



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, September 26, 2021 – 10 A.M.

First Sunday of Autumn



WELCOME!

Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the best interests of others. – Philippians 2:4

For the safety and comfort of everyone, please continue to wear a mask in the Gathering Area and when entering or leaving the Sanctuary. When you are seated in the pews, you may lower your mask if you wish, while maintaining social distancing. **If you are not yet fully vaccinated, we ask that you continue to wear a mask at all times. Thank you.**

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE "In Christ Alone" Getty/Townend

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Joyce Reed

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.

INTROIT "Ask, Seek, Knock" Larson

† **CALL TO WORSHIP** from Psalm 9

Leader: The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul.

People: The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making the simple wise.

Leader: The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.

People: The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

Leader: The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever.

People: The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous.

ALL: May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

† **HYMN 210** "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" (vv. 1, 2, & 4)
(If you wish to sing with us, please have your mask in place.)

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 124

(New International Version)

If the Lord had not been on our side— let Israel say—if the Lord had not been on our side when people attacked us, they would have swallowed us alive when their anger flared against us.

The flood would have engulfed us, the torrent would have swept over us, the raging waters would have swept us away.

Praise be to the Lord, who has not let us be torn by their teeth.

We have escaped like a bird from the fowler's snare.

The snare has been broken, and we have escaped.

Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Leader: The Word of God, for us, the people of God;

People: Thanks be to God.

SHARING OF 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" Dudley-Smith/Beall

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

Thank you for your continuing commitment to giving freely of your talents and your treasure, as you are able, in service to Christ in the world. Thank you. To give online, please go to:

<https://www.myoffering.com/eonline/index.php/dashboard/login/5027>

OFFERTORY "Glorious Is Thy Name" McKinney, arr. Berry

† **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 EPISTLES James 5:13-20

(New International Version)

Real wisdom, God's wisdom, begins with a holy life and is characterized by getting along with others. It is gentle and reasonable, overflowing with mercy and blessings, not hot one day and cold the next, not two-faced. You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results *only* if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor.

SERMON "How it's Done"

† **HYMN 16** "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" (vv. 1, 3, & 4)
(If you wish to sing with us, please have your mask in place.)

† **BENEDICTION**

Now may the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Know that wherever you are, God is with you. Amen.

† **POSTLUDE** "May the Peace of the Lord Go with You" Yanerella

TODAY – SEPTEMBER 26 **NEXT SUNDAY – OCTOBER 3**

Elaine Coffey	Greeters	Linda Plain
Judi Pavisich	Liturgist	Dale Hawk
Elaine Coffey	Ushers	Linda Plain
Tom Foley	Director of Music	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	Associate Director of Music	Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	Supplemental Organist	Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich	Sound	Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Dave Williams/Chancel Choir	Special Music	Carol Foley/Chancel Choir

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**.



Happy Anniversary today to Dorothy and Bill Ritchie—69 years!

Happy Birthday today to Madison Morgan!

A NOTE OF THANKS

Today, we thank Dave Williams, along with the Chancel Choir, Mike Elkins, Tom Foley, and Sharon Heinrich for contributing to our musical worship today!



The altar flowers are given—

Happy 69th Anniversary to our parents, Bill & Dorothy Ritchie—With love from your family



Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthday to Bill Robinson yesterday!

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,649.37

Last Week's Offering Received \$2,134.00

Difference (-\$1,515.37)

Thank you very much for your support.



OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Janet Kato, Marge McKinney, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Joan Beckwith, Eddy Bond, Mary Carey, Elaine Coffey, Kathy Cockrell, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Linda Elliott, Tom Gaumer, Ramona Glaze, Sue Hawk, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Irene Jannsohn, George Kapcar, Tony Koussa, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Judy Maur, Reggie McCray, Laurie Meister, Roy Merkle, Michele Mihlack, Lola Millhoane, Gary Paul, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, Peter Smith, Autumn Schnieder, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Sharon Wilson, Sally Vetovitz, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Mary Ellen and Bob Zimmerman



Extended Church Family: Dorene Baldrige, Fred Beba (Theresa's husband), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Judy Carte's son-in-law, Ryan, Mary Ann Csory (Judi Pavisich's friend), John Dickson (Greg's dad), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Linda Harbison (Jan Meier's sister-in-law), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Kay McGinty (Judi Pavisich's aunt), Zachary McKeever (Pastor Heidi and Chuck's great-nephew), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Thomas O'Shea (Sandy's dad), Mike Pavisich (Judi's Pavisich's stepson), Carrol Riley (Marjorie Morrison's dad), Terry Robson (Barb & Mark Camp's friend), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Sandra Wentz (Debbie's daughter-in-law)

Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain.

REMINDER: The church office will be closed on Monday, September 27th and Tuesday, September 28th.



UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **September 28th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE STRONGSVILLE UCC?

Pastor Heidi is hosting the second of two information sessions in the Parlor (the conference room off the Gathering Area) right after the worship services **TODAY**. Please come to the meeting if you are interested in finding out more about membership in our congregation. (Please note: dual membership is accepted.) We are excited that new members will be welcomed into our church family on **World Communion Sunday, October 3rd**.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Donations will be accepted for this UCC special offering throughout the month of October.

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the [Council for American Indian Ministry](#) (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.



OUR CHURCH IS LOOKING TO HIRE A PART-TIME CUSTODIAN.

If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact a member of the Board of Trustees for more information and an application.

THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is **OPEN** on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. with lots of refreshed merchandise on display. Donations are being accepted, but you must **call** the church first to arrange a time for drop-off.



THRIFT SHOP BONUS HOURS

The 3rd **Thursday** of the month, **October 21, 2021** —
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(We're still open on our usual Thursdays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

Also, the Thrift Shop is still in need of volunteers to help out for a couple of hours—sorting, organizing, and selling on Thursdays. Please call Cathy Hawk (440-781-7512) if you can help!

TOTE BAGS NEEDED!



The Thrift Shop is in need of large reusable tote bags (like the ones you can get at Marc's). Please bring them to the Thrift Shop if you can spare a bag or two.

FRESH ALTAR FLOWERS



Would you like to commemorate a special occasion, honor a loved one, or celebrate the memory of someone dear? Say it with flowers!

The 2021 Flower sign-up chart is posted on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall and there are still some Sundays that are available for the remainder of this year!

PLEASE REMEMBER TO TAKE THE FLOWERS YOU HAVE PURCHASED FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE.

With the return of fresh altar flowers, we are in need of large plastic sour cream/cottage cheese/chip dip containers to transport the flower arrangements home. Please bring your clean containers to the church, if you have some to donate.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
views the movie
"YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN"
at their meeting on
Wednesday – October 6 – 10:00 A.M.
in Pilgrim Hall
OPTIONS: Dress up for Halloween – or – wear DJ's—or come as you are!
All ladies are welcome!

GIFT CARDS

YOU CAN SUPPORT THIS PROJECT IN A SAFE WAY THAT BENEFITS OUR CHURCH!



You can order gift cards by calling **Jim Joyce** at 216-267-5043 in advance with your order. Limited stock is available, but special orders may be accommodated with advance notice. **Thank you to those who continue to support this project by purchasing gift cards!**



Are you an online shopper? If so, why not benefit the church while you make your purchases from Amazon? It's incredibly easy! Here's what you do:

1. Instead of typing amazon.com into your search bar, type in **smile.amazon.com**.
2. Select United Church of Christ Congregational Strongsville by clicking this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-1298100>
3. Shop as you would normally—that's it!

Your addresses, billing information, and shopping cart are still saved and your Prime membership privileges still apply. A small percentage of your purchase price will go toward supporting the church. **PLEASE KEEP SHOPPING!**



A TRIBUTE TO BROADWAY

to benefit SCT Scholarship Fund
Presented by Strongsville Community Theatre
Friday, October 29th & Sat. October 30th
at the Strongsville Rec Center

Many familiar Strongsville UCC faces will be participating in this event featuring music and food. **Call 440-879-8817 or www.strongsvillecommunitytheatre.com for reservations and ticket purchases.**



YOU ARE INVITED!
CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS
HAVE RESUMED THURSDAYS IN
THE SANCTUARY, at 8 p.m. with

safety measures in place. We have room in the choir for any singers (Tenors, Altos, Sopranos, and Basses are welcome!).
BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS are on **THURSDAYS** at 7p.m.



SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE OFFICE STAFF AT THE STRONGSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FOR USE OF THEIR COPIER FOR PRINTING SUNDAY BULLETINS WHILE WE AWAIT A PART FOR OURS!