



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, March 15, 2026– 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.

PRELUDE "Prelude & Fugue in A minor" Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

INTROIT "Ask, Seek, Knock" Larson

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Early each morning, God waits to greet us with joy and wonder.

People: We awake to find ourselves enveloped in God's grace.

Leader: During the day, Jesus comes to invite us to serve.

People: We rise from our work and leisure to bring God's healing and hope to others.

Leader: In the shadowed evenings of our fears and worries, the Spirit is with us.

People: The Light of life is shines on us in every moment of every day. Thanks be to God!

† **HYMN 654** "Change My Heart, O God"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 23
(New Living Translation)

The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.

He lets me rest in green meadows;
he leads me beside peaceful streams.
He renews my strength.

He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name.

Even when I walk through the darkest valley,
I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me.
Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.

You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies.
You honor me by anointing my head with oil.

My cup overflows with blessings.

Surely your goodness and unfailing love
will pursue me all the days of my life,
and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.

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 "Create in Me a Clean Heart" Mueller

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING/OFFERTORY "Lenten Reflections" Elkins

† **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 EPISTLES Ephesians 5:1-2; 8-14
(New International Version)

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of
light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth).

REFLECTION "Growing Towards the Light"

† **HYMN** "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"
I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to follow Jesus.
God sent the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus
In Him, there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God,
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus!

I want to see the brightness of God; I want to look at Jesus.
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path
And show me the way to the Father.
In Him, there is no darkness at all
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus!

I'm looking for the coming of Christ; I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race.
We shall know the joy of Jesus.
In Him, there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus!

† **BENEDICTION** Dewey Bertolini
*May the blazing light of God's glorious presence dispel the darkness that
sometimes enshrouds your soul. May the light of the Lord ignite a fire in
your own soul, a passion in your spirit to draw ever closer to God's light.
May the warmth of God's loving light flood your heart with God's soul-
calming peace. And may God's tender love story, the Holy Bible, written in
God's own words, ever be a lamp unto your feet and a light unto your path.
For Jesus said, "I Am the light of the world." Amen.*

POSTLUDE "Blessed Assurance" Knapp

SERVING

TODAY – MARCH 15

Marsha Hemphill
Sandy O'Shea
Judi Pavisich
Tom Foley
Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Chancel Choir

Greeters
Liturgist
Head Usher
Director of Music
Associate Director of Music
Organist
Video/Sound
Special Music

NEXT SUNDAY – MARCH 22

Marsha Hemphill
Ingrid Dickson
Mary Ellen Zimmerman
Tom Foley
Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Children's Choir, Choir

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**.



A NOTE OF THANKS—

We thank the **Chancel Choir, Mike Elkins, Tom Foley,** and **Sharon Heinrich** for today's music. Don't forget, if are a singer and you'd like to join us to sing with the Chancel Choir for Palm Sunday and Easter, we rehearse on Thursday evenings at 8 p.m.

FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL:



PENNY SUNDAY NEXT WEEK! The next Penny Sunday will be next week, **March 22, 2026** and we will be collecting for **Providence House**, caring for babies and young children needing assistance in Cuyahoga County and surrounding areas.

The altar flowers are given—

In honor of my friends at Strongsville UCC
Roz Fotos



Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthday to Natalie & Mia Hill on March 17th!



With love, Grammy
In loving memory of Edith Graves
Love, Roberta Carpenter

Happy Birthday today to Dan Masuga!

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 5,212.00
Last Week's Offering Received \$11,588.00
Difference +\$6,376.00

Thank you very much for your support.

PLEDGES RECEIVED: 62



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY BAND:

"Melodies for Memories"

TODAY, please plan to attend a benefit jazz band concert for Alzheimer's Research at 3 p.m. at the Strongsville Middle School at 13200 Pearl Road.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP— Today, we celebrate Pi Day by providing pies for coffee hour after worship! Please join us!



For our March meetings, we will make "People Chow" for Easter with Sally Herzog in our church kitchen:



Monday, March 16th, at 7pm
Wednesday, March 18th, at 1pm

We will sell the delectable treat, which is also known as "Puppy Chow," after worship on the Sundays of **March 22nd** and **March 29th**. Just in time to fill those Easter baskets!

As always, all ladies are welcome to attend any or all our events.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS



- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **March 17th** at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **March 24th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!



Can you spare less than an hour of your time on a Friday morning to put together the pastry trays for Sunday's coffee hour? Both of our faithful Friday Panera pastry pals are recovering from surgery and we are looking for subs until they're back on their feet. One kind soul has already stepped forward. Please contact the church office if you can help.

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, Mark Camp, Judy Carte, Elaine Coffey, Betty "Grammy" Craig, 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, Roy Merkle, Amanda Moulton, Ginny & Kenn Oerkfitz, George & Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Ron Rothel, Jennifer Sekorky, Tracy Seneff, Peter Smith, Bruce Sperber, Linda Stepan, JoAnn Thomas, Debbie Wentz, Heather Williams, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), 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), 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), 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, and Israel, victims of violence, those affected by 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



**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.



THREE WITH GLEE!

Capital Campaign: We currently have \$61,082.08 in our capital campaign account. We are getting additional bids for the acoustic panels in Pilgrim Hall. 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.

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 Pogozeleski* Bill Robinson* Cheryl Sobek
Alex Tomoff Mike Willis

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

- Linda Stepan* Dave Williams*

Diaconate

- Jean Bitteringer Elaine Coffey* Diana Creecy*
Bobbi Cook Wayne Cook Judy Davis
Judy Fox* Pam Heimburger 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

**EASTER FLOWERS ORDER FORM
DEADLINE IS THIS FRIDAY!**

You may choose lilies, hyacinths, or tulips (no color choice). To order, please email the church or turn in this form prior to the deadline of **Friday, March 20, 2026 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 2026 Easter Flowers

Total number of plants: _____ Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Offering envelope number: _____ Cash/Check No. _____

Name: _____

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





YOU CAN ACCESS RESOURCES FROM AND INFORMATION ABOUT OUR HEARTLAND CONFERENCE OF THE UCC! Looking for a way to get connected for ministry resources in the wider church? Just scan the QR code.

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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: For Safety Reasons, if the Strongsville City Schools are closed due to inclement weather on a Wednesday, the Free Lunch will not be served.

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.**

IMPORTANT: If the Strongsville City Schools are closed due to inclement weather on a Thursday, the Thrift Shop will not be open.

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BOOK STUDY!

On, **April 20th**, Pastor Heidi and Linda Elkins will continue our Book Study at **7 p.m.**

