



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136

(440) 238-6697

StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com

StrongsvilleUCC.com

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, October 16, 2022 – 10 A.M.



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 "Trumpet Tune" Purcell
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce
STEWARDSHIP MOMENT: Offering Bill Schneider
INTROIT "Ask, Seek, Knock" Larson

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We have gathered in God's holy presence, the One who etches grace on our hearts.

People: This is the place where God will transform us into disciples.

Leader: We glorify our God, who yearns for justice, not just for a favored few, but for the least of our world.

People: This is the place where God will write compassion on our souls.

Leader: We give thanks to God for unceasing grace; we remember God's persistence in saving us.

People: This is the place where God will breathe the Word into our lives.

† HYMN 633 "Open Our Eyes, Lord"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 121 (New International Version)

I lift up my eyes to the hills— where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord watches over you— the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

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.

ANTHEM "O Give Thanks to God the Lord" Haydn

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. You are the Hands and Feet of Jesus in the world.

OFFERTORY "Creation Sings the Father's Song" Getty/Townend Sarah Keenen, vocalist

† 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 Genesis 32:22-31 (New International Version)

That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak.

SERMON Struggling with God

† HYMN 426 "Blest Be the Tie that Binds"

† BENEDICTION

Now may the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Know that wherever you are, God is with you. Amen.

† RESPONSE "God Be With You Till We Meet Again" Tomer

† POSTLUDE "This Little Light of Mine" arr. Raney

SERVING

Table with 2 columns: TODAY - OCTOBER 16 and NEXT SUNDAY - OCTOBER 23. Roles include Greeters, Liturgist, Ushers, Acolytes, Director of Music, Associate Director of Music, Organist, Sound, and Special Music.

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 Chancel Choir, and extend special thanks to Sarah Keenen, Tom Foley, Mike Elkins, and Sharon Heinrich for sharing their music with us today.

The altar flowers are given—

In gratitude to Cathy Hawk for all her work in so many of our church's ministries.



Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Many thanks to my church family and friends for celebrating my 90th birthday with me. God Bless you all! Lola Millhoane

A Big THANK YOU to the Hopkins and Masuga families for an awesome weekend of 90th birthday celebrations. It was the "bestest" ever—Love, Mom

Happy Birthday today to Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Barbara Toth, and Allen Mhlack!

Happy Anniversary today to Sharon & Jim Maresco!



NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Donations will be accepted for this UCC special offering throughout 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. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities.

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 this year. Mission Outreach would appreciate your help with donations of men's crew socks (Med./Lg./XL) or regular sized candy bars THROUGH OCTOBER 30th, deposited in the container in the Gathering Area. Monetary donations may be placed in the offering plate, labeled "VETERANS."

THANK YOU!

Thanks to everyone who donated food, helped set up, and helped clean up for last week's 205th Anniversary Celebration. Special thanks to Vicky Masuga and Valerie Hopkins for providing the cake to celebrate our newest 50 year members and their mom, Lola Millhoane's, 90th birthday and of course, to Jennifer Barry and her crew for organizing the reception!



(Pictured: Becky Robinson, Lola Millhoane, Valerie Hopkins, Sharon Wilson, Betty Jacobson, and Vicky Masuga)

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Ruth Milidonis, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Joan Beckwith, Lloyd Bridle, Mary Carey, Gina Cathcart, Kathy Cockrell, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sam Cuyler, Sr., Lidiya Dordzhiyeva, Sue Hawk, Paul Hirt, Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Len Lane, Judy Maur, Reggie McCray, Heidi & Chuck McDougall, Laurie Meister, Roy Merkle, Michele Mhlack, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkfitz, Gary Paul, Sandy Pogozelski, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, Tracy Seneff, Peter Smith, Maggie Struhar, Dave Williams, Sharon Wilson, Janis Williamson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Mary Ellen Zimmerman



Extended Church Family: Dorene Baldrige, Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), John Dickson (Greg's dad), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Tiffany Hassel (Judi Pavisich's daughter-in-law), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Ed Kuhn (Sandy & Don Gleichauf's friend), Andrew Majoros (Michele Mhlack's cousin), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Rudy Matjazic (Judi Pavisich's friend, Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Zachary McKeever (Pastor Heidi and Chuck's great-nephew), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Heather Overman (friend of Judi Pavisich), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Thomas O'Shea (Sandy's dad), Jeff Peacock, Terry Robson (Barb & Mark Camp's friend), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Tina Serrano (Elliott Joyce's grandma), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Vicky Smith (Venner Clarinets), Bruce Unger (Sally Herzog's friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Weston (Chelsea Cathcart's friend's baby), Tom (friend of Judi Pavisich), The people of Ukraine, victims of violence, those affected by severe weather

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

PHONE A FRIEND!

Are you interested in praying for others, but don't use email? Your Church Family Care Team has a number of folks who are willing to call you, typically once a week, to share with you the prayer requests Pastor Heidi shares via email. Please let **Linda Ponstingle** know.



OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed	\$3,649.37
Last Week's Offering Received	\$4,757.50
Difference	-\$1,108.13



Thank you very much for your support.

ATTENTION ELECTRONIC GIVERS:



Our new online giving platform, Zeffy, is live! If you would like to give electronically, please go to www.strongsvilleucc.com

and click on the donate button. The MyEoffering service has been terminated. Please see Mike Elkins with any questions. Thank you for giving.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR! Immediately following Sunday School classes, students are to report upstairs for a brief rehearsal with Mr. Foley. (Choir is part of the Sunday School curriculum.)



PENNY SUNDAY

Please remember to save those pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and yes, DOLLARS for our next Penny Sunday collection, **October 30th**, which will go to **UCC Disaster Relief Ministries** for hurricane assistance.

JOIN US FOR SOME FUN WITH OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30th

immediately following Coffee Hour 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!**



NOW COLLECTING...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 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.**

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS



- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **October 18th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **October 25th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL Wednesdays 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

We have room for YOU! Please join us for a nutritious meal and warm fellowship. **Many thanks to our hard-working volunteers, who make the lunch ministry possible!**



A TRIBUTE TO THE GREAT AMERICAN SONG BOOK

to benefit SCT Scholarship Fund
Presented by Strongsville Community Theatre
Friday, October 28th & Sat. October 29th
at the Center for Innovation and Growth at Baldwin Wallace University



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.**

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP--UPCOMING EVENTS



November 2 – 1:00 P.M. – Plan Our Christmas Tea, Plan Programs for Next Year, Elect Officers
December 11 – Sunday – Christmas Tea (Please note change in date.)
All ladies are welcome to attend all our events.

GIFT CARDS

GET YOUR GIFT GIVING AND PERSONAL SHOPPING DONE AND BENEFIT THE CHURCH!



You can order gift cards by calling **Jim Joyce** at 216-267-5043 in advance with your order. **Limited stock is available for purchase on Sunday mornings.**



2022 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN: S.O.C.K.S. Service, Offering, Community, Kindness, Sanctuary

THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is **OPEN** on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. with a whole new line of fall/winter merchandise. **THERE IS A MORATORIUM ON ACCEPTING DONATIONS UNTIL OCTOBER 20th. Please hold your items until then.**



CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2022

Elected January 30, 2022 * = 1 year term
**appointed by the Official Board

Moderator: Greg Dickson **Vice-Moderator:** Jen Barry
Treasurer: Sally Herzog **Clerk:** Judy Gaumer

Sunday School Co-Superintendents
Linda Elkins Serena Abruzzino

Board of Trustees

Myron Costin Diana Creecy Bill Giuliano*
Herb Hampson Dale Hawk Sarah Hayes
Sandy Pogozelski* Dave Sekorky Ed Sobek*
Rachel Zielinski

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson Linda Stepan Joyce Reed*

Diaconate

Teri Barbish Barbara Camp* Elaine Coffey
Cathy Hawk* Linda Kapcar Bobbie Krisak
Sharon Maresco Linda Ponstingle Cheryl Sobek* 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* Rob Stepan
ex officio: Sharon Heinrich Tom Foley Mike Elkins

Stewardship Committee

Sue Gigliotti* Beth Giuliano* Judi Pavisich
Bill Schneider** Richard Taylor Rob Toth

Mission and Outreach Committee

Judy Carte* Sarah Hayes Bobbie Krisak
Lora Rung* Jennifer Sekorky Peter Smith** Bev Wehr*