



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136
(440) 238-6697

StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com
StrongsvilleUCC.com

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor
Sunday, February 19, 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 "Flower Duet from *Lakmé*" Delibes
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Joyce Reed
INTROIT "Native Flute Song" Mehalko

† 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 "Come, Now is the Time to Worship"

Come, now is the time to worship.

Come, now is the time to give your heart

Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God, Come

One day ev'ry tongue will confess You are God. One day ev'ry knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains for those who gladly choose you now

Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart
Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God, Come

Willingly we choose to surrender our lives, Willingly our knees will bow
With all our hearts, soul, mind, and strength. We gladly choose you now

Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart
Come, just as you are to worship
Come, just as you are before your God, Come...Come...Come,
Just as you are...Come.

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 99:1-3

(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—He is holy.

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 "2nd Suite in F, Op.28, No.2 Song without Words" Holst

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Lord of the Dance" arr. Held

† **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 Thessalonians 5:16-18, 23

(New International Version)

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A TIME FOR REFLECTING TOGETHER*

† **HYMN 139** "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

† BENEDICTION

Now may the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Know that wherever you are, God is with you. Amen.

† **RESPONSE/POSTLUDE** "All Hail the Power" 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, select **Worship**, and click on **Service Videos**.

=====

SERVING

TODAY – FEBRUARY 19	NEXT SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 26
Jean Bittinger	Greeters Elaine Coffey
Lynne McCray	Liturgist Sharon Maresco
Roz Fotos	Ushers Roz Fotos
Oliver & Matilda Sekorky	Acolytes Chris Abruzzino/Riley Marshall
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
Ken Mehalko, Music Team	Special Music Richard Densmore, Bell Choir

=====

The altar flowers are given—

In loving memory of William J. Foley

With Love, Carol



Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthday to Pam Craig on February 22nd!

With love, Mom



Happy Birthday today to Austin Eggert!

*Today's discussion of prayer comes from Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers, by Anne Lamott (New York: Riverhead Books, 2012).

=====

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 NEXT WEEK

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 **Ken Mehalko, Mike Elkins**, and **Sharon Heinrich** for sharing their music with us today. **Tom Foley** is providing music for the worship service at the Retreat at Temples Hills this morning.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,617.01
Last Week's Offering Received \$2,299.00
Difference -(\$1,318.01)

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.



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.)



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS



- 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.

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



[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.

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, Denise Ashforth, Diana Creecy, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sam Cuyler, Sr., Sue Hawk, Irene Jannsohn, Bruce Keenen, Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Reggie McCray, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkitz, Gary Paul, Sandy Pogozielski, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, Peter Smith, John Toth, 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), Nicki Haire (our Bell Choir sub), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Tom Irelan (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Patty Kubancik (Sue Gigliotti's sister), 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

Many of our church friends are attending Retreat at Templed Hills camp this morning.



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!



FROM MISSION OUTREACH:
Thank you to everyone who contributed to our "Souper Bowl" canned soup drive for the Strongsville Emergency Food Bank! We collected 211 cans of soup!



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.

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*

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.



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!



COMING SOON...

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF MARCH

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery. Envelopes are in the pews.

FROM OUR FRIENDS AT STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY BAND

The Strongsville Community Band Winter Concert on Sunday, March 5, 2023, will feature a program of exciting music which will include Klezmer Classics, a selection of well known Jewish songs performed in a traditional Klezmer style. Also being featured on the program will be vocalist Carl Fernstrum, music director of the Strongsville Methodist Church, performing music from Les Misérables. The free concert is on Sunday, March 5 in the Strongsville Middle School Auditorium at 13200 Pearl Rd.

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.**



PROGRAM ENDING TOMORROW!



Just ONE DAY left to go on an Amazon spending spree and feel good about benefitting the church. Amazon is discontinuing this program, so after tomorrow, the packages on your porch can't be excused by saying, "It's for the church!"