

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 20, 2015 9:45 A.M. Advent IV

† *Those who are able may stand.*

PRELUDE *This Day, So Filled with Joy* J. S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT *Fanfare* Gottfried Reiche
James Tinsley, Trumpet

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Look out there! See the shepherds tending their flocks.

People: **Yes, and we hear heavenly music.**

Leader: The angels are saying, "Glory to God in the highest and peace to all people."

People: **Let us go and worship the Lord.**

† HYMN 272 *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks* 1 verse

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH The Bickley Family
The Fourth Sunday of Advent – The Shepherds' Candle

Leader: This is the fourth and last Sunday of Advent. Together we have lit candles remembering the Prophet (*light a purple candle*), the Angel (*light a purple candle*), and the little town of Bethlehem (*light a pink candle*). Today we light a candle for the Shepherds.

People: **We see them in the fields protecting their flocks by night.**

Leader: They are the poorest of the people.

People: **Yet they are the ones who will hear the Angel once again.**

Leader: They will hear the good news for all, that God's promise is about to be fulfilled. (*Light the purple Shepherds' Candle.*)

People: **The light is about to come into the world, and darkness will end.**

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

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Mit Gott vergüngt* J. S. Bach
James Tinsley, Trumpet

* DOXOLOGY *What Gift Can We Bring* – on insert

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CANTATA NO. 63 *Christen, ätzet diesen Tag* J. S. Bach

† BENEDICTION

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
Chancel Choir Director
Bell Choir Director
Technical Setup and Operation
Sound System
Greeter
Morning Announcements
Coffee Hour

Elena Taylor
Joshua Konow
Barbara Fraunfelder
Doug Thorn
Jim Heinrich
Ginny Dangelo
Natalie Daniels
Tom Gaumer

ANNOUNCEMENTS – DECEMBER 20, 2015

Welcome, visitors and guest musicians! We are so glad you are with us this morning. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

We extend a big THANK YOU to all our musicians this morning for their extra-special efforts to present the Bach cantata.

The altar flowers are given this morning—

In Loving Memories of You, Richard
Melinda Slavik

In Remembrance of Our Special Day on December 19
Barb Stayrook

In Honor of Grant and Terri Morgan's 11th Wedding Anniversary
The Morgan and Zielinski Family

The steeple will light the sky this week—

In Memory of
Baby Clare Molnar, Robert White, and My Dad, Ray Higham
Love, Dianne

To My Church Family and Friends—
Wishing You a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!
Love, Lola

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

For those who made reservations—**the children's Christmas program, *The Night at the Inn***, will take place today at 5:00 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall.

Wednesday Free Lunch – All are welcome to this free lunch, which is served every Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP: Family Worship, 7:30 p.m.
Traditional Candlelight Service, 11 p.m.

		Weekly Offering Needed	\$3,190
Offering 12/13	Traditional	\$1,874	Contemporary \$176 2,050
			Difference (\$1,140)

The Diaconate thanks all who baked and bought goods at our Holiday Cooke Bake Sale. The event made \$196.25!! Merry Christmas to all!

The Thrift Shop will be closed for the holidays on December 24 and 31, but will reopen on January 7.

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 Mihlack, 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 (Godddaughter 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 Mihlack (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)

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 27, 2015

Greeter
Morning Announcements
Ushers
Coffee Hour

Ginny Dangelo
Denise Bell
Volunteers Needed
Tom Gaumer