



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
13740 Pearl Road
Strongsville, Ohio 44136

Rev. Lawrence Craig
Guest Minister

SEPTEMBER 24, 2017 – 10:00 A.M.

WELCOME!

We are grateful you chose to worship with us this morning. No matter who you are and where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

For questions about our church and ministries, you may call the church at (440) 238-6697.

Please complete your Attendance Card and place it into the offering plate. We hope to see you again soon!

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE *Jehovah-Jireh* Merla Watson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

† **CALL TO WORSHIP** Ted Bickley

Leader: How very good and pleasant it is when we live together in unity!

People: It is like a summer rain which restores the parched earth.

Leader: How very good and pleasant it is when we live together in peace!

People: It is like a cool breeze at the shore of a lake, at the top of a mountain or through a crowded city street.

Leader: How very good and pleasant it is when we live together in love!

People: God meets us here, always and forever.

Leader: We have gathered to worship the Maker of Our Days, the Restorer of Our Souls and the Breath of Our Lives.

ALL: Let us worship God!

† **OPENING HYMN 87** *Fairest Lord Jesus*

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER HYMN 393 *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

OUR 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.

RESPONSE Native American Flute

CHOIR ANTHEM *I Can Only Imagine* Bart Millard

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES TO THIRD GRADE STUDENTS

Russell Bickley Luke Giulano Aidan Hurtig

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Rev. Lawrence Craig

THE OFFERING *Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child* Spiritual

† **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**

SCRIPTURES Old Testament: Genesis 1:1-5

New Testament: John 8:12, Ephesians 5:8-10

HYMN OF PREPARATION 392 *Holy Spirit, Light Divine*

SERMON *A Story of the Sun Flower* Rev. Lawrence Craig
Isaiah 9:2

† **CLOSING HYMN 390** *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*

† **BENEDICTION**

† **RESPONSE** *Amazing Grace* Traditional

† **POSTLUDE** *You Are My All in All* Dennis Jernigan

This morning's altar flowers are given—

*Anniversary Wishes to Our Parents, Bill and Dorothy Ritchie—
celebrating 65 years together
Love, Gina and Sharon*

Happy Birthday today to Judy Carte, Dakota Brammer, and Weston Reed!

Our guest minister, Rev. Lawrence (Larry) Craig, is the former senior minister of the West Park United Church of Christ, where he served for 13 years prior to his retirement on January 1, 2011. While at West Park UCC, Rev. Craig served as an on-call chaplain to Fairview, Lakewood, and Lutheran Hospitals. Prior to entering seminary, he studied landscape horticulture/architecture at The Ohio State University. Rev. Craig and his wife Christina of 48 years are the parents of a son and daughter and grandparents of four grandchildren. We welcome back Rev. Craig and his wife Christina!

After worship this morning, **everyone is invited to the coffee hour in Pilgrim Hall**, where we can enjoy treats and beverages. To keep our pew cushions and carpet clean, just a friendly reminder not to take food or drinks into the sanctuary. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Special offering envelopes for our Sunday School are in the pew racks. This offering helps to defray the cost of the curriculum. Thank you for your support.

Picture Re-take – Please contact Sarah Hayes or Cathy Hawk today to get your picture re-taken for our photo directory. Thank you.

After worship today, Stewardship Committee will meet in the Parlor.

The Diaconate announces with great pleasure the hiring of Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall as our designated minister. What is a designated minister, you ask? A designated minister has the opportunity to apply and be considered for the position of our settled minister. We will welcome Rev. Heidi and her husband Chuck next Sunday, October 1, when she officially begins her ministry with us!

Official Board will meet on Tuesday, September 26, at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday Free Lunch serving hours are 11:30 a.m. to **12:30** p.m.

Thrift Shop – A BIG THANK YOU to all volunteers who worked very hard in the Thrift Shop for the changeover to the Fall/Winter merchandise. If possible, **please hold your donations** until further notice. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Totals – The Garage Sale generated \$2,082.65, the Sunday School Bake Sale, \$413; and the Thrift Shop, \$100. Thank you to all for your support!

Women's Fellowship will meet **a week from** this coming Wednesday—on October 4 at 10:00 a.m. Claire Wills will present a program on dying silk scarves. Each lady in attendance will dye a scarf, which she will take home. **If you plan to attend the meeting, please contact Claire so she has for enough supplies.** As always, all women are welcome. Again, the meeting is NOT this week, but the following week.



Giving Statements – If you would like a to receive a year-to-date statement on the status of your pledge, please email Financial Secretary, Adria Bond, at succfinancialsecretary@gmail.com or call her at 440-227-8410. Otherwise, we are just planning on sending the year-end statements in January.

Mission and Outreach Committee will be using profits from the upcoming "Around the World" Basket Auction to fund a project in honor of our veterans in November for Veterans' Day. At this point we are planning to focus on a local homeless veterans project that helps the veterans as they transition to housing. We are considering several ways of doing this and will keep you informed. Several baskets are already displayed on the screen in the Gathering area, and others will be added. The baskets will be in Pilgrim Hall on Sundays in October, along with their bidding sheets.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,865
Weekly Offering Received 9/17/2017 \$1,714
Difference - \$2,151



UPDATE FROM YOUR PULPIT SEARCH COMMITTEE

Your Pulpit Search Committee has completed and submitted our church profile to the association and is receiving profiles from interested candidates. Even though the Diaconate has found Heidi Denman McDougall to be our designated pastor, the work of the Pulpit Search Committee continues. (Heidi, as a designated pastor, is eligible to apply for the permanent, settled pastor position. This is a change from previous ministerial searches, since previously the interim pastor was not permitted to be considered for the settled pastor position.) The PSC continues to request your ongoing support and prayers while we search for the one whom God is calling to lead us long term.

To make past services easier to view on the web, we started a YouTube channel. To access it, go to the <http://strongsvilleucc.com/> website. Click on WORSHIP and then SERVICE VIDEOS. Once you get to YouTube, search for the service you wish to see and click on it. Alternately, you can go directly to YouTube and search for "Strongsville UCC". Most services from the beginning of 2017 have already been uploaded. To see an older service, please contact Jim Heinrich to see if it is available.

Updating Our Website and TVs – If you have updates for our church Website or TV screens at church, please inform:

Michele Mihlack 216-324-9799 or m.mihlack@gmail.com or
Irene Joyce 216-267-5043 or ij3e@sbcglobal.net

OUR PRAYER LIST

Hospitals no longer provide names of members who are patients. 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, Margot James, Janet Kato at Kemper House, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

Church Family: Betty Babics, Dan Davis, Tom Gaumer, The Grabski/Williams Family, Lacey (daughter of Amanda Hawk) at Cleveland Clinic, Steve Herzog, Martha Liebert, Michele Mihlack at Cleveland Clinic, Eileen Pincomb, Harvey Pincomb, Betsey Santomen (wife of Rev. Joe Santomen), Jan Stough, Rev. Oommen Thomas at Southwest General, Leah Tressa Forget, Shirley Weinhold at Metro, Kyle Woodward

Extended Church Family: Logan Churnega (grandson of Ginny Churnega), Audrey Curry (mother of Pam Keenen), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Joyce Freeman (sister of Carol Woodward), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Diane Mason (friend of Lora Rung), Piper Masuga (granddaughter of Dan and Vicky and great-granddaughter of Lola Millhoane), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Keith Stewart (cousin of Carol Woodward), Frank Toth (father of Rob), Sheena Toth (mother of Dale) Joe Valli (brother-in-law of Vicky and Dan Masuga), Karla Wood (daughter of John and Barbara Toth)

SERVING TODAY

Director of Music: Elena Taylor
Liturgist: Ted Bickley
Greeters: The Rolland Family
Coffee Hour: Cathy Hawk



Special Worship Services – On Sunday, October 8, we will celebrate our church's past in worship; and on Sunday, October 15, we will embrace our church's future in worship. **For these two Sundays, please feel free to dress in clothing reflecting our past history.**

200th ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

Sunday, October 15, 2017, 1:00 p.m. at the Strongsville Rec Center

A limited amount of tickets are available for purchase in Pilgrim Hall from either Joyce Reed or Dianne Maringer.

Ticket prices are \$15 for Adults and \$10 for Children (6-12 years).

Luncheon Menu

Carved Roast Beef, Chicken Marsala with Sauce,
Penne Pasta with Marinara Sauce,
Roasted Red Potatoes, Au Gratin Potatoes,
Green Beans Almandine, Tossed Salad, Anniversary Cake

What the Church Means to Me! The Anniversary Committee is asking everyone to fill out a paper with what the Strongsville United Church of Christ means to them. Please pick up a sheet in the Gathering Area. We are planning on displaying these prior to the Anniversary Sunday and at the Luncheon. They will also be placed in our time capsule. Please take the time to fill one out and leave it in the basket in the Gathering Area. If you have any questions, please speak with Rachel Zielinski. Thank you.

200th Anniversary Cookbooks – We still have cookbooks available for purchase. They make great gifts, and your purchase helps support the Anniversary celebration. The current cookbook costs \$12, but we also have some cookbooks from 2006 for \$10 each. Please contact either Dianne Maringer or Joyce Reed if you are interested in purchasing one or more of these books. Thank you!

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY – OCTOBER 1, 2017

Liturgist: Betty Craig
Greeters: Linda Plain
Usher: Linda Plain
Coffee Hour: Myron Costin

SEPTEMBER 2017

26 Tue Official Board Meeting, 7pm
27 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-12:30pm – Notice new hours.

OCTOBER 2017

1 Sun We welcome Rev. Heidi as our designated minister!
Neighbors in Need Offering is received throughout the month.
4 Wed Women's Fellowship Meeting, 10am
Free Lunch Program, 11:30-12:30pm
Fit Club, 7pm
7 Sat Adult Social Club goes to Thistledown.
8 Sun We celebrate our church's past in worship
10 Tue Trustees Meeting, 7pm
11 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30-12:30pm
Fit Club, 7pm
15 Sun Sacrament of Communion.
We embrace our church's future in worship.
November Newsletter Deadline
Thanksgiving Food Collection begins.
Strongsville UCC's 200th Anniversary Luncheon, 1pm at the
Strongsville Recreation Center Banquet Hall
17 Tue Advertising Committee Meeting, 7pm
Diaconate Meeting, 7pm
18 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30-12:30pm
Fit Club, 7pm
Adult Social Club Meeting, 7pm
22 Sun Mission and Outreach "Around the World" Silent Auction
Thanksgiving Food Collection continues.
Stewardship Campaign begins.
24 Tue Official Board Meeting, 7pm
25 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30-12:30pm
Men's Luncheon, 11:30am
Fit Club, 7pm
29 Sun Sunday School Pumpkin Painting Party during class time
Thanksgiving Food Collection continues.
Stewardship Campaign continues.

MUSIC REHEARSALS DURING THE WEEK

Children's Choir - 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays
Band (for adults and children) – 8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays
Bell Choir – 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays
Chancel Choir – 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays

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