



**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

(Congregational)

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**Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor**

**Sunday, June 6, 2021 – 9 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.**

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**WELCOME!**

*Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the best interests of others. – Philippians 2:4*

For the safety and comfort of everyone, please continue to wear a mask in the Gathering Area and when entering or leaving the Sanctuary. When you are seated in the pews, you may lower your mask if you wish, while maintaining social distancing. **If you are not yet fully vaccinated, we ask that you continue to wear a mask at all times. Thank you.**

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

**PRELUDE** “Choral (Opus 37, No. 4)” Jongen

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Irene Joyce

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 complete your Attendance Card and place it in the offering plate.

**INTROIT** “Sanctuary” Thompson/Scruggs

**† CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: On this day, we gather with thanksgiving in our hearts.

**People: For God's love is ever constant in our lives.**

Leader: On this day, we would talk of all that is ours.

**People: Grace upon grace has been poured into our lives.**

Leader: On this day, we would speak of what we believe.

**People: We will sing glad songs for all that God has done.**

**SONG** “Spirit of the Living God” Iverson

**A READING FROM THE PSALMS** Psalm 138

(New Revised Standard Version)

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I sing your praise; I bow down toward your holy temple  
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness;  
for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.

All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,  
for they have heard the words of your mouth.

They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord.

For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly;  
but the haughty he perceives from far away.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,  
you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;  
you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.

The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;  
your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.

Do not forsake the work of your hands.

**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** “Eternal Father, Strong to Save” Dykes

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**OFFERING**

Thank you for your continuing commitment to giving freely of your talents and your treasure, as you are able, in service to Christ in the world. Thank you. To give online, please go to:

<https://www.myeoffering.com/eonline/index.php/dashboard/login/5027>

**OFFERTORY** “Simple Gifts” Copland

**A READING FROM THE GOSPELS** Mark 3: 20-27, 33-35

(The Message)

Jesus came home and, as usual, a crowd gathered—so many making demands on him that there wasn’t even time to eat. His friends heard what was going on and went to rescue him, by force if necessary. They suspected he was believing his own press.

The religion scholars from Jerusalem came down spreading rumors that he was working black magic, using devil tricks to impress them with spiritual power. Jesus confronted their slander with a story: “Does it make sense to send a devil to catch a devil, to use Satan to get rid of Satan? A constantly squabbling family disintegrates. If Satan were fighting Satan, there soon wouldn’t be any Satan left. Do you think it’s possible in broad daylight to enter the house of an awake, able-bodied man, and walk off with his possessions unless you tie him up first? Tie him up, though, and you can clean him out. . .”

Just then his mother and brothers showed up. Standing outside, they relayed a message that they wanted a word with him. He was surrounded by the crowd when he was given the message, “Your mother and brothers and sisters are outside looking for you.”

Jesus responded, “Who do you think are my mother and brothers?” Looking around, taking in everyone seated around him, he said, “Right here, right in front of you—my mother and my brothers. Obedience is thicker than blood. The person who obeys God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.”

**SERMON** “Family Everywhere”

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

We know what it is like to be rejected, but we also remember turning our backs on others. We have experienced conflict, as well as caused pain to others. Let us confess our foolish lives to the One who seeks to forgive us on this day, and every day.

**UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

**Everybody else does it, Watching God, and we confess that we do, as well. We listen to those whose promises are sold to the highest bidder. We idolize celebrities as if they were teachers of ethics. We long for that one person who will make everything right, once again, once and for all. Forgive us for turning our backs on you, even as you continue to stretch out your arms to us. Forgive us for trusting in those who prove to be false, rather than having faith in your love. Forgive us, and fill us with the spirit of faith which is given to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. (silent prayer)**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Pastor: Do not lose heart! God seeks to strengthen our souls, filling us with forgiveness, wonder, and joy!

**All: Glory to you, God of mercy and grace. You want only the best for us, and so we sing praises to you. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

**A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP**

**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.**

† **SONG** “They’ll Know We Are Christians” Scholtes

† **BENEDICTION**

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.**

† **POSTLUDE** “Toccatà in F Major” Buxtehude



**A NOTE OF THANKS**  
**Thank you to Richard Densmore, Rob Toth, & Clay Williams for sharing their music with us today!**  
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**SERVING**

<b>TODAY – JUNE 6</b>		<b>NEXT SUNDAY – JUNE 13</b>
Herb Hampson	<b>Liturgist 9 a.m.</b>	Cherie Teagno
Sharon Maresco	<b>Liturgist 10:30 a.m.</b>	Jim Studer
Tom Foley	<b>Director of Music</b>	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	<b>Associate Director of Music</b>	Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	<b>Supplemental Organist</b>	Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich	<b>Sound</b>	Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Richard Densmore	<b>Special Music</b>	The Bell Choir
Sharon Heinrich	<b>Sunday School</b>	Rachel Zielinski



**Our steeple will light the sky this week—**

*Happy Birthday to Bill Ritchie on June 7<sup>th</sup>!*

*With love from your family*

*Happy Birthday to Tom Foley on June 8<sup>th</sup>!*

**Happy Birthday today to Rick Teagno!**

**Happy Anniversary today to Sally & Steve Herzog!**

**OFFERINGS RECEIVED**

Weekly Offering Needed	\$3,473.27
Last Week’s Offering Received	\$1,443.00
Difference	<b>(-\$2,206.37)</b>

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







## IN-PERSON BOARD MEETINGS THIS MONTH

- **The Board of Trustees** will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **June 8<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall.
- **The Diaconate** will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **June 15** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- **The Official Board** will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **June 22<sup>nd</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

Of course, the usual safety protocols will be in place at all in-person meetings.

### OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

**Long-Term Care or Homebound:** Janet Kato, Marge McKinney, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

**Church Family:** Joan Beckwith, Adria Bond, Eddy Bond, Mary Carey, Elaine Coffey, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Linda Elliott, Sue Hawk, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Carole Kapcar, Pam Keenen, Tony Koussa, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Lacey Marshall, Brigitte Matchett, Judy Maur, Laurie Meister, Michele Mhlack, Lola Millhoane, Gary Paul, Joyce Reed, Dorothy and Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Jamie & Josh Trinckes, Sharon Wilson, Sally Vetovitz, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch



**Extended Church Family:** Dorene Baldrige, Fred Beba (Theresa's husband), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Judy Carte's son-in-law, Ryan, John Dickson (Greg's dad), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Jeff & Tiffany Hassel (Judi Pavisich's son & daughter-in-law), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Pat Masuga (Dan's mom), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Kay McGinty (Judi Pavisich's aunt), Zachary McKeever (Pastor Heidi and Chuck's great-nephew), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Family of Katie Mikalacki (George Pavisich's friend), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Carrol Riley (Marjorie Morrison's dad), Terry Robson (the Camps' friend), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Amanda Stefanik (Schyler Thorn's friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Daphne Wilson (Irene Jannsohn's niece)

Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain.

**Love one another, as I have loved you. –John 13:34**

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## PENNY SUNDAY

Thank you to everyone who gave to last week's Penny Sunday! We collected \$243.05 for homeless veterans in Cuyahoga County, as served by Church Street Ministries.

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## THRIFT SHOP



The Thrift Shop is OPEN on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. with the usual safety protocols in place and lots of interesting merchandise. Donations are being accepted, but you must call the church first to arrange a time for drop-off.

### THRIFT SHOP BONUS HOURS

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month, June 21<sup>st</sup>  
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(We're still open on Thursdays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

Also, the Thrift Shop is in need of volunteers to help out for a couple of hours—sorting, organizing, and selling on Thursdays. Please call Cathy Hawk (440-781-7512) if you can help!

## MUSICIANS NEEDED!

Would you like to be a part of the summer music program? Instrumentalists and vocalists are needed for our worship services in July and August. If you are interested in joining us and sharing your talent, please contact Tom Foley or Mike Elkins!



## IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES 9 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.

Reservations required—call 440-238-6697 or email the church at [strongsvilleucc@gmail.com](mailto:strongsvilleucc@gmail.com).

**IMPORTANT: If you forget to make a reservation, please COME ANYWAY. We have room for YOU!**



A COMBINED SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS WILL BE OFFERED AT THE 10:30 A.M. SERVICE.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED TO TEACH IN JUNE, JULY, & AUGUST!** Please call the church or contact Linda Elkins if you would like to sign up to teach on one of the Sundays (supplies and lessons will be provided).

Recordings of the weekly worship service will still be available online later on Sundays or early on Mondays.

## GIFT CARDS

### A GREAT WAY TO BENEFIT OUR CHURCH!

You can order gift cards by calling Jim Joyce at 216-267-5043 in advance with your order. Limited stock is available, but special orders may be accommodated with advance notice.



Thank you to those who continue to support this project by purchasing gift cards!



Are you an online shopper? If so, why not benefit the church while you make your purchases from Amazon? It's incredibly easy! Here's what you do:

1. Instead of typing amazon.com into your search bar, type in [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com).
2. Select United Church of Christ Congregational Strongsville by clicking this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-1298100>
3. Shop as you would normally—that's it!

Your addresses, billing information, and shopping cart are still saved and your Prime membership privileges still apply. A small percentage of your purchase price will go toward supporting the church. **We received \$44.29 in May!** KEEP SHOPPING!

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR REV. LARRY CRAIG

Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at Noon  
At Sunset Memorial Park  
6265 Columbia Rd,  
North Olmsted, OH 44070.

Christina has invited all of their SUCC friends to remember Larry.



## POSITION AVAILABLE

Adria Bond is set to retire as our church's Financial Secretary after many years of exemplary service. Consequently, the church is in need of a person who is familiar with Excel and other financial software and who has some bookkeeping experience to fill her shoes. This is a compensated, part-time position. If you are interested, or know of someone who is looking for supplementary employment, please contact Greg Dickson, chair of the Trustees, at [gdickson2009@gmail.com](mailto:gdickson2009@gmail.com) for a detailed job description or to apply.

## IT'S HAPPENING!

**CHURCH GARAGE SALE**  
FRIDAY, JULY 23<sup>rd</sup>  
from 6 P.M. – 8 P.M. AND  
SATURDAY, JULY 24<sup>th</sup> from 9 A.M. – 2 P.M.

Donations will be accepted  
Starting June 25<sup>th</sup>.

We'll need lots of volunteers, too--

Please see Rachel Zielinski or Irene Joyce if you can help!



**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.**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCynOZfg4uKoX7HMnKORbXfQ/videos>