



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
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StrongsvilleUCC.com



Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, July 19, 2026– 10 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 always welcome here.

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE "Sonata for Two Flutes: *Presto*" Schultze
Sue McLaughlin and Mike Elkins, flute duet

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

INTROIT "Sonata for Two Flutes: *Andante*" Schultze

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Early in the morning, we gather at the edge of heaven:

People: The gates are flung wide open by the One who welcomes all.

Leader: Early in the morning, we come to this holy place of worship:

People: Our hearts are touched by the One who offers us grace and love.

Leader: Early in the morning, we worship God, who adopts us into the family:

People: May we be filled by the One who would pour us out in service to the world.

† HYMN 797 "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 139:1-12
(New International Version)

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.

You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

You discern my going out and my lying down;

You are familiar with all my ways.

Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely.

You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

If I go up to the heavens, you are there;

if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,
even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me

and the light become night around me,"

even the darkness will not be dark to you;

the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

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 "Siciliano from Sonata No.2 in E Major" Bach
Sue McLaughlin, flute

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Be Thou My Vision" Traditional Irish tune

† **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 OLD TESTAMENT Genesis 28:10-19a
(New International Version)

When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it." He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."

REFLECTION "Angels All Around Us"

† **HYMN 428** "In Christ There is No East or West"

† BENEDICTION

Now may the peace of Christ rule in our hearts as we leave this place.

*May we carry the Presence of the Holy Spirit into every conversation,
every challenge and every joy this week. Watch over our steps until we
return safely to this sacred space. May your hand be upon us in all we do,
and may the peace of Christ fill us, restore us and lead us forth.*

Go in peace. Amen.

POSTLUDE "Sonata for Two Flutes: *Tempo Giusto*" Schultze
Sue McLaughlin and Mike Elkins, flute duet

A NOTE OF THANKS—We thank our special guest **Sue McLaughlin**, as well as our Music Team of **Mike Elkins, Tom Foley, and Sharon Heinrich** for our music today!

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**.

SERVING		
TODAY – JULY 19		NEXT SUNDAY – JULY 26
Cathy & Dale Hawk	Greeters	Lynne McCray
Ingrid Dickson	Liturgist	Sharon Maresco
Judi Pavisich	Head Usher	Judi Pavisich
Tom Foley	Director of Music	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	Associate Director of Music	Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	Organist	Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich	Video/Sound	Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Sue McLaughlin	Special Music	Sandy O'Shea
Sarah Hayes	Summer Sunday School	Church Picnic!

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.



FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL:

PENNY SUNDAY

Save your coins, dollars, and checks to UCC! The next Penny Sunday will be **August 30th** and will go to Snow School.



A SIGN-UP FOR TEACHING SUNDAY SCHOOL IN THE SUMMER IS POSTED IN PILGRIM HALL! We still have some slots left!

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ATTENTION TREASURERS!

It's time for the Mid-year audit of the books of all our church organizations!

Please submit your financial records, including receipts and statements to the church office NOW!

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The altar flowers are given—

Happy 17th Birthday to my Love Bug, McKenzzi

Serena Abruzzino



A 2026 SIGN-UP SHEET FOR ALTAR FLOWERS IS

POSTED IN PILGRIM HALL. The cost of flowers is \$18 for 1 vase and \$36 for 2 vases. We still have some Sundays available!



Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthday to Frankie McKane on July 24th!

With love, Grammy

Happy Anniversary today to Diane & Drew Kuzmickas and Lisa & Noah Shriver!

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CHURCH PICNIC & OUTDOOR WORSHIP

(weather permitting)

NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 26th

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 in Pilgrim Hall.

WEAR YOUR FAVORITE HAWAIIAN/TROPICAL SHIRT!

We're having a contest ☺

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UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **June 21st** at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will have an email meeting in July.

WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP—



WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP MEETINGS
Monday, August 3, 2026 – 7:00 p.m. – Parlor
Wednesday, August 5, 2026 – 1:00 p.m. – Parlor

For both meetings, Diana Creecy will present a program on charitable giving and what it means to us, and we will also hold showers for Snow School. Listed below are gift suggestions.

Anyone interested is most welcome to attend either or both meetings.

SNOW SCHOOL SHOWER GIFT SUGGESTIONS

Please do not wrap your gift. Gifts may be dropped off in the box in the Parlor.

- New or like-new Backpacks
- Duffle bags
- Basketballs
- Footballs
- Dove body wash
- Good hair conditioner
- New children’s books (for ages 5 and up)
- New games for kids
- New journals
- New puzzles
- New small toys
- New stuffed animals
- New water bottles
- Suitcases
- Old Spice deodorant
- Toothbrushes & Toothpaste
- * Power drinks like Prime
- Candy (non-perishable and individually wrapped)
- * Chips like Takis (individually bagged)

* Items that the school cannot keep enough in stock

Please note: The school cannot accept anything sharp or things that can be used for injurious behavior (like spirals of a notebook, paper clips, glass, mirrors, anything made of metal).

Thank you for supporting this outreach for the students at Snow School.

J & G SNOW SCHOOL

J & G Snow School is staffed by Berea City School District Employees who proudly educate students who have been placed into the residential treatment programs of OhioGuidestone. The purpose of J & G Snow School, which is located on the campus of OhioGuidestone, is to meet the social-emotional and academic needs of students who are finding it difficult to learn in a traditional school setting. The staff of the Berea City School District aims to provide specialized instruction in the area of behavior in order to empower their students with the skills needed to meet with success in future placements. The staff strives to create a safe and positive school environment that looks at each student as a unique individual. J&G Snow School is committed to helping all students succeed in the classroom both behaviorally and academically.

MINISTER SURVEYS—LAST CHANCE!

Surveys can be found on the greeters’ table in the Gathering Area. Please take a few moments to complete yours and return it to the black collection box located in the Gathering Area today. It is a responsibility of the Board of Trustees to conduct employee reviews periodically and your input will assist in this important task.



FREE LUNCH FOR ALL—
Wednesdays
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Thank you to all of our faithful volunteers, especially our young people who are helping out during their summer break!

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OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 5,212.00
Last Week’s Offering Received \$ 2,748.16
Difference -(\$ 2,463.84)

Thank you very much for your support.
PLEDGES RECEIVED: 62



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 accepted during our Thursday sale hours, but please try to limit your donations to what you can carry downstairs. **Please do not abandon items outside the church doors.**

CHURCH GARAGE SALE—THANK YOU!

BAKE SALE THANK YOU!



We are so grateful to everyone who donated, baked, helped sort donations, purchased items, bought baked goods or lunch, organized, served as a cashier, fed the workers, and cleaned up. We will have a report of our profits in next week’s bulletin and in the August newsletter.



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY BAND:

Mark your calendar for **SUMMER CONCERTS 2026: July 24th** (Rotary cookout) and **August 7th**. Concerts

will be held on the Strongsville Middle School lawn. Bring a lawn chair or blanket for outdoor concerts. In case of inclement weather, the location will be moved to the Ehrnfelt center.

FROM OUR FRIENDS AT BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST UPCOMING CONCERT

Date & Time:
Saturday, July 25th, at 3 PM

Featuring:
Tenor Sam Jungman and Pianist Olivia Tassone
Title: "In Bloom"

Location: Sanctuary at Brecksville UCC
23 Public Square, Brecksville
(440) 526-4364

After the recital, there will be a light reception, providing an opportunity to meet the artists. Admission is free, with a voluntary offering collected to support the music ministry at Brecksville UCC.



OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Irene Jannsohn, Connie Rebar

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Jen Barry, Jean Bittinger, Mark Camp, Judy Carte, Diana Creecy, Sam Cuyler Jr., Roger Davis, Colette Emerson, Roz Fotos, Sue Hawk, Jim Joyce, Pam & Bruce Keenen, Erv Koch, Jill Kundtz, Carol Konet, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Jim Maresco, Jan Meier, Ken Mehalko, Amanda Moulton, Ginny & Kenn Oerkfitz, Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie,



Ron Rothel, Jennifer Sekorky, Tracy Seneff, Peter Smith, Sandy Smith, Bruce Sperber, Linda Stepan, Debbie Thomas, Barbara White, Heather Williams, Jan Williamson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Jim Wonnacott

Extended Church Family: Teresa Beba (Free Lunch friend), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf’s friend), 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), Jennifer Gleichauf (Don & Sandy’s daughter-in-law), David Gleichauf (Don & Sandy’s grandson), Ellen Harrison (Linda Elkins’ friend), Michaelene Hanrahan (Jim Joyce’s sister), Dana Hardy (Craig’s wife), McKenna Hassel (Judi Pavisich’s granddaughter), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel’s parents), Ben Hoty (Tony & Jo-Ann Hoty’s son), Helen Leckwatch (Dale Parson’s mother-in-law), George Love (friend of the church), Diane Mason (Lora Rung’s friend), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel’s sister-in-law), Jeff Peacock (former member), Michael & Judy Richter (Roz Fotos’ friends), Bob Ritchie (Dorothy’s grandson), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes’ friend), Vicki Smith (Venner Clarinets), Jeaneane Steinmeyer (Greg Dickson’s aunt), Don & Pauline Wills (Judi Pavisich’s friends), Julia Wright (Sandy & Don Gleichauf’s granddaughter), the people of Ukraine, Sudan, Gaza, Iran, and Israel, victims of violence and natural disasters, First Responders

OPT-IN: Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain. h.e.denman@gmail.com

THREE WITH GLEE!

Capital Campaign: We currently have \$64,652.72 in our capital campaign account. The acoustic tiles in Pilgrim Hall project should be installed after the Garage Sale. The wall in the kitchen has been repaired with the necessary point and tuck work. A new roof for Pilgrim Hall and the church building may be on the horizon. Things are happening, but we still have more projects on the list. Please make sure you designate your donation for “*Capital Campaign.*” Thanks for your continuing support.



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THERE’S STILL TIME TO PLEDGE FROM YOUR H.E.A.R.T.!
Hospitality, Engagement, Activities, Resources, Time, Talent, & Treasure

United Church of Christ 2026 Estimate of Giving

In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2026:

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 ____/____/____

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Matthew 6:21





CHURCH FAMILY CARE TEAM

If you like to cook or bake or reach out to others in love . . . as winter and circumstances continue to make it hard to stay connected, your Diaconate would LOVE to have you be a part of our team! (You don't need to be a member of the Diaconate to participate, and you may come and go as you are led.)

YES! I'D LIKE TO BE PART OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY CARE TEAM.

NAME_____

PHONE _____

EMAIL_____



I AM INTERESTED IN:

_____ OFFERING OR RECEIVING COMMUNION AT HOME

_____ CALLING FOLKS WHO WOULD LIKE TO JOIN PRAYER CHAIN, BUT DON'T USE EMAIL

_____ PREPARING AN EXTRA MEAL AND DELIVERING IT TO SOMEONE WHO'S HOMEBOUND

_____ HELPING COOK A DISH AND OR SERVE MEALS AT FUNERAL LUNCHEON

_____ BECOMING A "PHONE BUDDY" AND PERIODICALLY CHECK IN WITH SOMEONE WHO'S HOMEBOUND

_____ OFFERING AN OCCASIONAL RIDE TO TAKE MEMBERS TO APPOINTMENTS

_____ OFFERING AN OCCASIONAL RIDE TO OUR CHURCH SERVICES

_____ BE PART OF A CARD CREW TO SEND CARDS TO FOLKS ON HEIDI'S PRAYER LIST AND OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

_____ I WOULD BE WILLING TO...

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WE NEED YOUR HELP!

If you are the last or almost the last person to leave the church building on any given day, please make certain that all the lights are off, no water is running, and most importantly, that the door to the kitchen and the parking lot doors are locked and "undogged" using the Allen key provided. Thanks in advance for your diligence.

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CHURCH OFFICERS 2026

**Elected February 1, 2026*

Moderator: Rachel Zielinski *

Vice-Moderator: Herb Hampson*

Treasurer: Sally Herzog* **Clerk:** Judy Gaumer*

Sunday School Superintendent: Linda Elkins

Board of Trustees

Karen Bates Jen Barry* Greg Dickson*
Bill Giuliano* Chris Goff Les Fox* Cathy Hawk
Sandy Pogozelski* Bill Robinson * Cheryl Sobek
Alex Tomoff Mike Willis

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Linda Stepan* Dave Williams*

Diaconate

Jean Bittinger Elaine Coffey* Diana Creecy*
Bobbi Cook Wayne Cook Judy Davis
Judy Fox* Marsha Hemphill* Lynne McCray*
Linda Ponstingle Lora Rung

Christian Education Committee

Linda Elkins* Colette Emerson* Dale Hawk
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

Ingrid Dickson Sue Gigliotti* Linda Stepan
Rob Toth* Sarah Toth Dave Williams

Mission and Outreach Committee

Jen Barry * Gina Cathcart Bobbi Cook*
Cathy Hawk Sarah Hayes* Lora Rung
Mary Willis Mary Ellen Zimmerman



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.

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