



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor
Sunday, October 19, 2025– 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.

BELL PRELUDE "Praise the Father" Witt, arr. Page

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Bill Schneider

BELL INTROIT "Breathe" Barnett, arr. Bettcher

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Whether we live in an apartment or a house; if we reside in the suburbs or the heart of the city,

People: God tells us to pray for the places where we live.

Leader: Whether we are exiles or prisoners for the gospel; if we are young or old, insider or outcast,

People: God says, "When you search for me, you will find me."

Leader: Whether we have been wandering and lost; or if we have lived in the same place all our lives,

People: God says, "I will gather you from all your places and bring you home." ALL: Welcome home!

† HYMN 790 "We Gather Together"

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

I lift up my eyes to the mountains— from where does my help come?

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.

BELL ANTHEM "Song of Prayer" McChesney

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GENEROSITY MOMENT Linda Stepan

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Given by God" 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 Luke 18:1-8

(The Message)

Jesus said, "There was a judge in some city who never gave God a thought and cared nothing for people. A widow in that city kept after him: 'My rights are being violated. Protect me!'"

REFLECTION "Faith and Justice"

† **HYMN 355** "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

† **BENEDICTION** Romans 16:25-27

Now to the one who is able to strengthen you according to the gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed, and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

† **POSTLUDE** "Now Thank We All Our God" Bach, arr. Burkhardt

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.



SERVING

TODAY – OCTOBER 19	NEXT SUNDAY – OCTOBER 26
Serena Abruzzino	Greeters Susann Lerch
Barb Fraunfelder	Liturgist Sandy O'Shea
Teri Barbish	Head Usher Carole Kapcar
Tom Foley	Director of Music Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	Associate Director of Music Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	Organist Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich	Video/Sound Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Bell Choir	Special Music Chancel Choir



A NOTE OF THANKS—Today, we welcome the return of our **Bell Choir**, and thank our music team: **Mike Elkins, Tom Foley, and Sharon Heinrich** for our worship music.

Today's altar flowers are given—

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



Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthday to Kristina Craig on October 22nd!

With love, Grammy

*In honor of Pastor Heidi on Pastor Appreciation Month
Congratulations to Rev. Jill Kundtz on the 30th Anniversary of her ordination on October 22nd!*



SOUP SALE!

Our Youth Group is selling Guy's Famous Chicken Paprikash Soup! We are taking orders for delivery on October 26th. Warm and comforting, soup is perfect for a fall lunch or supper. Purchase 24 ounces of homemade goodness for only \$10! Please see one of our kids to get your order in! Only 65 containers are available, so hurry and order today!



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Save your coins, dollars, and checks to UCC for the next Penny Sunday, which will be next Sunday, **October 26th** for our Thanksgiving "Basket" program. On **November 30th**, Penny Sunday will be for G.R.I.N. (Golden Retrievers in Need).



TRUNK OR TREAT IS NEXT WEEK!

JOIN US FOR SOME FUN WITH OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26th around 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!**



OCTOBER IS BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH TIME!



While friends are always welcome at our church, the Christian Education Committee is suggesting that our children, students, families and members make a concerted effort to invite

friends to church any Sunday this month. This is an opportune time to experience all the amazing events that are happening here.

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy goes out to **Heather** and **Dave Williams** and their children **Mandy, Mat** and **Jasper**, as well as their granddaughter, **Clara** on the death of Heather's sister, **Natalie Prechtel**. Natalie died on October 10, 2025 after suffering a massive stroke. She was 68 years old. Natalie was an organ donor and helped many people as she finished her earthly journey.

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, Mark Camp, Judy Carte, Elaine Coffey, Betty “Grammy” Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Roz Fotos, Sue Hawk, Bruce Keenen, Erv Koch, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Roy Merkle, Amanda Moulton, Ginny & Kenn Oerkfitz, George & Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Ron Rothel, Jennifer Sekorky, Tracy Seneff, Peter Smith, Bruce Sperber, Linda Stepan, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch



Extended Church Family: Amy Carroll (Marty Winch’s sister), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf’s friend), Allison Emerson (Colette’s sister), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen’s friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung’s friend), Joanne Gariepy (Sally Herzog’s friend), Kathy Ghetti (friend of Ginger Rothel), Jennifer Gleichauf (Don & Sandy’s daughter-in-law), Sarah & David Gleichauf (Don & Sandy’s grandson & wife), Karen Greenway (Judi Pavisich’s friend), Michaelene Hanrahan (Jim Joyce’s sister), Dana Hardy (Craig’s wife), Tiffany Hassel (Judi Pavisich’s daughter-in-law), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel’s parents), George Love (friend of the church), Diane Mason (Lora Rung’s friend), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel’s sister-in-law), Sylvia Pakish (Don & Sandy Gleichauf’s friend), Mike Pavisich (Judi’s step-son), Jeff Peacock (former member), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes’ friend), Vicki Smith (Venner Clarinets), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung’s friend), Don & Pauline Wills (Judi Pavisich’s friends), the people of Ukraine, Sudan, Gaza, and Israel, victims of violence, those affected by 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

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THREE WITH GLEE!



Capital Campaign: We currently have \$61,259.08 in our capital campaign account. The tuckpointing has a few more areas to be completed. We have chosen the vendor for the automatic door openers for the kitchen and main doors. The Trustees are reviewing the proposals that have been submitted for improving the acoustics in Pilgrim Hall and painting the hall. Please make sure you designate your donation for “Capital Campaign.” Yellow pledge cards are available in the Gathering Area. Thanks for your continuing support.



ARE YOU INTERESTED?

The Board of Trustees needs someone to fill an unexpired term on the board. The Trustees oversee the building, property, and finances of the church. The Trustees meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. The Official Board would appoint the willing volunteer to complete the term ending in 2027. The church will be needing a new treasurer at the beginning of the year, as our treasurer, Sally Herzog, will be completing her 3rd term of service. The treasurer position is an elected office and is responsible for facilitating the payment of the church’s bills and working closely with the Financial Secretary. Sally is willing to thoroughly train her successor. Please see Rachel Zielinski or Cathy Hawk if you can serve in either capacity.

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.

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The Tunnel to Towers Foundation is a charitable organization focuses on providing mortgage-free homes to families of fallen first responders and catastrophically injured veterans, as well as helping to eradicate veteran homelessness.

We are sponsoring 2 veterans/first responders a month. THANK YOU to everyone who has already signed up for 2025-26!

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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, 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.





THANK YOU TO
EVERYONE WHO
SUPPORTED THE PIG
ROAST YESTERDAY!

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 4,359.00
Last Week’s Offering Received \$ 2,276.00
Difference -(\$2,083.00)
Thank you very much for your support.
PLEDGES RECEIVED for 2026: 1





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 yourself. Please do not abandon items outside the church doors.

The Thrift Shop will be closed on Christmas & New Year’s days.

A NEW GENEROSITY CAMPAIGN FOR 2026--H.E.A.R.T.

Hospitality
Engagement
Activities
Resources
Time, Talent, & Treasure



United Church of Christ 2026 Estimate of Giving

In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2026:

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 ____/____/____

For where your treasure is,
there will your heart be also. *Matthew 6:21*

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL--
Wednesdays

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

Many thanks to all of our dedicated volunteers and to all who come and enjoy food and fellowship on Wednesdays! PLEASE NOTE: The Free Lunch for All program will be on hiatus on December 24th and December 31st.

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BOOK STUDY--SISTERHOOD!
Tomorrow, October 20th at 7 p.m., Our Sisterhood Book Study will continue. All are welcome!

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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.



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UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **October 21st** at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **October 28th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

DISHES, and BOWLS, and PLATES--Oh My!
They’re starting to accumulate again.
Many folks have been kind enough to bring dishes and utensils to the church for funeral luncheons or other events. After the delicious food is eaten, the dishes are sometimes forgotten. If you are missing one of your bowls, utensils, or containers, please pick it up from the kitchen right away. Abandoned dishware will be sold at the Thrift Shop.



CHURCH OFFICERS 2025

**Elected January 26, 2025 ** appointed by Official Board*
Moderator: Greg Dickson **Vice-Moderator:** Jen Barry
Treasurer: Sally Herzog **Clerk:** Judy Gaumer
Sunday School Superintendent: Linda Elkins

Board of Trustees

Bill Giuliano Chris Goff* Mike Elkins
Les Fox Herb Hampson Cathy Hawk*
Sandy Pogozeleski Cheryl Sobek*
Alex Tomoff* Mike Willis* Rachel Zielinski

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson* Dave Williams*

Diaconate

Teri Barbish Jean Bittinger* Elaine Coffey*
Bobbi Cook* Wayne Cook* Judy Davis*
Judy Fox Pam Heimburger* 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

Gina Cathcart* Bobbi Cook** Myron Costin*
Diana Creecy Cathy Hawk* Sarah Hayes
Lora Rung* Peter Smith Mary Willis*
Mary Ellen Zimmerman



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. We also have a Life-vac choking device to assist in the event that someone is choking. It is located just beneath the AED.

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... _____