



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, March 29, 2026– 10 A.M.

Palm/Passion 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" Fauré

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Elaine Coffey

† **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

THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY Luke 19:28-40

(New International Version)

When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" Maker

† **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**

THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST Luke 22:14-23:56

(New International Version)

There was a written notice above him, which read:

This is the King of the Jews.

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him:

"Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Jesus answered him,

"Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

† **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.

POSTLUDE "Adoramus Te Christe" Dubois

PLEASE DEPART THE SANCTUARY IN SILENCE.

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**.

SERVING

TODAY – MARCH 29

Judi Pavisich
Luke Giuliano
Judi Pavisich
Tom Foley
Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Children's Choir, Choir

Greeters
Liturgist
Head Usher
Director of Music
Associate Director of Music
Organist
Video/Sound
Special Music

NEXT SUNDAY – APRIL 5

Linda Plain
Greg Dickson
John Toth
Tom Foley
Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Brass, Keyboard trio, Choir



A NOTE OF THANKS—We thank our **Children's Choir**, our **Chancel Choir**, along with **Tom Foley, Sharon Heinrich** and **Mike Elkins** for their music today. Thanks also to our readers, **Luke Giuliano** and **Sandy O'Shea**.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Our regular altar flower service will resume in May. We still have many openings this year for you to purchase flowers in memory or in honor of someone special. Cost is \$18 for 1 vase, \$36 for both vases.



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

FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL:



PENNY SUNDAY THANK YOU! We collected \$334.51 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**.

All children are welcome to join in our Easter Egg Hunt during class time next Sunday!

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 5,212.00
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 2,951.01
Difference ~~-(\$ 2,260.99)~~

Thank you very much for your support.

PLEDGES RECEIVED: 62



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP— Today,

we are selling the delectable treat, "People Chow," which is also known as "Puppy Chow," after worship. Just in time to fill those Easter baskets! Only \$4.00 per bag!



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **April 14th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **April 21st** at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **April 28th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

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 Garipey (Sally Herzog's friend), Kathy Ghetti (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), Maryanne Grega-Knotek (our florist), 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
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.

THREE WITH GLEE!

Capital Campaign: We currently have \$61,359.08 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.



**Mark your calendars now for the
Diaconate's
Food and Friends FunD-raiser!**

**Friday, May 1st at Grindstone Tap
House—start thinking of your basket ideas!
TICKETS are \$30 & ON SALE NOW!**

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 Pogozelski* Bill Robinson* Cheryl Sobek
Alex Tomoff Mike Willis

Endowment Fund Subcommittee
Linda Stepan* Dave Williams*

Diaconate
Jean Bittering Elaine Coffey* Diana Creecy*
Bobbi Cook Wayne Cook Judy Davis
Judy Fox* Pam Heimburger 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*



WANT TO ENJOY A COUPLE OF HOURS OF FUN, FOOD, AND FELLOWSHIP WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY? How about joining us for our FAMILY GAME GATHERING

from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 18th? Bring a savory or sweet snack to share, your favorite board games, and your friends and family.

MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:

We are collecting new items for Laura's Home (Feminine pads with wings, baby wipes, Size 6 and 7 diapers or Pull-Ups, and Pedialyte) through Mother's Day. We will have a bin in the Gathering Area for your donations. As an alternative, you can purchase Amazon gift cards—available through our Gift Card program. See Jim Joyce or contact the church office to purchase (double benefit)!



HOLY WEEK

April 2: Maundy Thursday

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

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.**

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

