



## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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WORLD  
COMMUNION  
SUNDAY

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, October 5, 2025– 10 A.M.

Sacraments of Baptism and 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

Ingrid Dickson

#### INTROIT

“3 Little Birds”

Marley

#### † CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Today, on World Communion Sunday, we remember that we are one. Today, we celebrate the Spirit of God that moves throughout God's people across all of creation.

**People: We are one in Christ.**

Leader: Today we remember our responsibility to bear with one another in love, to maintain unity by the bond of peace and to be the body of Christ in the world.

**People: We are one body.**

Leader: Today we recall that, as members of one body, we can make a difference in a world of people in need of the hope of the love of Christ. Today, we recognize this hope that unites us and sustains us.

**People: We are people of one hope.**

Leader: Today we celebrate our unity. We set aside the small things that can divide us and remember that, with God, we can overcome all things. Today we are reminded that only with gentleness and humility can we clearly see God's plan for us.

**People: We are people of one Lord.**

Leader: Today, on World Communion Sunday, we acknowledge that we belong to God and to each other. We share the bread and the cup of Holy Communion. And through our gifts on this special Sunday, we provide scholarships and other opportunities so that people around the world can serve Jesus Christ.

**All: We are people of one God who is above all and through all.**

#### † HYMN 128

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

#### A READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalms 37:1-9

(New International Version)

Do not fret because of those who are evil  
or be envious of those who do wrong;  
for like the grass they will soon wither,  
like green plants they will soon die away.

Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.

Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this:

He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn,

your vindication like the noonday sun.

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him;

do not fret when people succeed in their ways,  
when they carry out their wicked schemes.

Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—it leads only to evil.

For those who are evil will be destroyed,  
but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land.

**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

"O God of Heaven"

Philippine Melody, arr. Hopson

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



#### THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Lena Marie Raymond  
Daughter of Lauren and Eric Raymond  
(Great-granddaughter of Mary Winch)



#### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY WORDS

#### QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES FOR THE FAMILY

#### CONGREGATIONAL PROMISE

Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support and care to Lena and her family, as she is baptized and learns to live and grow in the way of the Christ?  
**(We promise our love, support and care.)**

#### PRAYER OF BAPTISM

Christ be with you. **(And also with you.)** Let us pray.

Gracious God, bless this water by your Holy Spirit. By that same Spirit, save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ, that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in the child baptized this morning, that she may rise in Christ. All glory and honor be to you, Eternal God, who was, who is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

#### BAPTISM OF LENA MARIE RAYMOND

#### CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**Gracious God, you have filled the world with joy with the gift of Jesus. Bless this child, Lena Marie; fill her with your strength and courage for life's journey; joy for all to see; freedom of love; hope for a new life. May she never be ashamed to confess her personal faith in you. Bless us, O God, that we, too, may be faithful to your Word, united in the peace of Christ and the company of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

#### HYMN

“Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”

Child of blessing, child of promise, Baptized with the Spirit's sign;  
With this water God has sealed you Unto love and grace divine.

Child of love, our love's expression, Love's creation, loved indeed  
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits; Into joy and laughter lead.

Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God's you are; from God you came.  
Back to God we humbly give you; Live as one who bears Christ's name.

Child of God, your loving Parent, Learn to know whose child you are.

Grow to laugh and sing and worship; Trust and love God more than all.

#### OFFERING

#### OFFERTORY

“Be Thou My Vision”

Irish Tune

#### † 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

**Luke 17:5-10**

(New International Version)

“If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it will obey you.”

#### REFLECTION

“Asking for the Wrong Thing”

#### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

#### CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor: Our faith has been placed in our hands by our parents and grandparents. But we know we have not always done what we ought to have done. Let us lift our prayers to the One who is always ready to forgive us, and to place forgiveness in our hearts.

#### UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

**All: We stand before you in this moment, Listening God, and state what you already know. Our cheeks are carved by the tears of the pain we have caused. Our hearts are so empty we cannot comfort others. Our desires have taken us places where we cannot sing your praises.**

**Heart-seeking God, forgive us. Plant a tiny seed of hope that it might grow into a bouquet for others. Increase our faith until it spills over in thanksgiving to you. Fill us with the love that overwhelms all our complaints and rekindles our desire to follow faithfully where Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, leads us.** (*silent prayer*)

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: While our failures and frailty are fresh, God's grace has been ours since before time began. This is great news - we are *all* forgiven.

**All: Thanks be to God, who has given us the promise of life in Christ Jesus our Lord! Amen.**

#### A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING

#### RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

“Gather Around for the Table is Spread”

Scottish Melody

#### † 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 139

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”



**† BENEDICTION** Thom M. Shuman  
*May we live in peace with those who annoy us, as well as with those who encourage and delight us. May we speak in peace to those whose words drip with anger and to those who are afraid to speak. May we walk in peace on pilgrimages to reconcile our broken neighborhoods and the shattered places of our own lives. May we go in peace wherever you would send us, even into the most uncomfortable places we dare imagine. Amen.*

**† POSTLUDE** "Lt. Kijé's Wedding" Prokofiev

**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](http://strongsvilleucc.com), select **Worship**, and click on **Service Videos**.

**SERVING**

**TODAY – OCTOBER 5** **NEXT SUNDAY – OCTOBER 12**

Linda Plain	<b>Greeters</b>	Susann Lerch
Elaine Coffey	<b>Liturgist</b>	Dave Williams
John Toth	<b>Head Usher</b>	Judi Pavisich
Tom Foley	<b>Director of Music</b>	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	<b>Associate Director of Music</b>	Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	<b>Organist</b>	Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich	<b>Video/Sound</b>	Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Children's Choir/Choir	<b>Special Music</b>	Chancel Choir



**A NOTE OF THANKS**—Thank you to the **Children's Choir**, the **Chancel Choir**, and our music team: **Tom Foley**, **Sharon Heinrich**, and **Mike Elkins** for sharing music from around the world today!

**Today's altar flowers** are given—

*In celebration of our Granddaughters Mallory & Gabbie, our Grandson Grant's and our Great Grandson Taron's Birthdays this month. Love Grandpa George & Grandma Joyce Reed*



**Our steeple** will light the sky this week—

*In loving memory of Alfred "Jiggs" Graves--Roberta Carpenter*

**Happy Birthday today to Grant Morgan!**

**NEXT WEEK IS OUR CHURCH'S 208<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY!**

**We will recognize our 50-year members and celebrate with a Pizza Party following the worship service!**



**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**PENNY SUNDAY—THANK YOU!** We collected \$1,039.57 for **Sanyuka Children's Ministries**. The next Penny Sunday will be on **October 26<sup>th</sup>** for our Thanksgiving "Basket" program. On November 30<sup>th</sup>, Penny Sunday will be for G.R.I.N. (Golden Retrievers in Need).

**NEIGHBORS IN NEED**

Donations will be accepted for this UCC special offering throughout the month of October.



**OCTOBER IS BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH TIME!**

While friends are always welcome at our church, the Christian Education Committee is suggesting that our children, students, families and members make a concerted effort to invite

friends to church any Sunday next month. This is an opportune time to experience all the amazing events that are happening here.



**THIS AFTERNOON at 3 P.M.**  
**BLESSING OF THE BEASTS**

**BRING YOUR DOGS, CATS, GUINEA PIGS, RABBITS, TURTLES, LIZARDS, OR ANY OF YOUR FAVORITE ANIMALS!**

**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, Mark Camp, Judy Carte, Elaine Coffey, Betty "Grammy" Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Roz Fotos, Sue Hawk, Bruce Keenen, Erv Koch, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Roy Merkle, Amanda Moulton, Ginny & Kenn Oerkfitz, George & Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Ron Rothel, Jennifer Sekorky, Tracy Seneff, Peter Smith, Bruce Sperber, Linda Stepan, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

**Extended Church Family:** Amoríe Acevedo (Dennis Smith's daughter), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Allison Emerson (Colette's sister), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Joanne Garipey (Sally Herzog's friend), Kathy Ghetti (friend of Ginger Rothel), Jennifer Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's daughter-in-law), Sarah & David Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's grandson & wife), Karen Greenway (Judi Pavisich's friend), Michaelene Hanrahan (Jim Joyce's sister), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Tiffany Hassel (Judi Pavisich's daughter-in-law), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel's parents), George Love (friend of the church), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Sylvia Pakish (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Mike Pavisich (Judi's stepson), Jeff Peacock (former member), The Price Family, Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Vicki Smith (Venner Clarinets), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Don & Pauline Wills (Judi Pavisich's friends), the people of Ukraine, Sudan, Gaza, and Israel, victims of violence, those affected by 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](mailto:h.e.denman@gmail.com)

**BOOK STUDY--SISTERHOOD!**

On October 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m., Our *Sisterhood* Book Study will continue. All are welcome!



**THREE WITH GLEE!**

Capital Campaign: We currently have \$58,333.08 in our capital campaign account after paying for some of the tuckpointing. We have chosen the vendor for

the automatic door openers for the kitchen and main doors. the Trustees are reviewing the proposals that have been submitted for improving the acoustics in Pilgrim Hall and painting the hall. Please make sure you designate your donation for "*Capital Campaign*." Yellow pledge cards are available in the Gathering Area. Thanks for your continuing support.

**OFFERINGS RECEIVED**

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 4,359.00  
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 3,180.74  
Difference -(\$ 1,178.26)

*Thank you very much for your support.*  
**PLEDGES RECEIVED for 2025: 61**



**PIG ROAST!**

**THE OFFICIAL BOARD WILL BE HOSTING A PIG ROAST FUNDRAISER AT THE CHURCH ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup> FROM 5 P.M. - 7 P.M.**

**WE HAVE A LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS. THEY ARE \$25 AND ARE ON SALE NOW THROUGH OCTOBER 12<sup>TH</sup>!**

**WE HAVE A SIGN-UP FOR DESSERT DONATIONS POSTED IN PILGRIM HALL.**

**ARE YOU INTERESTED?**

The Board of Trustees needs someone to fill an unexpired term on the board. The Trustees oversee the building, property, and finances of the church. The Trustees meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. The Official Board would appoint the willing volunteer to complete the term ending in 2027.

The church will be needing a new treasurer at the beginning of the year, as our treasurer, Sally Herzog, will be completing her 3<sup>rd</sup> term of service. The treasurer position is an elected office and is responsible for facilitating the payment of the church's bills and working closely with the Financial Secretary. Sally is willing to thoroughly train her successor. Please see Rachel Zielinski or Cathy Hawk if you can serve in either capacity.



**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—**

Don't forget! All are welcome to join in our programs!

**Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.—Movie Night in the Gathering Area!**

**Bring a DVD & we will choose a movie to enjoy together tomorrow evening! + Bring a snack & beverage!**





## MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:



The Tunnel to Towers Foundation is a charitable organization focuses on providing mortgage-free homes to families of fallen first responders and catastrophically injured veterans, as well as helping to eradicate veteran homelessness.

We are sponsoring 2 veterans/first responders a month. THANK YOU to everyone who has already signed up for 2025!

### 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.**

## 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 yourself. **Please do not abandon items outside the church doors.**



**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 also have a Life-vac choking device to assist in the event that someone is choking. It is located just beneath the AED.**

### DISHES, and BOWLS, and PLATES--Oh My! They’re starting to accumulate again.



Many folks have been kind enough to bring dishes and utensils to the church for funeral luncheons or other events. After the delicious food is eaten, the dishes are sometimes forgotten. If you are missing one of your bowls, utensils, or containers, please pick it up from the kitchen right away. Abandoned dishware will be sold at the Thrift Shop.

## FREE LUNCH FOR ALL-- Wednesdays

**11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Many thanks to all of our dedicated volunteers and to all who come and enjoy food and fellowship on Wednesdays!



## CHURCH OFFICERS 2025

*\*Elected January 26, 2025    \*\* appointed by Official Board*

**Moderator:** Greg Dickson **Vice-Moderator:** Jen Barry

**Treasurer:** Sally Herzog **Clerk:** Judy Gaumer

**Sunday School Superintendent:** Linda Elkins

### Board of Trustees

Bill Giuliano Chris Goff\* Mike Elkins

Les Fox Herb Hampson Cathy Hawk\*

Sandy Pogozeleski Cheryl Sobek\*

Alex Tomoff\* Mike Willis\* Rachel Zielinski

### Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson\* Dave Williams\*

### Diaconate

Teri Barbish Jean Bittinger\* Elaine Coffey\*

Bobbi Cook\* Wayne Cook\* Judy Davis\*

Judy Fox Pam Heimbürger\* 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

Gina Cathcart\* Bobbi Cook\*\* Myron Costin\*

Diana Creecy Cathy Hawk\* Sarah Hayes

Lora Rung\* Peter Smith Mary Willis\*

Mary Ellen Zimmerman

## A NEW GENEROSITY CAMPAIGN FOR 2026--H.E.A.R.T.

Hospitality  
Engagement  
Activities  
Resources  
Time & Talent



### United Church of Christ 2026 Estimate of Giving

In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2026:

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 \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

## 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...

**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.



### 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.