

# 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 13, 2015 9:45 A.M. Advent III**

† *Those who are able may stand.*

PRELUDE *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELL INTROIT *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

## † CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Look at the beautiful city.

**People: The city of Bethlehem.**

Leader: Blessed are you, Bethlehem, for from you will come a Savior.

**People: Let us all gather and worship the Lord.**

† HYMN 250 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

**ADVENT WREATH** Marjorie Morrison, Darla Wickline, Chris and Matt Minnick  
*The Third Sunday of Advent – The Bethlehem Candle*

Leader: We have heard the Prophet's proclamation.  
*(Light the purple Prophet Candle.)*

We have been amazed by the visit of the Angel.  
*(Light the purple Angel Candle.)*

But where is the child to be born?

**People: He will be born in the little town of Bethlehem.**

Leader: Blessed are you, oh Bethlehem, for from the least shall come the greatest.

**People: A humble city is where our humble Lord shall be born.**

Leader: Today we light the Bethlehem Candle, remembering that from the least, God has given the greatest.  
*(Light the pink Bethlehem Candle.)*

**People: O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie.**

† HYMN 245 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Verse 3

## 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 *Emmanuel*

BELL ANTHEM *Good Christian Men, Rejoice*

## CHILDREN'S CHOIR

### THE OFFERING

#### OFFERTORY

*Vocal Duet: Pam and Sarah Keenen*

#### \* DOXOLOGY

#### \* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SCRIPTURES Luke 1:26-38 New Testament, p. 49

SERMON *Gabriel*

† HYMN 278 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

## † BENEDICTION

† BELL RESPONSE *Still, Still, Still* arr. Cathy Moglebust

† POSTLUDE *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

**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.

*Worship Accompanist*

*Elena Taylor*

*Chancel Choir Director*

*Joshua Konow*

*Bell Choir Director*

*Barbara Fraunfelder*

*Technical Setup and Operation*

*Doug Thorn*

*Sound System*

*Jim Heinrich*

*Liturgist*

*Kenn Oerkfitz*

*Greeters*

*The Bickley Family*

*Morning Announcements*

*Irene Joyce*

*Coffee Hour*

*Rosemary Bechtel*



## DECEMBER 2015

- 13 Sun Diaconate Holiday Cookie Sale during Coffee Hour  
Women's Fellowship Candy Sale during Coffee Hour  
Advent Study, 5:30pm
- 15 Tue Newsletter Deadline  
Trustees Meeting, 7pm  
Advertising Meeting, 7pm  
Special Chancel Choir rehearsal for the cantata, 8pm
- 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 Bach Cantata No. 63  
Children's Christmas Presentation and Supper, 5pm
- 27 Sun KFC Penny Sunday

**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.

### Serving Next Sunday – December 20 – 1 SERVICE ONLY AT 9:45

Greeters	Volunteers Needed
Morning Announcements	Barb Fraunfelder
Ushers	Volunteers Needed
Coffee Hour	Ginny Oerkfitz

## ANNOUNCEMENTS – DECEMBER 13, 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 Honor of Friends and Loved Ones*  
The Kovatich Family

*In Celebration of the Holiday Season with Our Family and Friends*  
George and Joyce Reed

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

*Happy Birthday to Bill Craig on December 17*  
With love, Mom

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

**Cookie Sale** – The Diaconate will hold its ninth annual Holiday Cookie Sale today in Pilgrim Hall. Come and buy all your favorite cookies!

**Candy Sale** – Women's Fellowship will sell candy during Coffee Hour today.

**Tuesday Events:** Advertising Team Meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
Trustees Meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
Special Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 8:00 p.m.  
Newsletter Deadline

**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.  
Chancel Choir at 8:00 p.m.

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

Offering 12/6	Traditional \$3,493	Contemporary \$203	Weekly Offering Needed \$3,190
		Difference \$506	3,696

**The Family of Faith Tree** is now in the Gathering Area. This revolving tree is decorated with Christmas ornaments donated by church families and friends of the congregation. **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 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 Family of Faith tree decorations each year. We recommend that you **do not bring expensive heirloom ornaments.** Thank you for celebrating with your church family in 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 Mhlack at Pearlview, 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 (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)

## DECEMBER 2015 CHURCH EVENTS

### Women's Fellowship Candy Sale

Sunday – December 13 – during Coffee Hour – Pilgrim Hall

### Diaconate Cookie Sale

Sunday – December 13 – during Coffee Hour – Pilgrim hall

### Advent Study with Pastor Becky

*“Christianity's Impact in Christmas Movies”*

Sunday – December 13 – 5:30 P.M. – Pilgrim Hall

*A light meal of soup will be served; child care will be available.*

### Strongsville City Jazz Christmas Concert

*Fundraiser for Our Music Ministry*

Friday – December 18 – 7:30 P.M. – Sanctuary

\$10 – 13 years and up    \$4 – 6 to 12 years    Free 5 years and under

*Reception will follow in Pilgrim Hall.*

*To help, please mark the back of your Attendance Card.*

### Sunday – December 20 – 1 Service ONLY – 9:45 A.M.

*During worship, our Chancel Choir and guest musicians will present*

*J. S. Bach's Cantata No. 63 in the Sanctuary.*

### Sunday – December 20 – Children's Presentation – 5 P.M.

*“Supper at the Inn” – Pilgrim Hall*

*A free, simple meal will be served.*

### Thursday – Christmas Eve – 7:30 P.M. – Sanctuary

Family Worship

### Thursday – Christmas Eve – 11 P.M. – Sanctuary

Candlelight Service

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**

The Children's Anthem for this morning is

*"An African Celebration"*

### Children's Choir

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

### Children's Choir Director

Elena Taylor

### Flutist

Kelly Bickley



### 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!