

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 28, 2014 9:45 A.M. First Sunday after Christmas

† *Those who are able may stand.*

PRELUDE

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

† **HYMN 273**

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: We are here because we have heard a promise of peace,

All: and we have faith its day will come.

Liturgist: We have heard a rumor of justice,

All: and we have faith its day will dawn.

Liturgist: We have heard a whisper of hope,

All: and we have faith its day will come.

Liturgist: We have heard a hint of love,

All: and we have faith its day will come.

Liturgist: We have heard of the birth of the Christ Child.

All: Welcome to the Christmas Season! Welcome to worship today!

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

Sweet Hour of Prayer

ANTHEM

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

† **DOXOLOGY** (No. 815)

† **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

† **HYMN 267**

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

SCRIPTURES

Luke 2:22-40

SERMON

"A Sword in Your Heart"

† **HYMN 277**

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

† **BENEDICTION**

† **RESPONSE**

Ave Maria

† **POSTLUDE**

When We All Get to Heaven

Serving Today

Worship Accompanist

Elena Taylor

Interim Choir Director

Ken Mehalko

Bell Choir Director

Barbara Fraunfelder

Liturgist

Kenn Oerkfitz

Greeter

Lola Millhoane

Nursery

Cathy Hawk and Amanda Hawk

Coffee Hour

Cheryl Sobek

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 28, 2014

11:15 A.M.

† Those who are able may stand.

SONGS

This Is the Day
Jesus, Name above All Names
Majesty

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SONGS

The Gift of Love
Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord

CALL TO WORSHIP

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peace,

All: and we have faith its day will come.

Liturgist: We have heard a rumor of justice,

All: and we have faith its day will dawn.

Liturgist: We have heard a whisper of hope,

All: and we have faith its day will come.

Liturgist: We have heard a hint of love,

All: and we have faith its day will come.

Liturgist: We have heard of the birth of the Christ Child.

**All: Welcome to the Christmas Season! Welcome to
worship today!**

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

GATHERING SONG

Sanctuary

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(debts)*

OFFERING

Thy Word

THE WORD OF GOD

Luke 2:22-40

MEDITATION

"A Sword in Your Heart"

SONG

Spirit Song

† BENEDICTION

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

Songs are from the white *Contemporary Worship Songbook*.

Serving Today

Worship Accompanist	Elena Taylor
Song Leaders	Barb Fraunfelder, Kyra Krause, Clay Williams
Acoustic Guitar I	Jake Williams
Acoustic Guitar II	Eric Wroblewski
Electric Guitar	Herbert Parker
Bass Guitar	Jack Stephenson
Violin	Julia Soltis
Clarinet	Emily Phan
Drum Set	Mike Soltis
Drum Pads	Aidan Hurtig, Christian Habart-Scott
Liturgist	Kenn Oerkfitz
Graphics Operation	Michele Mhlack
Coffee Hour	Tom Gaumer

December 2014

- 28 Sun KFC Penny Sunday
Combined Sunday School Class
31 Wed Annual Reports Deadline

January 2015

- 1 Thu New Year's Day – NO Thrift Shop
4 Sun Communion at both worship services
Trustees Meeting, after 9:45 worship
6 Tue Worship Team Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
7 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
8 Thu Journey in Faith Class, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
11 Sun Collate Annual Reports in Pilgrim Hall
13 Tue Diaconate Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
14 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
15 Thu Journey in Faith Class, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Newsletter Deadline
18 Sun Retreat reservations close and payment is due.
20 Tue Advertising Team Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
21 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
22 Thu Men's Luncheon at European's Best Restaurant, 11:30 a.m.
Journey in Faith Class, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
24 Sat Prepare for Pancake Breakfast in Pilgrim Hall, 9:00 a.m.
25 Sun Pancake Breakfast and Annual Meeting of the Congregation
Newsletter Pickup
27 Tue Official Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
28 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
29 Thu Journey in Faith Class, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
30 Fri Prepare for Swiss Steak Dinner
31 Sat Swiss Steak Dinner

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY – JANUARY 4, 2014

Liturgist	9:45 Ted Bickley	11:15 Lora Rung
Greeters		Needed
Ushers for 9:45 a.m.		Needed
Nursery for 9:45 a.m.		Sharon Heinrich
Coffee Hour		Dianne Maringer

ANNOUNCEMENTS – DECEMBER 28, 2014

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 others to get to know you.

This morning's altar flowers are given—

*In Honor of Paul and Dolores Mhlack's 63rd Wedding Anniversary
They were married on December 29, 1961.
Allen Mhlack*

Happy Birthday today to Debbie Krause!

The Wednesday Free Lunch Program is now in operation. All are welcome to attend this free weekly lunch. Volunteers who prepare meals are asked to be at the church no later than 9:00 a.m. Servers can arrive at 10:00 a.m. Doors open at 11:30 a.m., and lunch is served from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed. A signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area. Donations of canned or dry goods will be accepted, and monetary donations will be appreciated.

The Thrift Shop is giving away the 33 1/3 rpm records that are in boxes on the floor by the Royalton Road entrance door. Please feel free to help yourself!

Membership Class – Pastor Becky will again teach a 12-week *Journey in Faith* class that will meet on Thursdays from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the church, beginning January 8, 2015. Members, as well as potential members, are welcome and encouraged to attend. Topics covered include: *Establishing the Group, The Bible as Our Authority, Discovering Jesus, What We Believe and How We Got Here, The Nature of the Church, From the Early Church to Us, We Are ALL Gifted, Investigating the Local Church, Christian Giving, Understanding Different Levels of Living and Giving, The Meaning of Christian Covenant, and Investigating Worship.* Both members and nonmembers will enjoy the camaraderie and the knowledge that Pastor Becky shares. To sign up, please mark the back of your Attendance Card, or see the signup sheet in the Gathering Area.

MISSING: 2 LARGE PINK LAUNDRY BASKETS that are used at church dinners for towels and aprons. One has been gone since before the Turkey Dinner; and the other, since the Turkey Dinner. Please return them. Thank you.

2015 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 2015 President's Day weekend: February 13, 14 and 15. The sign-up sheet and the "I Will Bring" sign-up have been posted on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. We are getting an earlier start this time around, 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 18, 2015; and payment in full will also be due that day. We won't have as much wiggle room as in years' past, so please sign up early. We will have our regular planning meeting on Sunday, February 8, at the Church at a time and place to be determined. If you have any questions, please contact Charles Jannsohn.

January 2015 Church Newsletter will be emailed this week. Paper copies will be distributed next Sunday, January 4.

Signup Charts for Altar Flowers, Greeters, and Ushers for 2015 are posted on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area. Please take a moment to assist in these areas, if you are able. Thank you.

Annual reports are due in the church office this week on December 31.

Financial Officers of Church Groups: Please submit your financial statements to the Auditing Committee via the Church Office now. It is important that all books are audited before the Annual Meeting on January 25, 2015. Please turn in:

- 1) All bank books (savings and/or checking).
- 2) All bank statements for each month for each account. Checking account 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 Reports booklet).

Thank you for your cooperation. For questions or concerns, please call the Church Office at (440) 238-6697.

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: Janet Kato at Western Reserve Masonic Community in Medina, Sandra Kornick at Southwest Commons, Betty Kovach at Parkside Villa, Debbie Krause, Connie Rebar, Erla Mae Schultz at Medina Village

Church Family: Betty Babics, Betty Bushea, Rachel Kovatich, Dolores Matchett, Barbara Morgan, Ann Sullen at Parkside Villa, Rachel Zielinski at University Hospitals

Extended Church Family: Bob Allwood (brother-in-law of Dale Hawk), Marianne Allwood (niece of Dale Hawk), Don Antos (friend of Judy Carte), June Brewer (niece of Ed Powers), Ryan Brubeck, Audrey Curry (mother of Pam Keenen), Zachary Crouse (grandson of Barbara Morgan), Nicole Dangelo (daughter of Ginny), Sister-in-Law of Ginny Dangelo, Rebecca Deeb (Goddaughter of Lora Rung), Victor DiChiro (father-in-law of Rob Wentz), Pam Doubell (friend of Sue Gigliotti), Donna Fargo (mother of Sally Herzog), Ruth Fraley (relative of the Jannsohn family), Irene Hagemeyer (niece of Betty Craig), Phyllis Keenen (mother of Bruce), Christine Knudsen (friend of Lora Rung), Nancy Leasure (friend of Pastor Becky), Lily (friend of Lora Rung), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Paul Mhlack (father of Allen) at Southwest General, Barbara Sommers (mother of Sheri Martin), Trudie Taylor (sister of Karen Morgan), Bob Tomko (cousin of Ed Sobek), Donna Wadden (friend of Gayle Sperber), Marilyn Woodward (mother of David and Carol)

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