



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 30, 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 “Just a Closer Walk with Thee/Down by the Riverside” arr. Davis

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor Heidi

INTROIT “Trinity” O'Shea

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: On this summer morning, we gather at the edge of heaven,

People: Finding the gates flung wide open by the One who welcomes all.

Leader: On this summer morning, we come to this holy place of worship,

People: To be touched by the One who offers us grace and love.

Leader: On this summer morning, we worship God, who adopts us into the family,

People: To be filled by the One who would pour us out in service to the world.

† HYMN “Morning Has Broken”

Morning has broken, like the first morning.

Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird.

Praise for the singing, praise for the morning;

Praise for them springing fresh from the world.

Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from Heaven.

Like the first dewfall, on the first grass.

Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,

Sprung in completeness where His feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning,

Born of the one light, Eden saw play.

Praise with elation, praise every morning

God's re-creation of the new day.

Morning has broken, like the first morning.

Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird.

Praise for the singing, praise for the morning;

Praise for them springing fresh from the world

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 105:1-11, 45
(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.

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 "The Spirit" 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 EPISTLES Romans 8:26-39
(New International Version)

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? . . . For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

SERMON "Convinced!"

† HYMN “Change My Heart, O God”

Change my heart, O God; Make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God; May I be like You.

You are the potter; I am the clay

Mold me and make me, This is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God; Make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God; May I be like You.

You are the potter; I am the clay

Mold me and make me, This is what I pray.

† 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.

† RESPONSE/POSTLUDE “The Lesson” O'Shea

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 30		NEXT SUNDAY – AUGUST 6
Roger & Judy Davis	Greeters	Lynne McCray
Luke Giuliano	Liturgist	Elaine Coffey
Volunteers needed	Ushers	Volunteers needed
Tom Foley	Director of Music	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	Associate Director of Music	Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	Organist	Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich	Sound	Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Roger Davis, Sandy O'Shea	Special Music	Carol Foley
Church Picnic!	Summer Sunday School	Jennifer & Matilda Sekorky

BREAK BREAD WITH US!

Everyone is invited to join us in Pilgrim Hall for fried chicken, hot dogs, salads, sides, and desserts following the

worship service. The Sunday School will be providing activities for the kids, so we humbly ask that our teachers be

permitted to eat first to allow for set-up. Thanks!



TODAY! HAWAIIAN SHIRT CONTEST

After our outdoor service, Each table will have an opportunity to vote on the best outfit at their table—the person who is chosen best dressed will win a prize!

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



A NOTE OF THANKS—We thank Roger Davis, Sandy O'Shea, Tom Foley, and Mike Elkins for their music today and Jim Heinrich and Doug Thorn for managing the sound.

The altar flowers are given—

In Celebration of Rachel (Pogozelski) and Gus Bembenick's marriage yesterday—Love, Sandy & Bob Pogozelski



Our steeple will light the sky this week—
Happy 16th Birthday to my beautiful granddaughters,
Summer & Autumn! --Judy Carte



Happy Birthday to Isabella Jannsohn on August 1st
In loving Memory of Brooke M. Akins
Love, the Dickson and Joyce families

Happy Birthday today to Rosemary Bechtel!

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 box. 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.





MARRIAGE CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to church member **Rachel (Pogozelski)** and **Gus Bembenick**, who were married in our church yesterday. Rachel is the daughter of **Sandy** and **Bob Pogozelski** and the granddaughter of **Carol Merkle**.



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 MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **August 8th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **August 15th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **August 22nd** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



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**. Money collected will go to the Berea City School District Backpack project.

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 Gariepy (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 Rothel'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



Thank you all for the many cards and hugs following the death of my husband, Bill, in June. With much love, **Marianne Luca**

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!



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

Friday, August 4: Strongsville City Jazz 7:30 p.m.
Ehrnfelt Center

Friday, August 11: 7:30 p.m. Strongsville Middle School Lawn--**BRING A LAWN CHAIR!**

* In case of inclement weather, the outdoor concert will be held at the Strongsville Senior Center.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,617.01
Last Week's Offering Received \$2,003.00
Difference -(\$1,614.01)

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.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS



Our August Women's Fellowship meetings will be training for Stop the Bleed and the defibrillator we have in Pilgrim Hall. Due to a scheduling conflict for the instructor, the Wednesday afternoon meeting will be moved from Wednesday, August 2nd to

Wednesday, August 9th at 1:00pm in Pilgrim Hall. The evening group will meet on **Monday, August 7th** at 7:00pm in Pilgrim Hall.

BEE A BUSY BEE IN 2023—August - November

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. – 6:30 p.m.

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

We need volunteers to help with the sign-up process for our families. Please see Irene Joyce if you can help.

ALSO, IF YOU HAVE ANY UPDATES TO YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION, PLEASE MAKE SURE THE CHURCH HAS YOUR CURRENT ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER—THANKS!

ONLINE SCHEDULING INSTRUCTIONS
FOR FAMILY APPOINTMENT SETTING

- ❖ Go to the Universal Church Directories website (www.ucdir.com)
- ❖ Click on the box on the right side of the homepage entitled "photography appointment scheduling login"
- ❖ Enter your church code **oh2687**
Enter your church password **photos**
- ❖ Click on the Enter button
- ❖ Click on the desired photography date
- ❖ Click on the Reserve Time button beside the desired photography appointment time
- ❖ Enter the appropriate information in all required fields (indicated by the asterisk *)
- ❖ Click on the Schedule Appointment button at the bottom of the screen to reserve the photography appointment time in your family's name
- ❖ If you have more than six family members being photographed, please reserve two appointments consecutively (such as 6:00 and 6:10)
- ❖ Print the next screen to use as a reminder of your family's photography appointment
- ❖ **Contact your church's online scheduling administrator to change or cancel your photography appointment.**