

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(CONGREGATIONAL)
13740 Pearl Road
Strongsville, Ohio 44136

Rev. Rebecca Stephenson, Pastor

DECEMBER 18, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.



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, you may call the
church at (440) 238-6697. Please complete your Attendance Card
and place it into the offering plate. We hope to see you again soon!*

† *Please stand as you are comfortable.*

PRELUDE *“Carol of the Bells”*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL MUSIC *“Mary, Did You Know?”*
Gary Hackett, Vocal Solo and Guitar

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jesus, God sent you in mercy to be to be Emmanuel,
God-with-us.

People: Teach us the compassion of God.

Leader: Jesus, your life took flesh in the mercy of Mary's
womb.

People: We rejoice in the compassion of Mary.

Leader: Jesus, your family took shape in the mercy of
Joseph's welcome.

People: We give thanks for the compassion of Joseph.

Leader: Jesus, your holy family knew the struggle of the poor,
when they were refused the mercy of shelter in
Bethlehem.

**People: Teach us the compassion of God;
Lead us in the ways of justice, mercy and peace.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE
The Abruzzino-Krisak Family

Leader: Today we light again the candles of Hope, Love, and Joy.
And we add the fourth candle—the candle of Peace. Christ is the
Prince of Peace, who comes to reconcile us with God and with one
another. Christ helps us to see that peace is possible. *(Light three
purple candles and one pink candle.)* Let us pray together . . .

Congregational Prayer: O God, let there be peace on earth, and
let it begin with me. In the name and spirit of the Prince of Peace we
pray. Amen.

† **HYMN 245** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Verse 4

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 *“Who Would Send a Baby?”* Mary Kay Beall

CHORAL ANTHEM *“Do You Hear What I Hear?”*
Noel Regney and Gloria Shayne
Mike Soltis, Drum Set; Doug Thorn, Organ Chimes

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

THE OFFERING

INSTRUMENTAL OFFERTORY *“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”*
African American Tune, arr. William Bliem
Ken Mehalko, Clarinet

† **DOXOLOGY 166** Tune: *“Lasst uns erfreunen”*
Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

† **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SCRIPTURES Matthew 1:18-25 New Testament, p. 1

SERMON *“Joseph Dreams”*

† **HYMN 271** *“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”*

† **BENEDICTION**

† **RESPONSE** *“Surely, Surely”* Eleanor Wright, arr. Adrian Westney, Jr.

† **POSTLUDE** *“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”* Henry T. Smart

This morning’s altar flowers are given—
*Wishing My Church Family and Friends a Wonderful Holiday Season
and a Great 2017! God Bless You All
Love, Lola*
*In Remembrance of Mom and Dad
on Their First Wedding Anniversary Together in Heaven
With love, Margaret*

The steeple will light the sky this week—
*Merry Christmas to My Brother, My Mom and Dad
Love, Holly*
*To My Church Family – Merry Christmas to All and a Blessed New Year
Margot James*

The Christmas Fund offering will be received today. This special
offering of the United Church of Christ provides direct financial assistance
to retired and active United Church of Christ authorized ministers and lay
employees and their surviving spouses, including pension and health
premium supplementation, emergency assistance, and Christmas thank-
you checks. A ministry of the Pension Boards, the offering is received
annually on the Sunday before Christmas. Offering envelopes are in the
pew racks. Thank you for your support.

Weekly Offering Needed	\$3,900
Weekly Offering Received 12/11/2016	<u>3,511</u>
Difference	- \$ 389

SERVING TODAY

Greeters – The Bickley Family
Morning Announcements – Irene Joyce
Liturgist – Bill Schneider
Ushers – Ted and Kelly Bickley
Coffee Hour – Allen and Michele Mihlack
Director of Music – Elena Taylor
Bell Choir Director – Barb Fraunfelder
The Chancel Choir
Hand bells – Barb Fraunfelder
Choir Accompanist – Sharon Heinrich
Bass Guitar – Jack Stephenson
Acoustic Guitar – Gary Hackett
Electric Guitar – Jake Williams
Mallet Percussion – Rob Toth
Drum Set – Mike Soltis
Technical Setup and Operation – Doug Thorn
Sound System – Jim Heinrich

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY – DECEMBER 25, 2016

Greeter – Jim Dettmer
Morning Announcements – Irene Joyce
Liturgist – Betty Craig
Ushers – Volunteers Needed
Coffee Hour – Jim and Linda Dettmer

Strongsville Food Bank needs volunteers for the Christmas Village at Southpark Mall in December. The village is on the second level near Sears and is open daily with two shifts: 12 noon to 4 p.m., and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Two adults are needed for each shift for greeting visitors, answering questions and ensuring safety of the display. This could be a volunteer opportunity for older children and teens, but they must be accompanied by an adult. Freewill offerings of cash or non-perishable foods are welcomed. Please contact Judy Carte at (440) 238-8283 or email her at alacartej@gmail.com

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, (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: 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

DECEMBER 2016

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| 18 | Sun | Christmas Fund Offering received for retired ministers
Children's Christmas Pageant and Potluck, 5pm |
| 20 | Tue | Advertising Committee Meeting, 7pm
Trustees Meeting, 7pm |
| 21 | Wed | Adult Social Club Meeting, 7pm |
| 23 | Fri | Church Office Closed |
| 24 | Sat | Christmas Eve Worship, 7:30pm and 11pm |
| 25 | Sun | Christmas Morning Worship, 10am |
| 26 | Mon | Church Office Closed |
| 27 | Tue | Official Board Meeting, 7pm |
| 28 | Wed | Men's Luncheon, 11:30am |
| 31 | Sat | Deadline for Annual Reports |

MUSIC REHEARSALS DURING THE WEEK

Children's Choir - 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays
Band (for adults and children) – 8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays
Bell Choir – 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays
Chancel Choir – 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays

STRONGSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church Telephone (440) 238-6697
Website strongsvilleucc.com
Email strongsvilleucc@gmail.com

THIS WEEK

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| Tuesday | Advertising Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Trustees Meeting, 7:00 p.m. |
| Wednesday | Free Lunch Program, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Fitness Club, 7 p.m.
Children's Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
Band Rehearsal, 8:00 p.m. |
| Thursday | Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Bell Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 8 p.m. |
| Friday | Church Office Closed |
| Saturday | Christmas Eve Worship, 7:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. |
| Sunday | Christmas Day Worship, 10 a.m. |

TODAY – DECEMBER 18 – 5:00 P.M.

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT + POTLUCK MEAL

All are welcome to come see our Sunday School children's pageant and enjoy a festive potluck meal together.



Please bring a dish to share for the potluck.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

CHRISTMAS EVE – 7:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE – 11:00 p.m. – Candlelight Service

CHRISTMAS DAY – 10:00 a.m.



THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED:

Friday, December 23

Monday, December 26



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 additional \$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 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.