



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor
Sunday, October 18, 2026– 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 always welcome here.

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE "Prayer" Boëllmann

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Joyce Reed

INTROIT "This is the Day" Garrett

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Each morning, God's grace awakens us; each evening, God's peace cradles us.

People: Compassion is our constant companion as we go through work, school, the day.

Leader: In every moment, God is present with us; God whispers words which can change our lives.

People: Justice is our faithful teacher, pointing to where we can carry out fairness.

Leader: When we find ourselves groping in the shadows, God's light will provide a way home.

People: We turn the corner, and hope is waiting for us; we return home, and find a feast prepared.

† HYMN 3 "Holy, Holy, Holy"

† A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 96: 1-9
(New International Version)

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.

Declare his glory among the nations,

His marvelous deeds among all peoples.

For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;

He is to be feared above all gods.

For all the gods of the nations are idols,

but the Lord made the heavens.

Splendor and majesty are before him;

strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations,

ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;

bring an offering and come into his courts.

Worship the Lord in the splendor of God's holiness;

tremble before him, all the earth.

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 "I Will Lift Up My Eyes" Larson

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GENEROSITY MOMENT Sue Gigliotti

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "The Bread of Life" 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 Matthew 22:15-22
(The Message)

"Teacher, we know you have integrity, teach the way of God accurately, are indifferent to popular opinion, and don't pander to your students.
So tell us honestly: Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

REFLECTION "Sounds like a trick question. . . ."

† HYMN 597 "Take My Life and Let It Be" (vv. 1, 2, 5, 6)

† BENEDICTION

Praise God when the harvest is plenty. Thank God for the abundance and overflow of goodness and blessings God brings us. May God lead us to be helpers for those in need; to be givers to those who have less; and to be generous with our time, talents, and resources. Help us to be cheerful givers and to be representatives of the Love of Jesus love in this world. Amen.

† POSTLUDE "Wind Beneath My Wings" Silbar/Henley

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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**.

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.



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A NOTE OF THANKS

—Thank you to our Chancel Choir and our music team: **Mike Elkins, Tom Foley, and Sharon Heinrich** for sharing their music today.

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SERVING

TODAY—OCTOBER 18

Les & Judy Fox
Linda Ponstingle
Mary Ellen Zimmerman
Tom Foley
Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Chancel Choir

NEXT SUNDAY—OCTOBER 25

Greeters Susann Lerch
Liturgist Sandy O'Shea
Head Usher Judi Pavisich
Director of Music Tom Foley
Associate Director of Music Mike Elkins
Organist Sharon Heinrich
Video/Sound Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Special Music Choir, C. Foley, Praise Band

Today's altar flowers are given—

In celebration of our Granddaughter, Gabbie, and our Grandson Grant's Birthdays this month.

Love, Grandma Joyce Reed



THE FLOWER CHART FOR 2027 IS POSTED IN PILGRIM HALL. Please sign up for fresh flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one or just for yourself. Cost is \$36 for two vases; \$18 for one.

SIGN UP EARLY AND GET YOUR FIRST CHOICE OF DATES!



Our steeple will light the sky this week—

In celebration of our 50th Wedding Anniversary on October 18th! Sharon & Jim Maresco

Happy Birthday to Kristina Craig on October 22nd!

With love, Grammy

In honor of Pastor Heidi on Pastor Appreciation Month

Happy Anniversary today to Ginny & Kenn Oerkfitz!

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Now 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 for the families on our list. If you would like to contribute, you may purchase gift cards via 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.**

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SUNDAY SCHOOL



PENNY SUNDAY IS NEXT WEEK! Please save your coins, dollars, and checks to UCC for the next Penny Sunday, which will be on **October 25th** for our Thanksgiving "Basket" program. Our last Penny Sunday of the year will be **November 29th**.

TRUNK OR TREAT IS NEXT WEEK!
JOIN US FOR SOME FUN WITH OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25th at 11:45 A.M. in the church parking lot. Decorate your vehicle, park it at the edge of the parking lot, 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!**



OUR PRAYER LIST



Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Irene Jannsohn, Connie Rebar

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Jen Barry, Jean Bittinger, Mark Camp, Judy Carte, Sam Cuyler Jr., Roger Davis, Colette Emerson, Roz Fotos, Sue Hawk, Cindy Hurley, Charles Jannsohn, Carole Kapcar, Pam & Bruce Keenen, Bonnie Khavaran, Erv Koch, Jill Kundtz, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Jim Maresco, Ken

Mehalko, Barbara Morgan, Amanda Moulton, Ginny & Kenn Oerkfitz, Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Ron Rothel, Jennifer Sekorky, Tracy Seneff, Peter Smith, Sandy Smith, Bruce Sperber, Linda Stepan, John Toth, Heather Williams, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Oliver Zielinski

Extended Church Family: Teresa Beba (Free Lunch friend), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Derek Denman (Pastor Heidi's son), Allison Emerson (Colette's sister), David Fargo (Sally Herzog's brother), Dr. Natalie Feagin (Pentecostal Church of Christ), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend, Kathy Ghetti (friend of Ginger Rothel), Jennifer Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's daughter-in-law), David Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's grandson), Ellen Harrison (Linda Elkins' friend), Michaelene Hanrahan (Jim Joyce's sister), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel's parents), Ben Hoty (Tony & Jo-Ann Hoty's son), Tami Klammer (principal of Snow School); Helen Leckwatch (Dale Parson's mother-in-law), Dave Lempner (Sharon's husband), George Love (friend of the church), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Jeff Peacock (former member), Michael & Judy Richter (Roz Fotos' friends), Bob Ritchie (Dorothy's grandson), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Vicki Smith (Venner Clarinets), Don & Pauline Wills (Judi Pavisich's friends), Julia Wright (Sandy & Don Gleichauf's granddaughter), the people of Ukraine, Sudan, Gaza, Iran, Venezuela and Israel, victims of violence and natural disasters, First Responders

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 \$ 5,212.00
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 2,580.00
Difference -(\$ 2,362.00)

Thank you very much for your support.

2026 PLEDGES RECEIVED: 62



Join us tomorrow, Monday, October 19th—at 7 p.m. It will be an in-depth look at The Lord's Prayer which is an integral part of our weekly worship services. And there will be a bit of fun involved too. Attendees are encouraged to bring a Bible to the sessions.

MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:

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.

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY



Our love and prayers go out to Sarah and Dale Toth and family on the death of Sheena Toth, Dale's mom. Sheena died on October 14th after a long struggle with cancer. Arrangements will be forthcoming.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Mission Outreach Committee will meet TODAY following the worship service.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, October 20th at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, October 27th at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



NEW MEMBER CLASS COMING SOON!

Please contact Pastor Heidi or write "membership" on the back of your attendance card if you'd like to begin your Strongsville UCC membership journey!

THREE WITH GLEE!



Capital Campaign: We currently have \$29,128.43 in our capital campaign account. Several projects have been completed and several are underway. We started in March 2025, so September 2026 was the halfway point of the campaign. Please make sure you designate your donation for "Capital Campaign." Thanks for your continuing support.

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.



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 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.



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

We have been serving around 100 lunches every week, thanks to our dedicated volunteers!

2027 GENEROSITY CAMPAIGN

THE B.R.E.A.D. OF LIFE

Be Present
Relationships
Engagement
Activities
Donate

Strongsville United Church of Christ
2027 Estimate of Giving



In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2027:

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 our church in my will.

□□I would like to talk with someone about using the automatic deduction plan from my checking account.

Signed _____

Date ____/____/____ I am the bread of life. John 6:48



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.

SAFE SPACES IN THE CHURCH

In the case of a weather or other emergency, designated safe spaces in the church include the basement, the Parlor, the restrooms, and other spaces without windows such as interior hallways. In the event of an emergency, we will proceed in an orderly fashion to these areas.



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED OUR PIG ROAST!



We served about 78 people and our profit was \$2,472.46 for the Official Board. Special thanks to everyone who donated food, desserts, and supplies, to our hard-working volunteers, and especially, to our head chef and owner of the pig roaster and smokers, Erik Joyce.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!



If you are the last or almost the last person to leave the church building on any given day, please make certain that all the lights are off, no water is running, and most importantly, that the door to the kitchen and the parking lot

doors are locked and "undogged" using the Allen key provided. Thanks in advance for your diligence.

CHURCH OFFICERS 2026

*Elected February 1, 2026 ** appointed by the Official Board

Moderator: Rachel Zielinski *

Vice-Moderator: Herb Hampson*

Treasurer: Sally Herzog* Clerk: Judy Gaumer*

Sunday School Superintendent: Linda Elkins

Board of Trustees

Karen Bates Jen Barry* Greg Dickson*
Bill Giuliano* Chris Goff Les Fox* Cathy Hawk
Sandy Pogozeleski* Bill Robinson * Cheryl Sobek
Alex Tomoff Mike Willis

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Linda Stepan* Dave Williams*

Diaconate

Jean Bittinger Elaine Coffey* Diana Creecy*
Bobbi Cook Wayne Cook Judy Davis
Judy Fox* Marsha Hemphill* Lynne McCray*
Linda Ponstingle Lora Rung Cherie Teagno**

Christian Education Committee

Linda Elkins* Colette Emerson* Dale Hawk
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

Ingrid Dickson Sue Gigliotti* Linda Stepan
Rob Toth* Sarah Toth Dave Williams

Mission and Outreach Committee

Jen Barry * Gina Cathcart Bobbi Cook*
Cathy Hawk Cindy Hurley** Sarah Hayes*
Lora Rung Mary Willis Mary Ellen Zimmerman

CHURCH FAMILY CARE TEAM



If you like to cook or bake or reach out to others in love . . . as winter and circumstances continue to make it hard to stay connected, your Diaconate would LOVE to have you be a part of our team! (You don't need to be a member of the Diaconate to participate, and you may come and go as you are led.)

YES! I'D LIKE TO BE PART OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY CARE TEAM.

NAME_____

PHONE _____

EMAIL_____



I AM INTERESTED IN:

_____ OFFERING OR RECEIVING COMMUNION AT HOME

_____CALLING FOLKS WHO WOULD LIKE TO JOIN PRAYER CHAIN, BUT DON'T USE EMAIL

_____ PREPARING AN EXTRA MEAL AND DELIVERING IT TO SOMEONE WHO'S HOMEBOUND

_____ HELPING COOK A DISH AND OR SERVE MEALS AT FUNERAL LUNCHEON

_____ BECOMING A "PHONE BUDDY" AND PERIODICALLY CHECK IN WITH SOMEONE WHO'S HOMEBOUND

_____ OFFERING AN OCCASIONAL RIDE TO TAKE MEMBERS TO APPOINTMENTS

_____ OFFERING AN OCCASIONAL RIDE TO OUR CHURCH SERVICES

_____BE PART OF A CARD CREW TO SEND CARDS TO FOLKS ON HEIDI'S PRAYER LIST AND OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

_____ I WOULD BE WILLING TO...