



## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING

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

### NEXT SUNDAY—FEBRUARY 8

**TODAY—FEBRUARY 1**

Linda Plain

Judi Pavisich

John Toth

Tom Foley

Mike Elkins

Sharon Heinrich

Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich

Chancel Choir

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](http://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:

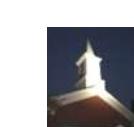


Keep saving those coins, dollars, and checks (to  
UCC) for our kids, who will be collecting for World Central  
Kitchen on **February 22, 2026**.

**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.**



## 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

## Installation of Officers

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.

## 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 8<sup>th</sup>) 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 8<sup>th</sup>, 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 18<sup>th</sup>.

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.

## 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 Rother, 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 Rother), 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 Rother's sister-in-law), Sylvia Pakish (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Jeff Peacock (former member), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Vicki Smith (Verner 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](mailto: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 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. 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.

## 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



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



**BOOK STUDY--SISTERHOOD!** On February 9<sup>th</sup>, 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 8<sup>th</sup>**, (with plenty of time to enjoy the Souper Bowl) and folks desiring to join this church family will be added during worship on **February 22<sup>nd</sup>**.



## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

## SPAGHETTI DINNER

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28<sup>th</sup>**

**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 Pogozelski 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 Heimburger\* 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\*