



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, June 16, 2024– 10 A.M.

Father's Day

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 "Come, Now is the Time to Worship" Doerkson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Joyce Reed

INTROIT "Sanctuary" Thompson/Scruggs

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: All around us, God is looking for folks who will join in serving others.

People: It is as if God is planting seeds of compassion in us, watching for them to bloom in our lives.

Leader: In our midst, Jesus is walking among us, tending our hearts, watering us with grace.

People: It is as if Jesus is trusting that our souls will grow big enough to welcome everyone.

Leader: From morning to evening, the Spirit is at work, gently tending this garden called life.

People: It is as if the Spirit has found the perfect spots to bring forth crops of justice and peace.

† **HYMN 191** "Father, I Adore You"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS **Psalm 20**

(New International Version)

May the Lord answer you when you are in distress;

May the name of the God of Jacob protect you.

May God send you help from the sanctuary
and grant you support from Zion.

May God remember all your sacrifices and accept your burnt offerings.

May God give you the desire of your heart
and make all your plans succeed.

May we shout for joy over your victory
and lift up our banners in the name of our God.

May the Lord grant all your requests.

Now this I know: The Lord gives victory to his anointed.

God answers him from the heavenly sanctuary
with the victorious power of his right hand.

Some trust in chariots and some in horses,
but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.

They are brought to their knees and fall, but we rise up and stand firm.

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.

ANTHEM "Open the Eyes of My Heart" Baloché

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "This is My Father's World" Traditional English Melody

† **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 4:26-34**

(The Message)

"How can we picture God's kingdom? What kind of story can we use?"

SERMON "The Kin-dom of God is like. . ."

† **HYMN 444** "I Love to Tell the Story"

† **BENEDICTION**

Now may the Lord God plant seeds of love in our lives that will grow through the years, nourished by the love of family and friends, watered by the tears of pain and sacrifice that come our way. May Jesus show us a way of living and learning and growing together, nurturing one another in faith. May the Holy Spirit guide us as we to follow the Way of the Christ. In all things, may our lives bring glory to God. Amen.

† **POSTLUDE** "Hymn of Promise" Sleeth, arr. Ferguson

SERVING

TODAY—JUNE 16 **NEXT SUNDAY—JUNE 23**

Greta Rich & Doug Turnbull **Greeters** Lynne McCray

Herb Hampson **Liturgist** Lynne McCray

Tom G., Karen B., Elaine C., Jean B. **Ushers** Dan & Laura W., Bobbi & Wayne 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

Karen Bates, Roger Davis, Ken Wills **Special Music** The Venner Clarinets

Irene Joyce **Summer Sunday School** Colette Emerson

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 **Karen Bates, Roger Davis, Ken Wills**, and of course, **Tom Foley, Sharon Heinrich**, and **Mike Elkins** for their music today!



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.

The altar flowers are given—

In memory of Gigi on for her 100th birthday, June 11th
The Zielinski Family



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 on June 15th to Sarah Hayes & Brandi Garsteck!
In celebration of Linda & Rob Stepan's Anniversary on June 15th!

Happy Birthday today to Adria Bond and Jack Wood!



IT'S HAPPENING!
CHURCH GARAGE SALE

FRIDAY, JULY 12th
from 6 P.M. – 8 P.M. AND
SATURDAY, JULY 13th
from 9 A.M. – 2 P.M.

Donations will be accepted starting June 16th through July 11th. We accept household items, home décor, sporting equipment, craft supplies, books, games, toys, small electronics, furniture, kitchenware and dishes, plus clothing & shoes (for the Thrift Shop) **We DO NOT accept liquids of any kind, hazardous materials, or large televisions.**

Please keep in mind: "If you wouldn't buy an item in the condition it's in, please don't foist it on the church." Also, please plan to carry your items yourself or bring a helper (or two). Thanks!

We'll need lots of volunteers, too—

On the days of the sale and every evening the week before, beginning around 6 p.m. and sorting until about 9 p.m.

Please see Rachel Zielinski or Irene Joyce if you can give a couple of hours of your time to help sort donations either day or evening from July 7 - 12 (or just show up)!

WE ALSO NEED LARGE SHOPPING BAGS! (Marc's Bags) If you can spare some, please bring them to the church office anytime.



BAKE SALE TO BENEFIT THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

At the Garage Sale

Please bring your wrapped/bagged baked goods on Friday, July 12th before 6 p.m. or Saturday, July 13th before 9 a.m.



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

Please save your coins, dollars, and checks (to UCC) for our next Penny Sunday to benefit St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral in Cleveland, which was severely damaged by fire in May. Please save your coins, dollars, and checks (to UCC) for our next Penny Sunday on **June 30, 2024**



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, Kay Konicek, Bobbie & Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Jim Maresco, Reggie McCray, Roy Merkle, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkfritz, Gary Paul, George & Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ember Schneider, Peter Smith, Linda Stepan, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Edward and Sharon Acton (Sally Herzog's friends), 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 Garipey (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 \$ 3,520.00
Difference -(\$ 97.01)



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



FREE LUNCH FOR ALL--

Wednesdays

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

Thank you to all our faithful volunteers!

GOOD NEWS! Our Free Lunch Program received a Faith in Action Grant of \$1,549.31 from the UCC Living Water Association. Thanks to Pastor Heidi for writing and applying for this grant and to all of our wonderful volunteers who make the lunch happen every week!

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Are you interested in joining our congregation? Pastor Heidi will be offering a membership class following worship on **July 7th** and **14th**, and receiving new members into our church family on **July 21st**. Please contact her or write "new member" on the back of your attendance card if you would like to become a member of the Strongsville UCC.



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. **MANY THANKS, AS ALWAYS, TO OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS!**

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.)



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.

BOOK STUDY--A YEAR OF BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD

Continuing tomorrow, **June 17th**, 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!



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.



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS



- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **June 18th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor
- The Official Board will meet via email this month.

TELLERS NEEDED! If you have time to spare after worship periodically, we are in need of tellers. No experience is necessary. Please see Gary or Rachel Zielinski if you can help.



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY BAND:

Grab your lawn chair and come to our free concert on **Friday, June 28th at 7:30 p.m.** on the Strongsville Middle School lawn (In case of rain, outdoor concerts will be at the Ehrnfeltd Center).

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

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 ____/____/____