



## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136

(440) 238-6697

[StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com](mailto:StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com)

[StrongsvilleUCC.com](http://StrongsvilleUCC.com)



Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, November 12, 2023 – 10:00 A.M.

Stewardship Sunday/Veterans Day Observed

### 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 "Waltz No. 2" Shostakovich

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Elaine Coffey

INTROIT "The Lord is in His Holy Temple" Larson

### † CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: This Veterans Day, we take time to remember and pray for all those who have gone to war in the name of our nation. Help us remember, O God, that their service is truly a sacrifice.

**People: We give thanks for their courage, their love of country and their willingness to serve.**

Leader: We acknowledge the risks of serving their country, from the actions of the enemy and from the pain and injury that results from war.

**People: Help us to support our veterans and stand ready to dress their wounds and address their needs as they return home.**

Leader: Help us remember the families, friends, spouses, children and communities of those who serve and wait in hope for their safe return.

**People: Sustain them, comfort them and care for them, O God.**

Leader: We confess that war itself is a human failure to overcome hatred with love; topple injustice with righteousness; and replace violence with peace.

**People: We give thanks for their service and sacrifice. We pledge ourselves to working for peace, and work for a time when war will be no more. Amen.**

† HYMN 302 "Lamb of God"

READING FROM THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON Wisdom 6:12-16  
(Common English Bible)

Wisdom is bright and unfading. She readily appears to those who love her. She's found by those who keep seeking after her. She makes herself known, even in advance, to those who desire her with all their hearts. Someone who awakens before dawn to look for her will find her already sitting at the door.

Taking wisdom to heart is the way to bring your thinking to maturity. The one who can't sleep at night because he's consumed with thinking about her will soon be free from worry. She herself goes about looking for those who are worthy of her.

She graciously makes herself known to them as they travel.

She comes to them in each of the ideas that they think.

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

**People:** Thanks be to God.

### DEDICATION OF ESTIMATE OF GIVING CARDS

*Please come forward as you are led with your Estimate of Giving card.*

**I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!**

**All who follow Jesus, all around the world!**

**Yes, we're the church together!**

**The church is not a building; the church is not a steeple.**

**The church is not a resting place; the church is a people.**

(Repeat refrain)

**We're many kinds of people, with many kinds of faces,**

**All colors and all ages, too, from all times and places.**

(Repeat refrain)

**And when the people gather, there's singing and there's praying,**

**There's laughing and there's crying sometimes, all of it saying:**

(Repeat refrain)

### 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 "Majesty" Hayford, arr. Schrader

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" Dykes

† 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

READING FROM THE GOSPELS Matthew 25:1-13  
(Common English Bible)

At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten young bridesmaids who took their lamps and went out to meet the groom. Now five of them were wise, and the other five were foolish.

SERMON "Coming soon..."

† HYMN 809 "God of Our Fathers"

### † BENEDICTION

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.

† RESPONSE/POSTLUDE "Peace Like a River" arr. Raney



### 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.

### SERVING

TODAY – NOVEMBER 12

NEXT SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 19

Barbara Toth	<b>Greeters</b>	Jean Bitteringer
Lynne McCray	<b>Liturgist</b>	Bruce Keenen
Volunteers needed	<b>Ushers</b>	Volunteers needed
Tom Foley	<b>Director of Music</b>	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	<b>Associate Director of Music</b>	Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	<b>Organist</b>	Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich	<b>Sound</b>	Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Chancel Choir, Carol Foley	<b>Special Music</b>	Sue McLaughlin, Chancel 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](http://strongsvilleucc.com), select **Worship**, and click on **Service Videos**.



### A NOTE OF THANKS—

We thank **Carol Foley**, our **Chancel Choir**, along with **Mike Elkins**, **Tom Foley**, and **Sharon Heinrich** for their music today.

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The altar flowers are given—

Happy 24<sup>th</sup> Birthday today to Gina Gigliotti—Love Mom & Dad

Dedicated to Linda Kapcar and Barbara Camp, whose service on the Diaconate is deeply missed.

Well done, good and faithful servants



Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthday to Zach Craig on November 13<sup>th</sup> and Katie Lett on November 18<sup>th</sup> --With love, Grammy

Happy Birthday today to "Jimison" Joyce  
Love, Alaya & Elliott

In appreciation to all veterans for their service to the nation.

Happy Birthday today to Jim Joyce, Gina Gigliotti, Jake Masuga, Jason Khavaran, and Sarah Snook!

Happy Anniversary today to Pam & Doug Hansen!

### NOW COLLECTING...Thanksgiving

### "Basket" project

We are not collecting actual food items for those in need, but we still want to provide food assistance to those who may require it, so we will be accepting monetary donations or donations of food gift cards for the families on our list. If you would like to contribute, please give the gift cards to the church office or place a check in the offering plate, labeled



"THANKSGIVING" by November 19<sup>th</sup>. Also, if you know of someone in need, please contact Pastor Heidi or the church office.

### And the Mitten Tree...

We will collect hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, and socks for the needy this year. From November 5<sup>th</sup> through December 3<sup>rd</sup>, bring your items to the church during office hours and they will be placed on

the Mitten Tree. After the 3<sup>rd</sup>, the items will be given to the homeless shelter and the tree will become the **Family of Faith tree**. If you have not donated an ornament for yourself/your family, you may bring it to the church office and your ornament will join the others on our tree!





LIVE NATIVITY AND OPEN HOUSE:

For this year's Open House on **Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>**, we will offer an event similar to last year's and celebrate outside with the community. Once again, we will not be offering indoor hospitality but we will have all the favorite live animals, including Charlie! We need volunteers to participate in the Live Nativity (in shifts). Easy to wear costumes are provided and all ages are encouraged to be a part of this wonderful tradition.



FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL:  
SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT IS COMING!

Rehearsals will take place during and after Sunday School classes each week prior to **December 17<sup>th</sup>—OUR PAGEANT DAY**, when we will have our pageant during the worship service!



PENNY SUNDAY

Save your coins and dollars! The next Penny Sunday will be **November 26<sup>th</sup>** and the money will go to the **Strongsville Emergency Food Bank**.



MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:



This year, the Mission Outreach committee has decided to team up with the Strongsville Community Food Bank as well as many other churches and local businesses. From November 5<sup>th</sup> – November 26<sup>th</sup>, you will find a tree with "ornaments" in the Gathering Area. Each ornament is paired with a child who could use a little help this holiday season. If you would like to participate, simply take an ornament, purchase one \$25 gift card to any of the stores listed on the ornament. Gift Cards will be available for purchase from Jim Joyce right at church (which helps our program, too—win/win!). Then, simply hand the ornament and gift card into **Jen Sekorky** or Irene no later than November 26<sup>th</sup>.

GIFT CARDS

IT'S TIME TO ORDER CARDS FOR CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING! You can order gift cards by calling **Jim Joyce** at 216-346-4161 in advance with your order. **Limited stock is available for purchase on Sunday mornings.**



OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 3,617.01  
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 5,518.58  
Difference +\$1,901.57  
**Thank you very much for your 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 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!**

SPECIAL BAG SALE

(+ Jewelry Sale) on **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18<sup>th</sup>** from **9 a.m. – 1 p.m.!**



OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

**Long-Term Care or Homebound:** Joan Beckwith, Laurie Meister, Ruth Milidonis, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Maggie Struhar

**Church Family:** Serena Abruzzino, Jennifer Cockrell, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sue Hawk, Irene Jannsohn, Carole Kapcar, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Bruce Lerch, Jim Maresco, Reggie McCray, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkfitz, Gary Paul, George Pavisich, Dan Ponstingle, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Peter Smith, Robert Sperber, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

**Extended Church Family:** Edward and Sharon Acton (Sally Herzog's friends), Dorene Baldridge, Ron & Yvonne Adams (Judi Pavisich's friends), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Angie Colosimo (Judi Pavisich's friend), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's 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), 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), Thomas O'Shea (Sandy's dad), 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, 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



Are you interested in learning more about the UCC?

The Living Water Association Annual Meeting is Saturday, November 18, from 9:00-12:00, in Hudson, Ohio. We can send two lay delegates (along with Pastor Heidi). If you're interested, please ask Pastor Heidi for more information.



**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!**

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **November 14<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will have an email meeting in November.



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CHORUS:

Please mark your calendar for Sunday, **December 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 3 p.m. for our Christmas concert, "Amid the Winter Snow," at the Berea United Methodist Church (170 Seminary Street in Berea). Come and hear this community choir, which is under the direction of Tom Foley, accompanied by Carol Konet. Many of our own SUCC Chancel Choir members also sing in the Southwest Community Chorus. We hope you will support our singers and celebrate the Christmas season with music!

**LIVE MUSIC!** Megan Denman has a performance coming up on **Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>** at 4:30 pm at All Saints Episcopal Church.(8911 W Ridgewood Drive, Cleveland, OH 44130) She will playing works by women composers and there will be a free-will donation that will go toward victims of the war in Gaza. The program should last a bit over an hour.



**GOOD NEWS!** On Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Heidi was interviewed by the UCC Living Water Association General Minister and has been re-licensed to remain as pastor for three more years!

ALTAR POINSETTIA FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Order deadline is **Sunday, December 3, 2023**. Please complete this form and give it to the Church office with your cash or check payment. The cost is \$7.00.

Wording for bulletin: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of plants: \_\_\_\_ x \$7.00/plant = \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to **United Church of Christ**, and place it with your order in the offering plate, under the office door, or mail it to:

**Strongsville United Church of Christ**  
**13740 Pearl Road**  
**Strongsville, OH 44136**

*Thank you for placing a poinsettia plant on the altar!*

For Treasurer's Records 2023 Christmas Poinsettia

Total number of plants: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Envelope number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash/Check #\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



**Order deadline is Sunday, December 3, 2023.**



**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.

**BE A BUSY BEE IN 2023 & 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.



**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.

**PANERA PALS**

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.



**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\*

**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 or speak to Gary Zielinski, Financial Secretary, if you can help.



**BOOK STUDY**  
**A YEAR OF BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD**

The next meeting of our book study will be on **November 20<sup>th</sup>**. Pastor Heidi and Linda Elkins are leading a monthly book study based on Rachel Held Evans's wonderful book, A Year of Biblical Womanhood. Based on Old Testament rituals and practices, the book chronicles Rachel's attempts to follow these ancient practices in a modern world. The group will meet at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of each month, for one hour. It's not too late to join.



**SWINGIN' SOUNDS OF THE SEASON CHRISTMAS JAZZ CONCERT**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. LIVE MUSIC**  
featuring **Strongsville's Jazz Band and vocalist Cindy Smith** Tickets will be \$10 (\$5 for kids under 10) and we will have a reception following the concert. *Please contact Ingrid Dickson or Pam Keenen if you can donate finger foods for the reception.*



The Strongsville Food Bank is searching for a coordinator for the Food Bank. It is a compensated volunteer position. The coordinator is paid for 20 hours per week, however it may entail 30+ hours to fulfill the duties of the position, therefore the volunteer designation. Qualifications for this job include organizational skills, effective communication skills, and Word/Excel knowledge for record keeping.



If you are interested or want more information about this position, please ask for a complete job description or send a resume at [strongsvillefoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:strongsvillefoodbank@gmail.com).

**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 \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_