



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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StrongsvilleUCC.com



WORLD
COMMUNION
SUNDAY

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, October 4, 2026– 10 A.M.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

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 always welcome here.

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE

"Siyahamba"

African Song

Congregation: We are moving in the light of God!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bill Schneider

INTROIT

"Tú Has Venido a la Orilla"

Spanish hymn, Gabaraín

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: From north and south, from east and west, we come:

People: God's people called to the Table where simple grace nourishes us.

Leader: From down the street to across town, from single households to apartment dwellers:

People: God's people are called to community, where we live and serve one another.

Leader: From every class, every race, every status; from little ones with sippy cups to elders with overflowing hearts:

People: God's people are called to witness to God's hope, to offer peace to a shattered world.

† HYMN 23

"The God of Abraham Praise"

(Traditional Hebrew Melody)

A READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalms 19

(New International Version)

The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.

They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.

Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.

In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.

It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.

It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other;
nothing is deprived of its warmth.

The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul.

The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever.

The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous.

They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.
By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.
But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults.
Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me.
Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.
May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart
be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

PRAYING IN SILENCE

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

ANTHEM

"Halle, Halle, Halle"

Caribbean Song, arr. Hopson

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Communion Hymns from Around the World

"Great Spirit God" - Native American (Dakota), "We Are People on a Journey" -
Nicaragua, "O Bread of Life" - China, "Sheaves of Summer" - Spain

† 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 Exodus 20 (excerpts)

(The Message)

God spoke all these words:

I am God, your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt,
out of a life of slavery.

REFLECTION

"Ten Good Words"

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor: We are good at rules: making them and then breaking them.
Paul reminds us that, when we gain Christ Jesus as our Lord and Savior,
we receive exactly what we need: forgiveness, grace, hope.
Let us confess our sins to God, that we might know God's healing love for us:

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

All: If we were to name all the gods we have before you, Rock of Redemption, we would be here a very long time. We elevate politicians into saviors, though they are as broken as we are. We misuse your name so much during the day; yet we have trouble speaking to you in prayer at night. We are so busy, we do not notice how creation witnesses to your goodness and grace. Forgive us, God our Hope. Help us to let go of what we value most, so we may open our emptiness, our hearts, our lives to the healing and loving presence of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. (silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Persistently, patiently, lovingly, God pours out grace and joy into our lives, healing our brokenness, forgiving our sin.

All: Knowing we are loved, we are sent to love. Knowing we are forgiven, we are freed to forgive others. Having received grace, we can offer our gifts to everyone we meet. Thanks be to God. Amen.

A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

"Let Us Break Bread Together" Traditional African-American Spiritual

† 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"

(English Tune "St. Peter")

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Gord

As people who have been fed, go now to feed the world. As those who have been given hope, bring hope in place of despair. May God help us to do so. And always remember that we are never cut off from the Source. Jesus, the Bread of Life, the True Vine is with us always. And so we all share in Hope's Banquet. Thanks be to God, the One who hosts the banquet. Amen.

† POSTLUDE "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

Jamaican folk tune

SERVING

TODAY – OCTOBER 4

NEXT SUNDAY – OCTOBER 11

Linda Plain

Greeters

Roger & Judy Davis

Elaine Coffey

Liturgist

Carol Konet

John Toth

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

Chancel Choir

Special Music

Bell Choir

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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**.

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.



Become a Member!



NEW MEMBER CLASS COMING SOON!

Please contact Pastor

Heidi if you'd like to begin your Strongsville UCC membership journey!

PIG ROAST—THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraiser yesterday! We have food for sale following worship if you missed it or you couldn't get enough!





Today’s altar flowers are given—
In celebration of our Granddaughter Mallory and our Great Grandson Taron’s Birthdays this month.
Love, Grandma Joyce Reed

A 2026 SIGN-UP SHEET FOR ALTAR FLOWERS
IS POSTED IN PILGRIM HALL.

Please note: the cost of flowers is \$18 for 1 vase and \$36 for 2 vases. We still have a few Sundays available in 2026!

Our steeple will light the sky this week—
In loving memory of Alfred “Jiggs” Graves
Roberta Carpenter



Happy Birthday today to Rev. Oommen Thomas and to Donna Skrant!
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FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL:
PENNY SUNDAY THANK YOU!



Last month, we collected \$478.72 for the **Alzheimer’s Association**. The next Penny Sunday will be on **October 25th** and go to our own Thanksgiving “Basket” Project.

JOIN US FOR SOME FUN WITH OUR
SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS ON
OCTOBER 25th at 11:45 A.M. in the

church parking lot. Decorate your vehicle, park it at the 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, Mark Camp, Judy Carte, Diana Creecy, 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, Carol Konet, 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, Debbie Thomas, Barbara White, Heather Williams, Jan Williamson, 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); Helen Leckwatch (Dale Parson’s mother-in-law), 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



A NOTE OF THANKS—We thank the Children’s Choir and the Chancel Choir, along with **Tom Foley, Mike Elkins, and Sharon Heinrich** for today’s music!

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 5,212.00
Last Week’s Offering Received \$ 3,208.00
Difference -(\$2,004.00)
Thank you very much for your support.
PLEDGES RECEIVED: 62



THREE WITH GLEE!



Capital Campaign: We currently have \$28,330.43 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.

MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:
NEIGHBORS IN NEED



Donations will be accepted for this UCC special offering throughout 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.

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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, 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 Pastor Heidi or the church office.**

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UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **October 13th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Mission Outreach Committee will meet on the third Sunday of the month, **October 18th** following the worship service.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **October 20th** at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor.
- 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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OUR BIBLE STUDY GROUP CONTINUES!

Join us on **Monday, October 19th**—at 7 p.m. for an in-depth look at The Lord’s Prayer which is an integral part of our weekly worship services. Attendees are encouraged to bring a Bible to the sessions.



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT STRONGSVILLE
COMMUNITY BAND

The Strongsville Community Band, conducted by Ken Mehalko and Brian Maskow, and the Baldwin Wallace Symphonic Band, conducted by Dr. Brendan Caldwell, perform at the **Kulas Musical Arts Building** (96 Front Street, Berea) on **Friday, October 9th** at 7 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public.

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WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP—

The Evening Group will watch and feed your children chicken nuggets and mac and cheese for a “**Parent Night Out**” Tomorrow, **Monday, October 5th from 6 to 9 p.m.** Parents, please sign up on the sheet on Pilgrim Hall’s bulletin board.



The Daytime Group will have a “**Craft Day**” when Diana Creecy will teach knitting, and Judi Pavisich, crocheting on **Wednesday, October 7th, at 1 p.m.** in the Parlor. All ladies are welcome to attend “Craft Day.”

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NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11th IS
OUR CHURCH’S 209th ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY!



We will recognize our 50-year members during the service and celebrate with a reception following worship and we’ll celebrate with pizza

and cake after worship! What better way to celebrate a birthday!

2027 GENEROSITY CAMPAIGN STARTS NEXT WEEK!

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!



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.**

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.



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 Pogozeleski* 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



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.

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.



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...