



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor
Sunday, March 26, 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.

BELL PRELUDE "Were You There?" Arr. Wagner

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Sally Herzog

BELL INTROIT "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" Maker, arr. Scoggins

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In the buds on the trees eager to burst; in the flowers poking their heads out of the dirt; in the children chalking spring on the sidewalks:

People: We see how you love us, God of steadfast love.

Leader: In the tears of a worried father over his son's illness; in the weariness of a mother facing a long shift at work; in the woman who anoints her grandbaby with talcum powder:

People: We see how you love us, our Resurrection and our Life.

Leader: In the touch of a wife on her husband's papery skin; in the birds which rush into the sky before spiraling down; in the words we are given to offer to the empty-hearted:

People: We see how you love us, Breath of our souls.

† HYMN 2 "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name"

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.

O put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love,
and with him is full redemption.

He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

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.

BELL ANTHEM "O Sacred Head Now Wounded" arr. Wagner

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Mary Densmore & friends

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "We Thank Thee, Jesus, Dearest Friend" Buxtehude

† **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 11: 1-45
(The Message)

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

SERMON "Alive Again!"

† **HYMN 410** "Standing on the Promises" (verses 1, 3, 4, 5)

† **BENEDICTION** Rev. Elizabeth Dilley, United Church of Christ
Jesus calls us from the tombs of our existence into the brightness of a new day. Come out! Jesus unbinds us from the chains of our past. Jesus entices 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 out on the breath of God's holy wind! Amen.

† **RESPONSE/POSTLUDE** "In Death's Strong Grasp the Savior Lay" Bach

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**.

	<u>SERVING</u>	
TODAY – MARCH 26		NEXT SUNDAY – APRIL 2
Roz Fotos	Greeters	Linda Plain
Pam Keenen	Liturgist	Linda Ponstingle
Roz Fotos, Jean Bittinger	Ushers	Volunteers needed
Luke Giuliano/Aidan Hurtig	Acolytes	Oliver & Matilda Sekorky
Tom Foley	Director of Music	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	Associate Director of Music	Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	Organist	Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich	Sound	Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Bell Choir, Richard Densmore	Special Music	Choir, Children's Choir

A NOTE OF THANKS—

We thank the **Bell Choir, Tom Foley,** and **Richard Densmore** for sharing their music with us today.



The altar flowers are given—

In Celebration of our Grandson Mason's 17th Birthday on March 31st
Love, Grandpa George & Grandma Joyce Reed



Our steeple will light the sky this week—
Happy Birthday to Rob Wentz on April 1st!
With love, Grammy



Happy Birthday today to Allison Sieving and Carson Brammer!

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 TODAY!

It's time to donate those coins, cash, and checks for the Berea Animal Rescue Friends.



The Sunday School children and youth are holding a donation drive to benefit Berea Animal Rescue Friends through Sunday, April 16th. 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. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Densmore.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,617.01
Last Week's Offering Received \$4,606.00
Difference \$ 988.99

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.

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy goes out to **Rev. Erv Koch** and his family on the death of **Grace Koch** last weekend at the age of 92. A memorial service will be held here at Strongsville UCC at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 27, 2023, with visitation at 10:30 a.m.



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.



CONGREGATIONAL PHOTO MAY 14th

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, Bruce Lerch, Reggie McCray, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkfritz, 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 Baldrige, 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 16th through May 14th. The collection bin will be in the Gathering Area of the church.



UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **March 28th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



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-appeal/donate?inf_contact_key=f5bc4cb2d41410f840a0988bee0ee0b7842e902fbefb79ab9abae13bfc46658 and follow the prompts.

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HOLY WEEK

Sunday, April 2nd

Palm Sunday

With the traditional processional of the Palms



Thursday, April 6th

Maundy Thursday

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



Friday, April 7th

Good Friday

"Song of the Shadows" at 7:30 p.m.

Ecumenical collaboration

At Strongsville United Methodist Church

(13500 Royalton Road -enter off Webster Road)



Sunday, April 9th

Easter

Sunrise Service at 7 a.m.



Easter Breakfast 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Traditional Worship with Brass at 10 a.m.

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!



FREE LUNCH FOR ALL--Wednesdays

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Join us for nutritious meals and fellowship!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

LAST CHANCE

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 12th 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 will be on sale every Sunday, starting April 16th, in Pilgrim Hall. (Cash or check only). **Please remember! We'll need donations of baskets!**



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.

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*