



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136

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StrongsvilleUCC.com



Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, May 23, 2021 – 9 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.

Pentecost Sunday

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 "Oh, Freedom" Traditional Spiritual, arr. Graef

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

INTROIT "I Know the Lord" Traditional Spiritual, arr. McCall

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: On this day, may the Spirit's grace-filled breath fling wide the shutters of our hearts, breaking us open to receive your love.

People: On this day, may we silence the fears of our hearts to embrace the new life offered to us through Christ Jesus.

Leader: Here, in the midst of our sisters and brothers, may our frozen souls be softened and enflamed by a spirit of justice:

People: May we catch a glimpse of the dreams of those around us; may we hear the voices of the oppressed, crying out in every language.

Leader: In the days to come, may we speak of God's love and the Spirit's peace for all:

People: So that all God's children might find a community waiting for them, even those rejected by everyone else. May ours be a safe and welcoming community of Love. Amen.

SONG "Sweet, Sweet Spirit" Akers

A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT **Ezekiel 37: 1-8**
(New International Version)

The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

I said, "Sovereign Lord, you alone know."

Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the

Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.'"

So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together,

bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

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 "Go Down Moses" Traditional Spiritual, arr. Reinshagen

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. May we be driven by the Holy Spirit of Love within our hearts, to offer every good gift which God has given us, paying it forward in loving service to Christ.

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

OFFERTORY "Were You There?" Traditional Spiritual, arr. McCall

A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES **Acts 2:1-4**
(The Message)

When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them.

SERMON "What Does It Take?"

† **SONG** "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" Jackson

† BENEDICTION

Now as you leave this place and wander into the week that lies ahead, go out filled with the spark of the Holy Spirit. Let love guide your actions. Listen for the Spirit of Truth. Spread the peace of Christ, and remind everyone you meet that each one is a beloved child of God. (And don't forget to remind yourself.) **Amen.**

† **POSTLUDE** "When the Saints Go Marching In" Tr. Spiritual, arr. Niehaus

SERVING

TODAY – MAY 23

Ingrid Dickson
Linda Ponstingle
Tom Foley
Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Satori Winds
Mary Densmore

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 30

Irene Joyce
Dave Williams
Tom Foley
Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Dave Williams
Irene Joyce

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**.

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Anniversary to Adam & Kristina Craig

and to Stacie & Dan Sauter on May 25th

Happy Birthday to Sandra Wentz on May 28th

With Love, Grammy

Happy (belated) Birthday to Cathy Hawk on May 17th!

Thanks for all you do!



Happy 101st Birthday to Ramona Glaze on May 25th!

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,473.27

Last Week's Offering Received \$1,368.00

Difference (-\$2,281.37)

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 The Satori Winds (4 Guys with 4 Clarinets and 4 Saxophones): Dick E. Ingersoll, Dick K. Ingersoll, Brian Maskow, and Ken Mehalko for their music today!



PENNY SUNDAY MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Save those pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and dollars (or checks to Strongsville UCC) for homeless veterans. We will be collecting during worship on **May 30th**, 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 BOARD MEETING THIS MONTH

- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **May 25th** 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), Kay McGinty (Judi Pavisich's aunt), 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 3rd Monday of the month,
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!



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.

IMPORTANT: If you forget to make a reservation, please COME ANYWAY. We have room for YOU!
(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 1st, 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**.
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.

GIFT CARDS

YOU CAN SUPPORT THIS PROJECT IN A SAFE WAY THAT BENEFITS OUR CHURCH!



You can order gift cards by calling **Jim Joyce** at 216-267-5043 in advance with your order. Limited stock is available, but special orders may be accommodated with advance notice. **Thank you to those who continue to support this project**

by purchasing gift cards!

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

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 by **Sunday, June 6.**

Many, many thanks to Linda Ponstingle and Barb Camp for baking and packaging treats to celebrate the "Birthday of the Christian Church" for Pentecost today!

