



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor
Sunday, January 22, 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.

BELL PRELUDE "Just As I Am" Bradbury, arr. Behnke

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Sally Herzog

BELL INTROIT "It is Well with My Soul" Bliss, arr. Behnke

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Loving God, your heart is the shelter for our weary souls.

People: You hold us tight in your embrace. You refuse to abandon us.

Leader: When the world tries to tear us apart, you pick up the pieces, making us whole.

People: When we wonder what the day might bring, you whisper, "Follow me, and I will make you readers to little children, bandagers of bruised hearts, lovers of the forsaken, pilgrims who show others the way."

† HYMN 221 "All Praise to Our Redeeming Lord"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 27:1, 4-5
(New international Version)

The Lord is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid?
One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.
For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.

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 the Father" Witt, arr. Page

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Voluntary" Taylor

† 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 4:12-23
(New International Version)

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him.

SERMON "Come. Follow me."

† HYMN 428 "In Christ There Is No East or West"

† BENEDICTION Rev. Elizabeth Dilley, United Church of Christ
Go now in peace, for Christ has called you to live in peace among all your brothers and sisters in Christ. Go now in courage, for Christ has called you from the places of your life to be agents of redemption and partners in healing. Go now in joy and thanksgiving, for Christ is our light! Go now as one body, to love and serve God as you love and serve the world! Amen.

† RESPONSE/POSTLUDE "Toccata per l'Elevazione" Frescobaldi

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.

SERVING	
TODAY—JANUARY 22	NEXT SUNDAY—JANUARY 29
Allen & Michele Mhlack	Greeters Elaine Coffey
Judi Pavisich	Liturgist Matilda Sekorky
Volunteers needed	Ushers Volunteers needed
Aidan Hurtig/Luke Giuliano	Acolytes Chris Abruzzino/Riley Marshall
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
Bell Choir, Richard Densmore	Special Music Ken Mehalko, Chancel Choir

The altar flowers are given—



In loving memory of Carol L. Studer--Jim, Kathy, & Jeff

Happy 75th Birthday today to John Toth—Love Barbara

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Prayers for Linda & Mike Elkins while they are in Mexico

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

Happy Birthday today to Kathy Cockrell and to John Toth!



A NOTE OF THANKS—

Today, we thank the Bell Choir, Richard Densmore, Tom Foley, and Sharon Heinrich for sharing their music with us today.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,649.37
Last Week's Offering Received \$2,565.00
Difference -(\$1,084.37)

Thank you very much for your support.

Pledge cards received to date: 62



UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

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

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 collection will go to World Central Kitchen in Ukraine.



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, Irene Jannsohn, Bruce Keenen, Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Len Lane, Judy Maur, Reggie McCray, Laurie Meister, Roy Merkle, Michele Mhlack, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkfitz, 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, Mary Ellen Zimmerman



Extended Church Family: Dorene Baldrige, 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), 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'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 (Chelsey Cathcart Cox'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—NEXT WEEK!

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place next 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.

ANNUAL ALL FAMILY WINTER RETREAT

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

If you're coming to the Retreat, please attend the PLANNING MEETING on Sunday, February 12th in the sanctuary 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, is 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: **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.

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.



ATTENDANCE CARDS ARE BACK!

Please take a moment to complete the card that is in your bulletin and place it in the offering plate. You may write prayer requests on the reverse side, if you wish to have us pray for someone and add a name to the prayer chain.

MISSION OUTREACH UPDATE:



Our church is working in partnership with St. Joseph Strongsville Welcome Circle for Ukraine. The Ukrainian family arrived Monday, January 16th and was welcomed at the airport by a group of volunteers, including Father Joe of St. Joseph Catholic Church, along with Sarah and Jack Hayes from our church. They were excited and relieved to finally be in the U.S. Currently, the family is staying in a basement apartment of one of the volunteers. As we become more aware of their needs, Sarah will reach out to the congregation with opportunities to give. Thank you very much for the continued support, love, prayers, and time that everyone puts in to make this a wonderful community of giving! We truly make a difference!



MISSION OUTREACH is collecting cans of soup now through Super Bowl Sunday (February 12th) 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.

ANNUAL GIVING STATEMENTS



Statements of Giving for 2022 are available in the Church Family Mailbox that is located in the Gathering Area. Please be so kind as to pick up your statement as soon as you are able.

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, that offering envelopes will be delayed until March due to supply chain, staffing, and other issues. **Please know that you may use any envelope to give your offering—we still need your donations to maintain our ministries!** Please check with Mike Elkins if you would like a supply of loose envelopes to use until mailings resume.

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*

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.**



PROGRAM ENDING ON FEBRUARY 20th!

You just have a little time left to go on an Amazon spending spree and feel good about benefitting the church. Amazon is discontinuing this program. 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 if the program is ending, which it is!

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 until February 20th. After that, the packages on your porch can't be excused by saying, "It's for the church!"

