



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday –September 22, 2019 – 10:00 A.M.

Welcoming New Members!

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 welcome here.

For questions about our church and ministries, please call the church at (440) 238-6697. Please complete your Attendance Card and place it in the offering plate. We hope to see you again soon!

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE "Joy is in the Air" R.C. Foley

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

INTROIT "Simple Gifts" Copland

† 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 in truth.

People: Alleluia! Amen!

† **HYMN 384** "Spirit Song"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 113

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL 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.

PRAYER RESPONSE "Create in Me a Clean Heart" Whitworth

ANTHEM "Gloria Deo" Lightfoot

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

INTRODUCTION AND RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

QUESTIONS TO THE CANDIDATES

QUESTIONS TO THE CONGREGATION

Friends, do you profess Jesus as the center and cornerstone of your faith? **We do.**

Will you be faithful to these new friends as they join this congregation and begin the next leg of their journey of faith?

We promise our faithful companionship to these new members of our family.

Will you challenge them to strive to become the very best versions of themselves, upholding them in Christian love and holding them accountable to the Way of the Christ?

We will lovingly challenge these new members to strive to become the very best versions of themselves, guiding them to live into the faith they profess.

Will you allow yourself to be challenged and changed, shaped and transformed by these new members, together seeking God's will for our lives together?

With the help of God's Spirit, we will allow ourselves to be challenged and changed, shaped and transformed, living even more fully into our called identity as the family of faith, Strongsville United Church of Christ.

Let us pray together:

O God, we give you thanks, first for calling us to believe, then leading us to join together and gather into this church, the Body of Christ. We give you thanks for this Family of faith, and rejoice that you have led these newest members into our midst, adding their gifts and talents to ours. Together, may we live more fully in the Spirit, building one another up in Love, sharing in the life and worship of the church, and serving the world for the sake of the Kingdom of God. Amen.

THE OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "Suo Gan" Traditional Welsh Melody

† **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.

† **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS Luke 16: 1-13

SERMON What is THAT supposed to mean?

† **HYMN 589** "Here I Am, Lord"

† **BENEDICTION**

† **RESPONSE** "Go Now in Peace" Besig

† **POSTLUDE** "They'll Know We Are Christians" Scholtes

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, go to **Worship**, and click on **Service Videos**.

ALTAR FLOWERS: DATES STILL AVAILABLE FOR 2019: 10/13, 10/20, 10/27, and 11/3. Only \$15 per vase! (Contact the office.)

SERVING

TODAY – SEPTEMBER 22

Dave Williams
The Rolland Family
Teri Barbish
Volunteer needed
Tom Foley
Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich
Bobby Foley

NEXT SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 29

Liturgist Jim Studer
Greeters Judi Pavisich
Ushers Volunteers needed
Coffee Hour Volunteer needed
Director of Music Tom Foley
Associate Director of Music Mike Elkins
Supplemental Organist Sharon Heinrich
Guest Musician

The altar flowers are given—

Happy 60th Birthday to Dale Hawk on September 23!

Love your family

In celebration of our 67th Wedding Anniversary

Bill & Dorothy Ritchie

Happy 28th Anniversary to Barbara (the girl of my dreams)!

Love, John Toth

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

In loving memory of Gordon Cockrell

Love always, Kathy

Happy Birthday to Nina Jannsohn on September 21

Happy Birthday to Erik Joyce and Dale Hawk on September 23

Happy Birthday today to Sally Herzog and Chelsey Cathcart!

Happy Anniversary today to Dawn and Ken Rolland!

The Official Board will meet this Tuesday, September 24 at 7 p.m.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Today we welcome these new members into our congregation:

Roger & Judy Davis are the parents of Jennifer Sekorky and grandparents of Oliver and Tilly Sekorky. They also have a son, Joe. The Davises, who have been married for 53 years, live in Florida during the winter months, but have found their Ohio church home here. Their fellowship friends are Jennifer and David Sekorky.

Richard Densmore is the husband of Mary Densmore for 39 years. The couple has three grown sons (and daughters-in-law), plus a grandchild on the way. Richard, who is retired from Baldwin Wallace University, is an accomplished organist and has played for our worship many times. He has already joined the Chancel Choir. Mary Densmore is his fellowship friend and so much more.

Tracy Seneff has been attending worship services with us for a couple of months at the invitation of Rob and Linda Stepan, who are serving as her fellowship friends. She is the mother of a grown daughter, Veronica. Tracy is happy to find a church family with us.



Marriage blessings to **Amanda (Hawk)** and **John Marshall**, who were married here yesterday! Amanda and John are the parents of **Riley** and **Lacey**. Congratulations also to **Cathy and Dale Hawk**, Amanda's mom and dad!

Congratulations also to **Katelyn (Deertz)** and **Vince Boden**, who were married yesterday at St. Paul Greek Orthodox Church in North Royalton! Katelyn is **Lori Deertz's** daughter and **Marty Winch's** granddaughter. Katelyn is also **Beth Giuliano's** cousin.

OUR PRAYER LIST

If you or a family member would like a visit, please call the church at (440) 238-6697. Please provide updates for this list. Thank you.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Betty Bushea at Danbury Senior Living in Brunswick, Janet Kato at Kemper House, Martha Liebert, Marge McKinney, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields



Church Family: Izabella Abruzzino, Serena Abruzzino, Dolores Bail, Joan Beckwith, Elaine Coffey, Rev. Larry and Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sue Hawk, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Jim Joyce, Carole Kapcar, Kay Konicek, Debbie Krause, Bobbie Krisak, Karl Kuhlenschmidt, Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Phyllis Kurz (mother of Karen Morgan), Millie Lafave, Lacey Marshall, Judy Maur, Laurie Meister, Michele Mhlack, Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, John and Maggie Struhar, Josh Trinckes, Sally Vetovitz, Sharon Wilson, Kyle Woodward

Extended Church Family: Ron & Yvonne Adams (friends of Judi Pavisich), Amy Carroll (sister of Marty Winch), Lyla Joy Crowley (great grand-niece of Irene Jannsohn), Joanne Gigliotti (mom of Lou), Rebecca Gordon (niece of Irene Jannsohn), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Sandra Manos (mother of Eli), Diane Mason (friend of Lora Rung), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Zachary McKeever (great-nephew of Pastor Heidi and Chuck), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Mike Rung (brother of Lora), Amanda Shannon (friend of Sarah & Jon Hayes), Judy & Bob Stenger (friends of Judi Pavisich), Brad Williams (friend of Judi Pavisich), Daphne Wilson (niece of Irene Jannsohn)

Our church has an e-mail prayer chain.

Please see Pastor Heidi if you would like to be added.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED



Weekly Offering Needed \$3,522.02
Last Week's Offering Received \$3,147.25
(Difference -\$ 347.77)
includes \$18.00 for Rally Day

RALLY DAY SPECIAL OFFERING

The start of a new, exciting school year has begun. We will have a special offering throughout September to supplement the purchase of curriculum for our Sunday School classes. Envelopes are in the pews. Thank you for caring about the future of our church!



MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS --REMINDING ALL KIDS!



All students in the Sunday School are to report upstairs immediately following class to meet with Mr. Tom Foley. Rehearsal will be around 30 minutes or so. It's a terrific time of singing, praise, and fun!

LOVE AND TRANQUILITY

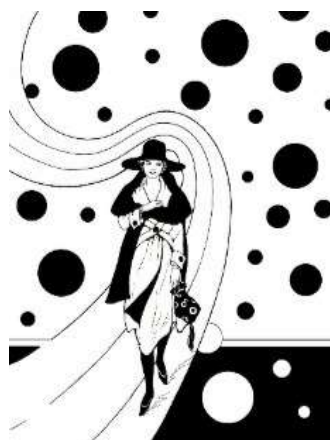
A CD of Native American Flute, "Love And Tranquility" is still available for purchase! Music features **Ken Mehalko** on Native American Flute, **Mike Elkins** on keyboards and other musicians affiliated with our church. **Sales will benefit our music ministry program. Suggested donation is \$15. CDs are available through the church office. We have fewer than ten CDs left!**



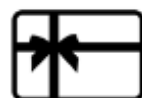
SEPTEMBER 2019 DATES TO REMEMBER

- 22 Sun Worship 10am, New Members Welcomed**
CHILDREN'S CHOIR, Coffee Hour
- 24 Tues Official Board Meeting 7pm
- 25 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am-12:30pm
Bible Study 1pm
Band Rehearsal 8pm
- 26 Thurs Thrift Shop 10am-4pm
Men's Lunch Gourmé Restaurant 11:30am
Bell Choir 7pm
Chancel Choir 8pm
- 29 Sun Worship 10am—Penny Sunday**
CHILDREN'S CHOIR, Coffee Hour

STYLE SHOW IN OCTOBER!



You've always wanted to walk the catwalk and strut your stuff, right? You ARE model material!
In conjunction with our church's 202nd Anniversary Potluck on October 13, the Women's Fellowship is hosting a STYLE SHOW with fashions from our own THRIFT SHOP. We need runway models—men, women, kids—to show off the ensembles. We will put together an outfit and our models will wear them down the runway. We have 16 slots available, so sign up on the sheet in Pilgrim Hall right away! We can't wait to see you "Make it work!" **Models will meet after worship next week, September 29, to choose outfits.**



PLEASE PURCHASE GIFT CARDS FOR YOUR BACK-TO-SCHOOL, GIFT GIVING, AND EVERYDAY NEEDS!

The Strongsville UCC gift card program continues to support the maintenance of our beautiful pipe organ, but we can't do it without you! Please see Jim Joyce in Pilgrim Hall following worship to see the plethora of gift card choices—something for everyone!

CONSTRUCTION ON THE INTERSECTION OF PEARL & ROYALTON ROADS CONTINUES! Please take extra care when travelling to and from church in the coming months and don't let these obstacles keep you from enjoying worship with us!



Our church supports the Strongsville Emergency Food Bank. They are especially in need of peanut butter & jelly, soup, canned fruit, tuna, and family meals. Please bring



donations of non-perishable food items and place them in the collection box nestled in the corner of Pilgrim Hall next to the bulletin board.
*****We need a volunteer to deliver the donations this week.*****

YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR FREE LUNCH FOR ALL



Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

UCC DISASTER RELIEF MINISTRIES

Hurricane Dorian has devastated the Bahamas and has wrought extensive damage to cities along the U.S. Atlantic coast. If you would like to make a financial contribution to assist victims, you may do so directly at https://www.ucc.org/donate_to_disaster_relief or place your donation in the offering plate with "UCC Disaster Ministries" in the memo line.



FUNDRAISING SEASON IS UPON US!

The fall fundraising season has begun! We have a number of folks raising money for scouts, band, school, and other civic organizations. As a congregation, we love supporting good causes. However, **please limit any selling to Pilgrim Hall before or after worship.** Thank you!

PHOTO DIRECTORY UPDATE:



All photos and information have been submitted. The printed directories should arrive sometime around Thanksgiving. If you were not photographed by Lifetouch, you may purchase a directory through the church office for \$5 each when they arrive. Folks who were photographed at the photo sessions in August receive a copy at no charge.
PLEASE NOTE: If you had Lifetouch directory photos sent to the church, please see Irene in the church office for pick up.

CHURCH SECURITY

Friendly reminder: If you are the last person to leave the building, please make sure doors are locked and lights are turned off. Also, please push or pull on the doors to make sure they are securely CLOSED. Thanks!



SAVE THOSE CENTS FOR SANYUKA!



The next Penny Sunday, **September 29**, will go to Sanyuka Children's ministries. This uplifting choir comprised of Ugandan orphans visited our church on September 7 and inspired everyone who attended. Watch the video on our church's YouTube channel, and you will see what we mean! (Go to **Worship** on our website and select **Service Videos.**)

HELP WANTED: Are you able to transport the food donations to the Strongsville Food Bank this coming week? Our regular volunteers will be out of town and a sub is needed. Food must be dropped off at the Food Bank Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.