



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor
Sunday, February 1, 2026– 10 A.M.
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 “Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling” Thompson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Joyce Reed

INTROIT “Praise God from Whom All Blizzards Flow” Vaughn Williams

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come out of the shadows and into God's light!

People: We will not play hide and seek, but will make a pilgrimage to God's heart.

Leader: Lay down all which is a burden to you!

People: We will give our fears to God, who is our help in every moment.

Leader: Follow the One who will lead you to new life!

People: We long to live in God's presence every day of our lives.

† HYMN 418 “Make Us One”

A READING FROM THE PROPHETS Micah 6: 1-8
(New International Version)

Listen to what the Lord says:

“Stand up, plead my case before the mountains;
let the hills hear what you have to say.

“Hear, you mountains, the Lord's accusation;
listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth.

For the Lord has a case against his people;
he is lodging a charge against Israel.

“My people, what have I done to you? How have I burdened you? Answer me.
I brought you up out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery.

I sent Moses to lead you, also Aaron and Miriam.

My people, remember . . . your journey . . . that you may know
the righteous acts of the Lord.”

With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?

Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.

And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

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 “Always Remember” Sewell

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Sweet, Sweet Spirit” Akers

† 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 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

(The Message)

God didn't send me out to collect a following for myself, but to preach
the Message of what God has done, collecting a following for him.

SERMON “One God. One Church. One Spirit.”

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor: If we want to truly live in God's presence, we must live as
God's faithful people. Let us begin by confessing the many mistakes
we have made, the wrongs we have done, the people we have hurt,
knowingly or not. Join me as we pray together:

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

People: What have we done to you, O God? We dishonor you every time we treat one another with disrespect. Your heart breaks when we find it easier to break our word than to take the risk to keep it. We fill your ears with gossip, lies, and slander when we speak about those around us. You are wise enough to forgive our foolishness; you are strong enough to overcome our weakness; you are loving enough to heal the hurt we cause to you and to others. Help us to be humble enough to accept the many gifts of your grace. (silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: What has God done to us? God has shown us infinite mercy!
What has God done for us? God has forgiven us, over and over again!
This is the gospel's good news for us. This, friends, is the message of Christ.

People: We will not boast, for it is not our doing. We give all thanks and praise to God for such boundless grace and limitless hope. Amen.

A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND 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 429 “They'll Know We Are Christians”

† BENEDICTION (in unison) Hazrat Inayat Khan
Send your peace O Lord, which is perfect and everlasting, that our souls may radiate peace. Send your peace, that we may think, act, and speak harmoniously. Send your peace, that we may be contented and thankful for Your bountiful gifts. Send your peace, that amidst our worldly strife, we may enjoy Your bliss. Send your peace, that we may endure all, tolerate all, in the thought of your grace and mercy. Send your peace, that our lives may become a divine vision, and in your light, all darkness may vanish. Send your peace, our father and mother, that we your children on Earth may unite in one family. Amen.

POSTLUDE “How Majestic is Your Name” Smith, arr. Carter

SERVING

TODAY – FEBRUARY 1

Linda Plain

Judi Pavisich

John Toth

Tom Foley

Mike Elkins

Sharon Heinrich

Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich

Chancel Choir

NEXT SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 8

Greeters

Liturgist

Head Usher

Director of Music

Associate Director of Music

Organist

Video/Sound

Special Music

Lynne McCray

Mary Ellen Zimmerman

Judi Pavisich

Tom Foley

Mike Elkins

Sharon Heinrich

Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich

Chancel Choir

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**.

A NOTE OF THANKS—

We thank the **Chancel Choir**, along with **Tom Foley, Mike Elkins**, and **Sharon Heinrich** for today's music.

FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Keep saving those coins, dollars, and checks (to UCC) for our kids, who will be collecting for World Central Kitchen on **February 22, 2026**.

The altar flowers are given—

In celebration of our Daughter-in-law Noebeth Reed's Birthday in January. Love, George & 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.



Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Honoring our church officers who have served this past year.

*In loving memory of Erik O. Jannsohn
In loving memory of John Maringer*

**Happy Birthday today to Judy Fox!
Happy Anniversary today to Sharon & Karl Kuhlenschmidt!**



ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation has been rescheduled for next Sunday, February 1, 2026 and will be preceded by the traditional



Pancake Brunch. All are encouraged to attend this meeting, where we will review the events and activities of the past year and elect officers for 2026. **Annual Reports are available for pick up in the Gathering Area.**

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ANNUAL FAMILY WINTER RETREAT—IT’S NOT TOO LATE!
February 13-15, 2025 Inspiration Hills Camp in Burbank, Ohio



The Church’s Annual All-Family Winter Retreat will take place on President’s Day weekend 2026. Those who

wish to come down on Saturday only—we would be happy to have you there, but we also need your reservation A.S.A.P., and the cost is \$10 per meal. Please contact Irene Joyce or Rachel Zielinski if you have any questions.

Here is the cost:
ADULTS (12 and up): \$80-DUE ASAP
CHILDREN (6-11): \$20
CHILDREN (5 and under): FREE
Meals are \$10 per person, per meal--**MONEY DUE IS DUE ASAP!**
IMPORTANT DATE TO REMEMBER: FEBRUARY 8, 2026: Retreat planning meeting during the “Souper Bowl” luncheon in Pilgrim Hall

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Our new (and returning) church officers will be installed during our worship service next Sunday, February 8, 2026. Our most sincere thanks to everyone who served in 2025.

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THREE WITH GLEE!

Capital Campaign: We currently have \$63,403.08 in our capital campaign account. Pilgrim Hall is painted and the supplier and installer of acoustic tiles in Pilgrim Hall is being scheduled. 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.



MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:



MISSION OUTREACH is collecting cans of soup now through Super Bowl Sunday (February 8th) for the Strongsville Emergency Food Bank. Please bring your

cans of any kind of soup and place them in the bin in Pilgrim Hall.

On Sunday February 8th, Mission Outreach will host a "Souper Bowl" celebration. After the service, join us in Pilgrim Hall for a light snack of homemade soup. We want to bring people together to celebrate our soup drive!

Plus, we will have 24 oz. containers of soup to purchase for \$10. Three soups will be available:
Broccoli Cheddar***Chicken Paprikash***Unstuffed Cabbage



ASH WEDNESDAY IS FEBRUARY 18th.
At **7 p.m.**, we will have a meditative service, with music and readings and the imposition of ashes. All are welcome to join us for this quiet time of reflection as we begin our Lenten journey together. Pastor Heidi will also offer the imposition of ashes at noon in the sanctuary.

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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., Roger Davis, Sue Hawk, Pam & Bruce Keenen, Erv Koch, Jan Meier, Carol Konet, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Jim Maresco, Jan Meier, Roy Merkle, Amanda Moulton, Ginny & Kenn Oerkfitz, George & Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Ron Rothel, Jennifer Sekorky, Tracy Seneff, Peter Smith, Bruce Sperber, Linda Stepan, JoAnn Thomas, Debbie Wentz, Heather Williams, Claire Wills, Marty Winch



Extended Church Family: 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), Michaelene Hanrahan (Jim Joyce’s sister), Dana Hardy (Craig’s wife), Tiffany Hassel (Judi Pavisich’s daughter-in-law), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel’s parents), George Love (friend of the church), Diane Mason (Lora Rung’s friend), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel’s sister-in-law), Sylvia Pakish (Don & Sandy Gleichauf’s friend), Jeff Peacock (former member), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes’ friend), Vicki Smith (Venner Clarinets), Jeaneane Steinmeyer (Greg Dickson’s aunt), Don & Pauline Wills (Judi Pavisich’s friends), 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

WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP—



Our program for February is cutting fleece circles for Snuffleballs for dogs and cats at Berea Animal Rescue. If you own fabric scissors, please bring them to our

meeting, which is tomorrow at 7:00 p.m. and also Wednesday, February 4th, at 1:00 p.m. In addition, we are collecting donations for Berea Animal Rescue on the Sundays of February 15th and 22nd. A list of items needed is available on the yellow quarter-sheets of paper on the cabinet in the Gathering Area. Women’s Fellowship thanks you very much for your support.

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OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 5,212.00
Last Week’s Offering Received \$ 4,098.00
Difference -(\$1,114.00)
Thank you very much for your support.

PLEDGES RECEIVED: 62

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Giving statements for 2025 are available in the Church Family Mailboxes in the Gathering Area.



BOOK STUDY--SISTERHOOD! On **February 9th**, Pastor Heidi and Linda Elkins will resume our Book Study at **7 p.m.**

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Are you interested in learning more about the United Church of Christ and becoming a member? Pastor Heidi will be leading a class after worship on **February 8th**, (with plenty of time to enjoy the Souper Bowl) and folks desiring to join this church family will be added during worship on **February 22nd.**



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YOUTH GROUP NEWS

SPAGHETTI DINNER

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28th

2 seatings:
5 p.m. or 6:30 p.m.
(Carry out available)
Adults: \$12, Kids 6-12: \$8,
5 & under = FREE



Includes your choice of spaghetti & meatballs or vegetarian marinara, salad, bread, dessert, and coffee/tea/soft drink. Contact Cathy Hawk for reservations 440-781-7812 or purchase your tickets on Sunday mornings.

Praise God from Whom All Blizzards Flow

A Doxology for Those Blessed with Both Wintry Weather

and a Sense of Humor by Linda Bonney Olin

***Praise God from whom all blizzards flow,
when snow comes down and cold winds blow!***

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God for shovels, gloves, and plows

When four-foot drifts surround your house!

If more snow falls, praise for snowballs.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

☐ 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.

Signed _____ Date ____/____/____

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. *Matthew 6:21*



YOU CAN ACCESS RESOURCES FROM AND
INFORMATION ABOUT OUR HEARTLAND
CONFERENCE OF THE UCC! Looking for a way to
get connected for ministry resources in the wider
church? Just scan the QR code.



THANK YOU TO OUR 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
Karen Bates** 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*