



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

Sunday, July 16, 2023 – 10:00 A.M.



## 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 "Appalachian Lullaby" Traditional, arr. Engebretson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

INTROIT "Gieb, daß ich thu mit Fleiß" Bach

## † CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Your grace is a lamp for our hearts, O God.

**People: Light our way through the shadows of this world.**

Leader: When we struggle with questions and doubts,

**People: Tell us your stories of hope and grace.**

Leader: When we are about to wander off into the wilderness,

**People: Show us the paths to your peace and joy.**

† HYMN 184 "Thy Word"

A READING FROM THE PROPHETS Isaiah 55:10-13  
(New International Version)

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish,  
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,  
so is my word that goes out from my mouth:  
It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire  
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.  
You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace;  
the mountains and hills will burst into song before you,  
and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.  
Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper,  
and instead of briars the myrtle will grow.  
This will be for the Lord's renown, for an everlasting sign,  
that will endure forever.

**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 "Andante Cantabile" Dancla, arr. Holmes

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Summer Reverie" 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 13:1-9, 18-23

(The Message)

"Are you listening to this? Really listening?"

SERMON "A Harvest Story"

† HYMN 429 "They'll Know We Are Christians"

† BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. John Squires

As we end this time as a gathered community, we prepare to serve in all the scattered places of our lives. Go in the knowledge that God our Creator sustains and supports you in this service. Go with the assurance that Christ Jesus equips you for service amongst the strangers and the friends of your life. Go with trusting reliance on the Spirit who enables you to bear witness, to care lovingly, and to work for justice. And may the deep peace of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit go with you. Amen.

† RESPONSE/POSTLUDE "Rondo from Serenade #10" Mozart, arr. Craig

**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**.



**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.**

| SERVING                    |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| TODAY – JULY 16            | NEXT SUNDAY – JULY 23                          |
| Judi Pavisich              | <b>Greeters</b> Linda Ponstingle               |
| Mary Ellen Zimmerman       | <b>Liturgist</b> Mike Willis                   |
| Judi Pavisich              | <b>Ushers</b> Volunteers needed                |
| Aidan Hurtig/Luke Giuliano | <b>Acolytes</b> Oliver & Matilda Sekorky       |
| 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>Sound</b> Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich           |
| The Venner Clarinets       | <b>Special Music</b> Ken Mehalko               |
| Cathy Hawk                 | <b>Summer Sunday School</b> Mary Densmore      |
|                            | <b>Guest Minister</b> Rev. Mary Snell Willis   |

## CAN YOU HELP?

**WE NEED YOUR HELP**  
If you have a few minutes after worship today, please lend a hand and put chairs away as we prepare for **Garage Sale set-up in Pilgrim Hall**. Also, if you can help sort items any day this coming week, please report to Pilgrim Hall when you have time—day or evening.



**A NOTE OF THANKS**—We thank The Venner Clarinets (David Ciucevich, Amy Dragga, Dick K. Ingersoll, Marc Paige, and Caroline Stillwell), Mike Elkins, and Sharon Heinrich for their music today.

The altar flowers are given—

*Celebrating the Birthdays of George July 15<sup>th</sup>, Joyce July 16<sup>th</sup>, Granddaughter Alison July 17<sup>th</sup> and Daughter Joyce Lynn on July 18<sup>th</sup>. George & Joyce Reed*



Our steeple will light the sky this week—  
*In loving memory of Karen Morgan "Big K"*



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

**Happy Birthday today to Joyce Reed and Mike Clotworthy!**

**Happy Anniversary today to Nick & Courtney Gigliotti!**



**FREE LUNCH FOR ALL—  
JULY 19<sup>th</sup> WILL BE TO-GO  
ONLY**

**Wednesdays 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Our Free Lunch for All Program welcomes everyone to enjoy a nutritious meal and warm fellowship. SPECIAL THANKS TO MARY DENSMORE FOR DONATING HOMEMADE COOKIES FOR DESSERT!

## UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **July 18<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will have an email meeting in July, with reports due **July 25<sup>th</sup>**.



**FROM OUR FRIENDS AT THE  
STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY BAND—  
Summer Concert Schedule**

Friday, July 21: 7:30 p.m. Strongsville Middle School Lawn  
Friday, July 28: 7:30 p.m. Strongsville Rotary (Ehrnfelt Center)  
Friday, August 4: Strongsville City Jazz 7:30 p.m. SMS Lawn

Friday, August 11: 7:30 p.m. Strongsville Middle School Lawn

**BRING A LAWN CHAIR!**

\*Concerts will be held at the Strongsville Senior Center in case of rain.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

**Summer Sunday School is underway--**  
Thank you to everyone who has signed up to teach a lesson this summer!



**PENNY SUNDAY**—The next Penny Sunday will be on August 27, 2023.



## OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

**Long-Term Care or Homebound:** Joan Beckwith, Mary Carey, Laurie Meister, Ruth Milidonis, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Maggie Struhar



**Church Family:** Serena Abruzzino, Barb Camp, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sue Hawk, Irene Jannsohn, Carole Kapcar, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Bruce Lerch, Reggie McCray, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkfritz, Gary Paul, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Bill Schneider, Peter Smith, John Toth, Sharon Wilson, Dave Williams, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

**Extended Church Family:** Edward and Sharon Acton (Sally Herzog's friends), Dorene Baldrige, Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Angie Colosimo (Judi Pavisich's friend), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Kim Filiautrat (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Joanne Garipey (Sally Herzog's friend), 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), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Thomas O'Shea (Sandy's dad), 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, 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

## 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!



## WE'RE BACK!

The Shop will be OPEN on July 20<sup>th</sup> with a special preview of the Garage Sale: Fill a Bag for \$15 (upstairs only)

## OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,617.01  
Last Week's Offering Received \$2,802.00  
Difference -(\$ 815.01)



Thank you very much for your support.

**PLEASE BE AWARE:** Due to a bank change, all checks to the church should be made out to **United Church of Christ or UCC or United Church of Christ (Congregational)**. Please do not use "Strongsville" or "SUCC" in the "Pay to the Order of" line. Thanks!

## ATTENTION TREASURERS! MID-YEAR AUDIT

Please turn in your books, bank statements, and receipts to the office today.



## IT'S HAPPENING!



## CHURCH GARAGE SALE

FRIDAY, JULY 21<sup>st</sup>  
from 6 P.M. – 8 P.M. AND  
SATURDAY, JULY 22<sup>nd</sup>  
from 9 A.M. – 2 P.M.

Donations will be accepted through July 20<sup>th</sup>.

We accept household items, home décor, sporting equipment, craft supplies, books, games, toys, small electronics, furniture, kitchenware and dishes, plus clothing & shoes (for the Thrift Shop)

**We DO NOT accept liquids of any kind, hazardous materials, or large televisions.**

Please keep in mind: "If you wouldn't buy an item in the condition it's in, please don't foist it 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 6 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 16 - 20 (or just show up)!

**WE ALSO NEED LARGE SHOPPING BAGS!** (Marc's Bags) If you can spare some, please bring them to the church office anytime.

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## BAKE SALE TO BENEFIT THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

At the Garage Sale

Please bring your wrapped/bagged baked goods on Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup> before 6 p.m. or Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> before 9 a.m.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR! OUTDOOR WORSHIP & PICNIC SUNDAY, JULY 30<sup>th</sup>

On our church grounds following outdoor worship.

Please bring a lawn chair, and a salad, side dish, or dessert—fried chicken, hot dogs, and beverages will be provided. Sign up with your side dish in Pilgrim Hall.



**HAWAIIAN SHIRT CONTEST** at the Picnic—wear your best colorful/tropical outfit! Prizes will be awarded!

## COMING IN THE FALL...

### A NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY!

It's time for a new photo-directory. Each family that is photographed for the directory will receive a free 8x10 of their photo and a free copy of the directory.

So much has changed since our last pictorial directory and this is an excellent opportunity to have a studio portrait of you or your family. We would like EVERYONE to be included!

Do you know someone who would like their senior or engagement photos taken? There is NO COST except if you would like to purchase photos. Anyone can sit for portraits, even if they are not a part of the directory.

We will have in-person and online scheduling available so that you can come when it's convenient. Dates for photography will be:

**Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> 2 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

**Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup> 2 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

**Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

**Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

We need volunteers to help with the sign-up process for our families. Please see Irene Joyce if you can help.

## CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2023 *\*Elected January 29, 2023*

**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\*

## BEE A BUSY BEE IN 2023—AUGUST-NOV. Available

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.

