

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 22, 2013

9:00 A.M.

† Those who are able may stand.

### WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### OPENING SONGS from *The Celebration Hymnal*

259 *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

251 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

269 *How Great Our Joy!*

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Look! A new star has appeared.

People: **It seems to be moving.**

Leader: Where is it going?

People: **What does it mean?**

Leader: Come with me and follow the Star.

People: **Surely something wonderful is about to take place.**

#### ADVENT WREATH

The Shepherds' Candle

Joyce Reed and Grandson Grant Reed

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.**

#### † PASSING OF THE PEACE

#### GATHERING SONG

67 *Sanctuary*

(Sing 3 times.)

#### SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

#### OUR LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

#### OFFERING

Your Name

Tiffany Schmidt, Vocalist

#### † BRING GIFTS FORWARD

From *The Celebration Hymnal* 263 *What Can I Give Him?*

#### SCRIPTURES

Matthew 1:18-25

New Testament, p. 1

#### MEDITATION

*"He's on His Way"*

#### CLOSING SONGS from *Contemporary Worship Songbook*

8 *What Can I Do* (after the Christmas tab)

9 *Sing We Now of Christmas* (after the Christmas tab)

10 *Carry the Light* (after the Christmas tab)

#### † BENEDICTION

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

#### Serving Today

Music Director / Drums

Andrew Purdum

Organist / Pianist

Susan Stevenson Tressa

Bass Guitar

Jack Stephenson

Guitar

Sean Patrick

Song Leader

Tiffany Schmidt

Sound System

Doug Thorn

Graphics Operation

Vicky Masuga

Liturgist

Sarah Hayes

Coffee Hour

Cathy Hawk

# 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

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 22, 2013

11:00 A.M.

† *Those who are able may stand.*

### PRELUDE

*O Holy Night*

arr. Jake Williams

Darrell McGuire, Vocalist

Jake Williams, Guitar

### INTROIT

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

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Leader: Come with me and follow the Star.

**People:** Surely something wonderful is about to take place.

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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 273

*Good Christian Men, Rejoice*

### 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.

### PRAYER RESPONSE

*What Can I Give Him?*

### BELL ANTHEM

*Pat a Pan*

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*If you are seated in the alcove and would prefer sitting in the sanctuary, please feel free to move to the sanctuary after the Children's Message.*

### SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:18-25

New Testament, p. 1

### THE OFFERINGS

#### OFFERTORY

*Hark the Herald Angel!*

Smith

#### † DOXOLOGY (No. 815)

#### † PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN 279

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

### SERMON

*"He's on His Way"*

† HYMN 258

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

### † BENEDICTION

### † BELL RESPONSE

*Coventry Carol*

### † POSTLUDE

### Serving Today

Music Director / Drums

Andrew Purdum

Organist / Pianist

Susan Stevenson Tressa

Sound System

Jim Heinrich

Liturgist

Sarah Hayes

Greeter

Pat Jefferis

Nursery

Dianne Maringer

Coffee Hour

Cathy Hawk

**The Organ Restoration Committee** wishes to thank everyone for a successful and celebratory concert with the Strongsville City Jazz Swing Band on December 8. In case you missed it, the concert featured several jazz arrangements of Christmas music, including two numbers with our very own Kyrie Singers. Approximately 81 people attended, and the event made a total of \$1,241 for the Organ Restoration. The account balance is now \$30,395.18, which does not include the money tied up in the gift card program. The ORC plans to begin Phase III in the spring or summer of 2014.

Our thanks goes out to everyone involved, whether you attended the concert, helped pass out programs, put out cookies or any of the other multitude of tasks that is involved with putting on an event like this. We also want to thank Pastor Becky and Jack Stephenson for hosting the band for dinner at their house after the concert. We especially want to thank Ken Mehalko, Jim Wonnacott and all the members of the Strongsville City Jazz Swing Band and the Kyrie Singers for the gracious donation of their time and talents.

We hope to be able to do this event next year with even greater success.  
Thank you. The Organ Restoration Committee

#### **December 2013**

23 Mon Praise Band Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.  
24 Tue Christmas Eve Services, 7:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.  
29 Sun Combined Sunday School Class  
31 Tue Annual Reports Deadline

#### **Serving Christmas Eve – 7:30 P.M.**

Liturgist	Jack Stephenson
Greeters	Volunteers Needed – Please call the church office.
Nursery	Sharon Heinrich
Ushers	Volunteers Needed

#### **Serving Christmas Eve – 11:00 P.M.**

Liturgist	Jack Stephenson
Greeter	Pat Jefferis
Nursery	Rachel Zielinski
Ushers	Volunteers Needed

#### **Serving Next Sunday – December 29, 2013**

Liturgist	Barb Fraunfelder
Greeters	Volunteers Needed
Nursery	Sharon Heinrich
Ushers	Volunteers Needed
Coffee Hour	Lora Rung

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS – DECEMBER 22, 2013**

**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. **Members, please wear your nametags** to assist visitors, our minister, and other members to get to know you.

**This morning's altar flowers** are given—

*Merry Christmas to Our Mom, Betty Babics  
The Gigliotti and Kubancik Families*

*Wishing My Family, My Church Family, Friends and Neighbors a  
Wonderful Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year  
filled with God's Blessings and Peace  
God Bless You All ~ Love, Lola*

**Our steeple** will light the sky this week—

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All!  
Thank you for your prayers  
Betty Bushea*

*In Loving Memory of Garry and Shirley Manley and  
Garry (Corky) Manley  
Holly Elkins*

*In Loving Memory of Alfred Graves during the Holidays and Always  
Edith Graves*

**Happy Birthday** today to Marty Winch and to Marjorie Hill!

**The Adult Discussion Group** continues to meet on Sunday mornings between the two worship services, but will NOT meet next Sunday, December 29. Newcomers are always welcome.

**Giving Statements for 2013** – To be included on your 2013 statement to the church, contributions must be turned in **by next Sunday, December 29**, because they need to be posted by December 31. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Family of Faith Tree** is the revolving tree in the Gathering Area, that is decorated with ornaments that we donated last year. The ornaments represent our individual households. **If you have not yet donated an ornament or if you'd like to donate an additional ornament, please bring your ornament to the church office now and include your name.** Please know that **your Christmas ornament will NOT be returned**, but will become part of the Christmas decorations each year. Please **do not bring expensive heirloom ornaments for the Family of**

**Faith Tree.** We thank you for participating in both the Mitten Tree and the Family of Faith Tree!

**Christmas Fund for Our Veterans of the Cross** provides direct financial assistance to retired and active clergy, as well as lay employees of the UCC who are facing times of crisis and challenge, and whose pensions are inadequate. One letter from a grateful recipient reads:

*My wife and I want to tell the UCC how very much we both appreciate everyone's kindness. We are not only grateful for the money; we are also so pleased to still be remembered by the Church in which I was ordained before the UCC was born.*

Christmas Fund envelopes are in the pew racks. Any gift, large or small, will be sincerely appreciated.

**Boots Mixup** – Two pairs of size 9 black boots that zip in the front were inadvertently swapped at Pastor Becky's party last Sunday. If you have the wrong pair, please bring the boots to the church; the other pair is already at the church, waiting for its owner!

**Altar Flower Chart for 2014** is posted in Pilgrim Hall. Please indicate whether you want one or two vases on the date(s) you select. Thanks!

**The 2014 Greeters Chart** for the 11:00 A.M. Service and other special services is also posted in Pilgrim Hall. Please help if you are available. The 9:00 A.M. service is casual and has no signup.

**Paper Recycling** – The new paper bin from River Valley Paper Company is in our church parking lot – the same location as the old bin. **Acceptable:** Brown Paper Bags, Cardboard, Catalogs, Hard and Soft Bound Books, Magazines, Mail, Newspapers, Office and School Paper, Phone Books. **Not Acceptable:** Aluminum, Glass, Metal, Plastic of any type, Styrofoam, Trash. Thank you for recycling!

**Later Today – Christmas Pageant and Potluck** – We will gather in the Sanctuary at 5:00 p.m. and sing carols, while the children prepare for the pageant. Afterwards, we will enjoy a potluck meal and festivities in Pilgrim Hall. **Please bring your own table service, a main dish plus either a side dish, salad or dessert to share.**

**Christmas Eve Worship: Family Service at 7:30 p.m. and Traditional Candlelight Service at 11:00 a.m.** – Fellowship and appetizers will be in Pilgrim Hall between the two services. Donations of light hors d'oeuvres are welcome. For questions, please contact Cathy Hawk.

**Ushers are really needed and appreciated** for our worship services. Please sign up on the board in the Gathering Area. Thank you!

## **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. Please inform the church of updates to this list.*

**Long-Term Care or Homebound Members:** Bill Betz at Chapel Hill Community in Canal Fulton, Edith Graves at Century Oak Care Center, Debbie Krause, Connie Rebar, Erla Mae Schultz at Medina Village

**Church Family:** Dan Davis, Holly Elkins, Janet Kato at The Altenheim, Betty Kovach, Dolores Matchett, Barbara Morgan, Katie Renfro, Rich Tressa

**Extended Church Family:** June Brewer (niece of Ed Powers), Logan Churnega (grandson of Ginny Churnega), Audrey and Gene Curry (parents of Pam Keenen), Zachary Crouse (grandson of Barbara Morgan), Tom Davern (relative of the Woodwards), Rebecca Deeb (Goddughter of Lora Rung), Victor DiChiro (father-in-law of Rob Wentz), Donna Fargo (mother of Sally Herzog), Ruth Fraley (relative of the Jannsohn family), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Irene Hagemeyer (niece of Betty Craig), Kate Heisler (friend of Lora Rung), Janine Kaltenstein (cousin of Vicky Masuga), Phyllis Keenen (mother of Bruce), Erik Kratky (friend of Sarah Hawk), Rick Mahon (friend of the Woodwards), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Kerrin Shafer (friend of Irene Jannsohn), James Smith (brother of Katie Renfro), Barbara Sommers (mother of Sheri Martin), Trudie Taylor (sister of Karen Morgan), Bob Tomko (cousin of Ed Sobek), Marge Tressa (mother of Rich)

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*Thank you so much for all the cards, prayers, and get-well wishes. They made me feel that people were concerned about me. Betty Kovach*

*Thanks to all for your prayers, cards, and phone calls during my recent surgery. I appreciate everyone's best wishes. Bill Ritchie*

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## **Our Proposed Vision . . .**

*A world filled with God's love, where all are welcome at God's table.*

## **Our Proposed Mission Statement . . .**

*Wherever you are on life's journey, the Strongsville United Church of Christ (Congregational) welcomes all to become passionate followers of Christ through Unconditional Love with Justice and Peace † Meaningful Prayer † The Celebration of Worship † Uplifting Music † Mutual Support † Joy of Service † Honoring Creation † the Giving Spirit, where all are welcome at God's table.*