor, the homeless, the lost - all those we have looked down on, believing they are beneath us. On the other bank stands the cross we must carry if we are to follow Jesus. We cannot meet the others if we have not encountered you. Forgive us and reconcile us, not only with them, but with you. Bless us, that we would be a blessing to them. Carry us across the river as faithful disciples of Jesus the Christ. Amen. (silent prayer)**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Pastor: Here, face to face, God meets us. Here, face to face, we can speak every longing in our heart. Here, face to face, God has forgiven us.

**All: Here, face to face, we meet the One who has great compassion for us, and who forgives us of every foolish choice, word, action of our lives. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP**

**COMMUNION MUSIC** "Hymn Medley" arr. Elkins

**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 90** "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (verses 3 & 4)

† **BENEDICTION**

Stephen Fearing  
May the waters of God's grace surround you and uphold you. May your baptisms strengthen you for the work ahead. And may the Spirit that descended upon Jesus at his baptism fall upon your shoulders as you seek to do God's will. **Amen.**

† **RESPONSE/POSTLUDE**

"Allegro Molto"

Beethoven

from Sonata in D Major, piano for four hands, Op. 6

**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](http://strongsvilleucc.com), select **Worship**, and click on **Service Videos**.

**SERVING**

TODAY—AUGUST 6		NEXT SUNDAY—AUGUST 13
Lynne McCray	<b>Greeters</b>	Barbara Toth
Elaine Coffey	<b>Liturgist</b>	Dan Winrod
Bobbi & Wayne Cook	<b>Ushers</b>	Volunteers needed
Tom Foley	<b>Director of Music</b>	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	<b>Associate Director of Music</b>	Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	<b>Organist</b>	Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich	<b>Sound</b>	Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Carol Foley	<b>Special Music</b>	Lisa Heinrich, Carol Konet
Jennifer & Matilda Sekorky	<b>Summer Sunday School</b>	Elaine Coffey

**A NOTE OF THANKS—We thank Carol**

**Foley, Sharon Heinrich, Tom Foley, and Mike Elkins** for their music today.



**Ludwig van Beethoven** (1770-1827) was a German pianist and composer widely considered to be one of the greatest musical geniuses of all time. His works are a testament to the power of music as praise to our Creator.



The altar flowers are given—

In Celebration of **George Pavisich's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday** on August 26<sup>th</sup>  
Love, Short Stuff

In Celebration of our **41<sup>st</sup> Wedding Anniversary** on August 7<sup>th</sup>  
Cathy & Dale Hawk



Our **steeples** will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthdays to the **Heinrichs: Jim on 8/5 & Sharon on 8/8!**

Happy Birthday to **Bryana Hitchens** on August 10<sup>th</sup>!  
Love, the Dickson and Joyce families



Happy Birthday today to **Rob Stepan!**

**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.



**UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS**

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **August 8<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **August 15<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **August 22<sup>nd</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



**CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

Are you interested in joining our congregation? Pastor Heidi will be offering a membership class after worship on **August 27<sup>th</sup>** and **September 10<sup>th</sup>**, with new members being received on **September 17<sup>th</sup>**. 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 is underway--

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to teach a lesson this summer!



**PENNY SUNDAY**—The next Penny Sunday will be on **August 27, 2023**. Money collected will go to the Berea City School District Backpack project.

**OUR PRAYER LIST**

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

**Long-Term Care or Homebound:** Joan Beckwith, Mary Carey, 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 Oerkfitz, Gary Paul, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Bill Schneider, Peter Smith, John Toth, Sharon Wilson, Dave Williams, 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), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Rudy Matjzic (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](mailto:h.e.denman@gmail.com)

**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!**



**FROM OUR FRIENDS AT THE STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY BAND—LAST CONCERT OF THE SUMMER**

Friday, August 11: 7:30 p.m. Strongsville Middle School Lawn--**BRING A LAWN CHAIR!**

\* In case of inclement weather, the concert will be held at the Strongsville Senior Center.

**OFFERINGS RECEIVED**

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,617.01  
Last Week's Offering Received \$1,532.50  
Difference **-(2,084.51)**

Thank you very much for your support.

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**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!



**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS**

Our August Women's Fellowship meetings will be training for Stop the Bleed and the defibrillator we have in Pilgrim Hall. Please join us on **Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>** at 1:00pm in Pilgrim Hall. The evening group will meet on **Monday, August 7<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00pm in Pilgrim Hall.

**COMING IN THE FALL...**

**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 20<sup>th</sup> 2 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

**Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup> 2 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

**Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.**

**Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> 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!

**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.



**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.



## ONLINE SCHEDULING INSTRUCTIONS FOR FAMILY APPOINTMENT SETTING

- ✧ Go to the Universal Church Directories website ([www.ucdir.com](http://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: Online scheduling will be disabled on the weekends to allow for in-person sign-ups.**

## 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\*