



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, January 14, 2024- 10 A.M.

Second Sunday after Epiphany



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 "Breathe" Barnett

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Elaine Coffey

INTROIT "Jesus Stand Among Us" Whitworth

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In the silence of a lonely night, in the songs children sing in the morning, God calls to us.

People: We are here, God who is always with us, listening for your words of life and love.

Leader: When we think we can go it alone, when we think no good can be found anywhere, Jesus calls to us.

People: We are here, Friend who knows our longings, ready to come and see where you would lead us.

Leader: When we think we have license to do whatever we want, when we are convinced we need no map, your Spirit calls to us.

People: We are here, Spirit of Peace whom we are longing for, so that we might help others find the way to life and love.

HYMN 21 "O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18

(New Revised Standard Version)

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

you discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.

You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

For it was you who formed my inward parts;

You knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret,

intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

In your book were written all the days that were formed for me,

When none of them as yet existed.

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

I try to count them—they are more than the sand;

I come to the end—I am still with you.

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 "Angels Watchin' Over Me" Poorman

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Offerings" Elkins

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 John 1:43-51

(New Living Translation)

Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." "Nazareth! Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see for yourself," said Philip.

SERMON "See for yourself!"

HYMN "We Shall Overcome"

We shall overcome; We shall overcome; We shall overcome, some day Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, We shall overcome, some day.

We'll walk hand in hand; we'll walk hand in hand; We'll walk hand in hand, some day Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, We'll walk hand in hand, some day.

We shall live in peace; we shall live in peace We shall live in peace, some day Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, We shall live in peace, some day.

BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Lord, we thank you for your church, founded upon your Word, that challenges us to do more than sing and pray, but to go out and work as though the very answer to our prayers depended on us and not upon you. Help us to realize that humanity was created to shine like the stars and live on through all eternity. Keep us, we pray, in perfect peace. Help us to walk together, pray together, sing together, and live together until that day when all God's Children, Black, White, Red, Brown and Yellow will rejoice as one common band of humanity in the reign of our God, in whose name we pray. Amen.

RESPONSE/POSTLUDE "Lift Every Voice and Sing" Johnson

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.

A NOTE OF THANKS—We thank Sarah Keenen, our Chancel Choir, along with Tom Foley, Mike Elkins, and Sharon Heinrich for their music today.



SERVING

TODAY—JANUARY 14

NEXT SUNDAY—JANUARY 21

Table with 3 columns: Today's roles (Barbara Toth, Sandy O'Shea, Roz Fotos, Tom Foley, Mike Elkins, Sharon Heinrich, Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich, Chancel Choir), Servicing roles (Greeters, Liturgist, Ushers, Director of Music, Associate Director of Music, Organist, Video/Sound, Special Music), and Next Sunday's roles (Pam & Doug Hansen, Dan Winrod, Volunteers needed, Tom Foley, Mike Elkins, Sharon Heinrich, Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich, Chancel Choir).

The altar flowers are given— In loving memory of Carol L. Studer Jim, Kathy, & Jeff



A 2024 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 to Tony Craig on January 20th! With love, Grammy Happy Birthday to Tracy Seneff on January 19th! Happy Anniversary today to Judy & Roger Davis!



CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Are you interested in learning more about the United Church of Christ and becoming a member? Pastor Heidi will be leading class after worship on February 4th and 11th, and folks desiring to join this church family will be added during worship on February 25th. (Not baptized? Come for the classes, and on February 25th, you will be baptized and affirmed into Christ's family as well as added to OUR church family!)



FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL: PENNY SUNDAY--The next Penny Sunday will be January 28, 2024.



OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 3,617.01 Last Week's Offering Received \$ 4,660.50 Difference +\$ 1,043.49

Thank you very much for your support. PLEDGE CARDS RECEIVED TO DATE: 50



CHURCH CHRISTMAS MAIL BOX—LAST CHANCE!

Please remember to check the box for greetings you have received. The church office cannot mail your personal Christmas cards. Abandoned cards will be discarded this week. Thank you.



IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Sandy O'Shea, Doug Thorn, Schyler, Leo, and Devin Thorn, on the death of Sandy's dad, Thomas O'Shea in Florida on January 4, 2024.



Our love and prayers go out to Judi Pavisich and family on the death of George Pavisich. George and Judi were married for 33 years. George, a navy veteran, died on January 5, 2024 at the age of 90. Burial with military honors was at Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman, Ohio.

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Joan Beckwith, Laurie Meister, Ruth Milidonis, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Maggie Struhar



Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Jennifer Cockrell, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sue Hawk, Irene Jannsohn, Kay Konicek, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Jim Maresco, Reggie McCray, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkfitz, Gary Paul, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Peter Smith, Sharon Wilson, Dave Williams, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Edward and Sharon Acton (Sally Herzog's friends), Dorene Baldrige, Ron & Yvonne Adams (Judi Pavisich's friends), Chris Anderson (Linda & Mike Elkins' son-in-law), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Angie Colosimo (Judi Pavisich's friend), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Joanne Garipey (Sally Herzog's friend), Kathy Ghetti (friend of Ginger Rothel), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), 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), Sylvia Pakish (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Jeff Peacock (former member), Zora Roundtree (FL4A volunteer), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Vicki Smith (Venner Clarinets), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Tom (friend of Judi Pavisich), Don Wills (friend of Judi Pavisich), The people of Ukraine, Gaza, and Israel, victims of violence, those affected by natural disasters

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



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: 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.



ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place Sunday, **January 28, 2024**, and will be preceded by the traditional Pancake Brunch. All are encouraged to attend this meeting.

MISSION OUTREACH is collecting cans of soup now through Super Bowl Sunday (February 11th) 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.



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. **Thanks, as always, to our dedicated volunteers!**

ANNUAL ALL FAMILY WINTER RETREAT

February 16-18, 2024

Templed Hills Camp in Bellville, Ohio



The Church's Annual All-Family Winter Retreat will take place on President's Day weekend 2024. As you may already know, Templed Hills is being sold and this will be our last Retreat at that location—Let's make it the best ever! The sign-up sheet to attend and the sign-up sheet for things to bring and to volunteer are posted on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Please reserve your spot and room now, as rooms will be first-come, first-served. Space is limited to 12 families for overnight. 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 **TODAY**, and the cost is \$20. Please contact Irene Joyce or Rachel Zielinski if you have any questions.

Here is the cost:

ADULTS (12 and up): \$75

CHILDREN (6-11): \$20 CHILDREN (5 and under): FREE

Important dates to remember:

TODAY: Reservations close; **MONEY DUE**

FEBRUARY 4, 2024: Retreat planning meeting in the church after the worship service



BOOK STUDY--A YEAR OF BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD

Continuing on **January 15th**, Pastor Heidi and Linda Elkins are leading a monthly book study based on Rachel Held Evans's wonderful book, *A Year of Biblical Womanhood*. The group will meet on the **third Monday of each month at 7 p.m.**, for one hour. It's not too late to join us!

DO MORE IN 2024! New sign-up sheets in the Gathering Area are waiting for your name to be added as a greeter or 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.



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.

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL-- Wednesdays

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

Thank you to all our faithful volunteers!



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* 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*



The Strongsville Food Bank is searching for a coordinator for the Food Bank. They are looking for a community-focused, compassionate, and detail-oriented individual who will oversee all aspects of the Strongsville Food Bank, guaranteeing smooth operations.

- Average weekly work hours: 30 hours, some weekends and evenings;

Compensation: \$30-\$35k

Qualifications for this job include: a strong desire to help others, ability to effectively communicate with community members as well as volunteers, organizational skills and Word/Excel knowledge for record keeping. If you are interested or want more information about this position, please ask for a complete job description or send a resume and cover letter to strongsvillefoodbank@gmail.com



PANERA PALS

Are you able to give less than an hour of your time on a Monday or Friday morning to pick up and/or sort Panera bread, bagels, and pastries? Please contact the church office if you can help with this worthwhile ministry.

2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN --M.A.P.L E.

- M- Making and moving**
- A- Accepting and Acknowledging**
- P- People**
- L- Learning and Loving**
- E- Encompassing**



**Strongsville United Church of Christ
2024 Estimate of Giving**

In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2024:

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 ____/____/____