



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 5, 2023 – 10 A.M.

Installation of Officers



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 “Softly and Tenderly” arr. Raney

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Greg Dickson

INTROIT “The Lord is in His Holy Temple” Larson

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Called to be light,

People: We would carry God's hope into the shadows of the world.

Leader: Called to be salt,

People: We would enhance the lives of those around us, with joy.

Leader: Called to live in God's reality,

People: We would welcome everyone as sisters and brothers in faith.

† HYMN 391 “Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 112: 1-9

(New international Version)

Praise the Lord.

Blessed are those who fear the Lord, who find great delight in his commands.

Their children will be mighty in the land;

the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever.

Even in darkness light dawns for the upright,

for those who are gracious and compassionate and righteous.

Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely,

who conduct their affairs with justice.

Surely the righteous will never be shaken, they will be remembered forever.

They will have no fear of bad news;

their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

Their hearts are secure, they will have no fear;

in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.

They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor,

their righteousness endures forever; their horn will be lifted high in honor.

Leader: The Word of God, for us, the people of God;

People: Thanks be to God.

PRAYING IN SILENCE

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy, ALL: Hear our prayers. Amen.

ANTHEM “Invitation to Communion” Govenor

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Pastor: Affirmation of ministry is the act whereby a local church of the United Church of Christ recognizes the diverse gifts of its members and celebrates the particular ministry each person brings to the life of the church or to various settings in the life of the world. The apostle Paul reminds us that there are many different kinds of spiritual gifts; the same Spirit gives them all. There are many ways of serving, but the same God is served by all. These people, whom we recognize and affirm today, have been called by God, each in their own unique way. They have accepted their call, and stand before us in witness to their willingness to serve God in leadership of this congregation.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared, with God's help, to serve in Christ's name and to the glory of God? (*I am.*)

Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ in language and in action? (*I do.*)

Members of the household of faith, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to serve. Let us stand and affirm together our intention to live in covenant with them.

People: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours, to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, to honor your leadership and to assist you so that together, we may be the faithful church of Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Let us pray together:

ALL: Eternal God, you have called these people to serve you, in Strongsville United Church of Christ and in the world. Send your Holy Spirit on them and on us all, that our service may be diligent and faithful. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow as we are united in Christ's ministry, to the glory of your name alone. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Lord I Lift Your Name on High” Founds

† 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 5:13-20

(The Message)

“Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. . . . Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept.”

SERMON “Shining Like the Son”

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

This is what God hopes for us - that we will speak of the mistakes we make, so we might be forgiven. Relying on the Spirit for the right words, let us pray together:

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

We break your commandments, God of our lives. Much worse, we break your heart when we point the finger at those who are different from us; when we gossip about our friends and neighbors; when we think everything is all about us. Forgive us, Loving God, we pray. We long to know your ways, so open our ears to hear those words we always ignore. We search for you each day, so open our eyes to your wonders so we may see them anew. We would believe in your promises, so fill our hearts with the presence of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. (*silent prayer*)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: God will show us the way to God's realm. Gracious, merciful, and righteous is our God of salvation!

People: God rebuilds our lives, repairs our mistakes, fills our emptiness with hope and joy. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP “Hymn Medley”

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.

† HYMN 415 “We Are Called to Be God's People”

† BENEDICTION Eric Valentine

The Spirit of God is upon you and has anointed you. You are the salt of the earth, and you bring light to the world. You are not too young or too old, you are not too rich or too needy to bring good news to the impoverished, to give a hand to the broken-hearted, and to live out freedom and pardon through the gifts you have been given. So remember to pack peace in your toolbox, hope in your briefcase, love in your lunch box, and may integrity, honesty, and joy be your designer wear of choice. Do not be frightened, for you are never alone. The God in whose image you are made will walk with you and guide you today, tomorrow, and every day. Amen.

† RESPONSE “Father, Give Thy Benediction” Moore

† 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, select Worship, and click on Service Videos.

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SERVING

TODAY – FEBRUARY 5 **NEXT SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 12**

Linda Plain **Greeters** Judi Pavisich

Sandy O'Shea **Liturgist** Dave Williams

Volunteers needed **Ushers** Linda Ponstingle, Judi Pavisich

Oliver & Matilda Sekorky **Acolytes** Aidan Hurtig/Luke Giuliano

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

Chancel Choir **Special Music** Venner Clarinets, Choir

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The altar flowers are given—
Happy 5th Birthday to Ella! —Love, Nana & Papa



Our steeple will light the sky this week—
Happy Birthday to Walter McKane on February 9th!
With Love, Grammy



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.

Happy Birthday today to Carol Merkle and Ella Hayes!

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY



Our love and prayers are extended to **Barbara Bridle**
and the Bridle family on the death of **Lloyd Bridle** on
February 1, 2023. Lloyd had been a member here
since 1962 and he and Barbara moved to California in
2018. He was 92 years old. Contributions in Lloyd's
memory may be given to our Memorial Fund.

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PENNY SUNDAY

Thank you to everyone who contributed to last week's
Penny Sunday. We collected \$287.35 for **World Central
Kitchen** in Ukraine. The next Penny Sunday will be **February 26th**.



A NOTE OF THANKS—

Today, we thank the **Chancel Choir, Tom Foley, Mike Elkins,** and
Sharon Heinrich for sharing their music with us today. NEXT WEEK, we
welcome special guests, **The Venner Clarinet Quintet!**

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,617.01
Last Week's Offering Received \$2,384.00
Difference -(\$1,233.01)

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!



ANNUAL GIVING STATEMENTS

Statements of Giving for 2022 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.

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Ruth Milidonis, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Joan Beckwith, Mary
Carey, Gina Cathcart, Betty Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sam Cuyler,
Sr., Sue Hawk, Irene Jannsohn, Bruce Keenen, Wayne Krisak,
Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Len Lane, Judy Maur, Reggie
McCray, Laurie Meister, Roy Merkle, Michele Mhlack, Lola
Millhoane, Kenn Oerkfitz, Gary Paul, Sandy Pogozeleski, Joyce
Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, Tracy Seneff,
Peter Smith, Maggie Struhar, Sharon Wilson, Janis Williamson,
Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Mary Ellen Zimmerman



Extended Church Family: Ron & Yvonne Adams (Judi Pavisich's friends), Dorene
Baldrige, Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Ron Colosimo (Judi Pavisich's friend),
John Dickson (Greg's dad), 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), Julie Kowell
(Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Ed Kuhn (Sandy & Don Gleichauf's friend),
Andrew Majoros (Michele Mhlack's cousin), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend),
Rudy Matjazic (Judi Pavisich's friend), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend),
Zachary McKeever (Pastor Heidi's great-nephew), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's
sister-in-law), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Thomas O'Shea (Sandy's dad),
Jeff Peacock, Terry Robson (Barb & Mark Camp's friend), 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), Weston (Chelsey Cathcart Cox's friend's baby),
Tom (friend of Judi Pavisich), The people of Ukraine, victims of violence, those
affected by 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



**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.**

**ANNUAL ALL FAMILY WINTER RETREAT
February 17-19, 2023 Templed Hills Camp
in Bellville, Ohio**

If you're coming to the Retreat, please attend
the **PLANNING MEETING** next Sunday,
February 12th in the sanctuary after worship.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP UPCOMING EVENTS



Monday, February 6th at 7 p.m.
"Repurposing and Recycling" with Sharon
Heinrich

Tuesday, February 1 p.m.

"Mind, Body, & Spirit" with Bev Wehr

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.



MISSION OUTREACH is collecting
cans of soup now through **Super
Bowl Sunday (February 12th)** for
the **Strongsville Emergency Food
Bank**. Please bring your cans of any

kind of soup and place them in the receptacle in Pilgrim Hall
near the bulletin board. **You're invited to wear your team's
sports apparel to church on that Sunday!**



You just have a little time left to go on an
Amazon spending spree and feel good about
benefitting the church. Amazon is discontinuing
this program, so shop as if the program is
ending, which it is! A small percentage of your
purchase price will go toward supporting the
church until February 20th. After that, the packages on your porch can't be
excused by saying, "It's for the church!"

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



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **February 14th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- 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.

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.**



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!

Please check with Mike Elkins if you would like a supply of loose envelopes 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!

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.



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.

