

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

13740 Pearl Road

Strongsville, Ohio 44136

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall

Minister

March 4, 2018 – 10:00 A.M.

WELCOME!

We are grateful you chose to worship with us this morning.  
No matter who you are and where you are on life’s journey,  
you are welcome here.

For questions about our church and ministries,  
you may call the church at (440) 238-6697.  
Please complete your Attendance Card and place it  
into the offering plate. We hope to see you again soon!

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

BAND PRELUDE

“When I Look into Your Holiness”

Wayne and Cathy Perrin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Irene Joyce

BAND INTROIT

”He Who Began a Good Work in You”

Jon Mohr

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In this place, the community of faith is reminded of the promise:

People: **God's love endures forever!**

Leader: In spite of our impatient grumbling, despite our attraction to the shadows:

People: **Christ's light shines in us!**

Leader: When we think our hands are empty, when we have no music in our souls:

People: **The Spirit fills us with glad songs, and creates us for good works!**

† HYMN 213 “We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise”

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

**Mike and Linda Elkins** / *Jim and Sharon Heinrich, sponsors*  
**Jan Stough** / *Betty Craig, sponsor*  
**Rick and Cherie Teagno** / *Ken Mehalko and Bev Wehr, sponsors*  
**Clay Williams** / *Rob Toth, sponsor*

Leader: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

Leader: Do you believe in God?

People: **I believe in God.**

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: **I believe in Jesus Christ.**

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: **I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

Leader: Let us, the members of Strongsville United Church of Christ, stand to welcome our newest family members, and affirm together our mutual ministry in Christ.

People: **We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God’s knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.** *(Please be seated.)*

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of Strongsville United Church of Christ, we extend to you the hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the company of this local church.

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE “Hear Us, O Lord” Nancy Price and Don Besig

CHOIR ANTHEM “Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God” Carl F. Mueller

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

THE OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY “I’ll Tell the World that I’m a Christian” Baynard L. Fox

† 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.

† PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SCRIPTURE READING John 2:13-22

SERMON So flippin’ angry!

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Leader: Jesus taught his disciples, saying, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light” *(Matthew 11:28-30)*. We can become so burned out by our hectic days that we lose sight of the One who gives us life. We can become so impatient waiting for God to astound us with wonders, when we have the simple pleasure of each day. In these quiet moments, away from all those things which distract us, let us bring our brokenness to the One who listens to our hearts, and heals our souls. *(silence)*

Join me, as we pray together:

People: **Revealer of mystery, forgive us. We lack love for our neighbors; we waste opportunities to do good; we look the other way when you cry out to us in the suffering of our brothers and sisters in need. We are sincerely sorry for our sins, both those we commit deliberately and those that we allow to overtake us. In silence, help us hear your whispers of grace. In mercy, help us to feel your forgiveness, lifting the burden of guilt from us. In trust, lead us forward in faith to serve your world, filling it with the light and love of the One who is the Light of the world, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Leader: Remember and believe, for the promise is true. God's Light has come into the world, and into our lives. We are graced with glimpses of God's glory, as we are filled with mercy and forgiveness. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

People: **In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.**

All: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: All glory and honor be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, ever-living God . . . .

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, forever praising you and saying:

People: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine, and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit, we who eat and drink them may be partakers of Christ’s body and blood. **Amen . . . .**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts, that in the breaking of this bread and the drinking of this juice we may know the presence of the living Christ and be renewed as the body of Christ for the world, redeemed by Christ’s blood, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at your table forever.

People: **When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come again in risen glory. Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son, and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours almighty God, now and forever. Amen.**

*All are welcome to come forward to partake of the Lord’s Supper, or the communion servers will come to you if you wish.*

**MUSIC** during Communion  
Band: “We Remember You” Kirk Dearman  
Choir: “What You Have Done for Me” Tony Alonso

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**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 233** “Grace, Love and Fellowship”

† **BENEDICTION**

† **RESPONSE** “May the Lord Go with You” Nancy Price, Don Besig

† **BAND POSTLUDE** “Through Our God” Dale Garratt

**This morning’s altar flowers** are given—  
*In honor of Elena Joyce’s 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday  
From Her Family*

**Happy Birthday** today to Richard Colmery!

**Our love and prayers are extended in sympathy** to the family of former church member, Millie Lantzer, on the occasion of her passing on February 25, 2018. Millie attended Strongsville UCC from 1967 until she moved to Georgia in 2010.

**Trustees** will meet Tuesday, March 6, at 7:00 p.m.

**Our Lenten Study** continues today at 12:00 noon, when we will discuss, digest and explore the movie, *The Shack*, together. A light lunch will be provided.

**Orders for Easter lilies are now being accepted.** Order forms (with envelopes) are in the Gathering Area on the cabinet, where you get your Sunday bulletin. Order deadline is Sunday, March 11, 2018.

**STRONGSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST** *and* **ARTS IN STRONGSVILLE**

**CONCERT SERIES**

**Jim’s Little Big Band** *and* **Tanis Merimee, Cello** *and* **William Merimee, Violin**

**TODAY at 3:00 p.m. in Our Sanctuary**

Following the concert, a reception with refreshments will be held in Pilgrim Hall.

After worship today, you may purchase tickets in Pilgrim Hall.  
Tickets will also be available at the door.

<b>\$10 – Adult</b>	<b>\$4 – 6 to 12 years</b>	<b>Free – 5 years and under</b>
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OFFERINGS RECEIVED		
Weekly Offering Needed	\$3,649.31	
Weekly Offering Received 2/25/2018	<u>\$1,836.00</u>	
Difference	(\$1,813.31)	

**Thank you** to everyone who supports Penny Sundays every month. \$99.48 was collected in February’s Penny Sunday and will go to Providence House, a crisis nursery in Cleveland committed to child abuse prevention and family preservation. March’s collection will go to St. Malachi’s Metanoia Project, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing a safe, secure overnight respite during the winter months for hard-core homeless people unwilling/unable to access shelters. The Metanoia Project provides shelter, showers, meals, personal care items and clothing. It also provides access to social services and works to strengthen the personal skills of persons trying to change their life situation. The Sunday School kids vote on where the Penny Sunday money goes each month.

*Strongsville UCC*

**ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT**

**ROAST PORK, KIELBASA + SAUERKRAUT DINNER**

**Saturday – March 10, 2018**

**Seatings at 5:00 and 6:30 P.M.**

*Reservations Only: (216) 598-6198*

<b>Adults \$12.00</b>	<b>Ages 6-10 \$5.00</b>	<b>Under 6 Free</b>
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*You may purchase tickets in Pilgrim Hall after church today.*


Help is needed – The sign-up sheet is posted on Pilgrim Hall’s board.  
For safety reasons, no children under age 6 (with or without parent) can be helpers in any capacity during the serving hours of 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.  
Children 6 to 10 must have a parent helping them.

*The Thrift Shop will be open.*

**MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP**

**MARCH 29, 2018 – 7:30 P.M.**

A Quiet, Contemplative Service in Our Sanctuary  
Communion will be offered.



**Ecumenical Tenebrae Service**


**GOOD FRIDAY – MARCH 30, 2018 – 8:15 p.m.**

**at Columbia United Methodist Church**

25453 Royalton Road in Columbia Station  
(Southeast Corner of Royalton + West River Roads)

*Our Chancel Choir will sing in the combined choir with orchestra  
for the presentation of the cantata, “Song of the Shadows.”*

A reception will follow the service.



S E R V I N G		
Today – March 4, 2018	Next Sunday – March 11, 2018	
Betty Craig	<b>Liturgists</b>	Michele Mhlack
Linda Plain	<b>Greeters</b>	Lynne McCray
Bickleys, L. Plain, M. Winch	<b>Ushers</b>	Chuck McDougall, Marty Winch
Gina Cathcart	<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Volunteer Needed

**OUR PRAYER LIST**

*If you or a family member would like a visit, please call the church at (440) 238-6697. Please provide updates for this list. Thank you.*

**Long-Term Care or Homebound:** Betty Bushea, Janet Kato at Kemper House, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

**Church Family:** Lacey Marshall (daughter of Amanda and John), Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt at Northwestern Health Care Center in Berea, Margot James, Irene Jannsohn, Bruce Keenen, Martha Liebert, Sandra Manos (mother of Eli), Sloane Masuga (daughter of Jake and Lauren), Joyce Reed, Betsey Santomen (wife of Rev. Joe Santomen), Leah Tressa Forget, Sally Vetovitz, Dave Woodward, Kyle Woodward

**Extended Church Family:** Luke Bazan (friend of Judi Pavisich’s granddaughter), Donna Briggs (mother-in-law of Judi Pavisich’s daughter), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Joyce Freeman (sister of Carol Woodward), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Sue Grunenwald (friend of the Heinrichs), Sam Harteis (friend of the Reeds), Diane Mason (friend of Lora Rung), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Muriel McKeever (mother of Pastor Heidi), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), the Sink family (friends of Judy Pavisich’s granddaughter), Keith Stewart (cousin of Carol Woodward), Frank Toth (father of Rob), Joe Valli (brother-in-law of Vicky and Dan Masuga)

MARCH 2018		
4	Sun	Communion, New Members Received Lenten Study on <i>The Shack</i> , with light lunch, 12noon Concert in the Sanctuary, 3pm with reception in Pilgrim Hall after
6	Tue	<b>Trustees Meeting, 7pm – Please note change of date.</b>
7	Wed	Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-12:30pm Fit Club, 7pm
9	Fri	Roast Pork Dinner Preparation in Pilgrim Hall
10	Sat	Roast Pork Dinner with seatings at 5pm and 6:30pm
11	Sun	Lenten Study on <i>The Shack</i> , with light lunch, 12noon in Pilgrim Hall
13	Tue	Interfaith Passover Seder at Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple, 7-8:30pm – for those who made their reservations
14	Wed	Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-12:30pm
15	Thu	Newsletter Deadline Chancel Choir Rehearsal at Columbia Methodist Church, 7:45pm
18	Sun	Lenten Study on <i>The Shack</i> , with light lunch, 12noon in Pilgrim Hall
20	Tue	Diaconate Meeting, 7pm
21	Wed	Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-12:30pm Fit Club, 7pm Adult Social Club Meeting, 7pm
25	Sun	Palm Sunday, Penny Sunday Lenten Study on <i>The Shack</i> , with light lunch, 12noon in Pilgrim Hall
27	Tue	Official Board Meeting, <b>6:30pm</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal at Columbia Methodist Church, 7:30pm
28	Wed	Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-12:30pm Men’s Luncheon, 11:30am Fit Club, 7pm
29	Thu	Maundy Thursday Worship with Communion in our Sanctuary, 7:30pm
30	Fri	Good Friday Worship at Columbia United Methodist Church, 8:15pm <Choir rehearsal at 5:15pm>

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**MUSIC REHEARSALS DURING THE WEEK**

**Band** (Adults and Students in Grades 6-12) – 8pm on Wednesdays

**Bell Choir** – 7pm on Thursdays

**Chancel Choir** – 8pm on Thursdays

*For information about our church's music program, please see  
**Elena Taylor, Director of Music***

**ADULT SOCIAL CLUB SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

*Mark your calendars now for these Sunday events!*

**April 22** – Brunch at Perk-Cup Cafe in Berea at 12:30

**May 20** – Hard Rock Casino – after church

**June 24** – Aquarium (including a stop somewhere to eat)

**July 22** – Picnic in the Metro Parks

**August 19** – Botanical Gardens

**September 16** – Jilbert Winery & Brewery

**October 7** – The Ohio Mart at Stan Hywett Mansion

**November 25** – Bus ride to Nela Park to see Christmas lights + food

*As always, all adults are welcome. Details will follow.*

*The club meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at church.*

*For more information, please see Adria or Eddy Bond.*

**Do you know that our church has a Prayer Chain?** If you would like to be part of the email or telephone prayer chain, please let us know on the back of your attendance card or call the church at (440) 238-6697. If you are already a part of the prayer chain, there is no need to inform us again. Thank you!

**Nursery** – Helpers are needed because of the increase in number of children. A sign-up sheet is in Pilgrim Hall. For questions, please contact Amanda Hawk, Sarah Hayes, or Kelly Bickley.