



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, March 3, 2024– 10 A.M.

Third Sunday in Lent

Sacrament of Baptism

Sacrament of Holy Communion



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

"People Get Ready"

Mayfield

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Irene Joyce

INTROIT

"Lord, Hear Our Prayer"

Elkins

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The morning stars profess God's glory:

People: The waking birds harmonize a refrain of grace.

Leader: The sun warms us with God's hope, the night sky whispers peace to our sleepy souls:

People: Creation's voice echoes continually in our hearts, reminding us of God's steadfast love.

Leader: Our wisdom is shattered by God's absurd love; God's vulnerability strengthens our feeble faith:

People: God's words place joy in our hearts; we follow them to peace and hope.

† HYMN 143

"This is My Father's World"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalms 19

(New International Version)

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.

They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.

Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.

It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.

It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other;
nothing is deprived of its warmth.

The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul.

The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever.

The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous.

They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold;

they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.

By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me.

Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.

May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

PRAYING IN SILENCE

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy, ALL: Hear our prayers. Amen.

ANTHEM

"Anthem for Lent"

Althouse



THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Iris Dianne Eggert

Daughter of Sarah and Benjamin Eggert

Godparents: Brooke Burton and Erik Eggert

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY WORDS

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES FOR THE FAMILY

CONGREGATIONAL PROMISE

Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to Iris and her family, as she is baptized and learns to live and grow in Christ?

(We promise our love, support and care.)

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

Christ be with you. (And also with you.) Let us pray.

Gracious God, bless this water by your Holy Spirit. By that same Spirit, save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ, that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in the one baptized this morning, that she may rise in Christ. All glory and honor be to you, Eternal God, who was, who is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

BAPTISM OF IRIS DIANNE EGGERT

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Let us pray together:

Gracious God, You have filled the world with joy with the gift of Jesus. Bless this child, Iris Dianne; fill her with Your strength and courage for life's journey; joy for all to see; freedom of love; hope for a new life. May she never be ashamed to confess her personal faith in You. Bless us, O God, that we, too, may be faithful to Your Word, united in the peace of Christ and the company of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

HYMN

"Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"

Child of blessing, child of promise, Baptized with the Spirit's sign;

With this water God has sealed you Unto love and grace divine.

Child of love, our love's expression, Love's creation, loved indeed
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits; Into joy and laughter lead.

Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God's you are; from God you came.
Back to God we humbly give you; Live as one who bears Christ's name.

Child of God, your loving Parent, Learn to know whose child you are.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship; Trust and love God more than all.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Rock of Ages"

Hastings

† 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 OLD TESTAMENT

Exodus 20: 1-17

(New International Version)

And God spoke all these words.

SERMON

"Commandments and Covenant"

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor: At the center of the law is God's love - that divine experience of God becoming fully human for our sake; that weakness for us which defeats the strongest powers. This love, this grace is of more value to us than all the stocks in our pension funds. Let us open ourselves to such love as we open our hearts to confess our sins to God.

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

People: You gave us your commandments, Holy One, so that we could have new life, but we continue to make the same old choices. Your Love can anchor us when life threatens to overwhelm us, but we choose to cling to the slippery rocks of anger and bitterness. Your Word can strengthen us for every moment, but we continue to listen to the foolish promises of the world. Forgive us, Redeemer of our lives: may our every word be shaped by your Word; may our every thought reflect your grace; may our every deed be inspired by your Spirit, so that everyone we meet will know of your work in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. (silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: When brokenhearted prayers replace piety, when we seek wholeness through the One broken for us, then we remember we are saved by God's powerful love.

People: We are healed to bring healing to our world; we are strengthened in faith to serve others; we are set free from our bondage to sin so that we may become loving servants of Christ. Thanks be to God. Amen.

A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

"In Remembrance"

Koepeke

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.

† HYMN 139

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

† BENEDICTION

Malcolm Doney, Uniting Church

In every detail of this day, may we be fully alive to the words we speak, and those we hear, and to the eloquence of the silence where no words are spoken. May we be fully alive to the work we do: how I prepare, how we pursue it, share it, and complete it. May we be fully alive to the people we see each day – friend or stranger, easy and difficult. May we be fully alive today to every instant, to the pulse of God at the heart of all things. Help us see this day as a gift from God. Let us take it, enjoy it, make it our own and share it with others. Grant us strength to survive; grant us grace to be generous. Grant us courage to stand tall for all that is good and fair. Amen.

† POSTLUDE

"O Love that Will Not Let Me Go"

arr. Whitworth

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 3		NEXT SUNDAY – MARCH 10
Linda Plain	Greeters	Barbara Toth
Pam Keenen	Liturgist	Bruce Keenen
Roz Fotos	Ushers	Volunteers needed
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
Chancel Choir	Special Music	Bell Choir

The altar flowers are given—
Happy Birthday today to Elena I. Joyce!
The Joyces & the Dicksons



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—
Congratulations to the Strongsville Special Olympians for their silver medal in basketball at the State Tournament!
Happy Birthday today to Erhardt Bell, Elena Joyce, Analise Dragony, and Nova & Isabel Avramovich!



FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL: PENNY SUNDAY THANK YOU! We collected \$305.31 last week to start our church's fledgling Youth Group. Many thanks to everyone who participated. Our next Penny Sunday will be on **March 24th**.



PLEASE NOTE: The church secretary will be out of the office from **March 11th through March 14th**. Messages will be checked on **Friday, March 15th**.



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

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.



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY BAND
WINTER CONCERT TODAY, MARCH 3rd at 3 P.M.
at the Strongsville Middle School



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 Baldrige, 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), 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 Ghetti (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 \$ 5,830.00
Difference +\$2,212.99

Thank you very much for your support.
PLEDGE CARDS RECEIVED TO DATE: 50



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **March 12th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **March 19th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **March 26th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—

The Women's Fellowship group again will be making "People Chow," formerly known as Puppy Chow, on **Monday, March 4th** at 7 p.m., with the evening group, and on **Wednesday, March 6th** at 1 p.m. with the daytime group. Since it is a treat for people, we are changing the name to be clear that it is for human consumption, not for dogs. People Chow is a delicious treat that includes Rice and Corn Chex cereal, Cheerios, peanuts, pretzels and M & M's drizzled in white chocolate. A gluten free version of the treat will also be made that is only made with the Corn Chex, Rice, Chex and white chocolate.

The People Chow will be sold for \$4 a bag in Pilgrim Hall after the church service on **Sunday, March 10th** and **Sunday, March 17th**.

Sunday, March 17th Pie Day for π Day (3/14). Participants are invited to bring a pie to share for Coffee Hour!



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.

PHOTO DIRECTORY UPDATE Directories are here! Folks who were photographed receive a free copy. They are in the church mailbox. Extra directories may be purchased from the church office for \$10 each.



EASTER FLOWERS ORDER FORM

You may choose lilies, hyacinths, or tulips (no color choice). To order, please email the church or turn in this form with payment prior to the deadline of **Sunday, March 10, 2024 at NOON**. The cost is **\$8.00**.

Wording for bulletin:

Given by: _____

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

Tulips _____ (x \$8)

Hyacinths _____ (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 **United Church of Christ**, and call or email the church with your order.

For Church Records 2024 Easter Flowers

Total number of plants: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Offering envelope number: _____

Cash/Check No. _____

Name: _____

Order and payment deadline is **Sunday, March 10 at NOON**.



BOOK STUDY--A YEAR OF BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD
Continuing on **March 18th**, 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!

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- 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

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.

