**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, June 2, 2024– 10 A.M.**

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

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**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.**

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**†** *Please stand as you are comfortable.*

**PRELUDE**  "Prelude and Fugue in A Minor"    Bach

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**  Greg Dickson

**INTROIT** “Sanctuary” Thompson/Scruggs

**† CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: From north and south, from east and west, we come:
**People: God's people called to the Table** **where simple grace nourishes us.**
Leader: From down the street to across town, from single households to apartment dwellers:
**People: God's people are called to community,** **where we live and serve one another.**
Leader: From every class, every race, every status; from little ones with sippy cups to elders with overflowing hearts:
**People: God's people are called to witness to God's hope,** **to offer peace to a shattered world.**

**†** **HYMN 713 “Seek Ye First”**

**A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 139:1-6; 13-18**

(New International Version)

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.
You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.
You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.
Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely.
You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.
I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

Your works are wonderful. I know that full well.

My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place,
    when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes saw my unformed body;

all the days ordained for me were written in your book

before one of them came to be.
How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them!
Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand—

when I awake, I am still with you.

**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** "The Lord Desires these Things” Larson

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** “Lamb of God” Paris

**†** **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 2:23-3:6**

 (The Message)

Then Jesus spoke to the people: “What kind of action suits the Sabbath best? Doing good or doing evil? Helping people or leaving them helpless?” No one said a word.

**SERMON** “Simple Compassion”

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

Pastor: Called to be God's people, we know how often we act as spoiled and petulant children. Yet, like a mother, God looks past our mistakes to see our hearts. Like a father, God lifts us to our feet to put us back on the path to life. Let us bring our prayers to the One who listens, and then forgives us with unceasing grace.

**UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS
 People: In the mystery of creation, Imaginative God, you shaped beauty and goodness, yet we damage it by our selfishness and anger. In the mystery of life, Child of Hope, you became one of us, yet all too often we turn our back on you. In the mystery of peace, Breath of Life, you would gentle our natures, yet we cling tenaciously to our bitterness and hurt. In the mystery of grace, Holy God, you forgive us our sins, that we might embrace others. In the mystery of mercy, you touch our lips, that we might speak gently to others. In the mystery of hope, you claim us as family, sisters and brothers of the One who brought new life for all, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.** (*silent prayer*)

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Pastor: Here, in this moment and in this place, the Spirit of gentleness moves in our midst.  Mercy, hope and joy are the gifts of God to each and every one of us.
**People: No longer lost, we have found our way home, surrounded by God's peace, by God's grace, by God's love. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

**A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP**  “Restless” Assad/Maher

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 589 “Here I Am, Lord”**

**† BENEDICTION**

Now friends, go from this place knowing that the God who made you also sustains you. The God who calls you also goes with you. The God who loved you before you were born still loves you today, and into all the tomorrows. **Amen**.

**† POSTLUDE** “Wade in the Water” Traditional

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***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***.*

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**SERVING**

**TODAY – JUNE 2 NEXT SUNDAY – JUNE 9**

Linda Plain **Greeters** Judi Pavisich

Linda Ponstingle **Liturgist** Tom Gaumer

Elaine C., Ralph & Pam H., Roz. F. **Ushers** Judi P., Bill S., Carole K.., Bobbie K.

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

Chancel Choir, Sarah Keenen **Special Music** Chancel Choir

Cathy Hawk **Summer Sunday School** Haley Strnad

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**A NOTE OF THANKS—**We thankour **Chancel Choir, Sarah Keenen, Ken Mehalko, Tom Foley, Sharon Heinrich,** and **Mike Elkins** for today’s music!

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**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.**

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**The altar flowers** are given—

*May God continue to bless our Church!*

Susann Lerch

**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 Anniversary to Patti & Nate Johnson on June 3rd!*

With love, Mom

*Congratulations to my granddaughter, Violet Fraunfelder, on her graduation from Cleveland School of the Arts on June 4th!*

With love, Grandma Barb Fraunfelder & Dennis Smith

**Happy Birthday today to Kim Beckwith!**

**GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY**

Next Sunday, **June 9th**, we will celebrate our graduates within our church family! Of course, we will have cake following our worship service!

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**SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

 **Summer Sunday School starts TODAY!** 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!**

Thanks to everyone who donated in May. We collected $369.60 for UCC Disaster Ministries, which qualifies for a $250 matching grant. Please save your coins, dollars, and checks (to UCC) for our next Penny Sunday on **June 30, 2024.**

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**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.**

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**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 Oerkfitz, 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 Baldridge, Ron & Yvonne Adams (Judi Pavisich’s friends), 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), Anne Holland, Diane Mason (Lora Rung’s friend), Rudy Matjazic (Judi Pavisich’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), Tom (friend of Judi Pavisich), Don Wills (friend of Judi Pavisich), 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**

**WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP—JUNE** Daytime program on **Wednesday, June 5th at 1:00 p.m**. is Gardening Tips with Sharon Heinrich.

Evening program on **Monday,** **June 3rd at 7:00 p.m.** is Share a Recipe” and bring samples!  As always, all ladies are welcome to either or both programs.

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**OFFERINGS RECEIVED**

Weekly Offering Needed $ 3,617.01

Last Week’s Offering Received $ 2,822.50

Difference -($ 794.51)

***Thank you very much for your support.***

***PLEDGES RECEIVED: 51***

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**UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS**

* The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **June 11th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
* 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.

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**FREE LUNCH FOR ALL--Wednesdays**

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

**Thank you to all our faithful volunteers!**

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**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!**

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**NO MORE RIVER VALLEY PAPER RECYCLING**

River Valley Paper company is reducing its routes and has removed our paper/cardboard recycling bin. We will be contacting other companies to see about getting another bin. In the meantime, please bring your cardboard and paper elsewhere. Thank you to everyone who has supported this program.

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**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.

**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.

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**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.

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**BOOK STUDY--A YEAR OF BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD**

****Continuing next month, **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!

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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.

**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 \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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**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