



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136

(440) 238-6697

StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com

StrongsvilleUCC.com



Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, August 8, 2021 – 10 A.M.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

WELCOME!

Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the best interests of others. – Philippians 2:4

For the safety and comfort of everyone, please continue to wear a mask in the Gathering Area and when entering or leaving the Sanctuary. When you are seated in the pews, you may lower your mask if you wish, while maintaining social distancing. If you are not yet fully vaccinated, we ask that you continue to wear a mask at all times. Thank you.

Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE "On Eagle's Wings" Joncas

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Joyce Reed

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 complete your Attendance Card and place it in the offering plate.

INTROIT "It is Well with My Soul" Bliss

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Neighbors and newcomers, families and strangers:

People: We gather in this place built by God's steadfast love.

Leader: Strugglers and stragglers, pilgrims almost at the end of the journey:

People: Each of us seeks to follow Jesus, the compassionate One.

Leader: Builders of bridges in fractured communities, those who stand on either side of walls of fear:

People: The Spirit of faithfulness calls us to live as one people – God's people!

HYMN 562 "Be Thou My Vision" (If you wish to sing with us, please have your mask in place.)

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS John 6, selected verses (New International Version)

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. At this the Jews there began to grumble about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?"

"Stop grumbling among yourselves," Jesus answered. . . . "It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me. . . . I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

OFFERING OUR PRAYERS IN SILENCE

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy:

People: Hear our prayers. Amen

ANTHEM "Flower Duet" from Lakmé Delibes

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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. Thank you. To give online, please go to:

https://www.myoffering.com/eonline/index.php/dashboard/login/5027

OFFERTORY "Steal Away to Jesus" Traditional Spiritual

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 Ephesians 4:25-5:2

(New International Version)

Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry.

SERMON "Be Honest."

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor: Do we really want God to dwell within us, or are we only willing to 'rent out' space for a brief visit? Our actions, our words, our silence, our fears all show the presence, or absence, of God in our lives. Let us empty ourselves of all which burdens us, and welcome the One who lives with us forever. Please join me as we pray:

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

All: Steadfast God, we confess that we are so busy putting up walls between ourselves and others, we cannot see the home you are building for all of us. We spend so much time noting the differences between us, while you are embracing every one of us as your child. We rush to welcome those who look, talk, and act like us, while you are welcoming the ones we see as strangers, aliens in our midst.

Forgive us, Gracious God. By your grace, help us to see the household you are building for all people: there are no plastic protectors on the furniture; no rooms that are off-limits. Even the smallest child is welcome to sit at the big peoples' Table and be fed by your grace. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our peace, our hope, our Lord, our Savior. (silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Do you remember the truly Good News? At one time, you were without Christ; you were the stranger, the outsider, and the alien. But now, in Christ, you have been brought home, living in God's household of hope and peace.

All: God's covenant with us is everlasting; God's steadfast love is forever; God's forgiveness makes us new and whole. Thanks be to God. Amen.

A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

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 583 "You Are My All in All" (If you wish to sing with us, please have your mask in place.)

BENEDICTION

Now may the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Know that wherever you are, God is with you. Amen.

POSTLUDE "Going Home" from The New World Symphony Dvorak

SERVING

Table with 3 columns: TODAY - AUGUST 8, NEXT SUNDAY - AUGUST 15, and roles like Greeter, Liturgist, etc.

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.

Our steeple will light the sky this week— In Celebration of Sharon Heinrich's birthday today! Happy Birthday to Bryana Hitchens on August 10th With Love, Erik Joyce, Alaya & Elliott In loving memory of Erik O. Jannsohn and Aimée Jannsohn

Happy Birthday today to Sharon Heinrich and Ron Mortus!

A NOTE OF THANKS Thank you to Ken Mehalko, to Lisa Heinrich, and to Carol Foley for sharing their music, along with Tom Foley and Mike Elkins, with us today!

WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO BE A GREETER OR AN USHER?

Check out the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall and add your name!

Remember: 4 ushers are needed very Sunday, so please feel free to fill up the line for each week.



OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.



Long-Term Care or Homebound: Janet Kato, Marge McKinney, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

Church Family: Joan Beckwith, Adria Bond, Eddy Bond, Mary Carey, Elaine Coffey, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Linda Elliott, Tom Gaumer, Sue Hawk, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Carole Kapcar, Pam Keenen, Tony Koussa, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Judy Maur, Laurie Meister, Roy Merkle, Michele Mhlack, Lola Millhoane, Gary Paul, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Jamie & Josh Trinckes, Sharon Wilson, Sally Vetovitz, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Rachel Zielinski, Bob Zimmerman

Extended Church Family: Dorene Baldrige, Fred Beba (Theresa's husband), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Judy Carte's son-in-law, Ryan, John Dickson (Greg's dad), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Linda Harbison (Jan Meier's sister-in-law), Jeff & Tiffany Hassel (Judi Pavisich's son & daughter-in-law), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Pat Masuga (Dan's mom), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Kay McGinty (Judi Pavisich's aunt), Zachary McKeever (Pastor Heidi and Chuck's great-nephew), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Thomas O'Shea (Sandy's dad), Carrol Riley (Marjorie Morrison's dad), Terry Robson (Barb & Mark Camp's friend), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Sandra Wentz (Debbie's daughter-in-law), Daphne Wilson (Irene Jannsohn's niece)

Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain.

GIFT CARDS

YOU CAN SUPPORT THIS PROJECT IN A SAFE WAY THAT BENEFITS OUR CHURCH!



You can order gift cards by calling Jim Joyce at 216-267-5043 in advance with your order. Limited stock is available, but special orders may be accommodated with advance notice. Thank you to those who continue to support this project by purchasing gift cards!



Are you an online shopper? If so, why not benefit the church while you make your purchases from Amazon? It's incredibly easy! Here's what you do:

1. Instead of typing amazon.com into your search bar, type in smile.amazon.com.
2. Select United Church of Christ Congregational Strongsville by clicking this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-1298100>
3. 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. PLEASE KEEP SHOPPING!

MEMORIAL SERVICE TO CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF LONG-TIME MEMBER JEAN STRAUB

Jean joined our church in 1951 and was a member until her death on February 26, 2020. Because of the worldwide pandemic, her family was unable to celebrate her life with their Ohio friends and family. They are finally able to have a memorial service at our church on Wednesday, August 25th at 12:30 p.m., preceded by the interment at the Camden Cemetery (49840 Route 20, Oberlin, OH 44074) at 11 a.m. and followed by a luncheon in Pilgrim Hall. RSVP for luncheon attendance is requested at 775-742-3061 (Jean's daughter, Kathy Herzing).



THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is OPEN on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. with lots of interesting merchandise. Donations are being accepted, but you must call the church first to arrange a time for drop-off.

THRIFT SHOP BONUS HOURS

The 3rd Thursday of the month, August 19, 2021 — 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(We're still open on our usual Thursdays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.) Also, the Thrift Shop is in need of volunteers to help out for a couple of hours—sorting, organizing, and selling on Thursdays. Please call Cathy Hawk (440-781-7512) if you can help!



THE THRIFT SHOP WILL BE CLOSED THIS WEEK, INCLUDING AUGUST 12th

and REOPEN WITH ALL "NEW" MERCHANDISE ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 19th

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, August 10th at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, August 17th at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, August 24th at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

REGULAR MEETING FOR SEPTEMBER

Women's Fellowship will meet on Wednesday – September 8 – 10:00 A.M. "OUTDOOR PICNIC AND WALKING" at East River Park Pavilion 7878 Lewis Road in Olmsted Falls



OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed	\$3,649.37
Last Week's Offering Received	\$3,474.50
Difference	-(\$ 174.87)

Thank you very much for your support.



MUSICIANS NEEDED!

Would you like to be a part of the music program? Instrumentalists and vocalists are needed for our various music groups. If you are interested in joining us and sharing

your talent, please contact Tom Foley or Mike Elkins!

CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS RESUME

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26 at 8 p.m. We have room in the choir loft for any singers (Tenors, Altos, Sopranos, and Basses are welcome!).

BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS RESUME

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 at 7p.m.

FRESH ALTAR FLOWERS RETURNING

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

Would you like to commemorate a special occasion, honor a loved one, or celebrate the memory of someone dear? Say it with flowers!

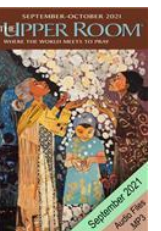


You may provide fresh flowers on any Sunday you wish because multiple vases are accepted on Sunday mornings. The cost is \$15 for one vase, \$30 for two vases. Near the flower chart in Pilgrim Hall are forms for submitting your bulletin information or better yet, email the church at strongsvilleucc@gmail.com. Envelopes for enclosing your payment to the church office are also available. Thank you for placing flowers on the altar.

The 2021 Flower sign-up chart is posted on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall and almost all Sundays are available for the remainder of this year!

JUST ARRIVED

The September/October 2021 Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide is available (large print and pocket size) in the Gathering Area. Pick up your free copy today!



Today, we welcome Pastor Heidi and Chuck back from their vacation. We're glad you're back!