



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 7, 2023 – 10:00 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 "This Little Light of Mine" arr. Raney

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

INTROIT "I Was Glad" Whitworth

† CALL TO WORSHIP

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

People: We offer a shelter for the outcast; our hands are 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 3 "Holy, Holy, Holy"

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 servants 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 "Song of Peace" Donnelly, arr. Strid

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "In Remembrance" arr. 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)

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me."

SERMON "Together. Again."

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

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

Hear the brokenness of our lives, Precious God. We cover our ears so we cannot hear the cries of those in need. We rush together to defend every issue that matters to us, but 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 can manage only whispers when it comes to sharing the good news.

Forgive us, our Eternal Guide. We lay the garments of our foolishness at your feet, so you might clothe us in grace and hope. Feed us 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, but residents of God's Kingdom. You, who once had no hope, have been filled with forgiveness.

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

A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP "Lamb of God" Paris
Sarah Keenen, vocalist

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 "Earth and All Stars"

Earth and all stars, loud rushing planets,

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Hail, wind, and rain, loud blowing snowstorm,

Sing to the Lord a new song! God has done marvelous things.

We will sing praises with a new song!

Steel and machines, Loud pounding hammers,
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Limestone and beams, Loud building workers,
Sing to the Lord a new song! God has done marvelous things.
We will sing praises with a new song!

Classrooms and labs, Loud boiling test tubes,
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Athlete and band, Loud cheering people,
Sing to the Lord a new song! God has done marvelous things.
We will sing praises with a new song!

Knowledge and truth, Loud sounding wisdom,
sing to the Lord a new song!
Daughter and son, Loud praying members,
Sing to the Lord a new song! God has done marvelous things.
We will sing praises with a new song!

† BENEDICTION

Now may the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Know that wherever you are, God is with you. Amen.

† RESPONSE "Sabbath Prayer" Bock

† POSTLUDE "Sinfonia" from *Solomon* Handel, arr. Williams

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 7 | | NEXT SUNDAY – MAY 14 |
| Linda Plain | Greeters | Judi Pavisich |
| Judi Pavisich | Liturgist | Bruce Keenen |
| Herb Hampson | Ushers | Judi Pavisich |
| Chris Abruzzino | 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 | Children's Choir, Chancel Choir |



A NOTE OF THANKS—

We thank the **Chancel Choir, Sarah Keenen, 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!



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY BAND

The Spring Concert of the **Strongsville Community Band** is Sunday, May 21st at 3:00 PM in the Strongsville Middle School Auditorium at 13200 Pearl Rd.

The altar flowers are given—



Happy 2nd Birthday to Leo Thorn on May 6th!
Doug Thorn and Sandy O'Shea



Happy Birthday to Dorothy Ritchie on May 10th!
Love, your family

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthday to Haley McKane today,
to Debbie Wentz on May 9th, and to Patti Johnson on May 11th!
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.

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, then add your
name to the sign-up sheet in Pilgrim Hall.

PENNY SUNDAY THANKS

Thank you to everyone who contributed last week, we
collected \$201.70 for Laura's Home. Please save your
coins, dollars, and checks (to UCC) for our next Penny
Sunday collection on **May 28th**.



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
Kuhlschmidt, 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: Dorene Baldridge, 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), Jennifer Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's
daughter-in-law), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Tom Irelan (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's
friend), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Rudy Matjajic (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



POSITION AVAILABLE

Mike Elkins is set to retire as our church's Financial Secretary. Consequently,
the church is in need of a person who is familiar with Excel and other financial
software and who has some bookkeeping experience to fill his shoes. This is
a compensated, (very) part-time position. If you are interested, or know of
someone who is looking for supplementary employment, please contact
Rachel Zielinski, chair of the Trustees, at cwgrlrm293@msn.com for a detailed
job description or to apply.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,617.01
Last Week's Offering Received \$1,901.00
Difference -(\$1,716.01)

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!

CONGREGATIONAL PHOTO NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 14th

You may recall that our church had a congregational
photo scheduled in 2020, which was cancelled by the
global pandemic. Well, three years later, we are
trying again! The congregational photo is important to
the historic records of the church and the last group
picture of our congregation was taken in 2010. Please try to include
this rare event in your Mother's Day plans. (The photo is scheduled
to be taken immediately following the benediction of the worship
service, so you will still have plenty of time to take your mom to
brunch.)



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 16th** through
May 14th. 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
- Full size lotion
- Feminine hygiene products
- Twin sized sheets
- Twin sized blankets
- Diapers and Pull-Ups size 4, 5, 6
- Unexpired baby food and formula



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS



- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of
the month, **May 9th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **May 16th**
at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will have an email meeting on the fourth Tuesday of the
month, **May 23rd** at 7 p.m.



**DIACONATE "WING" NIGHT
THIS FRIDAY, MAY 12th -
5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the
Grindstone Tap House in
Berea.** It is \$25 per ticket. Ticket
includes boneless wings, pizza,

pasta, salad, draft beer, well drinks, wine, soda. There will be a basket
raffle, sideboards, and a great chance to socialize. Tickets are on sale
TODAY and at the door. (Cash or check to **UCC** only).

**In addition, we are still looking for basket donations for Wing Night.
Sign up with your theme basket in Pilgrim Hall. Please see any
member of the Diaconate if you'd like to donate or volunteer.**

CAREGIVING PRESENTATION TODAY Following the worship service

Wayne and Bobbi Cook have put together a presentation
about the journey he and Bobbi have traveled in the past 10
years since her stroke.

They will discuss some tips they have learned to move on
with Bobbi's after-stroke condition.

These tips and resources will help others in a similar situation of being either
caregiver or the person needing a caregiver.

People of all ages and whatever reason for needing a caregiver are welcome to
hear the Cooks' story.

Please join us for an informative and inspirational time—cake is included!



UPCOMING MEMORIAL SERVICES

Linda Kapar—Saturday, May 20, 2023

Visitation: 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Service: 11:30 a.m.

Luncheon: 12:30 p.m.



Grace Koch—Saturday, May 27, 2023

Visitation: 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Service: 11:30 a.m.

Luncheon: 12:30 p.m.



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.



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.

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.

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*

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!



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!**



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.

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.



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 28th**.

SUNDAY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE ALSO DUE INTO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY MAY 28th.