



**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

(Congregational)

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**Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor**

**Sunday, May 12, 2024– 10 A.M.**



**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, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" Wyeth, arr. Whitworth

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Bill Schneider

**INTROIT** "Moms are a Gift from God" Foley

**† CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: From comfortable pews, from tricycle seats, from easy chairs in front of TVs:

**People: God gathers us in, giving us the words with which to proclaim the gospel.**

Leader: At kitchen sinks, at laptops and blackboards, at nursing stations:

**People: Christ calls us to share in serving all creation.**

Leader: In communities gathered to pray, in memories of those who served, in families grilling in the backyard:

**People: The Holy Spirit fills us with God's joy.**

† HYMN 384 "Spirit Song"

**A READING FROM THE PSALMS** Psalm 1 (New International Version)

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.

That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season

and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers. Not so the wicked!

They are like chaff that the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

**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** "Praise to the Lord" Young

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** "Day by Day" Schwartz

† **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** Matthew 1: 1-17 (New International Version)

This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham.

**SERMON** "Family Tree"

† **HYMN 63** "All Creatures of our God and King"

† **BENEDICTION** Psalm 23 Pastor Ed Heilman  
*God is my mother. She gives me everything I need. She makes me take a nap after a good meal and good things to drink. She picks me up when I fall. She teaches me and guides me to live right. When she is with me, I am not afraid even of death. She is powerful. She clears a path for me. She cleans me up and blesses me abundantly. Her eyes of goodness and mercy are on me everywhere. And I will live in her house forever. Amen.*

† **POSTLUDE** "Put Your Hand in the Hand" MacLellan

**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](http://strongsvilleucc.com), select **Worship**, and click on **Service Videos**.

<b>SERVING</b>		
<b>TODAY – MAY 12</b>		<b>NEXT SUNDAY – MAY 19</b>
Judi Pavisich	<b>Greeters</b>	Susann Lerch
Dave Williams	<b>Liturgist</b>	Dan Winrod
Jean Bittinger, Judi Pavisich	<b>Ushers</b>	Volunteers needed
Tom Foley	<b>Director of Music</b>	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	<b>Associate Director of Music</b>	Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	<b>Organist</b>	Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich	<b>Video/Sound</b>	Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Children's Choir, Choir	<b>Special Music</b>	Bell Choir



**A NOTE OF THANKS**—We thank our **Children's Choir, Chancel Choir, Ken Mehalko**, and of course, **Tom Foley, Sharon Heinrich and Mike Elkins** for today's music!

The altar flowers are given—



*Birthday wishes to my mom, Dorothy Ritchie, —90 years young! Gina Cathcart*

*In loving memory of my husband, George, on our 34<sup>th</sup> Anniversary today, May 12<sup>th</sup>.--Judi Pavisich*

**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.

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

*Happy Birthday to Dan Rapp on May 15<sup>th</sup>!*

*In honor and appreciation of Cathy Hawk on her Birthday May 17<sup>th</sup>!--With love, Grammy*



**Happy Birthday today to Sarah Toth!**



**SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

**Summer is just around the corner!** We will be looking for folks to commit to teaching a single 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.



Today, we appreciate all ladies in the church with a carnation from the Sunday School!

**PENNY SUNDAY COMING SOON!**

Start saving those coins, dollars, and checks! The next Penny Sunday will be **May 26<sup>th</sup>**.



**MAY IS STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH MONTH!**



The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. The Heartland Conference and the National setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations.

Your generosity to Strengthen the Church (STC) provides the funds that allow The Heartland Conference to Support the development our Ministry Networks and support our General Synod Delegates.

In the National setting funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ. Envelopes are in the pews.

**BABY CONGRATULATIONS!**

Welcome to the world, **Isaac Wade Ashforth**, who was born to **Nicole and Tiffany Ashforth** on May 9, 2024! Big brother **Everett** and big sister **Lena**, along with grandmother **Denise Ashforth** are excited to meet the new addition to the family!



**IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY**

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family and friends of **Dr. Derrick Lonsdale**, who was a member of our church along with his late wife, Adele. Dr. Lonsdale died on May 2, 2024 at the age of 100. A memorial service was held at our church on May 10<sup>th</sup>, with Rev. John King participating in the service.



### 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, Autumn Schneider, Peter Smith, Linda Stepan, Sharon Wilson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

**Extended Church Family:** Edward and Sharon Acton (Sally Herzog's friends), Dorene Baldrige, 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), Ed Fabian (the Bagley's Grill girls' friend), 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), 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](mailto:h.e.denman@gmail.com)**

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

Continuing on **May 20<sup>th</sup>**, 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!



### 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.

### OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 3,617.01  
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 5,631.00  
Difference +\$2,013.99



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

### UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **May 14<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **May 21<sup>st</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Sunday of the month, **May 28<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



### MISSION OUTREACH NEWS—LAST CHANCE FOR LAURA'S HOME COLLECTION TODAY!

In honor of **Mother's Day**, Mission Outreach will be collecting items for **Laura's Home in the West Park Neighborhood of Cleveland. Laura's Home is a complex with "166 beds and 55 rooms, offering specialized, wraparound services designed to empower families and individuals to live healthy lives."**

We will be collecting the following items from **April 14<sup>th</sup>** through **May 12<sup>th</sup>**. The collection bin will be in the Gathering Area of the church. **All items must be new and unopened.**

- Full size body wash
- Full size deodorant (Old Spice or Dove)
- Full size lotion
- Feminine hygiene products
- Twin sized sheets
- Twin sized blankets
- Diapers size 4, 5, 6
- Pull up diapers size 4, 5, 6
- Unexpired baby food and formula



### FROM OUR FRIENDS AT STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY BAND:

Come to our free concert next **Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>** at 3 p.m. at the Strongsville Middle School—featuring Cindy Smith on vocals!



### FREE LUNCH FOR ALL-- Wednesdays

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

Thank you to all our faithful volunteers!

### 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!**



**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.



### ANOTHER PROJECT COMPLETED!

The front steps of the church, the walkway to the Pearl Road property, the front steps of the Pearl Road house, and the steps and sidewalk to the Thrift Shop entrance were repaired this past week. Thanks to Judy Gaumer for taking point on this project.

### GRADUATES

Our church would like to recognize our graduates, so please let us know if someone is graduating within your family. Send the following information and a **PHOTO** of your high school, college, or tech graduate.

Name of graduate: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduate's address: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Date (month at least): \_\_\_\_\_

Church Family member: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to church member: \_\_\_\_\_

Activities: \_\_\_\_\_

Honors and Awards: \_\_\_\_\_

Diploma / Degree Earned: \_\_\_\_\_

Future Plans: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents/Grandparents: \_\_\_\_\_

Please email the above information, **along with a photo of the graduate**, to the church office at [strongsvilleucc@gmail.com](mailto:strongsvilleucc@gmail.com) by **Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>**.



### DIACONATE "WING" NIGHT

Thank you to everyone who supported our Diaconate fundraiser last week—we will have an update on our totals coming soon!

**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 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 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



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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.