



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

Sunday, May 8, 2022 – 10:00 A.M.
Rite of Confirmation

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 "Jesus, Priceless Treasure" Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Elaine Coffey

INTROIT "Create in Me a Clean Heart" Whitworth

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Frayed and frazzled, our lives jangling with tension and anxiety,

People: We gather to find that perfect peace which God offers to us.

Leader: Awash in worries and doubts, drowning in a sea of fears,

People: We gather beside the still waters where Jesus offers us a cup of grace.

Leader: Weakened by the burdens of life, wandering as if lost in a wilderness,

People: We gather so the Spirit can restore our souls and show us the path to the kingdom.

† HYMN 391 "Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 23
(King James Version)

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;

He leadeth me beside the still waters;

He restoreth my soul.

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me;

Thy rod and Thy staff—they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;

Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SHARING OF 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 "River in Judea" Feldman

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

Thank you for your continuing commitment to giving freely of your talents and your treasure, as you are able, in service to Christ in the world. Thank you. To give online, please go to:

<https://www.myeoffering.com/eonline/index.php/dashboard/login/5027>

OFFERTORY "M-O-T-H-E-R" Morse

† **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**

INTRODUCTION OF THE CONFIRMANDS Lora Rung

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS/PROJECTS BY CONFIRMANDS

Christopher Michael Abruzzino

McKenzi Katharyn Abruzzino

Luke James Giuliano

Matilda Josephine Sekorky

Oliver Roger Sekorky

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Friends, let us all stand, now, as we confess with one voice our faith in the triune God:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, where he is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Let's pray together in silence.

Let's pray together:

Almighty God, who in baptism received these, your beloved children, into your church, forgave their sins and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant them love for others; joy in serving you; peace in disagreement; patience in suffering; kindness toward all people; goodness in evil times; faithfulness in temptation; gentleness in the face of opposition; self-control in all things. In these ways, strengthen them for their service to you in the world, through Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE ACT OF CONFIRMATION

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION FOR THE CONFIRMANDS

WELCOME BY THE CONGREGATION

We rejoice, O God, in welcoming these new members into the family of Christ. We give you thanks for the many ways your Spirit has been at work in their lives, and ask that you continue to abide in their hearts, helping them keep straight their paths. Keep them strong in hope, unwavering in their commitment to do what is right and good in the world. We promise to you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love, and be faithful witnesses to our risen Savior. Amen.

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS John 10:22-30
(New Living Translation)

The Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me."

PASTORAL REFLECTION "God is..."

† **HYMN 21 "O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (vv 1, 2, 3, & 5)**

† **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/POSTLUDE** "Iste Confessor" Tallis

SERVING		NEXT SUNDAY – MAY 15	
TODAY – MAY 8			
Serena Abruzzino	Greeters		Judi Pavisich
Dale Hawk	Liturgist		Pastor Heidi
Bobbie Krisak	Ushers		Bobbie Krisak
Oliver & Matilda Sekorky	Acolytes	Chris Abruzzino/Riley Marshall	
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	
Choir, Richard Densmore	Special Music		Bell Choir

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**.

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

The annual Strengthen the Church offering will be received throughout the month of May. It is a special mission offering Through Strengthen the Church, United Church of Christ members reach out in the name of Christ to support United Church of Christ ministries throughout the world. Envelopes are available in the pews.



A NOTE OF THANKS—

Many thanks to organist **Richard Densmore**, the **Chancel Choir**, **Tom Foley**, and **Mike Elkins**, for sharing their music with us today.



The altar flowers are given—

Congratulations to all the children on their Confirmation. McKenzi & Christopher, We are so proud of you both; We love you. Serena Abruzzino, Bobbie Krisak, and Family

Happy Mother's Day to my mom, Dorothy Ritchie! Gina Cathcart



Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthday to Greg Dickson on May 6th With Love, Ingrid

Happy Birthday to Debbie Wentz on May 9th and Patti Johnson on May 11th With love, Mom

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Janet Kato, Ruth Milidonis, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Joan Beckwith, Eddy Bond, Mary Carey, Gina Cathcart, Kathy Cockrell, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sam Cuyler, Sr., Linda Elliott, Sue Hawk, Bob Heddleson, Sharon Heinrich, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Bruce Keenen, Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Judy Maur, Reggie McCray, Heidi & Chuck McDougall, Laurie Meister, Roy Merkle, Michele Mhlack, Lola Millhoane, Gary Paul, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, Tracey Seneff, Peter Smith, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Doug Thorn, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Carol Woodward, Gary Zielinski, Mary Ellen Zimmerman



Extended Church Family: Dorene Baldrige, Fred Beba (Theresa's husband), Jerry Carleton (Judi Pavisich's friend), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Jerry Cergol, (Barb Fraunfelder & Dennis Smith's friend), Mary Ann Csory (Judi Pavisich's friend), John Dickson (Greg's dad), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Andrew Majoros (Michele Mhlack's cousin), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend) Rudy Matjazic (Judi Pavisich's friend, Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Zachary McKeever (Pastor Heidi and Chuck's great-nephew), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Thomas O'Shea (Sandy's dad), Terry Robson (Barb & Mark Camp's friend), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Tina Serrano (Elliott Joyce's grandma), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Bruce Unger (Steve & Sally Herzog's friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Sandra Wentz (Debbie's daughter-in-law), Weston (Chelsea Cathcart's friend's baby)

Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain. h.e.denman@gmail.com

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **May 10th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **May 17th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **May 24th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



NEW WINDOWS INSTALLATION STARTING TOMORROW! HELP IS NEEDED TO REMOVE THE WINDOW BLINDS FROM THE LOWER FLOOR WINDOWS FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE. If you can spare a few minutes, please see Greg Dickson or Rachel Zielinski.

IT'S HAPPENING! CHURCH GARAGE SALE

**FRIDAY, JUNE 24th 6 P.M. – 8 P.M. AND
SATURDAY, JUNE 25th 9 A.M. – 2 P.M.**



Donations will be accepted after June 5th.

We accept household items, home décor, sporting equipment, craft supplies, books, games, toys, small electronics, furniture, kitchenware and dishes, plus clothing & shoes (for the Thrift Shop) **We DO NOT accept liquids of any kind, hazardous materials, or large televisions.**

Please keep in mind: "If you wouldn't buy an item in the condition it's in, please don't foist in on the church." Also, please plan to carry your items yourself or bring a helper (or two). Thanks!

We'll need lots of volunteers, too—

On the days of the sale and every evening the week before, beginning around 7 p.m. and sorting until about 9 p.m.

Please see Rachel Zielinski or Irene Joyce if you can give a couple of hours of your time from June 19-24 (or just show up)!

BAKE SALE

TO BENEFIT THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

At the Garage Sale

Please bring your wrapped/bagged baked goods on Friday, June 24th before 6 p.m. or Saturday, June 25th before 9 a.m.



FREE LUNCH FOR ALL WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2022

**11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
RESERVATIONS--Call (440) 238-5389
(To-go meals will be available.)**



BRING YOUR MOM!

The Southwest Community Chorus, under the direction of **Tom Foley**, is returning with a concert entitled "Awaken the Music," **TODAY at 3 p.m.** at the Berea United Methodist Church at 170 Seminary Street in Berea. Tickets will be available at the door (\$15.00). Our singers in the chorus include Ingrid Dickson, Craig Hardy, Irene Joyce, Pam & Bruce Keenen, Sarah Keenen, and Sharon Maresco.



FREE CONCERT!

On **Wednesday, May 11**, Jazz Saxophonist, Steve Kortyka will appear in concert with the Strongsville HS Jazz Ensemble and the Strongsville City Jazz Swing Band at Strongsville HS at 7:00 PM. The concert is FREE. Steve, originally from Middleburg Hts. performs regularly in New York City with the Brian Newman Quartet and with Lady Gaga. He was most recently seen with her on the **Tony Bennett Special** and



the **Grammy Awards**. Steve is seen here with Lady Gaga and Tony Bennett on the Tony Bennett Special that appeared on TV this past November.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,649.37
Last Week's Offering Received **\$10,820.00**
Difference + \$7,170.63

Thank you very much for your support.

PLEDGE CARDS RECEIVED TO DATE: 65



SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL starts June 5th

Who Do YOU Say I Am?

Investigating the Mystery of Jesus--Using Detective Work and Mystery Solving We need volunteers to sign up to teach a lesson during the summer months. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Lesson plans and materials provided and no experience is required. Any questions? Please contact **Linda Elkins, (440) 655-8891**, or the church office.



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: _____

Graduate's email: _____

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, June 5th**.





THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is **OPEN** on Thursdays from **10 a.m. until 4 p.m.** with lots of interesting merchandise. Donations are being accepted, but you must **call** the church first to arrange a time for drop-off.

THRIFT SHOP BONUS HOURS The 3rd **Thursday** of the month, **May 19, 2022 — 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.**

WE NEED YOU IN 2022!



Sign-up sheets are waiting for **your name** to be added as a communion server, greeter, usher, coffee hour helper, or bread/pastry sorter. Don't know how to do any of those things? No worries—we will show you everything you need to know! No experience is needed and everyone is welcome to

be a part of our church life. 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 Committee is organizing a **Church Family Care Ministry Team** and would LOVE to have you take part! (You do not need to be a member of the Diaconate to participate, and you may come and go as you are led.) **Please complete and turn in this response form:**

=====

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 PRAY, 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

_____ I WOULD BE WILLING TO...

Please turn in the form to the Church Office.
