



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 8, 2024– 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 welcome here.

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE "Allegretto in F Major" Stainer

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Greg Dickson

INTROIT "Variations on Ode to Joy" arr. Zakrzewski

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: When two or three gather, Christ lives in every moment,

People: Where two or three gather, Christ is present with them.

Leader: Where two or three gather to worship God,

People: Glad songs of praise are lifted, hearts are filled with hope.

Leader: When two or three gather to serve God's creation,

People: Christ is feeding the hungry, Christ is building shelters of peace.

† HYMN "Come, Now is the Time to Worship"

Come, now is the time to worship.

Come, now is the time to give your heart.

Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God, Come

One day ev'ry tongue will confess You are God. One day ev'ry knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains for those who gladly choose you now

Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart

Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God, Come

Willingly we choose to surrender our lives, Willingly our knees will bow
With all our hearts, soul, mind, and strength. We gladly choose you now

Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart

Come, just as you are to worship

Come, just as you are before your God, Come...Come...Come, Just as you are...Come.

A READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalms 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 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.

PRAYING IN SILENCE

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

ANTHEM "Invitation to Communion" Govenor

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE—RALLY DAY

Congregational Response: **Loving God, hold us and our prayers.**

Congregational Response (Last time): **We thank you, God, and love you. Amen.**

PRIMARY CLASS

Colette Emerson, teacher

Everett Ashforth Lena Ashforth Ella Hayes Henry Hayes

Alaya Hitchens Lacey Marshall Ember Schneider

INTERMEDIATE CLASS

Linda Elkins, teacher

Mason Bittinger Jack Hayes Autumn Schneider

Oliver Zielinski Penny Zielinski

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Lora Rung, teacher

Riley Marshall Autumn Zoscak Summer Zoscak

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Spirit Song" Wimber

† 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?

SERMON "Faith that Works"

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor: We find it a lot easier to play favorites, rather than treating everyone equally. We find it simpler to classify others as 'them,' instead of discovering what makes them beloved in God's eyes. We cling to fear, when we could grasp hold of God's enduring love. Let us confess together all we have done, and not done, which brings hurt to others, and harm to ourselves. Join me, as we pray together:

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

All: How glibly we say we trust you, Holy One, and how quickly our fears silence our words. We find you at the side of the

poor, while we cozy up to the rich and famous. You stand behind the counter serving the hungry at the soup kitchen, while we are stocking our freezers and pantries till they overflow. We look down at those whose hands are dirty, but your hand of mercy pulls them into your embracing love. Forgive us, O Lord. Surround us with your love; surround us with your grace; surround us with your peace; surround us with the Spirit of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. (silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Be strong, do not fear! God comes, to fill your parched souls with living water, to open your eyes to the grace which is yours.

All: God comes, for no other reason than to save us. This is indeed good news. Thanks be to God. Amen.

A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP Dave Williams, vocalist

"In This Very Room" Harris

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 33 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

† BENEDICTION Katie Cook

When the noised and haste surround you and threaten to take you hostage, may God's gentle voice soothe you and guide you to a place of quiet strength. When the days seem cold and dark, and the nights unbelievably long, may God's smile illumine and warm you from within. When you feel alone and dismal, may God send someone to you with a daisy. May you truly go forth in joy and be led back in peace, and may the seeds of mourning turn into flowers wherever you walk. Amen.

† POSTLUDE "You Are My Sunshine" Davis

SERVING

TODAY—SEPTEMBER 8 **NEXT SUNDAY—SEPTEMBER 15**

Judy & Roger Davis **Greeters** Nancy Garber & Peter Smith

Sandy O'Shea **Liturgist** Pam Keenen

Les & Judy F., Mary Ellen Z., Carole K. **Ushers** Wayne & Bobbi C., Herb H., Diana C..

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

Choir, Dave W., Ken M., Eddy Z. **Special Music** Chancel Choir

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**, click on **Service Videos**.



A NOTE OF THANKS—We welcome back our **Chancel Choir** and extend our thanks to **Eddy Zakrzewski, Dave Williams and Ken Mehalko**, along with **Sharon Heinrich, Mike Elkins, and Tom Foley** for today's music!



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **September 10th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **September 17th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **September 24th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

The altar flowers are given—

To all our wonderful church children—Welcome Back!
Happy Rally Day!--Serena Abruzzino

In honor of Irene Jannsohn
Dianne Maringer



A 2024 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 a few Sundays left!

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthday Stacie Sauter on September 9th and
to Eli Sauter on September 12th!

With love, Grammy

Happy Birthday today to Brittany Fernandez!

Happy Anniversary today to Paul & Kelly Haney!

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.



RALLY DAY IS TODAY!

Envelopes for our special Rally Day collection are in the pews.

Please join us for celebratory cake in Pilgrim Hall following the worship service!

PENNY SUNDAY.



Please save your coins, dollars, and checks (to UCC) for our next Penny Sunday on **September 29, 2024** and will go toward funding the animals (including Charlie the Camel!) for our church's Live Nativity in November. Thanks to everyone who contributed in August. We collected \$330 for Snow School.



ATTENTION SINGERS & RINGERS: CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS ARE ON THURSDAY EVENINGS & BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS RESUME SEPTEMBER 12th.

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. Kids' Choir starts September 15th!

CHILDREN'S CHOIR STARTS SEPTEMBER 15th FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE!



OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.



Long-Term Care or Homebound: Irene Jannsohn, Laurie Meister, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Maggie Struhar

Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Judy Carte, Sam Cuyler Jr., Brandi Garsteck, Sue Hawk, Bruce Keenen, Sarah Keenen, Kay Konicek, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl &

Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Jim Maresco, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Ginny & Kenn Oerkfitz, Gary Paul, Judi Pavisich, George & Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Peter Smith, Linda Stepan, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Yvonne Adams (Judi Pavisich's friend), Dorene Baldrige, Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Barbara Davis (Don & Sandy Gleichauf's friend), John Dickson (Greg's dad), 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), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Barb & Dale Holmberg (Tiffany Hassel's parents), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), 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), Sandy Shipley (the Zielinskis' friend), Vicki Smith (Venner Clarinets), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), The people of Ukraine, Gaza, and Israel, 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

GIFT CARDS

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR PROGRAM. You may place orders by calling **Jim Joyce** at 216-346-4161 in advance. **Limited stock is available for purchase on Sunday mornings.**



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—September

FUN & GAMES!

Tomorrow--Monday, September 9th, 7PM:

Trivia & Game Night

As always, all ladies are welcome!



THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is **OPEN every Thursday 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. **Please do not abandon items outside the church doors.**

THANK YOU TO OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS, AND ALL THE SUPPORT FROM OUR CONGREGATION AND COMMUNITY!



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.



BOOK STUDY--A YEAR OF BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD

Continuing on **September 16th**, Pastor Heidi and Linda Elkins are leading a monthly book study based on Rachel Held Evans's wonderful book, *A*

Year of Biblical Womanhood. The group will meet on the **third Monday of each month at 7 p.m.**, for one hour. It's not too late to join us!

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL-- Wednesdays

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

Thank you to all our faithful volunteers!
Thanks to Westwood Place and Spry Seniors for supplying dessert for our lunch on September 4th!



DO MORE IN 2024! 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.



PAPER RECYCLING—NEW COMPANY!



Our paper recycling bin will now be serviced by Royal Oak Recycling. Please continue to deposit your **FLATTENED** cardboard and your papers in the bin. However, **please do not place papers/cardboard outside the bin if it's full.** Thanks!

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed	\$ 3,617.01
Last Week's Offering Received	\$10,038.00
Difference	+\$ 6,420.99

Thank you very much for your support.
PLEDGES RECEIVED: 51



2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN --M.A.P.L.E.

M- Making and moving
A- Accepting and Acknowledging
P- People
L- Learning and Loving
E- Encompassing



Strongsville United Church of Christ 2024 Estimate of Giving

In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2024:

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.

Signed _____ Date ____/____/____

CHURCH OFFICERS IN 2024

**Elected January 28, 2024 **Appointed by the Official Board*

Moderator: Greg Dickson* **Vice-Moderator:** Jen Barry*

Treasurer: Sally Herzog* **Clerk:** Judy Gaumer*

Sunday School Co-Superintendents

Linda Elkins Mary Densmore

Board of Trustees

Bill Giuliano* Chris Goff Mike Elkins* Les Fox*

Herb Hampson* Cathy Hawk Sarah Hayes* Sandy Pogozeleski*

Cheryl Sobek Dan Winrod Laura Winrod Rachel Zielinski*

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Greg Dickson* Dave Williams*

Diaconate

Teri Barbish* Jean Bittinger Elaine Coffey* Bobbi Cook Wayne Cook

Judy Davis Judy Fox* Carole Kapcar Cherie Teagno*

Barbara White Mary Ellen Zimmerman

Christian Education Committee

Serena Abruzzino Mary Densmore Linda Elkins*

Colette Emerson* 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

Sue Gigliotti* Judi Pavisich Bill Schneider Rob Toth* Mary Willis

Mission and Outreach Committee

Diana Creecy* Sarah Hayes* Lora Rung

Jennifer Sekorky* Peter Smith Bev Wehr* Mary Ellen Zimmerman