



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

Sunday, May 1, 2022 – 10:00 A.M.
Sacrament of Baptism
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.

PRELUDE "Rejoice the Lord is King" Darwall

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Greg Dickson

INTROIT "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" Converse

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Now is the time to sing! To sing the good news of God:

People: Who awakens us with dawn's embrace, who surrounds us with joy and life.

Leader: Now is the time to offer praise to God, in every place, with every voice:

People: To rejoice in the One who leads us through each moment with a gentle hand and a word of hope.

Leader: Now is the time to join all creation in extolling God, from the depths of the sea to the farthest galaxies:

People: We will sing the good news of Easter! We rejoice in the God who loves us.

† **HYMN 8** "Come Thou, Almighty King"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 30:4-5; 11-12
(New Living Translation)

Sing to the Lord, all you godly ones! Praise his holy name.

For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime!

Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning.

You have turned my mourning into joyful dancing.

You have taken away my clothes of mourning
and clothed me with joy,

that I might sing praises to you and not be silent.

O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever!

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 "Always Remember" Sewell

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM



Alyssa Bella Bekoscke
Robert William-Allen Bekoscke
Children of Rachele and Robert Bekoscke
Sponsors: Rachel J. Zielinski and Peter Michnovec



WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY WORDS

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES FOR THE FAMILY

CONGREGATIONAL PROMISE

Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to Alyssa and Robert and their family, as they live and grow in Christ?

(We promise our love, support and care.)

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

Christ be with you. **(And also with you.)** Let us pray.

Gracious God, bless this water by your Holy Spirit. By that same Spirit, save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ, that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in the ones baptized this morning, that they may rise in Christ. All glory and honor be to you, Eternal God, who was, who is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

BAPTISMS OF ALYSSA BEKOSCKE AND ROBERT BEKOSCKE

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Let us pray together:

Gracious God, You have filled the world with joy with the gift of Jesus. Bless these children, Alyssa and Robert; fill them with your strength and courage for life's journey; joy for all to see; freedom of love; hope for a new life. May they never be ashamed to confess their personal faith in You. Bless us, O God, that we, too, may be faithful to Your Word, united in the peace of Christ and the company of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

HYMN 465 "Baptized in Water"

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.myeoffering.com/eonline/index.php/dashboard/login/5027>

OFFERTORY "Contemplation" Elkins

† **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 BOOK OF ACTS Acts 9: 1-20
(New Living Translation)

As he was approaching Damascus on this mission, a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?"

SERMON "Truly Seeing"

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

We can hold on to ours hurt until our hands begin to cramp, and keep holding. Even though they bow our back, we refuse to set our grudges down, because we don't know what it would feel like to have that weight lifted off us. We think that is the way God operates as well. But God's anger lasts for just a moment, while the grace, the forgiveness, and the hope God offers never end. Let us dare to bring our prayers to the One who hears us and heals us, as we pray together:

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

People: Now that Easter is done and gone, Holy One, we no longer hear the special music, but listen to temptation's familiar refrains. We no longer walk those straight paths of joy and wonder, but wander the crooked streets to our old haunts. Rather than living in the newness you bring, we do things the way they have always been done. God who makes all things new, wipe our busy schedules clean, so we may spend more time with those who need our love and attention. Challenge us to live the new life of Easter people. May we experience all the grace, wonder, and mercy offered to us by Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. (silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Why should we weep? Joy comes to us this morning, and in every moment of our lives. The Lamb of God has risen! Let us praise our God with joyous hearts.

People: Let us sing songs of joy, and offer our hearts and hands in love and service to others. Thanks be to God, we are all forgiven! Amen.

A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION MUSIC "Lamb of God" Paris

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 563** "Open My Eyes, That I May See"

† **BENEDICTION** Jeanyne Slettom

Go forth with renewed hope, trusting in the transforming love of God. God does not leave things as they are; with God, all things are made new. All creation responds to God's presence; the world is alive with possibility. We open ourselves to this truth: with Christ, we trust our whole lives to this power. Nothing and no one is beyond the reach of God; Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujah! Amen.**

† **RESPONSE/POSTLUDE** "Shaker Parting Song" arr. Purdum



Next week, May 8th, we will celebrate the **Rite of Confirmation** for five of our young people and they will become full members of the church.

SERVING		
TODAY—MAY 1		NEXT SUNDAY—MAY 8
Linda Plain	Greeters	Serena Abruzzino
Cherie Teagno	Liturgist	Dale Hawk
Bobbie Krisak	Ushers	Bobbie Krisak
Luke Giuliano/Aidan Hurtig	Acolytes	Oliver & Matilda Sekorky
Tom Foley	Director of Music	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	Associate Director of Music	Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	Organist	Sharon Heinrich
Chuck McDougall/Jim Heinrich	Video/Sound	Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Chancel Choir	Special Music	Chancel Choir, Richard Densmore

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**.

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Long-time member **Ramona Glaze** passed away on Monday, April 25, 2022, a month shy of her 102nd birthday. Our condolences to her family and friends. A service was held on Thursday, April 28th.

IT'S TWINS!

Welcome to the world **Shiloh** and **Emet Butler**, daughter and son of **Anna** and **Erin Butler**! The twins were born on April 19, 2022. They are the grandchildren of **Brian** and **Gail Butler** and the great-grandchildren of **Millie Lafave**.

Congratulations to all!



A NOTE OF THANKS—

Many thanks to the **Chancel Choir**, **Tom Foley**, and **Mike Elkins**, for sharing their music with us today.

The altar flowers are given—

In loving memory of my twin sister, Karen, on our birthday
Sharon Maresco

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthday to Hayley McKane on May 7th!

With Love, Grammy

Congratulations to Alyssa & Bobby on their Baptisms!

Penny and Oliver Zielinski

Happy Birthday today to Sharon Maresco and Bryan Roub!

THANK YOU! A big Thank You to the congregation for your donation of medical supplies for the people of Ukraine. Two large boxes of first aid kits, bandages, etc. were delivered to Olmsted Falls Middle School before Easter. We're estimating approximately \$500 worth of supplies were contributed from our congregation. It took a rental truck to

deliver all the goods from students of the school to the Ukrainian church! So good to see such support for the people of Ukraine!!!



PENNY SUNDAY

Thank you to everyone who contributed to last month's Penny Sunday for **World Central Kitchen's Ukrainian Relief**. We collected \$266.68. The next Penny Sunday will be **May 29th**.



FREE LUNCH FOR ALL WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2022

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

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



STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

The annual Strengthen the Church offering will be received throughout the month of May. It is a special mission offering Through Strengthen the Church, United Church of Christ members reach out in the name of Christ to support United Church of Christ ministries throughout the world. Envelopes are available in the pews.

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, Sharon Heinrich, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Bruce Keenen, Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Judy Maur, Reggie McCray, Heidi & Chuck McDougall, Laurie Meister, Roy Merkle, Michele Mhlack, Lola Millhoane, Gary Paul, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, Tracey Seneff, Peter Smith, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Doug Thorn, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Owen Woodward, Mary Ellen Zimmerman



Extended Church Family: Dorene Baldridge, Fred Beba (Theresa's husband), Jerry Carleton (Judi Pavisich's friend), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Jerry Cergol, (Barb Fraunfelder & Dennis Smith's friend), 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 Mhlack's cousin), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend) Rudy Matjazic (Judi 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), Bruce Unger (Steve & Sally Herzog's 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

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The **Southwest Community Chorus**, under the direction of **Tom Foley**, is returning with a concert entitled "Awaken the Music," on **Sunday, May 8th at 3 p.m.** at the Berea United Methodist Church at 170 Seminary Street in Berea. Tickets will be available for purchase from choir members (\$12.50 pre-sale) or at the door (\$15.00). Our singers in the chorus include Ingrid Dickson, Craig Hardy, Irene Joyce, Pam & Bruce Keenen, Sarah Keenen, and Sharon Maresco.



DIACONATE "WING" NIGHT

FRIDAY, MAY 6th from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Grindstone

Tap House in Berea. It is \$25 per ticket. Ticket includes boneless wings, pizza, pasta, salad, draft beer, well

drinks, wine, soda. There will be a basket raffle, sideboards, and a great chance to socialize. Tickets are available in THE Gathering Area after the service or at the door. Please provide cash or check only.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,649.37
Last Week's Offering Received \$1,746.00
Difference (-\$1,903.37)

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, **May 19, 2022 — 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.**



DON'T FORGET!

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. Strongsville UCC has received \$433.77 from Amazon to date.

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.**

FREE CONCERT!

On Wednesday, May 11, Jazz Saxophonist, Steve Kortyka will appear in concert with the Strongsville HS Jazz Ensemble and the Strongsville City Jazz Swing Band at Strongsville HS at 7:00 PM. The concert is FREE. Steve, originally from Middleburg Hts. performs regularly in New York City with the Brian Newman Quartet and with Lady Gaga. He was most recently seen with her on the **Tony Bennett Special** and the **Grammy Awards**. Steve is seen here with Lady Gaga and Tony Bennett on the Tony Bennett Special that appeared on TV this past November.



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 **Church Family 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.) **Please complete and turn in this response form:**

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 PRAY, 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

_____ I WOULD BE WILLING TO...

Please turn in the form to the Church Office.

GRADUATES

Our church would like to recognize our graduates, so please let us know if someone is graduating within your family. Send the following information and a **PHOTO** of your high school, college, or tech graduate.

Name of graduate: _____

Graduate's address: _____

Graduate's email: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date (month at least): _____

Church Family member: _____

Relationship to church member: _____

Activities: _____

Honors and Awards: _____

Diploma / Degree Earned: _____

Future Plans: _____

Parents/Grandparents: _____

Please email the above information, **along with a photo of the graduate**, to the church office at strongsvilleucc@gmail.com by **Sunday, June 5th**.

