




**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
(Congregational)  
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**Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor**  
**Sunday, November 21, 2021 – 10:00 A.M.**  
**Reign of Christ--Hanging of the Greens**

**WELCOME!**  
*Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the best interests of others. – Philippians 2:4*

For the safety and comfort of everyone, please continue to wear a mask in the Gathering Area and when entering or leaving the Sanctuary. When you are seated in the pews, you may lower your mask if you wish, while maintaining social distancing. **If you are not yet fully vaccinated, we ask that you continue to wear a mask at all times. Thank you.**

† *Please stand as you are comfortable.*

**PRELUDE** “*Tantum Ergo*” John F. Wade  
Ralph Heimbürger, organ

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Elaine Coffey  
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.

**INTROIT** “I Was Glad” Whitworth

† **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 797** “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”  
*(If you wish to sing with us, please have your mask in place.)*

**A READING FROM THE PSALMS** Psalm 93  
The LORD is king! He is robed in majesty.  
Indeed, the LORD is robed in majesty and armed with strength.  
The world stands firm and cannot be shaken.  
Your throne, O LORD, has stood from time immemorial.  
You yourself are from the everlasting past.  
The floods have risen up, O LORD. The floods have roared like thunder;  
the floods have lifted their pounding waves.  
But mightier than the violent raging of the seas,  
mightier than the breakers on the shore—

the LORD above is mightier than these! Your royal laws cannot be changed.  
Your reign, O LORD, is holy forever and ever.  
**Leader:** The Word of God, for us, the people of God;  
**People:** Thanks be to God.

**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.**

**DEDICATION OF THANKSGIVING GIFTS**

**ANTHEM** “I Will Sing Praise” Barnhouse

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**HYMN 262** “Away in a Manger” (verse 1)

**OFFERING**  
Thank you for your continuing commitment to giving freely of your talents and your treasure, as you are able, in service to Christ in the world. Thank you. To give online, please go to:  
<https://www.myeoffering.com/eonline/index.php/dashboard/login/5027>

**OFFERTORY** “We Gather Together” Netherlands Folk 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**

**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)  
*(If you wish to sing with us, please have your mask in place.)*

† **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.**

† **POSTLUDE** "Sent Forth by God’s Blessing" Welsh Folk Melody

SERVING		
TODAY – NOVEMBER 21	NEXT SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 28	
Laura Winrod	<b>Greeters</b>	Elaine Coffey
Dave Williams	<b>Liturgist</b>	Bruce Keenen
Judi Pavisich	<b>Ushers</b>	Elaine Coffey
Tom Foley	<b>Director of Music</b>	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	<b>Associate Director of Music</b>	Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	<b>Supplemental Organist</b>	Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich	<b>Sound</b>	Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Chancel Choir/Ralph Heimbürger	<b>Special Music</b>	Chancel Choir/Carol Foley

**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](http://strongsvilleucc.com), select **Worship**, and click on **Service Videos**.




**A FRIENDLY REMINDER: COFFEE HOUR IS BACK!**  
**Please stop down in Pilgrim Hall after the service for a hot beverage and warm conversation!**

The altar flowers are given—  
*In honor of my grandson , M.J. McNabb--Happy 16<sup>th</sup> Birthday!*  
Love, Grandma and Ronnie (Rothel)

Our steeple will light the sky this week—  
*Happy Anniversary to Debbie & Larry Wentz on November 24<sup>th</sup>!*  
With Love, Mom  
*Happy 13A Anniversary to Ingrid & Greg Dickson on November 23<sup>rd</sup>!*  
\* \* \* \* \*

Happy Birthday today to Ginny Churnega Oerkfitz!



**A NOTE OF THANKS**  
We thank our special guest, Ralph Heimbürger, along with the Chancel Choir, Mike Elkins, Tom Foley, and Sharon Heinrich for providing our musical worship today.

**OFFERINGS RECEIVED**

Weekly Offering Needed	\$3,649.37
Last Week’s Offering Received	\$3,177.00
Difference	(-\$472.37)

**Thank you very much for your support.**

**PLEDGE CARDS RECEIVED TO DATE: 45**





## OUR PRAYER LIST

*Please provide updates for this list to the church office.*

**Long-Term Care or Homebound:** Janet Kato, Marge McKinney, Ruth Milidonis, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

**Church Family:** Serena Abruzzino, Joan Beckwith, Eddy Bond, Mary Carey, Elaine Coffey, Kathy Cockrell, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Linda Elliott, Tom Foley, Ramona Glaze, Sue Hawk, Bob Heddleson, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, George Kapcar, Tony Koussa, Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Vicky Masuga, Judy Maur, Reggie McCray, Heidi & Chuck McDougall, Laurie Meister, Roy Merkle, Michele Mhlack, Lola Millhoane, Gary Paul, Judi Pavisich, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, Peter Smith, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Sharon Wilson, Sally Vetovitz, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Mary Ellen & Bob Zimmerman



**Extended Church Family:** Dorene Baldrige, Fred Beba (Theresa's husband), Jackie Berkheimer (Judi Pavisich's friend), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Judy Carte's son-in-law, Ryan, Hunter Colao (Barb & Mark Camp's grandson), Ron Colosimo (Judi Pavisich's friend), John Dickson (Greg's dad), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Diane Gregoire (Judi Pavisich's cousin), Zachary McKeever (Pastor Heidi and Chuck's great-nephew), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Thomas O'Shea (Sandy's dad), Carrol Riley (Marjorie Morrison's dad), Terry Robson (Barb & Mark Camp's friend), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Jimmy Walken (Kristen Burgess's uncle), Sandra Wentz (Debbie's daughter-in-law)

**Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain.**



### UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

- **The Official Board** will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month,

**November 23<sup>rd</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

## LIVE NATIVITY TODAY--5 P.M. – 7 P.M.

This year's event is different than in the past since we will not be offering indoor hospitality, we are having music and the live nativity scene outdoors. 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 sign up in Pilgrim Hall and come about 15 minutes prior to your shift.**



**THANK YOU** to everyone who contributed to the Thanksgiving "Basket" project. Our church provided for 29 families in Strongsville and the surrounding area!

## FREE LUNCH FOR ALL IS BACK!

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month**

**11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

**LIMITED RESERVATIONS--Call**

**(440) 238-5389**

**To-go meals will be available.**



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR! SWINGIN' SOUNDS OF THE SEASON CHRISTMAS JAZZ CONCERT

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.**

**LIVE MUSIC featuring Strongsville's Jazz Band!** Tickets will be \$10 (\$5 for kids under 10) and we will have a wine & cheese reception following the concert. More info coming soon...

## GIFT CARDS--THINK AHEAD FOR CHRISTMAS!

**Please order your Christmas gift cards early!**



### AN EASY WAY TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING NEEDS!

You can order gift cards with **Jim Joyce** or by calling him at 216-267-5043 ahead with your list. **Limited stock is available, but special orders may be accommodated by ordering prior to December 5<sup>th</sup>.** Thank you to those who continue to support this project by purchasing gift cards!

## The Mitten Tree

We are still collecting hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, and socks for the needy this year. Now through December 5<sup>th</sup>, bring your items to the church and they will be placed on the Mitten Tree. After the 5<sup>th</sup>, 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!



## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS TEA

**Sunday – December 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 P.M.**

**in Pilgrim Hall**

**All ladies of the church are welcome. Please see or contact Elaine Coffey or Sharon Heinrich if you have not already signed up to attend.**

**Because of setup in Pilgrim Hall for the Tea on December 5<sup>th</sup>, we won't host coffee hour there, but fellowship will take place in the Parlor.**



## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP QUILT RAFFLE

**TICKETS ARE \$1.00 EACH OR 6 FOR \$5.00  
FREE PERSONALIZATION!**

The Winner can get any name of their choice embroidered on the quilt.

Drawing will be held on December 12, 2021  
**Please see Judi Pavisich for tickets.**



## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT IS COMING!

The Sunday School Christmas Pageant will be on Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 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 12<sup>th</sup>.

Please turn in this form to your child's Sunday School teacher.

**My child(ren) will participate in the pageant on December 19<sup>th</sup>.**

Child's Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you so much for being part of our Sunday School!**

## ALTAR POINSETTIA FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Order deadline is Sunday, December 5, 2021. Please complete this form and place it to the Church office with your cash or check payment. The cost is \$6.00.

Wording for bulletin: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of plants: \_\_\_\_ X 6.00 / 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  
2021 Christmas Poinsettia**

Total number of plants: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Offering envelope number: \_\_\_\_\_

Cash/Check No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



**Order deadline is Sunday, December 5, 2021.**

**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: **Moderator**, who presides over the Official Board and represents the church in the community

**Vice-Moderator**, who works in tandem with the Moderator, serves on the Nominating Committee, and enlists volunteers for dinners and other Official Board events.

**Treasurer:** Manages the outgoing finances of the church in conjunction with the Financial Secretary

**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.

