THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
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StrongsvilleUCC.com



Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, October 25, 2026– 10 A.M.
Penny Sunday

W E L C O M E!

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.

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† *Please stand as you are comfortable.*

PRELUDE "You Raise Me Up" Løvland, arr. Raney/McDonald
Keyboard duet: Carol Foley and Mike Elkins

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

INTROIT "How Majestic is Your Name" M. W. Smith

† CALL TO WORSHIP
Leader: We come together in this place so that we can worship our God,
People: Whose words restore us to life.
Leader: We come together, away from worldly cares and concerns, so that we learn to can follow Jesus more closely,
People: Whose hopes for justice for all God's children are crystal clear.
Leader: We come so that we can learn from the Spirit,
People: Whose teachings help us to understand how to live as God's people.

† HYMN 107 **"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"**

† A READING FROM THE PSALMS **Psalm 1**
(New Revised Standard Version)

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked
or take the path that sinners tread or sit in the seat of scoffers,
but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law they meditate day and night.
They are like trees planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.
The wicked are not so but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous,
for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

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 "Open the Eyes of My Heart" Baloche

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE **Penny Sunday**

GENEROSITY MOMENT Linda Stepan

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Give Thanks" H. Smith

† 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 22:34-46**
(New International Version)
"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

REFLECTION "!"

† HYMN **"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"**
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

† BENEDICTION 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13
May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as God's does for you. May God strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones. ***Amen****.*

† POSTLUDE "Toccata in D minor" Bach

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.





A N O T E O F T H A N K S—Thank you to our **Choir**, our **Praise Band (Karen Bates, Will Foley, Sarah Keenen, Dave Williams, Irene Joyce,** and **Ken Wills), Carol Foley,** and our music team: **Mike Elkins, Tom Foley,** and **Sharon Heinrich** for sharing their music today.

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SERVING

TODAY – OCTOBER 25		NEXT SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 1
Susann Lerch	**Greeters**	Linda Plain
Ingrid Dickson	**Liturgist**	Pastor Heidi
Judi Pavisich	**Head Usher**	Bill Robinson
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
Praise Band, Choir, C. Foley	**Special Music**	Chancel Choir



Today's altar flowers are given—
In Memory of Isaac Brocco Rivera. Gone way too soon, 1 year with your wings but forever remembered—Serena Abruzzino



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—
Happy Anniversary to Hayley & Joey McKane on October 28th! And Tracey & Natalia Hill October 29th!
Happy Birthday to Gabe Sauter on October 31st!
With love, Grammy
Happy Birthday to my son, Paul Haney, on October 27th and to my daughter, Beth Lewis on October 31st!
Barb Fraunfelder
In loving memory of Barb Camp

Happy Birthday today to Richard Densmore!

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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.**



SUNDAY SCHOOL

PENNY SUNDAY IS TODAY! It's time to donate your coins, dollars, and checks to UCC for Penny Sunday. All money collected will go to our church's Thanksgiving "Basket" program. Our last Penny Sunday of the year will be **November 29th**.

TRUNK OR TREAT IS TODAY!



JOIN US FOR SOME FUN WITH OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS in the church parking lot AFTER CHILDREN'S CHOIR. Decorate your vehicle, park it at the east 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!**

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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

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); 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

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OFFERINGS RECEIVED



Weekly Offering Needed	$ 5,212.00
Last Week's Offering Received	$ 1,280.00
Difference	-($ 3,932.00)

Thank you very much for your support.

2026 PLEDGES RECEIVED: 62

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OUR BIBLE STUDY GROUP CONTINUES!



Join us, **Monday, November 16th**—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.

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MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:

NEIGHBORS IN NEED—LAST CHANCE to donate to this UCC special offering.

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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UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **October 27th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

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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!

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THREE WITH GLEE!



Capital Campaign: We currently have $33,673.43 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.

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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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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.**

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***



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!

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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.

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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.

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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.

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 Pogozelski* 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

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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…