



**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

(Congregational)

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**Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor**

**Sunday, February 15, 2026– 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.

**PRELUDE** "Steal Away" Spiritual, arr. Larson

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Joyce Reed

**INTROIT** "Flower Duet" from *Lakmé* Delibes

**† CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: It is good to be here in this sacred space,

**People: In the shelter of God's love and hope.**

Leader: It is good to be here with folks we know well, as well as with new friends,

**People: Joining with all of God's beloved, siblings of Jesus.**

Leader: It is good to be here, where we can hear God's voice,

**People: Calling us to be eyewitnesses to the Spirit's presence.**

† **HYMN 2** "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name"

**A READING FROM THE PSALMS** Psalm 99 (New International Version)

The Lord reigns, let the nations tremble;

he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake.

Great is the Lord in Zion; he is exalted over all the nations.

Let them praise your great and awesome name— God alone is holy.

The King is mighty, he loves justice— you have established equity;

in Jacob you have done what is just and right.

Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his footstool; he is holy.

Moses and Aaron were among his priests;

Samuel was among those who called on his name;

they called on the Lord and he answered them.

He spoke to them from the pillar of cloud;

they kept his statutes and the decrees he gave them.

Lord our God, you answered them;

you were to Israel a forgiving God,

though you punished their misdeeds.

Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his holy mountain,

for the Lord our God is holy.

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** "Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child" Spiritual

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" Traditional Spiritual

† **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 17: 1-9

(The Message)

Jesus took Peter and the brothers, James and John, and led them up a high mountain. His appearance changed from the inside out, right before their eyes.

Sunlight poured from his face. His clothes were filled with light. Then they realized that Moses and Elijah were also there in deep conversation with him.

**SERMON** "From the Inside Out"

† **HYMN 82** "Praise the Lord, Ye Heavens Adore Him"

† **BENEDICTION** Nathan Nettleton

*Go now, and speak of what you have seen of God's glory. Do not cling to*

*the holy moments when heaven overshadows you, but as the Lord lives,*

*listen to Christ and follow him from the places of revelation to the places of*

*mission. And may God shine the light of glory into your hearts. May Christ*

*be with you and never leave you. And may the Spirit renew the image of*

*God within you. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.*

**POSTLUDE** "Waltz #2" Shostokovich

**SERVING**

**TODAY – FEBRUARY 15** **NEXT SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 22**

Lynne McCray **Greeters** Roger & Judy Davis

Mike Willis **Liturgist** Dave Williams

Teri Barbish **Head Usher** Carole Kapcar

Tom Foley **Director of Music** Tom Foley

Mike Elkins **Associate Director of Music** Mike Elkins

Sharon Heinrich **Organist** Sharon Heinrich

Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich **Video/Sound** Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich

Ken Mehalko **Special Music** Children's Choir/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 **Ken Mehalko, Mike Elkins, and Sharon Heinrich** for today's music. **Tom Foley** is providing music at the Winter

Retreat at Inspiration Hills. During February, our music team is

featuring traditional spirituals in our worship music.

**FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL:**

**PENNY SUNDAY IS NEXT WEEK!** 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 Granddaughter Hilary's Birthday on the 14<sup>th</sup>. All our love, Grandpa George and Grandma

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—

Happy Birthday to Barbara Craig on February 18<sup>th</sup>!

With love, Mom

**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.

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



**ANNUAL FAMILY WINTER RETREAT**

Many of our church family and friends are in Burbank, Ohio this weekend. Make plans to join us next year!



**THREE WITH GLEE!**

Capital Campaign: We currently have \$61,194.08 in our capital campaign account after paying \$2,500 for the painting of Pilgrim Hall. A new roof for Pilgrim Hall and the church building may be on the horizon. 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:**



**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED SOUP TO OUR "SOUPER BOWL" CANNED SOUP DRIVE!** We collected 177 cans of soup,

served 67 bowls on that day, and earned \$590.46 (\$800 in sales and donations with \$290.54 in expenses)! Special thanks to Guy Gutzman, Jr. (aka Guy the Soup Guy) Jon Hayes, Jane Kossin, and Dale & Cathy Hawk for preparing the soup and to the entire crew for setting up, serving the delicious soup, and cleaning up!

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—**



**BEREA ANIMAL RESCUE FUND WISH LIST**

Women's Fellowship of Strongsville United Church of Christ is collecting donations for Berea Animal Rescue Fund

from February 15 through March 1. ARF is always in need of basic animal care and cleaning supplies used daily at the shelter. Your donations of these items can make a big difference to the animals.

- Dry Dog Food
- Dry Cat Food
- Canned Cat Food (any kind)
- Canned Dog Food (any kind)
- Dog and Cat Treats
- Pill Pockets/Pouches for Dogs and Cats
- Scoopable Litter and Clay Litter
- Nylabones
- Benebones
- Kongs
- Small Litter Boxes
- 3-Tier Cat Cages/Playpens
- Snuggle Safe Pet Heating Pad
- Plastic Swimming Pools
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Nitrile Gloves
- 30 Gallon Trash Bags
- 13 Gallon Kitchen Bags
- Lawn and Leaf Bags
- Dishwasher Detergent (powder or liquid)
- Laundry Detergent (powder or liquid)
- Liquid Hand Soap
- Bleach
- First Aid Supplies
- Printer Paper
- Wet and Dry Erase Markers
- Postage Stamps
- Computers or Tablets to process adoptions
- Treat Pouches
- Leashes
- Gift cards for--
  - Target\*, Walmart\*, Petco, PetSmart, Pet Supplies Plus, OfficeMax, or Staples



\*These gift cards are available from our Gift Card Program. Unfortunately, ARF cannot accept donations of comforters, sheets or pillows of any kind.

**OFFERINGS RECEIVED**

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 5,212.00  
 Last Week's Offering Received \$ 2,800.00  
 Difference -(\$2,412.00)

Thank you very much for your support.  
**PLEDGES RECEIVED: 64**



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

**CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

Pastor Heidi will be leading a class after worship today in the Parlor (with plenty of time to enjoy the Souper Bowl). Our new members 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.

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**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.



**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, Colette Emerson, Sue Hawk, Frank Jefferis, 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**

**CHURCH OFFICERS 2026**

*\*Elected February 1, 2026*

**Moderator:** Rachel Zielinski \*

**Vice-Moderator:** Herb Hampson\*

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

**Sunday School Superintendent:** Linda Elkins

**Board of Trustees**

Karen Bates Jen Barry\* Greg Dickson\*  
 Bill Giuliano\* Chris Goff Les Fox\* Cathy Hawk  
 Sandy Pogozelski\* Bill Robinson \* Cheryl Sobek  
 Alex Tomoff Mike Willis

**Endowment Fund Subcommittee**

Linda Stepan\* Dave Williams\*

**Diaconate**

Jean Bittinger Elaine Coffey\* Diana Creecy\*  
 Bobbi Cook Wayne Cook Judy Davis  
 Judy Fox\* Pam Heimburger Marsha Hemphill\*  
 Cindy Hurley\* Lynne McCray\*  
 Linda Ponstingle Lora Rung

**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**

Jen Barry \* Gina Cathcart Bobbi Cook\*  
 Cathy Hawk Sarah Hayes\* Lora Rung  
 Mary Willis Mary Ellen Zimmerman

