



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 16, 2025– 10 A.M.
Volunteer Recognition

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.

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE “Here I Am, Lord” Schutte, arr. Elkins

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Joyce Reed

INTROIT “They’ll Know We Are Christians” Scholtes

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The God who is greater than we will ever understand

People: Is humbled to become one of us.

Leader: The God who is more loving that our hearts dare imagine

People: Gives us more grace than we ever realize.

Leader: The God who is wiser than we will ever know

People: Teaches us all we need to become God’s children.

† HYMN 665 “O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”

READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 98
(New Revised Standard 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.

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 "When We Worship God Through Music " Butler

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY “We Give Thee But Thine Own” 19th century tune

† 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 PROPHETS Isaiah 6:1-10
(New International Version)

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,
“Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”
And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

REFLECTION “What Have I to Offer?”

† HYMN 589 “Here I Am, Lord”

† UNISON BENEDICTION Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber
*Dear God, there’s so much to fear right now that I’m sort of losing
track of what to worry about most. So I’m gonna need some help
focusing. Show me what is MINE to do. Then grant me the strength to
do it, and the humility to rest, knowing it is enough. Help me
remember that even if there is more to worry about in life right now, it
does not mean that there is less to love in life right now. So protect
every inch of our joy, Lord. Amen.*

† POSTLUDE “Take My Life and Let It Be” Malan



A NOTE OF THANKS—We thank our Chancel
Choir, Mike Elkins, Tom Foley, and Sharon Heinrich for
today’s music.

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.



SERVING

TODAY – NOVEMBER 16	NEXT SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 23
Roz Fotos	Greeters Judi Pavisich
Mary Ellen Zimmerman	Liturgist Sharon Maresco
Jan Meier	Head Usher Mary Ellen Zimmerman
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	Special Music Bell Choir

Today’s altar flowers are given—

Celebrating our Grandson Cory's Birthday this month.

Love, Grandpa George and Grandma Joyce Reed



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



**WE ARE BLESSED TO HAVE SO MANY PEOPLE
WILLING TO GIVE THEIR TIME AND ENERGY TO
ADVANCE THE MINISTRIES OF OUR CHURCH!
Please join us for a reception in Pilgrim Hall
following the worship service.**

LIVE NATIVITY AND OPEN HOUSE:

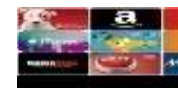
For this year’s Open House next **Sunday,
November 23rd**, we are planning to celebrate
outside with the community, but have live music
indoors. We will have all the favorite live
animals, including Charlie! We need volunteers
to participate in the Live Nativity (in shifts).
Easy to wear costumes are provided and all
ages are encouraged to be a part of this wonderful tradition.



ATTENTION BAKERS! We are asking for donations of a couple
dozen cookies to pass out on that evening.
**SIGN-UP SHEETS ARE ON THE BULLETIN
BOARD IN PILGRIM HALL.**



We are also accepting donations to defray the
cost of renting the animals, including Charlie the
Camel. Please mark your donation “animals” and
give checks to UCC or cash to the church office.



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.



PENNY SUNDAY!

Please save your coins, dollars, and checks to UCC for **November 30th**, when Penny Sunday will be for G.R.I.N. (Golden Retrievers in Need).

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT IS COMING!

Rehearsals will take place during and after Sunday School classes each week prior to **December 14th—OUR PAGEANT DAY**, when we will have our pageant during the worship service!



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, Mark Camp, Judy Carte, Elaine Coffey, Betty “Grammy” Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Roz Fotos, Sue Hawk, Bruce Keenen, Erv Koch, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Roy Merkle, Amanda Moulton, Ginny & Kenn Oerkfitz, George & Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Ron Rothel, Jennifer Sekorky, Tracy Seneff, Peter Smith, Bruce Sperber, Linda Stepan, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch



Extended Church Family: Amy Carroll (Marty Winch’s sister), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf’s friend), Allison Emerson (Colette’s sister), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen’s friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung’s friend), Joanne Gariepy (Sally Herzog’s friend), Kathy Ghetti (friend of Ginger Rothel), Jennifer Gleichauf (Don & Sandy’s daughter-in-law), Sarah & David Gleichauf (Don & Sandy’s grandson & wife), Michaelene Hanrahan (Jim Joyce’s sister), Dana Hardy (Craig’s wife), Tiffany Hassel (Judi Pavisich’s daughter-in-law), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel’s parents), George Love (friend of the church), Diane Mason (Lora Rung’s friend), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel’s sister-in-law), Sylvia Pakish (Don & Sandy Gleichauf’s friend), Jeff Peacock (former member), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes’ friend), Vicki Smith (Venner Clarinets), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung’s friend), Don & Pauline Wills (Judi Pavisich’s friends), the people of Ukraine, Sudan, Gaza, and Israel, victims of violence, those affected by 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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THREE WITH GLEE!



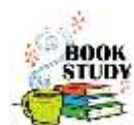
Capital Campaign: We currently have \$62,530.08 in our capital campaign account. The tuckpointing has been completed. We have signed the contract for the automatic door openers for the kitchen and main doors. The

Trustees are reviewing the proposals that have been submitted for improving the acoustics in Pilgrim Hall and painting the hall. Please make sure you designate your donation for “*Capital Campaign*.” Thanks for your continuing support.

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UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **November 18th** at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on **December 2nd** in the Parlor at 7 p.m.



BOOK STUDY--SISTERHOOD!

Tomorrow, **November 17th** at 7 p.m., Our *Sisterhood Book Study* will continue. All are welcome!



ARE YOU INTERESTED?

The church will be needing a new treasurer at the beginning of the year, as our treasurer, Sally Herzog, will be completing her 3rd term of service. The treasurer position is an elected office and is responsible for facilitating the payment of the church’s bills and working closely with the Financial Secretary. Sally is willing to thoroughly train her successor. Please see Rachel Zielinski or Cathy Hawk if you can serve.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Are you interested in learning more about the United Church of Christ and becoming a member? Please let Pastor Heidi or the church office know if you would like to join our congregation in membership. We will be welcoming new members soon.



MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:

LAST CHANCE for Donations for our Thanksgiving “Basket” project

If you would like to contribute, please give the gift cards to the church office or place a check to UCC or cash in the offering plate, labeled “THANKSGIVING.” **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 9th through December 7th**, bring your items to the church during office hours and they will be placed on the Mitten Tree. After the 7th, 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!



SHARING TREE

The Mission Outreach committee is teaming up with the Strongsville Community Food Bank as well as many other churches and local businesses. From **November 9th – November 23rd**, 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 \$30 gift card at any of the stores listed on the ornament. **We’ll have \$10 gift cards to Target and Walmart in stock, so if you’d like to support our gift card program, you can get 3 of those—win-win!** Then, simply hand the ornament and gift card(s) in to **Sarah Hayes** or Irene in the church office no later than **November 23rd**.



Women's Fellowship - The Christmas Tea is Saturday,

December 6th at 1:00 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall. All ladies

are welcome. To attend, please sign the pink sheet on Pilgrim Hall’s bulletin board. If you’d like to donate food for the table, please sign the green sheet also. If you’ve never

attended the tea, additional information is on the pink half sheet on the cabinet in the Gathering Area.



OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 4,359.00
Last Week’s Offering Received \$ 3,286.00
Difference -(\$1,073.00)

Thank you very much for your support.
PLEDGES RECEIVED for 2026: 52



IT’S NOT TOO LATE TO PLEDGE FROM YOUR H.E.A.R.T.!

Hospitality
Engagement
Activities
Resources
Time, Talent, & Treasure



United Church of Christ 2026 Estimate of Giving

In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2026:

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 ____/____/____

For where your treasure is,
there will your heart be also. *Matthew 6:21*

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ALTAR POINSETTIA FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Order deadline is **Sunday, December 7, 2025**. 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

Thank you for placing a poinsettia plant on the altar!

For Treasurer’s Records 2025 Christmas Poinsettia

Total number of plants: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Envelope number: _____ Cash/Check # _____

Name: _____

Order deadline is Sunday, December 7, 2025.



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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.



CHURCH OFFICERS 2025

**Elected January 26, 2025 ** appointed by Official Board*

Moderator: Greg Dickson **Vice-Moderator:** Jen Barry
Treasurer: Sally Herzog **Clerk:** Judy Gaumer
Sunday School Superintendent: Linda Elkins

Board of Trustees

Karen Bates** Bill Giuliano Chris Goff* Mike Elkins
Les Fox Herb Hampson Cathy Hawk*
Sandy Pogozeleski Cheryl Sobek*
Alex Tomoff* Mike Willis* Rachel Zielinski

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson* Dave Williams*

Diaconate

Teri Barbish Jean Bittinger* Elaine Coffey*
Bobbi Cook* Wayne Cook* Judy Davis*
Judy Fox Pam Heimburger* 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

Gina Cathcart* Bobbi Cook** Myron Costin*
Diana Creecy Cathy Hawk* Sarah Hayes
Lora Rung* Peter Smith Mary Willis*
Mary Ellen Zimmerman

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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. We also have a Life-vac choking device to assist in the event that someone is choking. It is located just beneath the AED.

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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!



PLEASE NOTE: The Free Lunch for All program will be on hiatus on December 24th and December 31st.

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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 yourself. **Please do not abandon items outside the church doors.**

PLEASE NOTE: The Thrift Shop will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. See you November

