

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (CONGREGATIONAL)**

13740 Pearl Road, Strongsville, Ohio 44136

Rev. Rebecca Stephenson, Pastor Church (440) 238-6697  
Website strongsvilleucc.com Email strongsvilleucc@gmail.com

**December 27, 2015 9:45 A.M. First Sunday after Christmas**

† *Those who are able may stand.*

**PRELUDE** *O Holy Night* Adolphe Adams

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**INTROIT** *Surely the Presence of the Lord Is in This Place*

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: When Jesus is born to Mary and Joseph,

**People: God is there.**

Leader: When Jesus is presented at the temple,

**People: God is there.**

Leader: When Simeon holds Jesus in his arms,

**People: God is there.**

Leader: When Anna recognizes Jesus in the temple,

**People: God is there.**

Leader: This very morning,

**People: God is here.**

Leader: In the future we cannot see,

**People: God is there.**

**All: Let us worship God!**

† **HYMN 435** *God of Grace and God of Glory*

**SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**OUR 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.**

**RESPONSE** *Hear Our Prayer, O Lord*

**VOCAL DUET** *Gesu Bambino* Yon, arr. Spevacek

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** Mrs. Irene Joyce

**THE OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

\* **DOXOLOGY** (No. 815) *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

\* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

† **HYMN 589** *Here I Am, Lord*

**SCRIPTURES** 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Hebrew Scriptures, p. 228  
Luke 2:41-52 New Testament, p. 6

**SERMON** *Teaching Tolerance When Others Teach Hate*  
Rev. Mendle Adams

† **HYMN 597** *Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated*

† **BENEDICTION**

† **RESPONSE** *God Be with You Till We Meet Again*

† **POSTLUDE**

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**Welcome, visitors!** We are so glad you have chosen to worship with us this morning. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

**We thank Rev. Mendle Adams and his wife Charlene** for being with us today since Pastor Becky and Jack are away. In addition, **we thank Irene Joyce** for providing the Children's Message.

**We welcome guest vocalists, Pam Nolan and Bill Davidson**, who are members of Emmanuel UCC in Valley City and friends of Sharon Heinrich. Pam is the choir director at Emmanuel, and Bill sings bass in the choir. We thank them for their special music this morning, while our choir, choir director, and worship accompanist are on Christmas break.

*Guest Minister*

*Liturgist*

*Technical Setup and Operation*

*Sound System*

*Substitute Worship Accompanist*

*Greeters*

*Usher*

*Coffee Hour*

*Rev. Mendle Adams*

*Kenn Oerkfitz*

*Doug Thorn*

*Jim Heinrich*

*Sharon Heinrich*

*Lola Millhoane and Roy Merkle*

*Roy Merkle*

*Tom Gaumer*



## January 2015

- 3 Sun Communion at both worship services
- 5 Tue Mission and Outreach Committee, 7pm
- 6 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm
- 12 Tue Diaconate Meeting, 7pm  
Worship Team Meeting, 7:30pm
- 13 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm
- 14 Thu New Journey in Faith Class Begins, 7-9pm
- 15 Fri February Church Newsletter Deadline
- 19 Tue Advertising Team Meeting, 7pm  
Trustees Meeting, 7pm
- 20 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm
- 21 Thu Journey in Faith Class, 7-9pm
- 24 Sun Kindred Spirit Singles arrive 1pm, meet at 2pm
- 26 Tue Official Board Meeting, 7pm
- 27 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm  
Men's Luncheon at European's Best Restaurant, 11:30am
- 28 Thu Journey in Faith Class, 7-9pm
- 31 Sun 1 Service ONLY at 9:45am  
KFC Penny Sunday  
Newsletter Pickup  
Annual Meeting at about 11:45am, preceded by the traditional  
Pancake Brunch

**The new charts for 2016** for Greeters, Ushers, and Altar Flowers are on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Please consider helping in these areas if you are able. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

### SERVING NEXT SUNDAY – JANUARY 3, 2015

Liturgists	9:45 Kelly Bickley	11:15 Dale Hawk
Greeter		Needed
Morning Announcements		Kim McKenzie
Coffee Hour		Bev Wehr

## ANNOUNCEMENTS – DECEMBER 27, 2015

**Welcome, visitors!** We are so glad you are with us this morning. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

**All are invited to enjoy coffee and baked goods** in Pilgrim Hall after 9:45 worship today.

**Wednesday Free Lunch** – All are welcome to this free lunch, which is served every Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall.

**The Thrift Shop** will be closed on Thursday, December 31, but will reopen on Thursday, January 7. The shop is open from 10:00 to 4:00.

**2016 All-Family Winter Retreat at Pilgrim Hills** – Mark your calendars now and sign up TODAY for the Annual All-Family Winter Retreat at Pilgrim Hills. The Retreat will take place on 2016 President's Day weekend: February 12, 13 and 14. The sign-up sheet and the "I Will Bring" sign-up have been posted on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. We have to get an earlier start now as the reservation and payment processes for Pilgrim Hills changed last year. We now must have full payment to the camp by the end of January. Reservations will close on January 17, 2016; and payment in full will also be due that day. We won't have as much wiggle room as in years' past; and the rooms will definitely fill up, so please sign up early to ensure your spot and choice of lodging. We will have our regular planning meeting on Sunday, February 7, 2016, at the Church in the pre-school classroom after the traditional service. Those wishing to come down for just Saturday should make arrangements with me. If you have any questions, please contact Charles Jannsohn.

**Annual Reports** – Chairmen of church organizations: Annual reports are due in the church office on December 31. Thank you for your cooperation.

**January Church Newsletter** – For those who get paper copies, please pick up yours in the Gathering Area this morning. For those who get theirs by email, thank you for saving paper and the cost of postage.

Weekly Offering Needed	\$3,190
Offering 12/20 Traditional	\$3,115
Contemporary -0- No Service	3,115
Difference	(\$75)

**Annual Report Booklets** – After they are printed and assembled, the booklets will be available for pickup at the church. **If you want a copy mailed to you, please call the church office at (440) 238-6697.**

**The Annual Meeting** of the Congregation will take place Sunday, January 31, 2016, when we will have only one worship service— at 9:45 a.m. The traditional Pancake Brunch will follow worship, and the meeting will commence at about 11:45 a.m. All are encouraged to attend the meeting.

**Financial Officers of Church Groups:** Please turn in your financial statements to the Auditing Committee through the church office by December 31. It is extremely important that all books be audited before the Annual Meeting on January 31, 2016. All organizations are required to submit:

1. ALL bank books (savings and/or checking).
2. ALL bank statements for each month for each account. Checking accounts statements should show completed reconciliation on the back.
3. ALL monthly recap forms.
4. ALL bank deposit slips, withdrawal slips and bank check receipts (if received), attached to monthly recap forms.
5. ALL receipts and bills paid.
6. Copy of Annual Financial Report (original provided to church office for Annual Report).

**Nominating Committee** – Many offices in the church will be available for the coming year. Please consider saying yes when a member of the Nominating Committee asks you to serve. Some of the positions available include serving on the:

**Diaconate**, which oversees the worship operations and church services. The committees of the Diaconate are Acolytes, Altar, Coffee Hour, Funeral, Greeters, Membership, Nursery, Pastoral Relations, Special Events and Ushers.

**Board of Trustees**, which oversees the finances and physical plant of the church. The committees of the Trustees are Building and Grounds, Finance, and Long-Range Planning.

Remember the old but true saying: *Many hands make light work.* Plan to be a part of one of these boards or committees. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

### **Pastor Becky will again teach a Journey in Faith Membership Class.**

The class will begin on Thursday evening, January 14, 2016. Class is held at the church from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Members, as well as potential members, are welcome and encouraged to attend. Topics covered include: *Establishing the Group, The Bible as Our Authority, Discovering Jesus, What We Believe and How We Got Here, The Nature of the Church, From the Early Church to Us, We Are ALL Gifted, Investigating the Local Church, Christian Giving, Understanding Different Levels of Living and Giving, The Meaning of Christian Covenant, and Investigating Worship.* Both members and nonmembers will enjoy the camaraderie within the group and the knowledge that Pastor Becky shares. To register, please mark your Attendance Card, tell Pastor Becky, call the Church Office, or see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall.

### **OUR PRAYER LIST**

*Hospitals no longer provide names of members who are patients. If you or a family member would like a visit, please call the church at (440) 238-6697. This list is updated weekly. If you wish someone to remain on the list, please call the church, (440) 238-6697.*

**Long-Term Care or Homebound Members:** Ethyl Jeglie at Elmcroft of Sagamore Hills, Janet Kato at Western Reserve Masonic Community in Medina, Betty Kovach at Parkside Villa, Connie Rebar, Erla Mae Schultz at Medina Village

**Church Family:** Jim Davis at Southwest General, Linda Elliott, Laurie Meister, Michele Mhlack, Eileen Pincombe, Denzil Richards, Sharon Ritchie, Barb Stayrook, Keith Sullen, Judy Thurn, Leah Tressa Forget, John Wood

**Extended Church Family:** Ryan Brubeck, Emelyn Carels (sister of Irene Jannsohn), Dylan Churnega (grandson of Ginny Churnega Oerkfritz), Zachary Crouse (grandson of Barbara Morgan), Audrey Curry (mother of Pam Keenen), Rebecca Deeb (Goddaughter of Lora Rung), Angie Dickinson (friend of Lola Millhoane), Donna Fargo (mother of Sally Herzog), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Kay Gritti (friend of Lola Millhoane), Irene Hagemeyer (niece of Betty Craig), Amanda Hover (granddaughter of Betty Kircher), Phyllis Keenen (mother of Bruce), Pat Kolba (mother of Kelly Bickley), Jessica Lane (granddaughter of Len and Bev), Lily (student of Lora Rung), Maggie (friend of the Bickleys), Sue Mason, Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Dolores Mhlack (mother of Allen) at Southern Hills, Debbie Morey (sister of Steve Herzog), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Keith Stewart (cousin of Carol Woodward), Trudie Taylor (sister of Karen Morgan), Bob Tomko (cousin of Ed Sobek), Kathleen Wickline (mother of Darla)