



**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
(Congregational)  
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**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** "Le Chat Sonata" R. Foley  
Robert Foley, piano

**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

**† 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 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** "America the Beautiful"

**† BENEDICTION**

Malcolm Doney  
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](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.**

<b>SERVING</b>		
<b>TODAY – JULY 2</b>		<b>NEXT SUNDAY – JULY 9</b>
Linda Plain	<b>Greeters</b>	Jean Bittinger
Linda Ponstingle	<b>Liturgist</b>	Tom Gaumer
Judi Pavisich, Frank Jefferis	<b>Ushers</b>	Volunteers needed
Oliver & Matilda Sekorky	<b>Acolytes</b>	Chris Abruzzino/Riley Marshall
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
Carol Foley, Robert Foley/Ken Mehalko	<b>Special Music</b>	The Satori Winds
Irene Joyce	<b>Summer Sunday School</b>	Mary Ellen Zimmerman

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



Our steeple will light the sky this week—  
*Happy Birthday to Sandy Smith on July 1<sup>st</sup>!*

**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**  
**Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup> 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.







**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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **July 18<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



**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 Kuhlenschmidt, Bruce Lerch, Reggie McCray, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkfitz, 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 Filiatrat (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 Matjzic (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

**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 COOKIES 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 hours, but please try to limit your donations to what you can carry downstairs. Thanks, as always, to our dedicated volunteers!



**PLEASE NOTE: The Shop will be CLOSED on July 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.**

**OFFERINGS RECEIVED**

Weekly Offering Needed	\$3,617.01
Last Week's Offering Received	\$2,336.00
Difference	-( <b>\$1,281.01</b> )



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 16<sup>th</sup>.



**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 starting July 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**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.



**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—**

**Wednesday, July 5<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m.**

View a movie with Sharon Maresco

**Monday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.**

Movie night

Everyone is welcome at all our programs!



**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 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\*

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