



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, January 11, 2026– 10 A.M.
Sacrament of Holy Baptism



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 “Greensleeves/Coventry Carol” arr. Raney

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

INTROIT “People Get Ready” Mayfield

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Like the soft whisper of a little child singing to herself before anyone else in the house is awake,

People: God's voice cradles us ever so gently with songs of wonder and awe.

Leader: With the persistence of teenagers and young adults, heady with the newfound freedom of questioning everything,

People: God's voice rumbles like a river through our lives, sweeping away all the boundaries between us.

Leader: Like the grandpa who passes on the secret to his bread, like the nana who teaches her grandkids how to drive,

People: God's voice is always reminding us that we are precious, esteemed, beloved.

† HYMN 104 “O Worship the King” (vv 1, 2, & 5)

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 29
(New International Version)

Ascribe to the Lord, you heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;

worship the Lord in the splendor of God's holiness.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders,
the Lord thunders over the mighty waters.

The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is majestic.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;

the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.

He makes Lebanon leap like a calf, Sirion like a young wild ox.

The voice of the Lord strikes with flashes of lightning.

The voice of the Lord shakes the desert; the Lord shakes the Desert of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord twists the oaks and strips the forests bare.

And in his temple all cry, “Glory!”

The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord is enthroned as King forever.

The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.

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 “Song of Peace” Donnelly, arr. Strid

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Molly Marie Boden
Daughter of Katelyn and Vincent Boden
Sponsor: Rebecca Louise Deertz
(Great-granddaughter of Marty Winch)



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 Molly and her family, as she 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 child baptized this morning, that she 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 MOLLY MARIE BODEN

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Let us pray together:

Gracious God, You have filled the world with joy with the gift of Jesus. Bless this child, Molly Marie; fill her with your strength and courage for life's journey; joy for all to see; freedom of love; hope for a new life. May she never be ashamed to confess her 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 know whose child you are.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship; Trust and love God more than all.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Baptized in Water” Traditional Irish Tune

† 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 3:13-17
(New Revised Standard Version)

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

REFLECTION “More than Just a Name”
Rev. David Long-Higgins

† HYMN 258 “Go Tell it on the Mountain”

† BENEDICTION

† POSTLUDE “I Saw Three Ships” Traditional

SERVING

TODAY—JANUARY 11	NEXT SUNDAY—JANUARY 18
Pat Jefferis	Greeters Judi Pavisich
Pastor Heidi	Liturgist Sandy O'Shea
Bill Robinson	Head Usher Judi Pavisich
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 Chancel Choir

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**.

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.



A NOTE OF THANKS—

We thank our **Chancel Choir, Tom Foley, Mike Elkins** and **Sharon Heinrich** for today's music!

CHURCH CHRISTMAS MAIL BOX

Although it's after Christmas, please remember to check the box for greetings you have received. The church office cannot mail your personal Christmas cards. Cards left after today will be discarded. Thank you.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR CAKE IN PILGRIM HALL
FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE, COURTESY OF
MOLLY'S GREAT-GRANDMOTHER, MARTY WINCH!

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- Mission Outreach will meet **today** after worship.
- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **January 13th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **January 20** at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor.



FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL:

PENNY SUNDAY: The next Penny Sunday will be on **January 25, 2026** for World Central Kitchen.



The altar flowers are given--

In loving memory of Carol L. Studer
Jim, Kathy, & Jeff

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. Reserve your date(s) in memory or in honor of something or someone special.



Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthday to Rachel Zielinski on January 16th!
Love, your 2nd favorite set of twins



Happy Birthday today to Dave Sekorky!

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 4,359.00
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 6,448.00
Difference + 2,089.00
Thank you very much for your support.
PLEDGES RECEIVED: 60



THREE WITH GLEE!

Capital Campaign: We currently have \$62,551.08 in our capital campaign account. The Trustees are scheduling the painting of Pilgrim Hall, which needs to happen prior to dealing with the acoustics in that room. 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.



IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family and friends of **Steve J. Gall**, who completed his earthly journey on January 2, 2026 at the age of 88. Please keep his daughter **Sue Ludwig** Sue's friend **Bob**; Sue's brother and sister-in-law **Steven & Debbie Gall** and their sister **Sharon** and their families in your prayers. Steve also had numerous grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. The funeral was January 4, 2026 at Jardine Funeral Home.



MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:

MISSION OUTREACH is collecting cans of soup now through Super Bowl Sunday (February 8th) for the Strongsville Emergency Food Bank. Please bring your cans of any kind of soup and place them in the bin in Pilgrim Hall.



DAYTIME WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP will meet **Wednesday, January 14, at 1:00 p.m.** for Game Day. If you have a game you'd like to play, please bring it.



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, Barb Bridle, 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, 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, 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 Garipey (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), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), 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

TODAY'S SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER



Rev. David Long-Higgins is the conference minister for the Heartland Conference of the UCC. Dave has served in a wide variety of capacities throughout the United Church of Christ. He is a graduate of Heidelberg University with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology and music (violin performance). His Master of Divinity was earned at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities in New Brighton, Minnesota. He is also a graduate of the Wellstreams Spiritual Direction Program of the Spirituality Network of Columbus (Ohio). Prior to beginning his role with the Conference, Dave was a parish pastor for over 30 years. Dave and his wife Beth, who is also an ordained UCC clergyperson have two adult children, Andrew and Hannah. When not on the ministry trail Dave enjoys movies, playing violin and guitar, bicycling, travel, writing poetry/prayers, and photography.

YOU CAN ACCESS RESOURCES FROM AND INFORMATION ABOUT OUR HEARTLAND CONFERENCE OF THE UCC!

Looking for a way to get connected for ministry resources in the wider church? Just scan the QR code.



ANNUAL MEETING



The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place Sunday, **January 25, 2026**, and will be preceded by the traditional Pancake Brunch. All are encouraged to attend this meeting, but only registered members are entitled to vote.

ANNUAL ALL FAMILY WINTER RETREAT

February 13-15, 2026



Inspiration Hills Camp in
Burbank, Ohio

The Church's Annual All-Family
Winter Retreat will take place on

President's Day weekend 2026. This year, we are at a new location and things will be a little different. The sign-up sheet to attend and the sign-up sheet for things to bring and to volunteer will soon be posted on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Please reserve your spot and room now, as rooms will be first-come, first-served. The cut-off to sign up—**January 18th**—will be strictly enforced. Space is limited to 12 families. Also, please let us know if you have any special dietary needs. Finally, those that wish to come down on Saturday only—we would be happy to have you there, but we also need your reservation by January 18th, and the cost is \$10 per meal. Please contact Irene Joyce or Rachel Zielinski if you have any questions.

Here is the cost:

ADULTS (12 and up): \$80
CHILDREN (6-11): \$20
CHILDREN (5 and under): FREE

Important dates to remember:

JANUARY 18, 2026: Reservations close; **MONEY DUE**

FEBRUARY 1, 2026: Planning meeting in the church after the service



WOULD YOU LIKE A WAY TO SERVE GOD AND SERVE YOUR CHURCH AT THE SAME TIME? How about volunteering to serve on a church board or committee?

The Nominating Committee, through the Official Board, will be looking for church members to fill the many open positions on our boards. Please consider saying **YES** when a member of the Nominating Committee asks you to serve.

Some of the positions that are available include:

Moderator, who presides over the Official Board and represents the church in the community

Vice-Moderator, who works in tandem with the Moderator, serves on the Nominating Committee, and enlists volunteers for dinners and other Official Board events.

Treasurer, who manages the outgoing finances of the church in conjunction with the Financial Secretary

Diaconate, which oversees the worship operations and church services. The committees of the Diaconate are Acolytes, Altar, Coffee Hour, Funeral, Greeters, Membership, Nursery, Pastoral Relations, Special Events and Ushers.

Board of Trustees, which oversees the finances and physical plant of the church. The committees of the Trustees are Building and Grounds, Finance, and Long-Range Planning and Memorial/Endowment.

Mission & Outreach, which sponsors projects and our church's benevolence in the local, national, and international communities, including the 5 for 5 offerings through the United Church of Christ

Stewardship, which administers a yearly campaign to assess and inspire giving of time, talent, and treasure

Christian Education, which oversees the Sunday School and Adult Education programs

Music Committee, which supervises all aspects of the Music Ministry

Remember the old but true saying, *Many hands make light work*. Plan to be a part of one of these boards or committees. Thank you for your consideration.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Are you interested in learning more about the United Church of Christ and becoming a member? Please let Pastor Heidi or the church office know if you would like to join our congregation in membership. We will be welcoming new members soon.



THANK YOU TO OUR CHURCH OFFICERS 2025

*Elected January 26, 2025 ** appointed by Official Board

Moderator: Greg Dickson **Vice-Moderator:** Jen Barry
Treasurer: Sally Herzog **Clerk:** Judy Gaumer
Sunday School Superintendent: Linda Elkins

Board of Trustees

Karen Bates** Bill Giuliano Chris Goff*
Mike Elkins Les Fox Herb Hampson Cathy Hawk*
Sandy Pogozeleski Cheryl Sobek*
Alex Tomoff* Mike Willis* Rachel Zielinski

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson* Dave Williams*

Diaconate

Teri Barbish Jean Bittinger* Elaine Coffey*
Bobbi Cook* Wayne Cook* Judy Davis*
Judy Fox Pam Heimburger* Lynne McCray*
Linda Ponstingle* Lora Rung* Cherie Teagno

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

Gina Cathcart* Bobbi Cook** Myron Costin*
Diana Creecy Cathy Hawk* Sarah Hayes
Lora Rung* Peter Smith Mary Willis*
Mary Ellen Zimmerman

IMPORTANT INFO—Do you know where the AED and First Aid Kit are located in the church? They are adjacent to the doorway in Pilgrim Hall, just to the right of the confirmation classroom.



BE A GREETER! A new sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area is waiting for your name to be added as a greeter. No experience is necessary—we will show you everything you need to know. Being a greeter is a wonderful way to get to know people and welcome them to worship!

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL--Wednesdays

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Many thanks to all of our dedicated volunteers and to all who come and enjoy food and fellowship on Wednesdays!



If the Strongsville City Schools are closed on a Wednesday because of inclement weather, the Free Lunch will not be served.

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 accepted during our Thursday sale hours, but please try to limit your donations to what you can carry downstairs yourself. **Please do not abandon items outside the church doors.**

Reminder: When the Strongsville City Schools are closed on a Thursday due to inclement weather, the Thrift Shop will not be open.

IT’S NOT TOO LATE 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*