



# THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, December 29, 2019 – 10:00 A.M.

Penny Sunday



## 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 complete your Attendance Card and place it in the offering plate.

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

**PRELUDE** "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" Brahms

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Irene Joyce

**CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT 275** "Sing We Now of Christmas" (v. 1, 2)

### † CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: All creation, all people praise the Lord!

**People: Stars shooting across the sky, singing glad songs to our God!**

Leader: Snow clouds approaching, birds sitting on a branch—all Creation, praise the Lord!

**People: Purring cats and barking dogs bringing new choruses of praise!**

Leader: Rich and poor, leaders and followers: all God's children praise the Lord!

**People: Old and young, Family of Christ, together we lift our songs to our God!**

**All: Praise the Lord! Alleluia!**

### † CHRISTMAS MEDLEY

277 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (v. 1, 3)

265 "The First Noel" (v. 1,6)

258 "Go Tell it on the Mountain" (v. 1)

**A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT** Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8

### SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

### PASTORAL 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.

### SINGING AS CHILDREN OF GOD

185 "Jesus Loves Me" (v.1)

431 "Shine, Jesus Shine" (v.1)

429 "They'll Know We are Christians" (v. 1,2)

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## Penny Sunday Collection

### THE OFFERINGS

#### OFFERTORY

"Impromptu"

Elkins

#### † DOXOLOGY HYMN 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.

#### † PRAYER OF DEDICATION

#### † HYMNS TO OUR FAITHFUL GOD

139 "Great is Thy Faithfulness" (v. 1)

151 "A Mighty Fortress" (v. 1)

435 "God of Grace and God of Glory" (v. 1, 4)

#### A READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Matthew 25: 31-40

#### A BRIEF REFLECTION

Tit for Tat?

#### † HYMN 589

"Here I am, Lord" (All verses)

#### † BENEDICTION

#### † POSTLUDE

"In Dulci Jubilo"

J.S. Bach

### SERVING

#### TODAY – DECEMBER 29

#### NEXT SUNDAY – JANUARY 5

Jennifer Barry

Liturgist

Betty Craig

The Abruzzino Family

Greeters

Elaine Coffey

Volunteers needed

Ushers

Volunteers needed

Cathy Hawk

Coffee Hour

Volunteer needed

Tom Foley

Director of Music

Tom Foley

Mike Elkins

Associate Director of Music

Mike Elkins

Sharon Heinrich

Supplemental Organist

Sharon Heinrich

Richard Densmore

Guest Organist

The altar flowers are given—

*Poinsettias are provided to the Glory of God*

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

*With special thanks to the anonymous donor whose generosity provided funds for extra music and musicians for Christmas*

The Music Committee

*Happy Birthday TODAY to my little sister, Becky Robinson*

*Still "two-two" --From Bill*

*In loving memory of Brooke M. Akins*

With love from the Jannsohn-Joyce-Dickson family

**Happy Birthday today** to Becky Robinson, Rachel Pogozelski and Sally Vetovitz!

**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**.



The last **Penny Sunday** of 2019 is today and will be donated to the National Youth Advocate Program. Thank you to everyone who gives their spare change—and more—for this important outreach. Our church is truly generous!



## OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,522.02

Last Week's Offering Received

\$2,529.00

(Difference -\$993.02)

To date for the Stewardship Campaign, we have received 75 pledges totaling \$155,384.00. **If you have not yet returned your Estimate of Giving card, the church will gratefully accept it at any time. Thank you very much for your support.**

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE LOCATED IN THE PEWS FOR THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO GIVE AN EXTRA GIFT TO THE CHURCH AT CHRISTMASTIME.**

## OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office. Thanks!

**Long-Term Care or Homebound:** Janet Kato at Kemper House, Martha Liebert, Marge McKinney, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

**Church Family:** Dolores Bail, Jen Barry, Joan Beckwith, Elaine Coffey, Rev. Larry and Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Dan Davis, Sue Hawk, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Carole Kapcar, Debbie Krause, Karl Kuhlenschmidt, Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Lacey Marshall, Judy Maur, Laurie Meister, Michele Mhlack, Bill Ritchie, Alysha Rolland, Ginger Rothel, John and Maggie Struhar, Josh Trinckes, Bill Williamson, Sharon Wilson, Sally Vetovitz, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

**Extended Church Family:** Amy Carroll (sister of Marty Winch), Lyla Joy Crowley (great grand-niece of Irene Jannsohn), Elaine Fuelling (friend of Judi Pavisich), Joanne Gigliotti (mom of Lou), Rebecca Gordon (niece of Irene Jannsohn), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Bill Foley, (father of Tom), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Jeff and Tiffany Hassel (son and daughter-in-law of Judi Pavisich), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Rev. Kent Knife (retired pastor from MHUCC), Diane Mason (friend of Lora Rung), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Zachary McKeever (great-nephew of Pastor Heidi and Chuck), Linda McNabb (sister-in-law of Ginger Rothel), Mae O'Shea (mom of Sandy O'Shea), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Terry Robson (friend of the Camps), Mike Rung (brother of Lora), Amanda Shannon (friend of Sarah & Jon Hayes), Sherry Sheeks (sister of Mark Camp), Brad Williams (friend of Judi Pavisich), Daphne Wilson (niece of Irene Jannsohn)

**Our church has an e-mail prayer chain.**

**Please see Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others.**

## HOW CAN YOU HELP OUT?

New Sign-up sheets for 2020 in Pilgrim Hall are waiting for **your name** to be added as a communion server, greeter, usher, coffee hour helper, bread/pastry sorter, or nursery helper! Don't know how to do any of those things? No worries—we will show you everything you need to know! No experience is needed and everyone is welcome to be a part of our church life.



**PLEASE SIGN UP TO PLACE ALTAR FLOWERS IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF SOMETHING OR SOMEONE SPECIAL. MANY DATES ARE AVAILABLE FOR 2020. Cost is only \$15 per vase (\$30 for both).**



Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of **Judy Munshower**, who passed away on December 24. Please keep her husband **Bill**, and daughters **Kelley Anderson** (Dave), **Karrie Palmer** (Rick), and **Kristin Lutz** (Nate) in your prayers.

## THE CHRISTMAS FUND

ENVELOPES ARE IN THE PEWS FOR THE UCC DECEMBER SPECIAL COLLECTION, "THE CHRISTMAS FUND," WHICH BENEFITS RETIRED CLERGY AND THEIR FAMILIES. (Formerly Veterans of the Cross) Today is the last day to contribute for 2019.



### CHURCH CHRISTMAS MAIL BOX

To send Christmas greetings to fellow members and friends, the church "mail box" will again be available in the Gathering Area. Please remember to check the box for greetings you may have received.

Also, please do not put cards in the box for friends who are not in town for Christmas. The church office cannot mail your personal Christmas cards. Cards left after the second week of January will be discarded. Thank you.



### WEST PARK KIWANIS CHILDREN'S READING CENTERS IN NEED OF BOOK DONATIONS.



The West Park Kiwanis set up a few children's reading centers in our area and it's been going really well. It's encouraging children to read and they are allowed to take a book with them. The Kiwanis are getting low on books and are looking for anyone who has children's books that would be willing to donate to their reading centers. If you have any to donate, please contact **Herb**

**Hampson** at **216-287-3871** to arrange pick up or delivery! Thank you from our West Park Kiwanis and the kids in our area!

### 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 that are available include serving on the:

**Moderator**, who presides over the Official Board and represents the church in the community

**Vice-Moderator**, who works in tandem with the

Moderator, serves on the Nominating Committee, and enlists volunteers for dinners and other Official Board events.

**Treasurer**: Manages the outgoing finances of the church in conjunction with the Financial Secretary

**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 and Memorial/Endowment.

**Mission & Outreach**, which sponsors projects and our church's benevolence in the local, national, and international communities, including the 5 for 5 offerings through the United Church of Christ

**Stewardship**, which administers a yearly campaign to assess and inspire giving of time, talent, and treasure

**Christian Education**, which oversees the Sunday School and Adult Education programs

**Music Committee**, which supervises all aspects of the Music Ministry

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 for your consideration.

## OFFICERS OF CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS:

Please remember annual reports and financial records are due January 1, 2020. Thanks!

### COMING SOON...

*Strongsville UCC All-You-Can-Eat*

## SWISS STEAK DINNER

Saturday – January 18, 2020

Seatings at 5:00 and 6:30 P.M.

Reservations Only: (216) 598-6198

Adults: \$14, Kids 6-12: \$6, 5 & Under: Free

Join us for this delicious all-you-can-eat meal which supports the Official Board and its programs.



Help is needed – especially on Friday for browning meat. The sign-up sheet will be posted on Pilgrim Hall's board. For safety reasons, no children under age 6 (with or without parent) can be helpers in any capacity during the serving hours of 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Children 6 to 10 must have a parent helping them.



### ANNUAL ALL FAMILY WINTER RETREAT

February 14 - 16, 2020

Templed Hills Camp  
in Bellville, Ohio

The Church's Annual All-Family Winter Retreat will take place on President's Day weekend 2020: February 14, 15 and 16. The sign-up sheet to attend and the sign-up sheet for things to bring and to volunteer will soon be posted on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Please reserve your spot and room now, as rooms will be first-come, first-served. The cut-off to sign up—January 19—will be strictly enforced this year. We will not have the same luxury as we've had in the past, in which we were able to take reservations up until the event weekend. Space is limited to 75 attendees. Also, please let us know if you have any special dietary needs. Finally, those that wish to come down on Saturday only—we would be happy to have you there, but we also need your reservation by January 19, and the cost is \$10 per meal. Please contact Irene Joyce or Rachel Zielinski if you have any questions.

#### Here is the cost (no change from last year):

ADULTS (12 and up): \$70

CHILDREN (6-11): \$15

CHILDREN (5 and under): FREE

#### Important dates to remember:

JANUARY 19, 2020: Reservations close; **MONEY DUE**

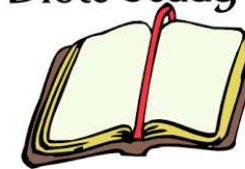
JANUARY 26, 2020: Special dietary needs reported

FEBRUARY 9, 2020: Retreat planning meeting in the church after the worship service

Pastor Heidi and Chuck (aka the Pastor's Wife) send a big **THANK YOU** to one and all for the many, many cards, treats and goodies that have helped make our Christmas even more festive! We are so fortunate to be leading this generous, God-loving congregation into the next year and beyond. Thank you so much!



### Bible Study



### UPPITY WOMEN—Part III!

All are welcome to join us as we explore the Book of Esther starting on January 8<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. for a continuation of our Uppity Women of the Bible series. The class should last 6 weeks. We will have a special guest for some of our sessions, Rabbi Enid! Mark your calendar now!

Please sign up for the study by writing "Bible Study" on the back of your attendance card and placing it in the offering plate.

### CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2019

*Officers elected on Jan. 27, 2019, have an asterisk\* by their names.*

*\*\* = appointed by the Official Board*

<b>Moderator</b>	Rachel Zielinski*
<b>Vice-Moderator</b>	Rob Toth*
<b>Treasurer</b>	Sally Herzog*
<b>Clerk</b>	Judy Gaumer**

#### Sunday School Superintendent

Kristen Clotworthy\*

#### Board of Trustees

Greg Dickson\* Mike Clotworthy

Myron Costin Tom Gaumer Bill Giuliano\*

Dale Hawk\* Bob Kovatich Sandy Pogozelski\*

Ed Sobek\* Linda Stepan\* Rob Stepan\*

#### Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Irene Jannsohn\* Joyce Reed\*

#### Diaconate

Serena Abruzzino Jennifer Barry\* Eddy Bond\* Barbara Camp\*

Kristen Clotworthy\*

Judy Gaumer Cathy Hawk Sarah Hayes\*

Linda Plain\* Linda Ponstingle\*\* Nicole Stevens\*

Dawn Rolland Marty Winch\*

#### Christian Education Committee

Kristen Clotworthy Mary Densmore\* Linda Elkins\*

Suzi Foley\* Sandy O'Shea\* Lora Rung\*

#### Music Committee

Ingrid Dickson\* Ken Mehalko\*

Pam Keenen Tom Foley Mike Elkins

#### Stewardship Committee

Rosemary Bechtel Eddy Bond\*\* Sue Gigliotti\*

Beth Giuliano Sharon Heinrich\*\* Bill Schneider\*\*

#### Mission and Outreach Committee

Judy Carte\* Bobbie Krisak\* Tony Koussa\*\*

Michele Mhlack\* Gary Paul\* Lora Rung Bev Wehr\*

### ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place **Sunday, January 26, 2020**, and will be preceded by the traditional Pancake Brunch All are encouraged to attend this meeting and be a part of our family of faith. You do not have to be a member of the church to attend the meeting, but only members are entitled to cast a vote.

