



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, May 28, 2023 – 10:00 A.M.

Pentecost Sunday
Penny 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 "O, God Our Help in Ages Past" Croft

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

INTROIT "The Lord is in His Holy Temple" Paxton

† CALL TO WORSHIP

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

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

Leader: Here, in the midst of our sisters and brothers, may our frozen souls be enflamed by the Spirit of Justice and Love.

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 63 "All Creatures of our God and King"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 104:24-35
(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 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.

Praise the Lord, my soul. Praise 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 "Goin' Home, America the Beautiful" arr. Elkins

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Penny Sunday

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" Dykes

† 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 2:1-21
(The Message)

Then when they heard, one after another, their own mother tongues being spoken, they were blown away. They couldn't for the life of them figure out what was going on, and kept saying, "Aren't these all Galileans? How come we're hearing them talk in our various mother tongues? They're speaking our languages, describing God's mighty works!"

SERMON "What Does This Mean???"

† HYMN 809 "God of our Fathers"

† BENEDICTION Sr. Joan Chittister, OSB
May the Gifts of the Holy Spirit bring fire to the earth so that the presence of God may be seen in a new light, in new places, in new ways. May our own hearts burst into flame so that no obstacle, no matter how great, ever obstructs the message of the God within each of us. May Jesus, who filled women with his Holy Spirit, fill the world and the church with new respect for women's power and presence. Give me, Great God, a sense of the Breath of Spirit within me as I follow your way. Amen.

† RESPONSE/ POSTLUDE "Taps" Butterfield

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**.

SERVING		
TODAY – MAY 28		NEXT SUNDAY – JUNE 4
Elaine Coffey	Greeters	Linda Plain
Pam Keenen	Liturgist	Elaine Coffey
Bill Schneider, Judi Pavisich	Ushers	Volunteers needed
Chris Abruzzino/Riley Marshall	Acolytes	Aidan Hurtig/Luke Giuliano
Tom Foley	Director of Music	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	Associate Director of Music	Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	Organist	Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich	Sound	Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Chancel Choir	Special Music	Chancel Choir



A NOTE OF THANKS—

We thank **Ken Mehalko**, the **Chancel Choir**, **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!

The altar flowers are given—

Remembering our mom, Lorna M. Robinson, on her 100th birthday May 29th! Love and miss ya, Mom!
Becky and Bill Robinson



Our steeple will light the sky this week—
Happy Birthday today to Sandra Wentz!
Happy Anniversary to Patti & Nate Johnson on June 3rd!
With love, Grammy/Mom

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.

Happy Birthday today to Kelly Bickley, Nicole Giuliano, and Emily Trill!

Happy Anniversary today to Valerie and Dale Hopkins!

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 IS TODAY!

Get ready to donate your coins, dollars, and checks (to UCC) for our Penny Sunday collection today for the Strongsville Emergency Food Bank.



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **June 13th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **June 20th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **June 27th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



CONGREGATIONAL PHOTO

If you would like to purchase an 8" x 24" congregational photo, please contact the church office. The cost is \$29.95 (Checks to UCC.) Orders are due NO LATER than June 25th. *****This is a change so that we may order all together and get bulk pricing.**

LAST CHANCE-- STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH!

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.



IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy to **Brandi Garsteck** and her family on the death of her grandmother, **Barbara A. Cook** on May 18, 2023. She was 83 years old.



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 Oerkfritz, 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 Gariepy (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



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.



OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,617.01
Last Week's Offering Received \$2,016.00
Difference (\$1,601.01)

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.

GRADUATES—Deadline today!

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: _____

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 TODAY.

SUNDAY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE ALSO DUE INTO THE CHURCH OFFICE TODAY.

PLEASE NOTE: The Church Office will be closed on Monday, May 29th for Memorial Day.

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.

