



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, October 8, 2023 – 10:00 A.M.

Sacrament of Baptism

Celebrating our 206th Anniversary

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.

PRELUDE

"Here I Am to Worship"

Hughes

Tyler Martin, vocalist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greg Dickson

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Mary Willis

INTROIT

"Adagio"

Loillet

† CALL TO WORSHIP

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

People: God's people, called to this house of God, 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 788

"Now Thank We All Our God"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalms 19: 1-10

(New International Version)

The heavens are telling the glory of God,
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom
from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

Its rising is from the end of the heavens and its circuit to the end of them,
and nothing is hid from its heat. The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;

the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;

the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;

the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;

the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever;

the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;

sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

RECOGNITION OF 50 YEAR MEMBERS

Timothy Baker (04/19/1973)

Barb Camp (04/19/1973)

Mark Camp (04/19/1973)

Irene Jannsohn (06/10/1973)

Cheryl Morgan (04/15/1973)

Sharon Ritchie (04/15/1973)

Ann Sullen (04/15/1973)

Keith Sullen (04/15/1973)

Marty Winch (10/01/1973)

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.

ANTHEM

"River in Judea"

Feldman, arr. Leavitt

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Cade James Raymond

Son of Lauren and Eric Raymond



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 Cade and his family, as he lives and grows in 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 he 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 CADE JAMES RAYMOND

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Let us pray together:

Gracious God, You have filled the world with joy with the gift of Jesus. Bless this child, Cade James; fill him with your strength and courage for life's journey; joy for all to see; freedom of love; hope for a new life. May he never be ashamed to confess his 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

"All Good Gifts" from *Godspell*

Schwartz

Tyler Martin, vocalist

† 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 EPISTLES

Philippians 3:4b-14

(New International Version)

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.
What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth
of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things.

SERMON

"What REALLY matters"

† HYMN 401

"The Church's One Foundation"

† BENEDICTION

Thom M. Shuman

May we live in peace with those who annoy us, as well as with those who encourage 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.

† RESPONSE/POSTLUDE

"The Church's One Foundation"

Wesley, arr. Burkhardt



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 8

NEXT SUNDAY – OCTOBER 15

Barbara Toth

Greeters

Judi Pavisich

Dave Williams

Liturgist

Linda Ponstingle

Zimmerman, Coffey, Cook

Ushers

Judi Pavisich

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

Tyler Martin/Chancel Choir

Special Music

Ken Mehalko/Chancel Choir

The altar flowers are given—
Celebrating Granddaughter Mallory's Birthday on October 4th,
Gabby on October 18th and Grandson Grant on October 24th—
Joyce & George Reed



Our steeple will light the sky this week—
Happy Birthday on October 7th to Lola Millhoane!
In memory of Alfred "Jiggs" Graves—Roberta Carpenter

Happy Birthday today to Margaret Stayrook
and to Sharon Lempner!



NEIGHBORS IN NEED
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.

IT'S AN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!
Today, we are celebrating our church's
206th anniversary! We will have cake (of
course), and goodies in Pilgrim Hall
following our worship service.



A NOTE OF THANKS—

We thank our special guest **Tyler Martin**, our **Chancel
Choir**, along with **Mike Elkins, Tom Foley**, and **Sharon
Heinrich** for their music today.

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BOOK STUDY A YEAR OF BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD

Beginning on **October 16th**, Pastor Heidi and
Linda Elkins will be 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. Please let Pastor Heidi or Linda know if you're planning to join
us or write "Book Study" on your attendance card. **If you need a
copy of the book, Elaine Coffey will be ordering them in
bulk. Please text or call her at (502) 214-0426 if you'd like to
place an order.**



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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!**

MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:
"OODLES OF NOODLES"
OCTOBER PASTA DRIVE! Please bring
donations of dry or canned pasta and
cans or jars of pasta sauce to the receptacle in Pilgrim Hall!



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, Barb Camp, Jennifer Cockrell,
Sam Cuyler Jr., Sue Hawk, Irene Jannsohn, Carole Kapcar,
Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Bruce
Lerch, Reggie McCray, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkfitz,
Gary Paul, George Pavisich, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie,
Bill Schneider. Peter Smith, Robert Sperber, John Toth, 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 Gariepy (Sally Herzog's friend), Kathy Ghetti
(friend of Ginger Rothel), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Vic Irelan (Don & Sandy
Gleichauf's friend), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Rudy Matjzic (Judi
Pavisich's friend), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Linda McNabb (Ginger
Rothel's sister-in-law), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), 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

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OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 3,617.01
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 3,658.50
Difference +\$ 41.49



Thank you very much for your support.

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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!**

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UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second
Tuesday of the month, **October 10th** at 7 p.m. in
the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet not meet in October, but will meet on
November 7th at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month,
October 24th at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

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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.



FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL:
JOIN US FOR SOME FUN WITH OUR
SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS ON SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 29th 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!



PENNY SUNDAY!
Start saving those coins and dollars! The next Penny
Sunday will be **October 29th** and will go to the
Strongsville Emergency Food Bank.

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GIFT CARDS
PLEASE DON'T FORGET ABOUT THIS
EASY, CONVENIENT PROGRAM THAT
BENEFITS THE CHURCH. ORDER NOW FOR
CHRISTMAS! 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.



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*



COMING UP THIS MONTH

Sunday, October 15th—Laity Sunday
Monday, October 16th—Book Study begins 7 p.m.
Sunday, October 22nd—Stewardship campaign continues
Sunday, October 29th—Penny Sunday, Trunk or Treat after the service



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—September - 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.



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.



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.