



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
(Congregational)  
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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor  
Sunday, December 15, 2019 – 10:00 A.M.  
Third Sunday of Advent

### 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 "I Wonder as I Wander" Niles

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rachel Zielinski

INTROIT "Create in Me" Whitworth

### † CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Be patient! The time is coming when we will celebrate the birth of Jesus:

People: When we will sing and rejoice, and dance with everlasting joy.

Leader: But for now, be patient, as we wait in this time called Advent:

People: When God speaks through dreams and visions, and we are invited to dance into the kingdom of God.

Leader: For this is Advent, as we prepare to join the world in celebrating the Creator of goodness and hope:

People: When those who limp will teach new dance steps, when the voiceless will sing as we wait. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

† HYMN 760 "While We Are Waiting, Come"

### LIGHTING THE THIRD CANDLE OF ADVENT Elaine Coffey and Teri Barbish

Leader: On the third Sunday of Advent, we feel the joy of God that comes to us through the birth of Jesus. We remember how Mary sang a song of joy before Jesus was born, of how God was going to make all things new.

People: We sing our own songs of joy, knowing that even when we are sad now, even when we grieve, our mourning will turn to dancing.

Leader: We light this third candle for the joy we know in Christ Jesus.

People: Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth, join angels in dancing from heaven to earth. Wave banners of Good News! Lift high thankful praise! One candle is lit for the Joy of these days!

HYMN 245 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verse 3)

A READING FROM THE EPISTLES James 5: 7-8

### SHARING OF 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.

PRAYER RESPONSE "Two Fold Amen" Whitworth

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS Matthew 11: 2-6

### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The Birth of Our Savior Serena Abruzzino

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN 262 "Away in a Manger"

### THE OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "Emmanuel" MaGee

† 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

REFLECTION FROM THE PASTOR "What Was THAT?"

† HYMN 256 "Love Has Come"

### † BENEDICTION

† RESPONSE "Go Now in Peace" Besig

† POSTLUDE Clarinet Duet: Erin Anderson and Ken Mehalko

### SERVING

TODAY – DECEMBER 15		NEXT SUNDAY – DECEMBER 22
Kenn Oerkfitz	Liturgist	Barb Fraunfelder
Elaine Coffey/Teri Barbish	Greeters	Judi Pavisich
Teri Barbish	Ushers	Volunteers needed
Pageant Reception	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
Erin Anderson, Ken Mehalko	Clarinet	

The altar flowers are given—

In celebration of our 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Tom and Judy Gaumer

Mom and Dad, Happy Anniversary to you both in heaven.

Love, Margaret Stayrook

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthday to Bill Craig on December 17<sup>th</sup>!

With Love, Mom

Happy Birthday today to Megan Matchett!

The Diaconate will meet Tuesday, December 17 at 7 p.m.

**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 Birth of Our Savior

Directed by Serena Abruzzino

Music Director: Tom Foley

Narrator: Emma Clotworthy

Papa: Ben Clotworthy

Grandma: Clara Barry

Teen: Alysha Rolland

Child: Jack Hayes

Child: Penny Zielinski

Child: Lacey Marshall

Innkeeper/Wise Man: Bobby Foley

Wise Man: Ian Rolland

Wise Man: Ollie Zielinski

Joseph: Christopher Abruzzino

Mary: Autumn Zoscak

Angel: McKenzi Abruzzino

Angel: Riley Hawk

Angel: Summer Zoscak

Shepherd: Luke Giuliano

Song: "Do You Hear What I Hear?" Regney/Shane

**Special Thanks** to Serena Abruzzino for writing the script, to our Sunday School Superintendent Kristen Clotworthy, to Rachel Zielinski for her assistance, and as always, our Sunday School families



### Christmas Pageant



**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT RECEPTION FOLLOWS OUR SERVICE TODAY—PLEASE JOIN US IN PILGRIM HALL AFTER WORSHIP!**

### OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,522.02

Last Week's Offering Received ~~\$4,334.00~~

Difference \$811.98

To date for the Stewardship Campaign, we have received 74 pledges totaling \$154,344.00. **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 CHRISTMAS.**

This morning, we welcome and thank **Erin Anderson**, daughter of **Linda** and **Mike Elkins**, to our worship. Erin is a nurse at University Hospitals. In addition to her nursing degree, she has a degree in Music Business from Middle Tennessee State University. She and her husband, Chris, live in Strongsville.

TONIGHT – DECEMBER 15 – 7 P.M.

### BLUE CHRISTMAS

Service of Remembrance & Healing

Join us for a time of reflection, remembrance and meditation as together we seek peace during this busy season. Whether you have lost someone or just feel the need for serenity, all are welcome—especially you.



## 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), 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?

Sign-up sheets 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. **Help will be needed in January/February/March to pick up Panera bakery donations on Monday mornings. Please see Kenn Oerkfitz to volunteer.**



**THE CHRISTMAS FUND ENVELOPES ARE IN THE PEWS FOR THE UCC DECEMBER SPECIAL COLLECTION, "THE CHRISTMAS FUND," WHICH BENEFITS RETIRED CLERGY AND THEIR FAMILIES.**



## FAMILY OF FAITH TREE

If you have not yet donated an ornament – or – if you'd like to donate an additional ornament, please bring it to the church office and include your name. Official Board will prepare a tag with your name, attach the tag to your ornament, and hang the ornament on the Family of Faith Tree. Please know that **your ornament will NOT be returned to you**, but it will become part of the Christmas decorations each year. **Please do not bring expensive heirloom ornaments.**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Mitten Tree for the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless!



## CHURCH CHRISTMAS MAIL BOX

To send Christmas greetings to fellow members and friends, the church "mail box" will again be available in Pilgrim Hall, starting next week. Please remember to check the box for greetings you receive.

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 Christmas 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!

## TUESDAY – DECEMBER 24– 7:00 P.M.

### Christmas Eve Family Service

**Liturgists:** The Hawk Family

**Greeter:** The Costin-Barry Family

**Ushers:** Volunteers needed

**Special Music:** SUCC Band



## TUESDAY – DECEMBER 24– 11:00 P.M.

### Christmas Eve Traditional Candlelight Service

**Liturgist:** David Williams

**Greeter:** Judi Pavisich

**Ushers:** Judi Pavisich

**Special Music:** Chancel Choir & guest instrumentalists



## 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 December 31, 2019. Thanks!**

## HYMN SING SUNDAY

Enjoy the best Christmas hymns as we join together in song on **Sunday, December 29** during worship. Take a breath after the hectic month of planning and preparing and enjoy the presence of Jesus Christ in our lives.



**The Strongsville Community Band** annual Christmas Concert will

take place at the Ehrnfelt Senior/Recreation Center at 3 p.m. TODAY, **December 15**. The program will include a potpourri of traditional holiday music. One of the highlights will be the narrated version of the ever popular "Twas The Night Before Christmas" with band accompaniment. As always-Admission is FREE. Families are encouraged to attend with their children.



## RETREAT SIGN UP

It's time to start planning to attend the Annual Winter Retreat at Tempel Hills. The dates are February 14-16, 2020. More information will be coming soon.



The last **Penny Sunday** of 2019 will be on Sunday, **December 29**, 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!



**ADVENT EVENTS**

**December 15: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent—10 a.m.**

**Christmas Pageant followed by reception  
and visitor from the North**

**Strongsville Community Band Concert  
at the Ehrnfelt Center at 3 p.m.**

**Blue Christmas Service  
Sunday evening at 7 p.m.**

**December 22: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent—10 a.m.**

**December 24: Christmas Eve Worship  
Family Service at 7 p.m.**

**Traditional Candlelight Service 11 p.m.**

**December 29: Last Sunday worship of 2019  
Penny Sunday**

