



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

Sunday, August 9, 2020 – Online

OPENING MUSIC “Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho” Spiritual

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT “Put Your Hand in the Hand” MacLellan

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus calls us, his sweet voice lifting over the jumble and noise of the world. Day after day, still he calls. *Come*, he says. *Follow me*. In our joys, in our sorrows, at work or at rest, still the voice of Jesus whispers. *Come. Take my hand*. The voices of the world are loud in our ears, O God; yet the hunger in our heart is for you. Lead us, Lord Jesus. Give us courage to reach out and grasp your outstretched hand as you invite us to join you on this adventure called Life.

HYMN “Faith of our Fathers”

Faith of our fathers, living still, In spite of dungeon, fire, and sword.
O how our hearts beat high with joy
Whene'er we hear that glorious word!
Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our fathers, we will strive To win all nations unto thee.
And through the truth that comes from God
Mankind shall then be truly free.
Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our fathers, We will love Both friend and foe in all our strife,
And preach thee, too, as love knows how
By kindly words and virtuous life.
Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death.

FIRST READING Psalm 85:8-13 (New Revised Standard Version)

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.
Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.

The LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.

SHARING AND PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

MUSIC “Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child” Spiritual

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

BEING COMMUNITY WHEN WE ARE APART

OFFERTORY “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot” Spiritual

More than any other words, Jesus invites his followers to Come. But they never had to deal with a virus that demands we keep our distance! It's the Holy Spirit that dwells within each of our hearts that bridges the distance between us. It's the Holy Spirit that enables us to continue to be the Church—together. Once more, we renew our commitment of our time, our tithes and our talents to finding new, innovative ways to continue to walk with Jesus, even during this season of pandemic. We appreciate your commitment to giving freely of your talents and your treasure, as you are able. Thank you. To give online, you may go to:

<https://www.myeoffering.com/eonline/index.php/dashboard/login/5027>

or mail your offering to **Strongsville UCC 13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, OH 44136**. You may also save a stamp and drop your envelope in the church mailbox at any time.

DEDICATING OUR LIVES AND OUR GIFTS

SECOND READING Matthew 14:22-33 (The Message)

As soon as the meal was finished, he insisted that the disciples get in the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he dismissed the people. With the crowd dispersed, he climbed the mountain so he could be by himself and pray. He stayed there alone, late into the night.

Meanwhile, the boat was far out to sea when the wind came up against them and they were battered by the waves. At about four o'clock in the morning, Jesus came toward them walking on the water. They were scared out of their wits. "A ghost!" they said, crying out in terror. But Jesus was quick to comfort them. "Courage, it's me. Don't be afraid." Peter, suddenly bold, said, "Master, if it's really you, call me to come to you on the water."

He said, "Come ahead."

Jumping out of the boat, Peter walked on the water to Jesus. But when he looked down at the waves churning beneath his feet, he lost his nerve and started to sink. He cried, "Master, save me!"

Jesus didn't hesitate. He reached down and grabbed his hand. Then he said, "Faint-heart, what got into you?"

The two of them climbed into the boat, and the wind died down. The disciples in the boat, having watched the whole thing, worshiped Jesus, saying, "This is it! You are God's Son for sure!"

REFLECTION

Familiarity Brings New Questions

HYMN

"Here I Am, Lord"

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.

All who dwell in dark and sin, My hand will save

I who made the stars of night. I will make their darkness bright

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard You calling in the night

I will go, Lord, If You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain. I have borne my people's pain.

I have wept for love of them--They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone. Give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame. I will tend the poor and lame

I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide 'Til their hearts be satisfied

I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard You calling in the night

I will go, Lord, If You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart.

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

"O Freedom"

Spiritual



We welcome and thank the Satori Winds:
Ken Mehalko-Alto Sax
Richard Ingersol, Jr.-Alto Sax
Brian Maskow-Tenor Sax
Dick Ingersol, Sr.-Baritone Sax
for sharing their music with us for worship.

SERVING

TODAY – AUGUST 9

Irene Joyce

Tom Foley

Mike Elkins

Doug Thorn

Chuck McDougall

Satori Winds

NEXT SUNDAY – AUGUST 16

Liturgist

Director of Music

Associate Director of Music

Sound

Video

Guest Musicians

Guest Minister

Irene Joyce

Tom Foley

Mike Elkins

Doug Thorn

Chuck McDougall

Satori Winds

Rev. Oommen Thomas

The steeple will light the sky this week—

In loving memory of Erik O. Jannsohn and Aimée J. Jannsohn

With love, the Jannsohn-Joyce-Dickson family

Happy August Birthdays to Jim Heinrich and to Sharon Heinrich!

Happy Anniversary to Suzi & Tom Foley on August 12th!

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 3,473.27

Last Week's Offering Received \$ 2,172.00

Difference (-\$ 1,301.27)



Thank you very much for your support of our mission and ministry.

Happy Birthday today to Schyler Thorn and Richard Stevens!

**Happy Anniversary today to Cherie & Rick Teagno
 and Janice & Bill Booth!**



PENNY "SUNDAY"

Thank you to everyone who took the time to participate in our offering for St. Herman's House. We sent them \$233.20!

HEARING AIDS

Judy Carte has a set of hearing aids she is willing to donate to someone in need. They're in their original container, but need batteries. Please contact Judy at alacartej@gmail.com if you know of someone who would be able to use them.

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.



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

Church Family: Joan Beckwith, Lloyd Bridle, Judy Carte, Mary Carey, Elaine Coffey, Rev. Larry and Christina Craig, Joe Craig, Robert Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Dan Davis, Sue Hawk, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Evan Joyce, Carole Kapcar, George Kapcar, Debbie Krause, Lori Kovatich, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Lacey Marshall, Judy Maur, Laurie Meister, Michele Mhlack, Joyce Reed, Bill Ritchie, Alysha Rolland, Ginger Rothel, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Jamie & Josh Trinckes, Sharon Wilson, Sally Vetovitz, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Ron, Yvonne, & Ronnie Adams (friends of Judi Pavisich), Dorene Baldrige, Amy Carroll (sister of Marty Winch), Lyla Joy Crowley (great grand-niece of Irene Jannsohn), Ruby Cuyler (sister of Sam), Gwen Giddings (sister of Linda Dettmer), Rebecca Gordon (niece of Irene Jannsohn), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Dana Hardy (wife of Craig), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Rev. Kent Knife (retired pastor from MHUCC), Diane Mason (friend of Lora Rung), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Donna McDonald (friend of the Ritchies), Zachary McKeever (great-nephew of Pastor Heidi and Chuck), Linda McNabb (sister-in-law of Ginger Rothel), Mae O'Shea (mom of Sandy O'Shea), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Terry Robson (friend of the Camps), Mike Rung (brother of Lora), Amanda Shannon (friend of Sarah & Jon Hayes), Sherry Sheeks (sister of Mark Camp), Chris Vozniak (friend of Lora Rung), Brad Williams (friend of Judi Pavisich), Daphne Wilson (niece of Irene Jannsohn)

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

THRIFT SHOP NEWS

The Thrift Shop is in need of volunteers to help out for a couple of hours—sorting and organizing, and selling on Thursdays. Please call Cathy Hawk (440-781-7512) if you can help!



Pastor Heidi's mother, Muriel McKeever, truly appreciated the many birthday cards you sent for her 97th birthday! She was surprised, pleased-- and astounded that every single card was different. Thank you so much!

NEW SIGN IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH

On August 5th, a post and panel sign was installed, facing the intersection of Pearl and Royalton Roads. The sign has a clear address to facilitate easier reading. Thank you to Paul and Brian from Sign-A-Rama for their good work. The Memorial Fund financed this project.

