



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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StrongsvilleUCC.com



Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, March 20, 2022 – 10:00 A.M.

Third Sunday in Lent

Sacrament of Baptism

Welcoming New Members

WELCOME!

For the safety and comfort of everyone, please continue to wear a mask in the Gathering Area and when entering or leaving the Sanctuary. When you are seated in the pews, you may lower your mask if you wish. Thank you.

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen" arr. Sclater Dick K. Ingersoll, clarinet

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Joyce Reed

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.

INTROIT "Baptized in Water" Traditional Gaelic Melody

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come, because we seek our God.

People: Every morning, every day, every evening-- every moment, God is with us.

Leader: We come, because we hunger for Christ.

People: We come expecting Jesus to feed us with hope, to replace our emptiness with grace.

Leader: We come, because we thirst for the Spirit.

People: Who fills our yearning for peace, who will end the drought of justice. Come, Holy Spirit.

† HYMN 481 "Come, Just As You Are"

(If you wish to sing with us, please have your mask in place.)

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 63:1-8

(New Revised Standard Version)

O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

So I will bless you as long as I live;

I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,

and my mouth praises you with joyful lips

when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you

in the watches of the night;

for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

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 "Amazing Grace" arr. Sclater Dick K. Ingersoll, clarinet

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Kristen Lee Burgess

Sponsor: Ingrid E. Dickson

Brian Daniel Kohler

Sponsor: Greg T. Dickson

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES FROM THE CANDIDATES

CONGREGATIONAL PROMISE

People of God, will you welcome these candidates and uphold them in their new life in Christ?

People: With God's help, together we will continue to grow as followers of the Christ.

Let us pray: We give you thanks, O God, for your faithful children, Kristen and Brian, and for your grace acknowledged here today in water and the Spirit. Grant us grace as we receive, nurture and befriend Kristen and Brian as members of the Body of Christ. Grant them strength for life's journey, courage in times of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life, through Jesus Christ, who makes us all one. Embrace us all as beloved children in your Household of Love, that we, too, may be faithful to your Word, united in the peace of Christ and the company of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

HYMN 630 "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" (Verse 1)

INTRODUCTION AND RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

QUESTIONS TO THE CANDIDATES

QUESTIONS TO THE CONGREGATION

Friends, do you profess Jesus as the center and cornerstone of your faith? We do.

Will you be faithful to these new friends as they join this congregation and begin the next leg of their journey of faith?

We promise our faithful companionship to these new members of our family.

Will you challenge them to strive to become the very best versions of themselves, upholding them in Christian love and holding them accountable to the Way of the Christ?

We will lovingly challenge these new members to strive to become the very best versions of themselves, guiding them to live into the faith they profess.

Will you allow yourself to be challenged and changed, shaped and transformed by these new members, together seeking God's will for our lives together?

With the help of God's Spirit, we will allow ourselves to be challenged and changed, shaped and transformed, living even

more fully into our called identity as the family of faith, Strongsville United Church of Christ.

Let us pray together:

O God, we give you thanks, first for calling us to believe, then leading us to join together and gather into this church, the Body of Christ. We give you thanks for this Family of faith, and rejoice that you have led these newest members into our midst, adding their gifts and talents to ours. Together, may we live more fully in the Spirit, building one another up in Love, sharing in the life and worship of the church, and serving the world for the sake of the Kingdom of God. Amen.

OFFERING

Thank you for your continuing commitment to giving freely of your talents and your treasure, as you are able, in service to Christ in the world. Thank you. To give online, please go to:

https://www.myeoffering.com/eonline/index.php/dashboard/login/5027

OFFERTORY "How Great Thou Art" Swedish Folk 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 Luke 13: 1-9

(The Message)

Then he told them a story: "A man had an apple tree planted in his front yard. He came to it expecting to find apples, but there weren't any."

SERMON "Give it another year. . . ."

† HYMN 355 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

(If you wish to sing with us, please have your mask in place.)

† BENEDICTION

As we end this time as a gathered community, we prepare to serve in all the scattered places of our lives. Go in the knowledge that God our Creator sustains you and supports you in this service. Go with the assurance that Christ Jesus equips you for service amongst the strangers and the friends of your life. Go with trusting reliance on the Spirit who enables you to bear witness, to care lovingly, and to work for justice. And may God's peace go with you in all you do. Amen.

† RESPONSE "Sabbath Prayer" adapted from Fiddler on the Roof Stein

† POSTLUDE "Lenten Chorale on St. Petersburg" arr. Ashdown

SERVING

TODAY - MARCH 20 NEXT SUNDAY - MARCH 27

Table with 3 columns: Today - March 20, Next Sunday - March 27, and Servicing roles (Greeters, Liturgist, Ushers, Director of Music, Associate Director of Music, Organist, Video/Sound, Special Music).

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—

Many thanks to our special guest, **Dick K. Ingersoll** (clarinet), **the Chancel Choir** under the direction of **Tom Foley, Mike Elkins, and Sharon Heinrich** for sharing their music with us today.

The altar flowers are given—

In Remembrance of **Margaret Haught's 80th Birthday, March 25th**
The Costin-Barry family



Our steeple will light the sky this week—

In loving memory of **Edith Graves** on her birthday,
March 19th—**Roberta Carpenter**

IT'S A GIRL!

Congratulations to new parents **Katie and Kevin Sobota**, grandmother **Mindy Carte**, aunts **Autumn and Summer Zoscak**, and great-grandmother **Judy Carte** on the birth of **Quinn Melinda Sobota**, who came into the world on **March 11, 2022!**



IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Our sympathy and prayers to **Mary Ellen Zimmerman** and family. Her husband, **Bob** passed away Tuesday evening 3/15. There will be visitation at **Sunset Memorial Park** on **Saturday 4/2** from 11-12:00, with a service following at noon. Bob was 80 years old.



LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

On Wednesdays, Pastor Heidi, along with Linda Elkins, is leading a Lenten Bible Study called, "**Reading Between the Lines: Exploring Our Story through Biblical Stories.**" We are meeting from 1:00-2:00 p.m., in Pilgrim Hall. Materials are provided; if you wish to bring your Bible, please do so. The study will center around the Lectionary passages from Luke. Feel free to email Pastor Heidi with any questions. All are welcome and it's not too late to join us.



WE NEED YOU IN 2022!

Sign-up sheets are waiting for **your name** to be added as a communion server, greeter, usher, coffee hour helper, or bread/pastry sorter. Don't know how to do any of those things? No worries—we will show you everything you need to know! No experience is needed and everyone is welcome to be a part of our church life. If you like to cook . . . or bake . . . or reach out to others in love . . . as winter and circumstances continue to make it hard to stay connected, your Diaconate Committee is organizing a **Church Family Care Ministry Team** and would LOVE to have you take part! (You do not need to be a member of the Diaconate to participate, and you may come and go as you are led.) **Please complete and turn in the enclosed response form.**

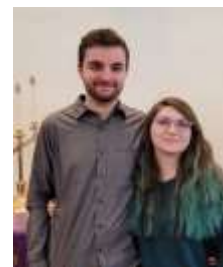


SPECIAL EVENT TODAY: Between 1:30 and 3 p.m. Pastor Heidi and Chuck's daughter, **Megan Denman**, is collaborating with photographer **Hal Mitcheltree** at the Avon Lake Public Library (32649 Electric Blvd, Avon Lake, OH 44012) for a showing of nature photos taken in and around the Metroparks. Megan will be playing some classical music to complement his exhibition and "Meet the Photographer" event.



MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

Kristen Burgess has been coming to our church events and activities since she was a teenager. She and **Brian Kohler** are engaged to be married at our church in October. They are happy to be a part of the loving, caring church community. Their sponsors are **Ingrid and Greg Dickson**.



Roz Fotos, a resident of Strongsville, joined our church when she transferred her membership from the Middleburg Heights Community Church in November of 2021. Roz has already served as an usher and she's glad to make her membership "official." Her sponsor is **Diana Creecy** (pictured on right).

Chris Goff had been looking for a UCC church on this side of town and found us through our website. After visiting, she has decided to join. Chris lives in North Royalton and we are eager for her to be a part of our church family. **Elaine Coffey** is her sponsor.



Laura and Dan Winrod have been attending our worship services for a number of years. Residents of Strongsville, they have two grown children, Sarah and Adam. The Winrods have served as greeters and we are pleased to welcome them as members. **Judi Pavisich** is their sponsor.



The United Church of Christ responds to humanitarian and development needs in the world. Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing® carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. Through our work with local churches, conferences, international partners and organizations, One Great Hour of Sharing provides sources of clean water, food, education, health care, small business micro-credit loans, advocacy, resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, emergency relief and rehabilitation as well as disaster preparedness and response. We will be collecting throughout the month of March.



FREE LUNCH FOR ALL
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2022
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

LIMITED RESERVATIONS--Call (440) 238-5389
(To-go meals will be available.)

Reminder: When the Strongsville City Schools are closed for weather, the Free Lunch for All will not be served that day. We love you and want you to stay safe.

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Janet Kato, Ruth Milidonis, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Joan Beckwith, Eddy Bond, Mary Carey, Kathy Cockrell, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sam Cuyler, Sr., Linda Elliott, Tom Foley, Ramona Glaze, Sue Hawk, Bob Heddleson, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Judy Maur, Reggie McCray, Heidi & Chuck McDougall, Laurie Meister, Roy Merkle, Michele Mihlack, Lola Millhoane, Gary Paul, Judi Pavisich, Sandy Pogozeleski, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, Peter Smith, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Doug Thorn, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Owen Woodward, Mary Ellen Zimmerman



Extended Church Family: Ron Adams (Judi Pavisich's friend), Dorene Baldrige, Fred Beba (Theresa's husband), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Jerry Cergol, (Barb Fraunfelder & Dennis Smith's friend), Hunter Colao (Barb & Mark Camp's grandson), Mary Ann Csory (Judi Pavisich's friend), John Dickson (Greg's dad), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Andrew Majoros (Michele Mihlack's cousin), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend) Rudy Matjzic (Judi Pavisich's friend, Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Zachary McKeever (Pastor Heidi and Chuck's great-nephew), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Thomas O'Shea (Sandy's dad), Terry Robson (Barb & Mark Camp's friend), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Tina Serrano (Elliott Joyce's grandma), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Sandra Wentz (Debbie's daughter-in-law), Weston (Chelsea Cathcart's friend's baby)

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 \$3,649.37
Last Week's Offering Received \$2,446.00
Difference (-\$1,203.37)

Thank you very much for your support.

PLEDGE CARDS RECEIVED TO DATE: 62



UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, March 22nd at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



COMING SOON

Plans are underway for our church to lead a community-wide project to put together Disaster Relief kits and fill a trailer with these much-needed supplies for victims of any sort of disaster. **STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION!**



PENNY SUNDAY NEXT WEEK

Get ready to bring your coins, dollars, and checks (to Strongsville UCC) next Sunday, **March 27th**! The money collected will go toward the church's **Disaster Relief project.**

GIFT CARDS

AN EASY WAY TO BENEFIT 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.**

Thank you to those who continue to support this project by buying gift cards!

HAVE YOU DONE THIS ALREADY?

Are you shopping online? If so, why not benefit the church while you make your purchases from

Amazon? It's incredibly easy! Here's what you do:

1. Instead of typing amazon.com into your search bar, type in **smile.amazon.com**.
2. Select United Church of Christ Congregational Strongsville by clicking this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-1298100>
3. Shop as you would normally—that's it!

Your addresses, billing information, and shopping cart are still saved and your Prime membership privileges still apply. A small percentage of your purchase price will go toward supporting the church.



OFFICERS FOR 2022 Elected January 30, 2022 * = 1 year term

Moderator Greg Dickson **Vice-Moderator** Jennifer Barry
Treasurer Sally Herzog **Clerk** Judy Gaumer

Sunday School Co-Superintendents
Linda Elkins Serena Abruzzino

Board of Trustees

Myron Costin Diana Creecy Bill Giuliano* (Vice-chair) Herb Hampson
Dale Hawk Sarah Hayes Sandy Pogozelski*
Dave Sekorky Ed Sobek* Rachel Zielinski (Chair)

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson Linda Stepan Joyce Reed*

Diaconate

Teri Barbish Barbara Camp* Elaine Coffey Cathy Hawk*
Linda Kapcar Bobbie Krisak Sharon Maresco Linda Ponstingle
Cheryl Sobek* Cherie Teagno Barbara White*

Christian Education Committee

Serena Abruzzino* Mary Densmore
Linda Elkins Amanda Marshall Lora Rung

Music Committee

Richard Densmore Ingrid Dickson
Pam Keenen* Ken Mehalko* Rob Stepan
ex officio: Sharon Heinrich Tom Foley Mike Elkins

Stewardship Committee

Sue Gigliotti* Beth Giuliano* Judi Pavisich
Richard Taylor Rob Toth

Mission and Outreach Committee

Judy Carte* Sarah Hayes Bobbie Krisak
Lora Rung* Jennifer Sekorky Bev Wehr*

THRIFT SHOP



The Thrift Shop is **OPEN on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.** with lots of interesting merchandise. Donations are being accepted, but you must call the church first to arrange a time for drop-off.

THRIFT SHOP BONUS HOURS The 3rd Thursday of the month, April 21, 2022 — 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

EASTER LILIES/TULIPS ORDER FORM

You may choose a lily or tulips (no color choice). Please email the church prior to the deadline of **Sunday, April 3, 2022 at NOON**. The cost is **\$8.00**. Payment is due **April 10, 2022**.

Wording for bulletin:

Given by: _____

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

2022 Easter Lily/Tulip

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

Offering envelope number: _____ Cash/Check No. _____

Name: _____

Order deadline is **Sunday, April 3, 2022 at NOON**.
Payment deadline is **April 10, 2022**.



DIACONATE "WING" NIGHT

FRIDAY, MAY 6th 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. Ticket sales will begin March 27th in Pilgrim Hall. Please provide cash or check only.

In addition, we are looking for basket donations for wing night. There will be a sign up for your name and your themed basket on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall.

YES! I'D LIKE TO BE PART OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY CARE TEAM.

NAME _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

I AM INTERESTED IN:

_____ OFFERING OR RECEIVING COMMUNION AT HOME

_____ CALLING FOLKS WHO WOULD LIKE TO PRAY, BUT DON'T USE EMAIL

_____ PREPARING AN EXTRA MEAL AND DELIVERING IT TO SOMEONE WHO'S HOMEBOUND

_____ HELPING COOK A DISH AND OR SERVE MEALS AT FUNERAL LUNCHEON

_____ BECOMING A "PHONE BUDDY" AND PERIODICALLY CHECK IN WITH SOMEONE WHO'S HOMEBOUND

_____ OFFERING AN OCCASIONAL RIDE TO TAKE MEMBERS TO APPOINTMENTS

_____ I WOULD BE WILLING TO...

