



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
(Congregational)  
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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor  
Sunday, March 12, 2023 – 10 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.

As you enter the sanctuary, welcome one another.  
As you hear the chimes ring, settle your mind in silence.  
As worship begins, welcome God's Holy Spirit.

PRELUDE "Going Home" from New World Symphony Dvořák

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

INTROIT "The Lord is in His Holy Temple" Larson

## † CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Christ of the comfortable, lead us down that unknown path which leads to God's heart:

**People: With trust, we would place our hands in yours, and follow.**

Leader: Companion of our sleepless nights, you beckon us out of the shadows of our fears, inviting us to bring our doubts and questioning hearts along:

**People: With humility, we would listen for answers we do not expect, or even understand.**

Leader: Word which creates out of nothingness, fill us with life.

**People: May your grace transform us into faithful disciples.**

Amen

† HYMN 690 "He Leadeth Me"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 95: 1-6  
(New International Version)

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;  
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.  
Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.  
For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods.  
In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him.  
The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.  
Come, let us bow down in worship,  
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

Leader: The Word of God, for us, the people of God;

People: Thanks be to God.

## SHARING OF 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 "O Christ the Same" Courtney

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## OFFERING

OFFERTORY "He Looked Beyond My Fault" arr. Beck

† 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 John 4:5-42  
(The Message)

"It's who you are and the way you live that count before God.  
Your worship must engage your spirit in the pursuit of truth. That's the kind of people the Father is out looking for: those who are simply and honestly *themselves* before him in their worship.

SERMON "Close Encounter" Rev. Patricia Jefferis

† HYMN 444 "I Love to Tell the Story"

† 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.

† RESPONSE "God Be with You Till We Meet Again" Tomer

† POSTLUDE "Meditation on Bach's First Prelude" arr. Gounod-Orem

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 – MARCH 12	NEXT SUNDAY – MARCH 19
Judi Pavisich	Greeters The Abruzzinos
Elaine Coffey	Liturgist Herb Hampson
Judi Pavisich, Bill Schneider	Ushers Volunteers needed
Oliver & Matilda Sekorky	Acolytes Chris Abruzzino/Riley Marshall
Tom Foley	Director of Music Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	Associate Director of Music Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	Organist Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich	Sound Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Chancel Choir	Special Music Chancel Choir
Rev. Patricia Jefferis	Special Guest Minister

## A NOTE OF THANKS—

We thank the Chancel Choir, Tom Foley, Mike Elkins, and Sharon Heinrich for sharing their music with us today. We extend our thanks to Rev. Patricia Jefferis for filling in for Pastor Heidi this morning. Pastor Heidi is at a family event in Burton.

The altar flowers are given—  
Happy 53<sup>rd</sup> Birthday to my son, Jeff Hassel, Sr.  
With Love, Mom (Judi Pavisich)



Wishing healing to everyone facing medical treatment



Our steeple will light the sky this week—  
Happy Birthday to Natalia & Mia on March 17<sup>th</sup>!  
With love, Grammy  
In honor of my son, Jeff's Birthday  
Judi Pavisich

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

## PENNY SUNDAY!

Save those coins, cash, and checks for the next Penny Sunday, which will be on March 26, 2023 for Berea Animal Rescue Friends.



## IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Our love and prayers are extended to **Becky Unger** and family on the death of her husband, **Bruce Unger** on March 6, 2023. Bruce was battling cancer and had been on our prayer list for a while. He was 75 years old.

## OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,617.01  
Last Week's Offering Received \$5,282.00  
Difference \$1,667.99

Thank you very much for your support.

Pledge cards received to date: 62



LENTEN STUDY: Discovering the S.A.C.R.E.D. Pastor Heidi and Linda Elkins will be offering a six-week Lenten study by Ann Voskamp, whose contemplative, hope-filled teachings will help us rediscover the need for meditative, quiet time in our lives. We meet on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the Gathering Area.

## 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.



## CONGREGATIONAL PHOTO MAY 14<sup>th</sup>

You may recall that our church had a congregational photo scheduled in 2020, which was cancelled by the global pandemic. Well, three years later, we are trying again! The congregational photo is important to the historic records of the church and the last group picture of our congregation was taken in 2010. Please try to include this rare event in your Mother's Day plans. (The photo is scheduled to be taken immediately following the benediction of the worship service, so you will still have plenty of time to take your mom to brunch.)





UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **March 14<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **March 21<sup>st</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **March 28<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

United Church of Christ Disaster Relief Ministry is on the ground providing humanitarian aid in Turkey and Syria. To donate to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) go to [https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/turkey-syria-emergency-appeal/donate?inf\\_contact\\_key=f5bc4cb2d41410f840a0988bee0ee0b7842e902fbefb79ab9abae13bfc46658](https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/turkey-syria-emergency-appeal/donate?inf_contact_key=f5bc4cb2d41410f840a0988bee0ee0b7842e902fbefb79ab9abae13bfc46658) and follow the prompts.



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



**Extended Church Family:** Ron & Yvonne Adams (Judi Pavisich's friends), Dorene Baldridge, 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), Jennifer Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's daughter-in-law), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Tom Irelan (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Patty Kubancik (Sue Gigliotti's sister), Ed Kuhn (Sandy & Don Gleichauf's friend), 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), 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), The people of Ukraine, victims of violence, those affected by earthquakes and severe weather

**OPT-IN: Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain.** [h.e.denman@gmail.com](mailto:h.e.denman@gmail.com)

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering Envelopes should be mailed out this month. **However, please know that you may use any envelope to give your offering--we still need your donations to maintain our ministries!** Plus, envelopes are in the pews to use until mailings resume.



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!**



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We are celebrating **Pie Day for π Day** (3/14). Join us in sharing a slice of pie for Coffee Hour in honor of Pi Day. **Thank you to our Women's Fellowship members who donated pies for 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.



DIACONATE "WING" NIGHT

**FRIDAY, MAY 12<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Grindstone Tap House in Berea.** It is \$25 per ticket. Ticket includes boneless wings, pizza, pasta, salad, draft beer, well drinks, wine, soda. There will be a basket raffle, sideboards, and a great chance to socialize. Tickets are on sale every Sunday, starting April 16<sup>th</sup>, in Pilgrim Hall. (Cash or check only). In addition, we will be looking for basket donations for wing night.

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 Bittering\* Elaine Coffey  
Bobbi Cook\* Wayne Cook\* Judy Davis\*  
Carole Kapcar\* Linda 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\*

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL--Wednesdays

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

Our Free Lunch for All Program received a \$4,000 grant from the Deaconess Foundation. We are grateful for community support that helps us provide nutritious meals and fellowship!



GIFT CARDS

PLEASE DON'T FORGET ABOUT THIS EASY, CONVENIENT PROGRAM THAT BENEFITS THE CHURCH. You can order gift cards by calling **Jim Joyce** at 216-267-5043 in advance with your order. **Limited stock is available for purchase on Sunday mornings.**

EASTER FLOWERS ORDER FORM

You may choose lilies, hyacinths, or tulips (no color choice). To order, please email the church prior to the deadline of **Sunday, March 19, 2023 at NOON**. The cost is **\$8.00**. Payment is due **March 19, 2023**.

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 **Strongsville United Church of Christ**, and call or email the church with your order.

For Church Records 2023 Easter Flowers

Total number of plants: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Offering envelope number: \_\_\_\_\_

Cash/Check No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name:\_\_\_\_\_

Order deadline is **Sunday, March 19 at NOON**.  
Payment deadline is March 19, 2023.





**BEE 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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