



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, September 1, 2024– 10 A.M.

Labor Day Weekend



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 "Bist Du bei Mir" Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Elaine Coffey

INTROIT "Sanctuary" Thompson/Scruggs

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: For cool mornings and rumbling afternoon storms, for amazing days and even more ordinary evenings, for deep friendships and shallow wading pools:

People: We give thanks to God!

Leader: For the laughing God who tickles us with joy, for the broken-hearted Love who joins in our struggles:

People: We give thanks to God at all times!

Leader: For the Bread of heaven who feeds us hope, for the Spirit of grace who teaches us to dance:

People: We give thanks to God at all times and for everything!

† HYMN 444 "I Love to Tell the Story" (verses 1 & 4)

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 15

(New International Version)

Lord, who may dwell in your sacred tent?

Who may live on your holy mountain?

The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart; whose tongue utters no slander,

who does no wrong to a neighbor, and casts no slur on others;

who despises a vile person but honors those who fear the Lord;

who keeps an oath even when it hurts, and does not change their mind;

who lends money to the poor without interest;

who does not accept a bribe against the innocent.

Whoever does these things will never be shaken.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER

ANTHEM "This Little Light of Mine" arr. Raney

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Colette Emerson

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart" Messiter

† **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 Ecclesiastes 3:1

(New International Version)

For everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.

GUEST SPEAKER Peter Smith

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 401** "The Church's One Foundation"

† **BENEDICTION** Thom M. Shuman

Fed with words of grace and hope, let us go to bring the Bread of life to our world. Called to be faithful as followers of Jesus, let us go to share justice and hope with all whom we meet. Touched by the Spirit of wonder in these moments, let us go to bring peace to the broken. Amen.

† **POSTLUDE** "Festival March" Burkhardt

SERVING

TODAY – SEPTEMBER 1 **NEXT SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 8**

Linda Plain **Greeters** Roger & Judy Davis

Linda Ponstingle **Liturgist** Sandy O'Shea

Judy D., Bill & Deborah S., Barbara W. **Ushers** Les & Judy F., Mary Ellen Z., Carole K.

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

Roger Davis, Music Team **Special Music** Chancel Choir

Linda Elkins **Summer Sunday School** Rally Day

Peter Smith **Special Guest Speaker**

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**, click on **Service Videos**.

 **A NOTE OF THANKS**—We thank our musicians, **Roger Davis**, along with **Sharon Heinrich, Mike Elkins, and Tom Foley** for today's music! Many thanks also to **Peter Smith** for speaking this morning, and to our church members for leading us in worship.

Please be aware that Pastor Heidi is on vacation through Tuesday, September 3rd.



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **September 10th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **September 17th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **September 24th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



The altar flowers are given—
Happy Birthday to Gary Zielinski with lots of love!
Rachel, Penny & Oliver
Happy 30th Birthday to Casey Coffey!
Love you a bushel and a peck! Mom



A 2024 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 left!

Our steeple will light the sky this week—
Happy Birthday tomorrow and welcome home to Pastor Heidi!



Happy Birthday today to Gary Zielinski!

Happy Anniversary today to Mary & Mike Willis and to Gayle & Bruce Sperber!



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.

RALLY DAY IS NEXT WEEK!

Mark your calendar for **September 8th**, when we begin a new **Sunday School** year of learning and growing together! Envelopes for our special Rally Day collection are in the pews.



PENNY SUNDAY.

Thanks to everyone who donated in August. We collected \$ for the students and staff at J&G Snow School. Please save your coins, dollars, and checks (to UCC) for our next Penny Sunday on **September 29, 2024** and will go toward funding the animals (including Charlie the Camel!) for our church's Live Nativity in November.



ATTENTION SINGERS & RINGERS: CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS ARE ON THURSDAY EVENINGS & BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS RESUME SEPTEMBER 12th.

Can you carry a tune? There's room in the choir loft for YOU! Can you read music? Come ring with us in Bell Choir! Please see Tom Foley or Mike Elkins if you'd like to be a part of our Music Ministry. Kids' Choir starts September 15th!



CHILDREN'S CHOIR STARTS SEPTEMBER 15th FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE!



OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Irene Jannsohn, Laurie Meister, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Maggie Struhar

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Judy Carte, Sam Cuyler Jr., Brandi Garsteck, Sue Hawk, Bruce Keenen, Sarah Keenen, Kay Konicek, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Jim Maresco, Jan Meier, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Ginny & Kenn Oerkfitz, Gary Paul, George & Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Peter Smith, Linda Stepan, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Yvonne Adams (Judi Pavisich's friend), Dorene Baldrige, Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), John Dickson (Greg's dad), Allison Emerson (Colette's sister), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Joanne Gariepy (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), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel's parents), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Sylvia Pakish (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Karen Pavisich (Judi's daughter-in-law), Jeff Peacock (former member), Zora Roundtree (FL4A volunteer), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Sandy Shipley (the Zielinskis' friend), Vicki Smith (Venner Clarinets), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), The people of Ukraine, Gaza, and Israel, 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

GIFT CARDS

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR PROGRAM. You may place orders by calling **Jim Joyce** at 216-346-4161 in advance. **Limited stock is available for purchase on Sunday mornings.**



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP— September FUN & GAMES!

Daytime: **Wednesday, September 4th, 1PM:** Trivia with Cherie Teagno
Evening: **Monday, September 9th, 7PM:** Trivia & Game Night
As always, all ladies are welcome!

THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is **OPEN every Thursday 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.**
THANK YOU TO OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS, AND ALL THE SUPPORT FROM OUR CONGREGATION AND COMMUNITY!



BOOK STUDY--A YEAR OF BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD

Continuing on **September 16th**, Pastor Heidi and Linda Elkins are leading a monthly book study based on Rachel Held Evans's wonderful book, *A Year of Biblical Womanhood*. The group will meet on the **third Monday of each month at 7 p.m.**, for one hour. It's not too late to join us!



FREE LUNCH FOR ALL-- Wednesdays

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Thank you to all our faithful volunteers!

DO MORE IN 2024! 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.



RIVER VALLEY PAPER RECYCLING—ON BORROWED TIME

Please DO NOT leave papers outside the bin if it is full! River Valley Paper company is reducing its routes and will be removing our paper/cardboard recycling bin at some point. We will be contacting other companies to see about getting another bin. You may bring your cardboard and paper as long as the bin is in our parking lot, but an alternative site will be needed in the future. Thank you to everyone who has supported this program.



OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 3,617.01
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 1,980.00
Difference -(\$1,637.01)
Thank you very much for your support.
PLEDGES RECEIVED: 51



MISSION OUTREACH NEWS: THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED IN OUR DEODORANT DRIVE FOR SNOW SCHOOL THIS SUMMER!

We collected 76 deodorants, plus a package of bar soap for Snow School and the kids at Ohio Guidestone.



THANK YOU NOTES



Thank you, Church Family. We are truly grateful for your thoughts, cards, and prayers. They have been a great comfort and support to us. **Dorothy Ritchie** and Family



CHURCH OFFICERS IN 2024

**Elected January 28, 2024 **Appointed by the Official Board*

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

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

Sunday School Co-Superintendents

Linda Elkins Mary Densmore

Board of Trustees

Bill Giuliano* Chris Goff Mike Elkins* Les Fox*
Herb Hampson* Cathy Hawk Sarah Hayes* Sandy Pogozeleski*
Cheryl Sobek Dan Winrod Laura Winrod Rachel Zielinski*

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson* Dave Williams*

Diaconate

Teri Barbish* Jean Bittering Elaine Coffey* Bobbi Cook Wayne Cook
Judy Davis Judy Fox* Carole Kapcar Cherie Teagno*
Barbara White Mary Ellen Zimmerman

Christian Education Committee

Serena Abruzzino Mary Densmore Linda Elkins*
Colette Emerson* 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

Sue Gigliotti* Judi Pavisich Bill Schneider Rob Toth* Mary Willis

Mission and Outreach Committee

Diana Creecy* Sarah Hayes* Lora Rung
Jennifer Sekorky* Peter Smith Bev Wehr* 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.

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 ____/____/____