



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136
(440) 238-6697

StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com
StrongsvilleUCC.com



Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, May 31, 2026– 10 A.M. THREE IN ONE
Sacrament of Holy Baptism
Trinity 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 "Gracious God, We Come before You" Neander, arr. Kerr

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

INTROIT "Every Time I Feel the Spirit" Traditional

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God, whose imagination saw all that is good, beautiful, and loving:

People: Continue to see us as beloved children in the divine family.

Leader: The Word which called forth the stars in every universe:

People: Speak to us of giving ourselves through the baptismal life.

Leader: The Spirit, which moved over creation, breathing life into all things:

People: Fill us with peace and patience, with hope and healing to share.

† HYMN 3 "Holy, Holy, Holy"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 113
(New International Version)

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, you his servants;
praise the name of the Lord.

Let the name of the Lord be praised, both now and forevermore.

From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets,
the name of the Lord is to be praised.

The Lord is exalted over all the nations, his glory above the heavens.

Who is like the Lord our God, the One who sits enthroned on high,
who stoops down to look on the heavens and the earth?

He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap;
he seats them with princes, with the princes of his people.

He settles the childless woman in her home as a happy mother of children.
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 "I Saw the Light" Williams

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Penny Sunday



THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Beckham Hayes Wade
Son of Nicole Lyn Wade
and Brett Martin Wade
Sponsor: Luke James Giuliano



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 the one about to be baptized, as he 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 he 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 BECKHAM HAYES WADE

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Let us pray together:

Gracious God, You have filled the world with joy with the gift of Jesus. Bless this child, Beckham Hayes; fill him with your strength and courage for life's journey; joy for all to see; freedom of love; hope for a new life. May he never be ashamed to confess his 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 "Our Gifts" 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 EPISTLES **Romans 12:9-16**
(The Message)

Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it.

REFLECTION "Love is an Action Verb"

† **HYMN 750** "Peace Like a River"

† **BENEDICTION** A Franciscan Blessing
May God bless you with Discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart. May God bless you with Anger at Injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace. May God bless you with Tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy. And may God bless you with enough Foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done. Amen.

† **POSTLUDE** "Ashokan Farewell" Unger

SERVING

TODAY – MAY 31		NEXT SUNDAY – JUNE 7
Roger & Judy Davis	Greeters	Linda Plain
Luke Giuliano	Liturgist	Linda Ponstingle
Judi Pavisich	Head Usher	Volunteer needed
Tom Foley	Director of Music	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	Associate Director of Music	Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	Organist	Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich	Video/Sound	Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Chancel Choir	Special Music	Chancel Choir
Linda Elkins	Summer Sunday School	Volunteer needed



A NOTE OF THANKS—We thank our Chancel Choir, as well as Mike Elkins, Tom Foley, and Sharon Heinrich for their music today.



**FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL:
PENNY SUNDAY TODAY!**

Today's Penny Sunday collection is going to **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. The next Penny Sunday will be **June 28th**.



A SIGN-UP FOR TEACHING SUNDAY SCHOOL IN THE SUMMER IS POSTED IN PILGRIM HALL! Join the fun! Summer Sunday School begins today!

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers are given—

In honor of my family members who have birthdays this year of ages ending in "0" or "5"—Roger, Barb, Dennis, Karen, Sue, Sally, Paul, Jen, Beth, Jess, Violet, Helen, Oscar, and William! Barb Fraunfelder



Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Congratulations to Beckham Wade on his Baptism Day!
Happy Anniversary to Patti & Nate Johnson on June 3rd!
Love, Mom



Happy Birthday today to Bert Smith!
Happy Anniversary today to Carol & Jim Studer!

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Mission Outreach Committee will meet on the second Sunday of the month, **June 14th** following the worship service.
- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **June 9th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **June 16th** at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **June 23rd** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH—LAST CHANCE!



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.



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT STRONGSVILLE CITY JAZZ SWING BAND

Please join us for our concert **Friday, June 5th** at **7:30 p.m.** at the Ehrnfelt Ballroom at the Strongsville Recreation Center. The "kick-off" performance for the Strongsville Band's summer season features talented guest saxophonist Steve Kortyka and vocalist Cindy Smith, and promises

to delight jazz enthusiasts with timeless classics. The selection of songs like "The Man I Love," "Love for Sale," and "How High the Moon" is sure to create a nostalgic atmosphere, transporting the audience to a different era. Ending the concert on a high note will undoubtedly uplift spirits and set a joyous tone for the weekend ahead. It's a wonderful opportunity to enjoy great music and connect with the community!

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: Yvonne Adams (Judi Pavisich's neighbor) and her mother, Yvonne, Teresa Beba (Free Lunch friend), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Allison Emerson (Colette's sister), Kim Filiautraut (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 \$ 6,854.00
Difference +\$1,642.00

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



THREE WITH GLEE!

Capital Campaign: We currently have \$66,340.08 in our capital campaign account. We have chosen a contractor 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.



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!**

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.**



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!



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...

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.



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

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



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*

