



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 5, 2021 – 10 A.M.



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 “Simple Gifts” arr. Labenske

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce
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 complete your Attendance Card and place it in the offering plate.

INTROIT “Native American Flute Song” Mehalko

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: What good is it if we say we love all people, but give special treatment to a few?

People: What good is it if we say we want God to show mercy towards us, but are quick to judge others?

Leader: What good is it if we say we trust God in every moment, but live guided by our fears?

ALL: Help us, O God, to speak and act as those who trust God to come and live in our fearful hearts.

† HYMN “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”
(If you wish to sing with us, please have your mask in place.)

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
And show me the way to the Father.

In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to follow Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus.

In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

A READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 146

(New International Version)

Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD, my soul.

I will praise the LORD all my life;

I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save.

When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;

on that very day their plans come to nothing.

Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the LORD their God.

He is the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—
he remains faithful forever.

He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets prisoners free; the LORD gives sight to the blind, the LORD

lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous.

The LORD watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless

and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

The LORD reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the LORD!

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 “Working on the Building” Hoyle

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.myeoffering.com/eonline/index.php/dashboard/login/5027>

OFFERTORY “Heaven and Earth” 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

A READING FROM THE EPISTLES

James 2: 1-10; 14-17

(New International Version)

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

SERMON “When did you?”

† **HYMN 767** “For All the Saints” (vv. 1, 2, 3, & 6)

(If you wish to sing with us, please have your mask in place.)

† BENEDICTION

(John H. Armstrong, Act3)

On this Labor Day weekend and every weekend, may God the Creator of the universe, maker and shaper of all things, bless your labor as well as your rest. May the Son of God, the son of a carpenter, bless all of the work that you do. May the Holy Spirit, ever working for the new creation, bless your service and keep you in God’s purpose, now and forevermore. Go in peace. **Amen.**

† **POSTLUDE** “Fughetta” Rembt

TODAY – SEPTEMBER 5 NEXT SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 12

| | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Linda Plain | Greeters | Serena Abruzzino |
| Barb Fraunfelder | Liturgist | Carol Konet |
| Linda Plain | Ushers | Bobbie Krisak |
| 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 |
| Richard Densmore, Ken Mehalko | Special Music | Chancel Choir, Ken Mehalko |
| Serena Abruzzino | Sunday School | Rally Day! |

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**.

The altar flowers are given—



Remembering September 11, 2001

God Bless America

Ginger Rothel

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy birthday to Stacie Sauter on September 9th and

Happy Birthday today to Eli Sauter

With love, Grammy

In remembrance of all those who perished in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.



A NOTE OF THANKS



Thank you to Richard Densmore and to Ken Mehalko, along with Mike Elkins, Tom Foley, and Sharon Heinrich for their music today!

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Dan and Vicky Masuga and family on the death of Dan’s mom, Pat Masuga, who passed away in hospice on August 29, 2021, surrounded by family.



OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,649.37

Last Week’s Offering Received \$2,097.75

Difference (-\$1,551.62)

Thank you very much for your support.



Become a Member!



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

Pastor Heidi is hosting two information sessions in the Parlor right after the worship services on **September 19th** and **September 26th**. Please let Pastor Heidi or the church office know if you are interested in finding out more about membership in our congregation. (Please note: dual membership is accepted.) New members will be welcomed into our church family on **World Communion Sunday, October 3rd**.

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: Joan Beckwith, Eddy Bond, Mary Carey, Elaine Coffey, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Linda Elliott, Tom Gaumer, Ramona Glaze, Sue Hawk, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Irene Jannsohn, Carole Kapcar, Tony Koussa, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Judy Maur, Reggie McCray, Laurie Meister, Roy Merkle, Michele Mhlack, Lola Millhoane, Gary Paul, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Jamie & Josh Trinckes, 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, 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), 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.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS



- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **September 14th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **September 21st** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

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

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,
September 16, 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!

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

REGULAR MEETING FOR SEPTEMBER OUTDOOR PICNIC

Wednesday, September 8th at 11 AM*
East River Park Pavilion

7878 Lewis Road in Olmsted Falls (restroom near pavilion)

Please bring your own lunch and beverage.

Picnic will be held rain or shine. ***NOTE TIME CHANGE**

If it is raining heavily, we may move to the church parlor;
please watch for texts on your cell phone.

Directions to the picnic are at the church.

As always, all ladies are welcome!

MUSICIANS NEEDED!



Would you like to be a part of the music program? Instrumentalists and vocalists are needed for our various music groups. If you are interested in joining us and sharing your musical talent, please contact **Tom Foley** or **Mike Elkins!**

CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS HAVE RESUMED

THURSDAYS IN THE SANCTUARY, at 8 p.m.

with safety measures in place. We have room in

the choir loft for any singers (Tenors, Altos,

Sopranos, and Basses are welcome!).

BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS are on THURSDAYS at 7p.m.



Strongsville U.C.C. Sunday School presents

RALLY DAY & BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS! SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th

It's time to welcome a new school year of
learning and growing!

**FAMILIES: PLEASE BRING A BACKPACK,
BRIEFCASE, DIAPER BAG, OR ANY BAG
FOR BLESSINGS!**

Students, please report to Pilgrim Hall at 9:45 a.m. and we will
sit with our classes. **We can't wait to see you there!**



FRESH ALTAR FLOWERS RETURNING

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!

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.



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.



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:

- Instead of typing amazon.com into your search bar, type in **smile.amazon.com**.
- Select United Church of Christ Congregational Strongsville by clicking this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-1298100>
- 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!

CHURCH SYSTEMS UPDATE—Leek Pipe Organ Company was out to repair the organ on Thursday, September 2nd. A new phone system is being researched and its purchase is imminent, made possible by gifts to the Memorial Fund. The "antique" router has been replaced and the internet connection has been restored. The Xerox technician has been contacted to fix the communication between the copier/printer and the office computer.



Many, many thanks for all the cards, texts, emails and phone calls wishing me a happy birthday! I'm so very grateful for every one of you as we continue our life journey together. Peace, Pastor Heidi