



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

Sunday, January 15, 2023 – 10 A.M.



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 "Nearer My God to Thee" arr. Albrecht

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Elaine Coffey

INTROIT "Lift Every Voice and Sing" Johnson

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God's voice speaks to our chaos, echoing in our empty hearts.

People: Gathering us together to remember our baptism and to worship the Lord.

Leader: God's voice flows like the living waters of grace,

People: Our new name, 'Beloved,' echoes in our souls.

Leader: God's voice stirs the waters of baptismal hope,

People: Calling us to be bearers of peace to a world of broken hearts and broken hopes.

† HYMN 11 "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

A READING FROM THE PROPHETS Isaiah 42:5-9
(New Revised Standard Version)

Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.

See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SHARING OF 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 "Be Not Afraid" Courtney

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "The Gift of Love" arr. Mehalko/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 Matthew 3:13-17
(The Message)

The moment Jesus came up out of the baptismal waters, the skies opened up
and he saw God's Spirit—it looked like a dove—descending and landing on him.
And along with the Spirit, a voice:

"This is my Son, chosen and marked by my love, delight of my life."

SERMON "Beloved? Believe it."

† 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 all be free. We shall all be free.

We shall all be free, some-day!

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we shall all be free 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

May the waters of God's grace surround you and uphold you. May you remember your baptism and be strengthened for the work that lies ahead. And may the Spirit that descended upon Jesus at his baptism fall upon your shoulders, reminding you that you are God's Beloved, with whom God is well-pleased, as you seek to do God's will. Amen.

† RESPONSE "Father, Give Thy Benediction" Moore

† POSTLUDE "Put Your Hand in the Hand" MacLellan

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—

Today, we thank the **Chancel Choir, Ken Mehalko, Tom Foley, Sharon Heinrich, and Mike Elkins** for sharing their music with us today.

SERVING

TODAY—JANUARY 15 NEXT SUNDAY—JANUARY 22

Allen & Michele Mhlack	Greeters	Allen & Michele Mhlack
Tom Gaumer	Liturgist	Judi Pavisich
Linda Ponstingle	Ushers	Volunteers needed
Chris Abruzzino/Riley Marshall	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, Ken Mehalko	Special Music	Richard Densmore, Bell Choir

The altar flowers are given—

*Happy Birthday to mom Rachel tomorrow! In loving memory of
Papa on his birthday, January 19th.*

Penny & Oliver Zielinski



Our steeple will light the sky this week—

*Congratulations to new parents Chelsey and Jeremy Cox on
the birth of my grandson, Theo*

With love, Gina Cathcart

Happy Birthday to Tony Craig on January 20th

With love, Grammy

**FRESH FLOWERS ARE BACK! Please sign up for 2023 altar
flowers on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall.**

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed	\$3,649.37
Last Week's Offering Received	\$4,063.00
Difference	+\$ 413.63

Thank you very much for your support.

Pledge cards received to date: 62



BABY BLESSINGS

Congratulations to **Devan** and **Danielle Maringer**
and on the birth of their daughter, **Quinn Juliette**, on
December 19, 2022. Proud grandparents are **Dianne**
and **John Maringer**.



Congratulations also to **Jeremy** and **Chelsey (Cathcart) Cox**, who gave
birth to a baby boy, **Theo Christopher**, on December
31, 2022. Proud grandparents are **Gina** and **Chris**
Cathcart and proud great-grandparents are **Bill** and
Dorothy Ritchie!



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS



- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **January 17th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **January 24th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS MAIL BOX—LAST CHANCE!

Please remember to check the box for greetings you have received. Cards left after today will be discarded. Thanks!



PENNY SUNDAY

Save those pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and yes, DOLLARS or checks to SUCC for our next Penny Sunday collection, **January 29, 2023!**



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, Lloyd Bridle, Mary Carey, Gina Cathcart, Jennifer Cockrell, Betty Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sam Cuyler, Sr., Sue Hawk, Charles Jannsohn, Bruce Keenen, Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Len Lane, Judy Maur, Reggie McCray, Laurie Meister, Roy Merkle, Michele Mhlack, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkitz, Gary Paul, Sandy Pogozeleski, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, Tracy Seneff, Peter Smith, Maggie Struhar, Sharon Wilson, Dave Williams, Janis Williamson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Rachel Zielinski, Mary Ellen Zimmerman



Extended Church Family: Dorene Baldridge, 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), Tiffany Hassel (Judi Pavisich's daughter-in-law), 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 and Chuck'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 (Chelsea Cathcart'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

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place Sunday, **January 29, 2023**, and will be preceded by the traditional Pancake Brunch. All are encouraged to attend this meeting.



An electronic copy of the Annual Report and the proposed Church Constitution will be sent to our members and friends. A limited number of paper copies will be available at the Annual Meeting.

FINANCIAL OFFICERS OF CHURCH GROUPS:

AUDITS ARE UNDERWAY!

It is extremely important that all books be audited before the Annual Meeting on January 29, 2023. **THANKS!**

ANNUAL ALL FAMILY WINTER RETREAT

February 17-19, 2023 Tempel Hills Camp in Bellville, Ohio

We still have room for folks who would like to spend the day on Saturday, February 18, 2022. Please contact the Irene Joyce if you would like to join us for fun, food, and fellowship. (Cost is \$10 per person, per meal)
PLANNING MEETING 2/12 after worship



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.

Many offices in the church will be available for the coming year. Please consider saying **YES** when a member of the Nominating Committee asks you to serve. Some of the positions that are available include:

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, Ushers, and Church Family Care Team.

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.

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.



NEWS ABOUT OUR ROYALTON ROAD PROPERTY:



On Christmas weekend, a pipe burst at the house next door to the church lot on Royalton Road due to the extreme temperatures. Our tenant was not at home, but he returned to water pouring in and extensive damage. The Trustees were immediately made aware of the situation and they sprang into action. Our insurance company was notified and the Trustees hired Paul Davis Restoration Company to remediate the damage. We are working with our tenant and making things right. Thank you to all the members of the Board of Trustees and to Ed Sobek for taking the lead on this project.



MISSION OUTREACH BREAKING NEWS:

Our church is going to be working in partnership with St. Joseph Strongsville Welcome Circle for Ukraine We are excited to announce that a group of us (St Joseph church and Strongsville UCC) are

coming together to help a Ukrainian family escape danger and uncertainty due to the ongoing war. We are committed to providing support and guidance during the 2-year Uniting for Ukraine program by helping this young family adjust to life in Northeast Ohio and guiding them towards self-sufficiency. If you would like to help us respond to this extraordinary humanitarian need or learn more, please contact **Sarah Hayes** as mission outreach coordinator with this project. We have a list of household items that are needed as well as opportunities to donate money. The family is humbled and very grateful for this opportunity and we are grateful to everyone for their support and prayers.

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.

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:

"Greetings from The Church-Budget Envelope

and Mailing Company,

Some of you may be aware of delays in the offering envelope mailings over the past couple months. Due to supply chain and the inability to add employees at the rate necessary has created a slow draw on production and shipping. Recently, both of those issues have been resolved. However the "catch-up" would jeopardize long term delivery. In order to get back to expected levels of timely deliveries, we are forced to suspend the production of the remaining supply of your January envelopes. The offering envelopes will resume and be delivered by the first Sunday in March. Quarterly supply will restart in April. Never in our company's history have we had to skip scheduled mailings and we are doing all we can to make sure this never happens again. We deeply apologize for this necessary course of action and the inconveniences this has caused you and your church family.

We appreciate your understanding. The Church – Budget Envelope and Mailing Company Management Team"

Please know that you may use any envelope to give your offering—we still need your donations to maintain our ministries! Mike is looking into obtaining loose envelopes to tide us over until March. Please check with him for updates.

NEW CAMCORDER--Doug Thorn researched and procured a new camcorder to record our worship services. The Memorial Fund will finance the purchase, in memory of Chuck McDougall. Thanks, Doug!

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SERVED AS
CHURCH OFFICERS IN 2022

*Elected January 30, 2022 * = 1 year term
**appointed by the Official Board*

Moderator: Greg Dickson **Vice-Moderator:** Jen Barry
Treasurer: Sally Herzog **Clerk:** Judy Gaumer

Sunday School Co-Superintendents
Linda Elkins Serena Abruzzino

Board of Trustees
Myron Costin Diana Creecy Bill Giuliano*
Herb Hampson Dale Hawk Sarah Hayes
Sandy Pogozeleski* Dave Sekorky Ed Sobek*
Rachel Zielinski

Endowment Fund Subcommittee
Greg Dickson Linda Stepan Joyce Reed*

Diaconate
Teri Barbish Barbara Camp* Elaine Coffey
Cathy Hawk* Linda Kapcar Bobbie Krisak
Sharon Maresco Linda Ponstingle Cheryl Sobek* 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* Rob Stepan
ex officio: Sharon Heinrich Tom Foley Mike Elkins

Stewardship Committee
Sue Gigliotti* Beth Giuliano* Judi Pavisich
Bill Schneider** Richard Taylor Rob Toth

Mission and Outreach Committee
Judy Carte* Sarah Hayes Bobbie Krisak Lora Rung*
Jennifer Sekorky Peter Smith ** Bev Wehr*

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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.**



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DON'T FORGET!



Attention online shoppers: Why not benefit the church while you make your purchases from Amazon? It's incredibly easy! Here's what you do:

1. Instead of typing amazon.com into your search bar, type in **smile.amazon.com**.
2. Select United Church of Christ

Congregational Strongsville by clicking this link:
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-1298100>

3. Shop as you would normally—that's it!

Your addresses, billing information, and shopping cart are still saved and your Prime membership privileges still apply. A small percentage of your purchase price will go toward supporting the church.