



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136
(440) 238-6697

StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com
StrongsvilleUCC.com

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, September 19, 2021 – 10 A.M.
Sacrament of Holy Baptism



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 “*Agnus Dei*” Smith

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce
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: The world offers many wide avenues and beautiful boulevards to walk.

People: God invites us to walk the road of service and sacrifice.

Leader: Our society suggests we put down our roots in the shallow soil of pleasure and greed.

People: God seeks to plant us on the banks of hope, watered by the rivers of joy and grace.

Leader: Our culture promotes achievement, success, climbing to the top, ringing the bell.

People: Our God tells us if we want to be first, we need to go to the end of the line.

† HYMN 391 “Sweet, Sweet Spirit”
(If you wish to sing with us, please have your mask in place.)

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 1: 1-3
(New International Version)

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers,
but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
and who meditates on his law day and night.

That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SHARING OF 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 “*Ave Maria*” Bach/Gounod

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE



THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Kennedy Parker Mustee
Daughter of Melissa and Ian Mustee
Godparents: Andrew Steltzer and Carly Boyd

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY WORDS

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES FOR THE FAMILY

CONGREGATIONAL PROMISE

Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to Kennedy and her family, as she lives and grows in Christ?
(We promise our love, support and care.)

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

Christ be with you. **(And also with you.)**

Let us pray.

Gracious God, bless this water by your Holy Spirit. By that same Spirit, save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ, that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in the one baptized this morning, that she may rise in Christ. All glory and honor be to you, Eternal God, who was, who is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

BAPTISM OF KENNEDY PARKER MUSTEE

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Let us pray together:

Gracious God, You have filled the world with joy with the gift of Jesus. Bless this child, Kennedy Parker; fill her with your strength and courage for life’s journey; joy for all to see; freedom of love; hope for a new life. May she never be ashamed to confess her personal faith in You. Bless us, O God, that we, too, may be faithful to Your Word, united in the peace of Christ and the company of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

HYMN “Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”

Child of blessing, child of promise, Baptized with the Spirit's sign;
With this water God has sealed you Unto love and grace divine.

Child of love, our love's expression, Love's creation, loved indeed
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits; Into joy and laughter lead.

Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God's you are; from God you came.
Back to God we humbly give you; Live as one who bears Christ's name.

Child of God, your loving Parent, Learn to know whose child you are.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship; Trust and love God more than all.

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 “We Will Glorify” Paris

† **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 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
(The Message)

Real wisdom, God’s wisdom, begins with a holy life and is characterized by getting along with others. It is gentle and reasonable, overflowing with mercy and blessings, not hot one day and cold the next, not two-faced. You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results *only* if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor.

SERMON “Hard Work—But Worth It!”

† **HYMN 424** “The Servant Song” (all verses)
(If you wish to sing with us, please have your mask in place.)

† BENEDICTION

Go now, for you are chosen and sent in the Spirit. Pray at all times, be thankful in all circumstances. Keep what is good, avoid every kind of evil. To all in need bear witness that the time has come when the Sovereign Lord will save his people. And may God who gives peace make you holy in every way; May Christ Jesus clothe you with salvation and victory; and may the Holy Spirit speak through you with the good news of hope. Go in peace. **Amen.**

† **POSTLUDE** “May the Peace of the Lord Go with You” Yanerella
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TODAY – SEPTEMBER 19	NEXT SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 26
Judi Pavisich	Greeters Elaine Coffey
Tom Gaumer	Liturgist Judi Pavisich
Judi Pavisich	Ushers Elaine Coffey
Tom Foley	Director of Music Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	Associate Director of Music Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	Supplemental Organist Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich	Sound Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Cindy Smith/Chancel Choir	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**.
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Happy Birthday today to Gary Paul, Claudia Bader, Violet Fraunfelder, and Christian Scott!

A NOTE OF THANKS

Today, we welcome and thank Cindy Smith, our guest vocalist, along with the Chancel Choir, Mike Elkins, Tom Foley, and Sharon Heinrich for contributing to our musical worship today!



The altar flowers are given—

Celebrating our 30th Wedding Anniversary on September 21st!
John & Barbara Toth

In celebration of our grandson Weston's Birthday
and soon to be our fifth Great-grandchild's Birthday this
month! Grandparents Joyce & George Reed

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthday to Abby Craig on September 21st!
With love, Grammy

Happy Birthday to Sally Herzog on September 22nd!
Happy 30th Birthday to Erik Joyce on September 23rd!
Happy not 30th Birthday to Dale Hawk on September 23rd!



OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,649.37
Last Week's Offering Received \$4,307.00
Difference \$ 657.63

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: Serena Abruzzino, 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, George 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, Peter Smith, 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 Baldridge, 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 Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, September 21st at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

• The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, September 28th 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 (the conference room off the Gathering Area) right after the worship services **TODAY** and next Sunday, **September 26th**. Please come to the meeting if you are interested in finding out more about membership in our congregation. (Please note: dual membership is accepted.) We are excited that new members will be welcomed into our church family on **World Communion Sunday, October 3rd**.

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 3rd Thursday of the month,
October 21, 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.

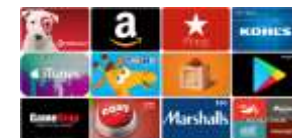
in Pilgrim Hall

OPTIONS: Dress up for Halloween —
or — wear PJ's—or come as you are!

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!