



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

Sunday, March 5, 2023 – 10 A.M.  
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.

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.

PRELUDE "Steal Away" arr. Larson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Greg Dickson

CHILDREN'S INTROIT "We Belong Here, Too" Foley

## † CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Christ of the comfortable, Keeper of every moment:

**People: Walk with us, we pray.**

Leader: Companion of our sleepless nights, Watcher in the night:

**People: Stay with us, we pray.**

Leader: Word which creates out of nothingness, Spirit of new life who would fill us with life:

**People: Be in us, we pray. Transform us into faithful disciples.**

† HYMN 23 "The God of Abraham Praise"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 121  
(New Revised Standard Version)

I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?  
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.  
He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.  
He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.  
The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.  
The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night.  
The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.  
The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in  
from this time on and forevermore.

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 "It Causes Me to Tremble" Raney

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Be Thou My Vision" arr. Raney

† 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 Matthew 17:1-9  
(New International Version)

While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

SERMON "Be still-- and LISTEN!"

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### CALL TO RECONCILIATION

When we least expect it, even when we are not ready, God comes to us, calling us to trust, calling us to follow, calling us to set aside our foolish lives in exchange for the grace-filled ones you offer each one of us. Together, let us speak these ancient words of confession:

### UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will; we have broken your law; we have rebelled against your love; we have not loved our neighbors; and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, Lord, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord.**  
(silent prayer)

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Our hope, our help, our peace, our joy all come from God, the One who loved us, and the whole world, so much, that God chose to become human and pitch a tent among God's people.  
**People: Keeper of our souls, be with us; Watcher of our days, lead us; Salvation of our lives, have mercy on us. Amen.**

### A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP "Restless" Assad  
Sarah Keenen, vocalist

### 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 147 "How Great Thou Art"

## † BENEDICTION

Now may the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Know that wherever you are, God is with you. **Amen.**

† RESPONSE "Shaker Parting Song" arr. Purdum

† POSTLUDE "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" arr. Carter

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**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](http://strongsvilleucc.com), select **Worship**, and click on **Service Videos**.

## SERVING

### TODAY – MARCH 5

Linda Plain	<b>Greeters</b>	Judi Pavisich
Judi Pavisich	<b>Liturgist</b>	Elaine Coffey
Volunteers needed	<b>Ushers</b>	Judi Pavisich
Luke Giuliano/Aidan Hurtig	<b>Acolytes</b>	Oliver & Matilda Sekorky
Tom Foley	<b>Director of Music</b>	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	<b>Associate Director of Music</b>	Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	<b>Organist</b>	Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich	<b>Sound</b>	Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Children's Choir, Choir, Carol Foley	<b>Special Music</b>	Elaine Coffey, Chancel Choir
	<b>Special Guest Minister</b>	Rev. Patricia Jefferis

### NEXT SUNDAY – MARCH 12

## A NOTE OF THANKS—



We thank the **Children's Choir, Carol Foley, Sarah Keenen,** and the **Chancel Choir**, along with **Tom Foley, Mike Elkins,** and **Sharon Heinrich** for sharing their music with us today.

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**The altar flowers** are given—

*In loving memory of Lloyd N. Bridle*

With Love from his family

*I love you, Mom—Audrey McQueen*



**Our steeple** will light the sky this week—

*Happy Birthday to Elena Joyce on March 3<sup>rd</sup>!*

With love from your family

**Happy Birthday today to Samuel Cuyler!**

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**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.**

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### PENNY SUNDAY!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to last week's for UCC Outdoor Ministries, Temples Hills camp. We collected \$230.95. The next Penny Sunday will be on **March 26, 2023** for Berea Animal Rescue Friends.

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### OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,617.01

Last Week's Offering Received \$3,379.35

Difference -(\$ 237.66)

**Thank you very much for your support.**

**Pledge cards received to date: 62**

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**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 Gatherin Area.

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**ATTENDANCE CARDS ARE IN YOUR BULLETIN!** Please take a moment to complete the card that is in your bulletin and place it in the offering plate. You may write prayer requests on the reverse side, if you wish to have us pray for someone and add a name to the prayer chain.





## CONGREGATIONAL PHOTO MAY 14<sup>th</sup>

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.)



## UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **March 14<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **March 21<sup>st</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **March 28<sup>th</sup>** 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-](https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/turkey-syria-emergency-appeal/donate?inf_contact_key=f5bc4cb2d41410f840a0988bee0ee0b7842e902fbefb79ab9abae13bfc46658)

[appeal/donate?inf\\_contact\\_key=f5bc4cb2d41410f840a0988bee0ee0b7842e902fbefb79ab9abae13bfc46658](https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/turkey-syria-emergency-appeal/donate?inf_contact_key=f5bc4cb2d41410f840a0988bee0ee0b7842e902fbefb79ab9abae13bfc46658) and follow the prompts.

## 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, Reggie McCray, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkfitz, 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 (Marty Winch's sister), Ron Colosimo (Judi Pavisich'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), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Tina Serrano (Elliott Joyce's grandma), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Vicky Smith (Venner Clarinets), Bruce Unger (Sally Herzog's friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Tom (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](mailto:h.e.denman@gmail.com)

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

**Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.**

"Guess Who" Bring and old photo of yourself & games!

**Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup> Pie Day for  $\pi$  Day (3/14).** Join us in sharing a slice of pie for Coffee Hour in honor of Pi Day. **ALL are welcome to attend our programs!**



## OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering Envelopes should be mailed out this month. **However, please know that you may use any envelope to give your offering--we still need your donations to maintain our ministries!** Plus, envelopes are in the pews to use until mailings resume.

## 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.



**As always, special thanks to our dedicated volunteers and to everyone who supports the Thrift Shop with donations or by shopping!**

## 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.



**PLEASE DON'T FALL FOR A SCAM! Pastor Heidi will never ask you for cash or gift cards via text or email. If there is a need, she will approach you in person.**

**FROM OUR FRIENDS AT THE  
STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY BAND--Come and hear live  
music for FREE TODAY at 3 p.m.**

The Strongsville Community Band Winter Concert on Sunday, March 5, 2023, will feature a program of exciting music which will include Klezmer Classics, a selection of well known Jewish songs performed in a traditional Klezmer style. Also being featured on the program will be vocalist Carl Fernstrum, music director of the Strongsville Methodist Church, performing music from Les Misérables. The free concert is on Sunday, March 5 in the Strongsville Middle School Auditorium at 13200 Pearl Rd.

## FREE LUNCH FOR ALL--Wednesdays

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

**Reminder: For the safety of our volunteers and friends, when the Strongsville City Schools are closed on a Wednesday for the weather, the Free Lunch for All will not be serving lunch.**



## 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.**

## EASTER FLOWERS ORDER FORM

You may choose lilies, hyacinths, or tulips (no color choice). To order, please email the church prior to the deadline of **Sunday, March 19, 2023 at NOON.** The cost is **\$8.00.** Payment is due **March 19, 2023.**

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

**For Church Records                      2023 Easter Flowers**

Total number of plants: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Offering envelope number: \_\_\_\_\_

Cash/Check No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Order deadline is  
**Sunday, March 19 at NOON.**  
Payment deadline is March 19, 2023.



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\*

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.

