



**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

(Congregational)

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**Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor**

**Sunday, October 1, 2023 – 10:00 A.M.**

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**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** "Siyahamba" African Song  
Children's Choir/Chancel Choir

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Elaine Coffey

**STEWARDSHIP MOMENT**

**INTROIT** "De Colores" Mexican Song

**† CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Around the world people gather to break bread and pour wine.

**People: We gather with them in heart and mind.**

Leader: Around the world the broken body is made whole.

**People: As part of that body we join in its unity.**

Leader: Around the world the Banquet of God is prepared for the table.

**People: We, who share in the banquet, come eagerly to be fed.**

**ALL: Let us worship together, let us share God's bounty.**

**† HYMN** "Gather Around, for the Table is Spread"  
Scottish Folk Melody

**Gather around, for the table is spread, welcome the food and rest!**

**Wide is our circle, with Christ at the head, He is the honored guest.**

**Learn of His love; grow in His grace, pray for the peace He gives;**

**Here at this meal, here in this place, know that His Spirit lives!**

**Once He was known in the breaking of bread,**

**Shared with a chosen few;**

**Multitudes gathered and by Him were fed, so will He feed us too.**

**A READING FROM THE PSALMS** Psalm 78:1-4, 8-12  
(New International Version)

My people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from of old— things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us.

We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done.

God did miracles in the sight of their ancestors in the land of Egypt, in the region of Zoan. God divided the sea and led them through;

God made the water stand up like a wall.

God guided them with the cloud by day and with light from the fire all night.

God split the rocks in the wilderness and gave them water as abundant as the seas;

God brought streams out of a rocky crag and made water flow down like rivers.

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

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**PRAYING IN SILENCE**

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy, **ALL: Hear our prayers. Amen.**

**ANTHEM** "Always Remember" Sewell

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** "Part 1 from *Trois Gymnopédies*" Satie

**† 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**

**A READING FROM THE EPISTLES** **Philippians 2:1-13**  
(New International Version)

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.

**SERMON** "One Christ. One Mind. One Church"

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

Pastor: God of the Nations, we stand apart from you. We stand apart from each other. We stand with our own tribe, hiding behind walls, throwing our stones. Our divisions dishonor you. We harm one another instead of healing, and in our brokenness, you weep.

**UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

**People: Forgive us, God, for actions that may lead to division rather than unity. Help us, God, to live a purpose-driven life that aligns with Your heart for all people and guided by Your Word of truth. Thank you for welcoming us to commune with You, on our bad days and our good days, not because of anything we have done to deserve it, but because of Jesus' sacrifice that gives us life. (silent prayer)**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Pastor: Hear these words of good news: Nothing can stand against You. Nothing. Neither sin, nor death, nor prejudice, nor division.

Nothing can stand against our God.

**People: You're making us whole and holy in your mercy and grace. Standing together in truth and grace, standing together in power and love, standing together in unrelenting hope, you are making us one as you are One. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP**

**COMMUNION MUSIC** "So Nimm Denn Meine Hände" German Hymn

**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.**

**† HYMN 428** "In Christ There is no East or West"

**† BENEDICTION**

As people who have been fed, go now to feed the world. As people who have been given hope, Go now to bring hope in place of despair. And always remember that we are never cut off from the Source. The Bread of Life, the True Vine is with us always. And so we always share in Hope's Banquet. Thanks be to the One who hosts the banquet! **Amen.**

**† RESPONSE/POSTLUDE** "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"  
Jamaican Folk Tune, arr. Potter and Behnke



**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.

**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**.

**SERVING**

**TODAY – OCTOBER 1** **NEXT SUNDAY – OCTOBER 8**

Linda Plain	<b>Greeters</b>	Barbara Toth
Irene Joyce	<b>Liturgist</b>	Dave Williams
Jean Bittinger	<b>Ushers</b>	Linda Ponstingle
Tom Foley	<b>Director of Music</b>	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	<b>Associate Director of Music</b>	Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	<b>Organist</b>	Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich	<b>Sound</b>	Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Children's Choir/Choir	<b>Special Music</b>	Tyler Martin/Chancel Choir



**PENNY SUNDAY THANK YOU!**

Thank you to everyone who gave to New Life at Calvary Church in Cleveland at last week's Penny Sunday. We collected \$422.25. The next Penny Sunday will be **October 29<sup>th</sup>** and will go to the **Strongsville Emergency Food Bank.**

**The altar flowers are given—**

*In loving memory of Mary & William Hackman  
Susann Lerch*



**Our steeple will light the sky this week—**

*Happy Birthday to Betty Dickson today!*

Ingrid & Greg Dickson

*In memory of Mary L. Joyce-Smith on her birthday today.*

Irene & Jim Joyce

**Happy Birthday today to Dave Williams  
and to Barbara Morgan!**

**NEIGHBORS IN NEED**

**Donations will be accepted for this UCC special offering throughout the month of October.**

**Envelopes are in the pews.**

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.





### FINGER FOODS WANTED!

We will be celebrating our church's 206<sup>th</sup> anniversary on October 8<sup>th</sup>. We will have cake (of course), but we would like folks to bring appetizers or snacks to share for our party. Please contact **Jen Barry** after worship to sign up or call her at (440) 315-2264 if you can bring something.



### A NOTE OF THANKS—

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

### BOOK STUDY

#### A YEAR OF BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD

Beginning on **October 16<sup>th</sup>**, Pastor Heidi and Linda Elkins will be 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 at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of each month, for one hour. Please let Pastor Heidi or Linda know if you're planning to join us or write "Book Study" on your attendance card. **If you need a copy of the book, Elaine Coffey will be ordering them in bulk. Please text or call her at (502) 214-0426 if you'd like to place an order.**



### SUB NEEDED!

(Not that kind of sub!) We will soon be needing a substitute camera operator to record our worship services on Sunday mornings. If you are willing to learn how to use the church's video camera, please indicate your interest on the back of your attendance card.



### MISSION OUTREACH NEWS: "OODLES OF NOODLES"

**OCTOBER PASTA DRIVE!** Please bring donations of dry or canned pasta and cans or jars of pasta sauce to the receptacle in Pilgrim Hall!



### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—

**Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7 p.m.**

**"What Do You Do When You're Not at Church?"**

Each participant is invited to speak briefly about what she likes to do—Halloween Costumes are encouraged!

**Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m.**

**"What Do You Do When You're Not at Church?"** Each participant is invited to speak briefly about what she likes to do—Halloween Costumes are encouraged!

**Everyone is welcome at all our programs!**



### 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, Barb Camp, Jennifer Cockrell, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sue Hawk, Irene Jannsohn, Carole Kapcar, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Bruce Lerch, Reggie McCray, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkfitz, Gary Paul, George Pavisich, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Bill Schneider, Peter Smith, Robert Sperber, John Toth, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch



**Extended Church Family:** Edward and Sharon Acton (Sally Herzog's friends), Dorene Baldrige, 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 Garipey (Sally Herzog's friend), Kathy Ghetti (friend of Ginger Rothel), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Vic Irelan (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Rudy Matjazz (Judi Pavisich's friend), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), 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

### OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 3,617.01  
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 2,070.00  
Difference -(\$1,547.01)



*Thank you very much for your support.*



**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 MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **October 10<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet not meet in October, but will meet on **November 7<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **October 24<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



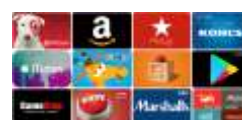
### FREE LUNCH FOR ALL—

**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.



### GIFT CARDS

**PLEASE DON'T FORGET ABOUT THIS EASY, CONVENIENT PROGRAM THAT BENEFITS THE CHURCH.** 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.**



### LIVE MUSIC ON FRIDAY!

The **Strongsville Community Band** will share a concert with the Baldwin Wallace Symphonic Band under the direction of Dr. Brendan Caldwell this Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at the BW Conservatory of Music on Front Street in Berea at 7 PM. The concert is free.



### BE A BUSY BEE IN 2023—September - March

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.



### 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!**



**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.



### 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.



### 2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN M. A.P.L.E.

- M- Making and moving**
- A- Accepting and Acknowledging**
- P- People**
- L- Learning and Loving**
- E- Encompassing**



**Each week during the campaign, members of our Stewardship Committee will be making presentations to the congregation at the beginning of our worship services.**

### COMING UP THIS MONTH

- Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>** —Women's Fellowship 7 pm
- Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>** —Women's Fellowship 1 pm
- Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>** —Church's Anniversary, Baptism, Recognition of 50 year members
- Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>** —Laity Sunday
- Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>** —Book Study begins 7 p.m.
- Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>** —Stewardship campaign continues
- Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>** —Penny Sunday, Trunk or Treat after the service



**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\*



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](mailto:strongsvillefoodbank@gmail.com).