



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, July 27, 2025– 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 “Down By the Riverside” Spiritual

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rachel Zielinski

INTROIT “Trinity” O’Shea

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: It is in this place of holiness that we can come with our fears, our doubts, all the questions of our hearts.

People: We come to this place, to hear the words of peace, of hope, of joy God speaks to us.

Leader: It is in this place of discovery that we can come searching.

People: We come to this place, to find the One who has been looking for us.

Leader: It is in this place of openness that we can come knocking.

People: We come to this place, to be embraced by the One whose heart is never locked.

† HYMN

“Come, Now is the Time to Worship”

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 ev’ry tongue will confess You are God.

One day ev’ry 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 hearts, 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 138

(New International Version)

I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart; before the “gods”

I will sing your praise.

I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name

for your unfailing love and your faithfulness,

for you have so exalted your solemn decree that it surpasses your fame.

When I called, you answered me; you greatly emboldened me.

May all the kings of the earth praise you, Lord,

when they hear what you have decreed.

May they sing of the ways of the Lord, for the glory of the Lord is great.

Though the Lord is exalted, he looks kindly on the lowly; though lofty,

He sees them from afar.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life.

You stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes;

with your right hand you save me.

The Lord will vindicate me; your love, Lord, endures forever—

do not abandon the works of your hands.

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 “The Lesson” O’Shea

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Teach Me” 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 GOSPELS

Luke 11: 1-13

(New International Version)

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place.

When he finished, one of his disciples said to him,

“Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”

REFLECTION “Lord, teach ME to Pray!”

† HYMN “Standin’ in the Need of Prayer”

It’s me (it’s me) it’s me, O Lord, standin’ in the need of prayer.

It’s me (it’s me) it’s me, O Lord, standin’ in the need of prayer.

Not my brother, not my sister, but it’s me, O Lord,

Standin’ in the need of prayer;

Not my brother, not my sister, but it’s me, O Lord,

Standin’ in the need of prayer;

It’s me (it’s me) it’s me, O Lord, standin’ in the need of prayer.

It’s me (it’s me) it’s me, O Lord, standin’ in the need of prayer.

Not my father, not my mother, but it’s me, O Lord,

Standin’ in the need of prayer;

Not my father, not my mother, but it’s me, O Lord,

Standin’ in the need of prayer;

It’s me (it’s me) it’s me, O Lord, standin’ in the need of prayer.

It’s me (it’s me) it’s me, O Lord, standin’ in the need of prayer.

Not the stranger, not my neighbor, but it’s me, O Lord,

Standin’ in the need of prayer;

Not the stranger, not my neighbor, but it’s me, O Lord,

Standin’ in the need of prayer;

It’s me (it’s me) it’s me, O Lord, standin’ in the need of prayer.

It’s me (it’s me) it’s me, O Lord, standin’ in the need of prayer.

† BENEDICTION Christine Longhurst

As we leave this place, remember this: Nothing that we encounter in this world can ever separate us from the love of Jesus Christ: not hardship or disaster, poverty or danger, neither death nor life, angels or demons, our fears for today or our worries about tomorrow— not even the powers of hell itself! Nothing in all creation can ever separate us from God’s love. So go from here with joy to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

† PARTING MUSIC “What a Wonderful World” Weiss/Thiele



A NOTE OF THANKS—We thank Sandy O’Shea, Mike Elkins, and Dave Williams for today’s music and Jim Heinrich and Doug Thorn for setting up our audio this morning!

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 27 NEXT SUNDAY—AUGUST 3

Judy & Roger Davis Greeters Linda Plain

Luke Giuliano Liturgist Elaine Coffey

Mary Ellen Zimmerman 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, Dave Williams Special Music Sarah Keenen

Games! (Colette Emerson) Summer Sunday School Colette Emerson



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

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 Birthday today to Ken Heinzman and to Jordyn Miller!



OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 4,359.00
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 3,175.50
Difference - (\$1,183.50)

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



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 Berea Animal Rescue Friends (Berea ARF).



IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY



The memorial service for Elvera (Ellie) Heinrich 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. Memorial donations may be made to the church or Berea Animal Rescue Friends.

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



We were sad to learn of the death of Patricia A. Sasala, who died on July 5, 2025. Patty joined our church in 2019 and was happy to have found a church home here. Her health prevented her from regularly attending worship in her last years, but she remained strong in her faith. She was 73 years old. No services are planned at this time.

We were recently informed of the passing of Marguerite (Maggie) Struhar, who died on July 9, 2025 after being homebound for many years. She and her late husband, John, joined the church in 2006, and were faithful attendees for many years. Her memorial service was held yesterday in Valley City. Maggie was 95 years old.



MARRIAGE CONGRATULATIONS

Our most sincere well wishes to Lisa Nicole (Pogozelski) and Noah Shriver, who were married on July 19, 2025 in Medina. Lisa is the daughter of Sandy and Bob Pogozelski and the granddaughter of Carol and Roy Merkle.

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, 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 Ghetti (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 stepson), 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

BOOK STUDY--SISTERHOOD!
Next month, Monday, August 18th at 7 p.m., Our Sisterhood Book Study will continue. All are welcome!



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!



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY BAND:



The Strongsville Community Band will have their last concert of the summer on Friday, August 1st at 7:30 p.m., following the Rotary Cookout at the Strongsville Sr./Rec Center featuring music from the 60's! The last concert of the summer will be on Friday, August 8th at the new Town Center (in case of rain, the concert will be held at the Senior Center).



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, August 12th at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, August 19th at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, August 26th at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

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.



THREE WITH GLEE!



Capital Campaign: We have collected just over \$48,349.00 so far for our capital campaign. We are working on the handicap openers and are moving forward with contractors for that project.

We are on the schedule for the important tuck and point of the church building in 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, including new light fixtures in the hallway adjacent to Pilgrim Hall. 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!



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...

