



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor
Sunday, September 14, 2025– 10 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 always welcome here.

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE “He is Exalted” Paris, arr. Pethel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Bill Schneider

INTROIT “How Deep the Father’s Love for Us” Townend

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In sacred times of word, wonder, and awe, in ordinary days of work and play:

People: In every moment, God is with us.

Leader: Whether we are stuck in doubt's mud, or standing on faith's shoreline:

People: In every place, God is with us.

Leader: In those who teach us and those who trouble us; in those who surprise us, and those who forgive us:

People: In every person, God is with us.

† HYMN 349 “O, How He Loves You and Me”

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 51:1-10
(The Message)

Generous in love—God, give grace!
Huge in mercy—wipe out my bad record.
Scrub away my guilt, soak out my sins in your laundry.
I know how bad I’ve been; my sins are staring me down.
You’re the One I’ve violated, and you’ve seen it all,
seen the full extent of my evil.

You have all the facts before you; whatever you decide about me is fair.
I’ve been out of step with you for a long time,
in the wrong since before I was born.
What you’re after is truth from the inside out.
Enter me, then; conceive a new, true life.
Soak me in your laundry and I’ll come out clean, scrub me
and I’ll have a snow-white life.

Tune me in to foot-tapping songs, set these once-broken bones to dancing.
Don’t look too close for blemishes, give me a clean bill of health.
God, make a fresh start in me, shape a Genesis week
from the chaos of 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 Saw the Light” Williams

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE—RALLY DAY/BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS-BAGS-BRIEFCASES

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

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



RALLY DAY

CLASS OF HOPE

Colette Emerson, teacher

Lena Ashforth Charlotte Boden

Henry Hayes Elliott Joyce

Brecken Raymond Ember Schneider

Leo Thorn

CLASS OF PEACE

Linda Elkins, teacher

Everett Ashforth Mason Bittinger Lucas Cleary

Ella Hayes Alaya Hitchens

Lacey Marshall Autumn Schneider

CLASS OF FAITH

Lora Rung, teacher

Riley Marshall, assistant

Jack Hayes Landon Ogrosky

Oliver Zielinski Penny Zielinski

OFFERING

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 GOSPELS Luke 15:1-10
(The Message)

“Suppose one of you had a hundred sheep and lost one.
Wouldn’t you leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness
and go after the lost one until you found it?”

REFLECTION “Treasures in the Lost & Found”

† HYMN 688 “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

† BENEDICTION Dr. Ligon Duncan
*Now may the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord
Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal
covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do God’s will,
working in us that which is pleasing in God’s sight, through Jesus Christ,
to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

† POSTLUDE “Earth and All Stars” Johnson, arr. Burkhardt

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

TODAY – SEPTEMBER 14	NEXT SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 21
Mary Ellen Zimmerman	Greeters Lynne McCray
Sandy O’Shea	Liturgist Dave Williams
Bill Robinson	Head Usher Jan Meier
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
Chancel Choir	Special Music Chancel Choir

Today’s altar flowers are given—
Remembering Reggie. I love and miss you.
Lynne McCray



A 2025 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 some Sundays available in 2025!



Our steeple will light the sky this week—
*With gratitude to Linda Elkins for her work
with our Sunday School*

Happy Birthday today to Peter Smith
and Lacey Marshall!

Happy Anniversary today to Sue & Lou Gigliotti
and to Sarah & John Hayes!



A NOTE OF THANKS—Today, we celebrate the
return of the Chancel Choir, including our returning singers,
and our new members! Thanks also to our music team: **Tom
Foley, Sharon Heinrich, and Mike Elkins** for their music today.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



TODAY IS RALLY DAY! Please join us for cake
following the worship service!

RALLY DAY SPECIAL OFFERING

Envelopes are in the pews for a special collection to
offset the cost of curriculum and Sunday School
supplies.

PENNY SUNDAY!

Please save your coins, dollars, and checks to UCC for
the next Penny Sunday, which will be **September 28th**
for Sanyuka Children’s Ministries.





MARRIAGE
CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Evan Joyce & Jennifer Olivarez**, who were married on September 5, 2025 in Cleveland. We wish them every joy and boundless happiness in their marriage.

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Our deepest condolences are extended to **Sandy O'Shea** and family on the death of her mother, **Mae O'Shea** in Florida on September 7, 2025. Mae was 94 years of age.

BOOK STUDY--SISTERHOOD!
Tomorrow, September 15th
at 7 p.m., Our *Sisterhood* Book Study will continue. All are welcome!



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **September 16th** at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **September 23rd** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Irene Jannsohn, Connie Rebar

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Mark Camp, Judy Carte, Elaine Coffey, Betty "Grammy" Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sue Hawk, Bruce Keenen, Erv Koch, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Roy Merkle, Amanda Moulton, Ginny & Kenn Oerkfitz, George & Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Ron Rothel, Jennifer Sekorky, Tracy Seneff, Peter Smith, Bruce Sperber, Linda Stepan, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Amorie Acevedo (Dennis Smith's daughter), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Allison Emerson (Colette's sister), Kim Filiautraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Joanne Gariepy (Sally Herzog's friend), Kathy Ghatti (friend of Ginger Rothel), Jennifer Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's daughter-in-law), Sarah & David Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's grandson & wife), Karen Greenway (Judi Pavisich's friend), Michaelene Hanrahan (Jim Joyce's sister), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel's parents), George Love (friend of the church), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Sylvia Pakish (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Mike Pavisich (Judi's step-son), Jeff Peacock (former member), The Price Family, Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Jim Schock (Judi Pavisich's friend), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Vicki Smith (Venner Clarinets), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Brad Wilkson (Susan Lerch's friend), The people of Ukraine, Sudan, Gaza, and Israel, victims of violence, those affected by natural disasters, First Responders

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



THANK YOU to all of the hard workers who came and helped start the rehab of the outdoor area adjacent to the kitchen last Saturday!



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

We will have a brief congregational meeting following the worship service on September 28th to discuss the expenditure of funds to replace the roof on the house on Royalton Road. Please plan to attend. (All are welcome, but only members are permitted to cast a vote.)

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL--

Wednesdays

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

You are invited to share food and fellowship! Thank you, as always, to our amazing volunteers!



THREE WITH GLEE!

Capital Campaign: We currently have \$63,157.05 for our capital campaign. We will be contracting the vendor for the automatic door openers for the kitchen and main doors. Much of the tuck pointing of the church building has been completed. The Trustees are reviewing the proposals that have been submitted for improving the acoustics in Pilgrim Hall and painting the hall. Please make sure you designate your donation for "Capital Campaign." Yellow pledge cards are available in the Gathering Area. Thank you for your continuing support.



OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 4,359.00
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 4,254.75
Difference - (\$ 104.25)

Thank you very much for your support.
PLEDGES RECEIVED: 61



MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:

The Tunnel to Towers Foundation is a charitable organization that focuses on providing mortgage-free homes to families of fallen first responders and catastrophically injured veterans, as well as helping to eradicate veteran homelessness.



We would like to sponsor 2 veterans/first responders a month. The cost is \$11 for 1 and \$22 for both. (Checks to UCC) THANK YOU to everyone who has already signed up for 2025!

A NEW BACK-TO-SCHOOL PROJECT

Purchase a \$25 Target, Walmart, or Amazon card to help with the start of a new school year. Teachers in the Strongsville City School District or at Snow School will benefit from your generosity. See Jim Joyce to buy a gift card from the Organ Preservation Fund, which helps the church, too! Gift card ministry runs through September 21st.



PIG ROAST!

THE OFFICIAL BOARD WILL BE HOSTING A PIG ROAST FUNDRAISER AT THE CHURCH ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18TH!

5 P.M. - 7 P.M.

WE HAVE A LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS. THEY ARE \$25 AND ARE ON SALE NOW THROUGH OCTOBER 12TH!

THERE IS A SIGN-UP FOR DESSERT DONATIONS POSTED IN PILGRIM HALL



ARE YOU INTERESTED?

The Board of Trustees needs someone to fill an unexpired term on the board. The Trustees oversee the building, property, and finances of the church. The Trustees meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. The Official Board would appoint the willing volunteer to complete the term ending in 2027. The church will be needing a new treasurer at the beginning of the year, as our treasurer, Sally Herzog, will be completing her 3rd term of service. The treasurer position is an elected office and is responsible for facilitating the payment of the church's bills and working closely with the Financial Secretary. Sally is willing to thoroughly train her successor. Please see Rachel Zielinski or Cathy Hawk if you can serve in either capacity.

COMING SOON...

BLESSING OF THE BEASTS

Sunday, October 5th at 3 PM

BRING YOUR DOGS, CATS, GUINEA PIGS, RABBITS, TURTLES, LIZARDS, OR ANY OF YOUR FAVORITE ANIMALS!



DISHES, and BOWLS, and PLATES--Oh My! They're starting to accumulate again.



Many folks have been kind enough to bring dishes and utensils to the church for funeral luncheons or other events. After the delicious food is eaten, the dishes are sometimes forgotten. If you are missing one of your bowls, utensils, or containers, please pick it up from the kitchen right away. Abandoned dishware will be sold at the Thrift Shop.

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 accepted during our Thursday sale hours, but please try to limit your donations to what you can carry downstairs yourself. **Please do not abandon items outside the church doors.**



CHURCH OFFICERS 2025

**Elected January 26, 2025 ** appointed by Official Board*

Moderator: Greg Dickson **Vice-Moderator:** Jen Barry
Treasurer: Sally Herzog **Clerk:** Judy Gaumer
Sunday School Superintendent: Linda Elkins

Board of Trustees

Bill Giuliano Chris Goff* Mike Elkins
Les Fox Herb Hampson Cathy Hawk*
Sandy Pogozeleski Cheryl Sobek*
Alex Tomoff* Mike Willis* Rachel Zielinski

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson* Dave Williams*

Diaconate

Teri Barbish Jean Bittinger* Elaine Coffey*
Bobbi Cook* Wayne Cook* Judy Davis*
Judy Fox Pam Heimburger* Lynne McCray*
Linda Ponstingle* Lora Rung* Cherie Teagno

Christian Education Committee

Linda Elkins Colette Emerson Dale Hawk*
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

Ingrid Dickson* Sue Gigliotti Linda Stepan*
Rob Toth Sarah Toth* Dave Williams*

Mission and Outreach Committee

Gina Cathcart* Bobbi Cook** Myron Costin*
Diana Creecy Cathy Hawk* Sarah Hayes
Lora Rung* Peter Smith Mary Willis*
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. We also have a Life-vac choking device to assist in the event that someone is choking. It is located just beneath the AED.

STEWARDSHIP
WHAT DO YOU BRING TO THE CAMPFIRE?
UCC 2025 Estimate of Giving

In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2025:

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.



YES! I'D LIKE TO BE PART OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY CARE TEAM.

NAME_____

PHONE _____

EMAIL_____



I AM INTERESTED IN:

_____ OFFERING OR RECEIVING COMMUNION AT HOME

_____CALLING FOLKS WHO WOULD LIKE TO JOIN PRAYER CHAIN, BUT DON'T USE EMAIL

_____ PREPARING AN EXTRA MEAL AND DELIVERING IT TO SOMEONE WHO'S HOMEBOUND

_____ HELPING COOK A DISH AND OR SERVE MEALS AT FUNERAL LUNCHEON

_____ BECOMING A "PHONE BUDDY" AND PERIODICALLY CHECK IN WITH SOMEONE WHO'S HOMEBOUND

_____ OFFERING AN OCCASIONAL RIDE TO TAKE MEMBERS TO APPOINTMENTS

_____ OFFERING AN OCCASIONAL RIDE TO OUR CHURCH SERVICES

_____BE PART OF A CARD CREW TO SEND CARDS TO FOLKS ON HEIDI'S PRAYER LIST AND OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

_____ I WOULD BE WILLING TO...