



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136

(440) 238-6697

[StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com](mailto:StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com)

[StrongsvilleUCC.com](http://StrongsvilleUCC.com)

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, October 15, 2023 – 10:00 A.M.

Laity Sunday



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 "Simple Gifts" American Folk Tune, arr. Carter

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Linda Ponstingle

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT Bill Schneider

INTROIT "Sweet Hour of Prayer" Bradbury

† CALL TO WORSHIP Sharon Maresco

Leader: Gracious God, when the world's political noise is turned up high,

**People: We come not to escape, but to seek wisdom, and to focus on things that are worthy.**

Leader: Center our hearts on you, O Lord. Dial down the distractions in our minds.

**People: Tune our senses to your word and our hearts to your praise.**

**All: In your holy name we pray. Amen.**

† HYMN 3 "Holy, Holy Holy"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 100: 1-5

(New International Version)

Praise the Lord. Hallelujah!

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord or fully declare his praise?

Blessed are those who act justly, who always do what is right.

Remember me, Lord, when you show favor to your people, come to my aid when

you save them, that I may enjoy the prosperity of your chosen ones,

that I may share in the joy of your nation and join your inheritance in giving praise.

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

**People:** Thanks be to God.

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS Irene Joyce

PRAYER Jennifer Barry

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 "Be Present Spirit of the Lord" Beall

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Barb Fraunfelder

OFFERING Mary Ellen Zimmerman

OFFERTORY "Native Gifts" Mehalko

† 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 4:4-9 Linda Plain

(New International Version)

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

REFLECTIONS Carol Foley, Bruce Keenen, Elaine Coffey

† HYMN 684 "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

† BENEDICTION Bill Schneider

As you go on your way, may God go with you. May God go before you to show you the way. May God go behind you to encourage you, beside you to befriend you, above you to watch over you, below you to uphold you, within you to give you Peace! Amen.

† RESPONSE/POSTLUDE "Put Your Hand in the Hand" MacLellan



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

SERVING

TODAY – OCTOBER 15 NEXT SUNDAY – OCTOBER 22

Judi Pavisich Greeters Jean Bittinger

Sharon Maresco Liturgist Herb Hampson

Pavisich, Barbish, Kapcar Zimmerman Ushers Roz Fotos

Tom Foley Director of Music Tom Foley

Mike Elkins Associate Director of Music Mike Elkins

Sharon Heinrich Organist Sharon Heinrich

Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich Sound Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich

Ken Mehalko/Choir Special Music Chancel Choir

The altar flowers are given—

In Loving Memory of Lois A. Hampson

Herb Hampson

Remembering my beloved Chuck McDougall--Pastor Heidi



Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthday to Samantha Wentz on October 16<sup>th</sup>

With love, Grammy

In loving memory of Chuck McDougall, aka the Pastor's Wife, whose spirit stays in our hearts forever.

Happy Anniversary today to Elisabeth & Robert Koenig!

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,

begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,

he suffered death and was buried,

and rose again on the third day

in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory

to judge the living and the dead

and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins

and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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.



A NOTE OF THANKS—

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

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

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.





**BOOK STUDY**  
**A YEAR OF BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD**  
Beginning tomorrow, **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.



**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!**



**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!



**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, Ron & Yvonne Adams (Judi Pavisich's friends), 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 Gariepy (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 Matjazic (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**

**IT'S A BOY!**  
Welcome to the world, **Taron Reed Colles**, who was born on October 8, 2023! He is the son of **Griffin and Hilary (Gleske) Colles**. His family includes big sister, **Quinn**, and big brother, **Cory**, along with grandparents **Marty and Holly (Reed) Schafer**, and **Scott and Michelle Gleske**, and Great-Grandparents, **George and Joyce Reed**.  
Taron is the Reeds' 6<sup>th</sup> great-grandchild!



**OFFERINGS RECEIVED**  
Weekly Offering Needed \$ 3,617.01  
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 3,658.50  
Difference +\$ 41.49



**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!



**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.



**FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL:**  
**JOIN US FOR SOME FUN WITH OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29<sup>th</sup> 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!**  
Start saving those coins and dollars! The next Penny Sunday will be **October 29<sup>th</sup>** and will go to the **Strongsville Emergency Food Bank**.

**GIFT CARDS**  
**PLEASE DON'T FORGET ABOUT THIS EASY, CONVENIENT PROGRAM THAT BENEFITS THE CHURCH. IT'S TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT A CHRISTMAS ORDER!** 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.**



**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\*

**2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN --M. A.P.L E.**

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



**Strongsville United Church of Christ**  
**2024 Estimate of Giving**

In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2024:

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 \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**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.



**COMING UP THIS MONTH**

**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

**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.



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**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.



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).

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