



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 21, 2021 – Online
The Sacrament of Baptism**



OPENING MUSIC "Be Thou My Vision" Traditional Irish Melody

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT "Invention #13" Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

From the shadows of isolation and shutdowns, we come into the promises of God, who bears the light of hope. From the refuge of our homes, we come to be with Jesus, who will not let anything, now or ever, separate us, from God or from one another. Feeling exhausted in our hearts and hungering for human touch, we come into the presence of the Spirit, who feeds us along the Lenten journey, who has marked us as God's very own.

HYMN "Stand Up and Bless the Lord"

Stand up and bless the Lord, Ye people of His choice
Stand up and bless the Lord your God With heart and soul and voice.

Though high above all praise, above all blessing high,
Who would not fear His holy name, and laud and magnify?

Stand up and bless the Lord; The Lord your God adore.
Stand up and bless His glorious name Henceforth forevermore.

CCLI Song # 1933367 Alfred V. Fedak | James Montgomery (Nehemiah 9:5)
Genevan Psalter 1551, adapted by William Crotch, 1836 United Methodist Hymnal

FIRST READING Psalm 25:1; 4-7 (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, O LORD, are good.

SHARING AND PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

MUSIC "Masterpiece" Henderson/Patty/Gaither

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US



THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Elliott James Joyce

Son of Erik Joyce and Bryana Hitchens

Sponsors: Evan Joyce and Elena Joyce

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY WORDS

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES FOR THE FAMILY

CONGREGATIONAL PROMISE

Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support and care to the one about to be baptized, as he lives and grows in Christ?

(We promise our love, support and care.)

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

Christ be with you. **(And also with you.)**

Let us pray.

Gracious God, bless this water by your Holy Spirit. By that same Spirit, save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ, that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in the one baptized this morning, that he may rise in Christ. All glory and honor be to you, Eternal God, who was, who is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

BAPTISM OF ELLIOTT JAMES JOYCE

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Let us pray together:

Gracious God, You have filled the world with joy with the gift of Jesus. Bless this child, Elliott James; fill him with your strength and courage for life's journey; joy for all to see; freedom of love; hope for a new life. May he never be ashamed to confess his personal faith in You. Bless us, O God, that we, too, may be faithful to Your Word, united in the peace of Christ and the company of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

HYMN “Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”

Child of blessing, child of promise, Baptized with the Spirit's sign;
With this water God has sealed you Unto love and grace divine.

Child of love, our love's expression, Love's creation, loved indeed
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits; Into joy and laughter lead.

Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God's you are; from God you came.
Back to God we humbly give you; Live as one who bears Christ's name.

Child of God, your loving Parent, Learn to listen for God's call.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship; Trust and love God more than all.

CCLI Song # 1727790 Ronald S. Cole-Turner | Vicar Earle Copes © Words: 1981 Cole-Turner, Ronald S. Music: 1960. Renewed 1988 Hope Publishing Company

BEING COMMUNITY WHEN WE ARE APART

God's promises are sure and true. The season of Lent marks the beginning of Jesus' journey to the cross, a time to reflect on and remember the promises of God. Together, we continue to commit our lives and our resources to finding new, innovative ways to continue to walk with Jesus, even during this season of pandemic. We appreciate your commitment to giving freely of your talents and your treasure, as you are able. Thank you. To give online, you may go to:

<https://www.myeoffering.com/eonline/index.php/dashboard/login/5027>

or mail your offering to **Strongsville UCC 13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, OH 44136**. You may also save a stamp and drop your envelope in the church mailbox at any time.

OFFERTORY “Make Us One” Cymbala

SECOND READING **Genesis 9:8-17**

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: “I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. I establish my covenant with you:
Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

And God said, “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.

Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living

creatures of every kind on the earth.” So God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth.”

REFLECTION Promises After the Storm

HYMN “How Firm a Foundation”

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

“Fear not! I am with thee; O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God I will still give thee aid.
I'll strengthen thee, help thee And cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.”

“When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie
My grace, all-sufficient shall be thy supply.
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.”

“The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose;
I will not, I will not desert to its foes.
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!”

CCLI Song # 107816 Rippon's *Selection of Hymns* 1787 Traditional American melody; Caldwell's *Union Harmony*, 1837 © Words and Music: Public Domain

BENEDICTION *From the Uniting Church in Australia*

Go out into the world in peace, and in Christ's name, be the humble ones who make others proud; the poor who have riches to share; the weak who help others be strong; the empty who overflow with loving kindness. May the largess of the love of God, and the treasure of the grace of Christ Jesus, and the buoyant health of the Holy Spirit be with you now and forever more. Amen.

POSTLUDE “Fairest Lord Jesus” arr. Raney

SERVING		
TODAY – FEBRUARY 21		NEXT SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 28
Irene Joyce	Liturgist	Irene Joyce
Tom Foley	Director of Music	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	Associate Director of Music	Mike Elkins
Doug Thorn	Sound/Video	Doug Thorn
Chuck McDougall	Video	Chuck McDougall
Carol Foley, Sarah Keenen	Special Music	Brittany Fernandez

The steeple will light the sky this week—

In loving memory of our mothers' birthdays:

Carmella Norris on February 19th

and Nadine Burnand on February 26th

Love Ginger and Ron Rothel

Happy Birthday to Pam Craig on February 22nd

With Love, Mom



Many thanks to Carol Foley for joining us
in worship and to Sarah Keenen for
recording music for today's service!

Happy Birthday today to Robin James!

OFFERINGS RECEIVED



Weekly Offering Needed	\$ 3,649.37
Last Week's Offering Received	\$ 1,456.00
Difference	(-\$ 2,193.37)

*Thank you very much for your support of our
church and its ministries.*

Additional song credits

Be Thou My Vision CCLI Song # 30639 setting by Joel Raney Eleanor Henrietta Hull | Mary Elizabeth Byrne © Words and Music: Public Domain Traditional Irish Melody

Invention # 13 Johann Sebastian Bach from the *Klavierbüchlein für Wilhelm Friedemann Bach* 1723, Public Domain

Make Us One CCLI Song # 695737 Carol Cymbala © 1991, 1994 Carol Joy Music (Admin. by ClearBox Rights, LLC) Curb Word Music (Admin. by WC Music Corp.)

Masterpiece CCLI Song # 144202 Brent Henderson | Craig Patty | Gloria Gaither | Michael Patty © 1989 Knotty Pine Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Sandi's Songs Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Steadfast Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) William J. Gaither, Inc. (Admin. by Gaither Copyright Management)

Fairest Lord Jesus CCLI Song # 27800 setting by Joel Raney August Heinrich Hoffmann von Fallersleben | Joseph August Seiss © Words: Public Domain Music: Public Domain *Schleisse Volkslieder*

CCLI License # 11237335



IT'S A BOY!

Welcome to the world, **Brecken David Raymond**, who was born on February 11, 2021 and congratulations to parents **Lauren (Deertz)** and **Eric Raymond**. Congratulations also to grandmother **Lori Deertz**, grandfather **Dave Deertz**, and great grandmother, **Marty Winch!** We wish many blessings on this new addition to our church family!

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Janet Kato, Marge McKinney, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

Church Family: Joan Beckwith, Adria Bond, Eddy Bond, Mary Carey, Elaine Coffey, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Linda Elliott, Don Gleichauf, Sue Hawk, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Elliott Joyce, Carole Kapcar, Tony Koussa, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Lacey Marshall, Brigitte Matchett, Judy Maur, Laurie Meister, Michele Mhlack, Lola Millhoane, Joyce Reed, Dorothy and Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Jamie & Josh Trinckes, Sharon Wilson, Sally Vetovitz, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch



Extended Church Family: Dorene Baldridge, Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Judy Carte's son-in-law, Ryan, Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Pat Masuga (Dan's mom), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Zachary McKeever (Pastor Heidi and Chuck's great-nephew), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Carrol Riley (Marjorie Morrison's dad), Terry Robson (the Camps' friend), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Richard Sazima & Kathy Sazima (Judi Pavisich's friends), Anneke Scholtz (Irene Jannsohn's sister), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Daphne Wilson (Irene Jannsohn's niece)

Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain.



Are you an online shopper? If so, why not benefit the church while you make your purchases from Amazon? It's incredibly easy! Here's what you do:

1. Instead of typing amazon.com into your search bar, type in **smile.amazon.com**.
2. Select United Church of Christ Congregational Strongsville by clicking this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-1298100>
3. Shop as you would normally—that's it!

Your addresses, billing information, and shopping cart are still saved and your Prime membership privileges still apply. A small percentage of your purchase price will go toward supporting the church.

GIFT CARDS--YOU CAN SUPPORT THIS PROJECT IN A SAFE WAY THAT BENEFITS OUR CHURCH.



You may order gift cards by calling **Jim Joyce** at 216-267-5043 in advance with

your order. Limited stock is available, but special orders may be accommodated with advance notice. You may arrange to pick up your cards at the church office with your payment at a convenient time. **Thank you to those who continue to support this project by purchasing gift cards!**



The popular devotional guides, *The Upper Room*, are available at the church for anyone who would like to pick one up. The March/April edition is out and we have a few of left of the January/February edition as well. These devotional booklets come in regular pocket size or large print and are free of charge.



CHURCH LOCKS

The outdoor locks to the church, including the parking lot doors, the Royalton Road doors, and the kitchen have been changed. Church officers: please contact the office to be issued a new key.

MASTERPIECE

Before you had a name, Or opened up your eyes
Or anyone could recognize your face, You were being formed
So delicate in size, Secluded in God's safe and hidden place.

With your little tiny hands, And little tiny feet and little eyes
That shimmer like a pearl, He breathed in you a song
And to make it all complete, He brought the masterpiece
Into the world.

You are a masterpiece, A new creation He has formed
And you're as soft and fresh, As a snowy winter morn.
And I'm so glad that God Has given you to me;
Little lamb of God, You are a masterpiece.

And now you're growing up; Your life's a miracle.
Ev'rytime I look at you, I stand in awe.
Because I see in you, A reflection of me
And you'll always be My little lamb from God.

And as your life goes on each day, How I pray that you will see
Just how much your life has meant to me.
And I'm so proud of you;
What else is there to say?
Just be the masterpiece He created you to be.

You are a masterpiece.

CCLI Song # 144202 Brent Henderson | Craig Patty |
Gloria Gaither | Michael Patty © 1989 Knotty Pine Music
(Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Sandi's Songs
Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Steadfast
Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) William J.
Gaither, Inc. (Admin. by Gaither Copyright Management)

Pictured: Elliott Joyce

