



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor
Sunday, September 7, 2025– 10 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 always welcome here.

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE “Movement #1 from 5 Novelettes Op.15” Glazinov, arr. Turoso

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

INTROIT “Restless” Assad

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come to worship our God, to listen to the One who calls us here.

People: We come trusting God to lead us in the coming days, holding a faith as sure as our grandparents’.

Leader: We come to worship our God, to shout with joy to the God of all people.

People: We come to the Creator of all things, to be bathed in the waters of life.

Leader: We come to the Feast of God's faithful, to be fed by the One who never forsakes us.

People: We come to worship our God, to sing aloud to the One who saves us.

† 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 1
(New International Version)

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers,
but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
and who meditates on his law day and night.
That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither whatever they do prospers.
Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

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 “Selections from an Irish Suite” Traditional tunes, arr. Hall

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Appalachian Lullaby” Southern Folk Melody, arr. Engebretson

† 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 TORAH Deuteronomy 30:15-20
(New International Version)

“For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.”

REFLECTION “Gift of the Ordinary”

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor: There are many ways we speak of sin: failures, mistakes we made, things we said we would do but didn’t. Scripture tells us that we are stubborn-hearted, wanting only our way. But if we pause to listen to God, if we open our mouths (and our hearts) to confess our sin, God will fill our emptiness with forgiveness and hope. Let us pray together:

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

All: We grow uncomfortable, God, when you notice how we want to choose the seats of honor. We can be so proper, so good, so well-off, that it is easy to imagine we are superior to the poor. We are so busy completing our 'To Do' lists every day, that we forget to do the right thing when given the chance. Forgive us, Welcoming God. Fill our emptiness with your grace and humility, that we might choose to spend our lives alongside Jesus, throwing a party for the poor, the damaged, the prisoner, the lost, the oppressed. (silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear this Good News: knowing what God has done for us, what can anyone or anything do to harm us? We are a new people, graced and forgiven by our loving God.

All: Forgiven, embraced, welcomed by Almighty God, we will offer open hearts and serving hands to everyone we meet.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP “How Beautiful” Paris
Sarah Keenen, 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 654

“Change My Heart, O God”

† BENEDICTION

Nathan Nettleton
God has placed before us all life & death, blessings & curses. Therefore choose life; choose to follow God’s way. Let us go now, and live as people of reconciliation and integrity. May your “yes” be “yes” and your “no” be “no”. And in all the paths you walk may God hold you steady and close. May Christ Jesus bless you and every place you enter. And may the Spirit give you length of days and fullness of life. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

† POSTLUDE “Scherzo from A Midsummer Night’s Dream” Mendelssohn

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 7	NEXT SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 14
Linda Plain	Greeters Mary Ellen Zimmerman
Judi Pavisich	Liturgist Sandy O'Shea
Sharon Heinrich	Head Usher Bill Robinson
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
Venner Clarinets, Sarah Keenen	Special Music Chancel Choir
Linda Elkins	Summer Sunday School RALLY DAY!

Today’s altar flowers are given—

In loving memory of Karen Morgan
Happy Birthday to Gary Zielinski on September 1st!
Rachel, Penny & Oliver



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 Stacie Sauter on September 9th
and Eli Sauter on September 12th!
With love, Grammy

Congratulations to Evan Joyce and Jennifer Olivarez, who were married on Friday, September 4, 2025!

Happy Birthday today to Don Gleichauf!

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 4,359.00
Last Week’s Offering Received \$ 892.00
Difference - (\$3,467.00)

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





A NOTE OF THANKS—We thank the Venner Clarinets (Dick K. Ingersoll, Marc Paige, Caroline Stilwell, and Suzanne Taber), Sarah Keenen, Tom Foley, Sharon Heinrich, and Mike Elkins for their music today.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Thank you to everyone who taught Sunday School during the Summer session!

PENNY SUNDAY--THANK YOU!

We collected \$340.41 for Berea Animal Rescue Friends (Berea ARF). The next Penny Sunday will be September 28th for Sanyuka Children's Ministries.



RALLY DAY IS NEXT SUNDAY! Please be here for a brand new Sunday School year beginning September 14th! We will be holding a Blessing of the Backpacks, Bags, and Briefcases during worship.

RALLY DAY SPECIAL OFFERING

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

BOOK STUDY--SISTERHOOD!

On Monday, September 15th at 7 p.m., Our Sisterhood Book Study will continue. All are welcome!



ATTENTION SINGERS & RINGERS: CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS CONTINUE THIS THURSDAY at 8 P.M. BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS WILL START SEPTEMBER 11th at 7 P.M.

Our Chancel Choir will return to worship on September 14th!

Can you carry a tune? There's room in the choir loft for YOU! Can you read music? Come ring with us in the Bell Choir! Please see Tom Foley or Mike Elkins if you'd like to be a part of our Music Ministry.

OUTDOOR WORK PARTY—THANK YOU!

Many thanks to everyone who gave their time and energy to help improve the area outside the kitchen!



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS



- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, September 9th at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, September 16th at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, September 23rd at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

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., 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 Garipey (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), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel's parents), 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 step-son), Jeff Peacock (former member), The Price Family, Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Jim Schock (Judi Pavisich's friend), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Vicki Smith (Venner Clarinets), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Brad Wilkson (Susan Lerch's friend), 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.

You are invited to come share food and fellowship! Thank you, as always, to our amazing volunteers!



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.

THREE WITH GLEE!

Capital Campaign: We currently have \$63,157.05 for our capital campaign. We will be contracting the vendor for the automatic door openers for the kitchen and main doors. 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.



MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:

The Tunnel to Towers Foundation is a charitable organization that honors the legacy of Stephen Siller, a New York City firefighter who died on 9/11, by supporting America's heroes. The foundation

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 would like to sponsor 2 veterans/first responders a month. The cost is \$11 for 1 and \$22 for both.

Please sign up for a month on the sign-up sheet in Pilgrim Hall. (Checks to UCC)



A NEW BACK-TO-SCHOOL PROJECT

Purchase a \$25 Target, Walmart, or Amazon card to help with the start of a new school year. Teachers in the Strongsville City School District or at Snow School will benefit from your generosity. See Jim Joyce to buy a gift card from the Organ Preservation Fund, which helps the church, too! Gift card ministry runs through September 21st.



SAVE THE DATE!

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! THERE IS 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 and 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.



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...

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



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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.