

## CANDLES

HYMN 261. *Away in a Manger* All Verses

## NATIVITY

† CLOSING HYMN 244 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

† BENEDICTION

† BAND RESPONSE *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

† POSTLUDE

---

**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.

**All are invited to have coffee and baked goods** in Pilgrim Hall after our worship service today.

**We thank our Band** for their special music this morning:

Gary Hackett – Acoustic Guitar II  
Ken Mehalko – Clarinet and Saxophone  
Julia Soltis – Violin  
Mike Soltis – Drum Set  
Jack Stephenson – Bass Guitar  
Elena Taylor – Keyboard  
Rob Toth – Mallets  
Jake Williams – Acoustic Guitar I

*Worship Accompanist*  
*Chancel Choir Director*  
*Bell Choir Director*  
*Technical Setup and Operation*  
*Sound System*  
*Liturgist*  
*Greeter*  
*Usher*  
*Morning Announcements*  
*Coffee Hour*

*Elena Taylor*  
*Joshua Konow*  
*Barbara Fraunfelder*  
*Doug Thorn*  
*Jim Heinrich*  
*Kenn Oerkfitz*  
*Ginny Dangelo*  
*Ginny Dangelo*  
*Kim McKenzie*  
*Beth Giuliano*

## 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

**November 29, 2015 9:45 A.M. Advent I**

† *Those who are able may stand.*

BAND PRELUDE *Carol of the Bells*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BAND INTROIT *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, brothers and sisters, now is the time to worship the Lord.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH *The Gaumer/Hurtig Family*  
*The First Sunday of Advent – The Prophet's Candle*

Leader: Advent is the season of the year when we look to the promise of God.

People: **We listen for the voice of the prophet who speaks God's word**

Leader: The Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, a young woman is with child and shall bear a Son, and shall name him Immanuel.

People: **He shall lead us and be our Savior.**

Leader: He is coming soon.

People: **With anticipation we look for His coming.**  
*(Light a purple candle.)*

Leader: Today we light the Prophet's Candle, remembering God's promise.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

† HYMN 243 *Emmanuel*

## 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.

**PRAYER RESPONSE** Ken Mehalko, Soloist

**CHOIR ANTHEM** *Prepare the Way of the Lord* William Rowan

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*If you are seated in the alcove and would prefer sitting in the sanctuary, please feel free to move to the sanctuary after the Children's Message.*

### THE OFFERINGS

**BAND OFFERTORY** *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

† **DOXOLOGY** (No. 815)

† **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

### THE SYMBOLS OF CHRISTMAS

**HYMN** (lyrics below) *O Christmas Tree* 2 Verses

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.

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,  
Your beauty green will teach me.  
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,  
Your beauty green will teach me  
That hope and love will ever be  
The way to joy and peace for me.  
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,  
Your beauty green will teach me.

*CCLI Song # 717581  
Words: Public Domain Music: Public Domain  
For use solely with SongSelect Terms of Use  
All rights reserved.  
CCLI License # 11237335*

### THE CHRISTMAS TREE

**HYMN 288** *We Three Kings* Verse 1

### THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM

**HYMN** (lyrics below) *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.

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.

*CCLI Song # 4782687  
Words: Public Domain Music: Public Domain  
For use solely with SongSelect Terms of Use  
All rights reserved.  
CCLI License # 11237335*

### HOLLY AND IVY

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

### POINSETTIAS

**HYMN 763** *The King Is Coming* Sing Twice

### REMEMBRANCE BOWS

**HYMN 280** *One Small Child* All Verses

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 29, 2015

11:15 A.M.

† Those who are able may stand.

### SONGS

245 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
244 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SONG

243 Emmanuel

### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, brothers and sisters, now is the time to worship the Lord.

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

*The Prophet's Candle*

Leader: Advent is the season of the year when we look to the promise of God.

People: **We listen for the voice of the prophet who speaks God's word**

Leader: The Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, a young woman is with child and shall bear a Son, and shall name him Immanuel.

People: **He shall lead us and be our Savior.**

Leader: He is coming soon.

People: **With anticipation we look for His coming.**  
(Light a purple candle.)

Leader: Today we light the Prophet's Candle, remembering God's promise.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### † PASSING OF THE PEACE

### GATHERING SONG

Sanctuary

### JOYS AND CONCERNS

### PASTORAL PRAYER

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

### INSTRUMENTAL OFFERING

*Carol of the Bells*

### MEDITATION

*Hanging of the Greens*

### SONG

14 *Creation Sings the Father's Song*

### † BENEDICTION

---

**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.

### SERVING TODAY

Rita Budd – Tambourine  
Christian Habart-Scott – Drum Pads  
Gary Hackett – Acoustic Guitar, Voice  
Aidan Hurtig – Drum Pads  
Rachel Kovatich – Voice  
Kyra Krause – Voice  
Toni Newborn – Voice  
Herbert Parker – Electric Guitar  
Julia Soltis – Violin, Acoustic Guitar, Clarinet  
Mike Soltis – Drum Set  
Jack Stephenson – Bass Guitar, Voice  
Elena Taylor – Praise Band Director, Voice, Keyboard  
Robert Toth – Mallet Percussion  
Clay Williams – Voice  
Jake Williams – Acoustic Guitar, Viola  
Doug Thorn – Sound System, Technical Setup and Operation  
Denise Bell – Morning Announcements  
Jim Nicoulin – Liturgist

## NOVEMBER 2015

- 29 Sun Hanging of the Greens in 9:45 worship  
 Newsletter Pickup  
 Deadline for submitting Constitution changes  
 Kindred Spirit Singles arrive at 1pm, meeting at 2pm  
 Advent Study, 5:30pm
- 30 Mon Journey in Faith Membership Class, 7-9pm

## DECEMBER 2015

- 1 Tue Mission and Outreach Meeting, 7pm  
 Worship Team Meeting, 7:30pm
- 6 Sun Communion, New Members Received  
 Women's Fellowship Candy Sale  
 Poinsettia Order Deadline  
 Advent Study, 5:30pm
- 8 Tue Women's Luncheon at Pomeroy, 11:30am
- 11 Fri Blue Christmas Service of Remembrance, 7:30pm
- 12 Sat Christmas Open House at the Parsonage, 5pm – All welcome!
- 13 Sun Diaconate Holiday Cookie Sale  
 Women's Fellowship Candy Sale  
 Advent Study, 5:30pm
- 15 Tue Newsletter Deadline  
 Special Chancel Choir rehearsal for the cantata
- 18 Fri Strongsville City Jazz Fundraiser Concert, 7:30pm with  
 reception following
- 20 Sun **1 Sunday Morning Service ONLY at 9:45**, when Chancel  
 Choir will present a cantata  
 Children's Christmas Presentation and Supper, 5pm

## PARKING LOT UPDATE

The excavation/remainder of the parking lot work is scheduled to begin tomorrow—Monday, November 30. The parking lot will remain closed throughout this portion of the project. This phase should take 3-4 days to complete. The contractor intends to open the lot to traffic the Sunday following the completion of work. Much of this project is weather-dependent, so the schedule may be adjusted accordingly.

### Serving Next Sunday – December 6, 2015

Liturgists	9:45 Kelly Bickley	11:15 Jack Stephenson
Greeter		Linda Plain
Morning Announcements		Kim McKenzie
Usher		Linda Plain
Coffee Hour		Cheryl Sobek

## ANNOUNCEMENTS – NOVEMBER 29, 2015

**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.

**The altar flowers** are given this morning—

*In Celebration of Our Wedding Anniversary on November 25  
 Ken and Bev*

*In Grateful Thanks for Our Family, Friends and Many Blessings  
 George and Joyce Reed*

**The steeple** will light the sky this week—

*In Honor of My Friends, Edie and Richard Budd  
 Pastor Becky*

*In Loving Memory of Jane C. Graves  
 Roberta and Dan Carpenter*

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

**Tuesday Meetings:** Mission and Outreach, 7:00 p.m.  
 Worship Team, 7:30 p.m.

**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.

**Wednesday Rehearsals:** Children's Choir at 7:30 p.m.  
 Praise Band at 8:00 p.m.

**Thursday Rehearsals:** Bell Choir at 7:00 p.m.  
 Children's Instrumental at 7:30 p.m.  
 Praise Band at 8:00 p.m.

**Advent Study** – Pastor Becky will lead a study on “**Christianity's Impact in Christmas Movies.**” The study will begin this evening and will take place on three Sunday evenings: November 29, December 6 and December 13 at 5:30 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall. A light meal of soup will be served. Child care will be available, and children will view special movies as well. All are welcome!

		Weekly Offering Needed	\$3,190
Offering 11/22	Traditional \$1,556	Contemporary \$2,568	4,124
		Difference	\$ 934

**Our Church Constitution** is being reviewed this year. If you have suggestions for changes, please give them to Sally Herzog TODAY. Thank you.

**The Thrift Shop** is overstocked right now. **Please hold your donations** until further notice. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Women's Fellowship will sell candy** between the two worship services on the Sundays of December 6 and December 13.

**Blue Christmas Service of Remembrance** will be held in our Sanctuary on Friday, December 11, at 7:30 p.m. Blue Christmas is a worship service remembering those who have passed away, while seeking hope for all of us during the Christmas season. All are welcome. Help is needed. Please mark the back of your Attendance Card if you can help.

**Cookie Sale** – The Diaconate will hold its ninth annual Holiday Cookie Sale on Sunday, December 13, in Pilgrim Hall. Come prepared to buy all your favorite cookies. To provide bakery, there is a sign-up sheet posted in Pilgrim Hall. On that day, please bring your treats in half-dozen or dozen packages. All are welcome to participate!!

**Southwest Community Chorus** will present its 2015 Christmas concert, "In the Holiday Mood," on Sunday, December 6, beginning at 3:00 p.m. in the Berea Methodist Church, 170 Seminary Street, Berea. The chorus is directed by Tom Foley and accompanied by Carol Konet. UCC singers include Pam Keenen, Bruce Keenen, Jack Stephenson, Gary Hackett and UCC guest singer Craig Hardy. Children 12 and under are free, and adult tickets are \$10. Tickets are available from chorus members or at the door the day of the concert. Please plan to attend. We love seeing church members in the audience.

**Strongsville City Jazz Swing Band** will present a Christmas Concert as a fundraiser for our Music Ministry on Friday, December 18, at 7:30 p.m. Help is needed. Please mark the back of your Attendance Card if you can help.

**The Mitten Tree** will be in the Gathering Area from November 29 until December 6 for collecting hats, gloves, mittens and scarves for Brookside Center. Brookside is an ecumenical center that provides clothing and necessities to the poor and needy and is located on Pearl Road in Cleveland. After church services on December 6 the Mitten Tree items will be removed. The tree will become the Family of Faith Tree, which we will decorate with Christmas ornaments donated by us last year. **If you have not yet donated an ornament – or – if you'd like to donate an additional ornament this year, please bring your**

**ornament to the church office in early December and include your name.** Official Board will prepare a tag with your name, attach the tag to your household ornament, and then hang the ornament on the Family of Faith Tree. Please understand that **your Christmas ornament will NOT be returned to you**, but it will become part of the Christmas decorations each year. It is recommended that you **do not bring expensive heirloom ornaments.** Thank you for celebrating with your church family in both the Mitten Tree and the Family of Faith Tree!

## 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:** Linda Elliott, Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Laurie Meister, Michele Mihlack at Cleveland Clinic, 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 Oerkfitz), Zachary Crouse (grandson of Barbara Morgan), Audrey Curry (mother of Pam Keenen), Rebecca Deeb (Goddughter 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), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Dolores Mihlack (mother of Allen), 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)

Please don't miss the Strongsville UCC Sunday School

**CHRISTMAS PRESENTATION 2015**  
and  
**SUPPER "AT THE INN"**  
(A free, simple meal will be served.)



**Sunday – December 20 – 5:00pm – Pilgrim Hall**

All are welcome! Reservations are limited to 100 people. Please complete form below to make your reservation, and place form in the offering plate. You may also call the church to make your reservation.

**One Rehearsal Only – Wednesday – December 16 – 6:30pm**

**FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN:**

Yes! My child (or children) will participate. I will bring him/her/them to:  
**rehearsal** on Wednesday, **December 16**, at **6:30pm** and  
**presentation** on Sunday, **December 20**, at **5:00pm**.

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Reservations for attendees + volunteers: \_\_\_\_Adults \_\_\_\_Children

Name \_\_\_\_\_

For Adults:  I / We would like to help with this event.

**Please place this form in the offering plate.**  
Thank you for your participation!

**ALTAR POINSETTIA FOR CHRISTMAS EVE**

Order deadline is Sunday, December 6, 2015. Please complete this form and place it to the Church office with your cash or check payment. The cost is \$6.00.

Wording for bulletin: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of plants: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to **Strongsville United Church of Christ**, and place it with your order in the offering plate or mail it to:

**Strongsville United Church of Christ**  
**13740 Pearl Road**  
**Strongsville, OH 44136**



*Thank you for placing a poinsettia plant on the altar!*

**For Church Treasurer's Records**

**2015 Christmas Poinsettia**

Total number of plants: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Offering envelope number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash/Check No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Order deadline is Sunday, December 6, 2015.*