



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136
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StrongsvilleUCC.com

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor
Sunday, March 8, 2026– 10 A.M.



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.

BELL PRELUDE "Michael, Row the Boat Ashore" arr. Wagner

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Greg Dickson

BELL INTROIT "In Christ Alone" Getty/Townend, arr. Bettcher

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come, our souls thirsting for God, our spirits longing for love.

People: We come to the One who supplies every need; we come to the One who gives us living water.

Leader: We come, with prayers in our hearts, and with words too painful to speak.

People: We come to the One who listens to our hearts, who carries our suffering through eternity.

Leader: We come, with our brokenness and loss, with our hope to be made whole.

People: We come to the One who knows all our secrets, who brings peace to all of us - and to each of us.

† HYMN 654 "Change My Heart, O God"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 95:1-7
(New International Version)

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.
For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain peaks belong to him.
The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.
Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;
for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.

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.

BELL ANTHEM "Ah, Holy Jesus" arr. Wagner

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Andante Tranquillo in A" Mendelssohn

† **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 John 4:5-29
(New Living Translation)

Eventually he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime. Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink."

REFLECTION "Holy Curiosity"

† **HYMN 344** "Grace Greater than Our Sin"

† **BENEDICTION**

Let us go now, to meet all thirsting for God. Give us the words to share the living water with everyone we meet. Lead us to listen as Jesus listens to us. Give us ears to hear the stories and hearts of all who are considered voiceless by our world. Give us words to offer the Spirit's healing touch to others. Guide us as we seek to bring peace and healing to a broken and lonely world, filling us with hope and grace through their lives. Amen.

POSTLUDE "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" Conkey

SERVING

TODAY – MARCH 8		NEXT SUNDAY – MARCH 15
Marsha Hemphill	Greeters	Marsha Hemphill
Herb Hampson	Liturgist	Sandy O'Shea
Bill Robinson	Head Usher	Jan Meier
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
Bell Choir	Special Music	Chancel 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**.

GIVING STATEMENTS FOR 2025 ARE AVAILABLE ON THE TABLE IN THE GATHERING AREA.



A NOTE OF THANKS—

We thank the **Bell Choir, Mike Elkins, Tom Foley, and Sharon Heinrich** for today's music. Don't forget, if are a singer and you'd like to join us to sing with the Chancel Choir for Palm Sunday and Easter, we rehearse on Thursday evenings at 8 p.m.

FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL:



PENNY SUNDAY The next Penny Sunday will be on **March 22, 2026** and we will be collecting for **Providence House**, caring for babies and young children needing assistance in Cuyahoga County and surrounding areas.

The altar flowers are given—

In loving memory of John W. Dickson
Ingrid & Greg Dickson, Irene & Jim Joyce



Our steeple will light the sky this week—
Happy Birthday to Ryan Heinrich on March 7th!
Thanks for all you do!

Happy Birthday today to Bill Schneider!

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 5,212.00
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 4,178.32
Difference -(\$1,033.68)

Thank you very much for your support.
PLEDGES RECEIVED: 62



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED PET ITEMS TO BEREA ANIMAL RESCUE FRIENDS Women Fellowship will once again celebrate Pi Day

by providing pies for coffee hour after worship on Sunday, March 15th. All ladies who would like to bring a pie before church or help serve pie after our church service are most welcome!



For our March meetings, we will make "People Chow" for Easter with Sally Herzog in our church kitchen:

Monday, March 16th, at 7pm
Wednesday, March 18th, at 1pm



We will sell the delectable treat, which is also known as "Puppy Chow," after worship on the Sundays of **March 22nd** and **March 29th**. Just in time to fill those Easter baskets!

As always, all ladies are welcome to attend any or all our events.

BOOK STUDY!

Tomorrow, March 9th, Pastor Heidi and Linda Elkins will continue our Book Study at 7 p.m.





CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Can you spare less than an hour of your time on a Friday morning to put together the pastry trays for Sunday's coffee hour? Both of our faithful Friday Panera pastry pals are recovering from surgery and we are looking for subs until they're back on their feet. One kind soul has already stepped forward. Please contact the church office if you can help.

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

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

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Jen Barry, Mark Camp, Judy Carte, Elaine Coffey, Betty "Grammy" Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Roger Davis, Colette Emerson, Roz Fotos, Sue Hawk, Frank Jefferis, Pam & Bruce Keenen, Erv Koch, Jill Kundtz, Jan Meier, Carol Konet, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Jim Maresco, Jan Meier, Roy Merkle, Amanda Moulton, Ginny & Kenn Oerkfitz, George & Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Ron Rothel, Jennifer Sekorky, Tracy Seneff, Peter Smith, Bruce Sperber, Linda Stepan, JoAnn Thomas, Debbie Wentz, Heather Williams, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: 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), Tiffany Hassel (Judi Pavisich's daughter-in-law), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel's parents), George Love (friend of the church), 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), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Vicki Smith (Venner Clarinets), Jeaneane Steinmeyer (Greg Dickson's aunt), Don & Pauline Wills (Judi Pavisich's friends), the people of Ukraine, Sudan, Gaza, and Israel, victims of violence, those affected by natural disasters, First Responders

OPT-IN: Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain. h.e.denman@gmail.com



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **March 10th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **March 17th** at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **March 24th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

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:

"Melodies for Memories"

Mark your calendar on **Sunday, March 15th**, to attend a benefit jazz band concert for Alzheimer's Research at 3pm. at the Strongsville Middle School at 13200 Pearl Road.

YOUTH GROUP

SPAGHETTI DINNER—Thank you to everyone

who supported our fundraiser!

We sold \$2,217 in tickets; earned \$300 in the raffle; and \$90 in food sales the next day, for a total of \$2,607. Our expenses of \$740.23 were all generously donated, so our income of \$2,607 was all profit!



THREE WITH GLEE!



Capital Campaign: We currently have \$60,627.08 in our capital campaign account. We are getting additional bids for the acoustic panels in Pilgrim Hall. A new roof for Pilgrim Hall and the church building may be on the horizon. Things are happening, but we still have more projects on the list. Please make sure you designate your donation for "Capital Campaign." Thanks for your continuing support.

CHURCH OFFICERS 2026

*Elected February 1, 2026

Moderator: Rachel Zielinski *

Vice-Moderator: Herb Hampson*

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

Sunday School Superintendent: Linda Elkins

Board of Trustees

Karen Bates Jen Barry* Greg Dickson*
Bill Giuliano* Chris Goff Les Fox* Cathy Hawk
Sandy Pogozeleski* Bill Robinson* Cheryl Sobek
Alex Tomoff Mike Willis

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Linda Stepan* Dave Williams*

Diaconate

Jean Bittinger Elaine Coffey* Diana Creecy*
Bobbi Cook Wayne Cook Judy Davis
Judy Fox* Pam Heimbürger Marsha Hemphill*
Cindy Hurley* Lynne McCray*
Linda Ponstingle Lora Rung

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

Jen Barry * Gina Cathcart Bobbi Cook*
Cathy Hawk Sarah Hayes* Lora Rung
Mary Willis Mary Ellen Zimmerman

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 **Friday, March 20, 2026 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 2026 Easter Flowers

Total number of plants: _____ Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Offering envelope number: _____ Cash/Check No. _____

Name: _____

THERE'S STILL TIME TO PLEDGE FROM YOUR H.E.A.R.T.!

Hospitality, Engagement, Activities, Resources, Time, Talent, & Treasure

United Church of Christ 2026 Estimate of Giving

In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2026:

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 ____/____/____

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Matthew 6:21





YOU CAN ACCESS RESOURCES FROM AND INFORMATION ABOUT OUR HEARTLAND CONFERENCE OF THE UCC! Looking for a way to get connected for ministry resources in the wider church? Just scan the QR code.

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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.

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.

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