THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (Congregational) 13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136 (440) 238-6697 StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com StrongsvilleUCC.com Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor Sunday, July 2, 2023 – 10:00 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	<i>"Le Chat</i> Sonata" Robert Foley, piano	R. Foley
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS		Elaine Coffey
INTROIT	"Agapē"	R. Foley

+ CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come to our God, all who hunger for life: People: For it is God who nourishes us at the Table of Grace. Leader: Come to our God, all who are worn out by life: People: For it is God who provides the rest we need. Leader: Come to our God, all who are weighed down: People: For it is our God who carries our burdens with us.

† HYMN

"Come to the Table of Grace"

Come to the table of grace*; Come to the table of grace*. This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace*.

*Verse 2: peace, Verse 3: love, Verse 4: joy, Verse 5: hope

A READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18 (New International Version)

I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations. I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself. You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant, 'I will establish your line forever and make your throne firm through all generations." Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, Lord. They rejoice in your name all day long; they celebrate your righteousness. For you are their glory and strength, and by your favor you exalt our horn. Indeed, our shield belongs to the Lord, our king to the Holy One of Israel.

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 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" Runyan, arr. Larson

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Native American Flute Song"

Mehalko

Tune: Old Hundredth

† DOXOLOGY 815 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 10:40-42 (The Message)

This is a large work I've called you into, but don't be overwhelmed by it. It's best to start small.

SERMON

"Here's to the little Guy!"

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Fretful, agitated, longing for more and more of this or that, we spend our lives in a never-ending, always-wanting search for something to satisfy us. But Christ knows that we will only find what our hearts desire in God: so Christ invites us to that peaceful place known as God's heart. May we let go of our burdens of anger, hurt and sin, so that we might find rest.

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Sabbath-Taking God, we are so skilled at being in control, at taking charge, that we are not very good at letting go, slowing down or resting. We think we have to be busy all the time, and we leave no time for you. We are trained to be extremely productive, and so our lives become harried and filled with stress. Forgive us, Eternal God. Help us to let go of our distractions and allow you to act in us; calm our constant busyness and activity, so you can restore and re-create us; help us to follow Jesus, not only into discipleship, but into our rest with you. (silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: It sounds so simple; we think it is too simple to be true. But which is the burden you would choose: hate or love; anger or forgiveness: pain or peace? God invites us to receive the gifts which make it possible to live lives of faithful obedience.

All: This is the good news: God forgives us and takes our burdens from us. We would let go of them and welcome hope, joy, grace into our lives. Thanks be to God. Amen.

A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP "Lamb of God" Paris, arr. Larson Ken Mehalko. Sharon Heinrich

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 799

+ BENEDICTION



SERVING **NEXT SUNDAY – JULY 9** Greeters Jean Bittinger Liturgist Tom Gaumer Volunteers needed Ushers Acolytes Chris Abruzzino/Riley Marshall **Director of Music** Tom Foley Mike Elkins Associate Director of Music Organist Sharon Heinrich Sound Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich The Satori Winds Summer Sunday School Mary Ellen Zimmerman

TODAY-JULY 2 Linda Plain Linda Ponstingle Judi Pavisich, Frank Jefferis Oliver & Matilda Sekorky Tom Foley Mike Elkins Sharon Heinrich Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich Carol Foley, Robert Foley/Ken Mehalko Special Music Irene Jovce

Our steeple will light the sky this week-Happy Birthday to Sandy Smith on July 1st!



Saturday, July 15th at Strongsville Cemetery Meet at the church at 12:30 p.m. and we will proceed to the gravesite. Paul, a United States Army Veteran, died January 4, 2023 and his ashes will be buried with military honors. He was a 63 year member of our congregation.

Malcolm Donev

May the love which overcomes all differences, which heals all wounds, which puts to flight all fears, which reconciles all who are separated be in us and among us, now and forevermore. And may the blessing of God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you this day and for ever more. Amen.

† RESPONSE/POSTLUDE

"Semper Fidelis"

Sousa

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.

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.

The altar flowers are given— Happy 5th Birthday to Alaya Hitchens on July 4th! Irene & Jim Joyce



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 Jim Maresco!

_____ ALL ARE WELCOME AT GOD'S TABLE!

As we seek to walk ever more closely with Jesus and welcome all without question or singling anyone out, we will now be offering gluten-free bread to ALL who come forward to the Table for Holy Communion. ALL

means ALL at The United Church of Christ (Congregational)!

Graveside Memorial Service for Paul E. Hirt





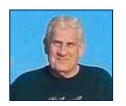
A NOTE OF THANKS—We thank **Robert** Foley, Carol Foley, Tom Foley, Ken Mehalko, and Sharon Heinrich for their music today.

CALLING ALL SINGERS, ENSEMBLES, AND

INSTRUMENTALISTS! Do you want to make a joyful noise unto the Lord, but can't commit to joining the music team throughout the year? How about providing music for a service on one Sunday this summer? Please see Tom Foley or Mike Elkins and choose a summer Sunday--We're happy to work with you!

_____ IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Marianne Luca and family on the loss of her husband of 31 years, Bill. He died on June 25, 2023 at the age of 77.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Summer Sunday School is underway! We are still looking for folks to commit to teaching a single Sunday with our children. All lessons and materials will be provided in advance. Please add your name to the sign-

up sheet in Pilgrim Hall.

PENNY SUNDAY—THANK YOU!

Last week, we collected \$345.00 for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. The next Penny Sunday will be on August 27, 2023



_____ Congregational photo orders were placed on June 26th and the pictures should arrive within the next few weeks.



______ FROM OUR FRIENDS AT THE STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY BAND-

Summer Concert Schedule

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

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.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS



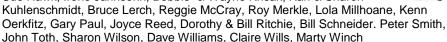
- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, July 11th at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **July 18th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will have an email meeting in July, with reports due **July 25th**.

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, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon



Extended Church Family: Edward and Sharon Acton (Sally Herzog's friends), Dorene Baldridge, Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Angie Colosimo (Judi Pavisich's friend), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Joanne Gariepy (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). Svlvia 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

_____ FREE LUNCH FOR ALL—Wednesdays

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Our Free Lunch for All Program welcomes everyone to enjoy a nutritious meal and warm

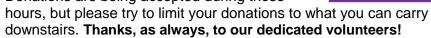




fellowship. SPECIAL THANKS TO MARY **DENSMORE** FOR DONATING HOMEMADE COOKES FOR DESSERT!

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



PLEASE NOTE: The Shop will be CLOSED on July 6th and 13th.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3.617.01 Last Week's Offering Received \$2,336.00 Difference -(\$1,281.01)



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 by July 16th.









Donations will be accepted starting July 2nd through July 20th. 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.

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.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR! **OUTDOOOR WORSHIP & PICNIC** SUNDAY, JULY 30th On our church grounds following outdoor worship. Please bring a lawn chair, and a salad, side dish, or



IT'S HAPPENING!



CHURCH GARAGE

SALE

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

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 vourself 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,

BAKE SALE TO BENEFIT THE

SUNDAY SCHOOL

At the Garage Sale

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



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—

Wednesday, July 5th at 1 p.m. View a movie with Sharon Maresco Monday, July 10th at 7 p.m. Movie night

Everyone is welcome at all our programs!



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 outfit! Prizes will be awarded!

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*
