



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor
Sunday, February 12, 2023 – 10 A.M.



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.

As you enter the sanctuary, welcome one another.
As you hear the chimes ring, settle your mind in silence.
As worship begins, welcome God's Holy Spirit.

PRELUDE "La Fille aux Cheveux de Lin" Debussy, arr. Schorr

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

INTROIT "The Lord is in His Holy Temple" Larson

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: You could have stayed in bed; you could be eating breakfast out.

People: We have chosen to be in this place, feasting on God's word.

Leader: You could give a cold shoulder to your neighbors; you could warm yourself in front of the fire.

People: We have chosen to see and love God with more than just a sliver of our hearts.

Leader: You could be chasing after the world's idols; you could be listening to television's talking heads.

People: We have chosen to serve the One who blesses us with abundant life.

† HYMN 78 "I Love You, Lord" (sing twice)

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 119:1-8
(New international Version)

Blessed are those whose ways are blameless,
who walk according to the law of the Lord.

Blessed are those who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart—
they do no wrong, but follow his ways.

You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed.

Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying your decrees!

Then I would not be put to shame when I consider all your commands.

I will praise you with an upright heart as I learn your righteous laws.

I will obey your decrees; do not utterly forsake me.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SHARING OF 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 "If Ye Love Me" Tallis

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "An Irish Suite" arr. Hall

† 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 GOSPELS Matthew 5:21-37
(New Living Translation)

"You have also heard that our ancestors were told, 'You must not break your vows; you must carry out the vows you make to the Lord.' But I say, do not make any vows! . . . Just say a simple, 'Yes, I will,' or 'No, I won't.' Anything beyond this is from the evil one."

SERMON "Making Sense of Things" Eric Valentine

† HYMN 444 "I Love to Tell the Story"

† BENEDICTION Eric Valentine
The Spirit of God is upon you and has anointed you. You are the salt of the earth, and you bring light to the world. You are not too young or too old, you are not too rich or too needy to bring good news to the impoverished, to give a hand to the broken-hearted, and to live out freedom and pardon through the gifts you have been given. So remember to pack peace in your toolbox, hope in your briefcase, love in your lunch box, and may integrity, honesty, and joy be your designer wear of choice. Do not be frightened, for you are never alone. The God in whose image you are made will walk with you and guide you today, tomorrow, and every day. Amen.

† RESPONSE "Father, Give Thy Benediction" Moore

† POSTLUDE "Rondo" Beethoven, arr. Schorr

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**.

SERVING

TODAY – FEBRUARY 12	NEXT SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 19
Judi Pavisich	Greeters Jean Bittinger
Dave Williams	Liturgist Lynne McCray
Linda Ponstingle, Judi Pavisich	Ushers Roz Fotos
Aidan Hurtig/Luke Giuliano	Acolytes Oliver & Matilda Sekorky
Tom Foley	Director of Music Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	Associate Director of Music Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	Organist Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich	Sound Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Venner Clarinets, Choir	Special Music Ken Mehalko, Music Team

The altar flowers are given—

Happy Birthday to Valerie Hopkins and Vicky Masuga on
February 14th! With Love, Mom



Our steeple will light the sky this week—
Happy Birthday to Barbara Craig on February 18th!
With love, Mom

FRESH FLOWERS EACH WEEK! Please sign up for 2023
altar flowers on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Many
Sundays are available to honor a special date or loved one.

PENNY SUNDAY

Start saving those coins, bills, and checks for the next
Penny Sunday, which will be **February 26th**. The
collection will go to UCC Outdoor Ministries, Temples Hills camp,
where many of us have enjoyed camp and retreats for years.



A NOTE OF THANKS—

Today, we thank the **Chancel Choir**, **Tom Foley**, **Mike Elkins**, and
Sharon Heinrich for sharing their music with us today. Most of all thank
you and welcome to our special guests, **The Venner Clarinet Quintet**
(**David Ciucevich**, **Amy Dragga**, **Dick K. Ingersoll**, **Marc Paige**, and
Caroline Stillwell)!

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,617.01
Last Week's Offering Received \$5,128.24
Difference +\$1,511.23

Thank you very much for your support.

Pledge cards received to date: 62



Ash Wednesday is February 22nd. 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 **7:00 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.



IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Our love and prayers are extended to the family
and friends of **Len Lane**, who passed away on
February 3, 2023. Len was an active member of
our church for many years and a wonderful
baritone in the choir. He was 93 years old. Len
and his family have chosen a private burial.



Our sympathy also to **Lynne & Reggie McCray** and family on the
death of Lynne's mother, **Laura Urbanic** on February 6, 2023 at the
age of 89. Services were at Jardine's on February 10th.



**LENTEN STUDY: Discovering the
S.A.C.R.E.D.** Pastor Heidi and Linda Elkins will be
offering a six-week Lenten study by Ann Voskamp,
whose contemplative, hope-filled teachings will help us
rediscover the need for meditative, quiet time in our
lives. We will meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 in the parlor,
beginning **March 1**. Mark your calendar now and plan to join us!



CONGREGATIONAL PHOTO MAY 14th

You may recall that our church had a congregational photo scheduled in 2020, which was cancelled by the global pandemic. Well, three years later, we are trying again! The congregational photo is important to the historic records of the church and the last group picture of our congregation was taken in 2010. Please try to include this rare event in your Mother's Day plans. (The photo is scheduled to be taken immediately following the benediction of the worship service, so you will still have plenty of time to take your mom to brunch.)



ANNUAL GIVING STATEMENTS

Statements of Giving for 2022 are available in the church office for those who have not yet picked theirs up.

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Joan Beckwith, Mary Carey, Laurie Meister, Ruth Milidonis, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Maggie Struhar

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino,, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sam Cuyler, Sr., Sue Hawk, Irene Jannsohn, Bruce Keenen, Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Reggie McCray, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkfitz, Gary Paul, Sandy Pogozelski, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, Tracy Seneff, Peter Smith, Sharon Wilson, Janis Williamson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch



Extended Church Family: Ron & Yvonne Adams (Judi Pavisich's friends), Dorene Baldrige, Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Ron Colosimo (Judi Pavisich's friend), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Jennifer Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's daughter-in-law), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Tom Irelan (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Ed Kuhn (Sandy & Don Gleichauf's friend), 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), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Thomas O'Shea (Sandy's dad), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Tina Serrano (Elliott Joyce's grandma), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Vicky Smith (Venner Clarinets), Bruce Unger (Sally Herzog's friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Tom (friend of Judi Pavisich), The people of Ukraine, victims of violence, those affected by earthquakes and severe weather

OPT-IN: Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain. h.e.denman@gmail.com

ANNUAL ALL FAMILY WINTER RETREAT

February 17-19, 2023 Templed Hills Camp in Bellville, Ohio

If you're coming to the Retreat, please attend the TODAY in the sanctuary after worship.



ATTENDANCE CARDS ARE IN YOUR BULLETIN!

Please take a moment to complete the card that is in your bulletin and place it in the offering plate. You may write prayer requests on the reverse side, if you wish to have us pray for someone and add a name to the prayer chain.

BEE A BUSY BEE IN 2023

Sign-up sheets in the Gathering Area are waiting for **your name** to be added as a greeter or an 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.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, March 1st at 1 p.m.

"Guess Who" Bring and old photo of yourself

Monday, March 6th at 7 p.m.

"Guess Who" Bring and old photo of yourself

As always, ALL are welcome to attend our programs!

TODAY IS Souper Bowl Sunday for the Strongsville Emergency Food Bank.

Please deposit your soup cans of any kind of soup and place them in the receptacle in Pilgrim Hall near the bulletin board.



church until February 20th. After that, the packages on your porch can't be excused by saying, "It's for the church!"

PROGRAM ENDING ON FEBRUARY 20th!

You just have a little time left to go on an Amazon spending spree and feel good about benefitting the church. Amazon is discontinuing this program, so shop as if the program is ending, which it is! A small percentage of your purchase price will go toward supporting the

GIFT CARDS

PLEASE DON'T FORGET ABOUT THIS EASY, CONVENIENT PROGRAM THAT BENEFITS THE CHURCH. You can order gift cards by calling **Jim Joyce** at 216-267-5043 in advance with your order. **Limited stock is available for purchase on Sunday mornings.**



OFFERING ENVELOPES

For those of you who have been asking about offering envelopes, our Financial Secretary, Mike Elkins has received a communication from Church Budget, the company that sends out our envelopes, that offering envelopes will be

delayed until March due to supply chain, staffing, and other issues. **Please know that you may use any envelope to give your offering--we still need your donations to maintain our ministries!** Envelopes are in the pews to use until mailings resume.

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.

As always, special thanks to our dedicated volunteers and to everyone who supports the Thrift Shop with donations or by shopping!



CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2023

**Elected January 29, 2023*

Moderator: Greg Dickson **Vice-Moderator:** Jen Barry

Treasurer: Sally Herzog **Clerk:** Judy Gaumer

Sunday School Co-Superintendents

Linda Elkins Mary Densmore*

Board of Trustees

Diana Creecy Chris Goff* Herb Hampson Cathy Hawk

Sarah Hayes Cheryl Sobek* Dan Winrod*

Laura Winrod* Rachel Zielinski

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson Linda Stepan Dave Williams*

Diaconate

Teri Barbish Jean Bittinger* Elaine Coffey

Bobbi Cook* Wayne Cook* Judy Davis*

Carole Kapcar* Linda Kapcar Sharon Maresco Linda Ponstingle

Cherie Teagno Barbara White* Mary Ellen Zimmerman*

Christian Education Committee

Serena Abruzzino* Mary Densmore*

Linda Elkins Amanda Marshall Lora Rung

Music Committee

Richard Densmore Ingrid Dickson

Pam Keenen Ken Mehalko* Mike Willis*

ex officio: Sharon Heinrich Tom Foley Mike Elkins

Stewardship Committee

Judi Pavisich Bill Schneider* Richard Taylor

Rob Toth Mary Willis*

Mission and Outreach Committee

Judy Carte* Sarah Hayes Bobbie Krisak Lora Rung*

Jennifer Sekorky Peter Smith * Bev Wehr

Mary Ellen Zimmerman*

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **February 14th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **February 21st** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **February 28th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL

Wednesdays

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

Reminder: For the safety of our volunteers and friends, when the Strongsville City Schools are closed on a Wednesday for the weather, the Free Lunch for All will not be serving lunch.



EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

United Church of Christ Disaster Relief Ministry is on the ground providing humanitarian aid in Turkey and Syria. To donate to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) go to [https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/turkey-syria-](https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/turkey-syria-emergency-appeal/donate?inf_contact_key=f5bc4cb2d41410f840a0988bee0ee0b7842e902fbefb79ab9abae13bfc46658)

[emergency-appeal/donate?inf_contact_key=f5bc4cb2d41410f840a0988bee0ee0b7842e902fbefb79ab9abae13bfc46658](https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/turkey-syria-emergency-appeal/donate?inf_contact_key=f5bc4cb2d41410f840a0988bee0ee0b7842e902fbefb79ab9abae13bfc46658) and follow the prompts.