



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
(Congregational)  
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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor  
Sunday, June 11, 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 "Great is Thy Faithfulness" Runyon, arr. Raney

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

INTROIT "Jesus Stand Among Us" Whitworth

## † CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The sinners, the saints, the broken, the whole:

**People: We all come seeking the One who offers grace and hope.**

Leader: The doubters, the devout, the wonderers, the wanderers:

**People: We all seek to follow the One who works for justice and hope for all of God's people.**

Leader: The hesitant, the heroic, the grandparents, the little children:

**People: We all listen for the songs of joy all creation sings to the One who gives life and peace.**

† HYMN 97 "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 33:1-11  
(New International Version)

Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous ones;  
it is fitting for the upright to praise him.

Praise the Lord with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.

Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.

For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.

The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love.

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,  
their starry host by the breath of his mouth.

He gathers the waters of the sea into jars; he puts the deep into storehouses.

Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the people of the world revere him.

For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.

The Lord foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.

But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever,  
the purposes of his heart through all generations.

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 "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" Showalter, arr. Raney

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## GRADUATE RECOGNITION

## OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" Arlen

† 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 9:9-13; 18-26  
(New International Version)

While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

SERMON "Who's Following Whom?"

† HYMN 757 "Soon and Very Soon" (verses 1 - 4)

† BENEDICTION Moira Laidlaw  
As you leave this place, go confident in the knowledge of God's steadfast love for you; be assured of the healing touch of Jesus upon you; and be emboldened by the transforming power of the Holy Spirit within you. Amen.

† RESPONSE "Go Now in Peace" Besig

† POSTLUDE "Pastorale on *Forest Green*" arr. Purvis

**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](http://strongsvilleucc.com), select **Worship**, and click on **Service Videos**.

## SERVING

TODAY – JUNE 11		NEXT SUNDAY – JUNE 18
Linda Ponstingle	<b>Greeters</b>	Judi Pavisich
Dave Williams	<b>Liturgist</b>	Herb Hampson
Roz Fotos	<b>Ushers</b>	Judi Pavisich
Oliver & Matilda Sekorky	<b>Acolytes</b>	Chris Abruzzino/Riley Marshall
Tom Foley	<b>Director of Music</b>	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	<b>Associate Director of Music</b>	Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	<b>Organist</b>	Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich	<b>Sound</b>	Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Chancel Choir	<b>Special Music</b>	Richard Densmore
Mary Densmore	<b>Summer Sunday School</b>	Colette Emerson



## 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.



## A NOTE OF THANKS—

We thank the Chancel Choir (Bruce Keenen, Dave Williams, Mike Willis, Richard Densmore, Rob Toth, Clay Williams, Sarah Keenen, Irene Joyce, Pam Keenen, Ingrid Dickson, Sharon Maresco, Sarah Toth, and Sandy O'Shea, our supplemental singers, Craig Hardy, Jackie Foley, Pastor Heidi, and Barb Fraunfelder, and Thursday members Bobbi & Wayne Cook), for their dedication throughout the choir season; and Tom Foley, Mike Elkins, and Sharon Heinrich for sharing their music with us.

**CALLING ALL SINGERS, ENSEMBLES, AND INSTRUMENTALISTS!** Do you want to make a joyful noise unto the Lord, but can't commit to joining the music team throughout the year? How about providing music for a service on one Sunday this summer? Please see **Tom Foley** or **Mike Elkins** and choose a summer Sunday--We're happy to work with you!

The altar flowers are given—

*Celebrating "GiGi's" 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday today!*  
Love, the Zielinski family

*Happiest birthday to my June babies: Izzy (21), Ken (25),  
and Chris (13) Love you guys--Mum*  
Serena Abruzzino



Our steeple will light the sky this week—  
*Happy Birthday to Dan Sauter on June 14<sup>th</sup>!—Love, Grammy*

*Honoring the dedicated singers in the Chancel Choir  
and dedicated ringers in the Bell Choir*

**FRESH FLOWERS EACH WEEK!** Please sign up for 2023 altar flowers on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. We still have some Sundays available to honor a special date or loved one.

**Happy 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday today to Phyllis Kurz!**

**Happy Anniversary today to Roy & Carol Merkle!**

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



**Summer Sunday School is underway!** 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. Start thinking about which Sunday you're available for this special ministry, and then add your

name to the sign-up sheet in Pilgrim Hall.

## PENNY SUNDAY

Start saving those coins, dollars, and checks to UCC--  
The next Penny Sunday will be on **June 25, 2023!**



## CONGREGATIONAL PHOTO

If you would like to purchase an 8" x 24" congregational photo, please contact the church office. The cost is \$29.95 (Checks to UCC.) Orders are due NO LATER than June 25<sup>th</sup>. **\*\*\*This is a change so that we may order all together and get bulk pricing.**



## 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, Diana Creecy, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sue Hawk, Irene Jannsohn, Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Bruce Lerch, Reggie McCray, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkfitz, Gary Paul, Sandy Pogozielski, Cade Raymond, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, Bill Schneider. Peter Smith, John Toth, Sharon Wilson, Dave Williams, Janis Williamson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

**Extended Church Family:** Edward and Sharon Acton (Sally Herzog's friends), Dorene Baldrige, Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Ron Colosimo (Judi Pavisich's friend), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dr. Angelo Gagliani (Ingrid Dickson's friend), Joanne Garipey (Sally Herzog's friend), Jennifer Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's daughter-in-law), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Tom Irelan (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Bill Luca (Marianne's husband), 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), Jeff Peacock (former member), Zora Roundtree (FL4A volunteer), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Tina Serrano (Elliott Joyce's grandma), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Vicky Smith (Venner Clarinets), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Tom (friend of Judi Pavisich), Weston (Chelsey Cathcart Cox's friend's son), Don Wills (friend of Judi Pavisich), Lee & Brad Wright (Sandy & Don Gleichauf's friends), 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

## OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,617.01  
Last Week's Offering Received \$2,935.00  
Difference -(\$ **682.01**)

**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!



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

Friday, June 16: 7:30 p.m. Strongsville Middle School Lawn  
Friday, June 30: 7:30 p.m. Strongsville Middle School Lawn  
Friday, July 7: 7:30 p.m. Strongsville Middle School Lawn  
Friday, July 21: 7:30 p.m. Strongsville Middle School Lawn  
Friday, July 28: 7:30 p.m. Strongsville Rotary (Ehrnfelt Center)  
Friday, August 4: Strongsville City Jazz 7:30 p.m. SMS Lawn  
Friday, August 11: 7:30 p.m. Strongsville Middle School Lawn



## UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **June 13<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **June 20<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **June 27<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

## GRADUATES



**Olivia Marie Mapuana Clotworthy**  
**The Ohio State University**  
**Daughter of Kristen & Mike Clotworthy**  
**Sister of Emma and Ben Clotworthy**

Bachelors degree in May, 2023 from the Ohio State University

**Hannah Marie Colao**  
**Mentor High School**

**Daughter of Abby Camp Colao and Todd Colao**  
**Granddaughter of Mark & Barb Camp**  
**Sister of Hunter Colao**

National Honors Society, Captain of Sparkle Cheerleaders, Summa cum Laude, Girl Scout Ambassador. Hannah is headed to Kent State University this fall to major in Early Childhood Education with a minor in Special Education.



**Alex Brian Dettmer**  
**Berea-Midpark High School**  
**Son of Kim & Jeff Dettmer**  
**Grandson of Linda & Jim Dettmer**  
**Brother of Owen Dettmer**

Varsity Swim Team, Senior Class Executive Board, Band and Orchestra, Superintendent's Advisory Council, National Honor Society, Band President, Patrick S. Gilmore Band Award,

Homecoming King, graduate with Honors. Alex will attend Baldwin Wallace University majoring in Media Production. He will also be swimming for BW and in the Marching Band.

**Bryana Mary Hitchens**  
**Central School of Practical Nursing**  
**Mother of Alaya Hitchens and Elliott Joyce**

Bryana started her nursing career as a Licensed Practical Nurse at O'Neill Health Care in Fairview Park, but is now employed at Metro Health in Cleveland.



**Hannah Grace Hosford**  
**Padua Franciscan High School**  
**Daughter of Melinda Hosford**  
**Granddaughter of Mary & Mike Willis**

She will attend Taylor University in Indiana in the fall and will play setter on the college volleyball team. Hannah is the youngest of the Willis's five grandchildren.



**Nina Elizabeth Jannsohn**  
**Fairview High School**

**Daughter of Charles & the late Aimée Jannsohn**  
**Granddaughter of Irene & the late Erik Jannsohn**

Cello player in the orchestra, member of Fairview Stage Crafters, Varsity bowler. Nina has plans to attend Kent State University in the fall to study fashion design and merchandising.



**Taylor Scott Mehalko**  
**Case Western Reserve University School of Law**  
**Son of Scott & Candace Mehalko and Megan Mehalko**  
**Grandson of Bev Wehr & Ken Mehalko**

Taylor is working at McCarthy LeBitt Crystal Liffman and will take his bar examination in July.

**Alexander Michael Metivier**  
**Brunswick High School**  
**Son of Sharon & Mike Metivier**  
**Grandson of Judy & Tom Gaumer**  
**Brother of Emmett Metivier**

Madrigal Choir, Men's Octet, After school men's Chorus, Mixed Symphonic Choir, Rhapsody in Blue Show Choir, Theater productions, Top 30, Summa cum Laude. Alex will be studying Music Education at Baldwin Wallace Conservatory in the fall. He plans to become a high school choir director.



**Emmett Raphael Metivier**  
**Kent State University**  
**Son of Sharon & Mike Metivier**  
**Grandson of Judy & Tom Gaumer**  
**Brother of Alex Metivier**

Emmett has earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts with an emphasis on glass work. His future plans include having his own glass studio some day!

**Katelyn Marie Milvet**  
**Strongsville High School**  
**Daughter of Stacey Gareau and Steve Gareau**  
**Granddaughter of Janis Williamson**

Varsity swimmer for high school for four years, lifeguard and coach for summer swim league. She has helped with the Free Lunch for All. National Honor Society; Math Honor Society, GPA, 4.5. She will be attending Ohio University to major in physical therapy.



**Landry E. Minton**  
**Aquinas High School**  
**Daughter of Melissa & Wayne Minton**  
**Granddaughter of Barbara & John Toth**

Soccer team captain (2023 Georgia state champions), National Honor Society, Landry is the Toths' first grandchild to graduate from High School. She will be attending Mississippi State University to study Horticulture.

**Aylah Grace Purdum**  
**Lakeview High School**  
**Daughter of Andrew & Barbara Purdum**  
**Sister of Kyler Purdum and Jaslyn Purdum**  
Drama Club, Band. She will be attending Dartmouth College to major in Biology/Pre-med with hopes of becoming a pediatrician.



**Julia Linn Wright**  
**University of Toledo**  
**Doctor of Psychiatry**  
**Daughter of Lee & Brad Wright**  
**Granddaughter of Sandy & Don Gleichauf**

Recipient of the Theodore P. and Evelyn H. Cengel Memorial Award. Julia was matched with Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where she will begin her residency.

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**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.** Faith in Action Grants Team of the Living Water Association, Ohio NorthEast, Heartland Conference United Church of Christ, awarded Strongsville UCC's Free Lunch for All project a grant of \$2,217.11.





**PANERA PALS—HELP NEEDED**

Are you able to give less than an hour of your time on a Monday or Friday morning to pick up and/or sort Panera bread, bagels, and pastries? Please contact the church office if you can help with this worthwhile ministry.

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**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!**

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**BE A BUSY BEE IN 2023**

Sign-up sheets in the Gathering Area are waiting for **your name** to be added as a greeter or an 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.



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