



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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StrongsvilleUCC.com



Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, May 26, 2024– 10 A.M.

Trinity Sunday

Penny Sunday

Memorial 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 "God of our Fathers, Whose Almighty Hand" Warren

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

INTROIT "Song of Peace" Donnelly, arr. Strid

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God, who flung the stars into the night sky, rejoices over all creation, especially us!

People: Come to us, Laughing God, and gladden our hearts with your goodness and grace.

Leader: Christ, the Word of joy and life, fills all creation with hope, especially us!

People: Come to us, Brother and Savior, and reclaim our hearts as your own.

Leader: The Spirit, who breathes life into emptiness, gives all creation the gift of peace, especially us!

People: Come to us, Spirit of Gentleness, and refresh us with the dew of delight.

† HYMN 3 "Holy, Holy, Holy"

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 29 (New International Version)

Ascribe to the Lord, you heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders,
the Lord thunders over the mighty waters.

The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is majestic.
The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;

the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.

He makes Lebanon leap like a calf, Sirion like a young wild ox.

The voice of the Lord strikes with flashes of lightning.

The voice of the Lord shakes the desert;
the Lord shakes the Desert of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord twists the oaks and strips the forests bare.

And in his temple all cry, "Glory!"

The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;

The Lord is enthroned as King forever.

The Lord gives strength to his people;

The Lord blesses his people with peace.

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 "This is My Song" Sibelius, arr. Larson

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" Dykes

† 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 John 3: 1-17 (New International Version)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

SERMON "God so loves"

† HYMN 799 "America the Beautiful"

† BENEDICTION

May the Lord, who has named you, bless you, reminding you who you are: a beloved child of God. May Jesus, who walks alongside, bless us, calling us from fear to peace. May the Spirit, who energizes, bless us, opening us to possibilities of faith, hope, and love. Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

† POSTLUDE "Semper Fidelis" Sousa

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**.

SERVING	
TODAY – MAY 26	NEXT SUNDAY – JUNE 2
Judi Pavisich	Greeters Linda Plain
Cherie Teagno	Liturgist Linda Ponstingle
Barbara W., Diana C., Les & Judy F.	Ushers Elaine C., Ralph & Pam H., Roz. F.
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, Jim Heinrich	Special Music Ken Mehalko, Chancel Choir



A NOTE OF THANKS—We thank our Chancel Choir, Tom Foley, Sharon Heinrich, Jim Heinrich, and Mike Elkins for today's music!



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—

Remembering our dad, Roger H. Robinson on his 113th birthday today! Love and miss ya, Dad!

Becky and Bill Robinson

In honor of those who served and gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom



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 Sandra Wentz on May 28th!

With love, Grammy

Happy Anniversary today to Austin & Michele Eggert!



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Summer Sunday School starts next week! 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.

PENNY SUNDAY TODAY!

Please donate those coins, dollars, and checks (to UCC)! Money will go to UCC Disaster Relief, which has been greatly impacted by a great influx of need. If we collect \$250, we can receive a matching grant and double our contribution! The next Penny Sunday will be June 30th.



STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH—LAST CHANCE



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.



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.

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!



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), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Joanne Gariepy (Sally Herzog's friend), Kathy Ghatti (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

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY



Love and prayers are extended to **Bill Robinson, Becky Robinson**, and their brother, **David** and family on the death of their uncle, **William G. Clements**, on May 16, 2024 at the age of 97. A service was held at Baker, Osinski, Kensinger Funeral Home on May 22nd, officiated by Pastor Heidi.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$ 3,617.01
Last Week's Offering Received \$ 1,596.00
Difference -(\$2,021.01)



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

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Sunday of the month, **May 28th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



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!

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.



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 ____/____/____



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.

GRADUATES--LAST CHANCE!

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. **RECOGNITION SUNDAY WILL BE JUNE 9th.**

Name of graduate (include middle name): _____

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 by **Sunday, May 26th.**



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