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, November 15, 2026– 10 A.M.
Volunteer Recognition
Honoring our Veterans



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 always welcome here.

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† *Please stand as you are comfortable.*

PRELUDE "The House I Live In" Robinson, arr. Elkins

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Joyce Reed

INTROIT "Every Time I Feel the Spirit" Traditional

† 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 result 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 work for peace, and to work for a time when war will be no more. Amen.

† HYMN 405 **"I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord"**

READING FROM THE PSALMS **Psalm 123**
(New International Version)
I lift up my eyes to you, to you who sit enthroned in heaven.
As the eyes of slaves look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a female slave look to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to the Lord our God, till he shows us his mercy.
Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy on us,
or we have endured no end of contempt.
We have endured no end of ridicule from the arrogant, of contempt from the proud.
Have mercy on us, O Lord.

Leader: The Word of God, for us, the people of God;
People: Thanks be to God.

RECOGNITION OF OUR FAITHFUL VOLUNTEERS
Unitarian Universalist Society
Pastor: When there was a need, you came forward.
People: And so we thank you.
Pastor: In the nighttime or daytime, sometimes on weekends and even in the coldest, darkest part of the year, you helped.
People: And so we thank you.
Pastor: Quietly, anonymously, sometimes without being asked, you saw what needed doing—and you did it.
People: And so we thank you.
Pastor: Sometimes with the help of many hands; other times, you worked alone.
People And so we thank you.
Leader: You gave your time and your talents to the outreach ministries of Strongsville UCC.
People: And so we thank you.
Pastor: For all the ways, great and small, that you have given this congregation, we take time today to recognize you.
ALL: To thank you and to honor you.

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 "With a Voice of Singing" Shaw

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE/VETERANS RECOGNITION
Herb Hampson

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 EPISTLES **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**
(The Message)
You're sons of Light, daughters of Day. We live under wide open skies and know where we stand. So let's not sleepwalk through life like those others.
Let's keep our eyes open and be smart.

REFLECTION "Coming Soon? Who Knows???"

† HYMN 809 **"God of Our Fathers"**

† BENEDICTION Rev. Nathan Nettleton
Go now, for you are chosen and sent in the Spirit. Pray at all times, be thankful in all circumstances. Keep what is good, avoid every kind of evil. To all in need bear witness that the time has come when the Sovereign Lord will save his people. And may God who gives peace make you holy in every way; may Christ Jesus clothe you with salvation and victory; and may the Holy Spirit speak through you with the good news of hope. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. ***Amen****.*

POSTLUDE "Here I Am, Lord" arr. Elkins

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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***.*

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.



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A NOTE OF THANKS—We thank our **Chancel Choir, Dave Williams,** and our music team of **Mike Elkins, Tom Foley,** and **Sharon Heinrich** for today's music.

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SERVING

TODAY – NOVEMBER 15		NEXT SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 22
Lynne McCray	**Greeters**	Wayne & Bobbi Cook
Dale Hawk	**Liturgist**	Mary Ellen Zimmerman
Judi Pavisich	**Head Usher**	John Toth
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, D. Williams	**Special Music**	Chancel Choir

Today's altar flowers are given—
Celebrating our Grandson Cory's Birthday this month
Love, Grandma Joyce Reed
Thank you to our wonderful volunteers!
Dale & Cathy Hawk



THE FLOWER CHART FOR 2027 IS POSTED IN PILGRIM HALL. Please sign up for fresh flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one or just for yourself. Cost is $36 for 2 vases; $18 for 1.
SIGN UP EARLY AND GET YOUR FIRST CHOICE OF DATES!



Our steeple will light the sky this week—
Happy Birthday to Katie Lett on November 18th and to Adam Craig on November 20th--With love, Grammy

Happy Birthday today to Rev. Jill Kuntz!



SUNDAY SCHOOL

PENNY SUNDAY: Please save your coins, dollars, and checks to UCC for **November 29th**, the last Penny Sunday of 2026. Our collection will go to the City Mission.

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT IS COMING!
Rehearsals will take place during and after Sunday School classes each week prior to December 13th— OUR PAGEANT DAY, when we will have our pageant during the worship service!



OFFERINGS RECEIVED



Weekly Offering Needed	$ 5,212.00
Last Week's Offering Received	$ 3,000.00
Difference	-($ 2,212.00)

Thank you very much for your support.
2027 PLEDGES RECEIVED: 43

LIVE NATIVITY AND OPEN HOUSE:



For this year's Open House on **Sunday, November 22nd,** we are planning to celebrate outside with the community, but have live music indoors. We will have all the favorite live animals, except the late Charlie the Camel, who died last September! 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.

SIGN-UP SHEETS ARE ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN PILGRIM HALL.

We are also accepting donations to defray the cost of renting the animals. Please mark your donation "animals" and give checks to UCC or cash to the church office.

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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, Betty Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Roger Davis, Colette Emerson, Roz Fotos, Sue Hawk, Cindy Hurley, Charles Jannsohn, Carole Kapcar, Pam & Bruce Keenen, Bonnie Khavaran, Erv Koch, Jill Kundtz, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Jim Maresco, Ken Mehalko, Barbara Morgan, Amanda Moulton, Ginny & Kenn Oerkfitz, Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Ron Rothel, Jennifer Sekorky, Tracy Seneff, Peter Smith, Sandy Smith, Bruce Sperber, Linda Stepan, John Toth, Heather Williams, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Teresa Beba (Free Lunch friend), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Derek Denman (Pastor Heidi's son), Allison Emerson (Colette's sister), David Fargo (Sally Herzog's brother), Dr. Natalie Feagin (Pentecostal Church of Christ), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend, David Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's grandson), Ellen Harrison (Linda Elkins' friend), Michaelene Hanrahan (Jim Joyce's sister), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel's parents), Ben Hoty (Tony & Jo-Ann Hoty's son), Tami Klammer (principal of Snow School), Dave Lempner (Sharon's husband), George Love (friend of the church), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Michael & Judy Richter (Roz Fotos' friends), Bob Ritchie (Dorothy's grandson), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Don & Pauline Wills (Judi Pavisich's friends), Julia Wright (Sandy & Don Gleichauf's granddaughter), the people of Ukraine, Sudan, Gaza, Iran, Venezuela 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

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OUR BIBLE STUDY GROUP CONTINUES!

Join us tomorrow, **Monday, November 16th**—at 7 p.m. It will be an in-depth look at The Lord's Prayer which is an integral part of our weekly worship services. And there will be a bit of fun involved too. Attendees are encouraged to bring a Bible to the sessions.

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NEW MEMBER CLASS COMING IN JANUARY!



Please contact Pastor Heidi or write "membership" on the back of your attendance card if you'd like to begin your Strongsville UCC membership journey!

SOUP SALE!



Our Youth Group is selling Guy's Famous Soups! We are taking orders for delivery on December 6th. Warm and comforting, soup is perfect for a fall lunch or supper. Purchase 24 ounces of homemade goodness! A limited number of containers will be available. Please see one of our kids to get your order in.



GIFT CARDS

PLEASE DON'T FORGET ABOUT THIS EASY, CONVENIENT PROGRAM THAT BENEFITS THE CHURCH. ORDER NOW FOR CHRISTMAS! You can order gift cards by calling **Jim Joyce** at 216-346-4161 in advance with your order.

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MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:



Last Chance for our Thanksgiving "Basket" project!

We are still accepting monetary donations or donations of food gift cards for the families on our list. If you would like to contribute, you may purchase gift cards via the church office or place a check in the offering plate, labeled "THANKSGIVING." **Also, if you know of someone in need, please contact Pastor Heidi or the church office TODAY.**

And the Mitten Tree…

We will collect hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, and socks for the needy this year. Through **December 6th**, bring your items to the church during office hours and they will be placed on the Mitten Tree. After the 6th, the items will be given to the needy 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!



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Women's Fellowship's annual Christmas Tea is Saturday, December 5th, at 1:00 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall. Signup sheets are posted on the bulletin board in the hall: pink for all ladies attending the tea and white for Women's Fellowship ladies who are providing food. There is no charge to attend. Detailed Tea information is on the cabinet in the Gathering Area. All ladies of the church are welcome.

After church today Women's Fellowship ladies who would like to do so will assemble Christmas favors in the northeast corner of Pilgrim Hall.

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THREE WITH GLEE!



Capital Campaign: We currently have $36,339.43 in our capital campaign account, after completing the glass block windows in the basement of the Pearl Road property. Please make sure you designate your donation for "*Capital Campaign*." Thanks for your continuing support.

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2027 GENEROSITY CAMPAIGN—STILL TIME!

THE B.R.E.A.D. OF LIFE

Be Present, **R**elationships, **E**ngagement, **A**ctivities, **D**onate

Strongsville United Church of Christ
2027 Estimate of Giving



In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2027:

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 our church in my will.

☐☐I would like to talk with someone about using the automatic deduction plan from my checking account.

Signed _____

Date ____/____/____ ***I am the bread of life. John 6:48***

ALTAR POINSETTIA FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Order deadline is **Sunday, December 6, 2026**. Please complete this form and give it to the Church office with your cash or check payment**.** The cost is $8.00 per plant.

Wording for bulletin: _____

_____

_____

Given by: _____

Number of plants: ___ x $8.00/plant = $_____

I WILL: TAKE MY PLANT(S) ☐
LEAVE FOR A SHUT-IN ☐

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

For Treasurer's Records 2026 Christmas Poinsettia

Total number of plants: _____

Amount enclosed: $_____

Envelope number: _____ Cash/Check #_____

Name: _____



Order deadline is Sunday, December 6, 2026.

BE A GREETER! A new sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area is waiting for your name to be added as a greeter. No experience is necessary—we will show you everything you need to know. Being a greeter is a wonderful way to get to know people and welcome them to worship.



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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.**

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UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **November 17th** at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on **December 1st** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

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FREE LUNCH FOR ALL--
Wednesdays
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.



Many thanks to all of our dedicated volunteers and to all who come and enjoy food and fellowship on Wednesdays!

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FROM OUR FRIENDS AT SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CHORUS:

Please mark your calendar for Sunday, **December 6th** at 3 p.m. for our Christmas concert, "Angel Voices," 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 Jarred Sorauf. 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! Tickets are $15 at the door.

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CHURCH OFFICERS 2026

**Elected February 1, 2026 ** appointed by the Official Board*

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 Pogozelski* Bill Robinson *
Cheryl Sobek Alex Tomoff

Endowment Fund Subcommittee
Linda Stepan* Dave Williams*

Diaconate
Jean Bittinger Elaine Coffey* Diana Creecy*
Bobbi Cook Wayne Cook Judy Davis
Judy Fox* Marsha Hemphill* Lynne McCray*
Linda Ponstingle Lora Rung Cherie Teagno**

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 Cindy Hurley** Sarah Hayes*
Lora Rung Mary Ellen Zimmerman

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