



## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136

(440) 238-6697

[StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com](mailto:StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com)

[StrongsvilleUCC.com](http://StrongsvilleUCC.com)



Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, May 16, 2021 – 9 A.M. & 10:30 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 complete your Attendance Card and place it in the offering plate.

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

**PRELUDE** "Wade in the Water" Traditional Spiritual

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Irene Joyce

**INTROIT** "Native American Flute Song" Mehalko

### † CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: From comfortable pews or our easy chairs, in our sanctuary or in front of our TV:

**People: God gathers us in, giving us the words with which to proclaim the gospel.**

Leader: Daydreaming at the kitchen sink, working at laptops and nursing stations:

**People: Christ calls us to share in loving and serving all creation.**

Leader: In communities, we gather to pray; we remember those who came before, realizing that in every circumstance, every day,

**All: The Holy Spirit fills us with God's joy. Thanks be to God. Amen!**

**SONG** "Come, Just as You Are" Sabolik

**A READING FROM THE PSALMS** Psalm 1  
(New International Version)

Blessed is the one  
who does not walk in step with the wicked  
or stand in the way that sinners take  
or sit in the company of mockers,  
but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and who meditates on his law day and night.  
That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,  
which yields its fruit in season  
and whose leaf does not wither—  
whatever they do prospers.  
Not so the wicked!  
They are like chaff  
that the wind blows away.  
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.  
For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

## SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

### PASTORAL 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.

**ANTHEM** "Here I Am, Lord" Schutte

### 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, you may go to:

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

**OFFERTORY** "Breathe" Barnett

**A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES** Acts 1:1-11  
(New International Version)

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

**SERMON** "What's Up There, Anyway?"

**SONG** "Crown Him with Many Crowns" Elvey

#### † BENEDICTION

Now may the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Know that wherever you are, God is with you. Amen.

**† POSTLUDE** "Put Your Hand in the Hand" MacLellen

## SERVING

### TODAY – MAY 16

Sharon Heinrich  
Dale Hawk  
Tom Foley  
Mike Elkins  
Sharon Heinrich  
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich  
Ken Mehalko  
Lora Rung

**Liturgist 9 a.m.**  
**Liturgist 10:30 a.m.**  
**Director of Music**  
**Associate Director of Music**  
**Supplemental Organist**  
**Sound**  
**Special Music**  
**Sunday School**

### NEXT SUNDAY – MAY 23

Ingrid Dickson  
Linda Ponstingle  
Tom Foley  
Mike Elkins  
Sharon Heinrich  
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich  
Satori Winds  
Mary 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](http://strongsvilleucc.com), select **Worship**, and click on **Service Videos**.

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

*Happy Birthday to Ryan Craig & Tracey Hill on May 22<sup>nd</sup>*

With Love, Grammy



Happy Birthday today to Frank Bushea!

Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary to Sara (Grega)  
& Tyler Springhetti!

### OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed	\$3,473.27
Last Week's Offering Received	\$7,869.00
Difference	\$4,219.63

*Thank you very much for your support.*



### 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 Gathering Area.

### A NOTE OF THANKS

Thank you to Ken Mehalko, Rob Toth, Clay Williams, Mike Elkins, and Tom Foley for their music today!



### IN-PERSON BOARD MEETINGS THIS MONTH

- **The Diaconate** will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **May 18<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall.
- **The Official Board** will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **May 25<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall.



Of course, the usual safety protocols will be in place at all in-person meetings.

## OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

**Long-Term Care or Homebound:** Janet Kato, Marge McKinney, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

**Church Family:** Joan Beckwith, Adria Bond, Eddy Bond, Mary Carey, Elaine Coffey, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Linda Elliott, Don Gleichauf, Sue Hawk, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Carole Kapcar, Tony Koussa, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Lacey Marshall, Brigitte Matchett, Judy Maur, Laurie Meister, Michele Mhlack, Lola Millhoane, Gary Paul, Joyce Reed, Dorothy and Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Jamie & Josh Trinckes, Sharon Wilson, Sally Vetovitz, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch



**Extended Church Family:** Dorene Baldrige, Fred Beba (Theresa's husband), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Judy Carte's son-in-law, Ryan, John Dickson (Greg's dad), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Jeff & Tiffany Hassel (Judi Pavisich's son & daughter-in-law), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Pat Masuga (Dan's mom), 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), Carrol Riley (Marjorie Morrison's dad), Terry Robson (the Camps' friend), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Amanda Stefanik (Schyler Thorn's friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Daphne Wilson (Irene Jannsohn's niece)

Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain.

## THRIFT SHOP



The Thrift Shop is OPEN on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. with enhanced safety protocols in place and 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month,  
May 17, 2021 — 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

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

Also, the Thrift Shop is in need of volunteers to help out for a couple of hours—sorting, organizing, and selling on Thursdays. Please call Cathy Hawk (440-781-7512) if you can help!

## MUSICIANS NEEDED!

Would you like to be a part of the summer music program? Instrumentalists and vocalists are needed for our worship services in June, July, and August. If you are interested in joining us and sharing your talent, please contact Tom Foley or Mike Elkins!



## PENNY SUNDAY

### MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Save those pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and dollars (checks to Strongsville UCC) for homeless veterans. We will be collecting during worship on **May 30<sup>th</sup>**, but you may also bring money to the church office any time during church office hours:  
**Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

### IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES

9 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.

Reservations required—call 440-238-6697 or email the church at

[strongsvilleucc@gmail.com](mailto:strongsvilleucc@gmail.com).

(Safety protocols will continue to be in place.)



A COMBINED SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS WILL BE OFFERED AT THE 10:30 A.M. SERVICE.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** Please call the church or contact Linda Elkins if you would like to sign up to teach on one of the Sundays (supplies and lessons will be provided).

Recordings of the weekly worship service will still be available online later on Sundays or early on Mondays.



**Women's Fellowship Meeting** – On Tuesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, Linda Ponstingle will give a Power Point presentation at 10:00 a.m. in Pilgrim Hall about "The Great and Not-So-Great Churches of Europe." Sally Herzog will provide devotions. Our meeting will adjourn before lunchtime, but you may want to bring your own beverage. As always, all ladies are welcome to attend. We hope to see you there!



Are you an online shopper? 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](https://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.

Would you like to contact Pastor Heidi in person or by phone? Her regular Pastoral Care Drop-in Hours:

Tuesdays 10 a.m. – Noon

Thursdays: 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. Of course you may call, text, or email *anytime*. (216) 235-2562 or [h.e.denman@gmail.com](mailto:h.e.denman@gmail.com)

## GRADUATES

Our church would like to recognize our graduates, so please let us know if someone is graduating within your family. We are interested to have an accurate list of graduates from high school, college, and schools of higher learning.



Full 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](mailto:strongsvilleucc@gmail.com) by Sunday, June 6.

## OPPORTUNITY TO HELP

Our new Sunday School Co-Superintendent, Linda Elkins, is looking for folks to help with the task of cleaning the upstairs carpet. TODAY, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. Please see Linda if you're able and available! (440) 655-8891 or [leelkins@gmail.com](mailto:leelkins@gmail.com).