



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, October 13, 2024– 10 A.M.

Celebrating our 207th Anniversary

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 "One Holy Church" arr. Butler

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Joyce Reed

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT Bill Schneider

INTROIT "Native American Flute Song" Mehalko

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: When we look in the mirror, what do we see?

People: We see people who try to be faithful, even as questions and struggles challenge our faith.

Leader: When we look in the mirror, how do we see?

People: We see with hearts which are open to God's love, with lives which seek to trust when all the evidence tells us not to be so foolish.

Leader: When we look in the mirror, who do we see?

People: We see Jesus, the One who struggles with the questions we raise, who models faithfulness for all who would follow.

† **HYMN 686** "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 139: 1-12
(New International Version)

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.

You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

You discern my going out and my lying down;

You are familiar with all my ways.

Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely.

You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

If I go up to the heavens, you are there;

if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,

even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me

and the light become night around me,"

even the darkness will not be dark to you;

the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

RECOGNITION OF 50 YEAR MEMBERS

Dale Hawk (04/07/1974)

Linda Clark (04/11/1974)

Lynn Milhorn (08/16/1974)

HYMN 425

"Bind Us Together"

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.

ANTHEM "Christ is the Rock" Larson

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Blessed Assurance" Knapp

† **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 OLD TESTAMENT Job 23:1-9, 16-17

(New International Version)

"If only I knew where to find God! If only I could go to God's dwelling!"

SERMON "If only. . . ."

† **HYMN 526** "The Solid Rock"

† **BENEDICTION** Thom M. Shuman

Go forth as God's people to serve those around us, seeking to honor each person as if they were family (because they are). Go forth as sisters and brothers of Jesus, sharing the gifts of grace and hope with everyone we meet. Go forth as those strengthened by the Spirit, standing with others searching for God's justice in their lives. Amen.

† **POSTLUDE** "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" Croft

SERVING

TODAY – OCTOBER 13

Roger & Judy Davis

Mike Willis

Volunteers needed

Tom Foley

Mike Elkins

Sharon Heinrich

Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich

Ken Mehalko, Choir

GREETERS

LITURGIST

USHERS

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

ORGANIST

VIDEO/SOUND

SPECIAL MUSIC

NEXT SUNDAY – OCTOBER 20

Nancy Garber

Pastor Heidi

Volunteers needed

Tom Foley

Mike Elkins

Sharon Heinrich

Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich

Bell 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**, click on **Service Videos**.



A NOTE OF THANKS—We extend our thanks to our **Chancel Choir**, and **Ken Mehalko**, along with **Sharon Heinrich, Mike Elkins, and Tom Foley** for today's music!

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.



The altar flowers are given—

In celebration of our Granddaughters Mallory's & Gabbie's, our Grandson Grant's and our Great-Grandson Taron's Birthdays this month. Love, Grandpa George and Grandma Joyce Reed



A 2024 SIGN-UP SHEET FOR ALTAR FLOWERS IS POSTED IN PILGRIM HALL. Please note: the cost of flowers is \$18 for 1 vase and \$36 for 2 vases. We still have a few Sundays left!



Our steeple will light the sky this week—

With thanks to Dale Hawk, our newest 50 year member, for all he does for our church

Happy Birthday to Samantha Wentz on October 16th

With love, Grammy

In loving memory of Charles Angus (Chuck) McDougall, beloved husband, and Pastor's Wife extraordinaire

FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL:



JOIN US FOR SOME FUN WITH OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27th at NOON- 1 P.M. in the church



parking lot. Decorate your vehicle, bring some candy to share, and wear a costume, if you'd like! **Don't forget, we'll be decorating pumpkins and doing crafts during Sunday School class time!**



PENNY SUNDAY

Our next Penny Sunday will be **October 27th** and the money will go to our Thanksgiving "Basket" project.



IT'S AN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

Today, we are celebrating our church's 207th anniversary! We will have cake (of course), and goodies in



Pilgrim Hall following our worship service.



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!



OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Irene Jannsohn, Laurie Meister, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Maggie Struhar

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Judy Carte, Sam Cuyler Jr., Brandi Garsteck, Sue Hawk, Bruce Keenen, Sarah Keenen, Kay Konicek, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon

Kuhlenschmidt, Jim Maresco, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Ginny & Kenn Oerkfitz, Gary Paul, Judi Pavisich, George & Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Peter Smith, Gayle Sperber, Linda Stepan, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Yvonne Adams (Judi Pavisich's friend), Dorene Baldrige, Denece (Sherry Ahern's sister-in-law), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), John Dickson (Greg's dad), 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), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel's parents), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), 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), The people of Ukraine, Sudan, Gaza, and Israel, 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

MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:



We are collecting full-sized candy bars and individually wrapped mints for our Veteran's Project until November 3rd. There is a bin in the Gathering area.

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

THANK YOU TO OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS, AND ALL THE SUPPORT FROM OUR CONGREGATION AND COMMUNITY!



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS



- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **October 15th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **October 22nd** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



With the closing of Templed Hills, the memorial bricks are being returned to the people who provided them in memory or honor of a loved one. **If you asked to have a brick created and laid at Templed Hills, please let Pastor Heidi Know ASAP. She is arranging to have them returned to the church (and you).** h.e.denman@gmail.com



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.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed	\$ 3,617.01
Last Week's Offering Received	\$16,959.00
Difference	+\$13,341.00



Thank you very much for your support.

PLEDGES RECEIVED: 1

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL-- Wednesdays

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

Insider tip: Everyone's favorite, Gourmet

Grilled Cheese sandwiches will be served on October 16th.



BOOK STUDY—TURNING THE PAGE



On **October 21st**, Pastor Heidi and Linda Elkins will be recapping the monthly book study based on Rachel Held Evans's book, *A Year of Biblical Womanhood*. In November, they leading some Advent activities. At the beginning of the calendar year, we will begin a study of a book called *Sisterhood*. They will continue to meet on the **third Monday of each month at 7 p.m.**



**New Creche
Being Built for 2024**

Oliver Sekorky is building our church a new Creche to replace the 40 plus year old Creche for his Eagle Scout Project.

If you'd like to support Oliver in his project, you may bring cash or check (to Oliver Sekorky) to the church office.

HURRICANES HELENE & MILTON

Many of our own congregation's friends and family members were affected by month's hurricane, suffering damage to property, body, and peace. If you would like to make a contribution to help those impacted by the devastation wrought by the recent hurricanes, the United Church of Christ has established a special appeal:



<https://support.ucc.org/hurricane-helene-relief?erid=1488600&trid=2f5a5440-09c5-47bb-b697-80178d3c508e>

Or you may give cash or a check to UCC with "Hurricane Relief" in the memo line to the Church Office.

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR!

Accepting donations for our 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 (Giant Eagle & Walmart are available from Jim Joyce) 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. Deadline is November 10th.**

FROM OUR FRIENDS AT STRONGSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Are you interested in learning more about the Foster Care System in Cuyahoga County? SUMC (13500 Royalton Road) is hosting an informational luncheon on **Saturday, November 9th at 11 a.m.** at their church. For more information and reservations to the event, please contact Gail Spence at gspence0213@gmail.com.



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.

GIFT CARDS



PLEASE DON'T FORGET ABOUT THIS EASY, CONVENIENT PROGRAM THAT BENEFITS THE CHURCH. ORDER NOW FOR CHRISTMAS! 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.**

2025 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN!

What do you bring to the campfire?



United Church of Christ 2025 Estimate of Giving

In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2025:

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 _____

SUPPORTING OUR FRIENDS SNOW SCHOOL

We would like to continue to support Snow School throughout the school year. They have a school “store” to reward appropriate behavior and help students learn money management skills. If you would like to contribute items for their school store, we will have a bin in the Gathering Area for:

- NEW Small toys, puzzles, or games for kids
- NEW marker sets, journals
- NEW Water bottles
- NEW fun socks or hats for kids
- Children’s books (ages 5 and up)
- Fun snacks or candy (non-perishable)



For the most part, clothing is given directly to Ohio Guidestone for distribution to the kids, but Principal Tami Klammer, will offer special clothing items in the store from time to time. Please note: they cannot accept anything sharp or things that can be used for injurious behavior.

CHURCH OFFICERS IN 2024

**Elected January 28, 2024 **Appointed by the Official Board*

Moderator: Greg Dickson* **Vice-Moderator:** Jen Barry*

Treasurer: Sally Herzog* **Clerk:** Judy Gaumer*

Sunday School Co-Superintendents

Linda Elkins Mary Densmore

Board of Trustees

Bill Giuliano* Chris Goff Mike Elkins* Les Fox*
Herb Hampson* Cathy Hawk Sarah Hayes* Sandy Pogozelski*
Cheryl Sobek Dan Winrod Laura Winrod Rachel Zielinski*

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson* Dave Williams*

Diaconate

Teri Barbish* Jean Bittinger Elaine Coffey* Bobbi Cook Wayne Cook
Judy Davis Judy Fox* Carole Kapcar Cherie Teagno*
Barbara White Mary Ellen Zimmerman

Christian Education Committee

Serena Abruzzino Mary Densmore Linda Elkins*
Colette Emerson* 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

Sue Gigliotti* Judi Pavisich Bill Schneider Rob Toth* Mary Willis

Mission and Outreach Committee

Diana Creecy* Sarah Hayes* Lora Rung
Jennifer Sekorky* Peter Smith Bev Wehr* Mary Ellen Zimmerman



PAPER RECYCLING—NEW COMPANY!

Our paper recycling bin will now be serviced by Royal Oak Recycling. Please continue to deposit your FLATTENED cardboard and your papers in the bin. However, **please do not place papers/cardboard outside the bin if it’s full.** Thanks!

GIFT CARDS

PLEASE DON’T FORGET ABOUT THIS EASY, CONVENIENT PROGRAM THAT BENEFITS THE CHURCH. ORDER NOW FOR



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