



## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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[StrongsvilleUCC.com](http://StrongsvilleUCC.com)

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, June 25, 2023 – 10:00 A.M.

Penny Sunday



### 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** "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" arr. Raney  
Duet: Carol Foley, Mike Elkins

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Irene Joyce

**INTROIT** "Finlandia" Sibelius

### † CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: There is no hope like you, O God!

**People: Hope for those who cry out from the deserts of their lives.**

Leader: There is no grace like you, O God!

**People: Grace for those rejected, ignored, and cast aside by the world.**

Leader: There is no love like you, O God!

**People: Love for those who have known days of trouble and nights of loneliness.**

Leader: When we are filled with loss and despair,

**People: You gladden our hearts with your hope.**

Leader: When everyone around us turns a deaf ear,

**People: You lean in, to hear our cries. There is no love like you, Compassionate God.**

### † 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 86 1-10

(New International Version)

Hear me, Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.

Guard my life, for I am faithful to you; save your servant who trusts in you.

You are my God; have mercy on me, Lord, for I call to you all day long.  
Bring joy to your servant, Lord, for I put my trust in you.  
You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call to you.  
Hear my prayer, Lord; listen to my cry for mercy.  
When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me.  
Among the gods there is none like you, Lord; no deeds can compare with yours.  
All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, Lord;  
They will bring glory to your name.  
For you are great and do marvelous deeds; you alone are God.

**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** "True Colors" Steinberg/Kelly  
Vocalists: Jackie Foley, Garrett Brezina

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Penny Sunday**

### OFFERING

**OFFERTORY** "Be Thou My Vision" arr. Raney

† **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 10:24-39**  
(New International Version)

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care.

**SERMON** "Bird Watching"

† **HYMN 185** "Jesus Loves Me"

† **BENEDICTION** Based on Psalm 103  
Now may the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Know that wherever you are, God is with you. **Amen.**

† **RESPONSE/POSTLUDE** "Always Chasing Rainbows" Chopin

**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**.

### 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.

### SERVING

#### TODAY – JUNE 25

The Abruzzinos	<b>Greeters</b>	Linda Plain
Dan Winrod	<b>Liturgist</b>	Linda Ponstingle
Judi Pavisich	<b>Ushers</b>	Volunteers needed
Luke Giuliano/Aidan Hurtig	<b>Acolytes</b>	Oliver & Matilda Sekorky
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
Carol Foley, Jackie Foley/Garrett Brezina	<b>Special Music</b>	C.Foley, R. Foley, Ken Mehalko
Linda Elkins	<b>Summer Sunday School</b>	Irene Joyce

The altar flowers are given—

*Celebrating our 61<sup>st</sup> Anniversary on June 30<sup>th</sup>!*

Pat & Frank Jefferis

*In remembrance of Erik & Irene Jannsohn's anniversary 6/23/62*

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

*Happy Birthday to Josh Sauter on June 30<sup>th</sup>*

*Happy Anniversary to Rob & Sandra Wentz on June 27<sup>th</sup>*

With love, Grammy



**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 Birthday today to Linda Ponstingle!**



**A NOTE OF THANKS—**We thank **Garrett Brezina, Jackie Foley, Carol Foley, Tom Foley, Mike Elkins, Clay Williams, and Sharon Heinrich** for their music today.

**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!

### 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. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in Pilgrim Hall.**



### TODAY IS PENNY SUNDAY

We are collecting coins, dollars, and checks to UCC.

This month, our collection will go to the Pastor's

Assistance Fund, which provides help to those who

come to the church office in immediate need. Our church provides gas cards and sometimes grocery assistance to persons who seek our help on a one-time basis. (For greater needs, our church works in cooperation with other churches and service organizations in our area.) The next Penny Sunday will be on **July 23, 2023**





## CONGREGATIONAL PHOTO ORDERS

### Due TODAY

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 with Ripcho Studio will be placed tomorrow, Monday, June 26<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

\*Concerts will be held at the Strongsville Senior Center in case of rain.

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### UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

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

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### 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, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Bruce Lerch, Reggie McCray, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkfitz, Gary Paul, 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), 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), Dr. Angelo Gagliani (Ingrid Dickson's friend), Joanne Garipey (Sally Herzog's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), 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), Sylvia Pakish (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), 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), Vicki 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), 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

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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. SPECIAL THANKS TO MARY DENSMORE FOR DONATING HOMEMADE COOKIES FOR DESSERT!



### 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!

**PLEASE NOTE: The Shop will be CLOSED on July 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.**



### IT'S HAPPENING!



### CHURCH GARAGE SALE

FRIDAY, JULY 21<sup>st</sup>  
from 6 P.M. – 8 P.M. AND  
SATURDAY, JULY 22<sup>nd</sup>  
from 9 A.M. – 2 P.M.

Donations will be accepted starting July 2<sup>nd</sup> through July 20<sup>th</sup>. 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 evening the week before, beginning around 6 p.m. and sorting until about 9 p.m.

**Please see Rachel Zielinski or Irene Joyce if you can give a couple of hours of your time from July 16 - 20 (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 21<sup>st</sup> before 6 p.m. or Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> before 9 a.m.

### OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,617.01  
Last Week's Offering Received \$2,336.00  
Difference -(\$1,281.01)

**Thank you very much for your support.**

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### 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!

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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.



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

SUNDAY, JULY 30<sup>th</sup>

On our church grounds following outdoor worship. Please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert—the main dish and beverages will be provided.



**Graveside Memorial Service for Paul E. Hirt Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at Strongsville Cemetery Meet at the church at 12:30 p.m. and we will proceed to the gravesite.**

Paul, a United States Army Veteran, died January 4, 2023 and his ashes will be buried with military honors. He was a 63 year member of our congregation.

### CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2023

*\*Elected January 29, 2023*

**Moderator:** Greg Dickson **Vice-Moderator:** Jen Barry  
**Treasurer:** Sally Herzog **Clerk:** Judy Gaumer

**Sunday School Co-Superintendents**  
Linda Elkins Mary Densmore\*

**Board of Trustees**  
Diana Creecy Chris Goff\* Herb Hampson Cathy Hawk  
Sarah Hayes Cheryl Sobek\* Dan Winrod\*  
Laura Winrod\* Rachel Zielinski

**Endowment Fund Subcommittee**  
Greg Dickson Linda Stepan Dave Williams\*

**Diaconate**  
Teri Barbish Jean Bittinger\* Elaine Coffey  
Bobbi Cook\* Wayne Cook\* Judy Davis\*  
Carole Kapcar\* Sharon Maresco Linda Ponstingle Cherie Teagno  
Barbara White\* Mary Ellen Zimmerman\*

**Christian Education Committee**  
Serena Abruzzino\* Mary Densmore\*  
Linda Elkins Amanda Marshall Lora Rung

**Music Committee**  
Richard Densmore Ingrid Dickson  
Pam Keenen Ken Mehalko\* Mike Willis\*  
*ex officio:* Sharon Heinrich Tom Foley Mike Elkins

**Stewardship Committee**  
Judi Pavisich Bill Schneider\* Richard Taylor  
Rob Toth Mary Willis\*

**Mission and Outreach Committee**  
Judy Carte\* Sarah Hayes Bobbie Krisak Lora Rung\*  
Jennifer Sekorky Peter Smith\* Bev Wehr  
Mary Ellen Zimmerman\*

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