



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor



Sunday, May 5, 2024– 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 "Bist Du bei mir" Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Greg Dickson

INTROIT "Let Us Break Bread Together" Traditional

† **CALL TO WORSHIP** from Rev. Dr. Rachael Keefe
Leader: We gather in the presence of the One who breathes life into all of Creation.

People: We sing God's praises, breathing in God's glory.

Leader: All are welcome in the presence of the Most High.

All: We come, seeking the goodness in the hands of God.

Leader: We gather as God's beloved people, leaving no one outside.

All: Together we reflect the fullness of God's love; together we bring God's love into the world.

Leader: Let us worship the Living God whose breath gives us life.

People: Amen

† **HYMN 654** "Change My Heart, O God" (sing twice)

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 98
(New International Version)

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn— shout for joy before the Lord, the King.

Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy; let them sing before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

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 "We Are the Branches" Lantz

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Adoramus Te" Palestrina

† **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 15: 9-7
(The Message)
"This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends."

SERMON "Joy, Joy, Joy!"

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor: The seeds of grace, hope, joy, and love are planted deep with us, so they can bear fruit in our lives. But we resist staying connected to the Vine, thinking we can flourish on our own. Let us confess our sins, so we can once more feel God abiding deep within us. Please join me as together we pray:

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

People: Mother of Compassion: called to be one body, we fragment ourselves into a million selfish pieces; children of your love, we insist on the right to despise our sisters and brothers; though your Perfect Love was broken for us, we are afraid to give of ourselves to the world. Abide in us, Vine Grower, and lead us to abide in your Love. Forgive us of our sins, so we may live boldly, love fearlessly, and proclaim unceasingly that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior.
(silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Do you feel it – there, deep down in your hearts? God's love is alive, beating, breathing – in you!

People: Because God abides in us, we can live for others, allowing God's love to bear fruit in us. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP "O Lord, My God, You Are My Refuge" Bach, arr. Hopson

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 642** "Abide with Me" (verses 1, 3, & 4)

† **BENEDICTION** Malcolm Doney, Uniting Church
In every detail of this day, may we be fully alive: To the words we speak, and those we hear, and to the eloquence of the silence where no words are spoken, may we be fully alive. To the work we do: how we prepare, how we pursue it, share it and complete it, may we be fully alive. To the people we see this day – friend or stranger, easy and difficult, may we be fully alive, to every instant, to the pulse of God at the heart of all things. Let us see this day as a gift from God Let us take it, enjoy it, make it our own and share it with others. Grant us strength to survive, grant us grace to be generous. Grant us courage to stand tall for all that is good and fair. Amen.

† **POSTLUDE** "Crown Him with Many Crowns" arr. Raney
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**.

TODAY – MAY 5	SERVING	NEXT SUNDAY – MAY 12
Linda Plain	Greeters	Judi Pavisich
Judi Pavisich	Liturgist	Dave Williams
Volunteers needed	Ushers	Jean Bittinger, Judi Pavisich
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, Carol Foley	Special Music	Children's Choir, Choir

A NOTE OF THANKS—We thank our **Chancel Choir, Carol Foley**, and of course, **Tom Foley, Sharon Heinrich** and **Mike Elkins** for today's music!

The altar flowers are given—
In celebration of Leo Thorn's 3rd birthday!
Love, Grandpa and Grandma



A 2024 SIGN-UP SHEET FOR ALTAR FLOWERS IS POSTED IN PILGRIM HALL. Please note: the cost of flowers is \$18 for 1 vase and \$36 for 2 vases.

Our steeple will light the sky this week—
Happy Birthday to Debbie Wentz on May 9th and to Patti Johnson on May 11th! With love, Mom
Happy Birthday to Greg Dickson tomorrow, May 6th!
Love your in-laws



Happy Birthday today to Brigitte Matchett!
Happy Anniversary today to Jennifer & Dave Sekorky!



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! A sign-up sheet is posted in Pilgrim Hall.

PENNY SUNDAY THANK YOU!
Last week, we collected \$414.05 for World Central Kitchen. The next Penny Sunday will be **May 26th**.



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: Laurie Meister, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Maggie Struhar

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Judy Carte, Jennifer Cockrell, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sue Hawk, Irene Jannsohn, Kay Konicek, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Jim Maresco, Reggie McCray, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkfitz, Gary Paul, George & Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Peter Smith, Linda Stepan, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Edward and Sharon Acton (Sally Herzog's friends), Dorene Baldrige, Ron & Yvonne Adams (Judi Pavisich's friends), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), John Dickson (Greg's dad), Keana Dickson (Greg & Ingrid's daughter), Allison Emerson (Colette's sister), Ed Fabian (the Bagley's Grill girls' friend), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Joanne Gariepy (Sally Herzog's friend), Kathy Ghetti (friend of Ginger Rothel), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel's parents), 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), Sylvia Pakish (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Jeff Peacock (former member), Zora Roundtree (FL4A volunteer), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Vicki Smith (Venner Clarinets), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Tom (friend of Judi Pavisich), Don Wills (friend of Judi Pavisich), The people of Ukraine, Gaza, and Israel, 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

BOOK STUDY--A YEAR OF BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD

Continuing on **May 20th**, Pastor Heidi and Linda Elkins are leading a monthly book study based on Rachel Held Evans's wonderful book, *A Year of Biblical Womanhood*. The group will meet on the **third Monday of each month at 7 p.m.**, for one hour. It's not too late to join us!



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—MAY

Evening program tomorrow, **May 6th at 7 p.m.** is "Gardening Tips and Plant in a Mug." As always, all ladies are welcome!



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 \$ 8,011.00
 Difference +\$4,393.99

Thank you very much for your support.
PLEDGES RECEIVED: 51



DIACONATE "WING" NIGHT
 Thank you to everyone who supported our Diaconate fundraiser!

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **May 14th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **May 21st** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Sunday of the month, **May 28th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



MISSION OUTREACH NEWS

In honor of Mother's Day, Mission Outreach will be collecting items for Laura's Home in the West Park Neighborhood of Cleveland. Laura's Home is a complex with "166 beds and 55 rooms, offering specialized, wraparound services designed to empower families and individuals to live healthy lives."

We will be collecting the following items from **April 14th** through **May 12th**. The collection bin will be in the Gathering Area of the church. **All items must be new and unopened.**

- Full size body wash
- Full size deodorant (Old Spice or Dove)
- Full size lotion
- Feminine hygiene products
- Twin sized sheets
- Twin sized blankets
- Diapers size 4, 5, 6
- Pull up diapers size 4, 5, 6
- Unexpired baby food and formula



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY BAND:

Come to our free concert on **Sunday, May 19th** at 3 p.m. at the Strongsville Middle School—featuring Cindy Smith on vocals!

A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

A memorial service for **Rick Teagno** will be held on **Saturday, May 11th** at the church at 11 a.m., with a luncheon following.



FREE LUNCH FOR ALL-- Wednesdays

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

Thank you to all our faithful volunteers!

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: _____

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 26th**.



2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN --M.A.P.L.E.

- M- Making and moving**
- A- Accepting and Acknowledging**
- P- People**
- L- Learning and Loving**
- E- Encompassing**



Strongsville United Church of Christ 2024 Estimate of Giving

In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2024:

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 ____/____/____

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CHURCH OFFICERS IN 2024

**Elected January 28, 2024 **Appointed by the Official Board*

Moderator: Greg Dickson* **Vice-Moderator:** Jen Barry*

Treasurer: Sally Herzog* **Clerk:** Judy Gaumer*

Sunday School Co-Superintendents

Linda Elkins Mary Densmore

Board of Trustees

Bill Giuliano* Chris Goff Mike Elkins* Les Fox*

Herb Hampson* Cathy Hawk Sarah Hayes* Sandy Pogozeleski*

Cheryl Sobek Dan Winrod Laura Winrod Rachel Zielinski*

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson* Dave Williams*

Diaconate

Teri Barbish* Jean Bittinger Elaine Coffey* Bobbi Cook Wayne Cook

Judy Davis Judy Fox* Carole Kapcar Susann Lerch* Cherie Teagno*

Barbara White Mary Ellen Zimmerman

Christian Education Committee

Serena Abruzzino Mary Densmore Linda Elkins*

Colette Emerson* 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

Sue Gigliotti* Judi Pavisich Bill Schneider Rob Toth* Mary Willis

Mission and Outreach Committee

Diana Creecy* Sarah Hayes* Lora Rung

Jennifer Sekorky* Peter Smith Bev Wehr* Mary Ellen Zimmerman



DO MORE IN 2024! New sign-up sheets in the Gathering Area are waiting for your name to be added as a greeter or 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.

THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is OPEN every Thursday 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.



MANY THANKS, AS ALWAYS, TO OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS!



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.

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