



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 17, 2024– 10 A.M.

Fifth 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.

PRELUDE "Londonderry Air" Traditional Irish Melody

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Elaine Coffey

INTROIT "Amazing Grace" Traditional Irish Melody

† CALL TO WORSHIP from St. Patrick's breastplate

Leader: I arise today through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity:

People: Through belief in the Threeness, through confession of the Oneness of the Creator of creation.

Leader: I arise today through the strength of Christ's birth with His baptism:

People: Through the strength of His crucifixion with His burial, through the strength of His resurrection with His ascension, through the strength of His descent for the judgment of doom.

Leader: I arise today, through the strength of heaven:

People: The light of the sun, the radiance of the moon, the splendour of fire, the speed of lightning, the swiftness of wind, the depth of the sea, the stability of the earth.

† HYMN 11 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 51:1-3, 7-12 (New International Version)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion, blot out my transgressions.

Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

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 Elaine Coffey

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Be Thou My Vison" Traditional Irish 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 Excerpts

SERMON "Just a Couple Of Ordinary Guys..."

† HYMN 589 "Here I Am, Lord"

† BENEDICTION Old Irish blessing

Now may your days be many, and your troubles be few. May all God's blessings descend upon you. May peace be within you, may your heart be strong. May you find what you're seeking, wherever you roam. May the strength of God pilot us, may the wisdom of God instruct us, may the hand of God protect us, and may the word of God direct us, today and every day. Go in peace. Amen.

† POSTLUDE "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" Irish tune

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 17

NEXT SUNDAY – MARCH 24

Judi Pavisich	Greeters	Susann Lerch
Herb Hampson	Liturgist	Dave Williams
Judi Pavisich	Ushers	Roz Fotos
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	Children's Choir, Choir
Linda Ponstingle	Guest Speaker	



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

Special thanks to our guest speaker, Linda Ponstingle, Elaine Coffey, and the members of our congregation who are leading our worship service today while Pastor Heidi enjoys family time and pancakes in Burton, Ohio.

The altar flowers are given—

In celebration of the Birthdays of our Son-in-law Marty Schafer and Grandson Mason Reed this month.

Love, George and Joyce Reed



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—

Happy Birthday today to Natalia & Mia Hill!

With love, Grammy

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 THANK YOU! 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!



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.





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 Struhar

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 Baldridge, 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 Rothel), 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 Rothel'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 \$ 3,540.00
Difference - (\$ 77.01)

Thank you very much for your support.

PLEDGE CARDS RECEIVED TO DATE: 50



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS



- 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**.

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**.



Please join us after worship for Pie Day for π Day (3/14). We will have pie for Coffee Hour!



THRIFT SHOP

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!

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.



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 Templed 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!

BOOK STUDY--A YEAR OF BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD

Continuing tomorrow, **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



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.

LOOKING AHEAD:

On Sunday, April 7th, our church will celebrate “Holy Humor” Sunday with special music and a relaxed worship service.



We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion on Sunday, April 14th.

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.



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 ____/____/____



MAY GOD GIVE YOU...

FOR EVERY STORM, a rainbow,
FOR EVERY TEAR, a smile,
FOR EVERY CARE, a promise,
and a blessing in each trial.
FOR EVERY PROBLEM life sends,
a faithful friend to share,
FOR EVERY SIGH, a sweet song,
and an answer for each prayer.