



## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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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** "Greensleaves/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

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above, ye heav'ly 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

#### 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](http://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!**





## 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 Pogozelski   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*