



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, October 10, 2021 – 10 A.M.
204th Anniversary Sunday



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 “Michael, Row the Boat Ashore” arr. Wagner

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Joyce Reed
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.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT Bill Schneider

INTROIT “Shine, Jesus Shine” Kendrick, arr. Bettcher

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Welcome! There are many places you could be this morning, but you have chosen to be here, in God’s House!

People: Here, where we learn how to live in God's Kingdom.

Leader: Welcome to this place - full of music, words, and prayer, spoken and unspoken— yet also filled with danger.

People: Here, where we encounter a Wisdom we cannot always understand.

Leader: Welcome to God's House, the most dangerous place in town!

People: Here, where we talk about God and talk with God, and are reduced to silence, to better hear Christ’s call to discipleship.

† HYMN 33 “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”
(If you wish to sing with us, please have your mask in place.)

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 90: 12-17
(New International Version)

Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.
Relent, Lord! How long will it be? Have compassion on your servants.

Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love,
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
for as many years as we have seen trouble.

May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendor to their children.

May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us;

establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands.

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.

ANTHEM “Let There Be Peace on Earth” Miller/Jackson, arr. Sherman

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

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 “Come Follow Me” Elkins

† **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 GOSPELS Mark 10:17-31
(New Living Translation)

Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him. “There is still one thing you haven’t done,” he told him. “Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” At this the man’s face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions. Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God!”

SERMON “What is Love?”

† HYMN 89 “Jesus the Very Thought of Thee” (vv. 1, 2, 3, 5)
(If you wish to sing with us, please have your mask in place.)

† BENEDICTION

May the God who shakes heaven and earth, whose Spirit blows through the valleys and the hills; whom death could not contain and who lives to disturb and bring us life; bless us with the power to endure, to hope and to love. Amen.

† **POSTLUDE** “God Is My Shepherd” Bain, arr. Carter

TODAY – OCTOBER 10 **NEXT SUNDAY – OCTOBER 17**

Ginger Rothel	Greeters	Judi Pavisich
Linda Ponstingle	Liturgist	Rick Teagno
Chuck McDougall	Ushers	Judi Pavisich
Tom Foley	Director of Music	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	Associate Director of Music	Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	Supplemental Organist	Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich	Sound	Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
The Bell Choir	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, select **Worship**, and click on **Service Videos**.



A NOTE OF THANKS

Today, we thank the Bell Choir, Mike Elkins, Tom Foley, and Sharon Heinrich for contributing to our musical worship today!

The altar flowers are given—

Remembering our dad, Roger H. Robinson—51 years since God called you home. Love ya, Dad!

Becky and Bill Robinson

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthday to Samantha Wentz on October 16th!

With Love, Grammy



MARRIAGE CONGRATULATIONS

Many wishes for a long and happy marriage to **Jason and Dr. Sarah (Falbo)**

Pogozelski, who were married in Akron on September 25, 2021. Jason, who was born and raised in our church and has been a member since his confirmation in 2008, is the son of **Sandy and Bob Pogozelski** and the grandson of **Carol and Roy Merkle**.



IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY



Our deepest condolences are extended to **Clay and Jake Williams** on the death of their grandmother, **Arlene Bislich**, who passed away on October 2, 2021. Arlene was **Nancy (Bislich) Grabski**’s mother. The funeral service was held at Jardine’s Funeral Home on October 8th.

Our sympathy also to **Judi Pavisich**, whose aunt **Kay McGinty**, passed away on October 5, 2021. Kay had been on our prayer list for a while.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

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



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. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

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 Gaumer, Ramona Glaze, Sue Hawk, Bob Heddleson, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Irene Jannsohn, George Kapcar, Tony Koussa, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Judy Maur, Reggie McCray, Laurie Meister, Roy Merkle, Michele Mihlack, Lola Millhoane, Gary Paul, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, Peter Smith, Autumn Schnieder, 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), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Judy Carte's son-in-law, Ryan, Mary Ann Csory (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), Linda Harbison (Jan Meier's sister-in-law), 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), Sandra Wentz (Debbie's daughter-in-law)

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



A TRIBUTE TO BROADWAY

to benefit SCT Scholarship Fund
Presented by Strongsville Community Theatre
Friday, October 29th & Sat. October 30th
at the Strongsville Rec Center

Many familiar Strongsville UCC faces will be participating in this event featuring music and food. Call 440-879-8817 or www.strongsvillecommunitytheatre.com for reservations and ticket purchases.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,649.37
Last Week's Offering Received \$3,120.00
Difference (-\$ 529.37)

Thank you very much for your support.



OUR CHURCH IS LOOKING TO HIRE A PART-TIME CUSTODIAN.

If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact a member of the Board of Trustees for more information and an application.



PENNY SUNDAY OCTOBER 17th

You know you've been saving those pennies, dimes, nickels, and quarters—or maybe even a nice, crisp bill or two.

The Sunday School will be collecting on Sunday, October 17th during worship. Proceeds will benefit our Free Lunch Program, which is incurring extra start-up costs as they are reopening. (Checks to Strongsville UCC)

CHRISTMAS FOR VETERANS

For many years, our congregation has provided a small gift for our military veterans of Cuyahoga County that are served by Church Street Ministries of Berea, helping those with needs, especially those transitioning from homelessness. Between 60-100 veterans are served. We include two pairs of socks, along with candy bars. Our Bombas Socks annual gift has been delayed until 2022. Mission Outreach would appreciate your help with donations of men's crew socks (Med./Lg./XL) or regular sized candy bars deposited in the container in the Gathering Area. Monetary donations may be placed in the offering plate, labeled "VETERANS."



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, October 12th at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, October 19th at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, October 26th at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



FREE LUNCH FOR ALL IS RETURNING

2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

LIMITED RESERVATIONS--Call (440) 238-5389
To-go meals will be available.



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT THE STRONGSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:

The SUMC has a blue bus ministry that cares for some of the poorest of God's children on the near west side of Cleveland and also a few stops in Strongsville on the way on special events. They offer over 10,000 meals a year through a team who picks up food, preps it and then goes out to serve on Wednesday evenings.



They have lost 3 commercial bus drivers in the past 2 months. They are down to one saint left who has a Commercial Driver's License to be able to make the Wednesday runs. If you know of anyone who might be interested in driving once a quarter (4-5 times a year) from 5:15 -7:30ish now on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Wednesdays in the evening, please call the SUMC at 440-238-6135.

THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is OPEN on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. with lots of fall merchandise on display. Donations are being accepted, but you must call the church first to arrange a time for drop-off.

THRIFT SHOP BONUS HOURS
The 3rd Thursday of the month,
October 21, 2021 —
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(We're still open on our usual Thursdays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)
Also, the Thrift Shop is still in need of volunteers to help out for a couple of hours—sorting, organizing, and selling on Thursdays. Please call Cathy Hawk (440-781-7512) if you can help!



TOTE BAGS NEEDED!

The Thrift Shop is in need of large reusable tote bags (like the ones you can get at Marc's). Please bring them to the Thrift Shop if you can spare a bag or two.

MISSION-OUTREACH COMMITTEE



The Strongsville Emergency Food Bank has always been supported by our congregation. We would like to resume having you drop donations off at the church. The

Kuhlenschmidts have agreed to transport the non-perishable food items to the Food Bank for us, which makes this ministry possible. Many thanks to Karl and Sharon. Please remember, we do not accept expired goods. The needs for the food bank in October would be PASTA & SAUCE, JUICE BOXES FOR KIDS!

COMING SOON...Thanksgiving "Basket" project

Due to the remaining effects of the global pandemic, we will not be collecting food items and putting together actual Thanksgiving packages for those in need. 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.

