



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136
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StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com
StrongsvilleUCC.com

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, July 5, 2026– 10 A.M.
Sacrament of Holy Communion



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 "Amazing Grace" American Traditional

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Bill Schneider

INTROIT “Oh Freedom” Traditional Spiritual

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: With joy and celebration, God welcomes us to this place.

People: How good it is to gather in God's house!

Leader: With joy and celebration, we welcome one another.

People: We greet each other by name; we are equal in God's Kingdom.

Leader: We open our hearts, to welcome God's love; we open our arms, to welcome God's people.

People: Here, every single one of God's children is welcome.

† HYMN 799 “America the Beautiful”

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 145:8-4
(New International Version)

The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.
The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.
All your works praise you, Lord; your faithful people extol you.
They tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might,
so that all people may know of your mighty acts
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures through all generations.
The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.
The Lord upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

PRAYING IN SILENCE

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy, ALL: Hear our prayers. Amen.

ANTHEM “The House I Live In” Robinson

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Eternal Father, Strong to Save” Elkins

† 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 11:16–19, 25-30
(The Message)

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace.

I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.”

REFLECTION “Let Jesus”

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor: Created to live with one another and our God, we know the truth about our shattered lives and relationships. Yet, out of this brokenness, God shapes new people, giving every one of us a new start. Let us confess those things which separate us from one another, that we might be made one in Christ.

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

All: In your house, there is room for all; at your Table, we find a place set for us. But we admit, Inviting God, that we find it difficult to be as accepting as you and we find it easy to shoulder others away from your feast. You fling wide the doors to your kingdom, Welcoming God, but we are quick to try to shut them to those who are different from us. Your heart is open so that all might experience your grace, and we reluctantly remember our ungracious words and deeds. Forgive us, God of every person: heal our broken lives; mend our fragmented souls. Open our hearts to your vision of the Kingdom where all are welcome, all are affirmed, all are beloved - even as we receive these gifts from Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen. (silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Can it be any clearer? God has created us to be a family - sisters, brothers, neighbors, friends. No longer strangers, we are all welcome in the kingdom of love, grace, and hope.

All: In Christ, we are one. There are no barriers, no differences, no divisions. We are a new people, forgiven and made whole. Thanks be to God. Amen.

A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” Traditional American, arr. Raney

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.

† HYMN 479 “Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling”

† BENEDICTION Revs. Erika Marksbury & Amanda Meisenheimer
Go now as people of God’s beloved community, carrying the language of compassion and welcome into every interaction, showing hospitality to strangers, grace to the weak, and love to all people. Cross the boundaries that hatred tries to build, for the wind of God’s Spirit goes where She pleases. May the God who spoke every language to every nation at Pentecost stretch your heart wider than borders, wider than fear. And may the creator of all living things bless you and keep you, today and always. Amen.

POSTLUDE “Semper Fidelis” Sousa

A NOTE OF THANKS—We thank Dave Williams and our music team: Mike Elkins, Tom Foley, and Sharon Heinrich for our music today!

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 5	NEXT SUNDAY – JULY 12
Linda Plain	Volunteer needed
Mary Ellen Zimmerman	Liturgist Carol Konet
Bill Robinson	Head Usher Judi Pavisich
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
Dave Williams	Special Music Carol Konet, the Foleys
Irene Joyce	Summer Sunday School Mary Ellen Zimmerman

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.



FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL:
PENNY SUNDAY THANK YOU!
we collected \$349.25 for Ohio Guidestone, formerly known as Berea Children’s Home, offering hope and caring to foster children and their families. 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!



ATTENTION TREASURERS!
It’s time for the Mid-year audit of the books of all our church organizations!
Please submit your financial records, including receipts and statements to the church office by July 7th.



The altar flowers are given—
Celebrating our family and our country!
Susann Lerch



A 2026 SIGN-UP SHEET FOR ALTAR FLOWERS IS POSTED IN PILGRIM HALL. The cost of flowers is \$18 for 1 vase and \$36 for 2 vases. We still have some Sundays available!



Our steeple will light the sky this week—
Happy 4th of July Birthday to our little firecracker, Alaya Hitchens!
Love, Irene & Jim Joyce

Happy Birthday tomorrow to Teri Barbish!
Happy Birthday to Bev Wehr on July 9th
and to Susann Lerch on July 10th!

MINISTER SURVEYS can be found in your bulletin this morning. Please take a few moments to complete yours and return it to the black collection box located in the Gathering Area by July 12th, if you haven't already done so. It is a responsibility of the Board of Trustees to conduct employee reviews periodically and your input will assist in this important task.



THANK YOU NOTE



Thank you to all in the church who over the past few weeks have offered their words of support and sympathy on the passing of my husband George Reed. Your kindness and thoughtfulness was most appreciated and meant much to me. **Joyce Reed**



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Mission Outreach Committee will meet on the second Sunday of the month, **July 12th** following the worship service.
- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **July 14th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **June 21st** at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will have an email meeting in July.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 5,212.00
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 4,415.00
Difference -(\$ 797.00)
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.**



IT'S COMING SOON!
CHURCH GARAGE SALE



FRIDAY, JULY 17th from 6 P.M. – 8 P.M.
AND
SATURDAY, JULY 18th from 9 A.M. – 2 P.M.

Donations will be accepted now through July 17th.

We accept household items, home décor, sporting equipment, craft supplies, books, games, toys, small electronics, furniture, kitchenware and dishes, plus clothing & shoes (for the Thrift Shop)
We DO NOT accept liquids of any kind, hazardous materials, or large televisions.

Please keep in mind: "If you wouldn't buy an item in the condition it's in, please don't foist it on the church." Also, please plan to carry your items yourself or bring a helper (or two). Thanks!

We'll need lots of volunteers, too—

On the days of the sale and every day the week before, sorting the items. Come in the morning, afternoon, or evening.

Please see Rachel Zielinski or Irene Joyce if you can give a couple of hours of your time to help sort donations either day or evening from July 12 - 16 (or just show up)!

WE ALSO NEED LARGE SHOPPING BAGS! (Marc's Bags)
If you can spare some, please bring them to the church office anytime.



BAKE SALE TO BENEFIT THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

At the Garage Sale

Please bring your wrapped/bagged baked goods on Friday, July 17th before 6 p.m. or Saturday, July 18th before 9 a.m.



FREE LUNCH FOR ALL--
Wednesdays
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE: ON JULY 15th, FREE LUNCH WILL BE CARRY-OUT ONLY. Lunches must be reserved in advance.



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY BAND:

Mark your calendar for **SUMMER CONCERTS 2026: July 3rd, July 10th, July 24th** (new date, Rotary cookout) and **August 7th**. Concerts 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.

AN EASY WAY TO HELP OUR CHURCH AND ENJOY QUALITY MEATS!

When you shop at **Smitty's Meats** (12966 Prospect Road Strongsville), mention the church's phone number--**440-238-6697** and 10% of your bill will be donated to our church at the end of the year!



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), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Joanne Garipey (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), Ellen Harrison (Linda Elkins' friend), Michaelene Hanrahan (Jim Joyce's sister), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), McKenna Hassel (Judi Pavisich's granddaughter), 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), Sylvia Pakish (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), 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), Jeaneane Steinmeyer (Greg Dickson's aunt), Don & Pauline Wills (Judi Pavisich's friends), 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

THREE WITH GLEE!

Capital Campaign: We currently have \$63,954.72 in our capital campaign account. The acoustic tiles in Pilgrim Hall project is underway. 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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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





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...

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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.

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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 Pogozelski* 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*
Cindy Hurley* 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

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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.
