



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 19, 2023 – 10:00 A.M.

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 "Allegro Molto from Concerto en ut Majeur" Vivaldi
Sue McLaughlin & Mike Elkins, flute

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

INTROIT "O Sing with Joyful Pleasure" Haydn

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We look for God on sunlit sea and in swirling autumn leaves.

People: God is everywhere.

Leader: We look for God on windy autumn days and in the night sky.

People: God is everywhere.

Leader: We look for God across our dinner tables and across the world.

People: God is everywhere.

Leader: We look for God in happy times and sad times, in war and in peace, when things change and when things stay the same.

People: God is everywhere.

† HYMN 790 "We Gather Together"

READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 123
(New Revised Standard Version)

To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!
As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to the Lord our God, until he has mercy upon us.
Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
for we have had more than enough of contempt.
Our soul has had more than its fill of the scorn of those who are at ease,
of the contempt of the proud.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

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 "Give Me Jesus" arr. Harlan

DEDICATION OF THANKSGIVING GIFTS

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Largo from Concerto en ut Majeur" Vivaldi
Sue McLaughlin & Mike Elkins, flute

† 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
(New International Version)

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

SERMON "Just keep doing what you're doing. . . ."

† HYMN 788 "Now Thank We All Our God"

† 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 "Sent Forth by God's Blessing" arr. Larson



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 19	NEXT SUNDAY—NOVEMBER 26	
Jean Bittinger	Greeters	Serena Abruzzino
Bruce Keenen	Liturgist	Pam Keenen
Volunteers needed	Ushers	Volunteers needed
Tom Foley	Director of Music	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	Associate Director of Music	Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	Organist	Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich	Sound	Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Sue McLaughlin, Chancel Choir	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**, and click on **Service Videos**.



A NOTE OF THANKS—

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

The altar flowers are given—

Celebrating our great-grandson, Cory's birthday on November 15th--Joyce & George Reed

Thankful for the Blessings of Family and Friends
The Hawks



Our steeple will light the sky this week—
Happy Birthday to Adam Craig on November 20th and Happy 60th Anniversary to Debbie & Larry Wentz on November 24th!
With love, Grammy/Mom
Congratulations to SPD Sergeant Jon Hayes!
With love, Grammy

Happy Anniversary to Ingrid & Greg Dickson on November 23rd!

Happy Birthday today to Dan Ponstingle!

LAST CHANCE...Thanksgiving "Basket" project

It's not too late for 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" today. **TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO SUPPORT THIS PROJECT.**



And the Mitten Tree...

We will collect hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, and socks for the needy this year until **December 3rd**; bring your items to the church during office hours and they will be placed on the Mitten Tree. After the 3rd, 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 TODAY! 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Today's event similar will be to last year's and we will celebrate outside with the community. We'll have all the favorite live animals, including Charlie! We still 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. .



A Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall!

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 17th—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 26th** and the money will go to the **Strongsville Emergency Food Bank**.





MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Sharing Tree project! It was the first time our church has tried it, and the ornaments were snapped up and the gift cards purchased within the first two weeks! We will be delivering the cards to the Strongsville Emergency Food Bank in time for Christmas.

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 \$ 3,137.00
Difference -(\$ 480.01)



Thank you very much for your support.

PLEDGE CARDS RECEIVED TO DATE: 45



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—

Everyone is welcome at all our events!

ALL LADIES ARE INVITED TO OUR

CHRISTMAS TEA

Saturday, December 2nd at 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 Oerkfritz, 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 Baldrige, 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



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 MEETING

- The Official Board will have an email meeting in November. Reports are due November 22nd.



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CHORUS:

Please mark your calendar for Sunday, **December 3rd** 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!



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY BAND:

On **Sunday, December 10th** at 3 p.m., the Band will present their Christmas concert at the Ehrnfeldt Center. More music to enjoy and celebrate the most wonderful time of the year!

SWINGIN' SOUNDS OF THE SEASON CHRISTMAS JAZZ CONCERT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th at 7 p.m. 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.**



BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Sunday, December 10th at 7 p.m. Service of Remembrance & Healing--Join us for a time of reflection, remembrance, and meditation as together we seek peace during this busy season. All are welcome—especially you.

A YEAR OF BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD

The next meeting of our book study will be tomorrow, **November 20th**. 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.



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.

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!**



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.



GOOD NEWS! Our Free Lunch for All program received a \$1,000 Making a Difference Grant from the Heartland Conference of the UCC!

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.

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.



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.

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 ____/____/____

