



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, September 10 – 10:00 A.M.

Rally Day

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 "This Little Light of Mine" arr. Raney

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Joyce Reed

INTROIT "We Have Come to Worship the Lord" Yannerella

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: When two or three gather, Christ lives in every moment, People: Where two or three gather, Christ is present with them.

Leader: Where two or three gather to worship God,

People: Glad songs of praise are lifted, hearts are filled with hope.

Leader: When two or three gather to serve God's creation,

People: Christ is feeding the hungry, Christ is building shelters of peace.

† HYMN "Come Now is the Time to Worship"

Come, now is the time to worship.

Come, now is the time to give your heart

Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God,

Come

One day ev'ry tongue will confess You are God. One day ev'ry knee will bow Still the greatest treasure remains for those who gladly choose you now

Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart

Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God,

Come

Willingly we choose to surrender our lives, Willingly our knees will bow With all our hearts, soul, mind, and strength. We gladly choose you now

Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart

Come, just as you are to worship

Come, just as you are before your God, Come...Come...Come,

Just as you are...Come.

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 119:33-40

(New International Version)

Teach me, Lord, the way of your decrees, that I may follow it to the end.

Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law and obey it with all my heart.

Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight.

Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain.

Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word.

Fulfill your promise to your servant, so that you may be feared.

Take away the disgrace I dread, for your laws are good!

How I long for your precepts! In your righteousness preserve my life.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

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 "I Will Rise" Tomlin Tyler Martin, vocalist

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE RALLY DAY

Kindergarten-3rd Grade--Linda Elkins & Mary Densmore

Everett Ashforth, Mason Bittinger, Ella Hayes, Gia Hayes, Jack Hayes, Alaya Hitchens, Lacey Marshall, Autumn Schneider Oliver Zielinski and Penny Zielinski (receiving Bibles today)

6th - 9th Grade--Lora Rung

Aidan Hurtig, Riley Marshall, Matilda Sekorky

High School--Serena Abruzzino

Christopher Abruzzino, McKenzi Abruzzino, Luke Giuliano, Oliver Sekorky

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "If With All Your Hearts" Mendelssohn

† 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 Romans 13: 8-14 (The Message)

When you love others, you complete what the Law has been after all along.

SERMON "Wake up! It's later than you think!"

† HYMN 429 "They'll Know We Are Christians"

† BENEDICTION Katie Cook

When the noise and haste surround you and threaten to take you hostage, may God's gentle voice soothe you and guide you to a place of quiet strength. When the days seem cold and dark, and the nights unbelievably long, may God's smile illumine and warm you from within. When you feel alone and dismal, may God send someone to you with a daisy. May you truly go forth in joy and be led back in peace, and may the seeds of mourning turn into flowers wherever you walk. Amen.

† RESPONSE/POSTLUDE* "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" Dorsey



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

Table with 3 columns: TODAY-SEPTEMBER 10, NEXT SUNDAY-SEPTEMBER 17, and roles like Greeters, Liturgist, Ushers, etc.

A NOTE OF THANKS— We thank our special guest vocalist, Tyler Martin, and the returning Chancel Choir, along with Mike Elkins, Tom Foley, and Sharon Heinrich for their music today. *Today's postlude is dedicated to the memory of those who lost their lives in the attacks of September 11, 2001.

The altar flowers are given— To our lovely children of Sunday school, Welcome back! Miss Serena Our steeple will light the sky this week— Happy Birthday Eli Sauter on September 12th! With love, Grammy Celebrating our Sunday School staff and students as they begin a brand new year of learning and growing!

Happy Anniversary to Laura and Dan Winrod!

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Are you interested in joining our congregation? Pastor Heidi will be offering a membership class after worship TODAY, with new members being received into our congregation next Sunday, September 17th. Please report to the Parlor following the worship service today if you would like to become a member of the Strongsville UCC.

PENNY SUNDAY – Start saving those coins and dollars! The next Penny Sunday will be September 24, 2023 and will go to the New Life at Calvary Church in Cleveland. The roof was torn off their building during last month's tornadoes and the damage is extensive to their sanctuary and there are innumerable repairs needed.

RALLY DAY IS TODAY! Special envelopes are in the pews if you would like to support the Sunday School with their purchases of curriculum and supplies.

SUB NEEDED! (Not that kind of sub!) We will soon be needing a substitute camera operator to record our worship services on Sunday mornings. If you are willing to learn how to use the church's video camera, please indicate your interest on the back of your attendance card.

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, 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), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Vic Irelan (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Rudy Matjazic (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

TIME IS RUNNING OUT! SCHEDULE YOUR DIRECTORY PHOTO APPOINTMENT RIGHT AWAY!



Each family or individual that is photographed for the directory will receive a free 8x10 of their photo and a free copy of the directory. So much has changed since our last pictorial directory and this is an excellent opportunity to have a studio portrait of you or your family. We would like EVERYONE to be included!

Do you know someone who would like their senior or engagement photos taken? There is NO COST except if you would like to purchase photos. Anyone can sit for portraits, even if they are not a part of the directory.

We will have in-person and online scheduling available so that you can come when it's convenient. Dates for photography will be:
Wednesday, September 20th 2 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.—only 1 spot!
Thursday, September 21st 2 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.—evening open
Friday, September 22nd 2 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.—daytime open
Saturday, September 23rd 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.—still some spots

We need volunteers to help with the sign-up process for our families. Please see Irene Joyce if you can help.

ALSO, IF YOU HAVE ANY UPDATES TO YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION, PLEASE MAKE SURE THE CHURCH HAS YOUR CURRENT INFORMATION—THANKS!

ONLINE SCHEDULING INSTRUCTIONS FOR FAMILY APPOINTMENT SETTING

- ✧ Go to the Universal Church Directories website (www.ucdir.com)
- ✧ Click on the box on the right side of the homepage entitled "photography appointment scheduling login"
- ✧ Enter your church code **oh2687**. Enter your church password **photos**
- ✧ Click on the Enter button
- ✧ Click on the desired photography date
- ✧ Click on the Reserve Time button beside the desired photography appointment time
- ✧ Enter the appropriate information in all required fields (indicated by the asterisk *)
- ✧ Click on the Schedule Appointment button at the bottom of the screen to reserve the photography appointment time in your family's name
- ✧ If you have more than six family members being photographed, please reserve two appointments consecutively (such as 6:00 and 6:10)
- ✧ Print the next screen to use as a reminder of your family's photography appointment
- ✧ **Contact the church office to change or cancel your photography appointment.**
- ✧ **PLEASE NOTE: Online scheduling will be disabled on the weekends to allow for in-person sign-ups.**

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS



- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **September 12th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **September 19th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **September 26th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

GIFT CARDS

PLEASE DON'T FORGET ABOUT THIS EASY, CONVENIENT PROGRAM THAT BENEFITS THE CHURCH.



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.**

BEE A BUSY BEE IN 2023—August - November

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.



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!**

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.

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.

Bible Study



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.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed	\$ 3,617.01
Last Week's Offering Received	\$ 4,139.00
Difference	+\$ 521.99



Thank you very much for your support.



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!



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.

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*