

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
13740 Pearl Road
Strongsville, Ohio 44136



Church Phone: (440) 238-6697
Email: StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com
Website: www.strongsvilleucc.com

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall
Pastor

NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

*The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world,
and all who live in it. –Psalm 24:1*

Spell it out.

Did you get to hear Glen Konet talk about stewardship? You know, one of the hardest things to do in church is talk about . . . *money*. Some say Jesus never talked about money, but the fact is there are over 2,300 verses in the Bible about stewardship and generosity. Not only did Jesus talk about money; Jesus' Jewish ancestors did, as well. Jesus spoke more about money than he did about anything else.

Glen gave us an easy acronym to help us think about our giving habits. I invite you to look at the letters and see where *you* fit in to the Strongsville UCC family:

- **S** Could lead you to *sing* or *serve* soup.
- **T** Are you already *tithing*? Good for you!
- **E** The Diaconate is always eager for help preparing and serving *Eucharist!*
- **W** Do you like to *wash* dishes? The *Wednesday* Free Lunch could use your hands!
- **A** We can always use *altos*!
- **R** Would you like to serve as a *reader* on Sunday morning? Talk to Bev Wehr!
- **D** The *Diaconate*, the hands and feet in service, can always use more help!
- **S** The *Stewardship* committee is one way to serve in a "part-time" position.
- **H** Sunday School can always use another *helper!*
- **I** How about *inviting* someone to join you in worship?
- **P** Be *Present! Participate! Pray!*

I bet you can come up with more ideas on your own. Over the next couple of weeks, spend some time in prayer as you consider what your pledge for 2024 will be. I am always grateful for the many ways you're part of this church family. Thank you for being here!

Peace,
Pastor Heidi

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

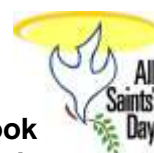
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5 – 10 a.m.

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
Sacrament of Holy Communion



All Saints Sunday

Greeter: Linda Plain
Liturgist: Elaine Coffey
Ushers: Bobbi & Wayne Cook
Special Music: Chancel Choir



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12 – 10 a.m.

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Stewardship Sunday

Greeter: Barbara Toth
Liturgist: Lynne McCray
Ushers: Volunteers needed
Special Music: Chancel Choir

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19 – 10 a.m.

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter: Jean Bittinger
Liturgist: Bruce Keenen
Ushers: Volunteers needed
Special Music: Chancel Choir



LIVE NATIVITY at 5 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26 – 10 a.m.

Reign of Christ

Hanging of the Greens
Penny Sunday



Greeter: Serena Abruzzino
Liturgist: Pam Keenen
Ushers: Volunteers needed
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, go to **Worship**, and click on **Service Videos**. HERE'S THE LINK TO OUR **YOUTUBE CHANNEL:***

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCynOZfg4uKoX7HMnKORbXfQ/videos> **Thanks to Doug Thorn for posting these each week.**



ALL ARE WELCOME AT GOD'S TABLE!

As we seek to walk ever more closely with Jesus and welcome all without question

or singling anyone out, we will now be offering gluten-free bread to ALL who come forward to the Table for Holy Communion. ALL means ALL at The United Church of Christ (Congregational)!

BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Cade James Raymond** on his baptism on October 8, 2023—the same day his great-grandmother was recognized for being a 50-year member! Cade is the son of **Lauren** (Deertz) and **Eric Raymond**, brother of **Brecken Raymond**, grandson of **Lori Deertz** and **Dave Deertz**, and great-grandson of **Marty Winch**. Cade and Brecken, along with their cousins, are 6th Generation members of our church family!



IT'S A BOY!

Welcome to the world, **Taron Reed Colles**, who was born on October 8, 2023! He is the son of **Griffin** and **Hilary (Gleske) Colles**. His family includes big sister, **Quinn**, and big brother, **Cory**, along with grandparents **Marty** and **Holly (Reed) Schafer**, and **Scott** and **Michelle Gleske**, and Great-Grandparents, **George** and **Joyce Reed**. Taron is the Reeds' 6th great-grandchild!



IT'S ANOTHER BOY!

Congratulations to **Sarah (Cathcart)** and **John Wilhoit** on the birth of their son, **Tate Everett Wilhoit** on October 16, 2023. Tate is the little brother of **Noah** and newest grandson of **Gina** and **Chris Cathcart** and the great-grandson of **Dorothy** and **Bill Ritchie**!



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST 50 YEAR MEMBERS!



The following church members were recognized at our worship service on October 8, 2023.

- Timothy Baker** (04/19/1973)
 - Barb Camp** (04/19/1973)
 - *Mark Camp** (04/19/1973)
 - *Irene Jannsohn** (06/10/1973)
 - Cheryl Morgan** (04/15/1973)
 - Sharon Ritchie** (04/15/1973)
 - *Ann Bedford Sullen** (04/15/1973)
 - *Keith Sullen** (04/15/1973)
 - *Marty Winch** (10/01/1973)
- *pictured

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY



Our congregation is deeply saddened by the loss of **Barb Camp**, who died on October 24, 2023 after a lengthy hospital stay. Barb and her husband, **Mark** joined the church in 1973, and have been active members in the ensuing 50 years. Our love and prayers go out to Mark, their children **Brandt (Gelin) Camp** and **Abby Colao**, grandchildren **Aidan Camp**, and **Hunter** and **Hannah Colao**, and to everyone who knew and loved Barb.

A SPECIAL NOTE TO VOTE!



Election Day is **November 7th**. As the general election approaches, it does not matter *how* you vote; it matters *that* you vote. Polling place locations can be found at voteohio.gov.

THANK YOU NOTES



Thank you to my church for their kindness and for recognizing me for 50 years of membership in Strongsville UCC. I am blessed to be a part of this congregation. Irene Jannsohn

LIVE NATIVITY AND OPEN HOUSE:

For this year's Open House on **Sunday, November 19th**, we will offer an event similar to last year's and celebrate outside with the community. Once again, we will not be offering indoor hospitality but 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.



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 Oerkfitz, 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 Ghatti (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

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

Thank you to everyone who contributed to October's Penny Sunday. We collected \$312.79 for our Thanksgiving Basket Project. Please save your coins, dollars, and checks (to UCC) for our next Penny Sunday on **November 26th**. Money collected will go to the Strongsville Emergency Food Bank.



PHOTO DIRECTORY UPDATE

All photos and information have been submitted to Universal Church Directories for publishing. We will let you know as soon as the published directories arrive!



RIVER VALLEY PAPER RECYCLING

KEEP RECYCLING YOUR PAPER, MAGAZINES, AND CARDBOARD (Please break down cardboard.) PRO TIP: The bin is usually emptied on Mondays.



BONUS WEEK: 11/13/23 – 11/17/23 Our church receives extra money during this week!

**BOOK STUDY
A YEAR OF BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD**

Continuing on **November 20th**, Pastor Heidi and Linda Elkins are leading a monthly book study based on Rachel Held Evans's wonderful book, A Year of Biblical Womanhood. Based on Old Testament rituals and practices, the book chronicles Rachel's attempts to follow these ancient practices in a modern world. The group will meet on the **third Monday of each month at 7 p.m.**, for one hour. It's not too late to join us!



ADDRESS CHANGES/ADDITIONS

If you move or change your phone number, please be so kind as to let the church office know—thanks!

Pat & Frank Jefferis
17065 Ridge Point Circle
Strongsville, OH 44136

Lynne McCray
440-297-4200





Did you know that **Herb Hampson** installed a full-length mirror in the vestibule at the back of the sanctuary?

Future brides will thank you, too, Herb!

Did you know that **Linda Ponstingle** got down on her hands and knees to clean the Communion grape juice drips from the sanctuary carpet? Thank you for your hard work, Linda!

Did you know that **Judi Pavisich** comes in faithfully every Friday to fold bulletins? On the rare occasions she is absent, she even finds a sub—thanks to **Judy Carte** for filling in!

Did you know that **Gina Cathcart** procured the pumpkins for our Sunday School's Pumpkin Decorating Party? Thanks so much, Gina!

MUSIC NOTES



Many thanks to the **Children's Choir**, **Tyler Martin**, **Ken Mehalko**, the returning **Bell Choir**, the **Chancel Choir**,

and of course, **Tom Foley**, **Sharon Heinrich**, and **Mike Elkins** for their music in October.

FROM OUR FRIENDS AT SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CHORUS:



Please mark your calendar for Sunday, **December 3rd** at 3 p.m. for our Christmas concert 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!

SWINGIN' SOUNDS OF THE SEASON CHRISTMAS JAZZ CONCERT



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th

at 7 p.m. **LIVE MUSIC** 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.*

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. Thank you so much to our



faithful bread transporters: **Teri Barbish**, **Carole Kapcar**, **Roz Fotos**, **Maria Graeff**, **Linda Elkins**, **Cherie Teagno**, **Wayne & Bobbi Cook**, and **Sharon Lempner**, who are enabling the Panera Bread ministry to continue! Special thanks to **Pastor Heidi**, **Cathy Hawk**, and **Irene Joyce** who will be transporting the baked goods downtown during the month of October.

BE A BUSY BEE IN 2023-AND 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.



PLEASE DON'T FALL FOR A SCAM! Pastor



Heidi will never ask you for cash or gift cards via text or email. If there is a need, she will approach you in person.

Are you interested in learning more about the UCC? The Living Water Association Annual Meeting is **Saturday, November 18**, from 9:00-12:00, in Hudson, Ohio. We can send two lay delegates (along with Pastor Heidi). If you're interested, please ask Pastor Heidi for more information.



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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.



NEWS FROM THE KITCHEN

Did you know? The "tip jar" you see next to the coffee on Sunday mornings is there for a reason. The "tips" go directly to keeping the coffee, tea, sugar, creamer, etc., supplied. Your generosity is appreciated!



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

Thank you to all our faithful volunteers!

NOW COLLECTING...Thanksgiving "Basket" project



We will not be collecting actual food items for those in need, but we still want to provide food assistance to those who may require it, so we will be 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" through **November 12th**. 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 5th** through **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!



MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:

Thank you to everyone who participated in the "OODLES OF NOODLES" OCTOBER PASTA DRIVE!



This year, the Mission Outreach committee has decided to team up with the Strongsville Community Food Bank as well as many other churches and local businesses. From **November 5th** – **November 26th**, 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 \$25 gift card to any of the stores listed on the ornament. Gift Cards will be available for purchase from Jim Joyce right at church (which helps our program, too—win/win!). Then, simply hand the ornament and gift card into **Jen Sekorky** or Irene in the church office no later than **November 26th**.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES—December 24th

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT 10 A.M.

**TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
OF LESSONS AND CAROLS 10 P.M.**



IN OUR COMMUNITY

Girl Scout Troop #71363 is stocking and maintaining a "Hygiene Library," which is located on the lawn near the parking lot facing Royalton Road.

GIFT CARDS

PLEASE DON'T FORGET ABOUT THIS EASY, CONVENIENT PROGRAM



THAT BENEFITS THE CHURCH. It's time to put in your Christmas orders by calling **Jim Joyce** at 216-346-4161 in advance. **Limited stock is available for purchase on Sunday mornings.**



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.

The Strongsville Emergency Food Bank has always been supported by our congregation. Please remember, we do not accept expired goods. The needs for the food bank in November would be soup & canned veggies.



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Diaconate will meet on **November 7th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor
- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **November 14th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- Date change: The Diaconate will meet on **December 5th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will have an email meeting in November.



CHURCH FAMILY CARE TEAM

If you like to cook . . . or bake . . . or reach out to others in love . . . as winter and circumstances continue to make it hard to stay connected, your Diaconate is organizing a Pastoral Care Ministry Team and would LOVE to have you take part! (You do not need to be a member of the Diaconate to participate, and you may come and go as you are led.)

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR LAST MONTH

The altar flowers are given—

October 1st

In loving memory of my parents, Mary & William Hackman--Susann Lerch

October 8th

Celebrating Granddaughter Mallory's Birthday on October 4th, Gabby on October 18th and Grandson Grant on October 24th—Joyce & George Reed

October 15th

In Loving Memory of Lois A. Hampson Herb Hampson

Remembering Chuck McDougall Pastor Heidi

October 22nd

Happy 1st Birthday to my sweet Emma! GiGi Marty Winch

October 29th

In loving memory of Winifred & Carl Lerch, Bruce Lerch's parents--Susann Lerch



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 being accepted during those hours, but please try to limit your donations to what you can carry downstairs.

SPECIAL BAG SALE

(+ Jewelry Sale) on

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18th

from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.!



As always, special thanks to our dedicated volunteers and to everyone who supports the Thrift Shop with donations or by shopping!

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—

Wednesday, November 1st at 1 p.m.

Election of Officers, Planning the Christmas Tea, Plan Programs for 2024. Please share your ideas for the coming year!



Monday, November 6th at 7 p.m.

Review the past year's programs, Plan Programs for 2024. Please share your ideas for programs!

Everyone is welcome at all our events!

ALL LADIES ARE INVITED TO OUR CHRISTMAS TEA

Saturday, December 2nd at 1 p.m.



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!



THE FLOWER CHART FOR 2024 WILL BE POSTED IN PILGRIM HALL SOON. Please sign up for fresh flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one or just for yourself. Cost is \$30 for two vases; \$15 for one.

STEEPLE LIGHTING

Week of October 1st

Happy Birthday to Betty Dickson today! Ingrid & Greg Dickson

In memory of Mary L. Joyce-Smith on her birthday today. Irene & Jim Joyce

Week of October 8th

Happy Birthday on October 7th to Lola Millhoane!

In memory of Alfred "Jiggs" Graves—Roberta Carpenter

Week of October 15th

Happy Birthday to Samantha Wentz on October 16th With love, Grammy

In loving memory of Chuck McDougall, aka the Pastor's Wife, whose spirit stays in our hearts forever.

Week of October 22nd

Happy Birthday to Kristina Craig today and Happy Anniversary to Hayley & Joey McKane on October 28th!

With love, Grammy

Week of October 29th

Happy Anniversary to Tracey & Natalia Hill today and Happy Birthday to Gabe Sauter on October 31st! With love, Grammy

To light the steeple, the minimum donation is \$5.00. Multiple dedications are welcomed for each week.

Please email strongsvilleuc@gmail.com. Thank you to everyone who lights our steeple!



CHURCH OFFICERS IN 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*

GIVING OPTIONS



If you are interested in giving electronically, you can set up your giving through Bill Pay on your bank's website or on our church's website:

www.strongsvilleucc.com. You may also mail a check to Strongsville UCC 13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, OH 44136 or drop it off in the church's mailbox.

FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Gary Zielinski

Below is a monthly report listing the budget income we need to receive from Pledges and Offerings and the amount received from **October 1 through October 22, 2023**. *Thank you to everyone who supports our church and its ministries.*



Offering Needed \$14,468.04 for 4 Sundays
Offering Received \$12,535.04
(-\$ 1,933.00)

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.

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 UCC--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 account.

Signed _____ Date ____/____/____



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.



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(Congregational)
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Thanksgiving Blessings to You

The Lord is good; His steadfast
love endures forever

Psalm 100:5

