



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136

(440) 238-6697

StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com

StrongsvilleUCC.com

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, September 27, 2026– 10 A.M.

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 always welcome here.

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE “Softly and Tenderly” Stockton

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

INTROIT “Lord, Hear Our Prayer” Elkins

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come so that we can worship our God!

People: God’s words restore us to life.

Leader: Come so that we can follow Jesus!

People: Christ’s hopes for justice are crystal clear.

Leader: Come so that we can learn from the Spirit!

People: God’s Spirit teaches us to understand how to live as God’s people.

† HYMN “Come, Now is the Time Worship”

Come, now is the time to worship.

Come, now is the time to give your heart

Come, just as you are to worship

Come, just as you are before your God, Come

One day ev’ry tongue will confess You are God

One day ev’ry knee will bow

Still the greatest treasure remains for those

who gladly choose you now

Come, now is the time to worship.

Come, now is the time to give your heart

Come, just as you are to worship

Come, just as you are before your God, Come

Willingly we choose to surrender our lives

Willingly our knees will bow

With all our hearts, soul, mind and strength.

We gladly choose you now

Come, now is the time to worship.

Come, now is the time to give your heart

Come, just as you are to worship

Come, just as you are before your God, Come...Come...Come,

Just as you are...Come.

A READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 25:1-9

(New International Version)

In you, Lord my God, I put my trust.

I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame,

nor let my enemies triumph over me.

No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame,

but shame will come on those who are treacherous without cause.

Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths.

Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior,

and my hope is in you all day long.

Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways;

according to your love remember me, for you, Lord, are good.

Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.

God guides the humble in what is right and teaches them God’s way.

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 “Christ is the Rock” Larson

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE Penny Sunday

OFFERING

OFFERTORY “The Heavens are Telling the Glory of God” Marcello

† 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

Philippians 2:1-13

(New Revised Standard Version)

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God

as something to be grasped; rather, he emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human, he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death

—even death on a cross.

REFLECTION “E Pluribus Unum”

† HYMN 16 “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

† BENEDICTION Christine Longhurst

As you leave this place, remember— the Spirit of God is already at work

within you, giving you both the desire and the strength to do what is

pleasing to God. So go from here with joy to love and serve God and one

another. And may the blessing of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the

presence of the Holy Spirit be among you and within you, today and all your

days. Go in peace. Amen.

POSTLUDE

“O Rest in the Lord”

Mendelssohn

SERVING

TODAY—SEPTEMBER 27

NEXT SUNDAY—OCTOBER 4

Roger & Judy Davis

Greeters

Linda Plain

Dale Hawk

Liturgist

Dale Hawk

Judi Pavisich

Head Usher

John Toth

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

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.

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.



Today’s altar flowers are given—

Celebrating our 35th Wedding Anniversary

Barbara & John Toth

A 2026 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 a few Sundays available in 2026!

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthday to Luke Giuliano on September 30th!

Happy Birthday to Dave Williams on October 1st—The Choir

In memory of Mary L. Joyce-Smith’s birthday on October 1st and in celebration of Betty Dickson’s Birthday on October 1st

The Joyces & the Dicksons



Happy 1st Anniversary today to Nick & Miranda Miller!



FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL: PENNY SUNDAY TODAY!

It’s time to donate your coins, cash, and checks to UCC.

The collection will go to the **Alzheimer’s Association**.

Alzheimer’s changes everything, for the person

diagnosed and their loved ones. The Alzheimer’s Association leads

the way to end Alzheimer’s and all other dementia — by accelerating

global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and

maximizing quality care and support. The next Penny Sunday will be

on **October 25th** and go to our own Thanksgiving “Basket” Project.

RALLY DAY SPECIAL OFFERING—LAST CHANCE

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



A NOTE OF THANKS—We thank the Chancel Choir, along with **Tom Foley, Mike Elkins, and Sharon Heinrich** for today’s music!

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 5,212.00
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 5,228.00
Difference +\$ 16.00

Thank you very much for your support.

PLEDGES RECEIVED: 62



PLEASE COME TO THE BLESSING OF THE BEASTS

Today at 3 PM

BRING YOUR DOGS,
CATS, GUINEA PIGS, RABBITS, TURTLES,
LIZARDS, OR ANY OF YOUR FAVORITE
ANIMALS!



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, Jen Barry, Jean Bittinger, Mark Camp, Judy Carte, Diana Creecy, Sam Cuyler Jr., Roger Davis, Colette Emerson, Roz Fotos, Sue Hawk, Jim Heinrich, Cindy Hurley, Carole Kapcar, Pam & Bruce Keenen, Bonnie Khavaran, Erv Koch, Jill Kundtz, Carol Konet, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Jim Maresco, Ken Mehalko, Barbara Morgan, Amanda Moulton, Ginny & Kenn Oerkfitz, Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Ron Rothel, Jennifer Sekorky, Tracy Seneff, Peter Smith, Sandy Smith, Bruce Sperber, Linda Stepan, Debbie Thomas, Barbara White, Heather Williams, Jan Williamson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Teresa Beba (Free Lunch friend), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Derek Denman (Pastor Heidi's son), Allison Emerson (Colette's sister), David Fargo (Sally Herzog's brother), Dr. Natalie Feagin (Pentecostal Church of Christ), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend, Kathy Ghatti (friend of Ginger Rothel), Jennifer Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's daughter-in-law), David Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's grandson), Ellen Harrison (Linda Elkins' friend), Michaelene Hanrahan (Jim Joyce's sister), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel's parents), Ben Hoty (Tony & Jo-Ann Hoty's son), Tami Klammer (principal of Snow School); Helen Leckwatch (Dale Parson's mother-in-law), George Love (friend of the church), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Jeff Peacock (former member), Michael & Judy Richter (Roz Fotos' friends), Bob Ritchie (Dorothy's grandson), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Vicki Smith (Venner Clarinets), Don & Pauline Wills (Judi Pavisich's friends), Julia Wright (Sandy & Don Gleichauf's granddaughter), the people of Ukraine, Sudan, Gaza, Iran, Venezuela and Israel, victims of violence and 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

OUR BIBLE STUDY GROUP CONTINUES!

Join us on **Monday, October 19th**—at 7 p.m. It will be an in-depth look at The Lord's Prayer which is an integral part of our weekly worship services. And there will be a bit of fun involved too. Attendees are encouraged to bring a Bible to the sessions.



MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:

We would like to support our local teacher staff at the Strongsville Elementary schools by providing some with \$25 gift cards to Target; Amazon, and Walmart. You can purchase a gift card from our own gift card program—very convenient and it helps the church, too!



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Mission Outreach Committee will meet on the second Sunday of the month, **October 11th** following the worship service.
- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **October 13th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **October 20th** at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **October 27th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

THREE WITH GLEE!

Capital Campaign: We currently have \$28,330.43 in our capital campaign account. Several projects have been completed and several are underway. We started in March 2025, so September 2026 is the halfway point of the campaign. Please make sure you designate your donation for “*Capital Campaign.*” Thanks for your continuing support.



PIG ROAST!

THE OFFICIAL BOARD IS HOSTING
A PIG ROAST FUNDRAISER AT
THE CHURCH ON SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 3RD!



5 P.M. – 7 P.M.

WE HAVE A FEW TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE.
THEY ARE \$30 AND ARE ON SALE NOW!

(INCLUDES ROAST PORK, SMOKED CHICKEN,

CHOICE OF SIDES, ROLL & BUTTER,

BEVERAGE, & DESSERT)

(HOT DOG MEAL AVAILABLE FOR KIDS: \$10)



FREE LUNCH FOR ALL—

Wednesdays

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

We have been serving around 100 lunches every week, thanks to our dedicated volunteers!

OCTOBER 11th IS OUR CHURCH'S 209th
ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY!



We will recognize our 50-year members during the service and celebrate with a reception following worship! Please bring your favorite finger foods to share.



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.

FROM OUR FRIENDS AT COLUMBIA
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:

Saturday, October 3rd 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Free admission, local artisans, handmade
goods, unique gifts



25453 Royalton Road Columbia Station

GO SHOPPING BEFORE OUR PIG ROAST!



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—

The Evening Group will watch and feed your children chicken nuggets and mac and cheese for a “**Parent Night Out**” on **Monday, October 5th** from 6 to 9 p.m. Parents, please sign up on the sheet on Pilgrim Hall's bulletin board.

The Daytime Group will have a “**Craft Day**” when Diana Creecy will teach knitting, and Judi Pavisich, crocheting on **Wednesday, October 7th**, at 1 p.m. in the Parlor. All ladies are welcome to attend “Craft Day.”

STRONGSVILLE FIRE STATION #4

OPEN HOUSE

The Strongsville Fire Department would like to invite you to their Open House on **Sunday, October 4th** from 1 pm to 4 pm at Fire Station #4 at 17000 Prospect Road.



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. **Please do not abandon items outside the church doors.**

CHURCH OFFICERS 2026

*Elected February 1, 2026 ** appointed by the Official Board

Moderator: Rachel Zielinski *

Vice-Moderator: Herb Hampson*

Treasurer: Sally Herzog* Clerk: Judy Gaumer*

Sunday School Superintendent: Linda Elkins

Board of Trustees

Karen Bates Jen Barry* Greg Dickson*
Bill Giuliano* Chris Goff Les Fox* Cathy Hawk
Sandy Pogozeleski* Bill Robinson * Cheryl Sobek
Alex Tomoff Mike Willis

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Linda Stepan* Dave Williams*

Diaconate

Jean Bittinger Elaine Coffey* Diana Creecy*
Bobbi Cook Wayne Cook Judy Davis
Judy Fox* Marsha Hemphill* 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

Jen Barry * Gina Cathcart Bobbi Cook*
Cathy Hawk Cindy Hurley** Sarah Hayes*
Lora Rung Mary Willis Mary Ellen Zimmerman



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 NEED YOUR HELP!

If you are the last or almost the last person to leave the church building on any given day, please make certain that all the lights are off, no water is running, and most importantly, that the door to the kitchen and the parking lot doors are locked and “undogged” using the Allen key provided. Thanks in advance for your diligence.



CHURCH FAMILY CARE TEAM



If you like to cook or bake or reach out to others in love . . . as winter and circumstances continue to make it hard to stay connected, your Diaconate would LOVE to have you be a part of our team! (You don't need to be a member of the Diaconate to participate, and you may come and go as you are led.)

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...

LAST CHANCE TO PLEDGE FROM YOUR H.E.A.R.T. FOR THE 2026 CAMPAIGN!

Hospitality, Engagement, Activities, Resources, Time, Talent, & Treasure
United Church of Christ 2026 Estimate of Giving

In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2026:

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.

Signed_____ Date ____/____/____

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. *Matthew 6:21*

SAFE SPACES IN THE CHURCH

In the case of a weather or other emergency, designated safe spaces in the church include the basement, the Parlor, the restrooms, and other spaces without windows such as interior hallways. In the event of an emergency, we will proceed in an orderly fashion to these areas.

