



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, May 3, 2026– 10 A.M.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

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 "Peace in the Valley" Dorsey

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

INTROIT "Speak, Lord in the Stillness" Whitworth

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We are God's household, crafted by the Architect of creation:

People: Our hearts a shelter for the outcast; our hands open to the stranger.

Leader: We are God's people, created in the divine image:

People: To tell others of God's love, to offer mercy as freely as we have received it.

Leader: We are God's children, called to give of ourselves:

People: Chosen to serve the lost and lonely, gifted to minister to a hurting world.

† HYMN 2 "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 31:1-5; 15-16
(New International Version)

In you, Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

Turn your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue; be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me.

Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me.

Keep me free from the trap that is set for me, for you are my refuge.

Into your hands I commit my spirit; deliver me, Lord, my faithful God.

My times are in your hands; deliver me from the hands of my enemies, from those who pursue me.

Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unfailing love.

Leader: The Word of God, for us, the people of God;

People: Thanks be to God.

PRAYING IN SILENCE

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy, **ALL: Hear our prayers. Amen.**

ANTHEM "As We Gather at the Table" Hatch

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "A Generous Heart" 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 GOSPELS John 14:1-14

(New International Version)

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well.

From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

REFLECTION "Show Us the Way"

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor: Considered too rough for their smooth plans, the builders cast out the Stone they needed. But God builds salvation on the One who is the foundation of all hope. Let us confess our sins to God and one another, trusting we will not be put to shame:

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

All: Hear the brokenness of our lives, Precious God. We cover our ears so we cannot hear the cries of those in need, or your voice, urging us to respond. We rush together to defend every issue that matters to us, yet we quickly disperse when you would call us to be your holy people. We shout as loud as we can to cheer on our sports teams, but we can manage only whispers when it comes to sharing the good news.

Forgive us, our Eternal Guide, and do not hold our sins against us. We lay the garments of our foolishness at your feet, so you might clothe us in grace and hope. We would feed on the spiritual food which flows from your heart so we might be strong enough to follow Jesus as he leads us in the Way, the Truth, and the Life. (silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: You are no longer alone; you are God's Beloved. You are not of this world; you are residents of God's Kingdom. You, who once had no hope, have been filled with forgiveness.

All: Each one of us, all of us, have received God's mercy in Christ. Forgiven, redeemed, made whole - we are God's people, made one in faith. Thanks be to God. Amen.

A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is" Shelley
Sandy O'Shea and Ralph Heimbürger, vocalists

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.

† HYMN 56 "To God Be the Glory"

† BENEDICTION

As we go forth into the world, may the Way of the Christ be clearly marked before us. May our eyes be focused and our hearts be sincere. May the Truth of God resonate within us, drowning the noise of the world that would seek to distract us from God's Word. And Lord, may you become our life, our reason for living and the focus of our hearts. Amen.

† POSTLUDE "Glorious Is Thy Name" McKinney, arr. Berry

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 3

Linda Plain

Mary Ellen Zimmerman

Judi Pavisich

Tom Foley

Mike Elkins

Sharon Heinrich

Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich

Choir, Heimbürger/O'Shea

Greeters

Liturgist

Head Usher

Director of Music

Associate Director of Music

Organist

Video/Sound

Special Music

NEXT SUNDAY – MAY 10

Judi Pavisich

Judi Pavisich

Bill Robinson

Tom Foley

Mike Elkins

Sharon Heinrich

Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich

Children's Choir, Bell Choir



A NOTE OF THANKS—We thank **Ralph Heimbürger, Sandy O'Shea**, our **Chancel Choir** and of course, **Tom Foley, Sharon Heinrich** and **Mike Elkins** for their music today.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Our regular altar flower service will resume next week. Thanks to Joyce Reed, Ingrid Dickson, and Irene Joyce for providing the vases of flowers for the past month.



Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Remembering my dear twin, Karen, on our birthday, May 1st.

Sharon Maresco



Happy Birthday to Hayley McKane on May 7th and to Debbie Wentz on May 9th ~With love, Grammy/Mom

Happy Birthday to Greg Dickson on May 6th! Love your in-laws

Happy Birthday today to Barbara White, Nick Miller, and Braxden Cuyler!

Happy Anniversary today to Erik & Bryana Joyce

**FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL:
PENNY SUNDAY THANK YOU!**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to The Northeast Ohio Collie Rescue in April. We collected \$300.50 and got to meet Storm and his person,



Roseanne. 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!

MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:

LAST CHANCE--We are collecting new items for Laura's Home (Feminine pads with wings, baby wipes, Size 6 and 7 diapers or Pull-Ups, and Pedialyte) through TODAY. There is a bin in the Gathering Area for your donations. As an alternative, you can purchase Amazon gift cards—available through our Gift Card program. See Jim Joyce or contact the church office to purchase (double benefit)!



Thank you to everyone who supported our Food, Friends, & Fun-Draiser last Friday night!

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS



- Mission Outreach will meet after worship on **Sunday, May 10th** in the Confirmation classroom,
- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **May 12th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- 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.

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, Mark Camp, Judy Carte, Elaine Coffey, Betty "Grammy" Craig, 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, JoAnn Thomas, John Toth, Heather Williams, Claire Wills, Marty Winch



Extended Church Family: 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), 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), Maryanne Grega-Knotek (our florist), 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, 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 \$ 7,834.00
 Difference + \$ 2,141.00

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



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CHORUS
 SWCC will have a Spring Concert, "Celebrate America" TODAY at 3 p.m. at the Berea United Methodist Church (170 Seminary Street in Berea). The Chorus is under the direction of **Tom Foley**, accompanied by **Jarred Sorauf**; some of the singers this season include **Craig Hardy, Ingrid Dickson, Irene Joyce, Sarah Keenen, Marianne Luca, Jo Ann Thomas**, and a few other familiar faces and voices. Tickets are \$15 will be available at the door or from our own choir members who sing with the chorus.

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**.

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.

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...



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!**

THREE WITH GLEE!

Capital Campaign: We currently have \$64,627.08 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 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

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.



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 and most importantly, that the door to the kitchen and the parking lot doors are locked and PUSHED SHUT so the lock is latched. The Board of Trustees is addressing this issue, but in the meantime, it's all hands on deck to keep our church building secure. Thanks in advance for your diligence!

