



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, September 24, 2023 – 10:00 A.M.

Sacrament of Baptism

Penny Sunday



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.

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE

"Song Without Words"

Holst

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Irene Joyce

INTROIT

"Speak, Lord in the Stillness"

Whitworth

† CALL TO WORSHIP

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

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

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

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

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

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

† HYMN 300

"All Glory, Laud and Honor"

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—

and 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

"I Will Sing Praise"

Barnhouse

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PENNY SUNDAY

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Edison Guinty Woodward
Son of Steven and Roxy Woodward
Godparents: Chelsea Guinty
Chance Guinty



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 Edison and his family, as he 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 child baptized this morning, that he 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 EDISON GUINTY WOODWARD

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Let us pray together:

Gracious God, You have filled the world with joy with the gift of Jesus. Bless this child, Edison Guinty; fill him with your strength and courage for life's journey; joy for all to see; freedom of love; hope for a new life. May he never be ashamed to confess his 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 465

"Baptized in Water"

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Reverie"

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

Matthew 20: 1-16

(The Message)

"Here it is again, the Great Reversal:
many of the first ending up last, and the last first."

SERMON

"Top Down. Bottom Up."

† HYMN 572

"Blessed Assurance"

† BENEDICTION

Go out into the world in peace, and in Christ's name be the humble who make others proud; the poor who have riches to share; the weak who help others be strong; the empty who overflow with loving kindness. And may the largess of the love of God, the treasure of the grace of Christ Jesus, and the buoyant health of the Holy Spirit be with you all now and forever. **Amen.**

† RESPONSE

"Shaker Parting Song"

arr. Purdum

† POSTLUDE

"Fanfare"

Lemmens



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 24

NEXT SUNDAY—OCTOBER 1

Roger & Judy Davis

Greeters

Linda Plain

Bruce Keenen

Liturgist

Judi Pavisich

Jan Meier/Judi Pavisich

Ushers

Jan Bittinger

Tom Foley

Director of Music

Tom Foley

Mike Elkins

Associate Director of Music

Mike Elkins

Sharon Heinrich

Organist

Sharon Heinrich

Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich

Sound

Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich

Chancel Choir

Special Music

Children's Choir, Choir



PENNY SUNDAY TODAY!

Our collection today will go to **New Life at Calvary Church in**

Cleveland. The roof was torn off their building during last month's tornadoes and the damage is extensive to their sanctuary and there are innumerable repairs needed.



The altar flowers are given—

Happy Anniversary to our daughter Holly and son-in-law Marty on September 27th and Happy Birthday to our grandson Weston and great-granddaughter Quinn on September 24th!—
George & Joyce Reed



To the Glory of God and in Gratitude for my Church

Linda Plain

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy 71st Anniversary to Bill & Dorothy Ritchie on September 26th!—With love from your family



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



A NOTE OF THANKS—

We thank our **Chancel Choir**, along with **Mike Elkins, Tom Foley, and Sharon Heinrich** for their music today. **CHILDREN'S CHOIR WILL SING NEXT WEEK!**

BOOK STUDY

A YEAR OF BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD

Beginning on **October 16th**, Pastor Heidi and Linda Elkins will be leading a monthly book study based on Rachel Held Evans's wonderful book, *A Year of Biblical Womanhood*. Based on Old Testament rituals and practices, the book chronicles Rachel's attempts to follow these ancient practices in a modern world. The group will meet at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of each month, for one hour. Please let Pastor Heidi or Linda know if you're planning to join us or write "Book Study" on your attendance card. **If you need a copy of the book, Elaine Coffey will be ordering them in bulk. Please text or call her at (502) 214-0426 if you'd like to place an order.**



SUB NEEDED!



(Not that kind of sub!) We will soon be needing a substitute camera operator to record our worship services on Sunday mornings. If you are willing to learn how to use the church's video camera, please indicate your interest on the back of your attendance card.

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Joan Beckwith, Laurie Meister, Ruth Milidonis, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Maggie Struhar

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Barb Camp, Jennifer Cockrell, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sue Hawk, Irene Jannsohn, Carole Kapcar, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Bruce Lerch, Reggie McCray, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkfritz, Gary Paul, George Pavisich, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Bill Schneider, Peter Smith, Robert Sperber, John Toth, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch



Extended Church Family: Edward and Sharon Acton (Sally Herzog's friends), Dorene Baldridge, Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Angie Colosimo (Judi Pavisich's friend), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Joanne Garipey (Sally Herzog's friend), Kathy Ghetti (friend of Ginger Rothel), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Vic Irelan (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Rudy Matjazic (Judi Pavisich's friend), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Thomas O'Shea (Sandy's dad), Sylvia Pakish (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Jeff Peacock (former member), Zora Roundtree (FL4A volunteer), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Vicki Smith (Venner Clarinets), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Tom (friend of Judi Pavisich), Don Wills (friend of Judi Pavisich), The people of Ukraine, victims of violence, those affected by natural disasters

OPT-IN: Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain. h.e.denman@gmail.com

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 3,617.01
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 3,062.00
Difference -(\$ 555.01)

Thank you very much for your support.



PLEASE BE AWARE: Due to a bank change, all checks to the church should be made out to **United Church of Christ or UCC or United Church of Christ (Congregational)**. Please do not use "Strongsville" or "SUCC" in the "Pay to the Order of" line. Thanks!

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **September 26th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO GOT THEIR PICTURE TAKEN FOR OUR CHURCH'S DIRECTORY!

We will keep you posted as to when the directories will be complete.

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL—



Wednesdays 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Our Free Lunch for All Program welcomes everyone to enjoy a nutritious meal and warm fellowship.

GIFT CARDS

PLEASE DON'T FORGET ABOUT THIS EASY, CONVENIENT PROGRAM THAT BENEFITS THE CHURCH. You can order gift

cards by calling **Jim Joyce** at 216-346-4161 in advance with your order. **Limited stock is available for purchase on Sunday mornings.**



BE A BUSY BEE IN 2023—September - March

New sign-up sheets in the Gathering Area are waiting for your name to be added as a greeter or usher. No experience is necessary—we will show you everything you need to know! Everyone is welcome to be a part of our church life.

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 being accepted during those hours, but please try to limit your donations to what you can carry downstairs. **Thanks, as always, to our dedicated volunteers!**



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.

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PANERA PALS

Are you able to give less than an hour of your time on a Monday or Friday morning to pick up and/or sort Panera bread, bagels, and pastries? Please contact the church office if you can help with this worthwhile ministry.



The Strongsville Food Bank is searching for a coordinator for the Food Bank. It is a compensated volunteer position. The coordinator is paid for 20 hours per week, however it may entail 30+ hours to fulfill the duties of the position, therefore the volunteer designation.

Qualifications for this job include organizational skills, effective communication skills, and Word/Excel knowledge for record keeping.

If you are interested or want more information about this position, please ask for a complete job description or send a resume at strongsvillefoodbank@gmail.com.

CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2023 **Elected January 29, 2023*

Moderator: Greg Dickson **Vice-Moderator:** Jen Barry
Treasurer: Sally Herzog **Clerk:** Judy Gaumer

Sunday School Co-Superintendents
Linda Elkins Mary Densmore*

Board of Trustees
Diana Creecy Chris Goff* Herb Hampson Cathy Hawk
Sarah Hayes Cheryl Sobek* Dan Winrod*
Laura Winrod* Rachel Zielinski

Endowment Fund Subcommittee
Greg Dickson Linda Stepan Dave Williams*

Diaconate
Teri Barbish Jean Bittinger* Elaine Coffey
Bobbi Cook* Wayne Cook* Judy Davis*
Carole Kapcar* Sharon Maresco Linda Ponstingle Cherie Teagno
Barbara White* Mary Ellen Zimmerman*

Christian Education Committee
Serena Abruzzino* Mary Densmore*
Linda Elkins Amanda Marshall Lora Rung

Music Committee
Richard Densmore Ingrid Dickson
Pam Keenen Ken Mehalko* Mike Willis*
ex officio: Sharon Heinrich Tom Foley Mike Elkins

Stewardship Committee
Judi Pavisich Bill Schneider* Richard Taylor
Rob Toth Mary Willis*

Mission and Outreach Committee
Judy Carte* Sarah Hayes Bobbie Krisak Lora Rung*
Jennifer Sekorky Peter Smith* Bev Wehr
Mary Ellen Zimmerman*



COMING IN OCTOBER

Sunday, October 1st—World Communion Sunday
Sunday, October 8th—Church's Anniversary, Baptism, 50 year members
Sunday, October 15th—Lait Sunday
Monday, October 16th—Book Study begins 7 p.m.
Sunday, October 22nd—Stewardship campaign continues
Sunday, October 29th—Penny Sunday, Trunk or Treat after the service