



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, January 16, 2022 – 10:00 A.M.

WELCOME!

For the safety and protection of your church family, please continue to wear a mask before, during, and after worship. Thank you.

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

BELL PRELUDE "Joy!" Kinyon

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Sally Herzog

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.

BELL INTROIT "As the Deer" Nystrom, arr. Bettcher

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come this day, Precious God, as people in need of your steadfast love.

People: From you pours forth the fountain of life; in your Light, we reflect your Love.

Leader: We gather this day, Unchanging God, as people looking for signs of Hope.

People: From you pours forth the fountain of grace; in your Hope is our hope.

Leader: We worship this day, Gifting God, as people who choose to follow your Way.

People: From you pours forth a fountain of joy; in your presence, we celebrate life.

† HYMN 63 "All Creatures of our God and King" (verses 1, 2, 5)
(If you wish to sing with us, please have your mask in place.)

A READING FROM THE PSALMS **Psalm 36: 5-9**
(New International Version)

Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the skies.

Your righteousness is like the highest mountains,
your justice like the great deep.

You, Lord, preserve both people and animals.

How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!

People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

They feast on the abundance of your house;
you give them drink from your river of delights.

For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

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.

BELL ANTHEM "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" arr. Behnke

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Name That Beast!
"Charley," "Jolly," "Joy," "Lyric," "Mistletoe," "Myrrh," "Sheep"

OFFERING

Thank you for your continuing commitment to giving freely of your talents and your treasure, as you are able, in service to Christ in the world. Thank you. To give online, please go to:

<https://www.myoffering.com/eonline/index.php/dashboard/login/5027>

OFFERTORY "Deep River" African-American 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 EPISTLES **1 Corinthians 12:4-11**

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.

There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

SERMON "Better than Christmas?"

† HYMN 589 "Here I Am, Lord"
(If you wish to sing with us, please have your mask in place.)

† BLESSING *from Howard Thurman*

When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone, When the kings and princes are home, When the shepherds are back with their flock, The work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, To heal the broken, To feed the hungry, To release the prisoner, To rebuild the nations, To bring peace among others, To make music in the heart. Go in the peace of the Lord. Amen.

† POSTLUDE "Lift Every Voice and Sing" Traditional

SERVING

TODAY – JANUARY 16		NEXT SUNDAY – JANUARY 23
Mark & Barb Camp	Greeters	Judi Pavisich
Herb Hampson	Liturgist	Rick Teagno
Volunteers needed	Ushers	Judi Pavisich
Tom Foley	Director of Music	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	Associate Director of Music	Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	Supplemental Organist	Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich	Sound	Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Bell Choir	Special Music	Chancel Choir/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, select **Worship**, and click on **Service Videos**.

The altar flowers are given—

Celebrating Abby's 49th Birthday!

Mark & Barb Camp

Happy Birthday to Rachel!

The Zielinski Family



Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthday to Tony Craig on January 20th!

Love, Grammy

Happy Birthday today to Rachel Zielinski, Kyle Woodward, and Megan Dickson!

WE NEED YOU IN 2022!



Sign-up sheets are waiting for **your name** to be added as a communion server, greeter, usher, coffee hour helper, or bread/pastry sorter. Don't know how to do any of those things? No worries—we will show you everything you need to know! No experience is needed and everyone is welcome to be a part of our church life.

If you like to cook . . . or bake . . . or reach out to others in love . . . as winter and circumstances continue to make it hard to stay connected, your Diaconate Committee is organizing a **Pastoral Care Ministry Team** and would LOVE to have you take part! (You do not need to be a member of the Diaconate to participate, and you may come and go as you are led.) Watch for more details to come!

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2022
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
LIMITED RESERVATIONS--Call (440) 238-5389 (To-go meals will be available.)



What a lovely surprise we received to start the New Year! The **Deaconess Foundation** has awarded our Free Lunch for All program a grant for \$5000 to continue this ministry that offers so much to our community, and we are so very grateful for the support. Thank you to all our volunteers who help make the Free Lunch possible. We cannot do it without you! —Pastor Heidi

In Christian Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy is extended to **Myron Costin, Jen Barry,** and family on the death of Myron's father, **David Deering,** on January 4, 2022 after a long illness. He was 69 years old.

PENNY SUNDAY NEXT WEEK!

Save those pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and yes, DOLLARS for our next Penny Sunday collection, January 23rd! All money collected will go to our own Sunday School for special programs.



Special Thanks to our Bell Choir (**Elaine Coffey, Linda Elkins, Linda Ponstingle, Barbara Toth, Sharon Heinrich, Ingrid Dickson, Sarah Toth, Irene Joyce,** special ringer **Nicki Haire, Mary Densmore, and Rob Toth**), **Tom Foley, Mike Elkins,** and **Sharon Heinrich** for their musical contributions to our worship today!

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Janet Kato, Ruth Milidonis, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields



Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Joan Beckwith, Eddy Bond, Mary Carey, Elaine Coffey, Kathy Cockrell, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sam Cuyler, Sr., Linda Elliott, Tom Foley, Ramona Glaze, Sue Hawk, Bob Heddleson, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, George Kapcar, Tony Koussa, Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Vicky Masuga, Judy Maur, Reggie McCray, Heidi & Chuck McDougall, Laurie Meister, Roy Merkle, Michele Mihlack, Lola Millhoane, Gary Paul, Judi Pavisich, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, Peter Smith, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Sharon Wilson, Sally Vetovitz, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Mary Ellen & Bob Zimmerman

Extended Church Family: Dorene Baldrige, Fred Beba (Theresa's husband), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Jerry Cergol, (Barb Fraunfelder & Dennis Smith's friend), Hunter Colao (Barb & Mark Camp's grandson), Ron Colosimo (Judi Pavisich's friend), Lou Conté (Diana Creecy's partner), Mary Ann Csory (Judi Pavisich's friend), John Dickson (Greg's dad), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Marty Hassel (Judi Pavisich's friend), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Diane Mason (Lora Rung'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), Terry Robson (Barb & Mark Camp's friend), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Sandra Wentz (Debbie's daughter-in-law)

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

ANNUAL REPORTS

Chairs of church organizations: Annual reports are due in the church office as soon as possible. Please be kind and email your reports right away. Thank you!!! Once completed, Annual Reports will be available for pickup prior to the Annual Meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place Sunday, **January 30, 2022**, and will be preceded by the traditional Pancake Brunch. All are encouraged to attend this meeting.

FINANCIAL OFFICERS OF CHURCH GROUPS:

Please turn in your financial statements to the Auditing Committee through the church office ASAP.

It is extremely important that all books be audited before the Annual Meeting on January 30, 2022. All organizations are required to submit:

1. ALL bank books (savings and/or checking).
2. ALL bank statements for each month for each account. Checking accounts statements should show completed reconciliation on the back.
3. ALL monthly recap forms.
4. ALL bank deposit slips, withdrawal slips and bank check receipts (if received), attached to monthly recap forms.
5. ALL receipts and bills paid.
6. Copy of Annual Financial Report (original provided to church office for Annual Report).

IT'S TIME TO SIGN UP!

SPONSORSHIP OF CAROLINE IN INDIA

Our church sponsors a child in India through the United Church of Christ. If you would like to sponsor Caroline for a month in 2022, please sign up on the list in Pilgrim Hall. Cost is \$30 and the check should be made payable to Strongsville UCC with "Child Sponsorship" in the memo line. Thanks!

SIGN UP NOW!

CHURCH CHRISTMAS MAIL BOX—LAST DAY TODAY!



Please remember to check the box for greetings you received. The Church Mail Boxes will be up through today so that our church friends may gather their cards from their church family.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,649.37
Last Week's Offering Received \$6,779.70
Difference \$3,130.33



Thank you very much for your support.

PLEDGE CARDS RECEIVED TO DATE: 59

THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is OPEN on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. with lots of interesting merchandise. Donations are being accepted, but you must call the church first to arrange a time for drop-off.

THRIFT SHOP BONUS HOURS

The 3rd Thursday of the month,
January 20, 2022 — 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(We're still open on Thursdays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **January 18th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **January 25th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



UCC DISASTER RELIEF--TORNADOES



In response to the recent devastating storms that have decimated parts of the country (especially Kentucky), the United Church of Christ is accepting donations to aid the victims of severe weather. To contribute, please go to

<https://www.ucc.org/appeal-severe-storms-2021/> and follow the prompts. You also mail a check made payable to the **United Church of Christ PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194**. Please be sure to note "2021 Severe Storms" on your check in the memo section.

GIFT CARDS

AN EASY WAY TO BENEFIT 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.**

Thank you to those who continue to support this project by purchasing gift cards!

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.

PAYMENT IS DUE TODAY FOR THE ANNUAL ALL-FAMILY WINTER RETREAT

February 18 - 20, 2022--Templed Hills Camp in Bellville, Ohio

Here is the cost:

ADULTS (12 and up): \$75
CHILDREN (6-11): \$20
CHILDREN (5 and under): FREE

FEBRUARY 6, 2022: Retreat planning meeting in the church after the worship service.



Are you shopping online? If so, 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](https://www.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. Strongsville UCC has received \$433.77 from Amazon to date.

