



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, January 19, 2025– 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 "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" arr. Raney

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Elaine Coffey

INTROIT "We Have Come to Worship the Lord" Yannerella

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In these endless days, Precious God, we come as your people, drawn by the constancy of your love:

People: May we drink deeply from your fountain of life; may we continue to be guided by your Light.

Leader: In these weary days, Water-changing God, we gather as your people, looking for signs of hope and wonder:

People: May we drink deeply from your fountain of grace; may our weariness be wrapped in your Hope.

Leader: In these overwhelming days, Gifting God, we come as your children, seeking to point others to Jesus:

People: May we drink deeply from your fountain of joy; may our life be strengthened by your Life.

† HYMN 405 "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 36:5-10 (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.

Continue your love to those who know you,

Your righteousness to the upright in heart.

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 "Be Present, Spirit of the Lord" Dudley-Smith/Beall

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Be Thou My Vision" 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 John 2:1-11 (The Message)

Three days later there was a wedding in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there. Jesus and his disciples were guests also. When they started running low on wine at the wedding banquet, Jesus' mother told him, "They're just about out of wine."

SERMON "No wine? No happiness!"

† HYMN 355 "There's A Wideness in God's Mercy"

† BENEDICTION Katie Cook

Go now from this place, remembering that the God who calls us to mission also calls us to feasting and dancing. Let us remember that there are holy days described in the Jewish texts, in which there is to be no fasting, but eating, drinking, and sharing of miracles. May the one who turned water into wine turn our tedium into festival and show us how to alternate between commitment and carnival. May God's will be done here where we live; may impossible things come to pass. May we find strength in the journey and joy in the struggle, through the grace of God. Amen

† POSTLUDE "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" Ellor

SERVING

TODAY – JANUARY 19 NEXT SUNDAY – JANUARY 26

Greta Rich & Doug Turnbull Greeters Volunteer needed

Pam Keenen Liturgist Mike Willis

Volunteers needed Ushers Volunteers needed

Tom Foley Director of Music Tom Foley

Mike Elkins Associate Director of Music Mike Elkins

Sharon Heinrich Organist Sharon Heinrich

Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich Video/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.



A NOTE OF THANKS—

We thank the Chancel Choir, along with Tom Foley, Mike Elkins, and Sharon Heinrich for today's music.

The altar flowers are given—

In loving memory of Carol L. Studer—Jim, Kathy, and 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 20<sup>th</sup>!

With love, Grammy

Happy Birthday today to Tracy Seneff!

ANNUAL ALL FAMILY WINTER RETREAT

February 14-16, 2024 Inspiration Hills Camp in Burbank, Ohio



The Church's Annual All-Family Winter Retreat will take place on President's Day weekend 2025. This year, we

are at a new location and things will be a little different. The sign-up sheet for things to bring and to volunteer is posted on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Also, please let us know if you have any special dietary needs. We still have room for a few more folks on Saturday. Finally, those that wish to come down on Saturday only—we would be happy to have you there, but we also need your reservation right away and the cost is \$12 per meal. Please contact Irene Joyce or Rachel Zielinski with questions.

Here is the cost:

Meals are \$12 per person, per meal--MONEY DUE IS DUE ASAP! IMPORTANT DATE TO REMEMBER: FEBRUARY 2, 2025: Retreat planning meeting in the church after the worship service

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP



Are you interested in joining our congregation? Pastor Heidi will be offering a membership class in the near future. Please contact her or the church office if you would like to become a member of the Strongsville UCC.

FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL:

PENNY SUNDAY IS NEXT WEEK: The next Penny Sunday will be on January 26, 2025 and will go to our Free Lunch for All Program.



UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor.

ANNUAL MEETING--The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place next Sunday, January 26, 2025, and will be preceded by the traditional Pancake Brunch. All are encouraged to attend this meeting. Annual Reports are available for pickup in the Gathering Area.



## OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

**Long-Term Care or Homebound:** Irene Jannsohn, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Maggie Struhar

**Church Family:** Serena Abruzzino, Judy Carte, Sam Cuyler Jr., Joe Hattery, Martha Hattery, Sue Hawk, Kay Konicek, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Jim Maresco, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Ginny & Kenn Oerkfitz, Judi Pavisich, Bob Pogozelski, George & Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Ron Rothel, Jennifer Sekorky, Tracy Seneff, Peter Smith, Gayle Sperber, Linda Stepan, Richard Sullen, Doug Thorn, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch



**Extended Church Family:** Yvonne Adams (Judi Pavisich's friend), Linda Allwood (Dale Hawk's sister) Dorene Baldrige, Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), John Dickson (Greg's dad), Allison Emerson (Colette's sister), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Joanne Gariepy (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), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel's parents), 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), 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), The people of Ukraine, Sudan, 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](mailto:h.e.denman@gmail.com)

### OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 4,359.00  
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 4,737.90  
Difference +\$ 378.90

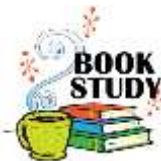
Thank you very much for your support.

PLEDGES RECEIVED: 61



### BOOK STUDY—A NEW CHAPTER!

Tomorrow, January 20<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Heidi and Linda Elkins will begin a study of a book called *Sisterhood*. The Book Study group will continue to meet on the **third Monday of each month at 7 p.m.**



### MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:

**MISSION OUTREACH** is collecting cans of soup now through Super Bowl Sunday (February 9<sup>th</sup>) 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.

**On Sunday February 9<sup>th</sup>, Mission Outreach will host a "Souper Bowl" celebration. After the service, join us in Pilgrim Hall for a light snack of homemade soup. We want to bring people together to celebrate our soup drive!**

**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.



## 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 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 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 OFFICERS IN 2024

\*Elected January 28, 2024 \*\*Appointed by the Official Board

**Moderator:** Greg Dickson\* **Vice-Moderator:** Jen Barry\*

**Treasurer:** Sally Herzog\* **Clerk:** Judy Gaumer\*

#### Sunday School Co-Superintendents

Linda Elkins Mary Densmore

#### Board of Trustees

Bill Giuliano\* Chris Goff Mike Elkins\* Les Fox\*  
Herb Hampson\* Cathy Hawk Sarah Hayes\* Sandy Pogozelski\*  
Cheryl Sobek Dan Winrod Laura Winrod Rachel Zielinski\*

#### Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson\* Dave Williams\*

#### Diaconate

Teri Barbish\* Jean Bittinger Elaine Coffey\* Bobbi Cook Wayne Cook  
Judy Davis Judy Fox\* Carole Kapcar Cherie Teagno\*  
Barbara White Mary Ellen Zimmerman

#### Christian Education Committee

Serena Abruzzino Mary Densmore Linda Elkins\*  
Colette Emerson\* 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

Sue Gigliotti\* Judi Pavisich Bill Schneider Rob Toth\* Mary Willis

#### Mission and Outreach Committee

Diana Creecy\* Sarah Hayes\* Lora Rung  
Jennifer Sekorky\* Peter Smith Bev Wehr\* Mary Ellen Zimmerman

**WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S**  
ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

Strongsville Community Band  
A Division of Memorial Exchange

# Melodies for Memories

A Concert Supporting Families Affected by Alzheimer's and Other Dementias

**Sunday, January 19th**  
**Strongsville Middle School**

2 PM | Health Fair & Doors Open  
3 PM | Concert Begins  
4 PM | Health Fair  
5 PM | End of Event

Join us for a festive musical afternoon as we partner with local organizations to bring you more than just great music! Before and after the concert, we're teaming up with community partners to connect you with valuable resources and support for Alzheimer's and dementia. Together, let's raise awareness, enjoy incredible music, and strengthen our community.

### CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES HELP

If you are looking for ways to support our UCC brothers and sisters affected by the fires in Southern California, please consider making a donation to the United Church of Christ Global HOPE Fund. You can find more information here: [support.ucc.org/global-HOPE](http://support.ucc.org/global-HOPE).



**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!

To the Congregation:

Thank you for the many cards and messages of the past few weeks. Thank you to those "behind the scenes" workers who did so much to make Tom's memorial service and luncheon so special. We appreciate you all.--**The Gaumer Family**



### 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. **Please do not abandon items outside the church doors.**

### FREE LUNCH FOR ALL--Wednesdays 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

A reminder: Donations are welcomed to support the increasing costs of this valuable program. **Thank you to all of our faithful volunteers!**



**PAPER RECYCLING!**

Our paper recycling bin is serviced by Royal Oak Recycling. Please continue to deposit your FLATTENED cardboard and your papers in the bin. However, **please do no place papers/cardboard outside the bin if it's full.** Thanks!



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