



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, January 28, 2024– 10 A.M.

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

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.

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Joyce Reed

BELL INTROIT "Breathe" Barnett, arr. Bettcher

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather in this sacred space,

People: To offer our thanks to God with all our hearts.

Leader: We gather with this community of faith,

People: To follow Jesus, who longs to lead us into life.

Leader: We gather in these moments,

People: To learn all we can of grace from the Holy Spirit.

† HYMN 690 "He Leadeth Me"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 111 (New International Version)

Praise the Lord! I will extol the Lord with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly.

Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them.

Glorious and majestic are his deeds, and his righteousness endures forever.

He has caused his wonders to be remembered;

the Lord is gracious and compassionate.

He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.

He has shown his people the power of his works,

giving them the lands of other nations.

The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.

They are established for ever and ever, enacted in faithfulness and uprightness.

He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever— holy and awesome is his name.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. All who follow his precepts have good understanding; to him belongs eternal praise.

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.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Penny Sunday

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Aria (Anna Magdalena Notebook)" J.S. Bach

† 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 Mark 1:21-28 (New International Version)

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach.

SERMON "Amazing!"

† HYMN "Forward Through the Ages"

Forward through the ages, In unbroken line,
Move the faithful spirits At the call divine.
Gifts in diff'ring measure, Hearts of one accord,
Manifold the service, One the sure reward;
Forward through the ages, In unbroken line,
Move the faithful spirits At the call divine.

Wider grows the kingdom, Reign of love and light;
For it we must labor, Till our faith is sight.
Prophets have proclaimed it, Martyrs testified,
Poets sung its glory, Heroes for it died.
Forward through the ages, In unbroken line,
Move the faithful spirits At the call divine.

Not alone we conquer, Not alone we fall;
In each loss or triumph Lose or triumph all.
Bound by God's far purpose In one living whole,
Move we on together To the shining goal!
Forward through the ages, In unbroken line,
Move the faithful spirits At the call divine.

† BENEDICTION

Now may the Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into One, all things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. Go forth in peace and joy. Amen.

† RESPONSE/POSTLUDE "Voluntary in C" W. Boyce

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 Richard Densmore, our Bell Choir, along with Tom Foley, Sharon Heinrich, and Mike Elkins for their music today.

SERVING

TODAY – JANUARY 28

Susann Lerch
Tom Gaumer
Volunteers needed
Tom Foley
Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Bell Choir, Richard Densmore

Greeters
Liturgist
Ushers
Director of Music
Associate Director of Music
Organist
Video/Sound
Special Music

NEXT SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 4

Linda Plain
Linda Ponstingle
Volunteers needed
Tom Foley
Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Chancel Choir

The altar flowers are given—
In celebration of our Daughter-in-law Noebeth Reed's Birthday this month. Love George & Joyce Reed



With love and gratitude to my church family in the new year--Judy Carte

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 our Dad, Erik O. Jannsohn
With love from the Dicksons & Joyces

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 next week, 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 IS TODAY!

All money collected this morning will go to World Central Kitchen to aid families suffering in Gaza and Israel and other war-torn areas around the world.



OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 3,617.01
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 1,792.90
Difference - (\$1,824.11)

Thank you very much for your support.
PLEDGE CARDS RECEIVED TO DATE: 50



ANNUAL MEETING TODAY!



The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place following our worship service this morning and will be preceded by the traditional Pancake Brunch. Everyone is encouraged to attend this meeting in Pilgrim Hall, but only members are entitled to cast a vote.



Ash Wednesday is February 14th. Pastor Heidi will offer two opportunities for those who wish to receive ashes. Beginning at **Noon** through **1 p.m.**, come and go as you wish to receive ashes and a blessing. At **7 p.m.**, Pastor Heidi will lead a meditative service, culminating with the imposition of ashes. All are welcome to join us for either or both times.

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.**

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 Oerkfritz, 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 Garipey (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

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—



Daytime will play a Chocolate Trivia Game with Cherie Teagno on **Wednesday, February 7th**, at 1:00 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall. Evening will celebrate chocolate on **Monday, February 12th**, at 7:00 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall. All ladies are welcome to attend either of both meetings.



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!**

If the Strongsville City Schools are closed due to inclement weather on a Thursday, the Thrift Shop will be closed on that day.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **February 13th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **February 20th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **February 27th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

**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!

Please note: If the Strongsville City Schools are closed due to inclement weather on a Wednesday, the Free Lunch will not be served on that day.



2024 OFFICERS WILL BE INSTALLED FEB. 4th

THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 CHURCH OFFICERS:

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*

PHOTO DIRECTORY UPDATE Directories are here!

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.

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 ____/____/____