



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, October 29, 2023 – 10:00 A.M.

Penny 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 "We Bow Down" Paris, arr. Bettcher

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Greg Dickson

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT Bill Schneider

BELL INTROIT "The Carillon" Lahee, arr. Lorenz

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We are invited to share in Christ's ministry of compassion.

People: We will widen our hearts so we might cradle the lost.

Leader: We are challenged to learn more about God each day.

People: We will open our minds so we might discern God's dreams for us.

Leader: We are summoned to let the Spirit be planted within us.

People: We will deepen our souls so we might grow in love.

† HYMN 38 "Ye Servants of God"

READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 1

(New International Version)

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.

That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers.

Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

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 "As the Deer Longs for Cooling Streams" Gardiner

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE PENNY SUNDAY

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr" Telemann

† 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 Matthew 22: 34-46

(New International Version)

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

SERMON "It All Hangs on This"

† HYMN 399 "We Are God's People"

† BLESSING Mary Luti

We believe the day is coming when God's grace will change the human heart, and we will live as one with every living thing. We believe the day is coming when Christ's compassion will fill the earth, and no one will do harm, be hurt, or feel alone. We believe the day is coming when the Spirit's freedom will unbind our souls, and we will live generous lives for each other with a joy no circumstance can alter. We believe the day is coming, and we wait and work for it with steadfast hope, for God has promised it, and God is faithful. Come, Lord Jesus! Amen

† RESPONSE/POSTLUDE "Toccat in D minor" Bach



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.

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**.

SERVING

TODAY – OCTOBER 29 **NEXT SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 5**

Susann Lerch **Greeters** Linda Plain

Matilda Sekorky **Liturgist** Elaine Coffey

Roz Fotos **Ushers** Bobbi & Wayne Cook

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

Richard Densmore, Bell Choir **Special Music** Ken Mehalko, Chancel Choir



A NOTE OF THANKS—

We thank **Richard Densmore**, and our **Bell Choir**, along with **Mike Elkins, Tom Foley, and Sharon Heinrich** for their music today.

The altar flowers are given—

In loving memory of Bruce Lerch's parents, Winifred & Carl Lerch, --Susann Lerch



Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Anniversary to Tracey & Natalia Hill today and Happy Birthday to Gabe Sauter on October 31st!

With love, Grammy

Happy Birthday today to Nancy Taylor!



FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL:

JOIN US FOR SOME FUN WITH OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY AFTER 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!



PENNY SUNDAY TODAY!

This morning, the children will be collecting your coins, dollars, and checks (to UCC)! The money collected will go to the church's **Thanksgiving Basket Project**.

Basket Project.



NEIGHBORS IN NEED—LAST CHANCE! 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.



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 3rd, 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!





IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Our congregation is deeply saddened by the loss of **Barb Camp**, who died on October 24, 2023 after a lengthy hospital stay. Barb and her husband, **Mark** joined the church in 1973, and have been active members in the ensuing 50 years. Our love and prayers go out to Mark, their children **Brandt (Gelin)**

Camp and **Abby Colao**, grandchildren **Aidan Camp**, and **Hunter and Hannah Colao**, and to everyone who knew and loved Barb. Visitation will be today 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. at Heyl Funeral Home (227 Broad Street in Ashland) and), and 10 a.m. tomorrow, October 30th, at the Jack & Deb Miller Chapel at Ashland University (456 College Avenue), followed by the Celebration of Barb's life at 11 a.m. **THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED TOMORROW, OCTOBER 30, 2023.**

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS



- Date Change: The Diaconate will meet on **November 7th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **November 14th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will have an email meeting in November.
- Date change: The Diaconate will meet on **December 5th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:

LAST CHANCE: "OODLES OF NOODLES"



OCTOBER PASTA DRIVE

We will be delivering our Oodles of Noodles to the Strongsville Emergency Food Bank this week!

This year, the Mission Outreach committee has decided to team up with the Strongsville Community Food Bank as well as many other churches and local businesses. From November 5th – November 26th, you will find a tree with "ornaments" in the Gathering Area. Each ornament is paired with a child who could use a little help this holiday season.



If you would like to participate, simply take an ornament, purchase one \$25 gift card to any of the stores listed on the ornament. Gift Cards will be available for purchase from Jim Joyce right at church (which helps our program, too—win/win!). Then, simply hand the ornament and gift card into **Jen Sekorky** or Irene no later than November 26th.

GIFT CARDS

PLEASE DON'T FORGET EASY, CONVENIENT THAT BENEFITS THE



ABOUT THIS PROGRAM CHURCH. 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.**

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed	\$ 3,617.01
Last Week's Offering Received	\$ 2,448.58
Difference	-\$1,168.43



Thank you very much for your support.



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, 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 Oerkfitz, 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 Garipey (Sally Herzog's friend), Kathy Ghetti (friend of Ginger Rothel), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Vic Ireland (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

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!**

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.



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.



HELP WANTED!

Volunteers are needed to serve as tellers on Sunday mornings after church (usually less than an hour of your time). Please indicate on your attendance card or speak to Gary Zielinski, Financial Secretary, if you can help.

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.

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 ____/____/____

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*

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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. Based on Old Testament rituals and practices, the book chronicles Rachel's attempts to follow these ancient practices in a modern world. 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.



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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.



Are you interested in learning more about the UCC? The Living Water Association Annual Meeting is Saturday, November 18, from 9:00-12:00, in Hudson, Ohio. We can send two lay delegates (along with Pastor Heidi). If you're interested, please ask Pastor Heidi for more information.

