



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

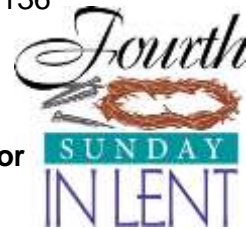
(Congregational)

13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136

(440) 238-6697

StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com

StrongsvilleUCC.com



Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, March 10, 2024– 10 A.M.

Fourth Sunday in Lent

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.

BELL PRELUDE "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" arr. Wagner

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Greg Dickson

BELL INTROIT "Ah, Holy Jesus" arr. Wagner

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In this place, the community of faith is reminded of the promise:

People: God's love endures forever!

Leader: In spite of our impatient grumbling, despite our attraction to the shadows:

People: Christ's light shines in us!

Leader: When we think our hands our empty, when we have no music in our souls:

People: The Spirit fills us with glad songs, and creates us for good works!

† HYMN 788 "Now Thank We All Our God"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 107:1-3; 17-22

(New International Version)

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story—

those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,

those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south.

Some became fools through their rebellious ways,

and suffered affliction because of their iniquities.

They loathed all food and drew near the gates of death.

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress.

He sent out his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave.

Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love

and his wonderful deeds for mankind.

Let them sacrifice thank offerings and tell of his works with songs of joy.

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.

BELL ANTHEM "Adagio" Albinoni, arr. Hopson

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Blessed Assurance" Knapp

† 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 OLD TESTAMENT Numbers 21:4-9

(The Message)

So Moses made a snake of fiery copper and put it on top of a flagpole.

Anyone bitten by a snake who then looked at the copper snake lived.

SERMON "Snakes. Why did it have to be SNAKES?"

† HYMN 56 "To God Be the Glory"

† BENEDICTION A Franciscan Blessing

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships so that you may live deep within your heart. May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace. May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy. And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in the world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done to bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor. Amen.

† POSTLUDE "Andante Moderato in F Major" Franz, arr. Shelley

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 – MARCH 10 **NEXT SUNDAY – MARCH 17**

John Toth	Greeters	Judi Pavisich
Bruce Keenen	Liturgist	Herb Hampson
Roz Fotos	Ushers	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
Bell Choir	Special Music	Chancel Choir
	Guest Speaker	Peter Smith

The altar flowers are given—
In honor of the dedicated ringers in the Bell Choir

A 2024 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.



Our steeple will light the sky this week—

In loving memory of Edith Graves

Roberta Carpenter

PLEASE NOTE: The church secretary will be out of the office from March 11th through March 14th. Messages will be checked on Friday, March 15th.



A NOTE OF THANKS—We thank our **Bell Choir**, along with **Tom Foley, Sharon Heinrich** and **Mike Elkins** for their music today.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF MARCH

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world.

When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery. Envelopes are in the pews.



HOLY WEEK

Sunday, March 24th Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday

With the traditional processional of the Palms

Thursday, March 28th Maundy Thursday

Worship service with Sacrament of Holy Communion in the Sanctuary at 7 p.m.



Friday, March 29th Good Friday

"Song of the Shadows" at 8:15 p.m.

Ecumenical collaboration

At Columbia High School

(14168 West River Road. Columbia Station, OH 44028)



Sunday, March 31st Easter

Sunrise Service at 7 a.m.

Easter Breakfast 8 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Traditional Worship with Brass at 10 a.m.



FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL: PENNY SUNDAY—Our next Penny Sunday will be on

March 24th, also on that day, the Children's

Choir will be singing the Palm Sunday processional,

"Hosanna! Jesus is the Rock!"

COMING SOON...The Sunday School is planning an Easter Egg

Hunt—stay tuned for more news!

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—

"People Chow," formerly known as Puppy Chow (People Chow is a delicious treat that includes Rice and Corn Chex cereal, Cheerios, peanuts, pretzels and M & M's

drizzled in white chocolate) will be sold for \$4 a

bag in Pilgrim Hall after the church service

TODAY and next **Sunday, March 17th**.



Next Sunday, March 17th Pie Day for π Day (3/14). We will have pie for Coffee Hour!



OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Joan Beckwith, Laurie Meister, Ruth Milidonis, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Maggie Struher

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Judy Carte, Jennifer Cockrell, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sue Hawk, Irene Jannsohn, Kay Konicek, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Jim Maresco, Reggie McCray, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Gary Paul, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Peter Smith, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Edward and Sharon Acton (Sally Herzog's friends), Dorene Baldrige, Ron & Yvonne Adams (Judi Pavisich's friends), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), John Dickson (Greg's dad), Ed Fabian (the Bagley's Grill girls' friend), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Joanne Gariepy (Sally Herzog's friend), Kathy Ghetti (friend of Ginger Rothe), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel's parents), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Rudy Matjazic (Judi Pavisich's friend), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothe's sister-in-law), Sylvia Pakish (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Jeff Peacock (former member), Zora Roundtree (FL4A volunteer), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Vicki Smith (Venner Clarinets), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Tom (friend of Judi Pavisich), Don Wills (friend of Judi Pavisich), The people of Ukraine, Gaza, and Israel, 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 \$ 5,830.00
Difference +\$2,212.99



Thank you very much for your support.

PLEDGE CARDS RECEIVED TO DATE: 50



FAMILY GAME GATHERING!

SATURDAY, APRIL 6th 2 p.m. - ?

Couldn't make it to Retreat? Join us for a sample of the fun and games we enjoy at Temple Hills every year.

Bring a snack to share, your own beverage, and your favorite board games, card games, or craft project. We'll have trivia, food, fellowship, and fun for all ages!



THRIFT SHOP--SPECIAL SATURDAY SALE, MARCH 16th 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Come on down for special weekend bargains!

The Thrift Shop is OPEN every Thursday 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.

MANY THANKS, AS ALWAYS, TO OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS!

BOOK STUDY--A YEAR OF BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD

Continuing on **March 18th**, Pastor Heidi and Linda Elkins are leading a monthly book study based on Rachel Held Evans's wonderful book, *A Year of Biblical Womanhood*. The group will meet on the **third Monday of each month at 7 p.m.**, for one hour. It's not too late to join us!



CHURCH OFFICERS IN 2024

*Elected January 28, 2024

Moderator: Greg Dickson* **Vice-Moderator:** Jen Barry*

Treasurer: Sally Herzog* **Clerk:** Judy Gaumer*

Sunday School Co-Superintendents

Linda Elkins Mary Densmore

Board of Trustees

Bill Giuliano* Chris Goff Mike Elkins* Les Fox*
Herb Hampson* Cathy Hawk Sarah Hayes* Sandy Pogozelski*
Cheryl Sobek Dan Winrod Laura Winrod Rachel Zielinski*

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson* Dave Williams*

Diaconate

Teri Barbish* Jean Bittinger Elaine Coffey* Bobbi Cook Wayne Cook
Judy Davis Judy Fox* Carole Kapcar Susann Lerch* Cherie Teagno*
Barbara White Mary Ellen Zimmerman

Christian Education Committee

Serena Abruzzino Mary Densmore Linda Elkins*
Colette Emerson* 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

Sue Gigliotti* Judi Pavisich Bill Schneider Rob Toth* Mary Willis

Mission and Outreach Committee

Judy Carte Diana Creecy* Sarah Hayes* Lora Rung
Jennifer Sekorky* Peter Smith Bev Wehr* Mary Ellen Zimmerman

2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN --M.A.P.L E.

M- Making and moving

A- Accepting and Acknowledging

P- People

L- Learning and Loving

E- Encompassing

Strongsville United Church of Christ 2024 Estimate of Giving



In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2024:

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 ____/____/____



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **March 12th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **March 19th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor
- The Official Board will have an email meeting on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **March 26th**.



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.

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.



EASTER FLOWERS ORDER FORM—LAST CHANCE

You may choose lilies, hyacinths, or tulips (no color choice). To order, please email the church or turn in this form with payment prior to the deadline of **TODAY at NOON**. The cost is **\$8.00**.

Wording for bulletin:

Given by: _____

(# of plants) Lilies _____ (x \$8)

Tulips _____ (x \$8)

Hyacinths _____ (x \$8)

Total amount due: \$_____

I will take my plant(s). I will leave my plant(s) for someone who needs some cheer.

Please make your check payable to **United Church of Christ**, and call or email the church with your order.

For Church Records 2024 Easter Flowers

Total number of plants: _____

Amount enclosed: \$_____

Offering envelope number: _____

Cash/Check No. _____

Name: _____

Order and payment deadline is **TODAY at NOON**.



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DO MORE IN 2024! New sign-up sheets in the Gathering Area are waiting for your name to be added as a greeter or 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.



**FREE LUNCH FOR ALL--
Wednesdays**

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

**Thank you to all our faithful
volunteers!**

Please note: If the Strongsville City Schools are closed due to inclement weather on a Wednesday, the Free Lunch will not be served on that day.

