



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, October 31, 2021 – 10 A.M.



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 "Steal Away" Spiritual

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.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT **God's Work...Our Hands**

INTROIT "Suo Gan" Welsh Melody

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Be still!

People: We come to quiet ourselves in this haven of holiness.

Leader: Be still and know that God moves and dwells among us.

People: We come to discern the Word that can set us free.

Leader: Be still and know that God is in this place.

People: God is our Hope, our Help, our Refuge, and our Redeemer.

ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen.

† HYMN "Come, Now is the Time to Worship"

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

Come, now is the time to worship.

Come, now is the time to give your heart.

Come, just as you are to worship.

Come just as you are before your God...Come.

One day every tongue will confess You are God.

One day every knee will bow. Still the greatest treasure remains

For those who gladly choose You now.

Come, now is the time to worship.

Come, now is the time to give your heart.

Come just as you are to worship

Come just as you are before your God...Come.

Willingly we choose to surrender our lives; willingly our knees will bow.

With all our heart soul mind and strength, we gladly choose You now.

Come, now is the time to worship.

Come, now is the time to give your heart.

Come just as you are to worship.

Come just as you are before your God...Come.

Come...Come...Just as you are...come.

A READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 146:1-5

(New International Version)

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, my soul. I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save.

When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing.

Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SHARING OF 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 "I Saw the Light" Williams

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 "Flower Duet from *Lakmé*" Delibes

† 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 **Mark 12:28-34**

(New International Version)

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

SERMON "Getting it Straight"

† HYMN 572 "Blessed Assurance"

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

† BLESSING Ian Cowrie

May Jesus, who is the Light of the World, shine on you and shine through you. May the Good Shepherd guide you safely through the green pastures and through the dark valleys. May the Resurrection and the Life raise you up to newness of life. May the Way, the Truth and the Life lead you in His Way, feed you with His Truth, and heal you with His Life. May the True Vine bear fruit through your living as you abide in Him. And may the Alpha and Omega be your be-all, your end-all, and your glory, now and through all eternity. **Amen.**

† POSTLUDE "Shaker Parting Song" arr. Purdum

TODAY – OCTOBER 31

NEXT SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 7

Ginger Rothel	Greeters	Linda Plain
Lynne McCray	Liturgist	Pam Keenen
Elaine Coffey	Ushers	Linda Plain
Tom Foley	Director of Music	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	Associate Director of Music	Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	Supplemental Organist	Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich	Sound	Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Choir/Ken Mehalko/Carol Foley	Special Music	Chancel Choir/Dave Williams

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**.



A FRIENDLY REMINDER: COFFEE HOUR IS BACK!
Please stop down in Pilgrim Hall after the service for a hot beverage and warm conversation!

The altar flowers are given—
Happy Halloween with love from the
Abruzzino-Krisak family
For my longtime neighbors and friends, Dean & Arlene McKay—
Irene Jannsohn

Our steeple will light the sky this week—
Happy Birthday to Gabe Sauter on October 31st!
With Love, Grammy



Happy Birthday today to Beth (Fraunfelder) Lewis!

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Today is the last day we will be accepting donations for 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](http://CouncilforAmericanIndianMinistry.org) (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.

STEWARDSHIP: GOD'S WORK...OUR HANDS

Our 2022 Stewardship campaign is underway! Please prayerfully consider how you may give of your time, talent, and treasure to help with the mission and ministry of our church.



PLEDGE CARDS AND STEWARDSHIP LETTERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PICK-UP IN THE GATHERING AREA.



A NOTE OF THANKS

We thank the Chancel Choir, Ken Mehalko, Mike Elkins, Tom Foley, Carol Foley, and Sharon Heinrich for providing our musical worship today.

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Janet Kato, Marge McKinney, Ruth Milidonis, 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 Foley, Ramona Glaze, Sue Hawk, Bob Heddleson, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, George Kapcar, Tony Koussa, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Judy Maur, Reggie McCray, Heidi & Chuck McDougall, Laurie Meister, Roy Merkle, Michele Mhlack, Lola Millhoane, Gary Paul, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, Peter Smith, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Sharon Wilson, Sally Vetovitz, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Mary Ellen & Bob Zimmerman



Extended Church Family: Dorene Baldrige, Fred Beba (Theresa's husband), Jackie Berkheimer (Judi Pavisich's friend), Amy Carroil (Marty Winch's sister), Judy Carte's son-in-law, Ryan, Hunter Colao (Barb & Mark Camp's grandson), Ron Colosimo (Judi Pavisich's friend), Mary Ann Csory (Judi Pavisich's friend), John Dickson (Greg's dad), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Tiffany Hassel (Judi Pavisich's daughter-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), Diane Gregoire (Judi Pavisich's cousin), 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), 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.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,649.37
Last Week's Offering Received \$1,803.00
Difference (- \$1,846.37)

Thank you very much for your support.



CHRISTMAS FOR VETERANS

Last Day today!

For many years, our congregation has provided a small gift for our military veterans of Cuyahoga County, especially those transitioning from homelessness. We include two pairs of socks, along with candy bars. 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 the Gathering Area. Monetary donations may be placed in the offering plate, labeled "VETERANS."



MISSION-OUTREACH COMMITTEE



The Strongsville Emergency Food Bank has always been supported by our congregation. We would like to resume having you drop donations off at the church. The

Kuhlenschmidts have agreed to transport the non-perishable food items to the Food Bank for us, which makes this ministry possible. Many thanks to Karl and Sharon. Please remember, we do not accept expired goods. The needs for the food bank in November would be CANNED CORN & CANNED FRUIT!

THANK YOU Many, many thanks from **Pastor Heidi** and the **pastor's wife (Chuck)** for the delicious soups and dinners, the cards, the texts, the lawn care. . . . I could go on. You are blessing in our lives in oh, so many ways. Truly, we are all in this-- together. Peace to your spirit.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS



• **The Board of Trustees** will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **November 9th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

• **The Diaconate** will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **November 16th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

• **The Official Board** will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **November 23rd** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL IS BACK!

2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

LIMITED RESERVATIONS--Call (440) 238-5389

To-go meals will be available.



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



Women's Fellowship will meet at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, November 3rd, in Pilgrim Hall. We will plan our Christmas Tea, make Tea centerpieces, and elect officers. **If you have a glue gun, please bring it for making the centerpieces.** Anyone wishing to socialize

after the meeting, please bring your own lunch and beverage. As always, all ladies are welcome.

THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is OPEN on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. with lots of fall merchandise on display. Donations are being accepted, but you must call the church first to arrange a time for drop-off.

THRIFT SHOP BONUS HOURS

The 3rd Thursday of the month,

November 18, 2021 — 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(We're still open on our usual Thursdays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

Also, the Thrift Shop is still in need of volunteers to help out for a couple of hours—sorting, organizing, and selling on Thursdays.

Please call Cathy Hawk (440-781-7512) if you can help!



SPECIAL REQUEST FOR HELP

We are looking for a pair of Size 13 men's work boots for an individual who has just gotten a job, but is in need of proper footwear for his employment. Please contact the church office if you can help!



COMING SOON...Thanksgiving "Basket" project



Due to the remaining effects of the global pandemic, we will not be collecting food items and putting together actual Thanksgiving packages for those in need. 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." Also, if you know of someone in need, please contact the church office.

And the Mitten Tree...

We will still collect hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, and socks for the needy this year. From November 7th through December 5th, bring your items to the church during office hours and they will be placed on the Mitten Tree. After the 5th, 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!



GIFT CARDS--THINK AHEAD FOR CHRISTMAS!

Please order your Christmas gift cards early!

AN EASY WAY TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING



NEEDS! You can order gift cards with **Jim Joyce** or by calling him at 216-267-5043 in advance list. Limited stock is available, but special orders may be accommodated with advance notice. **Thank you to those who continue to support this project by purchasing gift cards!**



Are you an online shopper? If so, why not benefit the church while you make your purchases from Amazon? It's incredibly easy!

Here's what you do:

1. Instead of typing amazon.com into your search bar, type in **smile.amazon.com**.
2. Select United Church of Christ Congregational Strongsville by clicking this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-1298100>
3. Shop as you would normally—that's it!

Your addresses, billing information, and shopping cart are still saved and your Prime membership privileges still apply. A small percentage of your purchase price will go toward supporting the church.



FIT CLUB RETURNING! Time to "Work-y off that Turkey." Fit Club will be starting up again on Wednesdays with a meeting for interested folks on November 10th at 5 p.m.

THE NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2021 UPPER ROOM DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE is available (large print and pocket size) in the Gathering Area. Pick up your free copy today!

