



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)
13740 Pearl Road
Strongsville, Ohio 44136
(440) 238-6697

StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com
StrongsvilleUCC.com

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall
Pastor



Sunday – December 16, 2018 – 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 and where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. For questions about our church and ministries, call (440) 238-6697. Please complete your Attendance Card and place it in the offering plate. We hope to see you again soon!

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE "Mary, Mary" Donnelly/Strid

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Lora Rung

INTROIT "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" Traditional

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, let us rejoice in God, who is near in everyone around us.

People: Let us sing glad songs of the One who is rebuilding neighborhoods in our midst.

Leader: Come, let us rejoice always in Jesus, who baptizes us with hope and compassion.

People: Let us join in choruses of praise of the One who brings justice to the forgotten in our midst.

Leader: Come, let us rejoice again and again in the Spirit, who offers us new life in every moment.

People: Let us sing of the One who fills us with gifts to share with everyone in our midst.

† **HYMN 444** "I Love to Tell the Story"

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD CANDLE OF ADVENT

The Candle of Joy Dave Williams and Sharon Maresco

Leader: Jesus declares, "I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." Christ's messages of Hope and Love are symbolized in the lighting of the first two Advent Candles; this morning, we light the third candle, the Candle of Joy.

People: In this season of hope, love and joy, we thank God for the freedom to celebrate and worship the One who is worthy of our faith and praise.

Leader: In her innocence, filled with questions and uncertainty, Mary worshipped God, saying, "My soul magnifies the Lord!" This morning, we light the third candle, the rose-colored one, the Candle of Joy.

People: With Mary, we affirm God's presence in every circumstance. We celebrate the Joy of Christ in our lives, even in times filled with uncertainty and anxiety.

HYMN 245 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Third Verse)
**O, Come Thou Wisdom from on high And order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show, And cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel--shall come to thee, O Israel!**

A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT Psalm 8

SHARING 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 "Ask, Seek, Knock" Larson

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Remembering the Very First Christmas Elena Joyce

CONGREGATION JOINS THE LAST SONG "Away in a Manger"

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "Lo, How a Rose is Growing" arr. Burkhardt

† **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

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS Matthew 18: 1-6

REFLECTION FROM THE PASTOR

† **HYMN 271** "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

† BENEDICTION

† **ORGAN RESPONSE/POSTLUDE** "Allegro in C Major" Guilmant

SERVING

TODAY – DECEMBER 16	NEXT SUNDAY – DECEMBER 23
Dave Williams	Liturgist Kenn Oerkfitz
The Rolland Family	Greeters The Clotworthy Family
Volunteers needed	Ushers Volunteers needed
Volunteer needed	Coffee Hour Volunteer needed
Tom Foley	Director of Music Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	Associate Director of Music Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	Organist Sharon Heinrich
Mike Soltis	Drummer Mike Soltis

The altar flowers are given—

*Happy Anniversary Mom & Pop – Love, Margaret Stayrook
Happy Anniversary to Grant & Terri Morgan--Love Mom*

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

*In memory of Lois Hampson on her birthday, December 22nd
Herb Hampson*

Happy 60th Birthday to Bill Craig tomorrow.

In memory of Charlie Garner

Thank you to all the volunteers who make the Free Lunch for All a success every week! Betty "Grammy" Craig

PLEASE NOTE: Our worship services are video recorded each week and posted on our YouTube channel for all to enjoy.

Remembering the Very First Christmas

Directed by Kristen Clotworthy and Tom Foley

Original Music by Tom Foley, Lyrics by Irene Joyce and Ingrid Dickson

Grandpa: Christian Habart Scott

Grandkid 1: Teddy Bickley

Grandkid 2: Ian Rolland

Grandkid 3: Gabby Grace

Grandkid 4: Oliver Sekorky

Grandkid 5: Makayla McLaughlin

Narrator 1: Ben Clotworthy

Narrator 2: Olivia Clotworthy

Narrator 3: Emma Clotworthy

Narrator 4: Bobby Foley

Narrator 5: Alysha Rolland

Narrator 6: Clara Barry

Angel 1: Summer Zoscak

Angel 2: Autumn Zoscak

Angel 3: McKenzi Dragony

Angel 4: Anna Bickley

Angel 5: Riley Hawk

Shepherd 1: Luke Giuliano

Shepherd 2: Russell Bickley

Shepherd 3: Oliver Zielinski

Mary: Tilly Sekorky

Joseph: Christopher Dragony

Angel: Penny Zielinski

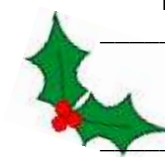
Lamb: Autumn Schneider

Shepherds: Jack Hayes, Cole Johnson

Special Thanks to Elena Joyce for writing the script and to our Sunday School teachers: Linda Elkins, Jamie Trinckes, Lora Rung, and Irene Joyce and to our helpers Sharon Heinrich, Ingrid Dickson, Pastor Heidi, Doug Thorn, Jim Heinrich, and as always, to our Sunday School families



Christmas Pageant



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT RECEPTION TODAY IN PILGRIM HALL AFTER THE SERVICE. Please join us!

The Church Family Greeting Card Mailbox is located in Pilgrim Hall by the bulletin board for those who would like to send a Christmas wish and save a stamp. Don't forget to check the box for greetings you may have received from your church friends!



Women's Fellowship will have its final meeting of the year on **Wednesday, December 19 at 10 a.m.** with tea in the Parlor, followed by the free lunch. **All ladies are invited!**

Please Note: The **Adult Social Club** will not meet this month. The **Diaconate** will meet this Tuesday, December 18 at 7 p.m.

Friendly reminder: If you are the last person to leave the building, please make sure doors are locked and lights are turned out. Thanks!

OUR PRAYER LIST

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: Betty Bushea at Danbury Senior Living in Brunswick, Janet Kato at Kemper House, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

Church Family: Betty Babics, Rev. Larry and Christina Craig, Steve Herzog, Margot James, Bobbie Krisak, Karl Kuhlenschmidt, Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Phyllis Kurz (mother of Karen Morgan), Martha Liebert, Lacey Marshall (daughter of Amanda and John), Laurie Meister, Karen Morgan, Harvey Pincombe, Joyce Reed, Bill Ritchie, Linda Stepan, Barbara Toth, Sally Vetovitz, Kyle Woodward

Extended Church Family: Luke Bazan (friend of Judi Pavisich's granddaughter), Amy Carroll (sister of Marty Winch), Michele Cortese (friend of the Heinrichs), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Joyce Freeman (sister of Carol Woodward), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Karen Greenway and daughters (friends of Judi Pavisich), Sam Harteis (friend of Reeds), Margaret Haught (mother of Jen Barry), Sandra Manos (mother of Eli), Diane Mason (friend of Lora Rung), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Zachary McKeever (great-nephew of Pastor Heidi and Chuck), Jeff Perrin (cousin of Barb Fraunfelder), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Frank Toth (father of Rob), Joe Valli (brother-in-law of Vicky and Dan Masuga)



CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Are you interested in joining our family of fellowship by becoming a member of the Strongsville UCC? Pastor Heidi will be having a membership class in January. Please contact her or the church office if you would like to be a part of the new class of members or indicate your interest on your attendance card and place it in the offering plate.

DECEMBER 2018 DATES TO REMEMBER

16 Sun Worship 10am Children's Pageant and Reception

3rd Sunday of Advent

18 Tue Diaconate Meeting, 7pm

19 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am-12:30pm

Band Rehearsal 8:15 pm

20 Thurs Thrift Shop 10am-4pm

Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm

Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm

23 Sun Worship 10am

4th Sunday of Advent

24 Mon Christmas Eve Family Service 7pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 11pm

25 Tues Christmas Day

26 Wed No Free Lunch for All

No Fit Club, No Band Rehearsal

27 Thurs Thrift Shop Closed

Men's Luncheon 11:30am

No Bell or Chancel Choir Rehearsal

30 Sun Worship 10am Hymn Sing

Penny Sunday

31 Mon Annual Reports Due



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

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,649.31

Last Week's Offering Received \$3,582.50

(Difference -\$ 66.81)



As of this printing, we have received 63 Estimate of Giving cards for a total of \$108,192.00. Thank you very much for your support.

FAMILY OF FAITH TREE



Family of Faith Tree is decorated with Christmas ornaments donated by members and friends. **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.)**

FROM THE 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.

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, non-clergy staff, and physical plant of the church. The committees of the Trustees are Building and Grounds, Finance, and Long-Range Planning.

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



needed to work with us for 2 hours on the second Wednesday of the month. Please contact the church office if you can help either on Wednesdays or Thursdays. SPECIAL THANKS TO THE THRIFT SHOP for purchasing new lights for the shop and to Jim and Sharon Heinrich for installing them! Thrift Shop will be closed on December 27.

THE THRIFT SHOP is open for business on Thursdays, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., with a bonus Free Lunch for All sale day on Wednesdays once a month from 11 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. **WE NEED HELP!** If you can spare a few hours on Thursdays to volunteer in our Thrift Shop, please consider helping at the Thrift Shop. **Also, an additional person is**

ANNUAL REPORTS

Chairs of church organizations: Annual reports are due in the church office on December 31. Please be kind to the new, inexperienced Church Secretary and get your reports in on time. Thank you!!! Once completed, Annual Reports will be available for pickup prior to the Annual Meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING



The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place **Sunday, January 27, 2019**, and will be preceded by the traditional Pancake Brunch. All are encouraged to attend this meeting and be a part of our family of faith. You do not have to be a member to attend the meeting, but only members are entitled to cast a vote.

FINANCIAL OFFICERS OF CHURCH GROUPS:

Please turn in your financial statements to the Auditing Committee through the church office by December 31.

It is extremely important that all books be audited before the Annual Meeting on January 28, 2018. All organizations are required to submit:

1. ALL bank books (savings and/or checking).
2. ALL bank statements for each month for each account. Checking accounts statements should show completed reconciliation on the back.
3. ALL monthly recap forms.
4. ALL bank deposit slips, withdrawal slips and bank check receipts (if received), attached to monthly recap forms.
5. ALL receipts and bills paid.
6. Copy of Annual Financial Report (original provided to church office for Annual Report).

Thank you for your cooperation.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Monday, December 24, 2018

7 p.m.: Family Service of Lessons and Carols
11 p.m.: Traditional Candlelight Service



OH HOLY NIGHT!

Celebrate the birth of our Savior with your church family as we welcome the Light of the World into our lives with music, readings of the Christmas story, prayer, worship, and praise!

HYMN SING SUNDAY

Enjoy the best Christmas hymns as we join together in song on **Sunday, December 30** during worship. Take a breath after the hectic month of planning and preparing and enjoy the presence of Jesus Christ in our lives.



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, or nursery helper! **Help is especially needed to pick up the donations from Panera on Monday or Friday mornings.** No experience is needed and everyone is welcome to be a part of our church life.