



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, January 26, 2025– 10 A.M.

Penny Sunday

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 "We Are God's People" Brahms, arr. Bock

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Joyce Reed

INTROIT "Sabbath Prayer" adapted from *Fiddler on the Roof* Bock

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Loud talkers and silent worriers, glad-handers and lonely wallflowers:

People: God gathers us together to be the Body of wonder and joy, of hope and healing.

Leader: Bystanders with hands shoved into our pockets, fraidy-cats whose feet are frozen in place:

People: Jesus calls us to carry grace to outsiders, to walk with all those left behind.

Leader: Kids who never offer answers in class, bashful folks whose tongues tie in knots:

People: The Spirit anoints us to speak up for the voiceless, to partner with the poor to discover their gifts.

† **HYMN 21** "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 19

(New International Version)

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.

They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.

Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.

It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,

like a champion rejoicing to run his course.

It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth.

The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul.

The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever.

The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous.

They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold;

they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.

By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

Keep your servant also from willful sins, may they not rule over me.

Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.

May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

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 "I Will Lift Up My Eyes" Larson

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Penny Sunday

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "The Church's One Foundation" Wesley

† **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 12:12-31

(The Message)

The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, the parts we see and the parts we don't. . . . You are Christ's body—that's who you are! You must never forget this. Only as you accept your part of that body does your "part" mean anything.

SERMON "Many Gifts, One Spirit"

† **HYMN 65** "Stand Up and Bless the Lord"

† **BENEDICTION** Susannah DeBenedetto

Go out into this world filled with the Holy Spirit. Let the Spirit give you words when you have none. Let the Spirit stop your tongue when listening is the answer. Let the Spirit strengthen you when the way ahead is hard.

Remember Jesus said he would not leave us alone and would send us a Comforter. Let the Spirit enfold you and comfort you and keep you until we are together again. Go in peace and the peace of the Holy Spirit be with you wherever you go. Amen.

† **POSTLUDE** "Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing" arr. Burkhardt

SERVING

TODAY – JANUARY 26

Riley Marshall

Mike Willis

Volunteers needed

Tom Foley

Mike Elkins

Sharon Heinrich

Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich

Chancel Choir

Greeters

Liturgist

Ushers

Director of Music

Associate Director of Music

Organist

Video/Sound

Special Music

NEXT SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 2

Linda Plain

Linda Ponstingle

Volunteers needed

Tom Foley

Mike Elkins

Sharon Heinrich

Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich

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 celebration of our Daughter-in-law Noebeth Reed's Birthday this month.

Love, George & Joyce Reed



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—

In loving memory of John Maringer on the 1-year anniversary of his passing on January 31st and for his birthday on February 1st. I love and miss you every day.--Dianne Maringer

Happy Birthday today to Roy Merkle!

ANNUAL ALL FAMILY WINTER RETREAT

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



Inspiration Hills
CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER

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:

TODAY IS PENNY SUNDAY! It's time to give those coins, dollars, and checks (to UCC) to our kids, who are collecting for our Free Lunch for All Program. The next Penny Sunday will be on **February 23, 2025** and the collection will go to UCC Disaster Ministries to aid wildfire victims.





IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Longtime member **Richard Sullen**, father of **Keith** and father-in-law of **Ann** died on January 15, 2025. Richard spent his later years residing in Florida, before moving to the Toledo, Ohio area, but maintained his membership in our church since 1972. Our heartfelt condolences to his family.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS



- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **February 11th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **February 18th** at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on **February 25th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation is TODAY, and will be preceded by the traditional Pancake Brunch. All are encouraged to attend this meeting, where we will review the events and activities of the past year and elect officers for 2025. **Annual Reports are available for pickup in the Gathering Area.**

Our new (and returning) church officers will be installed during our worship service next Sunday, February 2, 2025. Our most sincere thanks to everyone who served in 2024.



NEWS FROM THE KITCHEN

HELP! We need large, clean cottage cheese/sour cream containers for transporting the altar flowers after our services on Sundays. If you have these type of containers to donate, please bring them to the kitchen.



BOOK STUDY—A NEW CHAPTER!

Tomorrow, **January 27th**, Pastor Heidi and Linda Elkins will lead 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 9th) 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 9th, 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!

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, Sharon Maresco, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Ginny & Kenn Oerkitz, Judi Pavisich, Bob Pogozeleski, George & Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Ron Rothe, 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 Garipey (Sally Herzog's friend), Kathy Ghetti (friend of Ginger Rothe), 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 Rothe'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

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed	\$ 4,359.00
Last Week's Offering Received	\$ 2,728.00
Difference	-\$1,631.00

Thank you very much for your support.

PLEDGES RECEIVED: 61



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.**

Please Note: If the Strongsville City Schools are closed due to inclement weather on a Thursday, the Thrift Shop will not be open.

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WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—



Monday, February 3 2025 at 7 p.m.
Outreach Project for pets

Wednesday, February 5 at 1 p.m.
Decorate Valentine Cookies—
Bring either plain cookies or

decorating supplies. (See sign-up sheet)

THANK YOU TO OUR 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 Pogozeleski*
Cheryl Sobek Dan Winrod Laura Winrod Rachel Zielinski*

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson* Dave Williams*

Diaconate

Teri Barbish* Jean Bittering 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

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.

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!



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.

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



PLEASE NOTE: For Safety Reasons, if the Strongsville City Schools are closed due to inclement weather on a Wednesday, the Free Lunch will not be served.

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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