



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, June 7, 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.

† CONGREGATIONAL PRELUDE "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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joyce Reed

INTROIT

"Steal Away"

Traditional

† 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 that all Creation sings to the One who gives life and peace.

† HYMN 224

"We Have Come into His House"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 33:1-3:

(New International Version)

Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; 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. Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he chose for his inheritance. From heaven the Lord looks down and sees all humankind.

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

"In Remembrance"

Koepke

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"The God of Abraham Praise"

Hebrew Melody

† 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

(The Message)

Passing along, Jesus saw a man at his work collecting taxes. His name was Matthew. Jesus said, "Come along with me." Matthew stood up and followed him.

REFLECTION

"Who Needs a Doctor?"

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

In this place, in this moment, we wonder, "is it true?" God's hopes, God's promises, God's grace - are they really for you, for me, for us? God invites us to bring our questions, as well as our fears and failures, so we might discover the truth for ourselves, as we pray together:

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

When we look for our place cards at the table of honor, do we see you standing at the back of the room with the servers? When we walk around the homeless on the way to the ballgame, do we see you sitting in the doorway with the hungry children? When we tell others to pull themselves up, have we forgotten how many people reached out their hands to us along the way? Forgive us, God who offers mercy to us, and desires that we share grace with others. If we would truly follow, we must be willing to take off our Sunday best and put on the aprons of service, offering everyone we meet the bread of life and cup of hope which have come to us through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen. (*silent prayer*)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Here is the good news: it is not up to us. God has not wavered in keeping the covenant of grace, of hope, of mercy, of life. **All: By God's grace, we are forgiven; by God's healing, we are made whole; by God's constant love, we are restored to life. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

"Restless" Assad/Maher

Sarah Keenen, soloist

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 425

"Bind Us Together"

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. John Squires

As we end this time as a gathered community, we prepare to serve in all the scattered places of our lives. Go in the knowledge that God our Creator sustains and supports you in this service. Go with the assurance that Christ Jesus equips you for service amongst the strangers and the friends of your life. Go with trusting reliance on the Spirit who enables you to bear witness, to care lovingly, and to work for justice. And may God's deep, abiding peace dwell within you, this day and all days. Amen.

POSTLUDE

"Now Thank We All Our God"

Bach, arr. Burkhardt



A NOTE OF THANKS—We thank Sarah Keenen, the Chancel Choir, and of course, Mike Elkins, Sharon Heinrich, and Tom Foley for their 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 – JUNE 7

NEXT SUNDAY – JUNE 14

Linda Plain	Greeters	Judi Pavisich
Linda Ponstingle	Liturgist	Herb Hampson
Judi Pavisich	Head Usher	Teri Barbish
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
Chancel Choir	Special Music	Chancel Choir
Cathy Hawk	Summer Sunday School	Amanda Marshall

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! Thanks to everyone who contributed to our May Penny Sunday collection for **Blessing House**. We collected \$328.40. The next Penny Sunday will be **June 28th** and will go to Ohio Guidestone, formerly known as Berea Children's Home.



A SIGN-UP FOR TEACHING SUNDAY SCHOOL IN THE SUMMER IS POSTED IN PILGRIM HALL! Join the fun! Summer Sunday School is underway!

GRADUATES IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY WILL BE RECOGNIZED NEXT WEEK, JUNE 14th, DURING WORSHIP! Plus, CAKE afterward!



The altar flowers are given—

Celebrating our grandson, Grant's College graduation.
Joyce & George Reed



A 2026 SIGN-UP SHEET FOR ALTAR FLOWERS IS POSTED IN PILGRIM HALL. Please note: 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 Heavenly Birthday to Bill Ritchie!
Always loved, always remembered—the Ritchie family

Happy Birthday tomorrow to our fearless leader, Tom Foley!
With love, the Bell, Chancel, and Children's Choirs

Happy Anniversary today to Ron & Lori Greenland!

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS



- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **June 9th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Mission Outreach Committee will meet on the second Sunday of the month, **June 14th** following the worship service.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **June 16th** at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **June 23rd** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY BAND:

Mark your calendar for:

SUMMER CONCERTS 2026

June 12th, June 26th, July 3rd, July 10th, July 24th (new date,

Rotary cookout) and **August 7th**. Our first concert of the summer will be held at the Strongsville Center amphitheater. Future locations will be announced. Bring a lawn chair or blanket for outdoor concerts.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 5,212.00
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 2,600.00
Difference -(\$2,612.00)

Thank you very much for your support.
PLEDGES RECEIVED: 62



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!



SOUTHWEST HOSPICE EDUCATIONAL OPEN HOUSE



This event is designed for anyone in the community who wants to learn more about hospice care, tour our facilities, or explore how we can support their loved ones now or in the future.

June 9, June 10, June 11 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Thomas P. Perciak Residential Hospice Center
18659 Drake Rd, Strongsville, OH 44136

What to expect: A welcoming environment with light refreshments, guided tours of their facility, and an opportunity to meet our clinical and emotional support teams to ask questions.

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, Elaine Coffey, Sam Cuyler Jr., Roger Davis, Colette Emerson, Roz Fotos, Sue Hawk, Frank Jefferis, Pam & Bruce Keenen, Erv Koch, Jill Kundtz, Jan Meier, Carol Konet, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Jim Maresco, Jan Meier, Amanda Moulton, Ginny & Kenn Oerkfitz, George & Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Ron Rothel, Jennifer Sekorky, Tracy Seneff, Peter Smith, Bruce Sperber, Linda Stepan, Debbie Thomas, John Toth, 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 Gariepy (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), Tiffany Hassel (Judi Pavisich's daughter-in-law), 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), 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 \$ 64,759.08 in our capital campaign account, after paying the deposit for the acousting panels in Pilgrim Hall. We are scheduling installation for after the Garage Sale. 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.



FREE LUNCH FOR ALL-- Wednesdays

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

A reminder: Donations are welcomed to support the increasing costs of this valuable program. **Thank you to all of our faithful volunteers!**



PLEASE NOTE: The Church Office will be closed on Tuesday, June 9th.

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 HAPPENING!

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 from June 15th 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.



Congratulations to Pastor Heidi's daughter, **Megan Denman**, who was selected by Heights Arts as the **June 2026 Artist of the Month!** We will have the opportunity to hear and congratulate Megan in person on Sunday, June 21st, when she serves as our first Summer Sunday worship musician!



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT STRONGSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:

ATTIC TO CELLAR RUMMAGE SALE

Thursday, June 18th 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Friday June 19th 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
13500 Royalton Road





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...

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.



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

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



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

