



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
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StrongsvilleUCC.com

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, March 30, 2025– 10 A.M.
Fourth Sunday in Lent



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 "Create in Me a Clean Heart" Mueller

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

INTROIT "Ask, Seek, Knock" Larson

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Lent calls us to journey, this and every day, following Jesus wherever he leads us.

People: Lent calls us to journey: to the place where God covenants with us, to receive the new names we are given.

Leader: Lent calls us to worship together, to tell future generations the good news.

People: Lent calls us to practice justice, to bring God's hope to all people.

Leader: Lent calls us to faithful living, to trust the One who gives us life.

People: Lent calls each of us to take up our cross, to trust the One who bears it with us.

Leader: Lent calls us to journey with God.

People: Let us worship God, who walks with us, this and every day.

† **LENTEN HYMN MEDLEY I**

302 "Lamb of God" vv. 1-3

#295 "Tell Me the Story of Jesus" vv. 1-3

#328 "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" vv. 1, 2, 4

A READING FROM THE PROPHETS

Isaiah 53:4-7

(New International Version)

*Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.*

But he was pierced for our transgressions,

He was crushed for our iniquities;

*the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.*

*We all, like sheep, have gone astray each of us has turned to our own way;
and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth;

he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,

and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

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.**

LENTEN HYMN MEDLEY II

#315 "Were You There?" vv. 1-3

#139 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" vv. 1, 2

#319 "Near the Cross" vv. 1, 2, 4

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Luke 4:17-21

(New International Version)

The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Jesus.

Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

*"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.*

*He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

*Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat
down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He
began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Penny Sunday

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Bourrée in F Major"

Telemann

† **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**

LENTEN HYMN MEDLEY III

#321 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" vv. 1-3

#597 "Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated" vv. 1, 5, 6

#591 "Have Thine Own Way, Lord" vv. 1, 2, 4

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Luke 22:40-46

(The Message)

*Leaving there, Jesus went, as he so often did, to Mount Olives. The
disciples followed him. When they arrived at the place, he said, "Pray that
you don't give in to temptation." He pulled away from them about a stone's
throw, knelt down, and prayed, "Father, remove this cup from me. But
please, not what I want. What do you want?" At once an angel from heaven
was at his side, strengthening him. He prayed on all the harder. Sweat,
wrung from him like drops of blood, poured off his face. He got up from
prayer, went back to the disciples and found them asleep, drugged by grief.
He said, "What business do you have sleeping? Get up. Pray so you won't
give in to temptation."*

† **HYMN 705**

"It is Well with My Soul" vv. 1, 3, 4

† **BENEDICTION**

Nathan Nettleton, Laughingbird Ministries

*Go now, and live in the spirit of your baptism, even when you are led into
wild and hard places. With repentance and trust, give yourselves to God,
and with fasting and prayer, strengthen yourselves against the ways of the
tempter. And may God enfold you in tender and lasting love. May Christ be
beside you in times of struggle. And may the Spirit guide you back to the
path whenever you stray, that you may keep the covenant. Go forth in
peace and love to serve the Lord. Amen.*

† **POSTLUDE**

"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

Traditional

The altar flowers are given—

In honor of all our church's talented musicians

Peter Smith

A 2025 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—

Happy Birthday to Rob Wentz on April 1st!

With love, Grammy

Happy Birthday today to Wayne Cook!

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**.



A NOTE OF THANKS—

We thank our **Chancel Choir**, along with **Tom Foley**,
Mike Elkins, and **Sharon Heinrich** for today's music.

Special thanks to **Luke Giuliano**, **Lynne McCray**, **Irene
Joyce**, and **Linda Ponstingle** for leading today's service

in Pastor Heidi's absence.

SERVING

TODAY – MARCH 30

Susann Lerch

Luke Giuliano

Tom Foley

Mike Elkins

Sharon Heinrich

Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich

Chancel Choir

Hymn Sing

NEXT SUNDAY – APRIL 6

Greeters

Liturgist

Director of Music

Associate Director of Music

Organist

Video/Sound

Special Music

Guest Speaker

Linda Plain

Elaine Coffey

Tom Foley

Mike Elkins

Sharon Heinrich

Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich

Chancel Choir

Rev. Pat Jefferis



**FROM THE SUNDAY
SCHOOL: PENNY SUNDAY
TODAY**



Our Penny Sunday money will go to Holy Joe's Café, which began in
2006 at the First Congregational Church in Wallingford, Connecticut
with the mission to send coffee to deployed military Chaplains of all
faiths to enhance their ministry of presence. Holy Joe's is trying to keep
up with the demand from Chaplains for coffee as many more are being
deployed to the Middle East as well as Eastern Europe. Coffee serves
as a conduit for Chaplains in having conversations over a cup of
coffee. The next Penny Sunday will be **April 27th** for Laura's Home.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—



Tomorrow, Monday, March 31st at 7 p.m., we will be making “Puppy Chow for People” to sell in April. All are welcome to join us in this delicious and fun activity!

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.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS



- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **April 8th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **April 15th** at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will have and email meeting on **April 28th**.

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

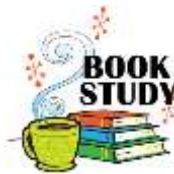
Long-Term Care or Homebound: Irene Jannsohn, Connie Rebar, Maggie Struhar

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Judy Carte, Elaine Coffey, Sam Cuyler Jr., Joe Hattery, Martha Hattery, Sue Hawk, Kay Konicek, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Sharon Maresco, Pastor Heidi, Dan Masuga, Roy Merkle, Amanda Moulton, Ginny & Kenn Oerkitz, George & Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Ron Rothel, Tracy Seneff, Peter Smith, Bruce & Gayle Sperber, Linda Stepan, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Dorene Baldrige, 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 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), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel's parents), 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), 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), The people of Ukraine, Sudan, 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

Our love and prayers are extended to **Greg and Ingrid Dickson** and Greg's mom, **Betty Dickson**, and the Dickson family on the death of **John W. Dickson**. John went home to the Lord on March 24, 2025 at the age of 81. The funeral service will be held on April 9th in Michigan.



BOOK STUDY--SISTERHOOD!
Continuing on April 28th at 7 p.m., Our *Sisterhood* Book Study will continue. All are welcome to join in the book study, even if you have not yet attended our sessions yet.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 4,359.00
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 3,916.00
Difference - (\$ 443.00)
Thank you very much for your support.
PLEDGES RECEIVED: 61



WE NEED YOUR HELP!



If you are the last or almost the last person to leave the church building on any given day, please make certain that all the lights are off and most importantly, that the door to the kitchen and the parking lot doors are locked and PUSHED SHUT so the lock is latched. The Board of Trustees is addressing this issue, but in the meantime, it's all hands on deck to keep our church building secure. Thanks in advance for your diligence!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NEXT SUNDAY

At the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on January 25, 2025, the members present voted to approve the Board of Trustees moving forward with gathering information and bids for a Capital Campaign. The Trustees are in the process of doing so. A Congregational meeting is going to be scheduled for April 6th to give members the opportunity to review the details of the various projects and their corresponding bids and vote on the expenditures of funds, as well as pledge to contribute to the campaign.



Some of the projects under consideration include:

- Tuck and pointing and sealing of church building
- Replacing the stair treads going upstairs and downstairs at the Royalton Road entrance and the steps downstairs to the Thrift Shop
- Handicap accessibility of Pilgrim Hall
- Updated bathrooms in Pilgrim Hall
- Air conditioning upstairs
- New windows at Pearl Road Property
- Updated bathrooms at Pearl Road Property
- New carpeting in Gathering area and offices/Parlor/Nursery
- Improved acoustics in Pilgrim Hall
- New doors and handicap openers on church building
- Parking lot lighting
- Door awnings
- Surge protector for building
- Parking lot repair and sealing



Mark your calendars now for the Diaconate's Annual Wing Night! Friday, May 9th at Grindstone Tap House—start thinking of your basket ideas! TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

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 prior to the deadline of **Sunday, April 6, 2025 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 2025 Easter Flowers

Total number of plants: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Offering envelope number: _____

Cash/Check No. _____

Name: _____

Order/payment deadline is **Sunday, April 6th at NOON.**



The Church office will be closed on Wednesday, April 9th and Thursday, April 10th.



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.

ROYAL OAK PAPER RECYCLING



Our paper recycling bin will now be serviced by Royal Oak Recycling. Please continue to deposit your FLATTENED cardboard and your papers in the bin. Royal Oak does not pick up as often as the former company. Therefore, **please do not place papers/cardboard outside the bin if it's full.** Thanks!

YES! I'D LIKE TO BE PART OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY CARE TEAM.



NAME _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

I AM INTERESTED IN:

_____ OFFERING OR RECEIVING COMMUNION AT HOME

_____ CALLING FOLKS WHO WOULD LIKE TO JOIN PRAYER CHAIN, BUT DON'T USE EMAIL

_____ PREPARING AN EXTRA MEAL AND DELIVERING IT TO SOMEONE WHO'S HOMEBOUND

_____ HELPING COOK A DISH AND OR SERVE MEALS AT FUNERAL LUNCHEON

_____ BECOMING A "PHONE BUDDY" AND PERIODICALLY CHECK IN WITH SOMEONE WHO'S HOMEBOUND

_____ OFFERING AN OCCASIONAL RIDE TO TAKE MEMBERS TO APPOINTMENTS

_____ OFFERING AN OCCASIONAL RIDE TO OUR CHURCH SERVICES

_____ BE PART OF A CARD CREW TO SEND CARDS TO FOLKS ON HEIDI'S PRAYER LIST AND OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

_____ I WOULD BE WILLING TO...

NEWS FROM THE KITCHEN

HELP! We need large, clean cottage cheese/sour cream containers for transporting the altar flowers after our services on Sundays. If you have these type of containers to donate, please bring them to the kitchen.



CHURCH OFFICERS 2025

**Elected January 26, 2025 ** appointed by Official Board*

Moderator: Greg Dickson **Vice-Moderator:** Jen Barry

Treasurer: Sally Herzog **Clerk:** Judy Gaumer

Sunday School Superintendent: Linda Elkins

Board of Trustees

Bill Giuliano Chris Goff* Mike Elkins
Les Fox Herb Hampson Cathy Hawk*
Sandy Pogozeleski Bill Schneider* Cheryl Sobek*
Alex Tomoff* Mike Willis* Rachel Zielinski

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson* Dave Williams*

Diaconate

Teri Barbish Jean Bittinger* Elaine Coffey*
Bobbi Cook* Wayne Cook* Judy Davis*
Judy Fox Pam Heimbürger* Lynne McCray*
Linda Ponstingle* Lora Rung* Cherie Teagno

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

Gina Cathcart* Bobbi Cook** Myron Costin*
Diana Creecy Cathy Hawk* Sarah Hayes
Lora Rung* Peter Smith Mary Willis*
Mary Ellen Zimmerman

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP



Are you interested in learning more about the United Church of Christ and becoming a member? Folks desiring to join this church family will be added during worship when Pastor Heidi returns.



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.

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!**



PLEASE NOTE: For Safety Reasons, if the Strongsville City Schools are closed due to inclement weather on a Wednesday, the Free Lunch will not be served.

STEWARDSHIP

WHAT DO YOU BRING TO THE CAMPFIRE?

UCC 2025 Estimate of Giving

In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I join with others in the following commitment for
Name _____



am happy to 2025:

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 ____/____/____