



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
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StrongsvilleUCC.com



Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor
Sunday, September 20, 2026– 10 A.M.

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 "When the Saints Go Marching In" arr. Niehaus

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Joyce Reed

INTROIT "Were You There?"/"I Know the Lord" arr. McCall

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In the prayers and the praise, in the words and the wonder:

People: We are given enough joy to live each day.

Leader: In the justice for the oppressed, in the unexpected generosity for the lost:

People: We are given enough compassion to use in service each day.

Leader: In the promises made to all, in the mercy offered to each:

People: We are given enough grace to share each day.

† HYMN 104 "O Worship the King"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 145:1-8
(New International Version)

I will exalt you, my God the King;
I will praise your name for ever and ever.
Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.
Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
His greatness no one can fathom.
One generation commends your works to another;
they tell of your mighty acts.
They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty.
I will meditate on your wonderful works.
They tell of the power of your awesome works,
and I will proclaim your great deeds.
They celebrate your abundant goodness,
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.
The Lord is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.

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 "Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho" arr. Graef

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Ken Mehalko

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Sometimes I Feel Like A Motherless Child" arr. Graef

† **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 Matthew 20: 1-16
(The Message)
"God's kingdom is like an estate manager who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. They agreed on a wage of a dollar a day, and went to work."

REFLECTION "Who wants to be last?"

† **HYMN 796** "In Thanksgiving, Let Us Praise Him"

† **BENEDICTION** The Billabong/Jeff Shrouder
Life is short and we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who walk with us. So be ready to love and unhesitating in kindness. And may the blessing of the deep mystery we name God – Source of life, love and hope, Word of life, and ever-present Spirit of grace be with you this day and all your days. Amen.

† **POSTLUDE** "Oh, Freedom" arr. Graef

SERVING		
TODAY – SEPTEMBER 20	NEXT SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 27	
Irene Joyce	Greeters	Roger & Judy Davis
Lynne McCray	Liturgist	Dale Hawk
Mary Ellen Zimmerman	Head Usher	Judi Pavisich
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
Satori Winds	Special Music	Chancel Choir



A NOTE OF THANKS—We welcome the
Satori Winds: Robert Gref, Dick E. Ingersoll, Dick K. Ingersoll, and **Ken Mehalko**, along with our music team of **Tom Foley, Mike Elkins,** and **Sharon Heinrich** and thank them for today's music!

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**.

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.



Today's altar flowers are given—

Celebrating our Grandson Weston Reed's and Great Granddaughter Quinn's Birthdays this month.—
Love, Grandma Joyce Reed

In honor of my brother, Rick and Happy Birthday to my husband, Wayne!
Bobbie Krisak

A 2026 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 a few Sundays available in 2026!

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthday to Abby Craig tomorrow!
With love, Grammy

Happy Birthday tomorrow to Nina Jannsohn!
Happy Birthday on September 22nd to Sally Herzog!
Happy Birthday to Erik Joyce on September 23rd!
Happy Birthday to Dale Hawk on September 23rd!



Happy Birthday today to Claire Wills, Mary Densmore, Sarah Wilhoit, and Rachel Kovatich!

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OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 5,212.00
Last Week's Offering Received **\$13,910.50**
Difference +\$ 8,698.50

Thank you very much for your support.
PLEDGES RECEIVED: 62



FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL: PENNY SUNDAY NEXT WEEK!

Please save your coins, dollars, and checks to UCC for the next Penny Sunday, which will be **September 27th**. The collection will go to the Alzheimer's Association.



Alzheimer's changes everything, for the person diagnosed and their loved ones. The Alzheimer's Association leads the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia — by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support.

RALLY DAY SPECIAL OFFERING

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



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING TO PLAN THE 2027 CAMPAIGN: Today following worship.



COMING NEXT SUNDAY...
BLESSING OF THE BEASTS
Sunday, September 27th at 3 PM



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, Jen Barry, Jean Bittinger, Mark Camp, Judy Carte, Diana Creecy, Sam Cuyler Jr., Roger Davis, Colette Emerson, Roz Fotos, Sue Hawk, Jim Heinrich, Cindy Hurley, Carole Kapcar, Pam & Bruce Keenen, Bonnie Khavaran, Erv Koch, Jill Kundtz, Carol Konet, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt,



Jim Maresco, Ken Mehalko, Barbara Morgan, Amanda Moulton, Ginny & Kenn Oerkfitz, Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Ron Rothel, Jennifer Sekorky, Tracy Seneff, Peter Smith, Sandy Smith, Bruce Sperber, Linda Stepan, Debbie Thomas, Barbara White, Heather Williams, Jan Williamson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Teresa Beba (Free Lunch friend), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Derek Denman (Pastor Heidi's son), Allison Emerson (Colette's sister), David Fargo (Sally Herzog's brother), Dr. Natalie Feagin (Pentecostal Church of Christ), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend, Kathy Ghetti (friend of Ginger Rothel), Jennifer Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's daughter-in-law), David Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's grandson), Ellen Harrison (Linda Elkins' friend), Michaelene Hanrahan (Jim Joyce's sister), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel's parents), Ben Hoty (Tony & Jo-Ann Hoty's son), Tami Klammer (principal of Snow School); Helen Leckwatch (Dale Parson's mother-in-law), George Love (friend of the church), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Jeff Peacock (former member), Michael & Judy Richter (Roz Fotos' friends), Bob Ritchie (Dorothy's grandson), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Vicki Smith (Venner Clarinets), Don & Pauline Wills (Judi Pavisich's friends), Julia Wright (Sandy & Don Gleichauf's granddaughter), the people of Ukraine, Sudan, Gaza, Iran, Venezuela and Israel, victims of violence and 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

MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:

We would like to support our local teacher staff at the Strongsville Elementary schools by providing some with \$25 gift cards to Target; Amazon, and Walmart. You can purchase a gift card from our own gift card program—very convenient and it helps the church, too!



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Mission Outreach Committee will meet **TODAY** following the worship service.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **September 22nd** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

TOMORROW OUR BIBLE STUDY GROUP RESUMES!



We will start on **Monday, September 21st**—at 7 p.m. It will be an in-depth look at The Lord's Prayer which is an integral part of our weekly worship services. And there will be a bit of fun involved too. There will be time and supplies to decorate and color posters that will be provided. Attendees are encouraged to bring a Bible to the sessions.

THREE WITH GLEE!

Capital Campaign: We currently have \$26,965.43 in our capital campaign account, after spending \$695.00 for parking lot striping.

Capital Campaign: Income: \$117,542.00

Expenses: \$84,093.57

Pledges: \$90,776.00

Stated Pledge Goal: \$150,000.00

We are at 129% of Pledges

We are at 78% of the Pledge Goal

We started in March 2025, so September 2026 is the halfway point of the campaign. Please make sure you designate your donation for "Capital Campaign." Thanks for your continuing support.



PIG ROAST!

THE OFFICIAL BOARD WILL BE HOSTING A PIG ROAST FUNDRAISER AT THE CHURCH ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD!



5 P.M. - 7 P.M.

WE HAVE A LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS. THEY ARE \$30 AND ARE ON SALE NOW THROUGH SEPTEMBER 27TH.

(INCLUDES ROAST PORK, SMOKED CHICKEN, CHOICE OF SIDES, ROLL & BUTTER, BEVERAGE, & DESSERT)

(HOT DOG MEAL AVAILABLE FOR KIDS: \$10)

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL—Wednesdays 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

We have been serving around 100 lunches every week, thanks to our dedicated volunteers!

SAFE SPACES IN THE CHURCH

In the case of a weather or other emergency, designated safe spaces in the church include the basement, the Parlor, the restrooms, and other spaces without windows such as interior hallways. In the event of an emergency, we will proceed in an orderly fashion to these areas.



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. **Please do not abandon items outside the church doors.**

CHURCH OFFICERS 2026

**Elected February 1, 2026 ** appointed by the Official Board*

Moderator: Rachel Zielinski *

Vice-Moderator: Herb Hampson*

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

Sunday School Superintendent: Linda Elkins

Board of Trustees

Karen Bates Jen Barry* Greg Dickson*

Bill Giuliano* Chris Goff Les Fox* Cathy Hawk

Sandy Pogozeleski* Bill Robinson * Cheryl Sobek

Alex Tomoff Mike Willis

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Linda Stepan* Dave Williams*

Diaconate

Jean Bittinger Elaine Coffey* Diana Creecy*

Bobbi Cook Wayne Cook Judy Davis

Judy Fox* Marsha Hemphill* 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

Jen Barry * Gina Cathcart Bobbi Cook*

Cathy Hawk Cindy Hurley** Sarah Hayes*

Lora Rung Mary Willis Mary Ellen Zimmerman

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—



The Evening Group will watch and feed your children chicken nuggets and mac and cheese for a "Parent Night Out" on **Monday, October 5th** from 6 to 9 p.m. Parents, please sign up on the sheet on Pilgrim Hall's bulletin board.

The Daytime Group will have a "Craft Day" when Diana Creecy will teach knitting, and Judi Pavisich, crocheting on **Wednesday, October 7th**, at 1 p.m. in the Parlor. All ladies are welcome to attend "Craft Day."



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 NEED YOUR HELP!
If you are the last or almost the last person to leave the church building on any given day, please make certain that all the lights are off, no water is running, and most importantly, that the door to the kitchen and the parking lot doors are locked and “undogged” using the Allen key provided. Thanks in advance for your diligence.



CHURCH FAMILY CARE TEAM
If you like to cook or bake or reach out to others in love . . . as winter and circumstances continue to make it hard to stay connected, your Diaconate would LOVE to have you be a part of our team! (You don’t need to be a member of the Diaconate to participate, and you may come and go as you are led.)

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...

THERE’S STILL TIME TO PLEDGE FROM YOUR H.E.A.R.T.!
Hospitality, Engagement, Activities, Resources, Time, Talent, & Treasure
United Church of Christ 2026 Estimate of Giving

In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2026:

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.

Signed _____ Date ____/____/____



For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. *Matthew 6:21*

FROM OUR FRIENDS AT COLUMBIA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:



Saturday, October 3rd 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Free admission, local artisans, handmade goods, unique gifts
25453 Royalton Road Columbia Station
GO SHOPPING BEFORE OUR PIG ROAST!