



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, December 22, 2019 – 10:00 A.M.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

WELCOME!

We are grateful you chose to worship with us this morning. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Please complete your Attendance Card and place it in the offering plate.

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE “Word of God, Speak” Millard/Kipley

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

INTROIT “Jesus, Born Among Us” Whitworth

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: On snow-capped mountains, and sand-strewn beaches, in lofty cathedrals and wayside chapels,

People: God's people gather to joyfully celebrate a birth.

Leader: Hope wraps around our hearts, like wrapping paper on gifts under the tree;

People: We offer our thanks and praise for the gift of God's grace, swaddled in love.

Leader: With eyes wide open like little children, hearts filled with wonder and laughter,

People: We join our lives with Mary and Joseph, with the shepherds who ran to tell the good news.

All: Jesus Christ is born this day!

† HYMN 760 “While We Are Waiting, Come”

LIGHTING THE FOURTH CANDLE OF ADVENT: PEACE

Tony Koussa and Gabby Grace

Leader: On the fourth Sunday of Advent, we listen for the word of peace. We listen for stories where people stop hurting each other and start helping.

People: We listen for words of peace from leaders, and we remember that Christ is the Prince of Peace.

Leader: We light this second candle for the peace we listen for, that sings in our hearts, reminding us that God's reign is near.

People: Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare, for a gift that compels us with justice to care. Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease. One candle is lit for the reign of God's Peace.

Leader: As we light this Candle of Peace, let us sing together:

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;

Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

With God our creator, family all are we.

Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

(continued)

Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.

With every step I take, may this be my solemn vow:

To take each moment, and live each moment in peace eternally.

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

A READING FROM THE PROPHETS Isaiah 7: 10-16

SHARING OF 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 “Lord, Hear Our Prayer” Elkins

ANTHEM “Christ is Born” Charles/Bartolucci, arr. Elkins
Sarah Keenen, soloist, Bobby Foley & Rob Toth, additional keyboards

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY “What Child is This?” Traditional English Melody

† 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 1:18-25

SERMON Not All About Mary

† HYMN 278 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

† BENEDICTION

† RESPONSE “Emmanuel” McGee

† POSTLUDE “Of the Father's Love Begotten” arr. Carter

SERVING

TODAY – DECEMBER 22	NEXT SUNDAY – DECEMBER 29
Barb Fraunfelder	Liturgist Jennifer Barry
Judi Pavisich	Greeters The Abruzzino 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	Supplemental Organist Sharon Heinrich
	Guest Organist Richard Densmore

The altar flowers are given—

Wishing my church family and friends a wonderful,
blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Peace on Earth—Lola Millhoane

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

Happy Birthday to Marty Winch!

With love, your church family

Happy Anniversary to Ryan and Tony on December 24th!

With love, Grammy

Happy 35th Birthday to Jonathan on December 18th and

Happy 50th to Rachel on December 30th

Love, Dianne & John Maringer

Happy Birthday today to Marty Winch!

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, select Worship, and click on Service Videos.



OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,522.02

Last Week's Offering Received \$3,623.00

Difference \$100.98

To date for the Stewardship Campaign, we have received 74 pledges totaling \$154,344.00. **If you have not yet returned your Estimate of Giving card, the church will gratefully accept it at any time. Thank you very much for your support. CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE LOCATED IN THE PEWS FOR THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO GIVE AN EXTRA GIFT TO THE CHURCH AT CHRISTMAS.**

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office. Thanks!

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

Church Family: Dolores Bail, Jen Barry, Joan Beckwith, Elaine Coffey, Rev. Larry and Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Dan Davis, 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), Elaine Fuelling (friend of Judi Pavisich), Joanne Gigliotti (mom of Lou), Rebecca Gordon (niece of Irene Jannsohn), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Bill Foley, (father of Tom), 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), Linda McNabb (sister-in-law of Ginger Rothel), Mae O'Shea (mom of Sandy O'Shea), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Terry Robson (friend of the Camps), Mike Rung (brother of Lora), Amanda Shannon (friend of Sarah & Jon Hayes), Sherry Sheeks (sister of Mark Camp), 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 pray for others.



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. A SIGN UP SHEET, WITH THE JOBS BROKEN DOWN, IS POSTED IN PILGRIM HALL. IF WE DO NOT PICK UP THE BREAD, WE THE PROGRAM WILL END AND WILL NO LONGER BE AVAILABLE TO US. WON'T YOU CONSIDER LENDING A HAND?

TUESDAY – DECEMBER 24– 7:00 P.M.

Christmas Eve Family Service

Liturgists: The Hawk Family

Greeter: The Costin-Barry Family

Ushers: Volunteers needed

Special Music: Sharon Metivier, Tyler Martin, Lisa Heinrich



TUESDAY – DECEMBER 24– 11:00 P.M.
Christmas Eve Traditional Candlelight Service

Liturgist: David Williams

Greeter: Judi Pavisich

Ushers: Judi Pavisich

Special Music: Chancel Choir & guest musicians



THE CHRISTMAS FUND

ENVELOPES ARE IN THE PEWS FOR THE UCC DECEMBER SPECIAL COLLECTION, “THE CHRISTMAS FUND,” WHICH BENEFITS RETIRED CLERGY AND THEIR FAMILIES. (Formerly Veterans of the Cross)



CHURCH CHRISTMAS MAIL BOX



To send Christmas greetings to fellow members and friends, the church “mail box” will again be available in the Gathering Area. Please remember to check the box for greetings you may have received.

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.

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!

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.

OFFICERS OF CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS:

Please remember annual reports and financial records are due December 31, 2019. Thanks!

HYMN SING SUNDAY

Enjoy the best Christmas hymns as we join together in song on **Sunday, December 29** during worship. Take a breath after the hectic month of planning and preparing and enjoy the presence of Jesus Christ in our lives.



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.

RETREAT SIGN UP

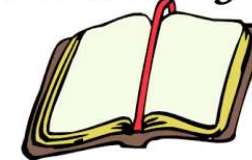


It's time to start planning to attend the Annual Winter Retreat at Tempel Hills. The dates are February 14-16, 2020. More information will be coming soon.

The last **Penny Sunday** of 2019 will be next Sunday, **December 29**, and will be donated to the National Youth Advocate Program. Thank you to everyone who gives their spare change—and more—for this important outreach. Our church is truly generous!



Bible Study



UPPITY WOMEN—Part II!

All are welcome to join us as we explore the Book of Esther starting on January 8th at 1 p.m. for a continuation of our Uppity Women of the Bible series. The class should last 6 weeks. We will have a special guest for some of our sessions, Rabbi Enid! Mark your calendar now!

Please sign up for the study by writing “Bible Study” on the back of your attendance card and placing it in the offering plate.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**WISHING OUR CHURCH FAMILY
EVERY BLESSING THIS
CHRISTMAS SEASON
AND IN THE COMING YEAR**

December 22: 4th Sunday of Advent—10 a.m.

December 24: Christmas Eve Worship

Family Service at 7 p.m.

Traditional Candlelight Service 11 p.m.

December 29: Last Sunday worship of 2019

Hymn Sing

Penny Sunday

**January 5, 2020: Worship
with the Sacrament of Communion—10 a.m.**

