



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, July 26, 2026– 10 A.M.
Outdoor Worship/Church Picnic

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.

GATHERING MUSIC "The Spirit" O'Shea

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor Heidi

INTROIT "Trinity" O'Shea

† 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 "For the Beauty of the Earth"

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of All to Thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour, of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light,
Lord of All to Thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of All to Thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 105: 1-9
(New International Version)

Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.
Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.
Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.
Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles,
and the judgments he pronounced,
you his servants, the descendants of Abraham,

His chosen ones, the children of Jacob.
He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth.
He remembers his covenant forever, the promise he made,
for a thousand generations,
the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac.
Praise the Lord!

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 "Teach Me" O'Shea

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Give with Joy" O'Shea

† 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 GOSPEL Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
Jesus pushed away from the shore and began to teach them,
saying, "The Kingdom of God is like. . . ."

REFLECTION "The Promises of God's Way"

† HYMN "They'll Know We Are Christians"
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side.
We will work with each other, we will work side by side.
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

All praise to the Father, from whom all blessings come.
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His on-ly Son.
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

† BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. And may the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Go in peace. Amen.

† PARTING MUSIC "The Lesson" O'Shea

A NOTE OF THANKS—We thank Sandy O'Shea for her original music. Many thanks also to our Music Team of Mike Elkins, Tom Foley, and Sharon Heinrich. Special thanks go out to Jim Heinrich and Doug Thorn for their technical assistance.

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 26	NEXT SUNDAY – AUGUST 2
Lynne McCray	Greeters Linda Plain
Sharon Maresco	Liturgist Judi Pavisich
Judi Pavisich	Head Usher John Toth
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
Sandy O'Shea	Special Music Music Team
Church Picnic!	Summer Sunday School Mary Ellen Zimmerman



PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US
IN PILGRIM HALL AFTER
WORSHIP FOR FOOD,
FELLOWSHIP, AND FUN,
FOLLOWED BY PICNIC
GAMES!

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

In loving memory of Muriel McKeever, Pastor Heidi's mom, whose legacy of love and good humor lives on--Pastor Heidi

Happy Anniversary today to Sheri & Denny Martin!

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UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

- The Official Board will have an email meeting in July with reports due on July 28th.

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FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL: PENNY SUNDAY

Save your coins, dollars, and checks to UCC! The next Penny Sunday will be **August 30th** and will go to Snow School.



A SIGN-UP FOR TEACHING SUNDAY SCHOOL IN THE SUMMER IS POSTED IN PILGRIM HALL! We still have some slots left!

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OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 5,212.00
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 2,758.00
Difference -(\$ 2,454.00)

Thank you very much for your support.

PLEDGES RECEIVED: 62



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



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—



SHOWERS FOR SNOW SCHOOL

Monday, August 3, 2026 – 7:00 p.m. – Pilgrim Hall

and Wednesday, August 5, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.

– Pilgrim Hall

Anyone interested is most welcome to attend the showers.

SHOWER GIFT SUGGESTIONS

Dove body wash	Duffle bags
Footballs/soccer balls	Backpacks
New fun hats	New fun socks
New games for kids	New journals
New marker sets	New puzzles
New small toys	New stuffed animals (“stuffies”)
New water bottles	Old Spice deodorant
Toothbrushes	Toothpaste
Good hair conditioner/lotion/shampoo	
New children's books (ages 5 and up)	
Fun snacks (individually bagged) or candy (non-perishable)	
Snack-sized chips (Like Takis)	
Power drinks (like Prime)	

Please note: The school cannot accept anything sharp or things that can be used for injurious behavior (like spirals of a notebook, paper clips, glass mirrors, anything made of metal).

Thank you for supporting this outreach for the students at Snow School.



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT STRONGSVILLE

COMMUNITY BAND:

Mark your calendar for **THE LAST SUMMER CONCERT OF 2026: August 7th**. The Concert will be held on the

Strongsville Middle School lawn. Bring a lawn chair or blanket for outdoor concerts. In case of inclement weather, the location will be moved to the Ehrnfelt center.



GARAGE SALE & BAKE SALE THANK YOU!



We are so grateful to everyone who donated, baked, helped sort donations, purchased items, bought baked goods or lunch, organized, served as a cashier, fed the workers, and cleaned up. Our church earned \$5,242 (which includes \$649 from selling strawberry & blueberry shortcakes, nachos, and hot dogs and \$942 in sterling silverware sales). The Bake Sale earned a record \$1,050.50 for the Sunday School. And the Thrift Shop made \$1,975 during that weekend. Wow!

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

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

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Jen Barry, Jean Bittinger, Mark Camp, Judy Carte, Diana Creecy, Sam Cuyler Jr., Roger Davis, Colette Emerson, Roz Fotos, Sue Hawk, Jim Joyce, Pam & Bruce Keenen, Erv Koch, Jill Kundtz, Carol Konet, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Jim Maresco, Jan Meier, Ken Mehalko, Amanda Moulton, Ginny & Kenn Oerkfitz, Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Ron Rothel, Jennifer Sekorky, Tracy Seneff, Peter Smith, Sandy Smith, Bruce Sperber, Linda Stepan, Debbie Thomas, Barbara White, Heather Williams, Jan Williamson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Jim Wonnacott

Extended Church Family: Teresa Beba (Free Lunch friend), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Allison Emerson (Colette's sister), David Fargo (Sally Herzog's brother), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend, Kathy Ghetti (friend of Ginger Rothel), Jennifer Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's daughter-in-law), David Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's grandson), Ellen Harrison (Linda Elkins' friend), Michaelene Hanrahan (Jim Joyce's sister), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel's parents), Ben Hoty (Tony & Jo-Ann Hoty's son), Helen Leckwatch (Dale Parson's mother-in-law), George Love (friend of the church), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Jeff Peacock (former member), Michael & Judy Richter (Roz Fotos' friends), Bob Ritchie (Dorothy's grandson), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Vicki Smith (Venner Clarinets), Don & Pauline Wills (Judi Pavisich's friends), Julia Wright (Sandy & Don Gleichauf's granddaughter), the people of Ukraine, Sudan, Gaza, Iran, and Israel, victims of violence and natural disasters, First Responders

OPT-IN: Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain. h.e.denman@gmail.com

BABY CONGRATULATIONS

Welcome to the world, **Jett Joseph Sapara**, son of **Mallory and Kyle Sapara**, who was born on July 16, 2026! Proud grandparents are Grandparents **Dr. Holly Reed, Scott & Michelle Gleske** and even more proud Great Grandmother is **Joyce Reed**, who is celebrating her 7th Great Grandchild. Jett shares a Birthday with his Great Grandmother!



THREE WITH GLEE!

Capital Campaign: We currently have \$64,767.72 in our capital campaign account. The wall in the kitchen has been repaired with the necessary point and tuck work. The acoustic tiles in Pilgrim Hall project has some additional work to be done prior to installation. A new roof for Pilgrim Hall and the church building may be on the horizon. Things are happening, but we still have more projects on the list. Please make sure you designate your donation for “*Capital Campaign*.” Thanks for your continuing support.



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CHURCH OFFICERS 2026

**Elected February 1, 2026*

Moderator: Rachel Zielinski *

Vice-Moderator: Herb Hampson*

Treasurer: Sally Herzog* **Clerk:** Judy Gaumer*

Sunday School Superintendent: Linda Elkins

Board of Trustees

Karen Bates Jen Barry* Greg Dickson*

Bill Giuliano* Chris Goff Les Fox* Cathy Hawk

Sandy Pogozeleski* Bill Robinson * Cheryl Sobek

Alex Tomoff Mike Willis

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Linda Stepan* Dave Williams*

Diaconate

Jean Bittinger Elaine Coffey* Diana Creecy*

Bobbi Cook Wayne Cook Judy Davis

Judy Fox* Marsha Hemphill* Lynne McCray*

Linda Ponstingle Lora Rung

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

Jen Barry * Gina Cathcart Bobbi Cook*

Cathy Hawk Sarah Hayes* Lora Rung

Mary Willis Mary Ellen Zimmerman



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

If you are the last or almost the last person to leave the church building on any given day, please make certain that all the lights are off, no water is running, and most importantly, that the door to the kitchen and the parking lot doors are locked and “undogged” using the Allen key provided. Thanks in advance for your diligence.



IMPORTANT INFO—Do you know where the AED and First Aid Kit are located in the church? They are adjacent to the doorway in Pilgrim Hall, just to the right of the confirmation classroom.



CHURCH FAMILY CARE TEAM

If you like to cook or bake or reach out to others in love . . . as winter and circumstances continue to make it hard to stay connected, your Diaconate would LOVE to have you be a part of our team! (You don't need to be a member of the Diaconate to participate, and you may come and go as you are led.)

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...

THERE'S STILL TIME TO PLEDGE FROM YOUR H.E.A.R.T.!

Hospitality, Engagement, Activities, Resources, Time, Talent, & Treasure

United Church of Christ 2026 Estimate of Giving

In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2026:

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.

Signed _____ Date ____/____/____

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. *Matthew 6:21*

