



**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
(Congregational)  
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**Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor**  
**Sunday, September 12, 2021 – 10 A.M.**  
**Rally Day/Blessing of the Backpacks**  
**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

## WELCOME!

*Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the best interests of others. –  
Philippians 2:4*

For the safety and comfort of everyone, please continue to wear a mask in the Gathering Area and when entering or leaving the Sanctuary. When you are seated in the pews, you may lower your mask if you wish, while maintaining social distancing. **If you are not yet fully vaccinated, we ask that you continue to wear a mask at all times. Thank you.**

† *Please stand as you are comfortable.*

**PRELUDE** “Put Your Hand in the Hand” MacLellan

**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** “Ask, Seek, Knock” Larson

## † CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Open our ears, Teacher of souls:

**People: Help us hear the cries of the hungry, feel the loneliness of the unloved, learn the songs of little children.**

Leader: Give us the words we need, Teacher of justice:

**People: To challenge the powerful and callous, to speak up when others remain silent.**

Leader: Strengthen our hearts, Teacher of hope:

**People: To sustain the weary with our friendship; to replace cruelty with kindness.**

† **HYMN 799** “America, the Beautiful” (vv 1,3,4)  
*(If you wish to sing with us, please have your mask in place.)*

**A READING FROM THE PROPHETS** **Isaiah 50: 4-7**  
(The Living Bible)

The Lord God has given me his words of wisdom so that I may know what I should say to all these weary ones. Morning by morning he awakens me and opens my understanding to his will. The Lord God has spoken to me, and I have listened; I do not rebel nor turn away. I give my back to the whip, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard. I do not hide from shame—they spit in my face. Because the Lord God helps me, I will not be dismayed; therefore, I have set my face like flint to do his will, and I know that I will triumph.

**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** “Always Remember” Sewell

## BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

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

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE—RALLY DAY



**PRIMARY CLASS** Grades Pre-K - 2

**Linda Elkins, teacher**

Jack Hayes Lacey Marshall Autumn Schneider  
Oliver Zielinski Penny Zielinski

**INTERMEDIATE CLASS** Grades 3 - 6

**Serena Abruzzino, teacher**

Christopher Abruzzino Riley Marshall\* Matilda Sekorky

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** Grades 6 - 8

**Lora Rung, teacher**

McKenzi Abruzzino Luke Giuliano Gabby Grace  
Aidan Hurtig Ian Rolland Christian Scott  
Oliver Sekorky Autumn Zoscak Summer Zoscak

**POST-CONFIRMATION** Grade 9 & up

**Irene Joyce, teacher**

Clara Barry Ben Clotworthy  
Emma Clotworthy Alysha Rolland

## SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

Mary Densmore Bobbie Krisak

## SUNDAY SCHOOL TREASURER/FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Irene Joyce Jim Joyce

*\*Receiving a Bible today*

## 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. Thank you. To give online, please go to:

<https://www.myeoffering.com/eonline/index.php/dashboard/login/5027>

**OFFERTORY** “Be Still My Soul” Sibelius

† **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** **James 3: 1-12**  
(The Message)

Don’t be in any rush to become a teacher, my friends. Teaching is highly responsible work. Teachers are held to the strictest standards. And none of us is perfectly qualified. We get it wrong nearly every time we open our mouths. If you could find someone whose speech was perfectly true, you’d have a perfect person, in perfect control of life.

**SERMON** “Words Matter.”

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### CALL TO RECONCILIATION

We all make mistakes, many of them. We hurt ourselves; we hurt others; we hurt God with our words and deeds, with our silence and inaction. Let us confess our sins to God, trusting in the One who blesses us with mercy.

## UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

**Spring of Wisdom, we confess that we have not denied ourselves and followed your Way. We turn our backs on your outstretched hands of grace, and stumble into the arms of the world. We speak poisonous gossip about others; we fire off words that pierce another's heart. Forgive us, O God. Give us speech which flows like cool water through another's parched spirit; give us silence with which to witness your wonders; give us words to proclaim Jesus as the Christ, our Lord and our Savior, the One who leads us to life. (silent prayer)**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: With gentleness, God speaks to us; with graciousness, God forgives us; with joy, God embraces us.

**People: With our lips, we praise God; in our silence, we find God; with our words, we thank God. Amen.**

## A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING

## SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

## 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 563** “Open My Eyes, That I May See”  
*(If you wish to sing with us, please have your mask in place.)*

## † BENEDICTION

Now may the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Know that wherever you are, God is with you. **Amen.**

† **POSTLUDE** “Go Now in Peace” Besig  
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TODAY – SEPTEMBER 12	NEXT SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 19	
Serena Abruzzino	<b>Greeters</b>	Judi Pavisich
Carol Konet	<b>Liturgist</b>	Tom Gaumer
Bobbie Krisak	<b>Ushers</b>	Judi Pavisich
Tom Foley	<b>Director of Music</b>	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	<b>Associate Director of Music</b>	Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	<b>Supplemental Organist</b>	Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich	<b>Sound</b>	Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Chancel Choir, Ken Mehalko	<b>Special Music</b>	Chancel Choir, Cindy Smith

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**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**.

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**The altar flowers** are given—



*Celebrating our 51<sup>st</sup> Wedding Anniversary*  
Pam & Bruce Keenen

*Welcoming the return of the Chancel Choir!*  
Ingrid Dickson & Irene Joyce

**Our steeple** will light the sky this week—

*Happy Birthday today to Eli Sauter--With love, Grammy*







Happy Anniversary today to Bruce & Pam Keenen!

Happy Birthday today to Ken Konicek!

## A NOTE OF THANKS

Today, we welcome the return of the Chancel Choir after a year and a half of their absence. Thank you to Ken Mehalko, along with Mike Elkins, Tom Foley, and Sharon Heinrich for contributing to our musical worship today!



## OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed	\$3,649.37
Last Week's Offering Received	\$3,703.00
Difference	\$ 53.63

*Thank you very much for your support.*



## OUR PRAYER LIST

*Please provide updates for this list to the church office.*

**Long-Term Care or Homebound:** Janet Kato, Marge McKinney, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

**Church Family:** Joan Beckwith, Eddy Bond, Mary Carey, Elaine Coffey, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Linda Elliott, Tom Gaumer, Ramona Glaze, Sue Hawk, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Irene Jannsohn, Carole Kapcar, Tony Koussa, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Judy Maur, Reggie McCray, Laurie Meister, Roy Merkle, Michele Mhlack, Lola Millhoane, Gary Paul, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Jamie & Josh Trinckes, Sharon Wilson, Sally Vetovitz, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Mary Ellen and Bob Zimmerman



**Extended Church Family:** Dorene Baldrige, Fred Beba (Theresa's husband), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Judy Carte's son-in-law, Ryan, John Dickson (Greg's dad), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Linda Harbison (Jan Meier's sister-in-law), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Kay McGinty (Judi Pavisich's aunt), Zachary McKeever (Pastor Heidi and Chuck's great-nephew), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Thomas O'Shea (Sandy's dad), Carrol Riley (Marjorie Morrison's dad), Terry Robson (Barb & Mark Camp's friend), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Sandra Wentz (Debbie's daughter-in-law)

**Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain.**

## UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS



- **The Board of Trustees** will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **September 14<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

- **The Diaconate** will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **September 21<sup>st</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

- **The Official Board** will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **September 28<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

# Become a Member!



## WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE STRONGSVILLE UCC?

Pastor Heidi is hosting two information sessions in the Parlor right after the worship services on **September 19<sup>th</sup>** and **September 26<sup>th</sup>**. Please let Pastor Heidi or the church office know if you are interested in finding out more about membership in our congregation. (Please note: dual membership is accepted.) New members will be welcomed into our church family on **World Communion Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

## THRIFT SHOP

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

### THRIFT SHOP BONUS HOURS

The **3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday** of the month,  
**September 16, 2021 —**  
**6 p.m. - 8 p.m.**

(We're still open on our usual Thursdays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

Also, the Thrift Shop is still in need of volunteers to help out for a couple of hours—sorting, organizing, and selling on Thursdays. Please call Cathy Hawk (440-781-7512) if you can help!



## TOTE BAGS NEEDED!

The Thrift Shop is in need of large reusable tote bags (like the ones you can get at Marc's). Please bring them to the Thrift Shop if you can spare a bag or two.



## MUSICIANS NEEDED!



Would you like to be a part of the music program? Instrumentalists and vocalists are needed for our various music groups. If you are interested in joining us and sharing your musical talent, please

contact **Tom Foley** or **Mike Elkins**!

## CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS HAVE RESUMED THURSDAYS IN THE SANCTUARY, at 8 p.m.

**with safety measures in place.** We have room in the choir for any singers (Tenors, Altos, Sopranos, and Basses are welcome!).

**BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS are on THURSDAYS at 7p.m.**



## FRESH ALTAR FLOWERS

Would you like to commemorate a special occasion, honor a loved one, or celebrate the memory of someone dear? Say it with flowers!



The 2021 Flower sign-up chart is posted on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall and there are still some Sundays that are available for the remainder of this year!

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO TAKE THE FLOWERS YOU HAVE PURCHASED FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE.**

With the return of fresh altar flowers, we are in need of large plastic sour cream/cottage cheese/chip dip containers to transport the flower arrangements home. Please bring your clean containers to the church, if you have some to donate.



## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

views the movie

**"YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN"**

at their meeting on

**Wednesday — October 6 — 10:00 A.M.**

in Pilgrim Hall

Dress up for Halloween —

or — wear PJ's!

**All ladies are welcome!**

## GIFT CARDS

**YOU CAN SUPPORT THIS PROJECT IN A SAFE WAY THAT BENEFITS OUR CHURCH!**



You can order gift cards by calling **Jim Joyce** at 216-267-5043 in advance with your order. Limited stock is available, but special orders may be accommodated with advance notice. **Thank you to those who continue to support this project by purchasing gift cards!**



**Are you an online shopper?** If so, why not benefit the church while you make your purchases from Amazon? It's incredibly easy! Here's what you do:

1. Instead of typing amazon.com into your search bar, type in **smile.amazon.com**.
2. Select United Church of Christ Congregational Strongsville by clicking this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-1298100>
3. Shop as you would normally—that's it!

Your addresses, billing information, and shopping cart are still saved and your Prime membership privileges still apply. A small percentage of your purchase price will go toward supporting the church. **PLEASE KEEP SHOPPING!**