



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, January 21, 2024– 10 A.M.

Third 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 "The Spacious Firmament" F.J. Haydn

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

INTROIT "O Sing with Joyful Pleasure" J.M. Haydn

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Word of the Lord came:

People: Hope for all people cradled in his arms.

Leader: The Word of the Lord comes:

People: Calling us out of our comfort zones, up from our pews, to go where grace is needed most.

Leader: The Word of the Lord is coming:

People: Gathering all the outsiders and insiders into one community, the Kingdom of God.

† **HYMN 104** "O, Worship the King" (verses 1,2,5)

A READING FROM THE PSALMS **Psalm 62:5-12**
(New Living Translation)

Let all that I am wait quietly before God, for my hope is in him.

He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will not be shaken.

My victory and honor come from God alone.

He is my refuge, a rock where no enemy can reach me.

O my people, trust in him at all times.

Pour out your heart to him, for God is our refuge.

Common people are as worthless as a puff of wind,

and the powerful are not what they appear to be.

If you weigh them on the scales, together they are lighter than a breath of air.

Don't make your living by extortion or put your hope in stealing.

And if your wealth increases, don't make it the center of your life.

God has spoken plainly, and I have heard it many times:

Power, O God, belongs to you; unending love, O Lord, is yours.

Surely you repay all people according to what they have done.

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 "O, Give Thanks to God the Lord" J.M. Haydn

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Allegro Scherzando" F.J. Haydn

† **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 OLD TESTAMENT Jonah 3:1-10
(New International Version)

Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you."

SERMON "A Classic Fish Story"

† **HYMN 704** "It is Well with My Soul" (verses 1,3,4)

† **BENEDICTION**

In a world starved for god's Goodness and Grace, may you be bold and selfless in declaring the love of the one who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. By Grace you have been brought into the Family of God; may you now participate in the grace by bringing God's love to a hurting world in need. Go in peace. Amen.

† **RESPONSE/POSTLUDE** "Haydn Medley" F.J. Haydn

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 **Carol Foley**, our **Chancel Choir**, along with **Tom Foley** and **Sharon Heinrich** for their music this morning. A note about today's music: **Johann Michael Haydn** (September 14, 1737 – August 10, 1806) was an Austrian composer of the Classical period, the younger brother of Franz **Joseph Haydn** (March 31, 1732 – May 31, 1809). While Joseph Haydn achieved greater commercial success with chamber music and symphonies, Michael Haydn is recognized for his sacred music, particularly choral works. The music of the Haydns has endured for hundreds of years.

SERVING

TODAY – JANUARY 21		NEXT SUNDAY – JANUARY 28
Pam & Doug Hansen	Greeters	Susann Lerch
Dan Winrod	Liturgist	Tom Gaumer
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, Carol Foley	Special Music	Bell Choir

The altar flowers are given—

In loving memory of Bob Goff Jr. Miss you little brother. Chris Goff



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 Jack Hayes on January 23rd!

Happy Birthday to Linda Stepan on January 24th!

With love from your church family

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 \$ 4,239.00

Difference +\$ 621.99

Thank you very much for your support.

PLEDGE CARDS RECEIVED TO DATE: 50



PHOTO DIRECTORY UPDATE

Directories have arrived! Folks who were photographed receive a free copy. They are in the church mailbox. Extra directories may be purchased from the church office for \$10 each.



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. **On Sunday February 11th, 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 current mission, collecting soup for the Strongsville Community Food Bank.**

ANNUAL MEETING



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

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, Judy Carte, 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), John Dickson (Greg's dad), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Joanne Gariepy (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.

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 IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR SATURDAY RETREATERS!

February 17, 2024

Templed Hills Camp in Bellville, Ohio



Attention: those who wish to come down on Saturday only—we would be happy to have you there, but we also need your reservation and payment right away-- the cost is \$20. Please contact Irene Joyce or Rachel Zielinski if you have any questions.

Here is the cost:

\$20 for Saturday day-trippers

Important date to remember:

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



BOOK STUDY--A YEAR OF BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD

Continuing on **February 19th**, 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!



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

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*

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 ____/____/____

