



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
13740 Pearl Road
Strongsville, Ohio 44136

Rev. Oommen K. Thomas
Guest Minister

SEPTEMBER 10, 2017 – 10:00 A.M.
Rally Day for Sunday School

WELCOME!

We are grateful you chose to worship with us this morning.
No matter who you are and where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.

For questions about our church and ministries,
you may call the church at (440) 238-6697.
Please complete your Attendance Card and place it
into the offering plate. We hope to see you again soon!

† *Please stand as you are comfortable.*

PRELUDE *Heal Our Land* Tom Brooks

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: How blessed we are that God forgives us and loves us!
People **For all those times when we have fallen short of what
God would have us be, we have been forgiven.**

Leader: God makes us new in His Spirit!
People **Now is the time to joyfully accept the newness of life
which God offers to us.**

Leader: Come, let us worship and be thankful.
People: **Let us open our hearts to the love and mercy of God.**

† **HYMN 151** *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

OUR 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.

RESPONSE *Hear Our Prayer, O Lord* George Whelpton

CHOIR ANTHEM *Soon and Very Soon* Andrae Crouch

RALLY DAY INTRODUCTIONS Irene Joyce and Jamie Trinckes
Sunday School Superintendents

PRE-K – PRIMARY CLASS
Rachel Zielinski and Irene Joyce, Teachers

Pre-K Marcella Guadiz	Kindergarten Riley Hawk	Grade 1 Anna Bickley Rowan Garcia
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INTERMEDIATE CLASS
Jamie Trinckes, Teacher Dan Davis, Assistant

Grade 3 Russell Bickley Luke Giuliano Aidan Hurtig Anthony Guadiz	Grade 5 Teddy Bickley	Grade 6 Christian Scott Ian Rolland
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CONFIRMATION CLASS
Lora Rung, Teacher

Grade 8 Clara Barry Ben Clotworthy Emma Clotworthy Jordyn Miller Alysha Rolland	Grade 9 Michael Fischer Matthew Minnick	Grade 11 Olivia Clotworthy
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THE OFFERING *The Trees of the Field* Stuart Dauermann

† **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.

† PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN 733 *Once to Every Man and Nation*

SCRIPTURES Luke 13:1-9

SERMON *Bear Fruit* Rev. Oommen K. Thomas

† **HYMN 90** *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

† BENEDICTION

† **RESPONSE** *God Be with Me* Thomas Dorsey

† **POSTLUDE** *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord* Healey Willan

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This morning's altar flowers are given—
Celebrating Our 62nd Anniversary
Lloyd and Barbara Bridle

The steeple will light the sky this week—
Happy Birthday to Eli Sauter on September 12
Happy Birthday to Pastor Becky on September 13
With love, Grammy

**We welcome back Rev. Oommen Thomas, his wife Leela, and our
Chancel Choir;** and we thank Rev. Thomas for leading us in worship this
morning.

Our love and prayers are extended in sympathy to Jon Hayes and family
on the passing of his grandfather, Harry Hayes, on Monday, September 4.
Visitation is today from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at A. Ripepi and Sons Funeral
Home, 18149 Bagley Road in Middleburg Heights (west of I-71). The
funeral is tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. at the funeral home. Internment is at
Sunset Memorial Park.

A special offering will be received today for our Sunday School to help
defray the cost of the curriculum. Offering envelopes are in the pew racks.
Thank you for your support.

Next Sunday, September 17, Atal RM Aryan will be our guest speaker,
and he will present the message during the sermon time. The following is
background information about him:

*I came to the U.S.A. in 2010 as a refugee from Afghanistan. I belong to a
very poor family. I grew up in Kabul City until I became six. As I remember,
like all other children, I started school then, but, unfortunately, I did not stay
there for very long. I was at the first grade when my school was destroyed.
To protect me, my parents decided to send me far away from the war to the
village Mangal to live there with my grandmother and two uncles.*

*When I became 9 years old I was listening to a Christian radio and met
Christian people. Since then, I have been interested to tell other people
about Christianity. In Afghanistan, my interest in Christianity led to the
negative consequences with the people in the area where I lived, so, finally
with my family agreement, I ran away from my home and lived in a different
country (Pakistan) close to Afghanistan for about 4 years and then I came
to the U.S.A. I was a survivor, but it was my dream to achieve my
educational goals and freedom of speech and religion.*

*Now, my major is chemical engineering, and I work as a cancer researcher
at Cleveland State University. I'm a member of Journey Community Church
in Cleveland. I recently wrote a book about myself and the religious conflict
in my country, and a lot of people liked it. With this book my goal is to
introduce my culture to people and let them to be thankful to God for the
freedom of religion they have. I want to tell and share my testimony and
experiences with them as well.*

*I spoke at Walton Hills Church of Christ at Cleveland Ohio and Pleasant
Hills United Methodist Church. In addition, I will be a speaker on
Septembe4 9 at Grace Church at Middleburg Heights, OH. I got a lot of
encouragement from the members of these churches.*

*It is my wish to meet new people and believers. I am so grateful to be a
guest in your church and share my testimony for about 15-20 minutes.*

Atal RM Aryan

Thank you to all who supported yesterday's Garage Sale, the Thrift Shop Bag Sale and the Sunday School Bake Sale in any way!

After worship today, Stewardship Committee will meet in the Parlor.

The Diaconate announces with great pleasure the hiring of Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall as our designated minister. What is a designated minister, you ask? A designated minister has the opportunity to apply and be considered for the position of our settled minister. Rev. Heidi begins October 1, 2017. We welcome Rev. Heidi and her husband Chuck!



**Adult Social Club Trip to
CLEVELAND METROPARKS ZOO
TODAY – September 10, 2017**

We will carpool and leave after worship.

Adults \$13.25 Seniors (age 62 and over) \$11.95
Tram makes two stops—at top of hill and at bottom of hill.
Please sign up on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall.

Mission and Outreach Committee has several baskets ready for our upcoming “Around the World” silent auction on October 22. You will soon be seeing them on the TVs in Pilgrim Hall and the Gathering Area in the lobby. It has been interesting sharing our ideas. If you have a cultural heritage that you would like to share, let us know. It is an opportunity to share with your family as well. The minimum value is only \$25. Thus far, we have baskets for Poland, Germany, Mexico, Great Britain, China, Italy, and Czechoslovakia. We plan to have two baskets for the children also.

Wednesday Free Lunch serving hours are now 11:30 a.m. to **12:30** p.m.

The Thrift Shop will be closed this Thursday, September 14, for the season changeover of merchandise; but it will reopen the following Thursday, September 21, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

To make past services easier to view on the web, we started a YouTube channel. To access it, go to the <http://strongsvilleucc.com/> website. Click on WORSHIP and then SERVICE VIDEOS. Once you get to YouTube, search for the service you wish to see and click on it. Alternately, you can go directly to YouTube and search for “Strongsville UCC”. Most services from the beginning of 2017 have already been uploaded. To see an older service, please contact Jim Heinrich to see if it is available.

Updating Our Website and TVs – If you have updates for our church Website or TV screens at church, please inform:

Michele Mihlack 216-324-9799 or m.mihlack@gmail.com or
Irene Joyce 216-267-5043 or ij3e@sbcglobal.net

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,865
Weekly Offering Received 9/3/2017 **\$3,419**
Difference \$446



SERVING TODAY

Director of Music: Elena Taylor **Liturgist:** Bruce Keenen
Greeters: The Clotworthy Family **Usher:** Roy Merkle
Coffee Hour: Cathy Hawk



Special Worship Services – On Sunday, October 8, we will celebrate our church's past in worship; and on Sunday, October 15, we will embrace our church's future in worship. For these two Sundays, please feel free to dress in clothing reflecting our past history.

200th ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

Sunday, October 15, 2017, 1:00 p.m. at the Strongsville Rec Center

Only 10 tickets are left!

Today is the deadline to purchase tickets in Pilgrim Hall from either Joyce Reed or Dianne Maringer.

Ticket prices are \$15 for Adults and \$10 for Children (6-12 years).

Luncheon Menu

Carved Roast Beef, Chicken Marsala with Sauce,
Penne Pasta with Marinara Sauce,
Roasted Red Potatoes, Au Gratin Potatoes,
Green Beans Almandine, Tossed Salad, Anniversary Cake

What the Church Means to Me! The Anniversary Committee is asking everyone to fill out a paper with what the Strongsville United Church of Christ means to them. Please pick up a sheet in the Gathering Area. We are planning on displaying these prior to the Anniversary Sunday and at the Luncheon. They will also be placed in our time capsule. Please take the time to fill one out and leave it in the basket in the Gathering Area. If you have any questions, please speak with Rachel Zielinski. Thank you.

200th Anniversary Cookbooks – We still have cookbooks available for purchase. They make great gifts, and your purchase helps support the Anniversary celebration. The current cookbook costs \$12, but we also have some cookbooks from 2006 for \$10 each. Please contact either Dianne Maringer or Joyce Reed if you are interested in purchasing one or more of these books. Thank you!

UPDATE FROM YOUR PULPIT SEARCH COMMITTEE

Your Pulpit Search Committee has completed and submitted our church profile to the association and is receiving profiles from interested candidates. Even though the Diaconate has found Heidi Denman McDougall to be our designated pastor, the work of the Pulpit Search Committee continues. (Heidi, as a designated pastor, is eligible to apply for the permanent, settled pastor position. This is a change from previous ministerial searches, since previously the interim pastor was not permitted to be considered for the settled pastor position.) The PSC continues to request your ongoing support and prayers while we search for the one whom God is calling to lead us long term

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 17, 2017

Liturgist: Kenn Oerkrfitz
Greeter: Cathy Hawk
Usher: Volunteers Needed
Coffee Hour: Ted and Kelly Bickley

OUR PRAYER LIST



Hospitals no longer provide names of members who are patients. If you or a family member would like a visit, please call the church at (440) 238-6697. Please provide updates for this list. Thank you.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Betty Bushea, Margot James, Janet Kato at Kemper House, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

Church Family: Betty Babics, Tom Gaumer, The Grabski/Williams Family, Steve Herzog, Martha Liebert, Michele Mihlack, Eileen Pincomb, Jan Stough, Leah Tressa Forget, Shirley Weinhold, Carla Wood (daughter of John and Barbara Toth), Kyle Woodward

Extended Church Family: Logan Churnega (grandson of Ginny Churnega), Audrey Curry (mother of Pam Keenen), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Joyce Freeman (sister of Carol Woodward), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Diane Mason (friend of Lora Rung), Piper Masuga (granddaughter of Dan and Vicky and great-granddaughter of Lola Millhoane), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Keith Stewart (cousin of Carol Woodward), Frank Toth (father of Rob), Sheena Toth (mother of Dale) Joe Valli (brother-in-law of Vicky and Dan Masuga)

SEPTEMBER 2017

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| 10 | Sun | Rally Day for Sunday School
Special Offering for Sunday School
Chancel Choir sings for worship.
Deadline to purchase Anniversary Luncheon tickets
Adult Social Club goes to the Zoo, after church |
| 13 | Wed | Free Lunch Program, 11:30am- 12:30pm – Notice new hours. |
| 14 | Thu | Thrift Shop Closed for Season Changeover of Merchandise |
| 15 | Fri | October Newsletter Deadline |
| 17 | Sun | Children's Choir sings for worship.
Special Guest Speaker in Worship |
| 19 | Tue | Advertising Committee Meeting, 7pm
Diaconate Meeting, 7pm
Trustees Meeting, 7pm |
| 20 | Wed | Free Lunch Program, 11:30am- 12:30pm – Notice new hours.
Adult Social Club Meeting, 7pm |
| 21 | Thu | Thrift Shop Reopens, 10am-4pm |
| 24 | Sun | Bell Choir rings for worship. |
| 27 | Wed | Free Lunch Program, 11:30am- 12:30pm – Notice new hours. |

OCTOBER 2017

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| 15 | Sun | Strongsville UCC's 200 th Anniversary Luncheon, 1pm at the Strongsville Recreation Center Banquet Hall |
| 22 | Sun | Mission and Outreach “Around the World” Silent Auction |

MUSIC REHEARSALS DURING THE WEEK

Children's Choir - 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays
Band (for adults and children) – 8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays
Bell Choir – 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays
Chancel Choir – 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays

STRONGSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church Telephone (440) 238-6697
Website strongsvilleucc.com
Email strongsvilleucc@gmail.com