



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, October 2, 2022 – 10 A.M.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

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 "Siyahamba" African Hymn Children's Chorus, Chancel Choir, with Rob Toth, percussion

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Greg Dickson

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT Bill Schneider/Rob Toth

INTROIT "Gather Around, for the Table is Spread" Scottish Tune

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The word has come for us from God:

People: Who promises to shelter us under the wings of hope and grace.

Leader: The word has come to us from Jesus:

People: Who encourages us to remember the good news we have received.

Leader: The word flows to us from the Spirit:

People: Who reminds us to place our hope and trust in God.

HYMN "Come to the Table of Grace"

Come to the table of grace*; Come to the table of grace*.

This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.

Come to the table of grace*.

*Verse 2: peace, Verse 3: love, Verse 4: joy, Verse 5: hope

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 37: 1-9 (NIV)

Do not fret because of those who are evil or be envious of those who do wrong; for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away.

Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.

Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this:

He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun.

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him;

do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.

Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—it leads only to evil.

For those who are evil will be destroyed, but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

PRAYING IN SILENCE

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy, ALL: Hear our prayers. Amen.

ANTHEM "Christ is the Rock" Larson

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 Four Hymns from Different Cultures— Native American, Nicaragua, China, Spain arr. Heinrich

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 John 16: 13-17 (New International Version)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

SERMON "Faithful Curiosity"

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor: Before we speak, God knows our needs; yet our words open our hearts to God's grace. Let us prepare ourselves for God's healing as, in words and silence, we tell of all that separates us from God and from one another. Please join me as we pray:

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

People: First of all, Everlasting God, we must confess how we have not lived as your people. We serve many masters - work, wealth, power, addictions - yet find no hope in them. We hear the cries of the poor; we shut the doors of our hearts to them. We ridicule those who expose their hopes and dreams to us. Forgive us, Compassion's Heart, and heal us of our brokenness. Make us well, so that by our healing, we might be the hope and love others need in their lives, even as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, brought these gifts to us, calling us to be faithful with the grace, peace, and joy entrusted to us. (silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Now that we have let go of the pain, the bitterness, the anger of our lives, let us be kind, tender-hearted, and gentle towards each other, forgiving as God has forgiven us.

People: We are God's beloved children, and we will strive to model God's grace and love in our hearts. Thanks be to God! We are forgiven! Amen.

A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION MUSIC "Word of God Speak" Millard/Kiple Dave Williams, vocalist

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.

HYMN 428 "In Christ There Is No East or West"

BENEDICTION

Just as God's Word was sent into the world to heal and redeem, so God sends you into the world this day to be light and love, healing and hope. Go now to be light for the world! And may the grace and peace of God the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sustainer come upon you this day and remain with you always. Amen.

RESPONSE "Shaker Parting Song" arr. Purdum

POSTLUDE "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" Traditional

SERVING

Table with 3 columns: TODAY - OCTOBER 2, NEXT SUNDAY - OCTOBER 9, and roles like Greeters, Liturgist, Ushers, etc.

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.

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.)



A NOTE OF THANKS—

Today we thank the Children's Choir, Dave Williams, Rob Toth, the Chancel Choir, and extend special thanks to Tom Foley, Mike Elkins, and Sharon Heinrich for sharing their music with us today.

The altar flowers are given— In loving memory of Lois A. Hampson--Herb Hampson



Our steeple will light the sky this week— Happy Birthday to Betty Dickson October 1st! Ingrid & Greg Dickson In memory of Mary L. Joyce-Smith on her birthday, October 1st Irene & Jim Joyce Happy Anniversary tomorrow to Martha & John Hattery

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Our condolences go out to the Gigliotti family, **Sue, Lou, Louis, Nick & Courtney**, and **Gina**, on the death of Lou's dad, **Louis Gigliotti, Sr.** on September 26, 2022.

PENNY SUNDAY

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Penny Sunday collection in September. Our total was \$238.00! Save those pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and yes, DOLLARS for our next Penny Sunday collection, **October 30th**!

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!**



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, Bob Heddleson, Paul Hirt, Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Len Lane, Judy Maur, Reggie McCray, Heidi & Chuck McDougall, Laurie Meister, Roy Merkle, Michele Mihlack, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkfritz, Gary Paul, Sandy Pogozeleski, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, Tracey Seneff, Peter Smith, Maggie Struhar, Sharon Wilson, Janis Williamson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Mary Ellen Zimmerman



Extended Church Family: Yvonne & Ron Adams (friends of Judi Pavisich), 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), Joe Hattery (Martha & John's son), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Ed Kuhn (Sandy & Don Gleichauf's friend), Andrew Majoros (Michele Mihlack'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 (Steve & 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.



COMING SOON...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.**



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.



OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed	\$3,649.37
Last Week's Offering Received	\$2,260.00
Difference	-\$1,389.37

Thank you very much for your support.



PLEDGE CARDS RECEIVED FOR 2022: 65



ATTENTION ELECTRONIC GIVERS:

We are discontinuing our use of myEoffering and switching to a free donation service called Zeffy. If you have a recurring gift set up through myEoffering, please sign in at <https://members.myeoffering.com/#/landing> and cancel all donations. The church will be establishing a new online donation system within the next few weeks. Please see **Mike Elkins** with any questions. Thank you for giving.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **October 11th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- 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.

Insider tip: On October 12th, we will be serving everyone's favorite: Gourmet Grilled Cheese Sandwiches!



NEXT WEEK, October 9th, our church will celebrate our 205th ANNIVERSARY!

We will recognize our newest 50 year members during worship and enjoy cake and refreshments following the service.

If you would like to help with:

- Setting up
- Centerpieces for the tables
- Providing a finger food/snack item
- Clean-up

Please contact Jennifer Barry at jenbarry425@gmail.com



A TRIBUTE TO BROADWAY

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.



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.**



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.**



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP--UPCOMING EVENT

October 5th – Program on Medical Ministry – 1:00 P.M.

Women's Fellowship wants to include all interested ladies of the church in its activities, and plans to offer additional day and time options for its programs. If you'd like to participate but cannot attend the current weekday, daytime programs, please complete this form; and you will be contacted with more information.

Name _____

Phone (_____) _____

Email _____

**Thank you for your interest in Women's Fellowship.
Please turn in this form to the church office.**