



**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

(Congregational)

13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136

(440) 238-6697

[StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com](mailto:StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com)

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

**Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor**

**Sunday, February 18, 2024– 10 A.M.**

**First Sunday in Lent**



**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** "Here I Am, Lord" arr. Elkins

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Elaine Coffey

**INTROIT** "Spirit Song" Mehalko

**† CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Here, at the outer limits of Lent, we are called to walk:

**People: To the paper-thin edges which cut us to the soul; to the workplaces which weary us; to the people who confuse us; to the faith which threatens us.**

Leader: Here, at the corner of Steadfast Love and Faithfulness, we are called to wait:

**People: When our clenched stomachs awaken us; in the moments of unbearable sorrow; with the angels who would carry us.**

Leader: Here, where time is fulfilled, where God's Kingdom is as near to us

**People: As our neighbor, we begin Lent: with the Beloved, whose tears wash away our fears, with the God who will not let go of our hands.**

† HYMN 391 "Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

**A READING FROM THE PSALMS** Psalm 25: 1, 4-10

(New International Version)

In you, Lord my God, I put my trust.

Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths.

Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you, Lord, are good.

Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.

He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.

All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful

toward those who keep the demands of his covenant.

**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** "The Gift of Love" arr. Raney

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**OFFERING**

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

† **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 OLD TESTAMENT** Genesis 9: 8-17

(New International Version)

"This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth."

**SERMON** "Never Again."

† **HYMN 352** "O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus"

† **BENEDICTION** Nathan Nettleton, Laughingbird Ministries

*May God enfold you in tender and lasting promises of Love; may Christ be beside you in times of struggle; and may God the Spirit guide you back to the path whenever you stray, that you may keep covenant with God. Amen.*

† **RESPONSE/POSTLUDE** "This Little Light of Mine" arr. Raney

**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 18** **NEXT SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 25**

Barbara Toth	<b>Greeters</b>	Nicole & Tiffany Ashforth
Mary Ellen Zimmerman	<b>Liturgist</b>	Sharon Maresco
Judi Pavisich	<b>Ushers</b>	Volunteers needed
Tom Foley	<b>Director of Music</b>	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	<b>Associate Director of Music</b>	Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	<b>Organist</b>	Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich	<b>Video/Sound</b>	Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Ken Mehalko, Music Team	<b>Special Music</b>	K. Bates, Children's Choir, Choir

**FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL:**

**PENNY SUNDAY NEXT WEEK**

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

**ALSO, OUR CHILDREN'S CHOIR WILL BE SINGING!**



**MANY OF OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ARE ATTENDING THE ANNUAL ALL FAMILY WINTER RETREAT THIS WEEKEND.**

The altar flowers are given—

*In loving memory of Bill Foley --Carol Foley*



**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 today to Barbara Craig and to Pam Craig on February 22<sup>nd</sup>!*

With love, Mom

**Happy Birthday today to Barbara Craig and Cade Raymond!**

**MISSION OUTREACH**

**THANK YOU to everyone who donated soup for our "Souper Bowl" canned soup drive for the Strongsville Emergency Food Bank!**



**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.

**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 **Ken Mehalko**, along with **Sharon Heinrich** and **Mike Elkins** for their music today.

**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 Oerkitz, 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), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), John Dickson (Greg's dad), Ed Fabian (the Bagley's Grill girls' friend), 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), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel's parents), 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](mailto:h.e.denman@gmail.com)

**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 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

**A celebration of Ken Konicek's life is being planned for February 24<sup>th</sup> here at the church, with visitation at 10 a.m. and the service at 11 a.m. A luncheon in Pilgrim Hall will follow. Ken died on Christmas Day 2023.**



**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 [succfinancialsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:succfinancialsecretary@gmail.com).

**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 tomorrow, **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

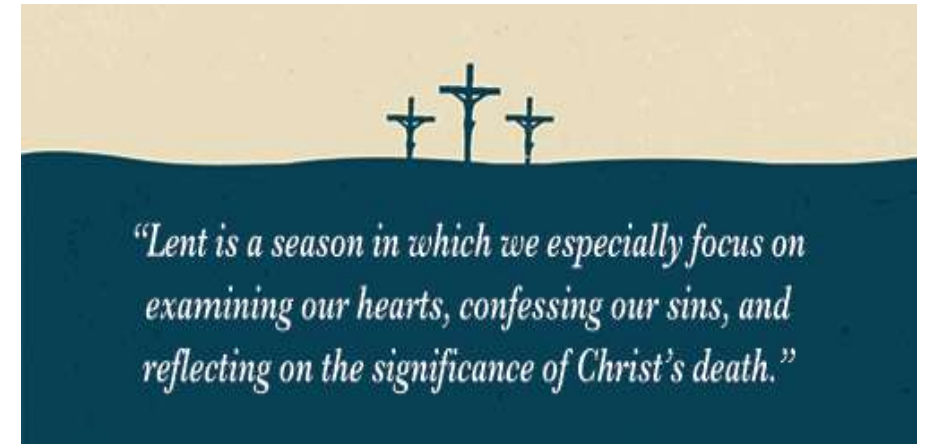
Our Congregation's Ministries and Operations \$\_\_\_\_\_

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



**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 with payment prior to the deadline of **Sunday, March 10, 2024 at NOON**. The cost is **\$8.00**.

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.**

