



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136
(440) 238-6697
StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com
StrongsvilleUCC.com



Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor
Sunday, March 6, 2022 – 10:00 A.M.
First Sunday of Lent
Sacrament of Holy Communion

WELCOME!

For the safety and comfort of everyone, please continue to wear a mask in the Gathering Area and when entering or leaving the Sanctuary. When you are seated in the pews, you may lower your mask if you wish. Thank you.

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE "Rock of Ages" Hastings

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce
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.

INTROIT "Jesus, Stand Among Us" Whitworth

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

People: As we begin our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit, even into the uncomfortable places.

Leader: In those forty days, and in that place, Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt, and temptation.

People: As we seek to follow Jesus, we would be led, even into the uncomfortable choices.

Leader: Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God, rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

People: As we continue on our path to faithfulness, we will be led by our Christ, rejoicing in the Lord our God.

† HYMN "For the Bread Which You Have Broken"
(If you wish to sing with us, please have your mask in place.)

**For the bread which you have broken,
for the wine which you have poured,
for the words which you have spoken,
now we give you thanks, O Lord.**

**By this promise that you love us,
by your gift of peace restored,
by your call to heaven above us,
hallow all our lives, O Lord.**

**With the saints who now adore you
seated at the heavenly board,
may the church still waiting for you
keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.**

**In your service, Lord, defend us;
in our hearts keep watch and ward;
in the world to which you send us
let your kingdom come, O Lord.**

A READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 91 (excerpts)
(New International Version)

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."
God will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings
you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.
If you say, "The Lord is my refuge,"
and you make the Most High your dwelling,
no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent.
For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you
in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.
You will tread on the lion and the cobra;
you will trample the great lion and the serpent.
"Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him;
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.
He will call on me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.
With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation."

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 "Is it I, Lord?" Kellner

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

Thank you for your continuing commitment to giving freely of your talents and your treasure, as you are able, in service to Christ in the world. Thank you. To give online, please go to:

<https://www.myoffering.com/eonline/index.php/dashboard/login/5027>

OFFERTORY "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" arr. Manz

† 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

Luke 4: 1-13
(New International Version)

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

SERMON "Surviving desert times"

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Leader: We meet you here, God of faithfulness, our hands and lives full of all our foolish ways. Your people; yet we treat the strangers who walk among us with fear and doubt. We afflict our anger on those who care about us the most. We impose hard words on those who most need to hear hope and grace in their lives.

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

People: So now we bring our hearts to you, Generous God, setting them down before you in hopes that you will mend them. As you hear our faltering words in the silence, we pray you would answer us with your forgiving love. And as you forgive us, may we go forth to be generous with our lives towards others, even as the one who is Lord of all, Jesus Christ, has been so generous to us. (silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: As you have confessed, may you now believe. The good news is that we are forever sheltered in God's gracious mercy and hope.

People: This is the truth we believe. The Word is in our hearts, and on our lips, as we give thanks to God who is our shelter and our life. Amen.

A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

Communion music "We Gather Together" arr. Raney

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 592 "Jesus Calls Us"
(If you wish to sing with us, please have your mask in place.)

† BENEDICTION *from Spacious Faith*
Whatever wilderness the Spirit has brought you to, walk in boldness, as a beloved child of God. Walk in peace, under the shelter of the Most High, and walk in faith, knowing Christ walks with you always. **Amen.**

† RESPONSE "May the Peace of the Lord" Yanerella

† POSTLUDE "Adagio in G Minor" Albinoni

SERVING

TODAY – MARCH 6		NEXT SUNDAY – MARCH 13
Greta Rich & Doug Turnbull	Greeters	Judi Pavisich
Linda Ponstingle	Liturgist	Bruce Keenen
Bill Schneider	Ushers	Judi Pavisich
Tom Foley	Director of Music	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	Associate Director of Music	Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	Organist	Sharon Heinrich
Dave Sekorky/Jim Heinrich	Video/Sound	Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Chancel Choir	Special Music	Kelly Wilson, Choir

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—

Special thanks to the **Chancel Choir** under the direction of **Tom Foley, Mike Elkins, and Sharon Heinrich** for sharing their music with us today.

The altar flowers are given—

Happy 25th Birthday to Elena Joyce on March 3rd!
Love, the Joyce-Dickson-Jannsohn family



Our steeple will light the sky this week—

In support of the people of Ukraine
Our church family

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Beginning **Wednesday, March 9**, Pastor Heidi, along with Linda Elkins, will be leading a six-week Lenten Bible Study called, "Reading Between the Lines: Exploring Our Story through Biblical Stories." We will meet from 1:00-2:00 p.m., in Pilgrim Hall. Materials will be provided; if you wish to bring your Bible, please do so. The study will center around the Lectionary passages from Luke. Feel free to email Pastor Heidi with any questions. If you are interested in joining us, please let Pastor Heidi or the church office know.



The Strongsville Community Band will perform a free concert TODAY, March 6 at 3:00 PM in the Strongsville Middle School Auditorium. The concert will highlight music from Swing Era. Vocalist Brittany Fernandez will also be featured in music from *The Sound of Music*.



IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

We recently received word that church member **Sally L. Vetovitz** had passed away on February 15, 2022 at the age of 85. Sally had been a member here since 2015. Our deepest sympathy is extended to her family and friends.



WE NEED YOU IN 2022!

Sign-up sheets are waiting for **your name** to be added as a communion server, greeter, usher, coffee hour helper, or bread/pastry sorter. Don't know how to do any of those things? No worries—we will show you everything you need to know! No experience is needed and everyone is welcome to be a part of our church life. If you like to cook . . . or bake . . . or reach out to others in love . . . as winter and circumstances continue to make it hard to stay connected, your Diaconate Committee is organizing a **Pastoral Care Ministry Team** and would LOVE to have you take part! (You do not need to be a member of the Diaconate to participate, and you may come and go as you are led.) Watch for more details to come!

NEW MEMBER CLASS

Are you interested in becoming a member of our congregation?

Pastor Heidi will lead two "Getting to Know Us" classes following the worship services TODAY and March 13th, with reception of new members on **March 20th**. Please contact Pastor Heidi or the church office if you are interested in joining our church.



One Great HOUR OF SHARING

The United Church of Christ responds to humanitarian and development needs in the world. Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing® carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. Through our work with local churches, conferences, international partners and organizations, One Great Hour of Sharing provides sources of clean water, food, education, health care, small business micro-credit loans, advocacy, resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, emergency relief and rehabilitation as well as disaster preparedness and response. We will be collecting throughout the month of March.

PENNY SUNDAY

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Penny Sunday collection and our Sunday School kids who collected coins for Heifer Project, International. The final total was \$337.05. The next Penny Sunday is **March 27th** and the money will go toward the church's **Disaster Relief project**.



OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Janet Kato, Ruth Milidonis, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Joan Beckwith, Eddy Bond, Mary Carey, Kathy Cockrell, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sam Cuyler, Sr., Linda Elliott, Tom Foley, Ramona Glaze, Sue Hawk, Bob Heddleson, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Judy Maur, Reggie McCray, Heidi & Chuck McDougall, Laurie Meister, Roy Merkle, Michele Mihlack, Lola Millhoane, Gary Paul, Judi Pavisich, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, Peter Smith, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Doug Thorn, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Owen Woodward, Mary Ellen & Bob Zimmerman



Extended Church Family: Ron Adams (Judi Pavisich's friend), Dorene Baldrige, Fred Beba (Theresa's husband), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Jerry Cergol, (Barb Fraunfelder & Dennis Smith's friend), Hunter Colao (Barb & Mark Camp's grandson), Lou Conté (Diana Creecy's partner), Mary Ann Csory (Judi Pavisich's friend), John Dickson (Greg's dad), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Andrew Majoros (Michele Mihlack's cousin), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend) Rudy Matjazic (Judy Pavisich's friend, Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Zachary McKeever (Pastor Heidi and Chuck's great-nephew), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Thomas O'Shea (Sandy's dad), Terry Robson (Barb & Mark Camp's friend), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Tina Serrano (Elliott Joyce's grandma), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Sandra Wentz (Debbie's daughter-in-law), Weston (Chelsea Cathcart's friend's baby)

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 \$3,649.37
Last Week's Offering Received \$2,616.00
Difference -(\$1,033.37)

Thank you very much for your support.



PLEDGE CARDS RECEIVED TO DATE: 62

THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is OPEN on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.



with lots of interesting merchandise. Donations are being accepted, but you must call the church first to arrange a time for drop-off.

THRIFT SHOP BONUS HOURS
The 3rd Thursday of the month,
March 17, 2022 — 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(We're still open on Thursdays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **March 8th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **March 15th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **March 22nd** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



COURTESY PLEASE!



Tissues are provided in the sanctuary for people's use. Please be considerate and do not leave used tissues in the pews; dispose of them as you leave the service. Thanks!

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9th, 2022
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.



LIMITED RESERVATIONS--Call (440) 238-5389
(To-go meals will be available.)

Reminder: When the Strongsville City Schools are closed for weather, the Free Lunch for All will not be served that day. We love you and want you to stay safe.

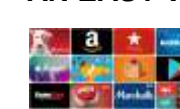
COMING SOON



Plans are underway for our church to lead a community-wide project to put together Disaster Relief kits and fill a trailer with these much-needed supplies for victims of any sort of disaster. **STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION!** March's Penny Sunday will go toward this effort.

GIFT CARDS

AN EASY WAY TO BENEFIT 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.**

Thank you to those who continue to support this project by buying gift cards!

HAVE YOU DONE THIS ALREADY?

Are you shopping online? If so, why not benefit the church while you make your purchases from Amazon? It's incredibly easy! Here's what you do:



1. Instead of typing amazon.com into your search bar, type in **smile.amazon.com**.
2. Select United Church of Christ Congregational Strongsville by clicking this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-1298100>
3. Shop as you would normally—that's it!

Your addresses, billing information, and shopping cart are still saved and your Prime membership privileges still apply. A small percentage of your purchase price will go toward supporting the church.

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OFFICERS FOR 2022 *Elected January 30, 2022* * = 1 year term

Moderator Greg Dickson **Vice-Moderator** Jennifer Barry
Treasurer Sally Herzog **Clerk** Judy Gaumer

Sunday School Co-Superintendents
Linda Elkins Serena Abruzzino

Board of Trustees

Myron Costin Diana Creecy Bill Giuliano* (Vice-chair) Herb Hampson
Dale Hawk Sarah Hayes Sandy Pogozelski*
Dave Sekorky Ed Sobek* Rachel Zielinski (Chair)

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson Linda Stepan Joyce Reed*

Diaconate

Teri Barbish Barbara Camp* Elaine Coffey Cathy Hawk*
Linda Kapcar Bobbie Krisak Sharon Maresco Linda Ponstingle
Cheryl Sobek* Cherie Teagno Barbara White*

Christian Education Committee

Serena Abruzzino* Mary Densmore
Linda Elkins Amanda Marshall Lora Rung

Music Committee

Richard Densmore Ingrid Dickson
Pam Keenen* Ken Mehalko* Rob Stepan
ex officio: Sharon Heinrich Tom Foley Mike Elkins

Stewardship Committee

Sue Gigliotti* Beth Giuliano* Judi Pavisich
Richard Taylor Rob Toth

Mission and Outreach Committee

Judy Carte* Sarah Hayes Bobbie Krisak
Lora Rung* Jennifer Sekorky Bev Wehr*

