



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, February 11, 2024– 10 A.M.

Transfiguration Sunday



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 "Solace" Joplin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

INTROIT "Glory to God" Paxton

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: It is Love which calls us here.

People: That Love brings light to dark places, that continues to bring light to all.

Leader: It is Love which gathers us in to this place.

People: That love which whispers in our hearts, the love which sings hope to our tired, weary souls.

Leader: It is Love which surrounds us in these moments.

People: That Love which fills us with Spirit breath, the Love which endures forever.

† HYMN 90 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (verses 1 & 4)

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 50: 1-6  
(New International Version)

The Mighty One, God, the Lord, speaks and summons the earth,  
from the rising of the sun to where it sets.

From Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth.

Our God comes and will not be silent;

a fire devours before him, and around him a tempest rages.

He summons the heavens above, and the earth, that he may judge his people:

"Gather to me this consecrated people, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice."

And the heavens proclaim his righteousness, for God is a God of justice.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER

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.

ANTHEM "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" Dorsey

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Easy Winners" Joplin

† 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 2 Corinthians 4:3-6  
(The Message)

It started when God said, "Light up the darkness!" and our lives filled up with light as we saw and understood God in the face of Christ, all bright and beautiful.

SERMON "It's Not About Us."

† HYMN "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

I want to walk as a child of the light;

I want to follow Jesus.

God sent the stars to give light to the world

The star of my life is Jesus.

In Him, there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God;

I want to look at Jesus.

Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,

And show me the way to the Father

In Him, there is no darkness at all

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I'm looking for the coming of Christ;

I want to be with Jesus.

When we have run with patience the race

We shall know the joy of Jesus

In Him, there is no darkness at all

The night and the day are both alike

The Lamb is the light of the city of God

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus

† BENEDICTION Langston Hughes

I dream a world where man no other man will scorn,

Where love will bless the earth and peace its paths adorn.

I dream a world where all will know sweet freedom's way,

Where greed no longer saps the soul nor avarice blights our day.

A world I dream where black or white, whatever race you be,

Will share the bounties of the earth and every man is free,

Where wretchedness will hang its head and joy, like a pearl,

Attends the needs of all mankind- of such I dream, my world! Amen

† RESPONSE/POSTLUDE "Magnetic Rag" Joplin

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—FEBRUARY 11

Serena Abruzzino

Dave Williams

Judi Pavisich

Tom Foley

Mike Elkins

Sharon Heinrich

Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich

Chancel Choir

NEXT SUNDAY—FEBRUARY 18

Greeters

Liturgist

Ushers

Director of Music

Associate Director of Music

Organist

Video/Sound

Special Music

Barbara Toth

Mary Ellen Zimmerman

Volunteers needed

Tom Foley

Mike Elkins

Sharon Heinrich

Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich

Ken Mehalko, Music Team

The altar flowers are given—



In celebration of our Granddaughter Hilary's Birthday on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

All our love, Grandpa George and Grandma Joyce Reed

A 2024 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—

Happy Birthday to my twins, Valerie Hopkins and Vicky

Masuga on February 14<sup>th</sup>!

With love, Mom

Happy Birthday today to Brecken Raymond!!

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 TODAY and folks desiring to join this church family will be added during worship on February 25<sup>th</sup>.



Become Part of Our Church Family

FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL: PENNY SUNDAY

Start saving those coins, dollars, and checks to UCC! The next Penny Sunday is February 25<sup>th</sup>.



Ash Wednesday is February 14<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor Heidi will offer two opportunities for those who wish to receive ashes.

Beginning at Noon through 1 p.m., come and go as you wish to receive ashes and a blessing.

At 7 p.m., Pastor Heidi will lead a meditative service, culminating with the imposition of ashes. All are welcome

to join us for either or both times.

MISSION OUTREACH

LAST CHANCE--Please bring your cans of any kind of soup and place them in the receptacle in Pilgrim Hall near the bulletin board.



TODAY, 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 current mission!

**DO MORE IN 2024!** 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.



**A NOTE OF THANKS**—We thank our **Chancel Choir**, along with **Tom Foley, Sharon Heinrich, and Mike Elkins** for their music today.

**A NOTE ABOUT THIS MORNING'S MUSIC**

Today, our featured composer is **Scott Joplin** (1868-1917). He was an American composer and pianist. Best known as the King of Ragtime and for his song “The Entertainer,” (used in the 1973 movie *The Sting* which won an Oscar for Best Film Score), he wrote many famous pieces including the “Maple Leaf Rag,” “the Gladiolus Rag,” and the opera *Treemonisha*. Joplin’s music continues to inspire other musicians and composers more than a century after his death.



**OUR PRAYER LIST**



*Please provide updates for this list to the church office.*  
**Long-Term Care or Homebound:** Joan Beckwith, Laurie Meister, Ruth Milidonis, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Maggie Struhar

**Church Family:** Serena Abruzzino, Judy Carte, Jennifer Cockrell, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sue Hawk, Irene Jannsohn, Kay Konicek, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Jim Maresco, Reggie McCray, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkfitz, Gary Paul, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Peter Smith, Sharon Wilson, Dave Williams, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

**Extended Church Family:** Edward and Sharon Acton (Sally Herzog’s friends), Dorene Baldrige, Ron & Yvonne Adams (Judi Pavisich’s friends), Chris Anderson (Linda & Mike Elkins’ son-in-law), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch’s sister), Angie Colosimo (Judi Pavisich’s friend), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf’s friend), John Dickson (Greg’s dad), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen’s friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung’s friend), Joanne Gariepy (Sally Herzog’s friend), Kathy Ghetti (friend of Ginger Rothel), Dana Hardy (Craig’s wife), Diane Mason (Lora Rung’s friend), Rudy Matjazic (Judi Pavisich’s friend), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies’ friend), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel’s sister-in-law), 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, Gaza, and Israel, 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



**WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP—**

Our Evening group will celebrate chocolate tomorrow, **Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup>**, at 7:00 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall. All ladies are welcome to attend and enjoy some sweet conversation and samples.

**ANNUAL ALL FAMILY WINTER RETREAT  
NEXT WEEK  
February 16,17, & 18 2024**



**OFFERINGS RECEIVED**

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 3,617.01  
Last Week’s Offering Received \$ 3,693.00  
Difference + \$75.99

**Thank you very much for your support.**  
**PLEDGE CARDS RECEIVED TO DATE: 50**



**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!**  
If the Strongsville City Schools are closed due to inclement weather on a Thursday, the Thrift Shop will be closed on that day.

**UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS**

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **February 13<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **February 20<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **February 27<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

**CHURCH OFFICERS IN 2024**

*\*Elected January 28, 2024*

**Moderator:** Greg Dickson\* **Vice-Moderator:** Jen Barry\*  
**Treasurer:** Sally Herzog\* **Clerk:** Judy Gaumer\*

**Sunday School Co-Superintendents**  
Linda Elkins Mary Densmore

**Board of Trustees**  
Bill Giuliano\* Chris Goff Mike Elkins\* Les Fox\*  
Herb Hampson\* Cathy Hawk Sarah Hayes\* Sandy Pogozelski\*  
Cheryl Sobek Dan Winrod Laura Winrod Rachel Zielinski\*

**Endowment Fund Subcommittee**  
Greg Dickson\* Dave Williams\*

**Diaconate**  
Teri Barbish\* Jean Bittinger Elaine Coffey\* Bobbi Cook Wayne Cook  
Judy Davis Judy Fox\* Carole Kapcar Susann Lerch\* Cherie Teagno\*  
Barbara White Mary Ellen Zimmerman

**Christian Education Committee**  
Serena Abruzzino Mary Densmore Linda Elkins\*  
Colette Emerson\* 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**  
Sue Gigliotti\* Judi Pavisich Bill Schneider Rob Toth\* Mary Willis

**Mission and Outreach Committee**  
Judy Carte Diana Creecy\* Sarah Hayes\* Lora Rung  
Jennifer Sekorky\* Peter Smith Bev Wehr\* Mary Ellen Zimmerman

**THANK YOU!** When we asked for "all hands on deck" for a funeral luncheon, we got ALL hands on deck! Many, many thanks to Pam & Doug Hansen, Linda Ponstingle, Pam Keenen, Cherie Teagno, Teri Barbish, John Toth, Barbara White, Carole Kapcar, Mary Ellen Zimmerman, Judy Fox, Bobbi & Wayne Cook, Gayle Sperber, Cathy Hawk, Ingrid Dickson, Irene & Jim Joyce, Sharon Heinrich, Cathy Hawk, Marty Winch, Elaine Coffey, Joyce Reed, Judi Pavisich, Mary Densmore-- did I miss anyone? All these folks said YES and helped set up, prepare food, serve, and clean up for John Maringer's funeral luncheon. I am ever so grateful for each one of you! The Diaconate is beginning to make calls asking for helpers for our next funeral luncheon on **Saturday, February 24**. Thank you in advance! --Pastor Heidi

**ANNUAL GIVING STATEMENTS**



Statements of Giving for 2023 are available in the Church Family Mailbox that is located in the Gathering Area. Please be so kind as to pick up your statement as soon as you are able. Questions? Contact Gary Zielinski at [succfinanciaalsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:succfinanciaalsecretary@gmail.com).

**EASTER FLOWERS ORDER FORM**

You may choose lilies, hyacinths, or tulips (no color choice). To order, please email the church or turn in this form prior to the deadline of **Sunday, March 10, 2024 at NOON**. The cost is **\$8.00**. Payment is due **March 10, 2024**.

Wording for bulletin:

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

(# of plants) Lilies \_\_\_\_\_ (x \$8)

Tulips \_\_\_\_\_ (x \$8)

Hyacinths \_\_\_\_\_ (x \$8)

Total amount due: \$\_\_\_\_\_

☐ *I will take my plant(s).* ☐ *I will leave my plant(s) for someone who needs some cheer.*

Please make your check payable to **United Church of Christ**, and call or email the church with your order.

**For Church Records                      2024 Easter Flowers**

Total number of plants: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Offering envelope number: \_\_\_\_\_

Cash/Check No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name:\_\_\_\_\_

*Order and payment deadline is **Sunday, March 10 at NOON**.*





FREE LUNCH FOR ALL--  
Wednesdays

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Thank you to all our faithful  
volunteers!

**Please note:** If the Strongsville City Schools are closed due to inclement weather on a Wednesday, the Free Lunch will not be served on that day.



**IMPORTANT INFO**—Do you know where the AED and First Aid Kit are located in the church? They are adjacent to the doorway in Pilgrim Hall, just to the right of the confirmation classroom.

**PHOTO DIRECTORY UPDATE** Directories are here!

Folks who were photographed receive a free copy. They are in the church mailbox. Extra directories may be purchased from the church office for \$10 each.



**BOOK STUDY--A YEAR OF BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD**

Continuing on **February 19<sup>th</sup>**, Pastor Heidi and Linda Elkins are leading a monthly book study based on Rachel Held Evans's wonderful book, *A Year of Biblical Womanhood*. The group will meet on the **third Monday of each month at 7 p.m.**, for one hour. It's not too late to join us!

**2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN --M.A.P.L E.**

**M- Making and moving**

**A- Accepting and Acknowledging**

**P- People**

**L- Learning and Loving**

**E- Encompassing**



**Strongsville United Church of Christ 2024 Estimate of Giving**

In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2024:

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 \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_