



**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 9, 2018 – 10:00 A.M.**  
**Rally Day and Communion Sunday**

**WELCOME!**

We are grateful you chose to worship with us this morning. No matter who you are and where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

For questions about our church and ministries, you may call the church at (440) 238-6697.

Please complete your Attendance Card and place it into the offering plate. We hope to see you again soon!

† *Please stand as you are comfortable.*

**PRELUDE** "Prelude in Classic Style" Young

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Irene Joyce

**INTROIT** "For God So Loved the World" DeCou

**† CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Wherever shattered hearts are made whole, wherever wounded souls are healed!

**People: There, the Risen Christ is with us.**

Leader: Wherever the lonely become our friends, wherever a stranger is welcomed,

**People: There, the Risen Christ is with us.**

Leader: Wherever closed minds are set free, wherever the anxious find peace,

**People: There, the Risen Christ is with us.**

Leader: The Risen Christ is among us,

**People: Here, in this place, at this hour, among God's people.**

**Thanks be to God!**

† **HYMN 225** "Come Christians, Join to Sing"

**SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE** "Hear our Prayer" Foley

**ANTHEM** "Give Me Jesus" Spiritual arr. Harlan

**RALLY DAY INTRODUCTIONS**



**SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS**

Kristen Clotworthy Jamie Trinckes

**PRIMARY CLASS Grades K - 2**

**Linda Elkins, teacher**

Anna Bickley Rowan Garcia Abby Kuzmickas  
Riley Hawk Tilly Sekorky Trevor Kuzmickas

**INTERMEDIATE CLASS Grades 3 - 4**

**Jamie Trinckes, teacher, assisted by Dan Davis**

Russell Bickley Aidan Hurtig McKenzzi Dragony  
Luke Giuliano Christopher Dragony

**MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASS Grades 5 - 7**

**Lora Rung, teacher**

Teddy Bickley Ian Rolland Summer Zoscak  
Christian Scott Gabby Grace Autumn Zoscak  
Oliver Sekorky

**POST-CONFIRMATION Grade 8 & up**

**Irene Joyce, teacher**

Clara Barry Olivia Clotworthy Jordyn Miller  
Ben Clotworthy Bobby Foley Alysha Rolland  
Emma Clotworthy Rachel Kovatich Emit Metivier

**SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS**

Kelly Bickley Kristen Clotworthy Suzi Foley Sue Gigliotti

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TREASURER/FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

Irene Joyce Jim Joyce

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**THE OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY** "The Heavens are Telling" Beethoven

† **DOXOLOGY** **HYMN 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.

† **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**SCRIPTURE READING** John 3: 13-17

**SERMON** Football Season!

**SPECIAL COMMUNION MUSIC** Hymn Medley arr. Heinrich

**THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

**WORDS OF CONFESSION AND RECONCILIATION**

Pastor: Every day, we are offered so many choices; every day, we make the wrong choices. We choose wrong paths that lead to nowhere; we offer empty words instead of a loving touch. Our lives often seem as empty as our words. Together, let us come before God in prayer:

**People: O Holy One, we say that we are good listeners; yet we have grown deaf to the cries of the suffering, all around us. We say we want to live as you lived; yet too often, we choose our own**

selfish desires over the needs of those we love. We claim to be people of faith; yet we don't always back up those words with deeds of love and hope. Lord, give us the ears we need to hear your call to follow; open our eyes to see the road ahead of us. Give us a tender heart, O Lord, to accept the loving grace and forgiveness you offer each one of us. Help us, always, to remember that each day offers each one of us a fresh start to follow, to serve and to love. Amen.

Pastor: Hear these words: Our God comes in justice, not judgment. In the name of Jesus the Christ, your sins are forgiven!

**People: In the name of Jesus the Christ, your sins are forgiven! Thanks be to God.**

**RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP**

*All are welcome to come forward to partake of the Lord's Supper, or the communion servers will come to you if you wish.*

**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 157** "The Love of God" (Verses 1 and 3)

† **BENEDICTION**

† **RESPONSE** "We're So Thankful" Foley

† **POSTLUDE** "Sortie" Marcello

**SERVING**

TODAY – SEPTEMBER 9	NEXT SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 16
Dale Hawk	<b>Liturgist</b> Jim Studer
Lynne McCray	<b>Greeters</b> Dale & Cathy Hawk
Volunteers needed	<b>Ushers</b> Roy Merkle
Jim Joyce/Myron Costin	<b>Coffee Hour</b> Volunteer needed
Sharon Heinrich	<b>Worship Accompanist</b>
Tom Foley	<b>Director of Music</b> Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	<b>Associate Director of Music</b> Mike Elkins

**The altar flowers** are given—

*Happy 12<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Christian! We love you so much!*  
Love, Daisy and her parents

*Happy Birthday to Gary!*  
With love, Ollie, Penny, and Rachel Zielinski

**Our steeple** will light the sky this week—

*Happy Birthday today to Stacie Sauter and to Eli Sauter on September 12! With love, Grammy*

*Thank you to Irene Joyce for 25 years as our Sunday School co-superintendent! With love from the Sunday School*

The Trustees will meet this Tuesday, September 11 at 7 p.m.

**Music Ministry** –Thank you to **Sharon Heinrich** for accompanying the choir and playing they hymns for today’s worship. We joyfully welcome the return of the Chancel Choir under the direction of **Thomas M. Foley** after their summertime hiatus!

Basses: **Bruce Keenen, Rob Toth, Frank Toth\*, Clay Williams, Dave Williams** Tenors: **Gary Hackett, Evan Joyce, Chuck McDougall\*** Altos: **Barb Fraunfelder\*, Sarah Keenen, Irene Jannsohn, Karen Morgan, Sharon Metivier\*** Sopranos: **Ingrid Dickson, Connie Gunn\*, Irene Joyce, Pam Keenen, Sharon Maresco\*, Sandy O’Shea, Sarah Toth** \*New and/or visiting singer

**Happy Anniversary** today to Lloyd and Barbara Bridle in California!



### IT'S RALLY DAY!

The start of a new, exciting school year Our Sunday School superintendents are Kristen Clotworthy and Jamie Trinckes. We will have a special offering to supplement the purchase of curriculum for our Sunday School classes. Envelopes are in the pews. Thank you for caring about the future of our church!

### OUR PRAYER LIST

If you or a family member would like a visit, please call the church at (440) 238-6697. Please provide updates for this list. Thank you.

**Long-Term Care or Homebound:** Betty Bushea at Danbury Senior Living in Brunswick, Janet Kato at Kemper House, Karen Rak at Parkside Villa, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

**Church Family:** Betty Babics, Eddy Bond, Lloyd Bridle, Mindy Carte (daughter of Judy), Gordon Cockrell, Rev. Larry and Christina Craig, Keana Dickson (daughter of Greg and Ingrid), Steve Herzog, Margot James, Bobbie Krisak, Karl Kuhlenschmidt, Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Martha Liebert, Lacey Marshall (daughter of Amanda and John), Laurie Meister, Karen Morgan, Joyce Reed, Linda Stepan, Dave Woodward, Kyle Woodward, the family of Charles Miller.



**Extended Church Family:** Luke Bazan (friend of Judi Pavisich’s granddaughter), Michele Cortese (friend of the Heinrichs), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Joyce Freeman (sister of Carol Woodward), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Karen Greenway and daughters (friends of Judi Pavisich), Sam Harteis (friend of Reeds), Sandra Manos (mother of Eli), Diane Mason (friend of Lora Rung), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Zachary McKeever (great-nephew of Pastor Heidi and Chuck), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Jeff Stimson (friend of Keana Dickson), Frank Toth (father of Rob), Joe Valli (brother-in-law of Vicky and Dan Masuga)

**SEASONED FIREWOOD FOR SALE** to benefit the church. One pick-up truckload **DELIVERED!** Make Offer—Retail value \$75. Please contact the church office if interested. Thanks to Austin Eggert!

### OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,649.31  
Last Week’s Offering Received \$1,978.50  
(Difference -\$ 1,670.81)



**Giving Statements for the first half of the year and September newsletters are in the Gathering Area for pick up for one more week. Please grab yours today and save a stamp--Thank you!**

### MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

Singers, players, and ringers are welcome to join in the fellowship and praise!

-If you can read music (even if you’re rusty), the Bell Choir has a few openings and their rehearsals will begin Thursday, **September 20** at 6:30 p.m.

-There is room in the loft for you, sopranos, altos, tenors, basses! The Chancel Choir practices every Thursday evening at 7 p.m., then moving to 7:30 p.m. on September 20.

-Instrumental musicians are invited to join the SUCC Band. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m.

-Children’s Choir will begin Sunday, **September 16**, immediately following Sunday School classes.



### SEPTEMBER 2018 DATES TO REMEMBER

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <b>9 Sun</b>  | <b>Worship 10am with Communion RALLY DAY</b>  |
| 11 Tue        | Trustees Meeting, 7pm   |
| 12 Wed        | Free Lunch for All, 11:30am to 12:30pm<br>Fit Club, 7pm<br>Adult Social Club Meeting, 7pm                       |
| 13 Thurs      | Thrift Shop CLOSED<br>Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7pm   |
| 14 Fri        | Adult Social Club Dinner & Show   |
| <b>16 Sun</b> | <b>Worship 10am</b><br><b>Children’s Choir Rehearsal</b><br>Adult Social Club to Jilbert Winery                 |
| 18 Tue        | Diaconate Meeting, 7pm  |
| 19 Wed        | Free Lunch for All, 11:30am to 12:30pm<br>Fit Club, 7pm<br>Adult Social Club Meeting, 7pm<br>Band Rehearsal 7pm |
| 20 Thurs      | Thrift Shop CLOSED<br><b>Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm</b><br><b>Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm</b>               |
| <b>23 Sun</b> | <b>Worship 10am</b><br><b>Children’s Choir Rehearsal</b><br><b>Membership Meeting</b>                           |
| 25 Tue        | Official Board Meeting, 7pm   |
| 26 Wed        | Free Lunch for All, 11:30am-12:30pm<br>Fit Club, 7pm<br>Band Rehearsal 7pm                                      |
| 27 Thurs      | Thrift Shop 10am-4pm<br>Men’s Luncheon 11:30am<br>Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm<br>Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm |
| <b>30 Sun</b> | <b>Worship 10am</b><br><b>Children’s Choir Rehearsal 11:15am</b><br><b>Worship Team 11:30pm</b>                 |



### HOW CAN YOU HELP OUT?

Sign-up sheets in Pilgrim Hall are waiting for **your name** to be added as a communion server, greeter, usher, coffee hour helper, or nursery helper! No experience is needed and everyone is welcome to be a part of our church life.



### ADULT SOCIAL CLUB NEXT SCHEDULED EVENTS

**Friday, September 14** – The Platters (Dinner and Show) at Carrie Cerino's  
**Sunday, September 16** – Jilbert Winery & Brewery in Valley City  
Please see Linda Plain to make reservations.

### SAFETY FORCES & FIRST RESPONDERS ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE

*“In support of those who serve”*

Tuesday, September 25, 2018 at 7 p.m.  
St. Joseph Catholic Church  
12700 Pearl Road (Strongsville)



All are welcome to gather in offering prayerful support and appreciation to those who serve our communities. Personnel are invited to wear their uniforms and to bring their families. A light reception will follow.



Thank you to everyone who helped with the **Garage Sale or Bake Sale** yesterday in any way! Whether you donated merchandise, baked something yummy, sorted the treasures, helped set up the room, worked the sale, assisted people hauling their items, bought something special, or cleaned up, your support is appreciated!

Our deepest sympathy is extended to **John** and **Barbara Toth** on the passing of Barbara’s brother, Charles Miller, at the age of 62. He died of a heart attack on September 2, 2018. Charles’ wife is a quadriplegic and he was her caregiver, so please keep this family in your prayers.



**Membership** – For folks who are interested in joining our congregation, Pastor Heidi will be offering a one-session class discussing what it means to belong to the United Church of Christ. We will meet after church on **September 23** in the Parlor for an hour or so. Please let Pastor Heidi or the church office know if you are interested. Church phone number: (440) 238-6697.

### THRIFT SHOP NEWS

Please hold your Thrift Shop donations for 3 weeks while our little store in the basement gets the floor painted and restocks for Fall/Winter with a new selection of merchandise. Thank you!

### MISSION OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Watch your bulletins and the October newsletter for details on a project putting together personal kits for needy veterans.

### TEATIME FOR PEACE

Please join folks from all faith backgrounds for an Interfaith Dialogue on **Wednesday, September 12 at 6:30 p.m.** at **Brecksville United Church of Christ 23 Public Square, Brecksville, 44141**

Teatime for peace is a wonderful opportunity to share God’s love and our humanity during conversation with new friends and neighbors.

