



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, September 21, 2025– 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 "Morning Song" France

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Ingrid Dickson

INTROIT "Steal Away" Traditional

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather together to celebrate the joy in our lives.

People: God's love fills our hearts to overflowing with laughter.

Leader: We gather, in God's presence, to find comfort and hope for our pain.

People: God's grace wipes away our tears and knits us together as one people.

Leader: We gather together, in God's presence, to worship God in faith and truth.

People: Alleluia! Amen!

† HYMN 606 "O, Love That Will Not Let Me Go"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 113
(New International Version)

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, you his servants; praise the name of the Lord.

Let the name of the Lord be praised, both now and forevermore.

From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets,
the name of the Lord is to be praised.

The Lord is exalted over all the nations, his glory above the heavens.

Who is like the Lord our God, the One who sits enthroned on high,
who stoops down to look on the heavens and the earth?

He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap;

he seats them with princes, with the princes of his people.

He settles the childless woman in her home as a happy mother of children.

Praise the Lord!

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 "Be Present, Spirit of the Lord" Beall

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Give to God" Elkins

† 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 16:1-13
(New International Version)

Jesus told his disciples: "There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. So he called him in and asked him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.'"

REFLECTION "???"

† HYMN 406 "Wonderful Words of Life"

† BENEDICTION Malcolm Doney
In every detail of this day, may we be fully alive to the words we speak, and those we hear, and to the eloquence of the silence where no words are spoken. May we be fully alive to the work we do: how we prepare, how we pursue it, share it and complete it. May we be fully alive to the people we see this day – friend or stranger, easy or difficult. May we be fully alive today to every instant, to the pulse of God at the heart of all things. May we see this day as a gift from God. Let us take it, enjoy it, make it our own and share it with others. Grant us strength to survive, grant us grace to be generous. Grant us the courage to stand tall for all that is good and fair. Amen.

† POSTLUDE "Great is the Lord" Smith, arr. Larson

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 21	NEXT SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 28
Lynne McCray	Greeters Judi Pavisich
Dave Williams	Liturgist Dale Hawk
Jan Meier	Head Usher Mary Ellen Zimmerman
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—

Praying for peace in our world

Peter Smith

Celebrating our 34th Wedding Anniversary!

Barbara & John Toth



Congratulations to Oliver Sekorky his hard-earned achievement of becoming an Eagle Scout!

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—

Happy Birthday to Abby Craig on today!

With love, Grammy

Happy Birthday today to Nina Jannsohn!

Happy Birthday tomorrow to Sally Herzog!

Happy Birthday to Erik Joyce on September 23rd!

Happy Birthday to Dale Hawk on September 23rd!

Happy Birthday today to Abigail Craig and to Nina Jannsohn!

Happy Anniversary today to Barbara & John Toth,
to Amanda & John Marshall, and to Katelyn & Vince Boden!



A NOTE OF THANKS

Thank you to our Chancel Choir, and to our music team:

Tom Foley, Sharon Heinrich, and Mike Elkins for this morning's music!



SUNDAY SCHOOL

RALLY DAY SPECIAL OFFERING

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

PENNY SUNDAY IS NEXT WEEK!

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



The Stewardship Committee will have a brief meeting in the Parlor following the worship service this morning. The Christian Education Committee will also meet this morning following worship.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

- 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., Roz Fotos, 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 Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Joanne Gariepy (Sally Herzog's friend), Kathy Ghetti (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

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL-- Wednesdays

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

Many thanks to all of our dedicated volunteers and to all who come and enjoy food and fellowship on Wednesdays! Our program received a generous gift in memory of Glenn Kossin and a large grant from an anonymous donor in memory of the donor's spouse. Plus, one of our FL4A regulars gave us a donation of \$1,000! We thank them for spreading the love.

THREE WITH GLEE!

Capital Campaign: We currently have \$60,065.05 in our capital campaign account. We have chosen 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.

BOOK STUDY--SISTERHOOD!

Next month, October 20th, at 7 p.m., Our *Sisterhood* Book Study will continue. All are welcome!



SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
We will have a brief congregational meeting following the worship service **NEXT WEEK, 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.)

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 4,359.00
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 1,659.25
Difference - (\$ 2,699.75)
Thank you very much for your support.
PLEDGES RECEIVED: 61



MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:

The Tunnel to Towers Foundation is a charitable organization 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!



LAST CHANCE! 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! Back to School Gift card ministry concludes TODAY!

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!



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.**



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.

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.



BE A GREETER! A new sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area is waiting for your name to be added as a greeter. No experience is necessary—we will show you everything you need to know. Being a greeter is a wonderful way to get to know people and welcome them to worship.

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 Heimbürger* 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

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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... _____



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