

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



**Church Telephone:** (440) 238-6697  
**Email:** StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com  
**Website:** www.strongsvilleucc.com

**Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall**  
Pastor

**Worship at 10:00 A.M. on Sunday**

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## DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

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### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

*In the end, only three things matter:  
how much you loved,  
how gently you lived,  
and how gracefully you let go  
of things not meant for you. —the Buddha*

### A winning strategy

Christian minister and author John Ortberg writes about playing *Monopoly* with his grandmother as a child. The game would be going along smoothly; he might even be winning. But a sudden turn of events would find him on the losing end, and the game would be over.

No matter how many properties he had acquired, no matter how much money he had in his bank, at the end of the game, the tiny racecar and the Scottie dog and all the rainbow-colored properties would go back in the box. Everything he had acquired counted for nothing. But the times spent playing with his grandmother forged indelible memories, and helped him learn what really matters in the world.

Of course, the game isn't *Monopoly*; it's *Life*. At the end of the game, everything winds up—in a box. A box about six feet long and a couple of feet wide. Everything we have accumulated in our lifetime, all the "stuff"—well, in case you haven't heard? You can't take it with you.

We are entering a season of giving; there are choices to be made. This year, how might we turn our eyes towards Jesus this Christmas? How will you change the world this Advent season?

Hope, Love, Joy and Peace,  
Pastor Heidi



### WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**SUNDAY – DECEMBER 1 – 10:00 A.M.**

*First Sunday of Advent*  
**Sacrament of Communion**

**Liturgist:** Linda Ponstingle

**Greeter:** Linda Plain

**Ushers:** Linda Plain

**Coffee Hour:** Sharon Heinrich

**Special Music:** Choir, Ken Mehalko



**SUNDAY – DECEMBER 8 – 10:00 A.M.**

*Second Sunday of Advent*

**Liturgist:** Jim Studer

**Greeter:** Billie Cantrell

**Ushers:** Roy Merkle

**Coffee Hour:** Volunteer needed

**Special Music:** Choir & SUCC Band



**SUNDAY – DECEMBER 15 – 10:00 A.M.**

*Third Sunday of Advent*

**Christmas Pageant**

**Liturgist:** Kenn Oerkfitz

**Greeters:** Elaine Coffey/Teri Barbish

**Ushers:** Volunteers needed

**Coffee Hour:** Volunteer needed

**Special Music:** The Children's Choir



**SUNDAY – DECEMBER 15 – 10:00 A.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. All are welcome—especially you.



**SUNDAY – DECEMBER 22 – 10:00 A.M.**

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

**Liturgist:** Barb Fraunfelder

**Greeter:** Judi Pavisich

**Ushers:** Volunteers needed

**Coffee Hour:** Volunteer needed

**Special Music:** The Choir & Band



**TUESDAY – DECEMBER 24– 7:00 P.M.**

**Christmas Eve Family Service**

**Liturgists:** The Hawk Family  
**Greeter:** Volunteer needed  
**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:** The Chancel Choir



**SUNDAY – DECEMBER 29 – 10:00 A.M.**

*First Sunday after Christmas*  
**Penny Sunday**

**Liturgist:** Jennifer Barry  
**Greeter:** Abruzzino Family  
**Ushers:** Volunteers needed  
**Coffee Hour:** Volunteer needed  
**Special Music:** Mike Elkins & Tom Foley



**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), go to **Worship**, and click on **Service Videos**.*

**ADVENT EVENTS**

Mark your calendars for a busy and blessed Christmas season:

**December 1: 1st Sunday of Advent—10 a.m.**

**December 8: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent—10 a.m.**

**December 13: Christmas Jazz Concert**  
Friday evening at 7:30 p.m.

**December 15: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent—10 a.m.**  
**Christmas Pageant followed by reception and visitor from the North**  
**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**  
Tuesday at 7 p.m. & 11 p.m.

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



**OUR PRAYER LIST**

*Please provide updates for this list to the church office. Thank you.*



**Long-Term Care or Homebound:** Janet Kato at Kemper House, Martha Liebert, Marge McKinney, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

**Church Family:** Dolores Bail, Joan Beckwith, Elaine Coffey, Rev. Larry and Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., 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), 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), Mae O'Shea (mom of Sandy O'Shea), Terry Robson (friend of the Camps), Mike Rung (brother of Lora), Amanda Shannon (friend of Sarah & Jon Hayes), 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 be added.**



Our deepest sympathy is extended to **Sheri and Dennis Martin, Ross and Brett** and family on the death of Sheri's mom,

**Barbara Sommers** on November 8.



Our most heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of 59 year member **Betty Bushea**, who went home to the Lord on November 20. Love and prayers to her children **Barb Fraunfelder, Frank Bushea (Karen), Sue Citino (Roger), and Sally Bushea**, as well as

her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The funeral was at Jardine's with interment at Strongsville Cemetery on November 25.

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED IN OUR OPEN HOUSE AND LIVE NATIVITY! Over 900 people came through our doors.**

### OUR PHOTO DIRECTORY!

Directories are here! If you were not photographed by Lifetouch, you may purchase a directory for \$5 through the church office. Folks who were professionally photographed at the photo sessions in August receive a copy at no charge.



### THE CHRISTMAS FUND

Formerly known as Veterans of the Cross, 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 throughout December. Offering envelopes will be in the pew racks.



### CHURCH CHRISTMAS MAIL BOX

To send Christmas greetings to fellow members and friends, the church "mail box" will again be available in Pilgrim Hall. 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.

### 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.**



### UNSUNG HEROES



Did you know that **John Toth and Doug Thorn** took the time and initiative to plane the door to the Gathering Area restroom so that it now closes and locks. Thanks for the privacy, gentlemen!

Did you know that **Judi Pavisich** altered the choir robes for our Music Director, **Tom Foley**, our Associate Music Director, **Mike Elkins**, and our Supplemental Organist, **Sharon Heinrich** so that they can play keyboard without having their sleeves impede them? Thanks, Judi!

Did you know that **Judy Carte** went along on the Blue Bus from our friends at the Strongsville United Methodist church, distributing food and other necessities to the needy? Thanks for sharing the good, Judy!



### INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CHURCH?

Pastor Heidi will be offering a membership class after the new year. Contact the church office if you would like to be a part of it.



### FIT CLUB

We welcome any new participants, of any age or fitness level to join us and get moving on most Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m. We also go on field trips for our cultural fitness. In November, we saw *Kinky Boots* at Baldwin Wallace University.

**YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR FREE LUNCH FOR ALL WEDNESDAYS 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**







Are you an online shopper? If so, why not benefit the church while you make your purchases from Amazon? It's incredibly easy! Here's what you do:

1. Instead of typing amazon.com into your search bar, type in **smile.amazon.com**.
2. Select United Church of Christ Congregational Strongsville by clicking this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-1298100>

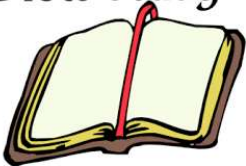
3. Shop as you would normally—that's it! Your addresses, billing information, and shopping cart are still saved and your Prime membership privileges still apply. A small percentage of your purchase price will go toward supporting the church. **Every little bit helps!**



And since you're in a shopping mood...you can benefit the church even more by buying Amazon (or many

other) **gift cards** from Jim Joyce in Pilgrim Hall prior to whipping out that credit card. **Please keep us in mind for your upcoming holiday shopping and gift-giving needs!**

### Bible Study



### UPPITY WOMEN—Part III!

All are welcome to join us on January 8, 15, 22, and 29 at 1 p.m. for a continuation of our Uppity Women of the Bible series. Mark your calendar now!



### TURKEY DINNER

Profit from our Turkey Dinner on November 9 was \$2,166.98 for the Official Board and its many programs and activities. Thank you to everyone who supported this dinner in any way.

### THRIFT SHOP

**NEW WINTER HOURS:** The Thrift Shop is open on Thursdays, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., with a bonus Free Lunch for All sale day on Wednesdays once a month from 11 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. Thank you to everyone who donates to, helps at, or buys from the Thrift Shop! **Please note: The Thrift Shop will be closed on Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup> & January 2<sup>nd</sup>.**



### STEEPLE LIGHTING

#### Week of November 3, 2019

*In loving memory of Bill Fraunfelder  
With love from the church family*

#### Week of November 10, 2019

*Happy Birthday to Jim Joyce and to Gina Gigliotti on  
November 12<sup>th</sup>*

*Happy Birthday to Zach Craig on November 13<sup>th</sup>  
With love, Grammy*

#### Week of November 17, 2019

*Thank you to Cathy Hawk and all the Turkey Dinner  
volunteers—With Love, Betty/Grammy*

*Happy 11A Anniversary to Ingrid & Greg Dickson  
November 23<sup>rd</sup>*

*Happy Birthday to Katie Lett on November 18<sup>th</sup> and  
Adam Craig on November 20<sup>th</sup>  
With Love, Grammy*

#### Week of November 24, 2019

*Happy 46<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to Debbie and Larry Wentz and  
Happy 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday to Stephen Popovich  
on November 28<sup>th</sup>!--With love, Mom/Grammy*

To light the steeple, the minimum donation is \$5.00. Donation forms are on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Multiple donations for the same week will be accepted. For questions, please call the church, (440) 238-6697. Thank you to all who light the steeple.



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### A NEW FLOWER CHART FOR 2020 IS NOW POSTED

**Sign up early for your choice of dates!**

#### ALTAR FLOWERS

**November 3** – *Happy 9<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Trevor Kuzmickas!  
Love, Aunt Sarah Keenen*

*Happy Birthday to Lori Deertz on November 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Love, Mom Marty Winch*

**November 10**– *Happy Birthday to Linda on  
November 13<sup>th</sup> --Mike and Linda Elkins*

*In loving memory of two souls married and meant to be  
together, torn apart by death on 11/10/59 reunited by death on  
11/10/10 We miss you Wilda and Emerson  
Love you, Familia Krisak/Abruzzino*

**November 17** – *In loving memory of our parents, Harold  
& Louella Camp and Warren & Hallie Strine  
Mark and Barbara Camp*

**November 24** -- *In loving memory of my buddy, Betty  
Bushea. Miss you forever.--Lola Millhoane  
In honor of our church's many helping hands  
The Hawks*



You may provide flowers on any Sunday you wish because multiple vases are accepted on Sunday mornings. The cost is \$15 for one vase, \$30 for two vases. Near the flower chart in Pilgrim Hall are forms for submitting your bulletin information and envelopes for enclosing your payment to the church office. Thank you for placing flowers on the altar for worship.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

### CHRISTMAS PAGEANT IS DECEMBER 15,

followed by a reception and a visit from a friend from the North Pole.

Please wear your best (or worst) Christmas sweater, dress, tie, or outfit.

**ATTENTION FAMILIES:** Parents, please allow time after church on Dec 8<sup>th</sup> for our children to rehearse the Christmas pageant. If your child can not be a part please let Serena Abruzzino know ASAP so she can reassign parts. Thank you!



The **November Penny Sunday** collection of \$177.65 will go to National Youth Advocate Program (NYAP) for foster children in Cuyahoga County. NYAP has provided cost effective, community based services and support to children, youth and families since 1978. They offer flexible, creative, outcome-based solutions to meet the unique needs of the communities we serve and the individual needs of the youth and families involved in our programs and services. **December 29<sup>th</sup>** is the last Penny Sunday of the year and will also go to NYAP.



## FROM THE KITCHEN:

Please label any items that are placed in the refrigerators with your **NAME/GROUP** and the **DATE**.

Also, if you have any large plastic serving trays with domed covers, round or rectangular, that you do not need, please donate them to the kitchen for our Coffee Hour pastries.

Also, we could use empty, clean large sour cream/cottage cheese/yogurt containers for the Altar Flowers. **Kitchen users: please remember to take out the garbage after each use.**



Our church supports the **Strongsville Emergency**



**Food Bank. They are especially in need of peanut butter & jelly, soup, tuna, and canned fruit.**

Please bring donations of non-perishable food items and place them in the collection box nestled in the corner of Pilgrim Hall next to the bulletin board. Thanks, as always, to everyone who donates and especially to **Sharon and Karl Kuhlenschmidt** who transport all the food to the Food Bank every week.

## STEWARDSHIP



To date for the Stewardship Campaign, we have received 72 pledges totaling \$150,624.00. (Last year, we received a total of 78 pledges for \$134,932.00)

### GIVING OPTIONS

If you are interested in giving electronically, Here's how: You can customize your giving based on how, when, and how much through **E-Offering**. Log on to our church website at [www.strongsvilleucc.com](http://www.strongsvilleucc.com) and click "Donate Now". You will be taken to the church's myEoffering page. Simply click on the "Sign-up" button and you will then fill in your personal information and "Register". Follow the prompts to set up your payment, one-time or ongoing. You can also set up your giving through Bill Pay on your bank's website.

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



**Women's Fellowship**  
*All ladies (and friends) are welcome to all programs. You need not be a member of Strongsville UCC to join in the fun!*

**Sunday – December 1 –  
Christmas Tea  
1:30 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall**



**MEN'S LUNCH BUNCH** All men are invited the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 11:30 a.m. to Gourmé Deli & Restaurant.  
(15315 Pearl Road in Strongsville)



## NEWS FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

**Adria Bond**

Below is a monthly report listing the budget income we need to receive from Pledges and Offerings and the amount received from

**October 27 through November 24, 2019.**

This information also appears on a weekly basis in our worship bulletin.

|                   |                           |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Offering Needed   | \$17,610.10 for 5 Sundays |
| Offering Received | 27,067.07                 |
| Difference        | <b>\$9,456.97</b>         |



Thank you to everyone for your faithful support!





River Valley Paper Company

**KEEP RECYCLING YOUR PAPER, MAGAZINES, AND CARDBOARD!** The church (and everyone else) benefits any time you recycle. Thank you!

### SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CHORUS CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2019



The **Southwest Community Chorus** and Chamber Singers will present their 2019 Christmas concert, "Heart of Winter," on **Sunday, December 8, at 3:00 p.m.** in the United Methodist Church at 170 Seminary Street in Berea.

This year's performance features our Music Director, **Tom Foley** as director, accompanist **Carol Konet**, and church singers: **Ingrid Dickson, Gary Hackett, Irene Joyce, Bruce Keenen, Pam Keenen, Sarah Keenen, Sharon Maresco, Dave Williams**, and UCC guest singer, **Craig Hardy**. Tickets are available in advance at a cost of \$12.50 for adults, \$15 at the door and free for children 12 and under. Save a few bucks by purchasing your tickets from any of the above choir members! You'll enjoy the music, and we'll get you in the Christmas mood. We like looking into the audience and seeing our fellow church members. Thank you!

### MITTEN TREE ~ FAMILY OF FAITH TREE



The **Mitten Tree** will be in the Gathering Area through December 8<sup>th</sup> for collecting hats, gloves, mittens and scarves for the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless.

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, the hats, gloves, mittens and scarves will be removed, and the tree will become the **Family of Faith Tree**, which we will decorate 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.**

Thank you for celebrating with your church family in the Mitten Tree, as well as the Family of Faith Tree!

### CHRISTMAS JAZZ CONCERT Friday, December 13 at 7:30 p.m.



Join the Strongsville City Jazz Swing Band for an evening of your favorite Christmas tunes with a little toe-tapping swing! Tickets are only \$10 at the door, \$5 for kids 6-12 and Free for kids under age 6 **Followed by a wine & cheese reception!**

### ANNUAL REPORTS

**Chairmen 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 26, 2020, and will be preceded by the traditional Pancake Brunch. All are encouraged to attend this meeting.

### 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 26, 2020. 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.

## CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2019

Officers elected on Jan. 27, 2019, have an asterisk\* by their names.

\*\* = appointed by the Official Board



**Moderator** Rachel Zielinski\*  
**Vice-Moderator** Rob Toth\*  
**Treasurer** Sally Herzog\*  
**Clerk** Judy Gaumer\*\*

**Sunday School Superintendent**  
 Kristen Clotworthy\*

### Board of Trustees

Greg Dickson\* Mike Clotworthy  
 Myron Costin Tom Gaumer Bill Giuliano\*  
 Dale Hawk\* Bob Kovatich Sandy Pogozelski\*  
 Ed Sobek\* Linda Stepan\* Rob Stepan\*

### Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Irene Jannsohn\* Joyce Reed \*

### Diaconate

Serena Abruzzino Jennifer Barry\* Eddy Bond\*  
 Barbara Camp\* Kristen Clotworthy\*  
 Judy Gaumer Cathy Hawk Sarah Hayes\*  
 Linda Plain\* Linda Ponstingle\*\* Nicole Stevens\*  
 Dawn Rolland Marty Winch\*

### Christian Education Committee

Kristen Clotworthy Mary Densmore\* Linda Elkins\*  
 Suzi Foley\* Sandy O'Shea\* Lora Rung\*

### Music Committee

Ingrid Dickson\* Ken Mehalko\*  
 Pam Keenen Tom Foley Mike Elkins

### Stewardship Committee

Rosemary Bechtel Eddy Bond\*\* Sue Gigliotti\*  
 Beth Giuliano Sharon Heinrich\*\* Bill Schneider\*\*

### Mission and Outreach Committee

Judy Carte\* Bobbie Krisak\* Tony Koussa\*\*  
 Michele Mhlack\* Gary Paul\* Lora Rung Bev Wehr\*

## 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.



## ANNUAL ALL FAMILY WINTER RETREAT

February 14 - 16, 2020

Templed Hills Camp  
 in Bellville, Ohio



The Church's Annual All-Family Winter Retreat will take place on President's Day weekend 2020: February 14, 15 and 16. The sign-up sheet to attend and the sign-up sheet for things to bring and to volunteer will soon be posted on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Please reserve your spot and room now, as rooms will be first-come, first-served. The cut-off to sign up—January 19—will be strictly enforced this year. We will not have the same luxury as we've had in the past, in which we were able to take reservations up until the event weekend. Space is limited to 75 attendees. Also, please let us know if you have any special dietary needs. Finally, those that wish to come down on Saturday only—we would be happy to have you there, but we also need your reservation by January 19, and the cost is \$10 per meal. Please contact Irene Joyce or Rachel Zielinski if you have any questions.

### Here is the cost (no change from last year):

ADULTS (12 and up): \$70  
 CHILDREN (6-11): \$15  
 CHILDREN (5 and under): FREE

### Important dates to remember:

JANUARY 19, 2020: Reservations close; **MONEY DUE**  
 JANUARY 26, 2020: Special dietary needs reported  
 FEBRUARY 9, 2020: Retreat planning meeting in the church after the worship service

**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.

**DECEMBER 2019 DATES TO REMEMBER**

- 1 Sun Worship 10am with Communion**  
**First Sunday of Advent**  
Children's Choir, Coffee Hour
- 1 Sun Women's Fellowship Christmas Tea 1:30pm**
- 4 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am to 12:30pm**  
Fit Club 7:15pm  
Band Rehearsal 8pm
- 5 Thurs Thrift Shop 10am-4pm**  
Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8pm
- 8 Sun Worship 10am Second Sunday of Advent**  
Children's Choir, Coffee Hour
- 10 Tues Trustees Meeting 7pm**
- 11 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am to 12:30pm**  
Fit Club 7:15pm  
Band Rehearsal 8pm
- 12 Thurs Thrift Shop 10am-4pm**  
Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8pm
- 15 Sun Worship 10am Third Sunday of Advent**  
**Christmas Pageant and Reception**
- 17 Tue Diaconate Meeting, 7pm**
- 18 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am-12:30pm**
- 19 Thurs Thrift Shop 10am-4pm**  
Men's Luncheon 11:30am  
Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8pm
- 22 Sun Worship 10am Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
Coffee Hour
- 24 Tue Christmas Eve Family Service 7pm**  
**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 11pm**
- 25 Wed Christmas Day**
- 26 Thurs Thrift Shop closed**
- 29 Sun Worship 10am**  
**Penny Sunday**  
Coffee Hour



**IN THE WORKS**

**Some projects on which your boards are working for the coming year:**

**TRUSTEES**

- An improved ramp for better wheelchair access to Pilgrim Hall
- Re-keying the outdoor locks to the church building and creating a better system of key distribution

**OFFICIAL BOARD**

- New inserts for our outdoor sign. (The Plexiglas has already been replaced.)
- A new **Congregational Photo** on **Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>** (Mother's Day) The last group picture of our congregation was taken in 2010. Please try to include this rare event in your Mother's Day plans

**COMING SOON...**

*Strongsville UCC All-You-Can-Eat*



**SWISS STEAK DINNER**

**Saturday – January 18, 2020**

**Seatings at 5:00 and 6:30 P.M.**

Reservations Only: (216) 598-6198  
**Adults: \$14, Kids 6-12: \$6, 5 & Under: Free**  
 Join us for this delicious all-you-can-eat meal which supports the Official Board and its programs.

Help is needed – especially on Friday for browning meat. The sign-up sheet will be posted on Pilgrim Hall's board. For safety reasons, no children under age 6 (with or without parent) can be helpers in any capacity during the serving hours of 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Children 6 to 10 must have a parent helping them.

**The Thrift Shop will be open.**

**The Strongsville Community Band** annual Christmas Concert will take place at the Ehrnfelt Senior/Recreation Center at 3 p.m. **on Sunday 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. Admission is FREE. Families are encouraged to attend with their children.

