



## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, July 11, 2021 – 10 A.M.

### WELCOME!

*Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the best interests of others. –  
Philippians 2:4*

For the safety and comfort of everyone, please continue to wear a mask in the Gathering Area and when entering or leaving the Sanctuary. When you are seated in the pews, you may lower your mask if you wish, while maintaining social distancing. **If you are not yet fully vaccinated, we ask that you continue to wear a mask at all times. Thank you.**

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

### PRELUDE

“Lamb of God”

Paris

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joyce Reed

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 complete your Attendance Card and place it in the offering plate.

### INTROIT

“Gather Around for the Table is Spread” Traditional Scottish Melody

### † CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: You awaken the sun, O God, to guide us into the new day:

**People: Your name, O God, like your praise, sings in every person.**

Leader: You speak your Word, O God, to guide us into your kingdom:

**People: Your hope, O God, like your joy, echoes in every soul.**

Leader: You guide us to those who are looking for you:

**People: Your love, O God, like your name, fills the emptiness of every heart.**

### † HYMN

“Morning Has Broken”

*(If you wish to sing with us, please have your mask in place.)*

**Morning has broken, like the first morning;**

**Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird.**

**Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!**

**Praise for them springing fresh from the word!**

**Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from Heaven,**

**Like the first dew-fall on the first grass.**

**Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,**

**Sprung in completeness where His feet pass.**

**Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning;**

**Born of the one light Eden saw play!**

**Praise with elation! Praise every morning**

**God's re-creation of the new day!**

### A READING FROM THE PSALMS

**Psalms 85:8-13**

*(New Revised Standard Version)*

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,

for he will speak peace to his people,

to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,

that his glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;

righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,

and righteousness will look down from the sky.

The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

**Leader:** The Word of God, for us, the people of God;

**People:** Thanks be to God.

### PRAYING IN SILENCE

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy, **ALL: Hear our prayers. Amen.**

### ANTHEM

“How Beautiful”

Paris

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### OFFERING

Thank you for your continuing commitment to giving freely of your talents and your treasure, as you are able, in service to Christ in the world. Thank you. To give online, please go to:

<https://www.myeoffering.com/eonline/index.php/dashboard/login/5027>

### OFFERTORY

“Remember”

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

**Mark 6: 14-29**

*(The Message)*

King Herod heard of all this, for by this time the name of Jesus was on everyone's lips. He said, “This has to be John the Baptizer come back from the dead—that's why he's able to work miracles!”

Others said, “No, it's Elijah.”

Others said, “He's a prophet, just like one of the old-time prophets.”

But Herod wouldn't budge: “It's John, sure enough. I cut off his head, and now he's back, alive.”

### SERMON

“Some gift!”

### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Isolated through these many months of pandemic, we have experienced the pain and sadness that comes from isolation. As we come together once more, to share Holy Communion in our old, familiar way, we are reminded of God's unfailing grace. We recommit our lives to God, and renew the bonds of our commitment to one another. Jesus quieted their fears; he healed the sick; he blessed their journey. Today, we come again before the Lord, our lives marred by sometimes tragic events, sometimes by our failure to do the right thing. We come in faith, knowing that Christ's loving, healing presence at the Table is our gift to receive.

### UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Eternal One, who created all things, we give you thanks for this beautiful Creation. In our hearts, we desire to be in loving relationship with one another and with you. We confess that even though we long to live as one people, we often miss the mark. Forgive us, we pray.

**Holy God, in the fullness of time, you sent Jesus into the world to show us, through his life, the way of reconciliation. Through his death and resurrection, we are offered grace and forgiveness. In this time of silence, O God, we offer our lives again to you. (silent prayer)**

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear this good news! As we come together in Jesus' name, God's Holy Spirit moves among us, blessing us and strengthening us for the days ahead, the Spirit that abides in us now and always.

**We rejoice in the gift of your Holy Spirit, and celebrate this gift of bread and cup. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are all forgiven! Thanks be to God!**

### A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING

### RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

### 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.**

### † HYMN 446 “We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations” (vv 1, 2, & 4)

*(If you wish to sing with us, please have your mask in place.)*

### † BENEDICTION (from The Episcopal Church)

Life is short. We do not have much time to gladden the hearts and lighten the loads of those who travel with us. So be swift to love, make haste to be kind, and go in peace to love and serve our Lord. Know that wherever you are, God is with you. **Amen.**

### † POSTLUDE

“Blessed Assurance”

Knapp

### SERVING

#### TODAY – JULY 11

Sharon Maresco

Carol Konet

Judi Pavisich

Tom Foley

Mike Elkins

Sharon Heinrich

Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich

Sarah Keenen

Mary Densmore

#### NEXT SUNDAY – JULY 18

**Greeter**

**Liturgist**

**Ushers**

**Director of Music**

**Associate Director of Music**

**Supplemental Organist**

**Sound**

**Special Music**

**Sunday School**

Judi Pavisich

Rick Teagno

Volunteers needed

Tom Foley

Mike Elkins

Sharon Heinrich

Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich

Craig Hardy

Cathy Hawk

**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](http://strongsvilleucc.com)**, select **Worship**, and click on **Service Videos**.

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

*In Honor of the Wedding Anniversary of*

*Mike and Linda Elkins on July 12<sup>th</sup>*

*In Loving Memory of my son, Arieson Newborn*

*Toni Newborn*

*Happy Anniversary to Joe & Barbara Craig on July 14<sup>th</sup>!*

*With Love, Mom*





## OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,473.27  
Last Week's Offering Received \$4,333.00  
Difference \$ 683.63

*Thank you very much for your support.*



## A NOTE OF THANKS

Thank you to Sarah Keenen for sharing her music with us today!

## SAD NEWS

Our most sincere sympathy is extended to **Toni Newborn** on the death of her son, **Arieson R. Newborn**, on June 30, 2021. He was 40 years old.



We were recently informed of the death of **Elizabeth (Liz) Snook** on May 20, 2021. Liz passed away after a long battle with cancer. Our love and prayers are extended to her daughters **Sarah (Steve Jackson)** and **Erica (Wayne Grigsby)**, her son **Jim (Mary) Alexander**, and to everyone who knew and loved Liz. There will be a celebration of her life on July 24, 2021 at Silver Lake Pavilion in Kent from 3 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

## HAPPY NEWS!

**Steve and Roxy Woodward** welcomed their second son, **Edison** Guinty Woodward, on June 28, 2021. He was 9 lbs, 8 ounces. Big brother **Owen** and grandmother **Carol Woodward** and Uncle **Kyle Woodward** are thrilled!



## WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO BE A GREETER OR AN USHER?

Check out the sign-up sheets on the stand in the Gathering Area and add your name!

Remember : 4 ushers are needed very Sunday, so please feel free to fill up the line for each week.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

**VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED FOR 2 MORE SUNDAYS THIS SUMMER!** Please call the church or contact Linda Elkins if you would like to sign up to teach on one of the Sundays (supplies and lessons will be provided).



## OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

**Long-Term Care or Homebound:** Janet Kato, Marge McKinney, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

**Church Family:** Joan Beckwith, Adria Bond, Eddy Bond, Mary Carey, Elaine Coffey, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Linda Elliott, Tom Gaumer, Sue Hawk, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Carole Kapcar, Pam Keenen, Tony Koussa, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Judy Maur, Laurie Meister, Michele Mhlack, Lola Millhoane, Gary Paul, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Jamie & Josh Trinckes, Sharon Wilson, Sally Vetovitz, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Rachel Zielinski, Bob Zimmerman

**Extended Church Family:** Dorene Baldrige, Fred Beba (Theresa's husband), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Judy Carte's son-in-law, Ryan, John Dickson (Greg's dad), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Jeff & Tiffany Hassel (Judi Pavisich's son & daughter-in-law), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Pat Masuga (Dan's mom), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Kay McGinty (Judi Pavisich's aunt), Zachary McKeever (Pastor Heidi and Chuck's great-nephew), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Carrol Riley (Marjorie Morrison's dad), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Amanda Stefanik (Schylor Thorn's friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Sandra Wentz (Debbie's daughter-in-law), Daphne Wilson (Irene Jannsohn's niece)

Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain.



## IT'S HAPPENING! CHURCH GARAGE SALE

FRIDAY, JULY 23<sup>rd</sup>  
6 P.M. – 8 P.M. AND  
SATURDAY, JULY 24<sup>th</sup>  
9 A.M. – 2 P.M.

Donations are now being accepted, but please keep in mind: "If you wouldn't buy an item in the condition it's in, please don't foist in on the church." Also, please plan to carry your items yourself or bring a helper (or two). Thanks!

We'll need lots of volunteers, too—

On the days of the sale and every evening the week before, beginning around 7 p.m. and sorting until about 9 p.m. Please see Rachel Zielinski or Irene Joyce if you can give a couple of hours of your time from July 19-24 (or just show up)!



## BAKE SALE TO BENEFIT THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

At the Garage Sale

Please bring your wrapped/bagged baked goods on Friday before 6 p.m. or Saturday morning before 9 a.m.



From our friends at the  
**Strongsville Community Band:**  
Friday, July 23 at 7:30 PM- (Strongsville Middle School Front Lawn) Don't forget to bring your own lawn chair!

## GIFT CARDS

YOU CAN SUPPORT THIS PROJECT IN A SAFE WAY THAT BENEFITS OUR CHURCH!



You can order gift cards by calling **Jim Joyce** at 216-267-5043 in advance with your order. Limited stock is available, but special orders may be accommodated with advance notice. **Thank you to those who continue to support this project by purchasing gift cards!**



Are you an online shopper? If so, why not benefit the church while you make your purchases from Amazon? It's incredibly easy! 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 you would normally—that's it!

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. **We received \$44.29 in May!** PLEASE KEEP SHOPPING!

## THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is OPEN on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. with lots of interesting merchandise. Donations are being accepted, but you must call the church first to arrange a time for drop-off.

**THRIFT SHOP BONUS HOURS**  
The 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month,  
July 19, 2021 — 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(We're still open on Thursdays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

Also, the Thrift Shop is in need of volunteers to help out for a couple of hours—sorting, organizing, and selling on Thursdays. Please call Cathy Hawk (440-781-7512) if you can help!



## MUSICIANS NEEDED!

Would you like to be a part of the summer music program?

Instrumentalists and vocalists are needed for our worship services in August. If you are interested in joining us and sharing your talent, please contact **Tom Foley or Mike Elkins!**



The Board of Trustees, the Diaconate, and the Official Board will not be meeting during the month of July.

PLEASE  
NOTE...