



# THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, March 19, 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 "Lamb of God" Paris

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Joyce Reed

INTROIT "The Lord is in His Holy Temple" Larson

## † CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come and see the ambassador of God's friendship for us.

**People: We will find Jesus waiting to meet us: in classrooms, at a shopping center, in all places and in every moment, common and uncommon.**

Leader: Come and hear the One who speaks of God's joy in us.

**People: We will listen to Jesus, whose words of grace and peace raise the rafters of our hope.**

Leader: Come and know how much God loves you.

**People: We will discover Jesus, who offers us the gift of reconciliation.**

† HYMN 193 "God is So Good"

† A READING FROM THE PSALMS (in unison—standing) Psalm 23  
(King James Version)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul:

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me;

Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;

Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen.

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 "Be Present, Spirit of the Lord" Beall

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## OFFERING

OFFERTORY "What Wondrous Love is This?" Traditional

† 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 9: 1-41  
(The Message)  
"I know nothing about that one way or the other. But I know one thing for sure:  
I was blind . . . I now see."

SERMON "Feeling Seen"

† HYMN 344 "Grace Greater than Our Sin" (verses 1, 2, 4)

† BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott, United Church of Christ  
And now, go forth from this place not to anoint power, prestige, and appearances of authority, but to bring about healing, to seek renewal, and to raise up those unexpected places and people that God has set apart for the transformation of the world. Open yourselves to the surprising and unexpected movements of the Holy Spirit, for just around the corner is a small shepherd, a child, waiting to lead us with God's help. Go forth in peace to lead, to love, and to be renewed by God. Amen.

† RESPONSE "Shaker Parting Song" arr. Purdum

† POSTLUDE "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" arr. Callahan

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 19	NEXT SUNDAY – MARCH 26
The Abruzzinos	<b>Greeters</b> Roz Fotos
Herb Hampson	<b>Liturgist</b> Pam Keenen
Volunteers needed	<b>Ushers</b> Roz Fotos, Jean Bittinger
Chris Abruzzino/Riley Marshall	<b>Acolytes</b> Luke Giuliano/Aidan Hurtig
Tom Foley	<b>Director of Music</b> Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	<b>Associate Director of Music</b> Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	<b>Organist</b> Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich	<b>Sound</b> Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Chancel Choir	<b>Special Music</b> Richard Densmore, Bell Choir

## A NOTE OF THANKS—

We thank the **Chancel Choir, Tom Foley, Mike Elkins**, and **Sharon Heinrich** for sharing their music with us today.



The altar flowers are given—

*In honor of granddaughters, Isla and Chloe*

*Honoring all who attend church*

Bonnie Khavaran



Our steeple will light the sky this week—

*Happy Birthday to Keana Dickson on March 18<sup>th</sup>!*

The Dicksons

Happy Birthday today to Audrianna Masuga!

**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 NEXT WEEK!

Save those coins, cash, and checks for the next

Penny Sunday, which will be on

**March 26, 2023** for Berea

Animal Rescue Friends.



The Sunday School children and youth are holding a donation drive to benefit Berea Animal Rescue Friends through Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. Three specific items will be collected per the recommendation of the shelter manager:

- **Small bags (approx. 3 lbs.) of any brand dry cat food** (Meow Mix, Purina Cat Chow...)
- **Bags of soft, small treats for dogs for training**
- **"Kicker" toys for cats** (with or without catnip).

The donation box will be located in the Gathering Area. Stay tuned for more information during next Sunday's children's message. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Densmore.

## OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,617.01

Last Week's Offering Received \$3,201.00

Difference (\$ 416.01)

*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.)

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

MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:

In honor of Mother's Day, Mission Outreach will be collecting items for Laura's Home in the West Park Neighborhood of Cleveland. Laura's Home is a complex with "166 beds and 55 rooms, offering specialized, wraparound services designed to empower families and individuals to live healthy lives."

We will be collecting items from April 16<sup>th</sup> through May 14<sup>th</sup>. The collection bin will be in the Gathering Area of the church.



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-](https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/turkey-syria-emergency-appeal/donate?inf_contact_key=f5bc4cb2d41410f840a0988bee0ee0b7842e902fbefb79ab9abae13bfc46658)



[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.

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY



On March 16, 2023, **Judy Carte's** son, **Steven Carte**, died in a hospital in the Philippines, where he has been living and working, after a leg injury that was infected and went septic. He is survived by his wife and two young daughters, as well as his sisters, **Cindy, Mindy (Autumn and Summer Zoscak's mom), and Rebecca**, and their families. Steve was 59 years old.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING IN 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 Bittinger\* 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!



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS



- 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.

EASTER FLOWERS ORDER FORM—LAST CHANCE!

You may choose lilies, hyacinths, or tulips (no color choice). To order, please turn in this form **TODAY**. The cost is **\$8.00**. Payment is due **TODAY—please fill in the form completely.**

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





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!



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**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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**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.**