



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, May 10, 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 "A Jubilant Peal" Helman

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Lora Rung

CHILDREN'S INTROIT "Sprinkle a Little Sunshine" Foley

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come to worship as people of God, with praises on our lips.

People: We glorify the One who holds our hands when we slip.

Leader: We come into the presence of the One who calls us into this sacred space.

People: Where the doors to grace are thrown open so all may enter.

Leader: We come to hear the stories of the One who loves each one of us.

People: We will tell of the joy and of the love, of the peace and of the hope which are ours.

† HYMN "Come, Now is the Time to Worship"

Come, now is the time to worship.

Come, now is the time to give your heart.

Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God, Come

One day ev'ry tongue will confess You are God. One day ev'ry knee will bow Still the greatest treasure remains for those who gladly choose you now

Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God, Come

Willingly we choose to surrender our lives, Willingly our knees will bow With all our hearts, soul, mind, and strength. We gladly choose you now

Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart Come, just as you are to worship

Come, just as you are before your God, Come...Come...Come, Just as you are...Come.

A READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 66: 8-16

(New International Version)

Praise our God, all peoples, let the sound of our praise be heard; God has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping.

For you, God, tested us; you refined us like silver.

You brought us into prison and laid burdens on our backs.

You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us to a place of abundance.

I will come to your temple with burnt offerings and fulfill my vows to you— vows my lips promised and my mouth spoke when I was in trouble. I will sacrifice fat animals to you and an offering of rams; I will offer bulls and goats. Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what God has done for me.

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 "Just a Closer Walk" arr. Greer
Ken Mehalko, clarinet

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Soon and Very Soon" Crouch

† **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 17:22-31**
(New International Version)
"For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

REFLECTION "Elevator Speech"

† **HYMN 414** "O Word of God Incarnate"

† **BENEDICTION** Psalm 23 Pastor Ed Heilman
God is my mother. She gives me everything I need. She makes me take a nap after a good meal and good things to drink. She picks me up when I fall. She teaches me and guides me to live right. When she is with me, I am not afraid even of death. She is powerful. She clears a path for me. She cleans me up and blesses me abundantly. Her eyes of goodness and mercy are on me everywhere. And I will live in her house forever. Amen.

† **POSTLUDE** "Basin Street Blues" Williams

SERVING

TODAY – MAY 10		NEXT SUNDAY – MAY 17
Teri Barbish	Greeters	Marsha Hemphill
Judi Pavisich	Liturgist	Elaine Coffey
Bill Robinson	Head Usher	John Toth
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
Children's Choir, Bell Choir	Special Music	Chancel Choir



A NOTE OF THANKS—We thank our **Children's Choir, Ken Mehalko**, and our **Bell Choir (Elaine Coffey, Linda Elkins, Linda Ponstingle, Jennifer Barry, Sharon Heinrich, Barb Fraunfelder, Ingrid Dickson, Sarah Toth, Irene Joyce, Mike Willis, Rachel Zielinski, and Rob Toth, + our subs Bobby Foley, Nicki Haire and Mike Elkins)** for their dedication throughout the year as they begin their summer hiatus. Thank you also to our music team of **Tom Foley, Sharon Heinrich and Mike Elkins** for their music today.

ALTAR FLOWERS



The altar flowers are given—
Happiest Birthday wishes to my mom, Dorothy Ritchie! And Happy Mother's Day to all! Love, Gina Cathcart In loving memory of my husband, Georgie, on our 36th Anniversary on May 12th. Love, Short Stuff

Our steeple will light the sky this week—
Happy Birthday to Sarah Toth on May 12th! Happy Birthday to Patti Johnson on May 11th and Dan Rapp on May 15th! With love, Grammy Let the light shine for all mothers!



Happy Birthday today to Dorothy Ritchie and Keith Sullen!
Happy Anniversary today to Michele & Allen Mihlack!

FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL: PENNY SUNDAY



The next Penny Sunday will be **May 31st** for **Blessing House**, which is a children's crisis care center that provides residential care for children birth through 12 whose parents or caregivers are facing a crisis or emergency or are experiencing a high level of stress that might put their children at risk of abuse or neglect.



A SIGN-UP FOR TEACHING SUNDAY SCHOOL IN THE SUMMER IS POSTED IN PILGRIM HALL! Join the fun! Summer Sunday School begins May 31st!

TODAY, THE SUNDAY SCHOOL IS PROVIDING CARNATIONS FOR ALL LADIES IN HONOR OF MOTHER'S DAY!



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS



- Mission Outreach will meet after worship **TODAY** in the Confirmation classroom,
- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **May 12th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **May 19th** at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **May 26th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Food, Friends, & Fun-Draiser on May 1st! We had a record-setting evening!



MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our supply drive for Laura's Home!



MAY IS STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH MONTH!



The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. The Heartland Conference and the National setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. Your generosity to Strengthen the Church (STC) provides the funds that allow The Heartland Conference to Support the development our Ministry Networks and support our General Synod Delegates. In the National setting, funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.

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, 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, Amanda Moulton, Ginny & Kenn Oerkfitz, George & Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Ron Rothel, Jennifer Sekorky, Tracy Seneff, Peter Smith, Bruce Sperber, Linda Stepan, Debbie Thomas, John Toth, Heather Williams, Claire Wills, Marty Winch



Extended Church Family: 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), Ellen Harrison (Linda Elkins' friend), 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), Maryanne Grega-Knotek (our florist), Helen Leckwatch (Dale Parson's mother-in-law), 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 and 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

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 5,212.00
 Last Week's Offering Received \$ 3,504.34
 Difference -(\$1,706.66)

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



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY BAND

The Strongsville Community Band Spring Concert is next Sunday, May 17th at 3:00 PM in the Strongsville Middle School Auditorium. Please join us for a delightful afternoon of music!

THREE WITH GLEE!

Capital Campaign: We currently have \$65,828.08 in our capital campaign account. We are reviewing the 3 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.



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 (include middle name):

Graduate's address: _____

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, May 24th.

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 JOIN PRAYER CHAIN, 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

_____ OFFERING AN OCCASIONAL RIDE TO OUR CHURCH SERVICES

_____ BE PART OF A CARD CREW TO SEND CARDS TO FOLKS ON HEIDI'S PRAYER LIST AND OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

_____ I WOULD BE WILLING TO...

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!**

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.**



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 Pogozelski* 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 Heimburger 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

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*

IMPORTANT INFO—Do you know where the AED and First Aid Kit are located in the church? They are adjacent to the doorway in Pilgrim Hall, just to the right of the confirmation classroom.



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

If you are the last or almost the last person to leave the church building on any given day, please make certain that all the lights are off and most importantly, that the door to the kitchen and the parking lot doors are locked and PUSHED SHUT so the lock is latched. The Board of Trustees is addressing this issue, but in the meantime, it's all hands on deck to keep our church building secure. Thanks in advance for your diligence!

