



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, October 20, 2024– 10 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.

BELL PRELUDE "Just As I Am" arr. Behnke

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Judi Pavisich

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT Bill Schneider

BELL INTROIT "More Precious than Silver" DeShazo, arr. Bettcher

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: When we look in the mirror, what do we see?

People: We see people who try to be faithful, even as questions and struggles challenge our faith.

Leader: When we look in the mirror, how do we see?

People: We see with hearts which are open to God's love, with lives which seek to trust when all the evidence tells us not to be so foolish.

Leader: When we look in the mirror, who do we see?

People: We see Jesus, the One who struggles with the questions we raise, who models faithfulness for all who would follow.

† HYMN 592 "Jesus Calls Us"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 104

(New International Version)

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

Lord my God, you are very great;

You are clothed with splendor and majesty.

The Lord wraps himself in light as with a garment;

He stretches out the heavens like a tent

and lays the beams of his upper chambers on their waters.

He makes the clouds his chariot and rides on the wings of the wind.

He makes winds his messengers, flames of fire his servants.

He set the earth on its foundations; it can never be moved.

You covered it with the watery depths as with a garment;

the waters stood above the mountains.

But at your rebuke the waters fled, at the sound of your thunder

they took to flight; they flowed over the mountains;

they went down into the valleys, to the place you assigned for them.

You set a boundary they cannot cross;

never again will they cover the earth.

How many are your works, Lord! In wisdom you made them all;

the earth is full of your creatures. Praise the Lord!

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

Elaine Coffey

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 "Rejoice Greatly" Geschke

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Cherie Teagno

OFFERING Judi Pavisich

OFFERTORY "Blessings for All" 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 PSALMS Psalm 78:1-3, 6-8, 15

(New International Version)

Show me the wonders of your great love, you who, by your right hand, save those who take refuge in you from their foes.

REFLECTION "Faith and Prayer" Tony Hoty

† HYMN 38 "Ye Servants of God"

† 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.

† POSTLUDE "Earth and All Stars" Johnson, arr. Burkhardt

SERVING

TODAY – OCTOBER 20 **NEXT SUNDAY – OCTOBER 27**

Nancy Garber **Greeters** Lynne McCray

Pastor Heidi **Liturgist** Pam Keenen

Riley M., Autumn & Summer Z., Elaine C. **Ushers** Bill R., Teri B., Wayne & Bobbi C.

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

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**, 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.



A NOTE OF THANKS—We welcome the return of our **Bell Choir**, along with **Sharon Heinrich, Mike Elkins, and Tom Foley** for today's music! Many thanks also **Tony Hoty, Cherie Teagno, Elaine Coffey,** and **Judi Pavisich** for leading us in worship today.

The altar flowers are given—

God Bless our church!—Susann Lerch

A 2024 SIGN-UP SHEET FOR ALTAR FLOWERS IS POSTED IN PILGRIM HALL.

Please note: the cost of flowers is \$18 for 1 vase and \$36 for 2 vases. We still have a few Sundays left!



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

Happy Birthday today to Jennifer Sekorky!

FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL:

JOIN US FOR SOME FUN WITH OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27th 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 NEXT WEEK



Don't forget to bring your coins, dollars, and checks (to UCC) next week! Our next Penny Sunday will be on **October 27th** and the money will go to our Thanksgiving "Basket" project.

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR!

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 (Giant Eagle & Walmart are available from Jim Joyce) 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. Deadline is November 10th.**

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!





IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family and friends of **Laurie Meister**, who died on October 14, 2024 at the age of 78. A memorial service at the church is being planned.

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.



Long-Term Care or Homebound: Irene Jannsohn, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Maggie Struhar

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Judy Carte, Sam Cuyler Jr., Brandi Garsteck, Sue Hawk, Bruce Keenen, Sarah Keenen, Kay Konicek, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl &

Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Jim Maresco, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Ginny & Kenn Oerkfitz, Gary Paul, Judi Pavisich, George & Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Tracy Seneff, Peter Smith, Gayle Sperber, Linda Stepan, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Yvonne Adams (Judi Pavisich's friend), Dorene Baldrige, Denece (Sherry Ahern's sister-in-law), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), John Dickson (Greg's dad), Allison Emerson (Colette's sister), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Joanne Gariepy (Sally Herzog's friend), Kathy Ghatti (friend of Ginger Rothel), Jennifer Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's daughter-in-law), Sarah & David Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's grandson & wife), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel's parents), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), 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), The people of Ukraine, Sudan, Gaza, and Israel, 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

MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:

We are collecting full-sized candy bars and individually wrapped mints for our Veteran's Project until November 3rd. There will be a bin in the Gathering area.



With the closing of Tempeld Hills, the memorial bricks are being returned to the people who provided them in memory or honor of a loved one. If you asked to have a brick created and laid at Tempeld Hills, please let Pastor Heidi know ASAP. She is arranging to have them returned to the church (and you). h.e.denman@gmail.com

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL-- Wednesdays

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

We will be honoring our many dedicated volunteers on November 17th during worship.



THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is OPEN every Thursday 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.

THANK YOU TO OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS, AND ALL THE SUPPORT FROM OUR CONGREGATION AND COMMUNITY!



UPCOMING BOARD MEETING



The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, October 22nd at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

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.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 3,617.01
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 2,343.75
Difference -(\$1,273.26)



Thank you very much for your support.
PLEDGES RECEIVED: 2

BOOK STUDY—TURNING THE PAGE

Tomorrow, October 21st, Pastor Heidi and Linda Elkins will be recapping the monthly book study based on Rachel Held Evans's book, *A Year of Biblical Womanhood*. In November, they leading some Advent activities. At the beginning of the calendar year, we will begin a study of a book called *Sisterhood*. They will continue to meet on



the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

New Creche Update



Oliver Sekorky is building our church a new Creche for his Eagle Scout Project.



If you'd like to support Oliver in his project, you may bring cash or check (to Oliver Sekorky) to the church office.

HURRICANES HELENE & MILTON

Many of our own congregation's friends and family members were affected by month's hurricane, suffering damage to property, body, and peace. If you would like to make a contribution to help those impacted by the devastation wrought by the recent hurricanes, the United Church of Christ has established a special appeal:



<https://support.ucc.org/hurricane-helene-relief?erid=1488600&trid=2f5a5440-09c5-47bb-b697-80178d3c508e>

Or you may give cash or a check to UCC with "Hurricane Relief" in the memo line to the Church Office.

FROM OUR FRIENDS AT STRONGSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Are you interested in learning more about the Foster Care System in Cuyahoga County? SUMC (13500 Royalton Road) is hosting an informational luncheon on Saturday, November 9th at 11 a.m. at their church. For more information and reservations to the event, please contact Gail Spence at gspence0213@gmail.com.



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.

GIFT CARDS

PLEASE DON'T FORGET ABOUT THIS EASY, CONVENIENT PROGRAM THAT BENEFITS THE CHURCH. ORDER NOW FOR CHRISTMAS! 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.



2025 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN!

What do you bring to the campfire?

United Church of Christ 2025 Estimate of Giving

In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2025:

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 _____



SUPPORTING OUR FRIENDS SNOW SCHOOL

We would like to continue to support Snow School throughout the school year. They have a school “store” to reward appropriate behavior and help students learn money management skills. If you would like to contribute items for their school store, we will have a bin in the Gathering Area for:

- NEW Small toys, puzzles, or games for kids
- NEW marker sets, journals
- NEW Water bottles
- NEW fun socks or hats for kids
- Children’s books (ages 5 and up)
- Fun snacks or candy (non-perishable)



For the most part, clothing is given directly to Ohio Guidestone for distribution to the kids, but Principal Tami Klammer, will offer special clothing items in the store from time to time. Please note: they cannot accept anything sharp or things that can be used for injurious behavior.

CHURCH OFFICERS IN 2024

**Elected January 28, 2024 **Appointed by the Official Board*

Moderator: Greg Dickson* **Vice-Moderator:** Jen Barry*

Treasurer: Sally Herzog* **Clerk:** Judy Gaumer*

Sunday School Co-Superintendents

Linda Elkins Mary Densmore

Board of Trustees

Bill Giuliano* Chris Goff Mike Elkins* Les Fox*
 Herb Hampson* Cathy Hawk Sarah Hayes* Sandy Pogozelski*
 Cheryl Sobek Dan Winrod Laura Winrod Rachel Zielinski*

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson* Dave Williams*

Diaconate

Teri Barbish* Jean Bittinger Elaine Coffey* Bobbi Cook Wayne Cook
 Judy Davis Judy Fox* Carole Kapcar Cherie Teagno*
 Barbara White Mary Ellen Zimmerman

Christian Education Committee

Serena Abruzzino Mary Densmore Linda Elkins*
 Colette Emerson* 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

Sue Gigliotti* Judi Pavisich Bill Schneider Rob Toth* Mary Willis

Mission and Outreach Committee

Diana Creecy* Sarah Hayes* Lora Rung
 Jennifer Sekorky* Peter Smith Bev Wehr* Mary Ellen Zimmerman



PAPER RECYCLING—NEW COMPANY!

Our paper recycling bin will now be serviced by Royal Oak Recycling. Please continue to deposit your **FLATTENED** cardboard and your papers in the bin. However, **please do not place papers/cardboard outside the bin if it’s full.** Thanks!

GIFT CARDS

PLEASE DON’T FORGET ABOUT THIS EASY, CONVENIENT PROGRAM THAT BENEFITS THE CHURCH. ORDER NOW FOR



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