



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor
Sunday, February 26, 2023 – 10 A.M.
Penny Sunday



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.

BELL PRELUDE "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" arr. Wagner

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Sally Herzog

BELL INTROIT "Ah, Holy Jesus" arr. Wagner

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O Christ, led by the Spirit to wander temptation's wilderness, show us how to turn our backs on the wrong ways of the world, so we can follow you faithfully.

People: Walk with us, Lord Jesus.

Leader: O Christ, wellspring of wonder, you let go of your glory, so you might hold our shattered hearts.

People: Cradle us, Lord Jesus.

Leader: O Christ, grace-filled and truth-full, you empty yourself to fill us with the bread which makes us whole, with the living waters which burst the banks of our faded dreams.

People: Fill us, Lord Jesus. Grant us your holy peace. Amen.

† HYMN 713 "Seek Ye First"

A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT Genesis 3: 1-7
(New International Version)

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"

The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman.

"For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

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.

BELL ANTHEM "El Shaddai" Card/Thompson, arr. Greer

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Penny Sunday

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "O Dearest Jesus, What Hast Thou Broken?" Walcha

† 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 4: 1-11
(New International Version)
Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

SERMON "Oh, So Tempting. . . ."

† HYMN 343 "Amazing Grace"

† BENEDICTION Nathan Nettleton, Laughing Bird Ministries
Go now, and live in the spirit of your baptism, even when you are led into wild and hard places. With repentance and trust, give yourselves to God, and with fasting and prayer, strengthen yourselves against the ways of the tempter. May God enfold you in tender and lasting love; may Christ be beside you in times of struggle; and may the Spirit guide you back to the path whenever you stray, that you may keep the covenant. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, in the name of Christ. Amen.

† RESPONSE/POSTLUDE "I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ" Bach

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 26		NEXT SUNDAY – MARCH 5
Aidan Hurtig	Greeters	Linda Plain
Sharon Maresco	Liturgist	Judi Pavisich
Roz Fotos	Ushers	Volunteers needed
Chris Abruzzino/Riley Marshall	Acolytes	Luke Giuliano/Aidan Hurtig
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
Richard Densmore, Bell Choir	Special Music	Children's Choir, Choir, Carol Foley

A NOTE OF THANKS—

Today, we thank the **Bell Choir, Richard Densmore, Tom Foley, Mike Elkins**, and **Sharon Heinrich** for sharing their music with us in worship.



The altar flowers are given—

Happy 8th Birthday to Penny & Oliver Zielinski yesterday!
With Love, Mom & Dad



Our steeple will light the sky this week—
Happy Birthday to Mike Craig on March 2nd!
With love, Grammy



Happy Birthday today to Charlotte Boden!

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 TODAY!

Be ready to give those coins, bills, and checks (to SUCC) for today's Penny Sunday. The collection will go to UCC Outdoor Ministries, Temples Hills camp, where many of us have enjoyed camp and retreats for years.



OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,617.01
Last Week's Offering Received \$1,823.00
Difference -(\$1,794.01)

Thank you very much for your support.

Pledge cards received to date: 62



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 MEETING



- 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, 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 Oerkfitz, Gary Paul, Sandy Pogozelski, Cade Raymond, 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), 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

BABY BLESSINGS



Cade James Raymond entered the world on February 18, 2023. Proud parents are Lauren and Eric Raymond, plus, Cade will be surrounded by love from his big brother **Brecken**, Grandmother **Lori Deertz** and great-grandmother **Marty Winch**, as well as his church family!

Cade and his family are in need of your prayers as he struggles with adjusting to life outside the womb. Lauren is also recovering from an emergency c-section.



Congratulations to **Kevin & Rachel McKenzie**, new parents to **Ava Jane**, who was born on February 21, 2023. Grandparents are **Kim & Dave McKenzie**.

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!

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.



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!

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.



PLEASE DON'T FALL FOR A SCAM! Pastor Heidi will never ask you for cash or gift cards via text or email. If there is a need, she will approach you in person.

FROM OUR FRIENDS AT THE STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY BAND--Come and hear live music for FREE Sunday, March 5th at 3 p.m.

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.

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.



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.**

EASTER FLOWERS ORDER FORM

You may choose lilies, hyacinths, or tulips (no color choice). To order, please email the church prior to the deadline of **Sunday, March 19, 2023 at NOON**. The cost is **\$8.00**. Payment is due **March 19, 2023**.

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 **Strongsville United Church of Christ**, and call or email the church with your order.

For Church Records 2023 Easter Flowers

Total number of plants: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Offering envelope number: _____

Cash/Check No. _____

Name: _____

Order deadline is **Sunday, March 19 at NOON**.
Payment deadline is March 19, 2023.



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*

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.

