



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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New Members Are Joining

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, July 21, 2024– 10 A.M.

Reception of New Members

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.

BELL PRELUDE "Joyful, Joyful" arr. Jordan
EKCO Ringers

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Joyce Reed

INTROIT "They'll Know We Are Christians" Scholtes

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Before the earth was formed, we were chosen by God to be God's people.

People: God gathers us together to sing of joy and hope, as God's beloved.

Leader: Before the stars glittered in the night sky, we were chosen through Christ to be God's family.

People: Christ gathers us together that we might carol the good news of redemption.

Leader: Before the rivers flowed to the seas, we were chosen by the Spirit to serve and preserve all creation.

People: The Spirit gathers us together that we might dance in the fields of peace with our sisters and brothers.

† HYMN 219 "Surely, the Presence" (sing twice)

A READING FROM THE PSALMS (In unison) Psalm 23
(King James Version)

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;

He leadeth me beside the still waters; He restoreth my soul.

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me;

Thy rod and thy staff—they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me

in the presence of mine enemies;

Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

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.

BELL ANTHEM "The Solid Rock" arr. McChesney
EKCO Ringers

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

INTRODUCTION AND RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

QUESTIONS TO THE CANDIDATES

QUESTIONS TO THE CONGREGATION

Friends, do you profess Jesus as the center and cornerstone of your
faith? **We do.**

Will you be faithful to these new friends as they join this congregation
and begin the next leg of their journey of faith?

**We promise our faithful companionship to these new members of
our family.**

Will you challenge them to strive to become the very best versions of
themselves, upholding them in Christian love and holding them
accountable to the Way of the Christ?

**We will lovingly challenge these new members to strive to become
the very best versions of themselves, guiding them to live into the
faith they profess.**

Will you allow yourself to be challenged and changed, shaped and
transformed by these new members, together seeking God's will for our
lives together?

**With the help of God's Spirit, we will allow ourselves to be
challenged and changed, shaped and transformed, living even
more fully into our called identity as the family of faith, Strongsville
United Church of Christ.**

Let us pray together:

**O God, we give you thanks, first for calling us to believe, then
leading us to join together and gather into this church, the Body of
Christ. We give you thanks for this Family of faith, and rejoice that
you have led these newest members into our midst, adding their
gifts and talents to ours. Together, may we live more fully in the
Spirit, building one another up in Love, sharing in the life and
worship of the church, and serving the world for the sake of the
Kingdom of God. Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart" arr. Hustad

† **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 GOSPELS

Mark 6:30-34; 53-56

(New International Version)

Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not
even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves
to a quiet place and get some rest."

SERMON

"Come away and rest."

† **HYMN 656**

"Take Time to Be Holy"

† **BENEDICTION**


*Now go, to greet stranger and dear friend alike, as beloved children of God.
Share God's steadfast love as we seek to live in faithfulness. Go to share
Christ's compassion with everyone. Work to tear down walls that divide,
and build bridges of hope in their place. Go to live as one in the Spirit,
gathering together with others, building communities that are welcoming to
all, especially those in life's margins, who are most deeply loved by Jesus.
In all things, go in peace. Amen.*

† **BELL POSTLUDE** "Heavenly Sunlight" arr. Donoho
We3Ring

SERVING

TODAY—JULY 21	NEXT SUNDAY—JULY 28
Teri Barbish	Volunteer needed
Mary Ellen Zimmerman	Lynne McCray
Les & Judy F., Bobbie K., Jean B.	Dan & Laura W., Pam & Ralph H.
Tom Foley	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich	Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
EKCO Ringers/We3Ring	Music Team/Sandy O'Shea
Linda Elkins	Games! (Rachel Zielinski)

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 thank our
special guests, **EKCO Ringers (Ed Krzes & Cheryl
Onesky) and We3Ring (Ed Krzes, Cheryl Onesky, &
Nicki Haire), Ken Mehalko, and of course, Mike Elkins, Tom
Foley, and Sharon Heinrich** for today's music!

NEXT SUNDAY!

**OUTDOOR WORSHIP AND CHURCH
PICNIC SUNDAY, JULY 28th**



On our church grounds following outdoor
worship. Please bring a lawn chair, and a
salad, side dish, or dessert—the main

dish and beverages will be provided. Sign up with your side
dish, salad, or dessert on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall.

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.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

We are so happy to welcome these new members into our church family! Please join us for cake following the worship service to meet them!



Nancy Garber grew up in the Methodist tradition has been attending our church regularly for a number of months and felt moved to join our congregation. She has a grown son and six grandchildren. She is being sponsored by her neighbor here in Strongsville, **Peter Smith**.

Sally Harper lives in Berea when not a resident of Fort Pierce, Florida during the winter months. She is a retired librarian, who has a grown son and daughter. Sally came to know Pastor Heidi while at University Circle United Methodist Church in Cleveland and is now joining our congregation. Her sponsor is **Mary Ellen Zimmerman**.



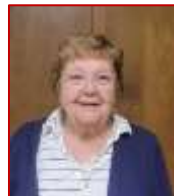
Jo-Ann & Tony Hoty were looking for a church home after moving back to Ohio from sweltering North Carolina. They came upon our church and decided that they belong with us. The Hotys, retired educators, models, and business people, are well-traveled and have three grown sons and 7 grandchildren. **Elaine Coffey** was one of the first people they met when visiting and she is their sponsor.

Sarah Hwang is a licensed pharmacist and started attending our church late last year. She worships with us regularly and even attended her first Church Retreat at Temple Hills with us earlier this year. She started attending our church after moving to North Ridgeville from Toledo. Sarah is sponsored by **Jennifer Barry**.



Rev. Erv Koch, a retired UCC minister, is reinstating his membership in Strongsville UCC via a transfer from Dover Congregational United Church of Christ in Westlake. He and his late wife, Grace, were members here for a number of years prior to attending Middleburg Heights UCC. Erv recently returned to Strongsville and to our church. Erv's sponsor is **Judi Pavisich**.

Jane Linscott is a Strongsville resident and the mother of a grown daughter and son. She was raised in the United Church of Christ in Indiana and has found a church home here. She loves to knit and enjoys worshipping with us. **Diana Creecy** is her sponsor.



Alex Tomoff transferred his membership from the Church of the Redeemer in Westlake in April of 2024 and has been faithfully attending worship services here ever since. Alex and his wife, Karen, are Strongsville residents and are the parents of two grown children. **Dale Hawk** is sponsoring Alex.

The altar flowers are given—
Happiest Birthday to my beautiful diva, Kenzzi!
Serena Abruzzino
Welcome to our church family, new members!



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 to Frankie McKane on July 24th!
With love, Grammy

Happy Birthday today to Matt Miller!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Summer Sunday School continues! We are still looking for folks to teach a summer Sunday with our children. All lessons and materials will be provided in advance.

Start thinking about which Sunday you're available for this special ministry! A sign-up sheet is posted in Pilgrim Hall.

PENNY SUNDAY--THANK YOU!

Please save your coins, dollars, and checks (to UCC) for our next Penny Sunday on **August 25, 2024**.



MISSION OUTREACH NEWS: DEODORANT DRIVE!

Mission Outreach will be collecting **OLD SPICE** and **DOVE** deodorant for **Snow School in Berea**. The students who attend that school are in foster care, transitional care, or wards of the county



and while Ohio Guidestone provides hospital grade deodorant, having a name brand product makes a big difference to these young people. (These brands are the ones recommended by the school.)



FREE LUNCH FOR ALL-- Wednesdays

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

Thank you to all our faithful volunteers!

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.



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY BAND:

Come to our concert on **Friday, August 2nd (Rotary Cookout at the Ehrnfeltd Center) at 7:30 p.m.** and grab your lawn chair for our concert on **Friday, August 9th at 7:30 p.m.** on the Strongsville Middle School lawn (In case of rain, outdoor concerts will be at the Ehrnfeltd Center.)

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

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



Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Judy Carte, Jennifer Cockrell, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sue Hawk, Irene Jannsohn, Jim Joyce, Bruce Keenen, Sarah Keenen, Kay Konicek, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Jim Maresco, Jan Meier, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkfitz, Gary Paul, George & Joyce Reed, Dorothy Ritchie, Peter Smith, Linda Stepan, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Mary Ellen Zimmerman

Extended Church Family: Edward and Sharon Acton (Sally Herzog's friends), 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), Keana Dickson (Greg & Ingrid's daughter), Allison Emerson (Colette's sister), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Joanne Gariepy (Sally Herzog's friend), Kathy Ghetti (friend of Ginger Rothel), 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), 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

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed	\$ 3,617.01
Last Week's Offering Received	\$ 3,017.00
Difference	-\$ 600.01

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



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 being accepted during those hours, but please try to limit your donations to what you can carry downstairs.



BOOK STUDY--A YEAR OF BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD

Continuing next month, **August 19th**, 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!



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

The Official Board will meet via email this month.

TREASURERS—Please turn in your books for Mid-Year Audit.

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 Pogozelski*
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 Susann Lerch* 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



TELLERS NEEDED!

If you have less than 30 minutes to spare after worship periodically, we are in need of tellers. No experience is necessary. Please see Gary Zielinski or Rachel Zielinski if you can help.

RIVER VALLEY PAPER RECYCLING—ON BORROWED TIME

River Valley Paper company is reducing its routes and will be removing our paper/cardboard recycling bin at some point. We will be contacting other companies to see about getting another bin. You may bring your cardboard and paper as long as the bin is in our parking lot, but an alternative site will be needed in the future. Thank you to everyone who has supported this program.



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.

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 ____/____/____