



**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 24, 2026– 10 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 stand as you are comfortable.

**PRELUDE**

"God of Our Fathers"  
Jim Heinrich, trumpet

Warren

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Bill Schneider

**CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT 655**

"Sanctuary"

**† CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: On this day, may God's breath of Grace shatter the shutters of our stony hearts.

**People: On this day, may we step out of our fears to welcome the new life gifted to each one of us.**

Leader: Here, in the midst of our siblings of every age and place, may our frozen souls be softened and enflamed by God's Spirit of justice.

**People: As we catch a glimpse of the dreams of those around us, as we listen to the voices of the oppressed 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 people will find a community awaiting them, even for those rejected by everyone else.**

**† HYMN 373**

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

**A READING FROM THE PSALMS**

**Psalm 104:24-34**

(New International Version)

How many are your works, Lord!

In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number—  
living things both large and small.

There the ships go to and fro, and Leviathan, which you formed to frolic there.

All creatures look to you to give them their food at the proper time.

When you give it to them, they gather it up;

when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things.

When you hide your face, they are terrified;

when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust.

When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.

May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works—

he who looks at the earth, and it trembles,

who touches the mountains, and they smoke.

I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the Lord.

**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**

"Spirit Song"

Wimber

Ken Mehalko, Clarinet

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

"Simple Gifts"

Traditional

**† 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 PROPHETS**

**Isaiah 6:1-8**

(New International Version)

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another.

**REFLECTION**

"A Simple Yes Will Do"

**CELEBRATION OF AMERICA**

Mike Willis

*The New Colossus* Emma Lazarus

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,

With conquering limbs astride from land to land;

Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand

A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame

Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name

Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand

Glowed world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command

The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.

"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she

With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,

Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,

The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.

Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,

I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

**† HYMN 799**

"America the Beautiful"

**† BENEDICTION**

*May the Lord, who has named you, bless you, reminding you who you are: a beloved child of God. May Jesus, who walks alongside us, bless us, calling us from fear to peace. May the Spirit, who energizes us, bless us and open us to the manifold possibilities of faith, hope, and love. Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord. Amen.*

**† POSTLUDE**

"Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"

Webb

**UPCOMING BOARD MEETING**



• The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **May 26<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

**SERVING**

**TODAY – MAY 24**

Susann Lerch  
Irene Joyce  
Mary Ellen Zimmerman  
Tom Foley  
Mike Elkins  
Sharon Heinrich  
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich  
Ken Mehalko

**Greeters**  
**Liturgist**  
**Head Usher**  
**Director of Music**  
**Associate Director of Music**  
**Organist**  
**Video/Sound**  
**Special Music**

**NEXT SUNDAY – MAY 31**

Roger & Judy Davis  
Luke Giuliano  
Judi Pavisich  
Tom Foley  
Mike Elkins  
Sharon Heinrich  
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich  
Chancel Choir



**A NOTE OF THANKS**—We thank **Ken Mehalko**, and **Jim Heinrich**, as well as **Mike Elkins** and **Sharon Heinrich** for their music today. Tom Foley is on vacation. Thank you to our additional reader, **Mike Willis**.

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

The altar flowers are given—

*Remembering our mom, Lorna M. Robinson on her birthday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. Love and miss ya, Mom!*

Becky and Bill Robinson

*In celebration of our Son Geoff's Birthday in April*

Love Mom & Dad Reed

**Our steeple** will light the sky this week—

*Happy Anniversary to Stacie & Dan Sauter and to*

*Adam & Kristina Craig May 25<sup>th</sup> and*

*Happy Birthday to Sandra Wentz on May 28<sup>th</sup>!*

With love, Grammy



**Happy Birthday today to Owen Woodward!**

**Happy Anniversary today to Ginger & Ron Rothe!**

**FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL:**

**PENNY SUNDAY NEXT WEEK**



The next Penny Sunday will be **May 31<sup>st</sup>** 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 31<sup>st</sup>!**

**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!



**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.

**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), Ben Hoty (Tony & Jo-Ann Hoty's son), 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), Jeaneane 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 \$ 1,776.00  
 Difference -(\$3,436.00)

**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.



**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.**



**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—LAST CHANCE!**



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](mailto:strongsvilleucc@gmail.com) by **Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>**.

**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.



**FREE LUNCH FOR ALL-- Wednesdays**

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



A reminder: Donations are welcomed to support the increasing costs of this valuable program. **Thank you to all of our faithful volunteers!**

**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.



**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\* 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***

