



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136
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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor
Sunday, July 23, 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 "The Gift of Love" arr. Raney

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

INTROIT "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship" Doerksen

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Why should we fear, O God of compassion?

People: You have chosen us to be the bearers of grace, good news and justice to a broken world.

Leader: You call us to be words of hope and joy to people deafened by despair.

People: Still we will praise your name, even through our darkest moments.

Leader: Weeping and wailing may last for a night,

People: But joy always comes in the morning.

ALL: We will extol you, Lord of all life.

† HYMN 107 "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
(New Revised Standard Version)

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

you discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.

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

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even

there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and night wraps itself around me,"

even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day,

for darkness is as light to you.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.

See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

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 "Hymn of Promise" Sleeth

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Wade in the Water" Traditional Spiritual

† **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 13:24-30, 36-43
(NSRV)

The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well.

The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

SERMON "How Does Your Garden Grow?" Rev. Mary Snell Willis

† **HYMN 431** "Shine, Jesus, Shine"

† **BENEDICTION**

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** "Stand by Me" Lieber/Stoller/King

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**.

CAN YOU HELP?

If you have a few minutes after worship today, please lend a hand and put chairs back and pack & stack boxes in Pilgrim Hall for Tuesday's pick up.



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 23

Linda Ponstingle
Mike Willis
Volunteers needed
Tom Foley
Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Ken Mehalko, Dave Williams
Mary Densmore
Rev. Mary Snell Willis

Greeters
Liturgist
Ushers
Director of Music
Associate Director of Music
Organist
Sound
Special Music
Summer Sunday School
Guest Minister

NEXT SUNDAY—JULY 30

Roger & Judy Davis
Luke Giuliano
Volunteers needed
Tom Foley
Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Music Team
Church Picnic!



A NOTE OF THANKS—We thank **Ken Mehalko, Dave Williams, Ingrid Dickson, Irene Joyce, Rob Toth, Clay Williams, Tom Foley, Mike Elkins, and Sharon Heinrich** for their music today.

Special thanks to **Rev. Mary Snell Willis**, who is leading worship today as Pastor Heidi is in Colorado for her mom's memorial service.

The altar flowers are given—

Happy 14th Birthday to McKenzzi on July 25th!
Love, Your Family



Our steeple will light the sky this week—
Happy Birthday to Frankie McKane on July 24th and to Joey McKane on July 28th!
With love, Grammy



Celebrating my 15 biological great-grandchildren, 14 step-great grandchildren, and the 11 grandchildren who gave me these precious gifts.
Love ya all, Banny/G.G. Lola Millhoane

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.

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.



UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

- The Official Board will have an email meeting in July, with reports due **July 25th**.



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

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 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 Filiatraut (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 Rothe'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!

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,617.01
Last Week's Offering Received \$2,719.00
Difference -(\$ 898.01)



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 IS UNDERWAY.



THANK YOU!



CHURCH GARAGE SALE

Thanks to everyone who donated, sorted, set-up, cleaned up, or purchased items to make our sale a success!

BAKE SALE FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL



Whether you baked or bought goodies, the Sunday School appreciates your support of our students and our programs!

NEXT SUNDAY!

OUTDOOR WORSHIP & PICNIC SUNDAY, JULY 30th

Service will be on our church grounds at 10 a.m., followed by lunch in Pilgrim Hall. 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 dish in the Gathering Area.



We will have activities for the kids following lunch in Pilgrim Hall—Everybody is welcome to join in the fun!



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

BEE A BUSY BEE IN 2023

AUGUST – NOVEMBER SHEETS ARE READY!

New 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.



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 20th 2 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 21st 2 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Friday, September 22nd 2 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 23rd 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

We will 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*