



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 22, 2026– 10 A.M.

Penny Sunday



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 "Breathe" Barnett

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Joyce Reed

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT 654 "Change My Heart, O God"

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Our lives feel all disjointed as though they were a valley of dry bones.

People: But the Spirit of God will bring connection and continuity to our lives.

Leader: The Spirit of God breathes hope into each one of us.

People: The Spirit of God challenges us to be people of faith.

Leader: Open our hearts, Lord, and bring us to your light.

People: Open our lives, Lord, and break us free from doubt and fear.

† HYMN 393 "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 130

(New International Version)

Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord;

Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

If you, Lord, kept a record of sins,

Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can,

with reverence, serve you.

I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits,

and in his word I put my hope.

I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning,

more than watchmen wait for the morning.

Israel, put your hope in the Lord,

for with the Lord is unfailing love

and with him is full redemption.

God's own self will redeem Israel from all their sins.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S ANTHEM "Dry Bones" Traditional

A READING FROM THE PROPHETS

Ezekiel 37:1-14

(New International Version)

The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry.

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 "It Causes Me to Tremble" Raney

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Penny Sunday

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Prayer" Boëllmann

† 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

HYMN 684 "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS John 11: 1-44

(New International Version)

Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

† HYMN 353 "Victory in Jesus"

† BENEDICTION

Come out! Jesus commands, calling us from the tombs of our existence into the brightness of a new day. Come out! Jesus cries, unbinding us from the chains of our past. Come out! Jesus calls, enticing us into a world filled with grace and possibility. So . . . Go out into a world that needs our life, our breath, our spirit! Go out into a world that needs the Spirit of God, carried on our lips and in our loving arms. Go out into the world to live as God's resurrected people! Go forth from this space on the breath of God's holy wind! Amen.

POSTLUDE "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" arr. Raney

A NOTE OF THANKS—

We thank the **Children's Choir, Chancel Choir, Mike Elkins, Tom Foley, and Sharon Heinrich** for today's music. Special thanks also to our supplemental readers, **Ingrid Dickson, Mike Willis and Dave Williams**, to **Irene Joyce** for the Children's Message and to **Linda Ponstingle** for her leadership while Pastor Heidi is away with her family.

SERVING

TODAY – MARCH 22

NEXT SUNDAY – MARCH 29

Lynne McCray	Greeters	Judi Pavisich
Ingrid Dickson	Liturgist	Luke Giuliano
Mary Ellen Zimmerman	Head Usher	Judi Pavisich
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
Children's Choir, Choir	Special Music	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**.

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



Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthday yesterday to Carol Foley

Love, the Music Ministry

Happy Birthday today to Bill Ritchie, Jr.

With love from your family

FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL:

IT'S PENNY SUNDAY TODAY! We will be collecting for **Providence House**, caring for

babies and young children needing assistance in Cuyahoga County and surrounding areas. The next Penny Sunday will be on **April 26, 2026** and go to Northeast Ohio Collie Rescue.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed	\$ 5,212.00
Last Week's Offering Received	\$ 1,798.00
Difference	-(\$3,414.00)

Thank you very much for your support.

PLEDGES RECEIVED: 62



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP— Today, we will

sell the delectable treat, "People Chow," which is also known as "Puppy Chow," after worship. We will also be selling next Sunday, **March 29th**. Just in time to fill those Easter baskets! Only \$4.00 per bag!



NEXT WEEK IS PALM/PASSION SUNDAY!

We will celebrate Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem with the traditional Palm Processional. As worship progresses, we will transition to the beginning of Holy Week and our Lord's journey to the cross.



BABY CONGRATULATIONS

Welcome to the world, **Camille Joy Williams-Whipple**, daughter of Mandy Williams and Mat Whipple, who was born on March 16, 2026. Congratulations also to the proud grandparents, **Dave and Heather Williams!**



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 Ghatti (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 \$61,319.08 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.

FREE WOOD! Please see Dale Hawk if you would like to avail yourself of some wood (2 x 4, 2 x 6).

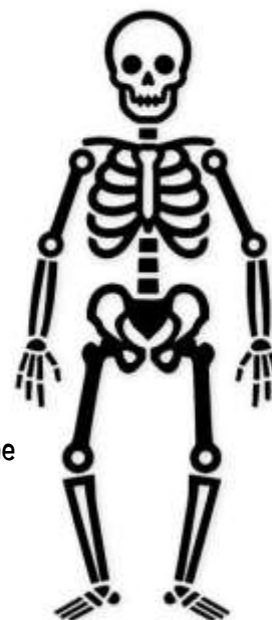


DRY BONES

Ezekiel cried "Dem dry bones!" (3x)

Now hear the word of the Lord!

The foot bone's connected to the ankle bone
 The ankle bone's connected to the leg bone
 The leg bone's connected to the knee bone
 The knee bone's connected to the thigh bone
 The thigh bone's connected to the hip bone
 The hip bone's connected to the back bone
 The back bone's connected to the shoulder bone
 The shoulder bone's connected to neck bone
 The neck bone's connected to the jaw bone
 The jaw bone's connected to the head bone
 Now hear the word of the Lord!



Dem bones. dem bones gonna rise again (3x)

Now hear the word of the Lord!

Dem bones. dem bones gonna rise again (3x)

Now hear the word of the Lord!

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 Bittinger Elaine Coffey* Diana Creecy*
 Bobbi Cook Wayne Cook Judy Davis
 Judy Fox* Pam Heimbürger 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

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



HOLY WEEK

March 29: Palm Sunday

Jesus enters Jerusalem and the people welcome him with palms. The sojourn to the cross awaits.

April 2: Maundy Thursday

A Service of Cleansing & Repentance

We gather to cleanse our spirits in the presence of God

April 3: Good Friday

Service of Tenebrae

We walk with Jesus through his suffering and sacrifice with readings and music.

April 5: Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service

Like the women who came to see the place where Jesus was buried, we celebrate the early morning of the empty tomb.

Easter Breakfast

Sharing food and fellowship

Traditional Service with Brass & Choir

Glorious music and powerful words celebrating the resurrection of our Lord

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING



The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **March 24th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

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!**





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.

BOOK STUDY!

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



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.