



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 4, 2022 – 10:00 A.M.

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 "As the Deer" Nystrom, arr. Larson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

INTROIT "Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven" Andrews

† CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, all who labor and are weighed down with responsibility, uncertainty, and worry

All: We come because the load we carry is heavier than we can bear alone.

One: Come, all you who seek to relate work and worship, leisure and service, into a meaningful whole.

All: We gather for spiritual renewal and practical challenge, for help in making choices and carrying out our commitments.

One: Come, sinner and saint, with your hatreds and loves, your failures and successes, your sorrows and joys.

All: We respond to the Spirit's leading and open ourselves to receive God's gracious gift!

One: Let us pray:

All: Worker God, whose hands built the earth, molded our bodies, and sowed the stars across the sky, we gather in your presence this morning with praise and thanksgiving for your mighty deeds. Meet us here, Worker God; Strengthen our hearts and our hands to work with you in the building of a world filled with justice and peace.

† HYMN 684 "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 8
(New Revised Standard Version)

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.

Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
what are humans that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?

Yet you have made them a little lower than God
and crowned them with glory and honor.

You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen,

and all the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

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 "That Lucky Old Sun" Smith

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. You are the Hands and Feet of Jesus in the world.

OFFERTORY "Impromptu #9" 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**

All: O Lord, we pray that these gifts may be accepted as symbols of our lives. As we dedicate these our gifts, we also dedicate our vocations, and our very lives to your gracious service; Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen!

A READING FROM THE EPISTLES James 1:17-27 & 2:14-26
(New Revised Standard Version)

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created.

SERMON Rev. Bert Ambrose

† **HYMN 779** "I'll Fly Away"

† **BENEDICTION** Romans 12:9-11 *The Message*
Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle. Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame, and be cheerfully expectant, alert servants of the Lord. **Amen!**

† **RESPONSE** "Just a Closer Walk" arr. Elkins

† **POSTLUDE** "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" Traditional

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.



A NOTE OF THANKS—

Many thanks to our musicians **Roger Davis, Rob Toth, Clay Williams, to Tom Foley, Mike Elkins, and Sharon Heinrich** for sharing their music with us today. We also once again welcome and thank **Rev. Bert Ambrose** for leading our worship service this morning!

SERVING

TODAY – SEPTEMBER 4	NEXT SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 11
Linda Plain	Greeters Serena Abruzzino
Judi Pavisich	Liturgist Cherie Teagno
Volunteers needed	Ushers Roz Fotos
Chris Abruzzino	Acolytes Luke Giuliano/Aidan Hurtig
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
Kelly Wilson	Special Music Roger Davis & Praise Band
Linda Elkins	Summer Sunday School RALLY DAY!
Rev. Bert Ambrose	Special Guest Minister

The altar flowers are given—

Happy Birthday to Gary Zielinski on September 1st!

In loving memory of Karen K. Morgan

Love, Rachel, Penny, and Oliver



Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthday to Stacie Sauter on September 9th

With love, Grammy

OFFERINGS RECEIVED



Weekly Offering Needed	\$3,649.37
Last Week's Offering Received	\$5,566.00
Difference	+\$1,916.63

Thank you very much for your support.

PLEDGE CARDS RECEIVED TO DATE: 65

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy to **Brigitte & Dave Matchett, Megan Matchett, Ben Matchett and Freya Matchett,** on the sudden passing of Brigitte's mom, **Mary J. Gapas** on August 27, 2022. Mary was 79 years old.



Love and prayers to **Carol & Roy Merkle** and family. Carol's sister, **Rita Hansford Cooper**, passed away on August 31, 2022 in Kansas. Rita, the aunt of **Sandy Pogozelski**, had attended our church many times when she was in town.

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL

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

We have room for YOU! Please join us for a nutritious meal and warm fellowship.





MUSIC NEWS

Can you carry a tune? Why not share your voice in praise and worship with the Chancel Choir? Rehearsals are at 8 p.m. on Thursdays. Can't sing but can read music and ring? How about checking out the Bell Choir? Rehearsals begin on Thursday, September 8th at 7 p.m. Also, if you can

play an instrument and are willing to play for worship, we would love to have you! Please see Tom Foley or Mike Elkins if you're interested in becoming a part of our Music Ministry.

PENNY SUNDAY—Thank you!

Last week's Penny Sunday collection went to Backpack ministries, through a program via the Berea City School District. We collected \$211.93.



The next Penny Sunday will be September 25th!

Mark your calendar for next Sunday, September 11th, when we begin a new Sunday School year of learning and growing together!



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS—

Bring your backpack, totebag, satchel, briefcase, or any other bag next week!

Special Rally Day offering envelopes will be in the pews; any special donations will be used to offset the cost of Sunday School curriculum.

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Ruth Milidonis, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Joan Beckwith, Eddy Bond, Lloyd Bridle, Mary Carey, Gina Cathcart, Kathy Cockrell, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sam Cuyler, Sr., Lidiya Dordzhiyeva, Sue Hawk, Bob Heddleson, Paul Hirt, Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Len Lane, Judy Maur, Reggie McCray, Heidi & Chuck McDougall, Laurie Meister, Roy Merkle, Michele Mihlack, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkfitz, Gary Paul, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, Tracey Seneff, Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Sharon Wilson, Janis Williamson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Mary Ellen Zimmerman



Extended Church Family: Dorene Baldrige, Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Mary Ann Csory (Judi Pavisich's friend), John Dickson (Greg's dad), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Joyce Glasgow (friend of the church), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Ed Kuhn (Sandy & Don Gleichauf's friend), Andrew Majoros (Michele Mihlack's cousin), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Rudy Matjazic (Judi Pavisich's friend, Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Zachary McKeever (Pastor Heidi and Chuck's great-nephew), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Heather Overman (friend of Judi Pavisich), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Thomas O'Shea (Sandy's dad), Jeff Peacock, Terry Robson (Barb & Mark Camp's friend), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Tina Serrano (Elliott Joyce's grandma), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Vicky Smith (Venner Clarinets), Bruce Unger (Steve & Sally Herzog's friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Weston (Chelsea Cathcart's friend's baby), Tom (friend of Judi Pavisich), The people of Ukraine, victims of violence, those affected by severe weather

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



PHONE A FRIEND!

Are you interested in praying for others, but don't use email? Your Church Family Care Team has a number of folks who are willing to call you, typically once a week, to share with you the prayer requests Pastor Heidi shares via email. Please let Linda Ponstingle know.

ATTENTION CHURCH MEMBERS: NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On September 11, 2022, immediately following the worship service, we will have a special congregational meeting to vote on the purchase and installation of new window blinds in the church building. Please plan to attend this brief meeting and cast your vote. (Non-members are welcome to stay for the meeting, but only official members are entitled to vote.)



THRIFT SHOP



The Thrift Shop is OPEN on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. with a whole new line of fall/winter merchandise. Donations are being accepted, but you must call the church first to arrange a time for drop-off.

COMING SOON...

Mark your calendar for October 9th when our church will celebrate our 205th ANNIVERSARY!

We will recognize our newest 50 year members during worship and enjoy cake and refreshments following the service.

If you would like to help with:

- Setting up
- Centerpieces for the tables
- Providing a finger food/snack item
- Clean-up

Please contact Jennifer Barry at jenbarry425@gmail.com



DO YOU LIKE TO PARTY? ARE YOU A WHIZ AT ORGANIZING EVENTS?

The church is looking to form a committee to oversee our many celebrations. If you're even a little bit intrigued, please indicate your interest on the back of your attendance card and place it in the offering plate.



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, September 13th at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, September 20th at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, September 27th at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2022

Elected January 30, 2022 * = 1 year term
**appointed by the Official Board

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

Sunday School Co-Superintendents
Linda Elkins Serena Abruzzino

Board of Trustees

Myron Costin Diana Creecy Bill Giuliano*
Herb Hampson Dale Hawk Sarah Hayes
Sandy Pogozeleski* Dave Sekorky Ed Sobek*
Rachel Zielinski

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson Linda Stepan Joyce Reed*

Diaconate

Teri Barbish Barbara Camp* Elaine Coffey
Cathy Hawk* Linda Kapcar Bobbie Krisak
Sharon Maresco Linda Ponstingle Cheryl Sobek* 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* Rob Stepan
ex officio: Sharon Heinrich Tom Foley Mike Elkins

Stewardship Committee

Sue Gigliotti* Beth Giuliano* Judi Pavisich
Bill Schneider** Richard Taylor Rob Toth

Mission and Outreach Committee

Judy Carte* Sarah Hayes Bobbie Krisak
Lora Rung* Jennifer Sekorky Peter Smith ** Bev Wehr*

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - PICNIC!



The picnic date has changed to Tuesday, September 13th, at 11:00 a.m. at East River Park in Olmsted Falls. Flyers with additional picnic information are on the cabinet in the Gathering Area where bulletins are distributed. As always, all ladies are welcome!

WF TO INCLUDE ALL LADIES

Women's Fellowship wants to include all interested ladies of the church in its activities, and plans to offer additional day and time options for its programs. If you'd like to participate but cannot attend the current weekday, daytime programs, please complete this form; and you will be contacted with more information.

Name _____

Phone (_____) _____

Email _____

Thank you for your interest in Women's Fellowship.
Please turn in this form to the church office.

IDEAS WANTED!



The Long Range Planning Committee is interested in your ideas on ways to make improvements for our Church. Some feedback already provided includes an extension of our parking lot and a new structure on the Royalton Road lot that could house outdoor gatherings. If you have any ideas, please email them to Sandy Pogozeleski at pogoze5@gmail.com. All ideas will be discussed at the Board of Trustees meeting for feasibility, funding and prioritization. Projects exceeding \$5,000 require approval by our Congregation.
