



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
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StrongsvilleUCC.com

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, September 3 – 10:00 A.M.
Sacrament of Holy Communion



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 "Here I Am, Lord" Schutte, arr. Elkins

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

INTROIT "You Are My All in All" Jernigan, arr. Larson

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Gathered as God's people, we come to worship together:

People: Singing praises to the One who loves us, opening our hearts to the One who calls us.

Leader: Called to be followers of Jesus, we come to share our lives together:

People: To celebrate the joys of our hearts, to mingle our tears with God's.

Leader: Challenged to become partners with the Spirit, we will seek peace and hope:

People: Offering our food to our enemies, giving a drink of water to those who have drained our souls.

† HYMN "Come to the Table of Grace"

Come to the table of grace*; Come to the table of grace*.

This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.

Come to the table of grace*.

*Verse 2: **peace**, Verse 3: **love**, Verse 4: **joy**, Verse 5: **hope**

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 105: 1-6
(New International Version)

Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name;

make known among the nations what he has done.

Sing to him, sing praise to him tell of all his wonderful acts.

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.

Remember the wonders he has done,

His miracles, and the judgments he pronounced,

You his servants, the descendants of Abraham,

his chosen ones, the children of Jacob.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

PRAYING IN SILENCE

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy, **ALL: Hear our prayers. Amen.**

ANTHEM "The Lord's Prayer" Malotte

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Softly and Tenderly" Thompson

† 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 Romans 12: 9-21
(New International Version)

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

SERMON "Going the Extra Mile"

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

In stories and in stores, in sandy deserts and on rocky roads, at school events and Sunday worship, we encounter God. We meet the One who fills every moment with the sacred. We confess our sins, in trust that we can turn back to God and know that God is welcoming us with forgiveness and hope.

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

God of Moses and Mary, we could live at peace with others; instead, we choose to do wrong to them. We could welcome those we do not know; instead, we choose to close our hearts. Forgive us, Loving God, for our foolish choices. Hold on to our shaky lives, until we learn to clasp your goodness to our hearts and learn to give it away to others. Whisper your grace and hopes into our hearts, until we stop cursing our enemies and bless them as our friends. Smooth the rough edges of our arrogance, until we become a truer reflection of you.

(silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: In our love for others, we discover God's love for us. In our forgiving of others, we learn once more how deeply God has forgiven us. Friends, this is the good news offered to us!

People: We are God's children, called to be different, called to act differently, called to live as new people. Thanks be to God. We are forgiven. Amen.

A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP "Come and Journey with Me" Haas
Brittany Fernandez, vocalist

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.

† HYMN "Your Peace Will Make Us One"

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord

You are speaking truth to power; You are laying down our swords

Replanting every vineyard 'til a brand new wine is poured;

Your peace will make us one.

Glory, glory hallelujah! Glory, glory hallelujah!
Glory, glory hallelujah! Your peace will make us one.

I've seen you in our home fires, Burning with a quiet light.
You are mothering and feeding in the wee hours of the night.
Your gentle love is patient; You will never fade or tire.
Your peace will make us one.
Glory, glory hallelujah! Glory, glory hallelujah!
Glory, glory hallelujah! Your peace will make us one.

In the beauty of the lilies, You were born across the sea
With a glory in your bosom, that is still transfiguring,
Dismantling our empires 'til each one of us is free.
Your peace will make us one.
Glory, glory hallelujah! Glory, glory hallelujah!
Glory, glory hallelujah! Your peace will make us one.

† BENEDICTION Talitha Arnold
Go out into the world in peace. Have courage. Hold onto what is good.
Return no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted. Support the weak.
Help the suffering. Honour all persons. Honour all creation. Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And may the love of God, the Light of Christ, and the power and communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Go in peace. **Amen.**

† RESPONSE/POSTLUDE "Bourrée in G" Bach, arr. Harris

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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**.

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SERVING	
TODAY – SEPTEMBER 3	NEXT SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 10
Linda Plain	Greeters Barbara Toth
Judi Pavisich	Liturgist Pam Keenen
Jean Bittinger	Ushers Judi Pavisich/Jean 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
Brittany Fernandez	Special Music Tyler Martin, Chancel Choir
No classes	Summer Sunday School Rally Day!

ALL ARE WELCOME AT GOD'S TABLE!

As we seek to walk ever more closely with Jesus and welcome all without question or singling anyone out, we will now be offering gluten-free bread to ALL who come forward to the Table for Holy Communion. ALL means ALL at The United Church of Christ (Congregational)!



A NOTE OF THANKS—

We thank our special guest, **Brittany Fernandez**, along with **Mike Elkins**, **Tom Foley**, and **Sharon Heinrich** for their music today.

The altar flowers are given—

Celebrating Gary Zielinski's Birthday on September 1st
In loving memory of Karen K. Morgan
Rachel, Penny, and Oliver



Our steeple will light the sky this week—
Happy Birthday to Stacie Sauter on September 9th
With love, Grammy
In loving memory of Pat Masuga—love and miss ya!
Lola Millhoane and the Masuga family
Happy Birthday yesterday to Pastor Heidi!

Happy Birthday today to Marianne Luca and Sean Patrick!

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Are you interested in joining our congregation? Pastor Heidi will be offering a membership class after worship on September 10th, with new members being received on September 17th. Please contact her or the church office if you would like to become a member of the Strongsville UCC.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Summer Sunday School-- Thank you to everyone who has taught a lesson this summer!

PENNY SUNDAY - Thank you to everyone who contributed last week for the UCC Disaster Relief

Fund for wildfire victims in Maui, Hawaii. We collected a record \$640.56. The next Penny Sunday will be September 24, 2023.

RALLY DAY IS NEXT WEEK!

Mark your calendar for September 10th, when we begin a new Sunday School year of learning and growing together!

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.

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.

ATTENTION SINGERS & RINGERS: CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS ARE UNDERWAY ON THURSDAY EVENINGS & BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS RESUME SEPTEMBER 7th.

Can you carry a tune? There's room in the choir loft for YOU! Can you read music? Come ring with us in Bell Choir! Please see Tom

Foley or Mike Elkins if you'd like to be a part of our Music Ministry.

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

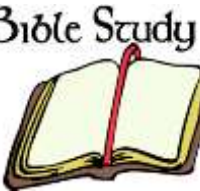
Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Barb Camp, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sue Hawk, Irene Jannsohn, Carole Kapcar, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Bruce Lerch, Reggie McCray, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkfitz, Gary Paul, George Pavisich, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Bill Schneider.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

Extended Church Family: Edward and Sharon Acton (Sally Herzog's friends), Dorene Baldrige, 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), 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

BIBLE 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 on the third Monday of each month, for one hour. Please let Pastor Heidi or Linda know if you're planning to join us!

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 3,617.01
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 2,262.00
Difference -(\$ 1,355.01)

Thank you very much for your support.



SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT RIGHT AWAY!

A NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY!

It's time for a new photo-directory. Each family that is photographed for the directory will receive a free 8x10 of their photo and a free copy of the directory. So much has changed since our last pictorial directory and this is an excellent opportunity to have a studio portrait of you or your family. We would like EVERYONE to be included!

Do you know someone who would like their senior or engagement photos taken? There is NO COST except if you would like to purchase photos. Anyone can sit for portraits, even if they are not a part of the directory.



We will have in-person and online scheduling available so that you can come when it's convenient. Dates for photography will be:
Wednesday, September 20th 2 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Thursday, September 21st 2 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Friday, September 22nd 2 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, September 23rd 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

We need volunteers to help with the sign-up process for our families. Please see Irene Joyce if you can help.

ALSO, IF YOU HAVE ANY UPDATES TO YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION, PLEASE MAKE SURE THE CHURCH HAS YOUR CURRENT INFORMATION—THANKS!

ONLINE SCHEDULING INSTRUCTIONS FOR FAMILY APPOINTMENT SETTING

- Go to the Universal Church Directories website (www.ucdir.com)
- Click on the box on the right side of the homepage entitled "photography appointment scheduling login"
- Enter your church code **oh2687**
Enter your church password **photos**
- Click on the Enter button
- Click on the desired photography date
- Click on the Reserve Time button beside the desired photography appointment time
- Enter the appropriate information in all required fields (indicated by the asterisk *)
- Click on the Schedule Appointment button at the bottom of the screen to reserve the photography appointment time in your family's name
- If you have more than six family members being photographed, please reserve two appointments consecutively (such as 6:00 and 6:10)
- Print the next screen to use as a reminder of your family's photography appointment
- Contact your church's online scheduling administrator to change or cancel your photography appointment.

PLEASE NOTE: Online scheduling will be disabled on the weekends to allow for in-person sign-ups.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **September 12th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **September 19th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **September 26th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



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.**



BEE A BUSY BEE IN 2023—August - November

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!**



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!



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.

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.



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.



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*



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.