



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 20, 2025– 10 A.M.
Sacrament of Holy Baptism



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 “Sonaten Adagio” de Gant
Sue McLaughlin and Mike Elkins, flute duet

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

INTROIT “O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee” Smith

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Lord, you lead us to Humble Street, so we know where to walk.

People: You model patience for us, so we can share it with others.

Leader: You will never forget us, but always hold us close to your heart.

People: God of steadfast faithfulness, we know your word of love is closer to us than we think, and we give you thanks.

† HYMN 562 “Be Thou My Vision”

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 15
(New International Version)

Lord, who may dwell in your sacred tent?

Who may live on your holy mountain?

The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous,
who speaks the truth from their heart; whose tongue utters no slander,
who does no wrong to a neighbor, and casts no slur on others;
who despises a vile person but honors those who fear the Lord;
who keeps an oath even when it hurts, and does not change their mind;
who lends money to the poor without interest;
who does not accept a bribe against the innocent.
Whoever does these things will never be shaken.

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 “Concerto in C Major, *Allegro Molto*” Vivaldi
Sue McLaughlin and Mike Elkins, flute duet

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE Penny Sunday

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Sarah Lynn Eggert
Sponsor: Tammy Cooley



Lukas Austin Eggert
Child of Sarah and Benjamin Eggert
Godparents: Lauren Mills and Thomas Mills

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES FROM THE ADULT CANDIDATE

QUESTIONS FOR THE FAMILY

CONGREGATIONAL PROMISE

Family of Christ, Jesus calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace through baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support and care to the ones about to be baptized, as they live and grow in Christ?
(We promise our love, support and care.)

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

Christ be with you. **(And also with you.)**

Let us pray. Eternal God, bless this water by your Holy Spirit. By that same Spirit, save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ, that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in Sarah and Lukas this morning, that they may rise in Christ. All glory and honor be to you, Eternal God, who was, who is, and shall always be, world without end. **Amen.**

BAPTISM OF SARAH LYNN EGGERT

BAPTISM OF LUKAS AUSTIN EGGERT

Let us pray together: **We give you thanks, O God, for your beautiful children Sarah and Lukas, and for your grace acknowledged here today in water and the Spirit. Grant us grace as we receive, nurture and befriend Sarah and Lukas as members of the Body of Christ. Grant them strength for life’s journey, courage in times of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life, through Jesus Christ, who makes us all one. Embrace us all as beloved children in your Household of Love, that we, too, may be faithful to your Word, united in the peace of Christ and the company of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

HYMN 465 “Baptized in Water”

OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Great is thy Faithfulness” Runyon, arr. Larson

† 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 Luke 10: 38-42
(New International Version)
“Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed, only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

REFLECTION “Busy, Busy Busy!”

† HYMN 429 “They’ll Know We Are Christians”

† BENEDICTION Rev. Heather A. Moody
Go out into the world to serve God with love. Be ready to laugh with delight at the good news God has to offer you. Make room at your table for unexpected guests. When the work of discipleship leaves you weary or frustrated, rest in Christ’s presence and listen to what he is saying. And may the blessing of God, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, go with you today and always. Amen.

† POSTLUDE “Great is the Lord” McEwan, arr. Larson



A NOTE OF THANKS—We thank Sue McLaughlin, Mike Elkins, Tom Foley and Sharon Heinrich for today’s music.

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 20		NEXT SUNDAY—JULY 27
Bobbie Krisak	Greeters	Judy & Roger Davis
Barb Fraunfelder	Liturgist	Luke Giuliano
Jan Meier	Head Usher	Mary Ellen Zimmerman
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
Linda Elkins/M.E. Z	Summer Sunday School	Church Picnic!



PLAN TO JOIN US NEXT WEEK FOR THE ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC & POTLUCK NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 27th, PRECEDED BY OUTDOOR WORSHIP at 10 A.M.

(weather permitting)! Bring a lawn chair and a side dish, salad, or dessert to share. The main dish will be provided. The theme is “Down on the Farm,” please dress accordingly!

BABY CONGRATULATIONS

Welcome to the world, **Molly Marie Boden**, daughter of **Katelyn (Deertz)** and **Vince Boden**. Molly was born on July 11, 2025 and joins big sisters **Charlotte** and **Emma** in the Boden household. Congratulations to grandmother **Lori Deertz** and great-grandmother, **Marty Winch!**



Today's altar flowers are given—
Happy 16th Birthday to my little Love Bug, McKenzzi!
Serena Abruzzino
In loving memory of my mom, Dorene Baldrige
Cyndy Garduque



A 2025 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 some Sundays available!

Our steeple will light the sky this week—
Happy Birthday to Frankie McKane on July 24th!
With love, Grammy



Happy Birthday today to Kyra Krause!



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Summer Sunday School needs YOU! 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 sign up for a Sunday you're available for this special ministry--a sign-up sheet is posted in Pilgrim Hall!

PENNY SUNDAY!

Please start saving your coins and dollars for the next Penny Sunday, which will be on **August 31, 2025** for Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary.



IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy goes out to **Jan Meier** and family on the sudden death of her son, **Kenneth Meier**, who died July 9, 2025. Kenneth is also survived by his wife, **Sue**, and two sons, **Kenny** and **Tony**. The memorial service is private.

Our love and prayers are extended to **Jim and Sharon Heinrich, Lisa Heinrich and Terence Wei**, and **Ryan Heinrich**, as well as the **Hileman** family on the death of Jim's mom, **Elvera (Ellie) Heinrich**, who went home to the Lord on July 13, 2025 after a long and blessed life. She was 98 years old. The memorial service will be here at the church on Saturday, August 2nd at 11 a.m., followed by a luncheon in Pilgrim Hall. Visitation will take place at 10 a.m., just prior to the service.



A Celebration of Life for **Rebecca Joy Oerkfitz-Garcia** will be held here at the church on Saturday, August 3, 2025 at 3 p.m., followed by refreshments in Pilgrim Hall. Rebecca died on May 12, 2025 at the age of 56.



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY BAND:

The Strongsville Community Band will a concert on **Friday, August 1st**, on the **Strongsville Middle School** lawn at **7:30 p.m.** Bring a blanket or lawn chair to enjoy the free show! In case of rain or unsafe weather, concerts will be moved to the Ehrnfelt Senior Center in the Strongsville Recreation Center.

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

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



Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Judy Carte, Elaine Coffey, Betty "Grammy" Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sue Hawk, Bruce Keenen, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Roy Merkle, Amanda Moulton, Ginny & Kenn Oerkfitz, George & Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Ron Rothel, Jennifer Sekorky, Tracy Seneff, Peter Smith, Bruce Sperber, Linda Stepan, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Amorie Acevedo (Dennis Smith's daughter), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), 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 Ghatti (friend of Ginger Rothel), Jennifer Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's daughter-in-law), Sarah & David Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's grandson & wife), Michaelene Hanrahan (Jim Joyce's sister), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel's parents), Glenn Kossin (Jane Kossin & Mary Lou Shuey's brother), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Sylvia Pakish (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Mike Pavisich (Judi's step-son), Jeff Peacock (former member), The Price Family, Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Vicki Smith (Venner Clarinets), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Brad Wilkson (Susan Lerch's friend), The people of Ukraine, Sudan, 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 \$ 4,359.00
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 2,443.00
Difference - (\$1,916.00)

Thank you very much for your support.
PLEDGES RECEIVED: 61



FREE LUNCH FOR ALL--
Wednesdays

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

Special thanks to our young helpers, who give their time during their summer vacation!



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 yourself. **Please do not abandon items outside the church doors.**



BOOK STUDY--SISTERHOOD!
Tomorrow, Monday, July 21st at 7 p.m., Our Sisterhood Book Study will continue. All are welcome!



THREE WITH GLEE!



Capital Campaign: We have collected just over \$48,174.00 already for our capital campaign, after paying for the kitchen door replacement and repairs to the main

entrance door off the parking lot. We are working on the handicap openers and are moving forward with contractors for those projects. We are on the schedule for the important tuck and point of the church building in late July or early August. The next project will be improving the acoustics in Pilgrim Hall and the Trustees are reviewing the proposals that have been submitted. Also, some general maintenance around the church and its property is being addressed. Make sure you designate your donation for "*Capital Campaign*." Yellow pledge cards are available in the Gathering Area. Thank you for your continuing support.

OUTDOOR WORK PARTY--DATE TO CHANGE



Please watch this space for the new date!

Join us for a bit of much-needed work in the area outside the kitchen door. Come and give an hour or two and stay for lunch, which will be provided. Bring garden tools and a can-do attitude. See Rachel Zielinski with questions.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR A WONDERFUL EVENT--The return of Sanyuka Children's Choir from Uganda to Strongsville UCC!

Sunday, August 24th at 2 p.m.

The choir will present their high energy music and movement as part of their ministry tour through the United States. We will have a free-will offering to support their ministry. Please join us for this joyful celebration of culture and compassion!



UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

- The Official Board will have an email meeting in July. Please send in reports by Tuesday, July 22nd.

CHURCH OFFICERS 2025

*Elected January 26, 2025 ** appointed by Official Board

Moderator: Greg Dickson Vice-Moderator: Jen Barry
Treasurer: Sally Herzog Clerk: Judy Gaumer
Sunday School Superintendent: Linda Elkins

Board of Trustees

Bill Giuliano Chris Goff* Mike Elkins
Les Fox Herb Hampson Cathy Hawk*
Sandy Pogozeleski Bill Schneider* Cheryl Sobek*
Alex Tomoff* Mike Willis* Rachel Zielinski

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson* Dave Williams*

Diaconate

Teri Barbish Jean Bittinger* Elaine Coffey*
Bobbi Cook* Wayne Cook* Judy Davis*
Judy Fox Pam Heimbürger* Lynne McCray*
Linda Ponstingle* Lora Rung* Cherie Teagno

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

Gina Cathcart* Bobbi Cook** Myron Costin*
Diana Creecy Cathy Hawk* Sarah Hayes
Lora Rung* Peter Smith Mary Willis*
Mary Ellen Zimmerman

STEWARDSHIP

WHAT DO YOU BRING TO THE CAMPFIRE?
UCC 2025 Estimate of Giving

In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2025:

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.

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...