



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136

(440) 238-6697

StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com

StrongsvilleUCC.com



Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, May 17, 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.

PRELUDE "Passacaglia" Handel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Joyce Reed

INTROIT "Jesus Stand Among Us" Whitworth

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: At the presence of God, we rejoice: People: Glorifying the One who is Parent of all orphans.

Leader: In the presence of Jesus Christ, we listen: People: To the Voice who calls us to humbly serve others.

Leader: Through the presence of the Holy Spirit, we speak: People: Making God's love known to the world-forsaken in our midst.

HYMN 219 "Surely the Presence" (sing twice)

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 47 (New International Version)

Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy. For the Lord Most High is awesome, the great King over all the earth. He subdued nations under us, peoples under our feet. He chose our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom he loved. God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the Lord amid the sounding of trumpets. Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise. God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne. The nobles of the nations assemble as the people of the God of Abraham, for the kings of the earth belong to God; God is greatly exalted.

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.

ANTHEM "Be Not Afraid" Courtney

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Our Great Saviour" Prichard, arr. Berry

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 1: 6-14 (The Message) Jesus told them, "You don't get to know the time. Timing is the Father's business. What you'll get is the Holy Spirit. And when the Holy Spirit comes on you, you will be able to be my witnesses in Jerusalem, all over Judea and Samaria, even to the ends of the world."

REFLECTION "You Just Never Know. . ."

HYMN 589 "Here I Am, Lord"

BENEDICTION Christine Longhurst As you go from here into the coming week, may God open your mind to God's presence, so that you may truly come to know God; may God open the eyes of your heart so that you can experience the hope God offers to all who follow God's way; and may you come to understand the full extent of God's power at work in your life—the very same power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead, and seated him at the right hand of God. Amen.

POSTLUDE "This Little Light of Mine" arr. Raney

SERVING

Table with 3 columns: TODAY-MAY 17, SERVING, NEXT SUNDAY-MAY 24. Roles include Greeters, Liturgist, Head Usher, Director of Music, Associate Director of Music, Organist, Video/Sound, and Special Music.

A NOTE OF THANKS—We thank our Chancel Choir, as well as Mike Elkins and Sharon Heinrich for their music today. Tom Foley is on vacation.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers are given— Celebrating our Grandson Tucker Reed's Birthday this month and George and Joyce Reed's 57th Wedding Anniversary. The Reeds To the Glory of God—celebrating our church family Linda Plain

Our steeple will light the sky this week— In honor and appreciation of Cathy Hawk on her Birthday! Happy Birthday to Iris Craig on May 21st! Happy Anniversary to Ryan Craig & Tracey Hill on May 22nd! With love, Grammy Happy Birthday to Gina Cathcart on May 15th Love, Mom Happy Birthday today to Cathy Hawk and Oliver Sekorky!



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!

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- 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 earned a record profit of \$8,024!



MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:

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.



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY BAND

The Strongsville Community Band's "Spring has Sprung" Concert is TODAY at 3:00 PM in the Strongsville Middle School Auditorium. This concert features guest soloist Debra Rose, performing beloved classics including As Time Goes By, Over the Rainbow, and Blue Moon.

This musical program also highlights works by Alfred Reed, Arlen & Hupfeld, Rodgers & Hart, and Percy Grainger. And keep your hands ready — a lively New Orleans tune may have you clapping along by the finale!

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, Jean Bittinger, 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, Jim Wonnacott

Extended Church Family: Teresa Beba (Free Lunch friend), 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), 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), Jeanene Steinmeyer (Greg Dickson's aunt), Don & Pauline Wills (Judi Pavisich's friends), the people of Ukraine, Sudan, Gaza, Iran, 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 \$ 3,638.00
 Difference -(\$1,574.00)

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



THREE WITH GLEE!



Capital Campaign: We currently have \$ \$65,990.08 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.

**FREE LUNCH FOR ALL--
 Wednesdays**

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



Special Thanks to Grocery Outlet in Strongsville (12421 Pearl Road) for their donation of two pallets of chicken to our program!

Thank you also to our own **Gina Cathcart** for donating several dozen eggs for our lunch!

And Thank You to **LongHorn Steakhouse** Strongsville for donating potatoes and sweet potatoes to our program.



AN EASY WAY TO HELP OUR CHURCH AND ENJOY QUALITY MEATS!

When you shop at **Smitty's Meats** (12966 Prospect Road Strongsville), mention the church's phone number--**440-238-6697** and 10% of your bill will be donated to our church at the end of the year!

CHURCH FAMILY CARE TEAM

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 would LOVE to have you be a part of our team! (You don't need to be a member of the Diaconate to participate, and you may come and go as you are led.)



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...

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**.

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 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.

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 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*

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, no water is running, and most importantly, that the door to the kitchen and the parking lot doors are locked and "undogged" using the Allen key provided. Thanks in advance for your diligence!

