



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, November 17, 2024– 10 A.M.

Volunteer Recognition Sunday

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.

BELL PRELUDE "We Gather Together" arr. Krug

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Joyce Reed

BELL INTROIT "Let All Things Now Living" arr. Krug

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, let us give thanks to God!

People: We gather together to praise the One who strengthens the weak, and hears the prayers of the forgotten.

Leader: Come, let us give thanks to Christ!

People: We gather together to sing of the One who calls us to serve those who are hungry and alone at this time of year.

Leader: Come, let us give thanks to the Spirit!

People: We gather together to exalt the One who provokes us to love not only our family and friends, but the guest among us.

† HYMN 589 "Here I Am, Lord"

READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 16
(New Revised Standard Version)

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."

As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble ones in whom is all my delight.

Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;

their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips.

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.

I bless the Lord, who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

I keep the Lord always before me;

because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.

For you do not give me up to Sheol or let your faithful one see the Pit.

You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy;

in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

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.

BELL ANTHEM "Bell Largo" Lorenz

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Native American Flute Song" Mehalko

† 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 Mark 13 1-8

(New Revised Standard Version)

As Jesus came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down."

SERMON "Hope-filled Apocalypse?"

† HYMN 597 "Take My Life and Let it Be"

† 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 "Sent Forth by God's Blessing" Westendorf

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 17

Barbara & John Toth
Pam Keenen
Diana C., Bobbie K., Elaine C. Jan M.
Tom Foley
Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Bell Choir, Ken Mehalko

NEXT SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 24

Greeters Lynne McCray
Liturgist Bruce Keenen
Ushers Jim & Linda D., Jean B., Herb H.
Director of Music Tom Foley
Associate Director of Music Mike Elkins
Organist Sharon Heinrich
Video/Sound Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Special Music 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, select **Worship**, click on **Service Videos**.



A NOTE OF THANKS—We thank our **Bell Choir** and **Ken Mehalko**, along with **Sharon Heinrich, Mike Elkins, and Tom Foley** for today's music!

The altar flowers are given—
Celebrating our Grandson Cory's Birthday this month.
Love, Grandpa George and Grandma Joyce Reed



A 2025 SIGN-UP SHEET FOR ALTAR FLOWERS IS POSTED IN PILGRIM HALL. Please note: the cost of flowers is \$18 for 1 vase and \$36 for 2 vases. Reserve your date(s) in memory or in honor of something or someone special.

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



In loving memory of Tom Gaumer
The Official Board

Happy Birthday today to Doug Thorn, Leela Thomas, Jack Stephenson, and John Marshall!



FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Rehearsals for our Christmas Pageant continue! PENNY SUNDAY! Please save your

coins, dollars, and checks to UCC for our next Penny Sunday, which will be next week, **November 24th** and the money will go to UCC Disaster Relief.



OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 3,617.01
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 4,044.00
Difference +\$ 426.99

Thank you very much for your support.
PLEDGES RECEIVED: 42



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



MARRIAGE CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Jason Pogozelski and Shuoyu Chen, who were married on November 11, 2024 in Chagrin Falls, Ohio!

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Our most heartfelt sympathy is extended to the family and friends of **Thomas H. Gaumer**, who died on November 11, 2024 who died on November 11, 2024, a month and a day shy of his 81st birthday. We send our love and prayers to his wife of nearly 60 years, **Judy**. Tom was a Vietnam Veteran, beloved dad of **Sharon Metivier (Mike)** and **Deb Gaumer**, the cherished granddad of **Emmett Metivier (Elias Decker)**, **Alex Metivier**, and **Aidan Hurtig**, and a treasured member of our church family. No arrangements have been made at this time.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—

ALL LADIES ARE INVITED TO OUR CHRISTMAS TEA on Saturday, December 7th at 1 p.m. SIGN-UPS ARE IN PILGRIM HALL.



MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:

Mission Outreach committee is teaming up with the Strongsville Community Food Bank as well as many other churches and local businesses. Through **November 24th**, 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 **Jen Sekorky** or Irene in the church office no later than **November 24th**.



Thanksgiving "Basket" project—LAST CHANCE

We are still 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."

And the Mitten Tree...

We will collect hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, and socks for the needy this year. From **now through December 1st**, bring your items to the church during office hours and they will be placed on the Mitten Tree. After the 1st, 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!



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **November 19th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor
- The Official Board will meet on **December 3rd** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.



Long-Term Care or Homebound: Irene Jannsohn, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Maggie Struhar

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Judy Carte, Sam Cuyler Jr., Brandi Garsteck, Sue Hawk, Bruce Keenen, Sarah Keenen, Kay Konicek, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl &

Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Jim Maresco, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Ginny & Kenn Oerkfitz, Gary Paul, Judi Pavisich, George & Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Tracy Seneff, Peter Smith, Gayle Sperber, Linda Stepan, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Yvonne Adams (Judi Pavisich's friend), Linda Allwood (Dale Hawk's sister) Dorene Baldrige, Denece (Sherry Ahern's sister-in-law), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), John Dickson (Greg's dad), Allison Emerson (Colette's sister), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Joanne Garipey (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), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel's parents), 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), 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), The people of Ukraine, Sudan, Gaza, and Israel, 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

LIVE NATIVITY AND OPEN HOUSE:



For this year's Open House on **Sunday, November 24th**, we will offer an event similar to last year's and celebrate outside with the community. 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.**



BOOK STUDY—TURNING THE PAGE

Tomorrow, **November 18th**, Pastor Heidi and Linda Elkins will be leading some Advent activities. At the beginning of the calendar year, we will begin a study of a book called *Sisterhood*. They will continue to meet on the **third Monday of each month at 7 p.m.**

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. **Limited stock is available for purchase on Sunday mornings.**



2025 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN—it's not too late!

What do you bring to the campfire?

United Church of Christ 2025 Estimate of Giving

In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2025:

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 _____



ALTAR POINSETTIA FOR CHRISTMAS EVE



Order deadline is **Sunday, December 8, 2024**. 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 = \$_____

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 2024 Christmas Poinsettia

Total number of plants: _____

Amount enclosed: \$_____

Envelope number: _____ Cash/Check # _____

Name: _____

Order deadline is Sunday, December 8, 2024.



THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is **OPEN every Thursday 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.**

THANK YOU TO OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS, AND ALL THE SUPPORT FROM OUR CONGREGATION AND COMMUNITY!

SUPPORTING OUR FRIENDS SNOW SCHOOL

We would like to continue to support Snow School throughout the school year. They have a school “store” to reward appropriate behavior and help students learn money management skills. If you would like to contribute items for their school store, we will have a bin in the Gathering Area for:

- NEW Small toys, puzzles, or games for kids
- NEW marker sets, journals
- NEW Water bottles
- NEW fun socks or hats for kids
- Children’s books (ages 5 and up)
- Fun snacks or candy (non-perishable)



For the most part, clothing is given directly to Ohio Guidestone for distribution to the kids, but Principal Tami Klammer, will offer special clothing items in the store from time to time. Please note: they cannot accept anything sharp or things that can be used for injurious behavior.

HURRICANES HELENE & MILTON

Many of our own congregation's friends and family members were affected by month’s hurricane, suffering damage to property, body, and peace. If you would like to make a contribution to help those impacted by the devastation wrought by the recent hurricanes, the United Church of Christ has established a special appeal:



<https://support.ucc.org/hurricane-helene-relief?erid=1488600&trid=2f5a5440-09c5-47bb-b697-80178d3c508e>

Or you may give cash or a check to UCC with “Hurricane Relief” in the memo line to the Church Office.



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!



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.

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL--Wednesdays

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

A reminder: Donations are welcomed to support the increasing costs of this valuable program.



CHURCH OFFICERS IN 2024

**Elected January 28, 2024 **Appointed by the Official Board*

Moderator: Greg Dickson* **Vice-Moderator:** Jen Barry*

Treasurer: Sally Herzog* **Clerk:** Judy Gaumer*

Sunday School Co-Superintendents

Linda Elkins Mary Densmore

Board of Trustees

Bill Giuliano* Chris Goff Mike Elkins* Les Fox*
Herb Hampson* Cathy Hawk Sarah Hayes* Sandy Pogozeleski*
Cheryl Sobek Dan Winrod Laura Winrod Rachel Zielinski*

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson* Dave Williams*

Diaconate

Teri Barbish* Jean Bittinger Elaine Coffey* Bobbi Cook Wayne Cook
Judy Davis Judy Fox* Carole Kapcar Cherie Teagno*
Barbara White Mary Ellen Zimmerman

Christian Education Committee

Serena Abruzzino Mary Densmore Linda Elkins*
Colette Emerson* 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

Sue Gigliotti* Judi Pavisich Bill Schneider Rob Toth* Mary Willis

Mission and Outreach Committee

Diana Creecy* Sarah Hayes* Lora Rung
Jennifer Sekorky* Peter Smith Bev Wehr* Mary Ellen Zimmerman

PAPER RECYCLING—NEW COMPANY!



Our paper recycling bin will now be serviced by Royal Oak Recycling. Please continue to deposit your **FLATTENED** cardboard and your papers in the bin. However, **please do not place papers/cardboard outside the bin if it’s full.** Thanks!