



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



Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor
Sunday, May 14, 2023 – 10:00 A.M.
Mother's Day
Congregational Photo

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 "Songs My Mother Taught Me" Dvořák, arr. Palmer

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

CHILDREN'S INTROIT "Jesus Loves Me" Traditional
 Christopher Abruzzino, cello

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We are God's household, crafted by the Architect of creation:

People: We offer a shelter for the outcast; our hands are open to the stranger.

Leader: We are God's people, created in the divine image:

People: To tell others of God's love, to offer mercy as freely as we have received it.

Leader: We are God's children, called to give of ourselves:

People: Chosen to serve the lost and lonely, gifted to minister to a hurting world.

† HYMN 8 "Come, Thou Almighty King"

A READING FROM PROVERBS Proverbs 31 excerpts
 (New International Version)

A wife of noble character who can find?
 She is worth far more than rubies.

Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.
 She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.

She gets up while it is still night;

she provides food for her family and portions for her female servants.
 She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.

She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.

She is clothed with strength and dignity;
 she can laugh at the days to come.

She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.

Her children arise and call her blessed;
 her husband also, and he praises her:

Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;
 but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

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.

COMBINED ANTHEM "This Little Light of Mine" arr. Elkins
 (Congregation, please join in the 3rd verse)

Hide it under a bushel? NO! I'm gonna let it shine!
Hide it under a bushel? NO! I'm gonna let it shine!
Hide it under a bushel? NO! I'm gonna let it shine!
Let it shine; let it shine; let it shine!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Tu devrais être sur les photos" Suesse /Heyman

† 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

STORIES FROM OUR FAITH--RUTH

But Ruth said, "Don't force me to leave you; don't make me go home. Where you go, I go; and where you live, I'll live. Your people are my people, your God is my god; where you die, I'll die, and that's where I'll be buried, so help me God—not even death itself is going to come between us!"

† HYMN 215 "When Morning Gilds the Skies"

† BENEDICTION *Mothering Sunday prayers*
 May the God of Life, who brought us to birth by God's Spirit, strengthen us for the Christian life. May the God of Love, who provides for all our needs sustain us day by day. May the God of Grace, whose steadfast love is constant as a mother's care, send us out to live and work for others. And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. Go in peace. Amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED AND WAIT TO BE DIRECTED TO PROCEED OUT THE SANCTUARY DOORS FOR THE CONGREGATIONAL PHOTO.

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**.

| SERVING | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| TODAY – MAY 14 | NEXT SUNDAY – MAY 21 |
| Judi Pavisich | Greeters The Abruzzinos |
| Bruce Keenen | Liturgist Sandy O'Shea |
| Judi Pavisich, Roz Fotos | Ushers Volunteers needed |
| Aidan Hurtig/Luke Giuliano | Acolytes Oliver & Matilda Sekorky |
| Tom Foley | Director of Music Tom Foley |
| Mike Elkins | Associate Director of Music Mike Elkins |
| Sharon Heinrich | Organist Sharon Heinrich |
| Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich | Sound Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich |
| Children's Choir, Chancel Choir | Special Music Bell Choir |



A NOTE OF THANKS—

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

CALLING ALL SINGERS, ENSEMBLES, AND INSTRUMENTALISTS! Do you want to make a joyful noise unto the Lord, but can't commit to joining the music team throughout the year? How about providing music for a service on one Sunday this summer? Please see **Tom Foley** or **Mike Elkins** and choose a summer Sunday--We're happy to work with you!



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY BAND

The Spring Concert of the **Strongsville Community Band** is Sunday, May 21st at 3:00 PM in the Strongsville Middle School Auditorium at 13200 Pearl Rd.

The altar flowers are given—

In honor of our mothers, of all mothers, and those who fill the role of mothers—Frank & Pat Jefferis

Happy Birthday to Gina Cathcart on May 15th!
Love, Mom & Dad (Dorothy & Bill Ritchie)



Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthday to Don Rapp on May 15th!
With Love, Grammy
Honoring all mothers—past, present, and future
 Lola Millhoane



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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Summer is just around the corner! We will be looking for folks to commit to teaching a single Sunday with our children. All lessons and materials will be



provided in advance. Start thinking about which Sunday you're available for this special ministry, and then add your name to the sign-up sheet in Pilgrim Hall.

PENNY SUNDAY

Please save your coins, dollars, and checks (to UCC) for our next Penny Sunday collection on **May 28th**.



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **May 16th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will have an email meeting on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **May 23rd** at 7 p.m.

CONGREGATIONAL PHOTO TODAY!

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH TO BE IN THE PICTURE! 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. **If you would like to purchase an 8" x 24" congregational photo, please call Ripcho Photography Studio at (216) 631-0664 Ext. 1. The cost is \$29.95.**



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., Sue Hawk, Irene Jannsohn, Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Bruce Lerch, Reggie McCray, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkfritz, Gary Paul, Sandy Pogozelski, Cade Raymond, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger RotheL, Lora Rung, Peter Smith, John Toth, Sharon Wilson, Janis Williamson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Edward and Sharon Acton (Sally Herzog's friends), Dorene Baldrige, Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Ron Colosimo (Judi Pavisich's friend), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dr. Angelo Gagliani (Ingrid Dickson's friend), Joanne Gariepy (Sally Herzog's friend), Jennifer Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's daughter-in-law), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Tom Irelan (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Bill Luca (Marianne's husband), 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), Jeff Peacock (former member), Zora Roundtree (FL4A volunteer), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Tina Serrano (Elliott Joyce's grandma), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Vicky Smith (Venner Clarinets), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Tom (friend of Judi Pavisich), Weston (Chelsey Cathcart Cox's friend's son), Don Wills (friend of Judi Pavisich), Lee & Brad Wright (Sandy & Don Gleichauf's friends), The people of Ukraine, victims of violence, those affected by natural disasters

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



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.

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.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Mike Elkins is set to retire as our church's Financial Secretary. Consequently, the church is in need of a person who is familiar with Excel and other financial software and who has some bookkeeping experience to fill his shoes. This is a compensated, (very) part-time position. If you are interested, or know of someone who is looking for supplementary employment, please contact Rachel Zielinski, chair of the Trustees, at cwgrlrm293@msn.com for a detailed job description or to apply.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,617.01
Last Week's Offering Received \$5,702.00
Difference \$2,084.99



Thank you very much for your support.

PLEASE BE AWARE:

Due to a bank change, all checks to the church should be made out to **United Church of Christ or UCC or United Church of Christ (Congregational)**. Please do not use "Strongsville" or "SUCC" in the "Pay to the Order of" line. Thanks!



HELP WANTED!

Volunteers are needed to serve as tellers on Sunday mornings after church (usually less than an hour of your time). Please indicate on your attendance card if you can help.

MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY FOR OUR LAURA'S HOME COLLECTION!

All items must be new and unopened.

- Full size body wash
- Full size deodorant
- Full size lotion
- Feminine hygiene products
- Twin sized sheets
- Twin sized blankets
- Diapers and Pull-Ups size 4, 5, 6
- Unexpired baby food and formula



DIACONATE "WING" NIGHT

Thank you to everyone who supported this event! Whether you bought a ticket, provided a dessert, donated a themed

basket or a bigger prize, or helped before, during, or after the evening, you made this event a huge success!

UPCOMING MEMORIAL SERVICES

Linda Kapar—Saturday, May 20, 2023

Visitation: 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Service: 11:30 a.m.

Luncheon: 12:30 p.m.



Grace Koch—Saturday, May 27, 2023

Visitation: 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Service: 11:30 a.m.

Luncheon: 12:30 p.m.



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: _____

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 28th**.

SUNDAY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE ALSO DUE INTO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY MAY 28th.

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL--Wednesdays

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

Our Free Lunch for All Program welcomes everyone to enjoy a nutritious meal and warm fellowship. Many thanks to our wonderful prepping, cooking, serving, and clean-up volunteers!



PANERA PALS—HELP NEEDED

Are you able to give less than an hour of your time on a Monday or Friday morning to pick up and/or sort Panera bread, bagels, and pastries? Please contact the church office if you can help with this worthwhile ministry.



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* 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*

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. **Thanks, as always, to our dedicated volunteers!**

BE 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.

