



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

**Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall**  
Designated Minister

**DECEMBER 3, 2017 – 10:00 A.M.**

## WELCOME!

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

For questions about our church and ministries,  
you may call the church at (440) 238-6697.  
Please complete your Attendance Card and place it  
into the offering plate. We hope to see you again soon!

† *Please stand as you are comfortable.*

## PRELUDE

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Rachel Zielinski

**CHORAL INTROIT** "While We Are Waiting, Come"

† **CALL TO WORSHIP** *from Psalm 84*

Leader: How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of all!

**People: My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

Leader: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

**People: Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.**

† **HYMN 243** "Emmanuel" Sing Twice

**LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE**, the Candle of HOPE

Leader: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; those who follow me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." This message of HOPE is symbolized by the light of the first Advent Candle.

**People: Thank God for this season of light and hope in a world too often clouded and darkened by human acts of faithlessness.**

Leader: We are symbols of God's family. Today, in the face of all manner of evidence of the power of hate and violence to win the day, we light the candle of Christ, Our Hope. His life, his way and his promise are what lasts. We light the first candle, the Candle of Hope.

**People: May God grant to each and all of us the courage to keep the light of Hope burning in our hearts.**

Leader: Let us sing together, the first verse of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

**HYMN 245** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Verse 1  
O Come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

## SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

## PASTORAL PRAYER

**PRAYER RESPONSE** "Amen"

**ANTHEM** "Prepare the Way of the Lord" William Rowan

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**THE OFFERING** "Go, Tell I on the Mountain" Traditional  
† **DOXOLOGY 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**

**SCRIPTURE READING** Mark 13:24-37

**SERMON** "Come Again?"

## SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Jesus taught his disciples: "Why spend money on what does not satisfy? Why spend your wages and still be hungry? Listen to me, and do what I say, and you will enjoy the best food of all. Come to me, and you will have life! For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am, in the midst of them."

Let us confess our sins together:

**God of all mercy, we confess before you and each other that we have been unfaithful to you. We lack love for our neighbors; we waste opportunities to do good; we look the other way when you cry out to us in the suffering of our brothers and sisters in need. We are sincerely sorry for our sins, both those we commit deliberately and those that we allow to overtake us. We ask your forgiveness and pray for the strength to follow in your way, to love all your people with that perfect love that casts out all fear. Through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.**

Hear these words of assurance:

Trust in God that your sins are forgiven. Trust in God's promises and begin anew living a life in harmony with God and all God's children. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts and give thanks to God.

Blessed are you, O God, who with your Word and Holy Spirit, created all things and called them good . . .

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*All are welcome to come forward to partake of the Lord's Supper, or the communion servers will come to you if you wish.*

**MUSIC** during Communion "Who Am I?" Mark Hall  
Sandy O'Shea, Vocalist

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

† **HYMN 244** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

† **BENEDICTION**

† **RESPONSE** "Who Would Send a Baby?" Mary Kay Beall

† **POSTLUDE**

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

*In Loving Memory of John Soucie and the Soucie Family*  
Doris Soucie

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

*In Loving Memory of Jane C. Graves*  
Roberta and Dan Carpenter

*To thank all who helped to make the Free Lunch a success, without my help on November 29 – especially Kenn and Ginny*  
With love, Betty "Grammy" Craig

**Happy Birthday** today to Steve Herzog!

**Worship Committee** meets this Tuesday, December 5, at 7:00 p.m.

**Children have Pageant Rehearsal** Wednesday, December 6, at 7:00 p.m.

**Our love and prayers are extended in sympathy** to Linda Plain and family on the passing of her mother, Ann. M. Ruprecht, on November 24, 2017. The funeral was private.

**Poinsettia Orders for Christmas Eve are due TODAY.** The cost is once again \$6.00. Order forms and envelopes are on the cabinet in the Gathering Area. Thank you for placing a poinsettia plant on the altar for Christmas Eve.

**Today is the deadline for collecting** Christmas gift (or money) donations for an inner-city Cleveland school. 90% of the students are below poverty level. The grades are Pre K through 3<sup>rd</sup>. For questions, please see me.  
Thank you for your support. Beth Giuliano

UPDATE FROM YOUR PULPIT SEARCH COMMITTEE

To date, we have received 21 ministerial profiles. The Committee has been carefully and prayerfully evaluating the ones we have so far, and are in the process of discerning which of these would be a good fit and a possibility to become our settled pastor. Each profile is between 20 and 30 pages long, and we each read and all discussed the merits of every one. After that, we narrowed the list down to 10, which we are ranking and deciding which of these to further explore. The process continues! Your ongoing support and prayers for us are gratefully felt. Please feel free to bring any questions or concerns to any one of us. Thank you.

Your Pulpit Search Committee

Ted Bickley, Judy Carte, Kristen Clotworthy,  
Jim Dettmer, Ingrid Dickson, Sally Herzog, Bill Schneider

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**The Mitten Tree** – Today is the last day for collecting donations of hats, gloves, mittens and scarves for Brookside Center. After worship today, the Mitten Tree items will be removed. 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 be part of the Christmas decorations each year. **Please do not bring expensive heirloom ornaments.** Thank you for celebrating with your church family in both the Mitten Tree and the Family of Faith Tree!

**Stewardship Update** – 67 Estimate of Giving Cards have been received so far for a total of \$107,588. Estimate of Giving Cards will be gratefully accepted at any time. They are used in preparing the church budget. Thank you very much for your support.

**The Southwest Community Chorus and Chamber Singers will present their 2017 Christmas concert TODAY at 3:00 p.m.** in the United Methodist Church at 170 Seminary Street in Berea. Former church choir leader Tom Foley is the director, accompanist is Carol Konet, and Church singers in the choir are Irene Joyce, Ingrid Dickson, Sarah Keenen, Pam Keenen, Gary Hackett, Bruce Keenen and UCC guest singer, Craig Hardy. Tickets are available at the door: \$10 for adults and free for children 12 and under. We like looking into the audience and seeing our fellow church members, so please attend. Thank you!

**Women’s Christmas Tea** is Wednesday, December 6, at 12:30 p.m. in the Parlor. All ladies are welcome! **If you plan to attend, please write your name on the back of your Attendance Card so the quantity of refreshments can be planned. Thank you!**

**Mission Outreach** has made two donations to benefit our Veterans. We gave \$400 to Help for Heroes in Columbia Station. This small foundation is a hands-on project that provides used furniture to homeless veterans transitioning to a place of their own. The second one was \$100 to the Veterans Outreach at the Food Pantry in Berea. They provide food, toiletries and clothing to needy veterans as well as those transitioning from homelessness. These funds were generated from our recent “Around the World Baskets” raffle. Thank you for being, as always, a caring congregation.

STRONGSVILLE CITY JAZZ SWING BAND CONCERT  
SWINGIN’ CAROLS OF CHRISTMAS!

Fundraiser for Our Music Ministry

This Friday – December 8, 2017 - 7:30 p.m.

in Our Sanctuary

\$10.00 Adults \$4.00 Ages 6-12 years

Free Age 5 and under

A reception in Pilgrim Hall will follow the concert.



BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

of Remembrance and Healing

Friday, December 15, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Come, rest in the arms of Jesus as we pause to rest,  
remember and celebrate our loved ones together.

All are welcome—especially you.

**The Sunday School will present their Christmas Pageant** in worship on Sunday, December 17. Brief rehearsals are on the Wednesdays of December 6 and 13 at 7:00 p.m., followed by Children’s Choir rehearsal with Elena Taylor at 7:30 p.m. for the pageant music

**Advent Potluck Meal** will be held after worship on Sunday, December 17. Please bring a main dish; plus either a side dish, salad, or dessert to share; and your own table service. All are welcome!

**Nursery – Helpers are needed** because of the increase in number of children. A signup sheet is in Pilgrim Hall. For questions, please contact Amanda Hawk, Sarah Hayes, or Kelly Bickley. In addition, **the nursery needs a new flat screen TV**. If you have would like to donate one, please see Amanda Hawk.

**Penny Sunday** – Thank you to everyone who gave on November 26! \$113.26 was collected for the National Youth Advocacy Program, which benefits foster children in Cuyahoga County. (Plus \$20 was received for the Strongsville Food Bank.) The Sunday School added to that total, and we sponsored four young children for their Giving Tree, buying clothes, toys, books, and other necessities. Also, \$120 in gift cards was donated to Beth Giuliano's inner city school project. The December Penny Sunday collection will be placed in the Sunday School's account to replenish these expenditures. Thanks again to our congregation for their generous hearts!

**Photo Directory** – Please contact Sarah Hayes or Cathy Hawk today to get your picture re-taken **if your first picture was taken before September.**

**Wednesday Lunch Program really needs volunteers** especially in January when four regular volunteers will go south for the winter. To help, please contact Kenn Oerkfitz, Betty Craig, or the church, (440) 238-6697. Thank you!

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,865  
Weekly Offering Received 11/26/2017 \$1,804  
Difference (\$2,061)



SERVING	TODAY – 12/3	NEXT SUNDAY – 12/10
Advent Candlelighting	The Barry/Costin Family	To Be Determined
Liturgist	Greg Dickson	Bruce Keenen
Greeters	Linda Plain	The Clotworthy Family
Ushers	Linda Plain	Jim & Linda Dettmer
Coffee Hour	Kenn & Ginny Oerkfitz	Myron Costin

OUR PRAYER LIST

If you or a family member would like a visit, please call the church at (440) 238-6697. Please provide updates for this list. Thank you.

**Long-Term Care or Homebound:** Betty Bushea, Margot James, Janet Kato at Kemper House, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

**Church Family:** Betty Babics, Gordon Cockrell, the Grabski/Williams Family, Lacey (daughter of Amanda Hawk), Steve Herzog, Martha Liebert, Michele Mhlack, Bill Ritchie, Betsey Santomen (wife of Rev. Joe Santomen) at Parkside Villa, Jan Stough, Rev. Oommen Thomas, Leah Tressa Forget, Kyle Woodward

**Extended Church Family:** Luke Bazan (friend of Judi Pavisich’s grand-daughter), Donna Briggs (mother-in-law of Judi Pavisich’s daughter), the Brlas family, Audrey Curry (mother of Pam Keenen), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Joyce Freeman (sister of Carol Woodward), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Sue Grunenwald (friend of Sharon Heinrich), Diane Mason (friend of Lora Rung), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Piper Masuga (granddaughter of Dan and Vicky and great-granddaughter of Lola Millhoane), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), the family of Logan Sink (friends of Judy Pavisich’s granddaughter), Keith Stewart (cousin of Carol Woodward), Frank Toth (father of Rob), Sheena Toth (mother of Dale), Joe Valli (brother-in-law of Vicky and Dan Masuga)

DECEMBER 2017

- 3 Sun First Sunday in Advent, Communion  
Poinsettia Order Deadline  
Deadline for Gifts for Inner-City School + for Mitten Tree
- 5 Tue Worship Committee Meeting, 7pm
- 6 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am to 12:30pm  
Women's Christmas Tea in the Parlor, 12:30pm  
Pipe Organ Tuning, 1pm  
Children's Pageant Rehearsal, 7pm  
Children's Choir Rehearsal for pageant music, 7:30pm
- 7 Thu Sanctuary Piano Tuning, 10am  
Set up for Jazz Concert Reception
- 8 Fri Set up for Jazz Concert Reception  
Strongsville City Jazz Concert, 7:30pm
- 10 Sun Delivery of Cheeseballs by Women’s Fellowship
- 12 Tue Trustees Meeting, 7pm
- 13 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-12:30pm  
Children's Pageant Rehearsal, 7pm  
Children's Choir Rehearsal for pageant music, 7:30pm
- 14 Thu Money due for Winter Retread  
Adult Social Club to Stan Hywet Hall, 4pm
- 15 Fri January 2018 Newsletter Deadline  
Blue Christmas Service of Remembrance and Healing, 7:30pm
- 17 Sun Sunday School Christmas Pageant during worship  
Advent Potluck Meal after church  
Deadline for Gift Card Orders – to get them by Christmas Eve
- 19 Tue Diaconate Meeting, 7pm
- 20 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am to 12:30pm
- 24 Sun Christmas Eve Worship at 10am and 11pm (**No** 7:30 service)
- 25 Mon Christmas Day
- 27 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-12:30pm  
Fit Club, 7pm
- 28 Thu Deadline to report special dietary needs for Winter Retreat
- 31 Sun Penny Sunday, Annual Reports are due.

MUSIC REHEARSALS DURING THE WEEK

**Band** (Adults and Students in Grades 6-12) – 8pm on Wednesdays

**Bell Choir** – 7pm on Thursdays

**Chancel Choir** – 8pm on Thursdays