



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

**Sunday, January 2, 2022 – 10:00 A.M.**  
**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

## 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.

**PRELUDE** "Greensleeves" with "Coventry Carol" Eng. Melody, arr. Raney

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Elaine Coffey  
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.

**INTROIT** "Rise Up Shepherd and Follow" Folk Carol

## † CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: However far we have wandered from God:

**People: God comes to find us, and to gather us in generous love.**

Leader: However broken we have become:

**People: God comes to heal us, and make us whole in hope.**

Leader: However empty our spirits may be:

**People: God comes to feed us, until we are filled to the brim with grace.**

† HYMN 275 "Sing We Now of Christmas"  
(If you wish to sing with us, please have your mask in place.)

**A READING FROM THE PSALMS** Psalm 8  
(New International Version)

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory in the heavens.

Through the praise of children and infants  
you have established a stronghold against your enemies,  
to silence the foe and the avenger.

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,  
what is mankind that you are mindful of them,  
human beings that you care for them?

You have made them a little lower than the angels  
and crowned them with glory and honor.

You made them rulers over the works of your hands;  
you put everything under their feet:

all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, the birds in the sky,  
and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

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

**People:** Thanks be to God.

## PRAYING IN SILENCE

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy, **ALL: Hear our prayers. Amen.**

**ANTHEM** "Amazing Grace" Traditional  
Roger Davis, Guitar and Jennifer Sekorky, flute

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### 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.myeoffering.com/eonline/index.php/dashboard/login/5027>

**OFFERTORY** "Away in a Manger" Murray

† 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** Luke 2: 15-21  
(New International Version)

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

**SERMON** "I Can't Hear You!"

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Our words, our actions, our silence may make it seem that we are on that path which only hurts others and harms us. But God has destined us for healing, for hope, and for joy. Let us pray to the One who loves us beyond our wildest imaginations. Please join me as we pray together:

### UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

In the winter of our lives, Tender God, our passion for following Jesus wilts in the chill of indifference. We could walk in the light; instead, we tiptoe through the shadows of missed opportunities. We could look for your glory in others; instead, we gaze in the mirror of selfishness, seeing only our own desires, staring back at us. We could gather the broken and hurting, holding them closer in love; instead, we keep them at a distance. Forgive us, Redeeming Grace. Jesus was bringing life and hope to all people. With grace and truth, he calls us to follow. Filling us with peace, he gathers us up and brings us home to you, serving as our Brother, our Savior, our Friend.  
(silent prayer)

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Grace upon grace; mercy upon mercy; hope upon hope: these are the gifts God pours out on us in this moment, and all the moments of our lives to come.

**Thanks be to God! We are filled to overflowing with God's tender love and peace. We are forgiven! Amen.**

### A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING

### RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP (TO GO)

**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.

† HYMN 258 "Go Tell it on the Mountain"  
(If you wish to sing with us, please have your mask in place.)

### † BENEDICTION

Now may the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Know that wherever you are, God is with you. **Amen.**

† POSTLUDE "Noël" Daquin

## SERVING

TODAY – JANUARY 2	NEXT SUNDAY – JANUARY 9	
Ingrid & Greg Dickson	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Volunteer needed</b>
Linda Ponstingle	<b>Liturgist</b>	Pam Keenen
Volunteers needed	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Volunteers needed</b>
Tom Foley	<b>Director of Music</b>	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	<b>Associate Director of Music</b>	Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	<b>Supplemental Organist</b>	Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich	<b>Sound</b>	Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Roger Davis/Jen Sekorky	<b>Special Music</b>	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**.

Our steeple will light the sky this week—  
Happy Birthday today to our "Little K," Kristen Burgess  
Love, Ingrid Dickson & Irene Joyce  
\* \* \* \* \*

Happy Birthday today to Pam Polansky, Kristen Burgess, and Addison Dragon!

Happy Anniversary today to Richard & Rena Haluska!



Church member **Margaret (Marge) McKinney** passed away on December 23, 2021 after a long illness. Our deepest sympathy to her daughter, **Karen McKinney**, and her grandson, **Manny DeHerrera**.

Our sympathy to **Kristen Burgess** and her family on the death of her uncle, **Jimmy Walkem**, who had been on our prayer list for a few weeks. He passed away on December 25, 2021 after a difficult battle with cancer.

Our heartfelt condolences to **Marjorie Morrison, Darla Wickline**, and family on the death of Marjorie's dad, **Carrol Riley**, on December 28, 2021. Mr. Riley had been on our prayer list for a long time.

## 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.



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



## 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 Baldridge, Fred Beba (Theresa's husband), Jackie Berkheimer (Judi Pavisich's friend), 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 Conte (Judi Pavisich's friend), Mary Ann Csory (Judi Pavisich's friend), Deb Dickson (Greg's sister-in-law), 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), Carrol Riley (Marjorie Morrison'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](mailto:h.e.denman@gmail.com)**

## ANNUAL REPORTS

**Chairs of church organizations:** Annual reports are due in the church office the first week of January. Please be kind and email your reports on time. 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).

Thank you for your cooperation.

## CHURCH CHRISTMAS MAIL BOX

Please remember to check the box for greetings you received. The Church Mail Boxes will be up an extra week (through January 16<sup>th</sup>), so that our church friends may gather their greetings from their church family.



## OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,649.37  
Last Week's Offering Received \$2,290.97  
Difference (-\$1,358.40)

**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 **3<sup>rd</sup> 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 MEETINGS

- **Women's Fellowship** will meet **Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>** at 10 a.m. in Pilgrim Hall to view the movie "Three Godfathers." All are welcome!
- **The Board of Trustees** will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **January 11<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- **The Diaconate** will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **January 18<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- **The Official Board** will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **January 25<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



## SWINGIN' SUCCESS!

Thank you to everyone who made our **Swingin' Sounds of the Season** Jazz concert such a success, especially **Ken Mehalko** for arranging the Jazz Band to play for us (*gratis*), and **Pam & Bruce Keenen, Ingrid Dickson, Sarah Keenen, and Sharon Heinrich** for organizing the reception. Our music ministry program earned \$1,080.00.



## 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.

**Please Note: The Church Office will be closed on Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> & Tuesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>.**

We will be picking up the camel for our outdoor Nativity scene from Bronner's in Frankenmuth, Michigan. The 6' camel was purchased with Memorial Funds and special donations.



**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.

**SIGN UP NOW!**

## ANNUAL ALL FAMILY WINTER RETREAT

**February 18 - 20, 2022**

Templed Hills Camp in Bellville, Ohio

The Church's Annual All-Family Winter Retreat will take place on President's Day weekend 2022: The sign-up sheet to attend and the sign-up sheet for things to bring and to volunteer is posted on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Please reserve your spot and room now, as rooms will be first-come, first-served. The cut-off to sign up—January 9<sup>th</sup>—will be strictly enforced. Space is limited to 14 families. 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 January 9<sup>th</sup>, and the cost is \$10 per meal. 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:**

JANUARY 9, 2022: Reservations close; **MONEY DUE**

JANUARY 9, 2022: Special dietary needs reported

FEBRUARY 13, 2022: Retreat planning meeting in the church after the worship service.

