

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(CONGREGATIONAL)
13740 Pearl Road
Strongsville, Ohio 44136

Rev. Rebecca Stephenson, Pastor



SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 27, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.

WELCOME!

*We are grateful you chose to worship with us this morning.
No matter who you are and where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.*

*For questions about our church and ministries, you may call the
church at (440) 238-6697. Please complete your Attendance Card
and place it into the offering plate. We hope to see you again soon!*

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE (Lyrics on Insert) *Creation Sings the Father's Song*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In Advent we watch and wait, and prepare to welcome
the Christ Child into the world.

People: **Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

Be born anew in our world and in our hearts.

† HYMN 245 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Verse 1

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE

Jamie Habart and Christian

Leader: We light the first candle which symbolizes Hope. For many
years the faithful looked forward to the coming of the Messiah. We
look forward now with the eyes of faith. (*Light one purple candle.*)
Let us pray together . . .

Congregational Prayer: **Thank you, dear God, for giving us your
son Jesus to fulfill our deepest desires and hopes. Guide us as
we prepare to receive him anew in our hearts. Amen.**

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

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* George Whelpton

BELL ANTHEM *Pastorale on Two Christmas Themes* Philip Young

CHILDREN'S ANTHEM *Only a Boy Named David*

The Children's Choir

Teddy Bickley, Russell Bickley, Anna Bickley,
Rowan Garcia, Luke Giuliano, Christian Habart-Scott

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)* Eaton and Grant

† DOXOLOGY 166 Tune: *Lasst uns erfreuen*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

† PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SYMBOLS OF CHRISTMAS

HYMN *O Christmas Tree* 1 Verse

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
How lovely are your branches.

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
How lovely are your branches.

In beauty green they'll always grow
Through summer sun and winter snow.

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
How lovely are your branches.

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CHRISTMAS TREE

HYMN 288 *We Three Kings* 1 Verse

STAR OF BETHLEHEM

HYMN *The Holly and the Ivy* 2 Verses

The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood,
The holly bears the crown:
The rising of the sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.

Hymn continues on next page.

The holly bears a berry,
As red as any blood,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To do poor sinners good:
The rising of the sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.

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HOLLY AND IVY

HYMN 263 *What Can I Give Him?* Sing Once

POINSETTIA

HYMN 763 *The King Is Coming* Sing Twice

REMEMBRANCE BOWS

HYMN 280 *One Small Child* All Verses

CANDLES

HYMN 262 *Away in a Manger* All Verses

NATIVITY

HYMN 244 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

† BENEDICTION

† BELL RESPONSE *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

† POSTLUDE *Carol of the Bells*

This morning's altar flowers are given—

*In Celebration of Ingrid and Greg's 8th Anniversary and
In Memory of Chris Morgan
The Dickson, Jannsohn and Joyce Families*

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

*Happy Birthday to Stephen Popovich on November 28
With love, Grammy*

Happy Birthday today to Joan Beckwith and to Madelyn Ewald!

We thank our guest musicians for their music this morning!

Orders for poinsettia plants on the altar for Christmas Eve are due
TODAY. Order forms (with envelopes) are on the rectangular table in the
Gathering Area. Order forms are also on the bulletin insert.

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,900
Weekly Offering Received 11/20/2016 2,994
Difference - \$ 906

THIS WEEK

Tuesday: Official Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday: Free Lunch Program, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Men's Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.
Fitness Club, 7 p.m.
Children's Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday: Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Journey in Faith Class, 7 p.m.
Bell Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 8 p.m.

Women's Luncheon is Tuesday, December 6, at 11:30 a.m. upstairs at Pomeroy Restaurant. Please see or call Lola Millhoane, (440) 238-3037, by Sunday, December 4, to make your reservation. All ladies are welcome!

Strongsville Food Bank needs volunteers for the Christmas Village at Southpark Mall in December. The village will be on the second level near Sears and is open daily with two shifts: 12 noon to 4 pm and 4pm to 7pm. Two adults are needed for each shift for greeting visitors, answering questions and ensuring safety of the display. This could be a volunteer opportunity for older children and teens, but they must be accompanied by an adult. Freewill offerings of cash or non-perishable foods are welcomed. This is a lovely display, so please pass the word to others to stop by and enjoy the display. Please contact Judy Carte at 440-238-8283 or email her at alacartej@gmail.com

New Choir Robes – The Music Committee, along with the Endowment and Memorial Fund, is having a drive to purchase new choir robes. To support this drive, please pick up a Sponsorship Form from the rectangular table in the Gathering Area. Thank you for your support.

If you are donating a choir robe, a separate check should be written to the UCC Memorial Fund as these funds are handled separately. Thank you.
Lori Kovatich, Financial Secretary

SERVING TODAY

Greeter – Lynne McCray
Morning Announcements – Irene Joyce
Liturgist – Kelly Bickley
Coffee Hour – Jim and Linda Dettmer
Director of Music – Elena Taylor
Bell Choir Director – Barb Fraunfelder
The Bell Choir
Guest Bell Ringers – Edith Budd and Ben Zamostny
Guest Flute – Lauren Hanger
Guest Vocalist – Edith Budd
Bass Guitar – Jack Stephenson
Acoustic Guitar – Gary Hackett
Electric Guitar – Jake Williams
Mallet Percussion – Rob Toth
Drum Set – Mike Soltis
Technical Setup and Operation – Doug Thorn
Sound System – Jim Heinrich

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY – DECEMBER 4, 2016

Greeter – Linda Plain
Morning Announcements – Sally Herzog
Liturgist – Dale Hawk
Coffee Hour – Ed and Cheryl Sobek

2017 All-Family Winter Retreat at Pilgrim Hills – Mark your calendars now and sign up TODAY for the annual retreat, which is on President's Day weekend: February 17, 18 and 19, 2017. The sign-up sheet and the "I Will Bring" sign-up are 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 has changed. We now must have full payment to the camp by the end of January. Reservations will close on January 15, 2017, 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 12, 2017 at the Church in the pre-school classroom after the service. If you have any questions, please contact Charles Jannsohn.

Gift Cards – CHRISTMAS IS COMING! You can easily get your Christmas gift-giving handled while helping your church by purchasing gift cards from the Organ Restoration Fund. We have a large variety of cards from restaurants, department stores, grocery stores, home improvement stores, clothing stores, sporting goods stores, and even hair salons. We are trying a new participant in the program: Honey Baked Ham. We have a limited amount to see if they sell, but we can easily order more for your holiday celebrations. We can also order from hundreds of other retailers, even if we don't ordinarily carry them in stock. Come to the table in Pilgrim Hall to see the list and place your order with Jim Joyce. Please don't wait until it's too late--get a jump start on your Christmas shopping. You'll be glad you did! **Christmas special orders need to be placed no later than December 4.**

The Mitten Tree is collecting donations of hats, gloves, mittens and scarves until December 4 for Brookside Center, which provides clothing and necessities to the needy. After worship on December 4, the Mitten Tree items are removed. The tree becomes the Family of Faith Tree and is decorated with Christmas ornaments donated by members and friends. If you have not donated an ornament or to donate an additional ornament, you may bring one to the church office and include your name. Official Board prepares a tag with your name, attaches it to your ornament, and hangs the ornament on the tree. Your ornament will NOT be returned to you, so please do not bring expensive heirloom ornaments.

200th Anniversary Church Cookbooks – Please see Dianne Maringer to get your copy. Price per book is \$12; mailing the book is an additional \$3.

Church Christmas Mail Box is for giving Christmas greetings to church friends and is available in Pilgrim Hall. Please check the box for greetings you receive. Please do not put cards into the box for those who are not in town for Christmas, because the church office cannot mail personal Christmas greetings. Cards left after Christmas will be discarded.

Adult Social Club is changing their meeting day from the second Wednesday of the month to the third Wednesday of month at 7:00 p.m. at the church. All are welcome to the meetings. Please mark your calendar for the Adult Social Club Game Night on Saturday, January 14, at church.

Southwest Community Chorus and Chamber Singers present their Christmas Concert Sunday, December 4, 3:00 p.m. in the United Methodist Church, 170 Seminary Street, Berea. This year's performance, *Count Your Blessings*, features former church choir leader Tom Foley as director; Carol Konet, accompanist; and church singers—Irene Joyce, Ingrid Dickson, Pam Keenen, Gary Hackett, Jack Stephenson, Bruce Keenen and UCC guest singer, Craig Hardy. We like seeing our fellow church members in the audience! Tickets cost \$10 for adults and free for children 12 and under and are available at the door.

"Reap What You Sow" Basket Raffles – The drawings for the two "Reap What You Sow" baskets will take place on Sunday, December 4, in the sanctuary after the last hymn of the worship service. The congregation is requested to take their seats after the last hymn.

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, (440) 238-6697. Please provide updates for this list. Thank you.

Long-Term Care or Homebound Members: Eric Brand, Betty Bushea, Margot James, Ethyl Jeglie at Elmcroft of Sagamore Hills, Janet Kato at Western Reserve Masonic Community in Medina, Dolores Mihlack at Southern Hills, Harvey Pincombe, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields, Doris Soucie, Trudie Taylor at Royal Oak Nursing and Rehab Center

Church Family: Pam Peacock, Denzil Richards, Melinda Slavik, Leah Tressa Forget, Kyle Woodward

Extended Church Family: Bri Brostek, Thom Cerny, Dylan Churnega, Zachary Crouse, Audrey Curry, Edie Deitcher, Hollie Paine Dodge, Kim Filiatraut, Elizabeth Fulford, Matthew Geletka, Dan Karoly, Sue Mason, Pat Masuga, Debbie Morey, Tonette Putrino, Carrol Riley, Keith Stewart

NOVEMBER 2016

29 Tue Official Board Meeting, 7pm
30 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am to 1pm
Men's Luncheon, 11:30am

DECEMBER 2016

1 Thu Journey in Faith Class, 7pm
4 Sun Drawing for the 2 Basket Raffles, after worship
Deadline for Women's Luncheon Reservations
Deadline for Special Orders for Gift Cards for Christmas
6 Tue Women's Luncheon at Pomeroy, 11:30am
Worship Committee Meeting, 7:30pm
9 Fri Blue Christmas Worship Service of Remembrance, 7:30pm
13 Tue Diaconate Meeting, 7pm
16 Fri Strongsville City Jazz Christmas Concert, 7:30pm
17 Sat Christmas Open House at the parsonage
18 Sat Christmas Fund Offering received for retired ministers
Children's Christmas Pageant with potluck afterward, 5pm
20 Tue Advertising Committee Meeting, 7pm
Trustees Meeting, 7pm
21 Wed Adult Social Club Meeting, 7pm
24 Sat Christmas Eve Worship, 7:30pm and 11pm
25 Sun Christmas Morning Worship, 10am
27 Tue Official Board Meeting, 7pm
28 Wed Men's Luncheon, 11:30am
31 Sat Deadline for Annual Reports

MUSIC REHEARSALS DURING THE WEEK

Children's Choir - 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays
Band (for adults and children) – 8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays
Bell Choir – 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays
Chancel Choir – 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays

STRONGSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church Telephone (440) 238-6697

Website strongsvilleucc.com

Email strongsvilleucc@gmail.com