



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
(Congregational)  
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[StrongsvilleUCC.com](http://StrongsvilleUCC.com)

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, March 24, 2024– 10 A.M.  
Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday  
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 "The Palms" Faure

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Joyce Reed

† PROCESSIONAL "Hosanna! Jesus is the Rock"  
The congregation is invited to stand, wave their palms,  
and join in singing the Palm Processional:

**Hosanna! Jesus is the Rock! Jesus is the Rock of my salvation.**  
**Hosanna! Jesus is the Rock! Jesus is the Rock of my salvation.**

***I will magnify the Lord, for He is worthy to be praised.***  
***I will magnify the Lord, for He is worthy to be praised.***

## † CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Honor, praise, and glory are yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

**People: In celebration, we join the crowds of old, waving branches, giving honor to the Messiah.**

Leader: Yet, our celebration is bittersweet, for our story doesn't end here. We know the pain of what lies ahead.

**People: Today, we anticipate the rest of the story: a story of betrayal and death; a story of hope and resurrection.**

† HYMN 297 "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 118:1-2; 19-29  
(New International Version)

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.  
Let Israel say: "His love endures forever."  
Open for me the gates of the righteous;  
I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord through which the righteous may enter.  
I will give you thanks, for you answered me;

You have become my salvation.

The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;  
the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

The Lord has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.  
Lord, save us! Lord, grant us success!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
From the house of the Lord we bless you.

The Lord is God, and he has made his light shine on us.

With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar.

You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures 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 "Lift Up Your Heads" Martin

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Penny Sunday

## OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Lamb of God" Paris  
Sarah Keenen, vocalist

† 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 Mark 14:1-15:47  
"The Passion of the Christ"

Now the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were scheming to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. . . . It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. The written notice of the charge against him read:  
THE KING OF THE JEWS.

† HYMN 319 "Near the Cross"

## † BENEDICTION

From Palm Sunday to Holy Saturday, may God in his infinite mercy grant you a journey of renewal and hope; a time of prayer and reflection; and joyful anticipation of our Lord's resurrection. May you live and serve this week in remembrance of Christ's love. Go in peace and live the church. Amen.

† RESPONSE/POSTLUDE "Adoramus Te Christe" Dubois

## PLEASE DEPART THE SANCTUARY IN SILENCE.

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**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**.

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SERVING	
TODAY – MARCH 24	NEXT SUNDAY – MARCH 31—10 A.M.
Susann Lerch	<b>Greeters</b> Judi Pavisich
Dave Williams	<b>Liturgist</b> Dale Hawk
Roz Fotos	<b>Ushers</b> Judi Pavisich
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>Video/Sound</b> Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Children's Choir, Choir	<b>Special Music</b> Tom Nazelli, Bells, Choir
	Ralph Heimburger, Carol Foley



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

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The altar flowers are given—

*In honor of those who have been called by God as we honor the death and resurrection of His son, Jesus*  
Serena Abruzzino



**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—

*With get-well wishes to and in appreciation of Cathy Hawk*  
*Wishing Betty "Grammy" Craig happiness in her new home*  
With love from your Church Family

## 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

**Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Maundy Thursday**

Worship service with Sacrament of Holy Communion in the Sanctuary at 7 p.m.



**Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**

**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 31<sup>st</sup>**

**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 TODAY!



It's time to donate those coins, dollars, and checks (to UCC). Money collected will go to **Friendship APL** in Elyria to assist in the care of the animals at the shelter.

**CALLING ALL KIDS!** The Sunday School is planning an Easter Egg Hunt for next Sunday—Hope to see you then!





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), Allison Emerson (Colette's sister), 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 Ghatti (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 \$ 2,932.00  
Difference (-\$ 685.01)

Thank you very much for your support.

PLEDGE CARDS RECEIVED TO DATE: 50



UPCOMING BOARD MEETING



- The Official Board will have an email meeting the fourth Tuesday of the month, **March 26<sup>th</sup>**.

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.



**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.

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!**



FAMILY GAME  
GATHERING!

SATURDAY, APRIL 6<sup>th</sup> 2 p.m. - ?

Couldn't make it to Retreat? Join us for a sample of the fun and games we enjoy at Temples 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 on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 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 Pogozeleski\*  
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



Mark your calendars now for the Diaconate's Annual Wing Night! Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at Grindstone Tap House in Berea—start thinking of your basket ideas now!

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 \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**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.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—



**Thank you** to everyone who donated pies and/or helped serving them in celebration of Pi Day last week: **Karen Bates, Elaine Coffey, Wayne & Bobbi Cook, Diana Creecy, Mary**

**Densmore, Ingrid Dickson, Roz Fotos, Cathy Hawk, Pam Heimburger, Sharon Heinrich, Irene Joyce, Judi Pavisich, Linda Plain, Linda Ponstingle, Cherie Teagno, Barbara Toth, Barbara White, Marty Winch, and Mary Ellen Zimmerman**

**Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 7 p.m. Pet Craft Outreach Project**

**Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1 p.m. Outreach Project with Elaine Coffey and Teri Barbish**



EASTER SUNDAY--March 31, 2024

Sunrise Service 7:00 A.M.--Outdoors, weather permitting

† † †

Easter Breakfast of scrambled eggs and ham in Pilgrim Hall between the two services

† † †

Traditional Easter Worship 10:00 A.M. – in our Sanctuary

Celebratory Music by Special Guests, Bells, Chancel Choir, Brass,  
Keyboards, and Pipe Organ