



**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

(Congregational)

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**WORLD  
COMMUNION  
SUNDAY**

**Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor**

**Sunday, October 3, 2021 – 10 A.M.**

**World Communion Sunday**

**Welcoming New Members**

**WELCOME!**

*Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the best interests of others. –  
Philippians 2:4*

For the safety and comfort of everyone, please continue to wear a mask in the Gathering Area and when entering or leaving the Sanctuary. When you are seated in the pews, you may lower your mask if you wish, while maintaining social distancing. **If you are not yet fully vaccinated, we ask that you continue to wear a mask at all times. Thank you.**

† *Please stand as you are comfortable.*

**PRELUDE** "Morning Has Broken" arr. Raney

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Irene Joyce  
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.

**INTROIT** "We Have Come to Worship the Lord" Yanarella

**† CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: From where we have sheltered in place, in sacred spaces where folks are loving at arm's length,

**People: We gather as God's people, called to the Table where brokenness is healed by God's amazing grace.**

Leader: From virtual communities all over the world, with families gathered in living spaces and holy places,

**People: We gather as God's faithful community, serving, living, caring wherever we are.**

Leader: From neighborhoods where families of every class, every race, every branch of faith live as one,

**People: We gather as witnesses to proclaim God's hope and peace, which flourish and thrive in every place, in every person, even in this uncertain time.**

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

† **HYMN 182** "For the Beauty of the Earth"  
*(If you wish to sing with us, please have your mask in place.)*

**A READING FROM THE PSALMS** Psalm 8  
*(New International Version)*

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory in the heavens.

Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

what is mankind that you are mindful of them,  
human beings that you care for them?

You have made them a little lower than the angels

and crowned them with glory and honor.

You made them rulers over the works of your hands;

you put everything under their feet:

all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

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

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**SILENT PRAYERS**

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

**ANTHEM** "Go Ye Into All the World" Butler

**INTRODUCTION AND RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

**QUESTIONS TO THE CANDIDATES**

**QUESTIONS TO THE CONGREGATION**

Friends, do you profess Jesus as the center and cornerstone of your faith? **We do.**

Will you be faithful to these new friends as they join this congregation and begin the next leg of their journey of faith?

**We promise our faithful companionship to these new members of our family.**

Will you challenge them to strive to become the very best versions of themselves, upholding them in Christian love and holding them accountable to the Way of the Christ?

**We will lovingly challenge these new members to strive to become the very best versions of themselves, guiding them to live into the faith they profess.**

Will you allow yourself to be challenged and changed, shaped and transformed by these new members, together seeking God's will for our lives together?

**With the help of God's Spirit, we will allow ourselves to be challenged and changed, shaped and transformed, living even more fully into our called identity as the family of faith, Strongsville United Church of Christ.**

Let us pray together:

**O God, we give you thanks, first for calling us to believe, then leading us to join together and gather into this church, the Body of Christ. We give you thanks for this Family of faith, and rejoice that you have led these newest members into our midst, adding their gifts and talents to ours. Together, may we live more fully in the Spirit, building one another up in Love, sharing in the life and worship of the church, and serving the world for the sake of the Kingdom of God. Amen.**

**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. Thank you. To give online, please go to:

<https://www.myeoffering.com/eonline/index.php/dashboard/login/5027>

**OFFERTORY** "How Great Thou Art" Traditional, arr. Raney

† **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 OLD TESTAMENT** **Genesis 2:18-24**  
*(New Living Translation)*

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him." So the Lord God formed from the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and the man chose a name for each one. He gave names to all the livestock, all the birds of the sky, and all the wild animals. But still there was no helper just right for him.

**SERMON** "A Perfect Fit"

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

Leader: Before we speak a word, 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 one another. Please join me as we pray.

**People: 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; yet we shut the doors of our hearts to them. We ridicule those who expose their hopes and dreams to us.**

**Forgive us, Compassionate One. Heal us in our brokenness. Make us well, so that by our healing, we might offer hope and love to others. Help us offer to others, the grace, peace, and joy we have received. (Silent prayer)**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

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

**People: We are God's beloved children, and will model God's grace and love in our hearts. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.**

**A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP**

**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"  
*(If you wish to sing with us, please have your mask in place.)*

**† 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** "What the World Needs Now" Bacharach  
**Congregational refrain:**

**What the world needs now is love, sweet love  
It's the only thing that there's just too little of  
What the world needs now is love, sweet love  
No, not just for some, but for everyone!**



**TODAY – OCTOBER 3**

**NEXT SUNDAY – OCTOBER 10**

Linda Plain	<b>Greeters</b>	Ginger Rothel
Dale Hawk	<b>Liturgist</b>	Linda Ponstingle
Linda Plain	<b>Ushers</b>	Chuck McDougall
Tom Foley	<b>Director of Music</b>	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	<b>Associate Director of Music</b>	Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	<b>Supplemental Organist</b>	Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich	<b>Sound</b>	Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Carol Foley/Chancel Choir	<b>Special Music</b>	The Bell Choir

**A NOTE OF THANKS**

Today, we thank new member Carol Foley, along with the Chancel Choir, Mike Elkins, Tom Foley, and Sharon Heinrich for contributing to our musical worship today!



The altar flowers are given—

*In loving memory of Lois A. Hampson*  
Herb Hampson



Our stepple will light the sky this week—

*Happy Birthday to Dave Williams on October 1st!*

**Happy Anniversary today to Martha & John Hattery!**

**OUR PRAYER LIST**

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

**Long-Term Care or Homebound:** Janet Kato, Marge McKinney, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields



**Church Family:** Serena Abruzzino, Joan Beckwith, Eddy Bond, Mary Carey, Elaine Coffey, Kathy Cockrell, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Linda Elliott, Tom Gaumer, Ramona Glaze, Sue Hawk, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Irene Jannsohn, George Kapcar, Tony Koussa, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Judy Maur, Reggie McCray, Laurie Meister, Roy Merkle, Michele Mhlack, Lola Millhoane, Gary Paul, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, Peter Smith, Autumn Schnieder, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Sharon Wilson, Sally Vetovitz, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Mary Ellen and Bob Zimmerman

**Extended Church Family:** Dorene Baldrige, Fred Beba (Theresa's husband), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Judy Carte's son-in-law, Ryan, Ron Colosimo (Judi Pavisich's friend), Mary Ann Csory (Judi Pavisich's friend), John Dickson (Greg's dad), Kim Filiautraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Linda Harbison (Jan Meier's sister-in-law), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Kay McGinty (Judi Pavisich's aunt), Zachary McKeever (Pastor Heidi and Chuck's great-nephew), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Thomas O'Shea (Sandy's dad), Mike Pavisich (Judi's Pavisich's stepson), Carrol Riley (Marjorie Morrison's dad), Terry Robson (Barb & Mark Camp's friend), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Sandra Wentz (Debbie's daughter-in-law)

Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain.

**PENNY SUNDAY OCTOBER 17<sup>th</sup>**

You know you've been saving those pennies, dimes, nickels, and quarters—or maybe even a nice, crisp bill or two. The Sunday School will be collecting on Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup> during worship. Proceeds will benefit our Free Lunch Program, which is in need of start-up funds. (Checks to Strongsville UCC)



**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. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**  
views the movie  
**"YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN"**  
at their meeting on  
**Wednesday – October 6 – 10:00 A.M.**  
in Pilgrim Hall  
**OPTIONS: Dress up for Halloween – or – wear PJ's—or come as you are!**  
**All ladies are welcome!**

**CHRISTMAS FOR VETERANS**

For many years, our congregation has provided a small gift for our military veterans of Cuyahoga County that are served by Church Street Ministries of Berea, helping those with needs, especially those transitioning from homelessness. Between 60-100 veterans are served. We include two pairs of socks, along with candy bars. Our Bombas Socks annual gift has been delayed until 2022. Mission Outreach would appreciate your help with donations of **men's crew socks (Med./Lg./XL)** or **regular sized candy bars** deposited in the container in Pilgrim Hall. Monetary donations may be placed in the offering plate, labeled "VETERANS."



**OFFERINGS RECEIVED**

Weekly Offering Needed	\$3,649.37
Last Week's Offering Received	\$1,840.25
Difference	<b>(-\$1,809.12)</b>

*Thank you very much for your support.*



**MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS**

**Diana Creecy** comes to us via the Middleburg Heights Community UCC and she has been worshipping with us for several months, after our church reopened for in-person worship. She has already joined the Chancel Choir and has said that Strongsville UCC feels like the right place for her. Diana lives in Strongsville. Her sponsor is Tom Foley.

**Manar & Spencer Falvo** were married in our church in July of this year and have been coming on Sunday mornings after their honeymoon in Egypt. Manar has two grown sons, Joseph and Yehia. Spencer and Manar feel welcome here and are looking forward to getting to know everyone. The newlyweds live in Strongsville. Their sponsors are Irene and Jim Joyce.

**Neal Flowerman** has had an interesting faith journey. He is originally from New York and was raised in the Jewish faith. After losing his wife in 2016, he was searching for spiritual guidance. After attending several services, he says he feels a sense of belonging in our congregation. He has already started helping in the Thrift Shop. In 2019, he married Cathy and they currently reside in North Royalton. Neal's sponsor is Dave Williams.

**Carol Foley** is a talented musician and a retired music educator. She and her late husband, Bill, were instrumental to the music team at the Federated United Church of Christ in Chagrin Falls and countless other music groups. Carol recently moved to Olmsted Falls and has already been contributing musically to our services. She has three grown sons: Will, Ken, and Tom, and 5 grandchildren. Carol's longtime friends Ken Mehalko and Bev Wehr are sponsoring her.

**Martha & John Hattery** are celebrating their 34th wedding anniversary today! Martha grew up in the denomination, baptized and confirmed in the UCC. She has been attending our church and brought John along with her, so they both decided to join. Martha expressed appreciation for the relationship our church has with AA. They have a son named Joseph. The Hatterys live in Strongsville. Judy Carte is their sponsor.

**Bob Heddleson** feels that God has brought him to our church and that he has found a place here with us. He has been worshipping with us since we reopened for in-person services. His wife, Beverly passed away in December, 2020. Bob lives in North Royalton. His sponsor is John Toth.

**Pat Morchak** has been coming to our church off and on for a number of years and she says that the people here kept her coming back. She believes that she can find hope here and a way to take charge of her faith. She and her late husband have two sons, Michael, and Steven. Pat resides in North Royalton, near the Flowermans. Her sponsor is Linda Kapcar.



**OUR CHURCH IS LOOKING TO HIRE A PART-TIME CUSTODIAN.**

If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact a member of the Board of Trustees for more information and an application.

**SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE OFFICE STAFF AT THE STRONGSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FOR USE OF THEIR COPIER FOR PRINTING SUNDAY BULLETINS WHILE WE AWAIT A PART FOR OURS!**

