

## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (CONGREGATIONAL)

13740 Pearl Road, Strongsville, Ohio 44136

Rev. Rebecca Stephenson, Pastor Church (440) 238-6697

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### FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 29, 2013

11:00 A.M.

† *Those who are able may stand.*

PRELUDE *A Great Joy* Babbie Mason

#### † CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old,

People: **From angel bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:**

Leader: "Peace on the earth, goodwill to men, from heavens most gracious King!"

People: **The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.**

All: **We are listening with thankful hearts.**

† HYMN 291 *O Sing a Song of Bethlehem*

#### 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 *Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming*

ANTHEM *The Virgin's Slumber Song* Reger  
Savanah Pfister, Vocalist

## 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.*

### THE OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *One King* arr. Keveren

† DOXOLOGY (No. 815)

† PRAYER OF DEDICATION

† HYMN 289 *Adoration*

SCRIPTURE Matthew 2:13-23 New Testament, p. 2

SERMON *"Off to Egypt"*

† HYMN 286 *Once in Royal David's City*

† BENEDICTION

† RESPONSE *Song of the Angels*

† POSTLUDE

**We thank** Sharon Metivier, her student Savanah Pfister, and guitarist Jake Williams for their special music this morning.

### Serving Today

Music Director	Andrew Purdum
Organist / Pianist	Susan Stevenson Tressa
Vocalists	Sharon Metivier, Savanah Pfister
Guitar	Jake Williams
Liturgist	Barb Fraunfelder
Sound System	Jim Heinrich
Greeter	Joyce Reed
Nursery	Sharon Heinrich
Coffee Hour	Lora Rung

**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 also 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**

29 Sun Combined Sunday School Class

31 Tue Annual Reports Deadline

#### **January 2014**

**2 Thu Thrift Shop CLOSED** – January Newsletter calendar is wrong.

5 Sun Communion at Both Worship Services  
Reception of New Members at 11:00 a.m. Worship

8 Wed Worship Team Meeting, 9:00 a.m.

12 Sun Collate Annual Reports

14 Tue Diaconate Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

15 Wed Mission and Outreach Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

16 Thu Journey in Faith Class, 7:00 p.m.

22 Wed Worship Team Meeting, 9:00 a.m.

23 Thu Journey in Faith Class, 7:00 p.m.

26 Sun Following 11:00 a.m. Worship – Pancake Breakfast and  
Annual Meeting of the Congregation

28 Tue Official Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

30 Thu Men's Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at European's Best Restaurant  
Journey in Faith Class, 7:00 p.m.

31 Fri Prepare for Swiss Steak Dinner  
Memorial Service in Sanctuary, 11:30 a.m.

#### **Serving Next Sunday – January 5, 2014**

Liturgist	Rachel Zielinski
Greeters	Volunteers Needed
Nursery	Barb Fraunfelder
Ushers	Tom and Judy Gaumer
Coffee Hour	Barb Fraunfelder

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS – DECEMBER 29, 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.

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

*In Celebration of My Sister Becky's Birthday on December 29*  
Bill Robinson

**Happy Birthday** today to Becky Robinson and Rachel Pogozelski!

**The Adult Discussion Group** continues to meet on Sunday mornings between the two worship services; however, it will **NOT** meet today.

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

**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.

**Membership Class** – Pastor Becky will once again teach a 12-week membership class entitled *Journey in Faith*, beginning **on Thursday, January 16**. Members, as well as potential members, are welcome and encouraged to attend. Topics covered are *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*. Class dates are Thursday evenings—January 16, 23, 30; February 6, 13, 20, 27; March 6, 13, 20, 27; April 3. The class will be held at the church from **7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** A sign-up sheet is on the Gathering Area bulletin board or call the church office at (440) 238-6697.

**Memorial Fund Donations for Music Chairs** – The new chairs in the sanctuary were recently purchased after a search by Music Committee members. These 30 chairs are needed for the choir on a routine basis, for special programs, and can be used for extra sanctuary seating. Some key features are the neutral color, stackability (with a book rack in place), and comfort. The chairs are being paid for by the Memorial Fund and by contributions. \$50 supports the purchase of a chair. If you would like to help, please write a check to the Strongsville UCC Memorial Fund, and forward it to Greg Dickson, along with the information if you're purchasing it in memory of or in honor of someone. The Committee is investigating a way to label chairs to recognize individual donations.

**Boots Mixup** – Two pairs of size 9 black boots that zip in the front were inadvertently swapped at Pastor Becky's party last Sunday. Please check that you have your own boots. If not, please bring the wrong boots to the church; the other pair is already at the church, waiting for its owner!

**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!

**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 worship and has no signup.)

**Ushers are really needed and appreciated.** Please sign up on the board in the Gathering Area for the 11:00 a.m. service. Thank you! (The 9:00 A.M. service is casual worship and has no signup.)

#### ***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.*

**Financial Officers of Church Groups:** Please turn in your financial statements to the Auditing Committee through the Church office now. It is extremely important that all books be audited before the Annual Meeting on January 26, 2014. 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! For questions or concerns, please call the church office, (440) 238-6697.

**Annual Reports are due in the church office this week.**

#### **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 Woodward's), Rebecca Deeb (Godddaughter 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 Woodward's), 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)