



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136

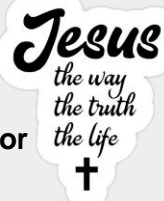
(440) 238-6697

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StrongsvilleUCC.com

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, July 25, 2021 – 10 A.M.



WELCOME!

*Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the best interests of others. –
Philippians 2:4*

For the safety and comfort of everyone, please continue to wear a mask in the Gathering Area and when entering or leaving the Sanctuary. When you are seated in the pews, you may lower your mask if you wish, while maintaining social distancing. **If you are not yet fully vaccinated, we ask that you continue to wear a mask at all times. Thank you.**

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE

“Your Hands”

Heller/Herzig

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Irene Joyce

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 complete your Attendance Card and place it in the offering plate.

INTROIT

“Breathe”

Barnett

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come and worship, proclaim God's ways of faithfulness and steadfast love.

People: We will tell of God's love, which unfolds in our lives.

Leader: Come and worship, for we are God's people, rejoicing in his graciousness.

People: God is always with us, there is nothing which can keep us apart.

Leader: Come to the One who tells stories; worship our God who keeps promises.

People: We rejoice with God who is with us always.

† HYMN

“Come, Now is the Time to Worship”

(If you wish to sing with us, please have your mask in place.)

Come, now is the time to worship.

Come, now is the time to give your heart.

Come, just as you are to worship.

Come just as you are before your God...Come.

One day every tongue will confess You are God.

One day every knee will bow. Still the greatest treasure remains

For those who gladly choose You now.

Come, now is the time to worship.

Come, now is the time to give your heart.

Come just as you are to worship

Come just as you are before your God...Come.

Willingly we choose to surrender our lives; willingly our knees will bow.

With all our heart soul mind and strength, we gladly choose You now.

Come, now is the time to worship.

Come, now is the time to give your heart.

Come just as you are to worship.

Come just as you are before your God...Come.

Come...Come...Just as you are...come.

A READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 1: 1-3

(New Revised Standard Version)

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;
but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law they meditate day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.

Leader: The Word of God, for us, the people of God;

People: Thanks be to God.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL 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

“Jesus, Be the Center”

Frye

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Mary Densmore

OFFERING

Thank you for your continuing commitment to giving freely of your talents and your treasure, as you are able, in service to Christ in the world. Thank you. To give online, please go to:

<https://www.myoffering.com/eonline/index.php/dashboard/login/5027>

OFFERTORY

“El Shaddai”

Card/Thompson

† 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

John 14: 1-7

(New Revised Standard Version)

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

SERMON

“Road Not Taken”

† HYMN 602

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

(If you wish to sing with us, please have your mask in place.)

† BENEDICTION

Now may the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Know that wherever you are, God is with you. **Amen.**

† POSTLUDE

“Trading My Sorrows”

Evans

SERVING

TODAY – JULY 25

Elaine Coffey

Dale Hawk

Elaine Coffey

Tom Foley

Mike Elkins

Sharon Heinrich

Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich

Sharon & Alex Metivier

Sandy Pogozeleski

Rev. Oommen Thomas

NEXT SUNDAY – AUGUST 1

Greeter

Liturgist

Ushers

Director of Music

Associate Director of Music

Supplemental Organist

Sound

Special Music

Sunday School

Special Guest Speaker

Linda Plain

Linda Ponstingle

Linda Plain

Tom Foley

Mike Elkins

Sharon Heinrich

Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich

Lisa Heinrich

Linda Elkins

Sharon Lempner

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**.

Our steeple will light the sky this week—



Happy Birthday to Joey McKane on July 28th!

With Love, Grammy

Happy Birthday today to McKenzzi Abruzzino, Madison Bell, and Cole Johnson!

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,473.27

Last Week's Offering Received \$1,413.75

Difference -(~~\$2,235.62~~)

Thank you very much for your support.



A NOTE OF THANKS

Thank you to Sharon Metivier and Alex Metivier for sharing their music with us today! Thanks to Rob Toth & Clay Williams, too!

WELCOME TO OUR GUEST MINISTER!

Today, we welcome and thank our guest minister, **Rev. Oommen Thomas**, who is leading worship during Pastor Heidi's vacation. Rev. Thomas and his wife, **Leela**, often attend our church and are considered a part of our church family. Rev. Thomas is a retired Presbyterian minister, who has served St. Andrews and John Knox Presbyterian, among other churches. Oommen and Leela live in Strongsville.



Next week, our guest speaker will be **Sharon Lempner**, a member of the Pentecostal Church of Christ in Cleveland, who works with the homeless and helps with distributing bread in conjunction with our Panera ministry. Sharon is a retired educator and she and her husband, **Dave**, live in North Royalton.

WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO BE A GREETER OR AN USHER?

Check out the sign-up sheets on the stand in the Gathering Area and add your name!

Remember : 4 ushers are needed very Sunday, so please feel free to fill up the line for each week.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED FOR 2 MORE SUNDAYS THIS SUMMER! Please call the church or contact Linda Elkins if you would like to sign up to teach on one of the Sundays (supplies and lessons will be provided).

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Janet Kato, Marge McKinney, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

Church Family: Joan Beckwith, Adria Bond, Eddy Bond, Mary Carey, Elaine Coffey, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Linda Elliott, Tom Gaumer, Sue Hawk, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Carole Kapcar, Pam Keenen, Tony Koussa, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Judy Maur, Laurie Meister, Michele Mhlack, Lola Millhoane, Gary Paul, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Jamie & Josh Trinckes, Sharon Wilson, Sally Vetovitz, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Rachel Zielinski, Bob Zimmerman

Extended Church Family: Dorene Baldrige, Fred Beba (Theresa's husband), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Judy Carte's son-in-law, Ryan, John Dickson (Greg's dad), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Jeff & Tiffany Hassel (Judi Pavisich's son & daughter-in-law), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Pat Masuga (Dan's mom), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Kay McGinty (Judi Pavisich's aunt), Zachary McKeever (Pastor Heidi and Chuck's great-nephew), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Thomas O'Shea (Sandy's dad), Carrol Riley (Marjorie Morrison's dad), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Sandra Wentz (Debbie's daughter-in-law), Daphne Wilson (Irene Jannsohn's niece)

Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain.



THANK YOU! TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED AT THE CHURCH GARAGE SALE AND BAKE SALE



Whether you donated, sorted, carried, sold, cleaned up, or bought, your support is truly appreciated. Preliminary totals will be announced during worship today and updated in next week's bulletin.



From our friends at the Strongsville Community Band:

Friday, July 30 at 7:30 PM

(Strongsville Middle School Front Lawn)

Friday, August 6 at 7:30 PM

(Strongsville Middle School Front Lawn)

Please note that concerts scheduled on the Front Lawn of Strongsville Middle School will be moved indoors to the Ehrnfelt Sr./Rec Center in case of inclement weather. Don't forget to bring your own lawn chair!

GIFT CARDS

YOU CAN SUPPORT THIS PROJECT IN A SAFE WAY THAT BENEFITS OUR CHURCH!



You can order gift cards by calling Jim Joyce at 216-267-5043 in advance with your order. Limited stock is available, but special orders may be accommodated with advance notice. Thank you to those who continue to support this project by purchasing gift cards!



Are you an online shopper? If so, why not benefit the church while you make your purchases from Amazon? It's incredibly easy! Here's what you do:

1. Instead of typing amazon.com into your search bar, type in **smile.amazon.com**.
2. Select United Church of Christ Congregational Strongsville by clicking this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-1298100>
3. Shop as you would normally—that's it!

Your addresses, billing information, and shopping cart are still saved and your Prime membership privileges still apply. A small percentage of your purchase price will go toward supporting the church. **We received \$44.29 in May!** PLEASE KEEP SHOPPING!



MUSICIANS NEEDED! It's not too late to be a part of the summer music program. Instrumentalists and vocalists are needed for our worship services in August. If you are interested in joining us and sharing your talent, please contact **Tom Foley or Mike Elkins!**

MEMORIAL SERVICE TO CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF LONG-TIME MEMBER JEAN STRAUB

Jean joined our church in 1951 and was a member until her death on February 26, 2020. Because of the worldwide pandemic, her family was unable to celebrate her life with their Ohio friends and family. They are finally able to have a memorial service at our church on Wednesday, August 25th at 12:30 p.m., preceded by the interment at the cemetery and followed by a luncheon in Pilgrim Hall.



THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is OPEN on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. with lots of interesting merchandise. Donations are being accepted, but you must call the church first to arrange a time for drop-off.



THRIFT SHOP BONUS HOURS
The 3rd Thursday of the month,
August 19, 2021 — 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
(We're still open on our usual

Thursdays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

Also, the Thrift Shop is in need of volunteers to help out for a couple of hours—sorting, organizing, and selling on Thursdays. Please call Cathy Hawk (440-781-7512) if you can help!

WE WILL HAVE CLEARANCE BAG SALES ON THURSDAY, JULY 29th & THURSDAY, AUGUST 5th.

THE THRIFT SHOP WILL BE CLOSED THE WEEK INCLUDING AUGUST 12th
and REOPEN WITH ALL "NEW" MERCHANDISE ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 19th from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.



The Board of Trustees, the Diaconate, and the Official Board will not be meeting during the month of July.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP REGULAR MEETINGS NOW ON WEDNESDAYS

Women's Fellowship will meet on **WEDNESDAY, August 4, at 10:00 A.M. in Pilgrim Hall.** Judy Carte will provide tips on "Aging Gracefully." As always, all ladies are welcome to attend. Women's Fellowship has changed our meeting day to the first WEDNESDAY of the month, to accommodate the Tuesday 10:00 A.M. AA group that will resume meeting in August.



Wednesday – August 4 – 10:00 A.M. – Pilgrim Hall
"AGING GRACEFULLY" with tips from Judy Carte

Wednesday – September 8 – 10:00 A.M.
"OUTDOOR PICNIC AND WALKING"
at East River Park Pavilion
7878 Lewis Road in Olmsted Falls

Wednesday – October 6 – 10:00 A.M. – Pilgrim Hall
VIEW THE MOVIE, "YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN"
and dress up for Halloween – or – wear PJ's!

Wednesday – Nov. 3 – 10:00 A.M. – Pilgrim Hall
"PREPARE FOR OUR CHRISTMAS TEA"
and make centerpieces with Joyce Reed

Sunday – December 5 – Pilgrim Hall
(12:00 or 12:30 P.M. – time to be determined)
"CHRISTMAS TEA"
and ring tonechimes with Barb Fraunfelder