

**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 25, 2016      10:00 A.M.      Christmas Day**

*\* Those who are able may stand.*

**PRELUDE**      *Isn't He*      John Wimbler

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: The Word of God dwells among us!

**People: The Light of God shines in the world!**

Leader: Sing praises! Shout for joy!

**People: Celebrate the hope and promise of this day!**

**HYMN 249**      *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

**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**      *Threefold Amen*      Danish

**INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**      *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

**HYMN 253**      *Silent Night*

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

*Today we light the Christ Candle, that proclaims the holy birth.*

**HYMN 272**      *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks Verses 1-2-4-5*

**HYMN 278**      *Angels We Have Heard on High*

**HYMN 280**      *One Small Child*

**HYMN**      *The Friendly Beasts*

Jesus our brother, strong and good,  
was humbly born in a stable rude,  
and the friendly beasts around him stood,  
Jesus, our brother, strong and good.

"I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown,  
"I carried his mother uphill and down,  
I carried his mother to Bethlehem town;  
I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown.

"I," said the cow, all white and red,  
"I gave him my manger for his bed,  
I gave him hay to pillow his head;  
I," said the cow, all white and red.

"I," said the sheep with curly horn,  
"I gave him my wool for his blanket warm,  
he wore my coat on Christmas morn;  
I," said the sheep with curly horn.

"I," said the dove, from the rafters high,  
"I cooed him to sleep that he should not cry;  
we cooed him to sleep, my mate and I;  
I," said the dove, from the rafters high.

Thus all the beasts, by some good spell,  
in the stable dark were glad to tell  
of the gifts they gave Emmanuel,  
the gifts they gave Emmanuel.

**INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**      *What Child Is This?*

**HYMN 262**      *Away in a Manger*

**HYMN 254**      *Isn't He*

## OFFERING

OFFERTORY                      *Offering*                      Paul Baloché

\* DOXOLOGY (No. 263)                      *What Can I Give Him?*

What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
Yet what can I give Him? Give Him my heart.

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC                      *Mary, Did You Know?*

HYMN 267    *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*    Verses 1-3-4-5

HYMN 270                      *Joy to the World!*

\* BENEDICTION

\* POSTLUDE                      *Il Est Né*                      Traditional French Carol

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**Welcome, visitors!** No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. All are invited for coffee and fellowship in Pilgrim Hall after worship today.

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

*In Memory of Baby Clare Molnar*  
*In Memory of My Father, Ray Higham*  
*For My Mother's 88<sup>th</sup> Birthday on Christmas Eve*  
Love, Dianne

**The Church Office will be closed tomorrow**, December 26.

**Official Board** meets Tuesday, December 27, at 7:00 p.m.

**Men's Luncheon** is Wednesday, December 28, at 11:30 a.m.

**Annual Reports** are due Saturday, December 31.

## SERVING TODAY

Greeter	Jim Dettmer
Morning Announcements	Irene Joyce
Coffee Hour	Jim and Linda Dettmer
Technical Setup and Operation	Doug Thorn
Sound System	Jim Heinrich
Vocalist	Jack Stephenson
Instrumentalists	Lisa Heinrich, Ryan Heinrich, Sharon Heinrich
Sunday School Teacher	Irene Joyce

## ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS – DECEMBER 25, 2016

**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 have 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** –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. Please visit the gift card table in Pilgrim Hall and see Jim Joyce.

**200th Anniversary Church Cookbooks** – Please see Dianne Maringer to get your copy. Price per book is \$12; mailing the book is an extra \$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 your personal Christmas greetings. Cards left after Christmas will be discarded.

**Adult Social Club will NOT meet in December.** Our next event is a pot-luck and game night at the church on Saturday, January 14. We will have our January meeting at that time to plan for our trip to the Rocksino in February. Eddy and Adria

**Family of Faith Tree** – If you are new to the church or haven't yet added your special ornament to our tree in the Gathering Area, we would sincerely love to have your family represented on the church's Family of Faith Tree. Please bring in an ornament that you would like placed on the tree but that is not an heirloom since it will not be returned to you but will be used for years to come. See Joyce Reed or Sharon Heinrich to have the ornament added with your name attached.

**Annual Reports** are due in the church office on December 31. The Annual Meeting of the congregation is Sunday, January 29, 2017.

**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.

## 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. 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 Mhlack at Southern Hills, Harvey Pincombe, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields, Doris Soucie

**Church Family:** Shirley Brand, Betty Craig, Steve Herzog, 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, Frank Toth, Joe Valli

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## DECEMBER 2016

26 Mon	Church Office Closed
27 Tue	Official Board Meeting, 7pm
28 Wed	Men's Luncheon, 11:30am
31 Sat	Deadline for Annual Reports

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## Serving Next Sunday – January 1, 2017

Morning Announcements	Sally Herzog
Greeter	Linda Plain
Coffee Hour	Volunteer Needed

**Kenn Oerkfitz is the Liturgist.**

**Scripture:** Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.

<sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

<sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered.

<sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

<sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

<sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

<sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

<sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

<sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:

<sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

<sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.'

<sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.'

<sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

<sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;

<sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

<sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

<sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.