



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, November 20, 2022 – 10 A.M.

Reign of Christ--Hanging of the Greens



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 "Give Thanks" Smith, arr. Pethel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

INTROIT "Good Things Come in Small Packages" Traditional
SUCC Children's Choir

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, Son of the Most High?

People: With thanksgiving for the words of the prophets, who told long ago of God's victory over darkness.

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the eternal Christ?

People: With evergreen symbols of our faith, with garlands and wreaths of pine and fir.

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, our Savior?

People: With arrangements of holly and ivy, reminders of Jesus' passion, death and victory over death.

Leader: How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus, the King?

People: With thanksgiving and praise, with songs of celebration and remembering. With stories that belong to all God's children across the world.

† HYMN 788 "Now Thank We All Our God"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 100

(New International Version)

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs.

Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His;

We are His people, the sheep of His pasture.

Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise;

Give thanks to Him and praise His name.

For the Lord is good and His love endures forever;

His faithfulness continues through all generations.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

DEDICATION OF THANKSGIVING GIFTS

SHARING OF 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 "O Christ the Same" Courtney

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN 262 "Away in a Manger" (verse 1)

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Jesus Shall Reign" Hatton

† **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**

HANGING OF THE GREENS

HYMN 406 "Wonderful Words of Life" (verse 1)

PRESENTATION OF THE HOLLY AND IVY Isaiah 53:3a, 4a, 5-6

HYMN "The Holly and the Ivy" (verse 1)

**The holly and the ivy, When they are both full grown,
Of all trees that are in the wood, The holly bears the crown:
O, the rising of the sun, And the running of the deer
The playing of the merry organ, Sweet singing in the choir.**

PRESENTATION OF THE WREATH Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

HYMN 256 "Love Has Come!" (verse 1)

PRESENTATION OF THE POINSETTIA Isaiah 11:1-2

HYMN 255 "Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming" (verse 1)

PRESENTATION OF THE PARAMENTS Isaiah 40:3-5

HYMN 279 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" (verse 1)

PRESENTATION OF THE EVERGREEN TREE Micah 5:2, 4

HYMN 249 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (verse 1)

PRESENTATION OF THE CHRIST CANDLE 1 John 1:1, 5

† **HYMN 270** "Joy to the World" (verses 1 & 4)

† **BENEDICTION**

Go forth from this place an awakened people, aware of the world's darkness, yet reaching for the Light. Go forth from this place an expectant people, eagerly waiting to see what God is doing next in our world, eager to be a part of the Plan. Go forth from this place prepared and desiring to serve, aware of the pain so many bear, yet confident God will bring healing in this season of life. May the God of peace be with us all, this season and forever. Go in peace. Amen.

† **RESPONSE** "Sabbath Prayer" Bock

† **POSTLUDE** "All Creatures of our God and King" arr. Lorenz

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—

Today, we thank the **Children's Choir, the Chancel Choir, Tom Foley, Sharon Heinrich, and Mike Elkins** for sharing their music with us today. Also, special thanks to **Jimmy Foley** for playing the French horn this morning!

SERVING

TODAY – NOVEMBER 20 **NEXT SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 27**

Judi Pavisich	Greeters	Elaine Coffey
Herb Hampson	Liturgist	Pam Keenen
Judi Pavisich	Ushers	Elaine Coffey, Roz Fotos
Riley Marshall/Chris Abruzzino	Acolytes	Oliver & Matilda Sekorky
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
Children's Choir, Choir	Special Music	Chancel Choir

The altar flowers are given—

Happy 14th Anniversary to Greg and Ingrid Dickson on November 23rd!



Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthday today to Adam Craig and Happy Anniversary to Debbie & Larry Wentz on November 24th!

With Love, Grammy/Mom

* * * * *

Happy Birthday today to Adam Craig!



ALTAR FLOWERS: Please pray for Marianne Grega-Knotek, our florist. She is experiencing health issues and is unable to provide fresh flowers for a while. We will be using silk arrangements in the meantime. If you have already paid for flowers, please contact the church office. Also, dedications in the weekly bulletins are still welcome.

The Mitten Tree...

We will collect hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, and socks for the needy this year. **Now through December 4th**, bring your items to the church during office hours and they will be placed on the Mitten Tree. After the 4th, 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 MEETING



• The Official Board will meet on the *fifth* Tuesday of the month, **November 29th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor. **(Please note date change.)**

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,649.37
 Last Week's Offering Received **\$3,527.00**
 Difference -(\$122.37)



Thank you very much for your support.



NEW BABY!

We are so happy for the arrival of **August Lee Anderson**, son of **Erin and Chris Anderson** and first grandchild of **Linda and Mike Elkins!** Gus was born on November 13, 2022, his grandmother's birthday!

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Ruth Milidonis, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Joan Beckwith, Lloyd Bridle, Mary Carey, Gina Cathcart, Kathy Cockrell, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sam Cuyler, Sr., Sue Hawk, Paul Hirt, Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Len Lane, Judy Maur, Reggie McCray, Laurie Meister, Roy Merkle, Michele Mhlack, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkitz, Gary Paul, Sandy Pogozelski, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, Autumn Schneider, Tracy Seneff, Peter Smith, Maggie Struhar, Sharon Wilson, Dave Williams, Janis Williamson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Rachel Zielinski, Mary Ellen Zimmerman



Extended Church Family: Dorene Baldrige, Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Ron Colosimo (Judi Pavisich's friend), John Dickson (Greg's dad), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Jennifer Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's daughter-in-law), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Tiffany Hassel (Judi Pavisich's daughter-in-law), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Ed Kuhn (Sandy & Don Gleichauf's friend), Andrew Majoros (Michele Mhlack's cousin), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Rudy Matjazic (Judi Pavisich's friend, Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Zachary McKeever (Pastor Heidi and Chuck's great-nephew), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Heather Overman (friend of Judi Pavisich), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Thomas O'Shea (Sandy's dad), Jeff Peacock, Terry Robson (Barb & Mark Camp's friend), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Tina Serrano (Elliott Joyce's grandma), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Vicky Smith (Venner Clarinets), Bruce Unger (Sally Herzog's friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Weston (Chelsea Cathcart's friend's baby), Tom (friend of Judi Pavisich), The people of Ukraine, victims of violence, those affected by severe weather

OPT-IN: Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain. h.e.denman@gmail.com

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY



Sending our deepest sympathy to **Brandi Garsteck** and family on the death of her grandfather, **Joseph Cook**, on November 13, 2022. Grandpa Joe was 81 years old.

GIFT CARDS

GET YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING DONE AND BENEFIT THE CHURCH!

You can order gift cards by calling **Jim Joyce** at 216-267-5043 in advance with your order. **Limited stock is available for purchase on Sunday mornings.**

ORDER EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS!



LIVE NATIVITY TODAY--5 P.M. – 7 P.M.

For this year's Open House, we will celebrate outside with the community. Once again, we will not be offering indoor hospitality but we will have our Live Nativity, complete with animals, including Charlie the Camel! 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. Please see **Dale Hawk** or **Rachel Zielinski** if you can join us.



DON'T FORGET!

If you're doing your Christmas shopping online, why not benefit the church while you make your purchases from Amazon? It's incredibly easy! Here's what you do:

1. Instead of typing amazon.com into your search bar, type in **smile.amazon.com**.
2. Select United Church of Christ Congregational Strongsville by clicking this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-1298100>
3. Shop as you would normally—that's it!



Your addresses, billing information, and shopping cart are still saved and your Prime membership privileges still apply. A small percentage of your purchase price will go toward supporting the church.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT IS COMING!



The **Sunday School Christmas Pageant** will be on **Sunday, December 18th**, during our **10 a.m. worship service**. We will have parts for everyone!

Brief rehearsals will take place during and after our Sunday School classes on the weeks prior to the pageant. Please plan to stay after church for the dress rehearsal on **Sunday, December 11th**.

PENNY SUNDAY

The next Penny Sunday (and last one for the year) will be next week, **November 27th**. Please save those coins and dollars for our next collection.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP--UPCOMING EVENTS



The Women's Fellowship will be making candy in November and selling it to members of the congregation in December. We will make dark and light chocolate candies – chocolate with peanuts or raisins or coconut, pretzel bark,

and pecan bark. **If you are interested in helping, we will be making candy tomorrow evening, Monday, 11/21, 7 pm - ?**

We will then package candy:

- Monday, 11/28, 10 am – 2 pm (bring your own lunch if you wish)
- We will sell candy after our worship services:
- Sunday, 12/4/22
 - Sunday, 12/11/22

All women of the church are welcome to join the fun and fellowship! Please contact **Barb Fraunfelder** with any questions – bfraunfelder@gmail.com or 440-227-9051

Saturday, December 3 at 2 p.m. – Christmas Tea (Please note change in date.) Sign-up sheet is in Pilgrim Hall.



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CHORUS: Sunday, December 4th at 3 p.m. is our Christmas concert, "In a Holiday Mood," at the Berea United Methodist Church (170 Seminary Street in Berea). After 2 years

without a Christmas concert, we are back 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! Tickets are \$15 at the door.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR 2 LIVE MUSIC EVENTS AT OUR CHURCH!



Sunday, December 11th at 7 p.m.: Swinging Sounds of Christmas Jazz Concert, featuring the Strongsville City Jazz Swing Band, followed by a wine reception. Tickets will be \$10 each.

Sunday, December 18th at 7 p.m.: Christmas Cantata "Peace" Our Chancel Choir, in cooperation with the Columbia United Methodist Church choir, and special guest musicians will present this beautiful cantata. There is no admission charge for this program.

THRIFT SHOP



The Thrift Shop is **CLOSED on Thanksgiving Day**, but we will have special bonus hours in December. Come and shop lots of interesting merchandise. Donations are being accepted during those hours, but please try to limit your donations to what you can carry downstairs.

Thursday, December 1 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Thursday, December 8 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Thursday, December 15 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Thursday, December 22 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
CLOSED THURSDAY DECEMBER 29
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 Special thanks to all our dedicated volunteers!

THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to the Thanksgiving "Basket" project. Our church provided food assistance for 26 families in Strongsville and the surrounding area!



FREE LUNCH FOR ALL

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

We have room for YOU! Please join us for a nutritious meal and warm fellowship.



Many thanks to our hard-working volunteers, who make the lunch ministry possible!



THRIFT SHOP NEWS

The Thrift Shop is OPEN on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. but we will have special bonus hours in December. Come and shop lots of interesting merchandise. Donations are being accepted during those hours, but please try to limit your donations to what you can carry downstairs.

CLOSED THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24

- Thursday, December 1 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Friday, December 2 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Thursday, December 8 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Thursday, December 15 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- Thursday, December 22 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 28 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

CLOSED THURSDAY DECEMBER 29

- Friday, December 30 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Special thanks to all our dedicated volunteers!

ALTAR POINSETTIA FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Order deadline is Sunday, December 4, 2022. Please complete this form and place 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 **Strongsville United Church of Christ**, and place it with your order in the offering plate or under the office door.

Thank you for placing a poinsettia plant on the altar!

For Church Treasurer's Records
2022 Christmas Poinsettia

Total number of plants: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Offering envelope number: _____

Cash/Check No. _____

Name: _____



Order deadline is Sunday, December 4, 2022.



2022 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN: S.O.C.K.S. Service, Offering, Community, Kindness, Sanctuary

Estimate of Giving (Pledge) cards may be turned in at any time.

Strongsville United Church of Christ 2023 Estimate of Giving

In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2023:

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 account.

Signed _____

Date ____/____/____



WOULD YOU LIKE A WAY TO SERVE GOD AND SERVE YOUR CHURCH AT THE SAME TIME? How about volunteering to serve on a church board or committee?

The Nominating Committee, through the Official Board, will be looking for church members to fill the many open positions on our boards.

Many offices in the church will be available for the coming year. Please consider saying **YES** when a member of the Nominating Committee asks you to serve. Some of the positions that are available include:

Diaconate, which oversees the worship operations and church services. The committees of the Diaconate are Acolytes, Altar, Coffee Hour, Funeral, Greeters, Membership, Nursery, Pastoral Relations, Special Events and Ushers.

Board of Trustees, which oversees the finances and physical plant of the church. The committees of the Trustees are Building and Grounds, Finance, and Long-Range Planning and Memorial/Endowment.

Mission & Outreach, which sponsors projects and our church's benevolence in the local, national, and international communities, including the 5 for 5 offerings through the United Church of Christ

Stewardship, which administers a yearly campaign to assess and inspire giving of time, talent, and treasure

Christian Education, which oversees the Sunday School and Adult Education programs

Music Committee, which supervises all aspects of the Music Ministry

Remember the old but true saying, *Many hands make light work*. Plan to be a part of one of these boards or committees. Thank you for your consideration.