



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, September 11, 2022 – 10 A.M.

Rally Day/Blessing of the Backpacks

Sacrament of Holy 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 welcome here.

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE "God Save the Queen" *Thesaurus Musicas*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Joyce Reed

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 complete your Attendance Card and place it in the offering plate.

INTROIT "We Have Come to Worship the Lord" Yanerella

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Calling all children of the Living God: The gospel is good news for every age and every stage of life.

People: Let us worship together, the young and the old.

Leader: The good news is proclaimed in God's words, and also with crayons, silly songs, snacks and rest time.

People: Let us worship together, every generation.

Leader: We come together with different abilities and disabilities, learning in a rainbow of ways and styles.

People: Let us worship together, with our family of faith.

Leader: All are welcome in the arms of Christ, who proclaimed, "Let the children come!"

People: Let us worship together, united in our eternal hope.

† HYMN (Insert) "Come to the Table of Grace"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 51:1-10

(New International Version)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion, blot out my transgressions.

Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;

so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;

you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me,

and I will be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SILENT PRAYERS/ MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE FOR SEPTEMBER 11, 2001.

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy: **People:** Hear our prayers. Amen.

ANTHEM "Go Ye Into All the World" Butler

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE—RALLY DAY

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Congregational Response: Loving God, hold us and our prayers.

Congregational Response (Last time): We thank you, God, and love you. Amen.

PRIMARY CLASS Grades Pre-K - 2

Linda Elkins, teacher

Ella Hayes Jack Hayes Alaya Hitchens Lacey Marshall
Autumn Schneider Oliver Zielinski Penny Zielinski

INTERMEDIATE CLASS Grades 5 - 7

Lora Rung, teacher

Christopher Abruzzino Riley Marshall Matilda Sekorky

SECONDARY CLASS Grades 8+

Serena Abruzzino, teacher



McKenzi Abruzzino Luke Giuliano Aidan Hurtig
Oliver Sekorky Autumn Zoscak Summer Zoscak

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

Mary Densmore (Special Events) Bobbie Krisak

SUNDAY SCHOOL TREASURER/FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Irene Joyce Jim Joyce

OFFERING

Thank you for your continuing commitment to giving freely of your talents and your treasure, as you are able, in service to Christ in the world. You are the Hands and Feet of Jesus in the world.

OFFERTORY "Remembrance Song" Mehalko

† 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 15:1-10

(New Revised Standard Version)

Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

SERMON

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Which of us has not hurt someone this week? Which of us has not spoken or thought ill of a sister or brother in Christ? Which of us has failed to do good when given the chance? Which of us? All of us and each of us! But Christ came to save people just like us, so I invite you to join me as we offer our prayers to God:

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Holy God, although we believe we are experts at faithfulness, we confess that we are unskilled workers at doing good for others. Too often, we turn a deaf ear to the cries of people we have judged to be fools. We easily scoff at those we believe have nothing to teach us or share with us. How foolish we are! Forgive us, O God, and restore us to your goodness. Send us forth to search for all who sit in the shadowed corners of our world, yearning for someone to come and find them, even as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, came to find us.

(silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Our actions sometimes show we do not know God. Our words and lives show we do not understand God's hopes for us. But with utmost patience, God sets aside our foolishness, and fills us with mercy.

People: Mingled with faith and love, grace is poured into our sin-parched souls, giving us new life, restoring us as God's children. Thanks be to God. Amen.

A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

COMMUNION MUSIC "How Beautiful" Paris
Sarah Keenen, vocalist

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 33 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

† BENEDICTION Scott W. Bullard

Go now in peace, and in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, be found by the great Shepherd and in his name seek out that which is lost. Know that wherever you are, God is with you. Amen.

† RESPONSE "Go Now in Peace" Besig

† POSTLUDE "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder" Black
Ken Mehalko, saxophone and Mike Elkins, keyboard

SERVING

TODAY – SEPTEMBER 11 **NEXT SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 18**

Serena Abruzzino **Greeters** Judi Pavisich

Cherie Teagno **Liturgist** Herb Hampson

Roz Fotos **Ushers** Judi Pavisich

Luke Giuliano/Aidan Hurtig **Acolytes** Oliver & Matilda Sekorky

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

Choir, Ken Mehalko, Sarah Keenen **Special Music** Chancel Choir

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**.



IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

We were very saddened by the news of the death of **Eddy Bond** on September 3, 2022. Our love and prayers go out to **Adria Bond**, his wife of 41 years, and their family, Michael (Caroline) Bond, Timothy (Cathy) Bond, and Melanie (Nathaniel) Larkin, and granddaughter Brianna Bond. Eddy was 76 years old.



A NOTE OF THANKS—

Today we welcome the return of the **Chancel Choir**, with new member **Mike Willis**. Also, special thanks to **Ken Mehalko, Sarah Keenen, Tom Foley, Mike Elkins, and Sharon Heinrich** for sharing their music with us today.

The altar flowers are given—

To honor all those whose lives were lost on this day 21 years ago
The Abruzzino-Krisak Family

In loving memory of our moms, **Anna Bond and Joyce Solderitsch**—
Eddy & Adria Bond



Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthday tomorrow to **Eli Sauter!**—With love, Grammy
Happy Anniversary to **Bruce & Pam Keenen** on September 12th!
In memory of **Eddy Bond**

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Ruth Milidonis, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Joan Beckwith, Lloyd Bridle, Mary Carey, Gina Cathcart, Kathy Cockrell, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sam Cuyler, Sr., Lidiya Dordzhiyeva, Sue Hawk, Bob Heddleson, Paul Hirt, Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Len Lane, Judy Maur, Reggie McCray, Heidi & Chuck McDougall, Laurie Meister, Roy Merkle, Michele Mihalack, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkitz, Gary Paul, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, Tracey Seneff, Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Sharon Wilson, Janis Williamson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Mary Ellen Zimmerman



Extended Church Family: Dorene Baldrige, Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Mary Ann Csory (Judi Pavisich's friend), John Dickson (Greg's dad), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Joyce Glasgow (friend of the church), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Ed Kuhn (Sandy & Don Gleichauf's friend), Andrew Majoros (Michele Mihalack's cousin), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Rudy Matjazic (Judi Pavisich's friend, Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Zachary McKeever (Pastor Heidi and Chuck's great-nephew), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Heather Overman (friend of Judi Pavisich), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Thomas O'Shea (Sandy's dad), Jeff Peacock, Terry Robson (Barb & Mark Camp's friend), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Tina Serrano (Elliott Joyce's grandma), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Vicky Smith (Venner Clarinets), Bruce Unger (Steve & Sally Herzog's friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Weston (Chelsea Cathcart's friend's baby), Tom (friend of Judi Pavisich), The people of Ukraine, victims of violence, those affected by severe weather

Please contact **Pastor Heidi** if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain. h.e.denman@gmail.com



PHONE A FRIEND!

Are you interested in praying for others, but don't use email? Your Church Family Care Team has a number of folks who are willing to call you, typically once a week, to share with you the prayer requests Pastor Heidi shares via email. Please let **Linda Ponstingle** know.



OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,649.37
Last Week's Offering Received \$3,075.00
Difference -(\$ 574.37)

Thank you very much for your support.

PLEDGE CARDS RECEIVED TO DATE: 65

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL

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

We have room for YOU! Please join us for a nutritious meal and warm fellowship.



PENNY SUNDAY

The next Penny Sunday will be **September 25th**!



Special Rally Day offering envelopes are in the pews; any special donations will be used to offset the cost of Sunday School curriculum.

THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is **OPEN** on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. with a whole new line of fall/winter merchandise. Donations are being accepted, but you must call the church first to arrange a time for drop-off.



COMING SOON...

Mark your calendar for **October 9th** when our church will celebrate our **205th ANNIVERSARY!**

We will recognize our newest 50 year members during worship and enjoy cake and refreshments following the service.

If you would like to help with:

- Setting up
- Centerpieces for the tables
- Providing a finger food/snack item
- Clean-up

Please contact Jennifer Barry at jenbarry425@gmail.com



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS



- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **September 13th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **September 20th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **September 27th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



DO YOU LIKE TO PARTY? ARE YOU A WHIZ AT ORGANIZING EVENTS? The church is looking to form a committee to oversee our many celebrations. If you're even a little bit intrigued, please contact Jennifer Barry, Linda Ponstingle or any member of the Diaconate.

CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2022

Elected January 30, 2022 * = 1 year term
**appointed by the Official Board

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

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

Sunday School Co-Superintendents

Linda Elkins Serena Abruzzino

Board of Trustees

Myron Costin Diana Creecy Bill Giuliano*
Herb Hampson Dale Hawk Sarah Hayes
Sandy Pogozeleski* Dave Sekorky Ed Sobek*
Rachel Zielinski

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson Linda Stepan Joyce Reed*

Diaconate

Teri Barbish Barbara Camp* Elaine Coffey
Cathy Hawk* Linda Kapcar Bobbie Krisak
Sharon Maresco Linda Ponstingle Cheryl Sobek* 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* Rob Stepan
ex officio: Sharon Heinrich Tom Foley Mike Elkins

Stewardship Committee

Sue Gigliotti* Beth Giuliano* Judi Pavisich
Bill Schneider** Richard Taylor Rob Toth

Mission and Outreach Committee

Judy Carte* Sarah Hayes Bobbie Krisak
Lora Rung* Jennifer Sekorky Peter Smith ** Bev Wehr*

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP PICNIC

Tuesday, September 13th at 11 a.m.

East River Park in Olmsted Falls

Information & directions are on the table in the Gathering Area



WE'D LIKE TO INCLUDE ALL LADIES

Women's Fellowship wants to include all interested ladies of the church in its activities, and plans to offer additional day and time options for its programs. If you'd like to participate but cannot attend the current weekday, daytime programs, please complete this form; and you will be contacted with more information.

Name _____

Phone (_____) _____

Email _____

Thank you for your interest in Women's Fellowship.
Please turn in this form to the church office.

**ATTENTION CHURCH MEMBERS:
NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

TODAY, immediately following the worship service, we will have a special congregational meeting to vote on the purchase and installation of new window blinds in the church building.



Please plan to attend this brief meeting and cast your vote. (Non-members are welcome to stay for the meeting, but only official members are entitled to vote.)

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AGENDA FOR SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Call to Order Moderator Greg Dickson

Prayer Pastor Heidi

Count of members

Presentation of Proposal from Budget Blinds as recommended by the Board of Trustees:

Vertical Blinds for 16 Windows

- 4 Upstairs in main area
- 3 in classrooms upstairs
- 1 in Sacristy
- 1 in Confirmation room
- 3 in offices
- 2 in Nursery
- 1 in Minister's office
- 1 (4 different blinds) in Pilgrim Hall

Motion to approve expenditure of up to \$10,500.00 for the purchase and installation of blinds on all the new windows.

Second

Discussion/questions

Call for vote

Motion to adjourn

Please join us for cake in Pilgrim Hall following the worship service.



18 Come to the Table of Grace

♩ = 72 (♩♩ = ♩♩♩)

F C7 F F7/C

Come to the ta - ble of *grace.

Bb C F C

Come to the ta - ble of *grace.

F Bb/F F7 Bb Bdim7

This is God's ta - ble, it's not yours or mine.

F/C C7 F

Come to the ta - ble of *grace.

*Additional stanzas:
2 peace; 3 love; 4 joy; 5 hope

Suggested use: communion
WORDS and MUSIC: Barbara Hamm
Words and Music © 2008 Hope Publishing Company

TABLE OF GRACE

