



**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

(Congregational)

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**Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor**

**Sunday, July 14, 2024– 10 A.M.**

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**



**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** "Flower Duet from *Lakmé*" Delibes

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Joyce Reed

**INTROIT** "Come, Gather in this Special Place" Kirkland

**† CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Neighbors and newcomers, families and strangers:

**People: We gather in this place built by God's steadfast love.**

Leader: Strugglers and stragglers, pilgrims nearing the end of the journey:

**People: Each of us seeking to follow Jesus, the compassionate One.**

Leader: Builders of bridges in fractured communities, those who stand on either side of walls of fear:

**People: The Spirit of faithfulness calls us to live as one people – God's people!**

† HYMN "Gather Around, for the Table is Spread"

**Gather around, for the table is spread,  
Welcome the food and rest!**

**Wide is our circle, with Christ at the head,  
He is the honored guest.**

**Learn of His love; Grow in His grace;  
Pray for the peace He gives;**

**Here at this meal, here in this place, know that His Spirit lives!  
Once He was known in the breaking of bread,  
Shared with a chosen few; Multitudes gathered and by Him  
were fed, so will He feed us too.**

**A READING FROM THE PSALMS** Psalm 24

(New International Version)

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.

Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord?

Who may stand in his holy place?

The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.

They will receive blessing from the Lord  
and vindication from God their Savior.

Such is the generation of those who seek him,  
who seek your face, God of Jacob.

Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors,

that the King of glory may come in.  
Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty,  
the Lord mighty in battle.  
Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.  
Who is he, this King of glory? The Lord Almighty— he is the King of glory.

**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** "Pié Jesu from *Requiem*" Webber

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** "The Gift of Love" Hopson

† **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

(New International Version)

Jesus' name had become well known. Some were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him." Others said, "He is Elijah." And still others claimed, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago."

**SERMON** "Keep Reading"

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

Pastor: When we look at the relationships we hope to have with one another, and with God, we must admit how broken we are. But, as we gather together, here in the presence of God, we are promised forgiveness and healing as we will confess our sins. Please join me, as we pray to the One who never ceases to love us:

**UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

**All: You know how stubborn we can be, Holy God. You call us to serve others; instead, we stay inside, in the coolness of our own homes. You would send us to where the hopeless live, but we are reluctant to leave the comfort of our lives. You would feed us on the peace and joy of your word, but we pull up our chairs to the tables of those who serve false and hurtful gods. Forgive us, Guiding God. Transform our defiance into discipleship, and our rejection of others into the resurrection of welcoming all people as sisters and brothers in Christ. Help us to love as faithfully as you have always loved us; send us forth to take the good news of Christ's gospel to everyone we meet. (silent prayer)**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Pastor: We open our lips and confess our hearts. God hears our words and make us new, sending us out to bring hope and joy to all the world.

**People: We hear the good news, we believe the good news; help us to live out the good news. Thanks be to God. Amen!**

**A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP**

"How Great Thou Art"

Hine

**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 405** "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord"

† **BENEDICTION**

*May our hearts be broken, O God, by the things that break your heart: Injustice, destruction, poverty, pain. Open our eyes, God of Peace, first to see your will; then to bravely speak your will to power. Fill us with courage for the living of these days through the Life-giving breath of your Holy Spirit, and may we see each person we encounter for who they are: a Child of the Most High, created in the perfection of your image. Amen.*

† **POSTLUDE** "Here I Am, Lord" Schutte, arr. Elkins

**SERVING**

<b>TODAY—JULY 14</b>		<b>NEXT SUNDAY—JULY 21</b>
Carole Kapcar	<b>Greeters</b>	Teri Barbish
Dave Williams	<b>Liturgist</b>	Mary Ellen Zimmerman
Tom Foley	<b>Director of Music</b>	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	<b>Associate Director of Music</b>	Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	<b>Organist</b>	Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich	<b>Video/Sound</b>	Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Brittany Fernandez, Ken Mehalko	<b>Special Music</b>	EKCO Ringers/We 3 Ring
Cathy Hawk	<b>Summer Sunday School</b>	Volunteer needed

**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**, click on **Service Videos**.

**A NOTE OF THANKS**—We thank our special guest, **Brittany Fernandez, Ken Mehalko**, and of course, **Mike Elkins, Tom Foley**, and **Sharon Heinrich** for today's music!

**CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

**Are you interested in joining our congregation?** Pastor Heidi will be offering a membership class following worship **today** and receiving new members into our church family next Sunday, **July 21<sup>st</sup>**. Please join us in the parlor following the service if you would like to become a member of the Strongsville UCC.



**UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS**

- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **July 16<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor
- The Official Board will meet via email this month.



The altar flowers are given—

*Celebrating our Granddaughter Alison, Daughter Joyce Lynn, and George & Joyce Reed's Birthdays this month.--The Reeds*



**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. We still have a few Sundays left!



**Our steeple** will light the sky this week—  
*Happy Anniversary today to Barbara & Joe Craig*  
With love, Mom

**Happy Anniversary today to Joe & Barbara Craig!**



**ATTENDANCE CARDS ARE IN YOUR BULLETIN!**  
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.



**IT HAPPENED!  
CHURCH  
GARAGE SALE  
& BAKE SALE**



**Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraiser in any way!**



**SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

**Summer Sunday School continues!** We are still looking for folks to teach a summer Sunday with our children. All lessons and materials will be provided in advance. Start thinking about which Sunday you're available for this special ministry! A sign-up sheet is posted in Pilgrim Hall.

**PENNY SUNDAY--THANK YOU!**

Please save your coins, dollars, and checks (to UCC) for our next Penny Sunday on **August 25, 2024.**



**MISSION OUTREACH NEWS: DEODORANT DRIVE!**

Mission Outreach will be collecting **OLD SPICE** and **DOVE** deodorant for **Snow School in Berea.** The students who attend that school are in foster care, transitional care, or wards of the county



and while Ohio Guidestone provides hospital grade deodorant, having a name brand product makes a big difference to these young people. (These brands are the ones recommended by the school.)

**OUR PRAYER LIST**

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.



**Long-Term Care or Homebound:** Laurie Meister, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Maggie Struhar

**Church Family:** Serena Abruzzino, Judy Carte, Jennifer Cockrell, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sue Hawk, Irene Jannsohn, Jim Joyce, Bruce Keenen, Sarah Keenen, Kay Konicek, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Jim Maresco, Jan Meier, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkfitz, Gary Paul, George & Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Ember Schneider, Peter Smith, Linda Stepan, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Mary Ellen Zimmerman

**Extended Church Family:** Edward and Sharon Acton (Sally Herzog's friends), Dorene Baldrige, Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), John Dickson (Greg's dad), Keana Dickson (Greg & Ingrid's daughter), Allison Emerson (Colette's sister), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Joanne Gariepy (Sally Herzog's friend), Kathy Ghetti (friend of Ginger Rothel), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel's parents), Diane Mason (Lora Rung'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), 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

**OFFERINGS RECEIVED**

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 3,617.01  
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 4,266.00  
Difference + \$ 648.99



Thank you very much for your support.  
**PLEDGES RECEIVED: 51**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**OUTDOOR WORSHIP AND CHURCH PICNIC SUNDAY, JULY 28<sup>th</sup>**



On our church grounds following outdoor worship. Please bring a lawn chair, and a salad, side dish, or dessert—the main dish and beverages will be provided. Sign up with your side dish, salad, or dessert on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall.



**FREE LUNCH FOR ALL--  
Wednesdays**

**11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**  
Thank you to all our faithful volunteers!

**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.



**FROM OUR FRIENDS AT STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY BAND:**

On **Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup>**, the Strongsville City Jazz Swing Band will play at **7:30 p.m.** at Strongsville United Methodist Church (13500 Royalton Road).

Come to our concert on **Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> (Rotary Cookout at the Ehrnfeltd Center) at 7:30 p.m.** and grab your lawn chair for our concert on **Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.** on the Strongsville Middle School lawn (In case of rain, outdoor concerts will be at the Ehrnfeltd Center.)

**THRIFT SHOP**

The Thrift Shop is **OPEN every Thursday 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.



**BOOK STUDY--A YEAR OF BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD**

Continuing tomorrow, **July 15<sup>th</sup>**, 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!



**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 Pogozelski\*  
Cheryl Sobek Dan Winrod Laura Winrod Rachel Zielinski\*

**Endowment Fund Subcommittee**

Greg Dickson\* Dave Williams\*

**Diaconate**

Teri Barbish\* Jean Bittinger Elaine Coffey\* Bobbi Cook Wayne Cook  
Judy Davis Judy Fox\* Carole Kapcar Susann Lerch\* 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



**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.



**TELLERS NEEDED!**  
**If you have less than 30 minutes to spare after worship periodically, we are in need of tellers. No experience is necessary. Please see Gary Zielinski or Rachel Zielinski if you can help.**

**NO MORE RIVER VALLEY PAPER RECYCLING**

River Valley Paper company is reducing its routes and has removed our paper/cardboard recycling bin. We will be contacting other companies to see about getting another bin. In the meantime, please bring your cardboard and paper elsewhere. Thank you to everyone who has supported this program.



**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 \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_