



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

Sunday, January 29, 2023 – 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.

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.

PRELUDE "Rock of Ages" Hastings, arr Elkins/Foley

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

INTROIT "Jesus Stand Among Us" Whitworth

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: When we seek justice for the other, when we love kindness more than ever,

People: We live as the people God asks us to be.

Leader: When we walk humbly through life, when we offer mercy to those who hurt us,

People: We are the blessing God hopes we will be.

Leader: When we are willing to look foolish by following Jesus, when we choose weakness rather than power,

People: We reflect the One who dwells in our midst.

† HYMN 182 "For the Beauty of the Earth"

A READING FROM THE PROPHETS Micah 6: 6-8

(New international Version)

With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God?
Shall I come before God with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?

Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.

And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

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.

ANTHEM "We Are the Branches" Lantz

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Penny Sunday

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Offerings to God" Elkins

† 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 5: 1-12

(New International Version)

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down.
His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.

SERMON "God's Walking Blessing"

† HYMN 572 "Blessed Assurance"

† BENEDICTION Apache Blessing

May the sun bring you new energy by day. May the moon softly restore you by night. May the rain wash away your worries. May the breeze blow new strength into your being. May you walk gently through the world and know its beauty all the days of your life. Go in peace. Amen.

† RESPONSE "Go Now in Peace" Besig

† POSTLUDE "Change My Heart, O God" Espinosa

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PLEASE NOTE: Our worship services are video recorded each week and posted on our YouTube channel for all to enjoy. Just go to strongsvilleuucc.com, select **Worship**, and click on **Service Videos**.

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SERVING	
TODAY – JANUARY 29	NEXT SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 5
Elaine Coffey	Greeters Linda Plain
Matilda Sekorky	Liturgist Sandy O'Shea
Volunteers needed	Ushers Volunteers needed
Chris Abruzzino/Riley Marshall	Acolytes Oliver & Matilda Sekorky
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
Chancel Choir	Special Music Chancel Choir

PENNY SUNDAY TODAY!

Have those pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and yes, DOLLARS or checks to SUCC ready for today's Penny Sunday collection! Our collection will go to **World Central Kitchen** in Ukraine.



A NOTE OF THANKS—

Today, we thank the **Chancel Choir, Tom Foley, Mike Elkins**, and **Sharon Heinrich** for sharing their music with us today.

The altar flowers are given—

In loving memory of Erik O. Jannsohn in honor of his birthday on Groundhog's Day--The Dicksons and the Joyces



Our steeple will light the sky this week—



Thank you to everyone who has served as an officer this past year and to those who extended their terms.

Happy Anniversary to Sharon & Karl Kuhlenschmidt on February 1st!

FRESH FLOWERS EACH WEEK! Please sign up for 2023 altar flowers on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Many Sundays are available to honor a special date or loved one.

Happy Birthday today to Herb Hampson!

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,649.37
Jan. 15th Offering Received \$2,565.00
Difference -(\$1,084.37)

Thank you very much for your support.

Pledge cards received to date: 62



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **February 14th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **February 21st** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **February 28th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

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, 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 Pogozelski, 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—TODAY!

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place following worship and will be preceded by the traditional Pancake Brunch. All are encouraged to attend this meeting, but only members are entitled to vote.



An electronic copy of the Annual Report and the proposed Church Constitution has been sent to our members and friends. A limited number of paper copies will be available at the Annual Meeting.

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.

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.



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.

As always, special thanks to our dedicated volunteers and to everyone who supports the Thrift Shop with donations or by shopping!



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.



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.

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!"

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SERVED AS CHURCH OFFICERS THIS PAST YEAR

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.**



Ash Wednesday is February 22nd. 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 **7:00 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.

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.