



**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
(Congregational)  
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**Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor**

**Sunday, February 8, 2026– 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.

**PRELUDE** "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" Spiritual, arr. Larson

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Greg Dickson

**INTROIT** "Steal Away" Traditional Spiritual

**† 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 33** "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

**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 those  
who are gracious and compassionate and righteous.

Good will come to those who are generous,  
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.

**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** "Plenty Good Room" Traditional Spiritual

**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 Want to Be a Christian" Traditional Spiritual

**† 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)

You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill.

**SERMON**

"Know better. Do better."

**† HYMN 343**

"Amazing Grace"

**† BENEDICTION**

Sam Hargreaves

*We are the salt of the earth. Sprinkle us across our town, God, across our world to bring the flavour of your Kingdom wherever we go. We are the light of the world. Uncover the radiance that is within us, God, to shine the truth of your love wherever we go. Let our light shine so brightly before others that everyone we meet may see our lives of worship and glorify you, O God, on earth as in heaven. Amen.*

**POSTLUDE** "You Are Salt for the Earth, O People" Haugen

**SERVING**

TODAY – FEBRUARY 8	NEXT SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 15	
Lynne McCray	<b>Greeters</b>	Volunteer needed
Mary Ellen Zimmerman	<b>Liturgist</b>	Mike Willis
Judi Pavisich	<b>Head Usher</b>	Teri Barbish
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
Chancel Choir	<b>Special Music</b>	Ken Mehalko

**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**.



**A NOTE OF THANKS—**

We thank the **Chancel Choir**, along with **Tom Foley, Mike Elkins**, and **Sharon Heinrich** for today's music. In February, our music team will be featuring traditional spirituals in our worship music.

**FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL:**



Keep saving those coins, dollars, and checks (to UCC) for our kids, who will be collecting for World Central Kitchen on **February 22, 2026**.

The altar flowers are given—

*Remembering our Dads—*

Ingrid & Greg Dickson, Irene & Jim Joyce



**A 2026 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 tomorrow to Walter McKane—*

With love, Grammy



**ASH WEDNESDAY IS FEBRUARY 18<sup>th</sup>.**

At 7 p.m., we will have a meditative service, with music and readings and the imposition of ashes. All are welcome to join us for this quiet time of reflection as we begin our Lenten journey together. Pastor Heidi will also offer the imposition of ashes at noon in the sanctuary.

**BOOK STUDY--SISTERHOOD!** On **Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup>**, Pastor Heidi and Linda Elkins will resume our Book Study at **7 p.m.**



**ANNUAL FAMILY WINTER RETREAT—IT'S NOT TOO LATE!**  
February 13-15, 2025 Inspiration Hills Camp in Burbank, Ohio



The Church's Annual All-Family Winter Retreat will take place on President's Day weekend 2026. Those who

wish to come down on Saturday only—we would be happy to have you there, but we also need your reservation TODAY, and the cost is \$10 per meal. Please contact Irene Joyce or Rachel Zielinski if you have any questions.

**Retreat planning meeting during the "Souper Bowl" luncheon in Pilgrim Hall TODAY!**

**THREE WITH GLEE!**

Capital Campaign: We currently have \$61,074.08 in our capital campaign account after paying \$2,500 for the painting of Pilgrim Hall. The supplier and installer of acoustic tiles in Pilgrim Hall have been contracted. Things are happening, but we still have more projects on the list. Please make sure you designate your donation for "Capital Campaign." Thanks for your continuing support.



**MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:**



It's the last day to bring in cans of soup for the Strongsville Emergency Food Bank. Today, Mission Outreach is hosting a "Souper Bowl" celebration.

After the service, join us in Pilgrim Hall for a light snack of homemade soup. We want to bring people together to celebrate our soup drive!

Plus, we will have 24 oz. containers of soup to purchase for \$10. Three soups will be available:

Broccoli Cheddar\*\*\*Chicken Paprikash\*\*\*Unstuffed Cabbage

**OFFERINGS RECEIVED**

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 5,212.00  
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 4,051.47  
Difference -(\$1,160.53)

Thank you very much for your support.  
PLEDGES RECEIVED: 62



**Giving statements for 2025 are available in the Church Family Mailboxes in the Gathering Area.**

**CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

Pastor Heidi will be leading a class after worship today in the Parlor (with plenty of time to enjoy the Souper Bowl). Our new members will be added during worship on **February 22<sup>nd</sup>**.



**OUR PRAYER LIST**

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

**Long-Term Care or Homebound:** Irene Jannsohn, Connie Rebar

**Church Family:** Serena Abruzzino, Mark Camp, Judy Carte, Elaine Coffey, Betty "Grammy" Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Roger Davis, Sue Hawk, Pam & Bruce Keenen, Erv Koch, Jan Meier, Carol Konet, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Jim Maresco, Jan Meier, Roy Merkle, Amanda Moulton, Ginny & Kenn Oerkfitz, George & Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Ron Rothel, Jennifer Sekorky, Tracy Seneff, Peter Smith, Bruce Sperber, Linda Stepan, JoAnn Thomas, Debbie Wentz, Heather Williams, Claire Wills, Marty Winch



**Extended Church Family:** Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Allison Emerson (Colette's sister), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Joanne Gariepy (Sally Herzog's friend), Kathy Ghetti (friend of Ginger Rothel), Jennifer Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's daughter-in-law), Sarah & David Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's grandson & wife), Michaelene Hanrahan (Jim Joyce's sister), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Tiffany Hassel (Judi Pavisich's daughter-in-law), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel's parents), George Love (friend of the church), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Sylvia Pakish (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Jeff Peacock (former member), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Vicki Smith (Venner Clarinets), Jeaneane Steinmeyer (Greg Dickson's aunt), Don & Pauline Wills (Judi Pavisich's friends), the people of Ukraine, Sudan, Gaza, and Israel, victims of violence, those affected by natural disasters, First Responders

**OPT-IN: Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain. h.e.denman@gmail.com**

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—**



We are collecting donations for Berea Animal Rescue on the Sundays of February 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. A list of items needed is

available on the yellow quarter-sheets of paper on the cabinet in the Gathering Area. Women's Fellowship thanks you very much for your support!

**YOUTH GROUP NEWS**  
**SPAGHETTI DINNER**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28<sup>th</sup>**

**2 seatings:**

**5 p.m. or 6:30 p.m.**

**(Carry out available)**

**Adults: \$12, Kids 6-12: \$8,**

**5 & under = FREE**

Includes your choice of spaghetti & meatballs or vegetarian marinara, salad, bread, dessert, and coffee/tea/soft drink.

Contact Cathy Hawk for reservations 440-781-7812 or purchase your tickets on Sunday mornings.

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**THERE'S STILL TIME TO PLEDGE FROM YOUR H.E.A.R.T.!**  
Hospitality, Engagement, Activities, Resources, Time, Talent, & Treasure

**United Church of Christ 2026 Estimate of Giving**

In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2026:

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

**For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Matthew 6:21**

**CHURCH OFFICERS 2026**

*\*Elected February 1, 2026*

**Moderator:** Rachel Zielinski \*

**Vice-Moderator:** Herb Hampson\*

**Treasurer:** Sally Herzog\* **Clerk:** Judy Gaumer\*

**Sunday School Superintendent:** Linda Elkins

**Board of Trustees**

Karen Bates Jen Barry\* Greg Dickson\*  
Bill Giuliano\* Chris Goff Les Fox\* Cathy Hawk  
Sandy Pogozelski\* Bill Robinson\* Cheryl Sobek  
Alex Tomoff Mike Willis

**Endowment Fund Subcommittee**

Linda Stepan\* Dave Williams\*

**Diaconate**

Jean Bittinger Elaine Coffey\* Diana Creecy\*  
Bobbi Cook Wayne Cook Judy Davis  
Judy Fox\* Pam Heimburger Marsha Hemphill\*  
Cindy Hurley\* Lynne McCray\*  
Linda Ponstingle Lora Rung

**Christian Education Committee**

Linda Elkins\* Colette Emerson\* Dale Hawk  
Sarah Hayes 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**

Ingrid Dickson Sue Gigliotti\* Linda Stepan  
Rob Toth\* Sarah Toth Dave Williams

**Mission and Outreach Committee**

Jen Barry\* Gina Cathcart Bobbi Cook\*  
Cathy Hawk Sarah Hayes\* Lora Rung  
Mary Willis Mary Ellen Zimmerman

**YOU CAN ACCESS RESOURCES FROM AND INFORMATION ABOUT OUR HEARTLAND CONFERENCE OF THE UCC! Just scan the QR code.**

