



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 21, 2023 – 10:00 A.M.  
Sacrament of Holy Baptism

## 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 "Song Without Words" Holst

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Joyce Reed

BELL INTROIT "In Christ Alone" arr. Bettcher

## † CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: At the presence of God, we rejoice:

**People: Glorifying the One who is Parent of all children, throughout all time.**

Leader: In the presence of Jesus Christ, we listen:

**People: To the Voice who calls us to humbly serve one another, wherever we encounter someone in need.**

Leader: Through the presence of the Holy Spirit, we speak:

**People: Making God's love known to those who feel forsaken and unloved in our midst. May we be channels of God's Love for all people. Amen.**

† HYMN 43 "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

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 peoples 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.**

BELL ANTHEM "Rejoice Greatly" Geschke

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Emma Louise Boden  
Daughter of Katelyn and Vincent Boden  
Sponsors: Lauren and Eric Raymond



## 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 Emma Louise and her family, as she lives and grows 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 child baptized this morning, that she 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.

## BAPTISM OF EMMA LOUISE BODEN

## CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**Gracious God, You have filled the world with joy with the gift of Jesus. Bless this child, Emma Louise; fill her with your strength and courage for life's journey; joy for all to see; freedom of love; hope for a new life. May she never be ashamed to confess her 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 "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"  
Child of blessing, child of promise, Baptized with the Spirit's sign;  
With this water God has sealed you Unto love and grace divine.

Child of love, our love's expression, Love's creation, loved indeed  
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits; Into joy and laughter lead.

Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God's you are; from God you came.  
Back to God we humbly give you; Live as one who bears Christ's name.

Child of God, your loving Parent, Learn to know whose child you are.  
Grow to laugh and sing and worship; Trust and love God more than all.

## OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Offerings" 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 ACTS OF THE APOSTLES Acts 1:6-14  
(The Message)

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?"

SERMON "In the Driver's Seat?"

† HYMN 408 "How Firm a Foundation"

† BENEDICTION Celtic Blessing  
As we depart from this space, may the Lord be with us to guide us; within us to strengthen us; around us to protect us; above us to raise us; beneath us to uphold us; before us to lead us; behind us to guard us; and ever about us this day and evermore. Amen.

† RESPONSE/POSTLUDE "All Hail the Power" arr. Raney

**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**.

SERVING	
TODAY – MAY 21	NEXT SUNDAY – MAY 28
The Abruzzinos	<b>Greeters</b> Elaine Coffey
Sharon Maresco	<b>Liturgist</b> Pam Keenen
Volunteers needed	<b>Ushers</b> Bill Schneider, Judi Pavisich
Oliver & Matilda Sekorky	<b>Acolytes</b> Chris Abruzzino/Riley Marshall
Tom Foley	<b>Director of Music</b> Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	<b>Associate Director of Music</b> Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	<b>Organist</b> Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich	<b>Sound</b> Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Bell Choir, Ken Mehalko	<b>Special Music</b> Chancel Choir

A NOTE OF THANKS—  
We thank Ken Mehalko, the Bell Choir (Elaine Coffey, Linda Ponstingle, Linda Elkins, Barbara Toth, Barb Fraunfelder, Ingrid Dickson, Sarah Toth, Irene Joyce, Mike Willis, Mary Densmore, Rob Toth, and subs Mike Elkins, John Hattery, and Nicki Haire), 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!

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND CAKE!  
In honor of Emma Louise Boden's baptism today, her family invites you for cake following worship in Pilgrim Hall.



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY BAND  
The Spring Concert of the **Strongsville Community Band** is TODAY at 3:00 PM in the Strongsville Middle School Auditorium at 13200 Pearl Rd.



The altar flowers are given—  
Happy Birthday on May 31<sup>st</sup> to our Grandson, Tucker.  
Happy 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to George & Joyce Reed  
on May 27<sup>th</sup>.  
Happy 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday to our grandson, Jay Hassel,  
on May 23<sup>rd</sup>!  
Love Grama P. & Gramps

Our steeple will light the sky this week—  
Happy Birthday today to Iris Craig, and on May 22<sup>nd</sup> to Tracey Hill  
and Ryan Craig! Happy Anniversary on May 25<sup>th</sup> to Stacie & Dan  
Sauter and Adam and Kristina Craig  
With love, Grammy

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 NEXT SUNDAY!**  
Please save your coins, dollars, and checks (to UCC) for our next Penny Sunday collection on **May 28<sup>th</sup>** for the Strongsville Emergency Food Bank.






**UPCOMING BOARD MEETING**

- The Official Board will have an email meeting on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **May 23<sup>rd</sup>** at 7 p.m.

**CONGREGATIONAL PHOTO**  
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.



**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:** 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 Oerkfitz, Gary Paul, Sandy Pogozeleski, 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 Garipey (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](mailto: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.

**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 [cwqrlrm293@msn.com](mailto:cwqrlrm293@msn.com) for a detailed job description or to apply.

**OFFERINGS RECEIVED**

Weekly Offering Needed	\$3,617.01
Last Week's Offering Received	\$3,189.00
Difference	(\$ 428.01)


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:**  
**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED ITEMS FOR OUR LAURA'S HOME COLLECTION!**



\*\*\*\*\*  
**UPCOMING MEMORIAL SERVICE**  
**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.

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, May 28<sup>th</sup>**.

**SUNDAY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE ALSO DUE INTO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY MAY 28<sup>th</sup>.**



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.

