



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, September 28, 2025– 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

“Slavonic Dance #4”

Dvořák

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joyce Reed

INTROIT

“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”

Traditional

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The word has come for us from God:

People: Who promises to shelter us under the wings of hope and grace.

Leader: The word has come to us from Jesus:

People: Who encourages us to remember the good news we have received.

Leader: The word flows to us from the Spirit:

People: Who reminds us to place our hope and trust in God.

† HYMN 692

“God Will Take Care of You”

A READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalms 91:1-6

(New International Version)

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the Lord, “God is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust.”

Surely God will save you from the fowler's snare
and from the deadly pestilence.

God will cover you with his feathers,

and under God's wings you will find refuge;

God's faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day,
nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,
nor the plague that destroys at midday.

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

“Poor Man Lazarus”

Hairston

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Penny Sunday

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“It is Well with My Soul”

Bliss

† 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

Luke 16:19-31

(The Message)

“There once was a rich man, expensively dressed in the latest fashions, wasting his days in conspicuous consumption. A poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, had been dumped on his doorstep. All he lived for was to get a meal from scraps off the rich man's table. His best friends were the dogs who came and licked his sores.”

REFLECTION

“Rich Man, Poor Man”

† HYMN 410

“Standing on the Promises”

† BENEDICTION

Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

† POSTLUDE

“On Eagle's Wings”

Joncas, arr Larson

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 28

NEXT SUNDAY – OCTOBER 5

Judi Pavisich

Greeters

Linda Plain

Dale Hawk

Liturgist

Elaine Coffey

Mary Ellen Zimmerman

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

Children's Choir/Choir



A NOTE OF THANKS—Thank you to the Chancel Choir, and our music team: **Tom Foley**, **Sharon Heinrich**, and **Mike Elkins** for their music today.

Today's altar flowers are given—

Celebrating our Grandson Weston Reed's and Great Granddaughter Quinn's Birthdays this month.--Love, Grandpa George and Grandma Joyce Reed



A 2025 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 some Sundays available in 2025!



Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthday to Luke Giuliano on September 30th!

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 Anniversary today to Cindy Hurley & Tom Parillo!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

RALLY DAY SPECIAL OFFERING—LAST CHANCE!

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



TODAY IS PENNY SUNDAY!

Time to donate your coins, dollars, and checks to UCC for today's Penny Sunday, which will be for **Sanyuka Children's Ministries**.



The next Penny Sunday will be on **October 26th** for G.R.I.N. (Golden Retrievers in Need) Rescue.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION TODAY!

We will have a brief congregational meeting following the worship service to discuss the expenditure of funds to replace the roof on the

house on Royalton Road. Please plan to attend.

(All are welcome to attend, but only members are permitted to cast a vote.)



NEXT SUNDAY...

BLESSING OF THE BEASTS

Sunday, October 5th 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, Mark Camp, Judy Carte, Elaine Coffey, Betty "Grammy" Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Roz Fotos, Sue Hawk, Bruce Keenen, Erv Koch, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Roy Merkle, Amanda Moulton, Ginny & Kenn Oerkfitz, George & Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Ron Rothel, Jennifer Sekorky, Tracy Seneff, Peter Smith, Bruce Sperber, Linda Stepan, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Amorie Acevedo (Dennis Smith's daughter), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Allison Emerson (Colette's sister), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Joanne Gariepy (Sally Herzog's friend), Kathy Ghetti (friend of Ginger Rothel), Jennifer Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's daughter-in-law), Sarah & David Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's grandson & wife), Karen Greenway (Judi Pavisich's friend), Michaelene Hanrahan (Jim Joyce's sister), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Tiffany Hassel (Judi Pavisich's daughter-in-law), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel's parents), George Love (friend of the church), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Sylvia Pakish (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), Mike Pavisich (Judi's stepson), Jeff Peacock (former member), The Price Family, Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Vicki Smith (Venner Clarinets), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Brad Wilkson (Susan Lerch's friend), Don & Pauline Wills (Judi Pavisich's friends), the people of Ukraine, Sudan, Gaza, and Israel, victims of violence, those affected by 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

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL-- Wednesdays

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

Many thanks to all of our dedicated volunteers and to all who come and enjoy food and fellowship on Wednesdays!



THREE WITH GLEE!

Capital Campaign: We currently have \$60,258.08 in our capital campaign account. We have chosen the vendor for the automatic door openers for the kitchen and main doors. Much of the tuck pointing of the church building has been completed. The Trustees are reviewing the proposals that have been submitted for improving the acoustics in Pilgrim Hall and painting the hall. Please make sure you designate your donation for "Capital Campaign." Yellow pledge cards are available in the Gathering Area. Thank you for your continuing support.



BOOK STUDY--SISTERHOOD!

Next month, October 20th, at 7 p.m., Our *Sisterhood* Book Study will continue. All are welcome!



OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 4,359.00
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 4,575.50
Difference +\$ 216.50

Thank you very much for your support.
PLEDGES RECEIVED for 2025: 61



MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:



The Tunnel to Towers Foundation is a charitable organization focuses on providing mortgage-free homes to families of fallen first responders and catastrophically injured veterans, as well as helping to eradicate veteran homelessness.

We are sponsoring 2 veterans/first responders a month. THANK YOU to everyone who has already signed up for 2025!

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our Back to School gift cards for teachers initiative! We are sending 30 gift cards to teachers in Strongsville and at Snow School in Berea!

PIG ROAST!

**THE OFFICIAL BOARD WILL BE HOSTING A
PIG ROAST FUNDRAISER AT THE CHURCH ON
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18TH!**

5 P.M. - 7 P.M.

**WE HAVE A LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS.
THEY ARE \$25 AND ARE ON SALE NOW THROUGH
OCTOBER 12TH!**

**WE HAVE A SIGN-UP FOR DESSERT DONATIONS POSTED
IN PILGRIM HALL.**



ARE YOU INTERESTED?

The Board of Trustees needs someone to fill an unexpired term on the board. The Trustees oversee the building, property, and finances of the church. The Trustees meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. The Official Board would appoint the willing volunteer to complete the term ending in 2027.

The church will be needing a new treasurer at the beginning of the year, as our treasurer, Sally Herzog, will be completing her 3rd term of service. The treasurer position is an elected office and is responsible for facilitating the payment of the church's bills and working closely with the Financial Secretary. Sally is willing to thoroughly train her successor. Please see Rachel Zielinski or Cathy Hawk if you can serve in either capacity.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—

Don't forget! All are welcome to join in our programs!

Wednesday, October 1st at 1 p.m.—Two different
Bingo games + Trivia

Bring wrapped white elephant gifts as prizes!
Monday, October 6th —Movie Night!



THRIFT SHOP

Our Thrift Shop is going on the road! We will have a table selling jewelry at St. Peter UCC's (125 E. Ridgewood, Seven Hills) Fall Bazaar on Saturday, October 4th from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Come on over and support us and our UCC

brothers & sisters at St. Peter's.

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



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 also have a Life-vac choking device to assist in the event that someone is choking. It is located just beneath the AED.

**DISHES, and BOWLS, and PLATES--Oh My!
They're starting to accumulate again.**



Many folks have been kind enough to bring dishes and utensils to the church for funeral luncheons or other events. After the delicious food is eaten, the dishes are sometimes forgotten. If you are missing one of your bowls, utensils, or containers, please pick it up from the kitchen right away. Abandoned dishware will be sold at the Thrift Shop.

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.



OCTOBER IS BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH TIME!



While friends are always welcome at our church, the Christian Education Committee is suggesting that our children, students, families and members make a concerted effort to invite friends to church any Sunday next month. This is an

opportune time to experience all the amazing events that are happening here.

**OCTOBER 12th IS OUR CHURCH'S 208th
ANNIVERSARY!**

We will recognize our 50-year members and celebrate with a Pizza Party following the worship service!



CHURCH OFFICERS 2025

*Elected January 26, 2025 ** appointed by Official Board

Moderator: Greg Dickson Vice-Moderator: Jen Barry
Treasurer: Sally Herzog Clerk: Judy Gaumer
Sunday School Superintendent: Linda Elkins

Board of Trustees

Bill Giuliano Chris Goff* Mike Elkins
Les Fox Herb Hampson Cathy Hawk*
Sandy Pogozeleski Cheryl Sobek*
Alex Tomoff* Mike Willis* Rachel Zielinski

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson* Dave Williams*

Diaconate

Teri Barbish Jean Bittinger* Elaine Coffey*
Bobbi Cook* Wayne Cook* Judy Davis*
Judy Fox Pam Heimbürger* 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

Gina Cathcart* Bobbi Cook** Myron Costin*
Diana Creecy Cathy Hawk* Sarah Hayes
Lora Rung* Peter Smith Mary Willis*
Mary Ellen Zimmerman

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STEWARDSHIP
WHAT DO YOU BRING TO THE CAMPFIRE?
UCC 2025 Estimate of Giving

In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2025:

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.



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...
