



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136
(440) 238-6697

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StrongsvilleUCC.com

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor
Sunday, November 9, 2025– 10 A.M.
Stewardship Sunday
Recognizing Veterans



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 always welcome here.

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE "The House I Live In" Robinson, arr. Elkins

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

INTROIT "My Country 'Tis of Thee" 18th century melody

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: This Veterans Day, we take time to remember and pray for all those who have gone to war in the name of our nation. Help us remember, O God, that their service is truly a sacrifice.

People: We give thanks for their courage, their love of country and their willingness to serve.

Leader: We acknowledge the risks of serving their country, from the actions of the enemy and from the pain and injury that results from war.

People: Help us to support our veterans and stand ready to dress their wounds and address their needs as they return home.

Leader: Help us remember the families, friends, spouses, children and communities of those who serve and wait in hope for their safe return.

People: Sustain them, comfort them and care for them, O God.

Leader: We confess that war itself is a human failure to overcome hatred with love; topple injustice with righteousness; and replace violence with peace.

People: We give thanks for their service and sacrifice. We pledge ourselves to working for peace, and work for a time when war will be no more. Amen.

† HYMN 805 "If My People's Hearts are Humbled"

READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 98:1-6
(New International Version)

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things;
his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

The Lord has made his salvation known
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music;
make music to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing,
with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—
shout for joy before the Lord, the King.

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.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

ANTHEM "Going Home/America the Beautiful" arr. Elkins
**America, America! God shed His grace on Thee. And crown
thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea!**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE/GENEROSITY MOMENT Dave Williams

DEDICATION OF ESTIMATE OF GIVING CARDS "Heart & Soul"
Please come forward as you are led with your Estimate of Giving card.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" Dykes

† **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 PROPHETS Job 19: 23-27a
(New International Version)

I know that my redeemer lives,
and that in the end he will stand on the earth.

REFLECTION "Is anybody listening?"

† **HYMN 809** "God of Our Fathers"

† BENEDICTION

*Let us see this day as a gift from God. Let us take it, enjoy it, make it our
own and share it with others. Grant us strength to survive, Grant us grace to
be generous. Grant us courage to stand tall for all that is good and fair.
Amen.*

† **POSTLUDE** "Semper Fidelis" Sousa

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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**.

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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.



A NOTE OF THANKS—We thank our **Chancel
Choir, Children's Choir, Ken Mehalko, Carol Foley, Mike
Elkins, Tom Foley, and Sharon Heinrich** for today's music.
And thanks to **Dave Williams** for the Children's Message!

SERVING

TODAY—NOVEMBER 9

Judy Davis
Mike Willis
Bill Robinson
Tom Foley
Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
K. Mehalko C. Foley, D.Williams,
Chancel Choir

NEXT SUNDAY—NOVEMBER 16

Greeters Roz Fotos
Liturgist Mary Ellen Zimmerman
Head Usher Jan Meier
Director of Music Tom Foley
Associate Director of Music Mike Elkins
Organist Sharon Heinrich
Video/Sound Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Special Music Chancel Choir

Today's altar flowers are given—

Honoring All Veterans who serve in war and in peace
Peter Smith

*In loving memory of my parents, Emerson Pinkney, Wilda
Volchko, and Matthew Volchko--Bobbie Krisak*



Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthday to Zach Craig on November 13th

With love, Grammy

In loving memory of Tom Gaumer--The Official Board

*Happy Birthday tomorrow to our erstwhile baritone, now
tenor, Frank Jefferis tomorrow—The Choir*

Happy Birthday to "Jimison" Joyce on November 12th!

Love, Alaya & Elliott



PENNY SUNDAY!

Please save your coins, dollars, and checks to UCC for
November 30th, when Penny Sunday will be for
G.R.I.N. (Golden Retrievers in Need).

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT IS COMING!

Rehearsals will take place during and after
Sunday School classes each week prior to
December 14th—**OUR PAGEANT DAY**, when we
will have our pageant during the worship service!



LIVE NATIVITY AND OPEN HOUSE:



For this year's Open House on **Sunday,
November 23rd**, we are planning to celebrate
outside with the community, but have live music
indoors. 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.**

We are also accepting donations to defray the
cost of renting the animals, including Charlie the
Camel. Please mark your donation "animals" and
give checks to UCC or cash to the church office.





OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Irene Jannsohn, Connie Rebar
Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Mark Camp, Judy Carte, Elaine Coffey, Betty “Grammy” Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Roz Fotos, Sue Hawk, Bruce Keenen, Erv Koch, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Roy Merkle, Amanda Moulton, Ginny & Kenn Oerkfitz, George & Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Ron Rothel, Jennifer Sekorky, Tracy Seneff, Peter Smith, Bruce Sperber, Linda Stepan, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Amy Carroll (Marty Winch’s sister), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf’s friend), Allison Emerson (Colette’s sister), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen’s friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung’s friend), Joanne Gariepy (Sally Herzog’s friend), Kathy Ghatti (friend of Ginger Rothel), Jennifer Gleichauf (Don & Sandy’s daughter-in-law), Sarah & David Gleichauf (Don & Sandy’s grandson & wife), Michaelene Hanrahan (Jim Joyce’s sister), Dana Hardy (Craig’s wife), Tiffany Hassel (Judi Pavisich’s daughter-in-law), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel’s parents), George Love (friend of the church), 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), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes’ friend), Vicki Smith (Venner Clarinets), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung’s friend), Don & Pauline Wills (Judi Pavisich’s friends), the people of Ukraine, Sudan, Gaza, and Israel, victims of violence, those affected by natural disasters, First Responders

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

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NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16th is VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION SUNDAY! Join us during worship as we show our appreciation for our hardworking volunteers in our church. A reception in Pilgrim Hall will follow the worship service.

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THREE WITH GLEE!

Capital Campaign: We currently have \$62,195.08 in our capital campaign account. The tuckpointing has a few more areas to be completed. We have chosen the vendor for the automatic door openers for the kitchen and main doors. The Trustees are reviewing the proposals that have been submitted for improving the acoustics in Pilgrim Hall and painting the hall. Please make sure you designate your donation for “*Capital Campaign.*” Thanks for your continuing support.



ARE YOU INTERESTED?



The church will be needing a new treasurer at the beginning of the year, as our treasurer, Sally Herzog, will be completing her 3rd term of service. The treasurer position is an elected office and is responsible for facilitating the payment of the church’s bills and working closely with the Financial Secretary. Sally is willing to thoroughly train her successor. Please see Rachel Zielinski or Cathy Hawk if you can serve.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Are you interested in learning more about the United Church of Christ and becoming a member?

Please let Pastor Heidi or the church office know if you would like to join our congregation in membership. We will be welcoming new members soon.



MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:

Thanksgiving “Basket” project

We are 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.” **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 9th through December 7th**, bring your items to the church during office hours and they will be placed on the Mitten Tree. After the 7th, 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!

SHARING TREE

The Mission Outreach committee is teaming up with the Strongsville Community Food Bank as well as many other churches and local businesses. From **November 9th – November 23rd**, 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 **Sarah Hayes** or Irene in the church office no later than **November 23rd**.



OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 4,359.00
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 4,451.00
Difference + \$92.00

Thank you very much for your support.
PLEDGES RECEIVED for 2026: 13



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **November 11th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **November 18th** at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on **December 2nd** in the Parlor at 7 p.m.

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL--Wednesdays

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

Many thanks to all of our dedicated volunteers and to all who come and enjoy food and fellowship on Wednesdays!



PLEASE NOTE: The Free Lunch for All program will be on hiatus on December 24th and December 31st.

A NEW GENEROSITY CAMPAIGN FOR 2026--H.E.A.R.T.

Hospitality
Engagement
Activities
Resources
Time, Talent, & Treasure



United Church of Christ 2026 Estimate of Giving

In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2026:

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 ____/____/____

For where your treasure is,
there will your heart be also. *Matthew 6:21*

ALTAR POINSETTIA FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Order deadline is **Sunday, December 7, 2025**. Please complete this form and give it to the Church office with your cash or check payment. The cost is \$8.00 per plant.

Wording for bulletin: _____

Given by: _____

Number of plants: ____ x \$8.00/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 2025 Christmas Poinsettia

Total number of plants: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Envelope number: _____ Cash/Check # _____

Name: _____

Order deadline is Sunday, December 7, 2025.



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.



CHURCH OFFICERS 2025

**Elected January 26, 2025 ** appointed by Official Board*

Moderator: Greg Dickson **Vice-Moderator:** Jen Barry
Treasurer: Sally Herzog **Clerk:** Judy Gaumer
Sunday School Superintendent: Linda Elkins

Board of Trustees

Karen Bates** Bill Giuliano Chris Goff* Mike Elkins
Les Fox Herb Hampson Cathy Hawk*
Sandy Pogozeleski Cheryl Sobek*
Alex Tomoff* Mike Willis* Rachel Zielinski

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson* Dave Williams*

Diaconate

Teri Barbish Jean Bittinger* Elaine Coffey*
Bobbi Cook* Wayne Cook* Judy Davis*
Judy Fox Pam Heimburger* Lynne McCray*
Linda Ponstingle* Lora Rung* Cherie Teagno

Christian Education Committee

Linda Elkins Colette Emerson Dale Hawk*
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

Ingrid Dickson* Sue Gigliotti Linda Stepan*
Rob Toth Sarah Toth* Dave Williams*

Mission and Outreach Committee

Gina Cathcart* Bobbi Cook** Myron Costin*
Diana Creecy Cathy Hawk* Sarah Hayes
Lora Rung* Peter Smith Mary Willis*
Mary Ellen Zimmerman

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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. We also have a Life-vac choking device to assist in the event that someone is choking. It is located just beneath the AED.

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FREE LUNCH FOR ALL--Wednesdays

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

Many thanks to all of our dedicated volunteers and to all who come and enjoy food and fellowship on Wednesdays!



PLEASE NOTE: The Free Lunch for All program will be on hiatus on December 24th and December 31st.

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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 accepted during our Thursday sale hours, but please try to limit your donations to what you can carry downstairs yourself. **Please do not abandon items outside the church doors.**

PLEASE NOTE: The Thrift Shop will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.



BOOK STUDY--SISTERHOOD!
On November 17th at 7 p.m., Our Sisterhood Book Study will continue. All are welcome!

