

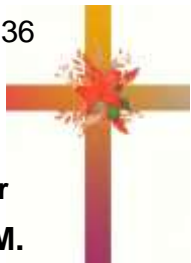


THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136
(440) 238-6697

StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com
StrongsvilleUCC.com

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, October 22, 2023 – 10:00 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 "Promenade" from Pictures at an Exhibition Mussorgsky

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT Rick Taylor

INTROIT "The Lord is in His Holy Temple" Larson

† 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 97 "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

READING FROM THE PROPHETS Isaiah 45:1-7
(New International Version)

This is what the Lord says to his anointed:

"I will go before you and will level the mountains;

I will break down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron.

I will give you hidden treasures, riches stored in secret places,

so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel,

who summons you by name.

For the sake of Jacob my servant, of Israel my chosen,

I summon you by name and bestow on you a title of honor,

though you do not acknowledge me.

I am the Lord, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God.

I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me, so that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting, people may know there is none beside me.

I am the Lord, and there is no other. I form the light and create darkness,

I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the Lord, do all these things."

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 "Christ is the Rock" Larson

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Impromptu" 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

READING FROM THE GOSPELS John 6:4-5; 7-13
(Good News Translation)

So they gathered them all and filled twelve baskets with the pieces left over from the five barley loaves which the people had eaten.

MESSAGE "Stewardship and your Smart Phone"
Glen Konet, guest speaker

† **HYMN 635** "In the Garden"

† **BENEDICTION** Nathan Nettleton
Go now as those who have found favour in the sight of God. Be imitators of Jesus Christ and an example to all of the life of faith. To the world in which you live, give your love and service, and to God, give all that you are and all that you shall be. And may the glory of God's goodness be revealed to you; May the grace and peace of Jesus Christ take root in you; And may the inspiration of the Holy Spirit fill you with joy. Amen.

† **RESPONSE/POSTLUDE** "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" arr. Raney



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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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**.

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SERVING

TODAY – OCTOBER 22	NEXT SUNDAY – OCTOBER 29
Jean Bittinger	Greeters Susann Lerch
Herb Hampson	Liturgist Matilda Sekorky
Roz Fotos	Ushers Roz Fotos
Tom Foley	Director of Music Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	Associate Director of Music Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	Organist Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich	Sound Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Chancel Choir	Special Music Richard Densmore, Bell Choir
Glen Konet	Guest Speaker

The altar flowers are given—

Happy 1st Birthday to my Sweet Emma!

Love, GiGi



Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthday to Kristina Craig today and

Happy Anniversary to Hayley & Joey McKane on October 28th!

With love, Grammy



Happy 1st Anniversary today to Kristen & Brian Kohler!

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.



A NOTE OF THANKS—

We thank our guest speaker, **Glen Konet**, a long-time UCC member who "has a passion for Stewardship" for our message today. Glen and his wife **Carol** (yes, THAT Carol) attend our church frequently and Carol has shared her musical gifts with us many times. Also, thank you to our **Chancel Choir**, along with **Mike Elkins**, **Tom Foley**, and **Sharon Heinrich** for their music today.



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" through **November 12th**. Also, if you know of someone in need, please contact Pastor Heidi or the church office.

And the Mitten Tree...

We will collect hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, and socks for the needy this year. From **November 5th through December 3rd**, bring your items to the church during office hours and they will be placed on the Mitten Tree. After the 4th, the items will be given to the homeless shelter and the tree will become the **Family of Faith tree**. If you have not donated an ornament for yourself/your family, you may bring it to the church office and your ornament will join the others on our tree!



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **October 24th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate did not meet in October, but will meet on **November 7th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:

“OODLES OF NOODLES”--

OCTOBER PASTA & SAUCE

DRIVE! Please bring donations of dry or canned pasta and cans or jars of pasta sauce to the receptacle in Pilgrim Hall!



BOOK STUDY

A YEAR OF BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD

The next meeting of our book study will be on **November 20th**. Pastor Heidi and Linda Elkins are leading a monthly book study based on Rachel Held Evans's wonderful book, A Year of Biblical Womanhood. The group will meet at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of each month, for one hour. It's not too late to join.



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 being accepted during

those hours, but please try to limit your donations to what you can carry downstairs. **Thanks, as always, to our dedicated volunteers!**

SPECIAL BAG SALE

(+ Jewelry Sale) on **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18th** from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.!



OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Joan Beckwith, Laurie Meister, Ruth Milidonis, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Maggie Struhar

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Barb Camp, Jennifer Cockrell, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sue Hawk, Irene Jannsohn, Carole Kapcar, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Bruce Lerch, Jim Maresco, Reggie McCray, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkitz, Gary Paul, George Pavisich, Dan Ponstingle, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Peter Smith, Robert Sperber, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Edward and Sharon Acton (Sally Herzog's friends), Dorene Baldrige, Ron & Yvonne Adams (Judi Pavisich's friends), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Angie Colosimo (Judi Pavisich's friend), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Joanne Gariepy (Sally Herzog's friend), Kathy Ghetti (friend of Ginger Rothel), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Vic Irelan (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Rudy Matjazic (Judi Pavisich's friend), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Thomas O'Shea (Sandy's dad), 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), Tom (friend of Judi Pavisich), Don Wills (friend of Judi Pavisich), The people of Ukraine, 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



OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 3,617.01
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 2,621.00
Difference -(\$ 996.01)

Thank you very much for your support.



PLEASE BE AWARE: Due to a bank change, all checks to the church should be made out to **United Church of Christ or UCC or United Church of Christ (Congregational)**. Please do not use "Strongsville" or "SUCC" in the "Pay to the Order of" line. Thanks!



FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL:

JOIN US FOR SOME FUN WITH OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29th 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!

Start saving those coins and dollars! The next Penny Sunday will be **October 29th** and will go to the Thanksgiving Basket Project.

GIFT CARDS

PLEASE DON'T FORGET ABOUT THIS EASY, CONVENIENT PROGRAM THAT BENEFITS THE CHURCH. IT'S TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT A CHRISTMAS

ORDER! 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.**



FREE LUNCH FOR ALL—

Wednesdays 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Our Free Lunch for All Program welcomes everyone to enjoy a nutritious meal and warm fellowship.



BE A BUSY BEE IN 2023—November - March

New sign-up sheets in the Gathering Area are waiting for your name to be added as a greeter or usher. No experience is necessary—we will show you everything you need to know! Everyone is welcome to be a part of our church life.



PANERA PALS

Are you able to give less than an hour of your time on a Monday or Friday morning to pick up and/or sort Panera bread, bagels, and pastries? Please contact the church office if you can help with this worthwhile ministry.

CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2023 **Elected January 29, 2023*

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

Sunday School Co-Superintendents

Linda Elkins Mary Densmore*

Board of Trustees

Diana Creecy Chris Goff* Herb Hampson Cathy Hawk
Sarah Hayes Cheryl Sobek* Dan Winrod*
Laura Winrod* Rachel Zielinski

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson Linda Stepan Dave Williams*

Diaconate

Teri Barbish Jean Bittinger* Elaine Coffey
Bobbi Cook* Wayne Cook* Judy Davis*
Carole Kapcar* Sharon Maresco Linda Ponstingle 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* Mike Willis*
ex officio: Sharon Heinrich Tom Foley Mike Elkins

Stewardship Committee

Judi Pavisich Bill Schneider* Richard Taylor
Rob Toth Mary Willis*

Mission and Outreach Committee

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

2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN --M.A.P.L.E.

M- Making and moving
A- Accepting and Acknowledging
P- People
L- Learning and Loving
E- Encompassing



Strongsville United Church of Christ 2024 Estimate of Giving

In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2024:

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 ____/____/____

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.



The Strongsville Food Bank is searching for a coordinator for the Food Bank. It is a compensated volunteer position. The coordinator is paid for 20 hours per week, however it may entail 30+ hours to fulfill the duties of the position, therefore the volunteer designation.

Qualifications for this job include organizational skills, effective communication skills, and Word/Excel knowledge for record keeping.

If you are interested or want more information about this position, please ask for a complete job description or send a resume at strongsvillefoodbank@gmail.com.
