



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136
(440) 238-6697
StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com StrongsvilleUCC.com

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall
Pastor



Sunday – December 30, 2018 – 10:00 A.M.
Penny Sunday
Hymn Sing Sunday

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, please call the church at (440) 238-6697. Please complete your Attendance Card and place it in the offering plate. We hope to see you again soon!

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE "Perfect Timing" R.C. Foley

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT 275 "Sing We Now of Christmas" (v. 1 and 2)

† CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 150

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens.

People: Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness.

Leader: Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre.

People: Praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe;

Leader: Praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals.

People: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

ALL: Praise the Lord!

† CHRISTMAS MEDLEY

277 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (v. 1, 3)

265 "The First Noel" (v. 1,6)

258 "Go Tell it On the Mountain" (v. 1)

A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 52: 7-10

SHARING 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.

SINGING AS CHILDREN OF GOD

185 "Jesus Loves Me" (v.1)

431 "Shine, Jesus Shine" (v.1)

429 "They'll Know We are Christians" (v. 1,2)

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Luke 2:41-52

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Penny Sunday Collection

THE OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

"As the Deer"

Nystrom

† RESPONSE

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning, our song shall rise to Thee. Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

† PRAYER OF DEDICATION

† HYMNS TO OUR FAITHFUL GOD

139 "Great is Thy Faithfulness" (v. 1)

151 "A Mighty Fortress" (v. 1)

435 "God of Grace and God of Glory" (v. 1, 4)

A READING FROM THE EPISTLES

Colossians 3: 12-17

A BRIEF REFLECTION

† HYMN 589

"Here I am, Lord" (All verses)

† BENEDICTION

†RESPONSE/POSTLUDE

"Winter Chorale"

R.C. Foley

SERVING

TODAY – DECEMBER 30

NEXT SUNDAY – January 6

Jim Studer	Liturgist	Jennifer Barry
Roy and Carol Merkle	Greeters	Linda Plain
Volunteers needed	Ushers	Linda Plain
Volunteer needed	Coffee Hour	Volunteer needed
Tom Foley	Director of Music	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	Associate Director of Music	Mike Elkins

The altar flowers are given—

In loving memory of Lois-Ann Habart from her family who think of her lovingly during the holidays and always.--The Trinckes Family

In honor of Pam Keenen on her birthday today.—Bruce and Family

A special remembrance to all the innocent children and all that suffered abuse and have lost their innocent lives to violence & abuse.—Krisak-Abruzzino Family

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

For healing and to wish everyone a Happy New Year--From Maria

Happy Birthday today to Pam Keenen!

PLEASE NOTE: Our worship services are video recorded each week and posted on our YouTube channel for all to enjoy.



CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Are you interested in joining our family of fellowship by becoming a member of the Strongsville UCC? Pastor Heidi will be having a membership class in January. Please contact her or the church office if you would like to be a part of the new class of members or indicate your

interest on your attendance card and place it in the offering plate. **The next New Member Class will be Sunday, January 13 following worship and new members will be received into the congregation on January 20.**

SPECIAL THANKS to composer and keyboardist, **Bobby Foley**, for sharing his original compositions with us today!



PENNY SUNDAY

Today's Penny Sunday collection will go to the National Youth Advocacy Program (NYAP), which offers services to children in foster care throughout Cuyahoga County.



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 at Danbury Senior Living in Brunswick, Janet Kato at Kemper House, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

Church Family: Betty Babics, Rev. Larry and Christina Craig, Donald Dickinson, Steve Herzog, Margot James, Elena Joyce, Bobbie Krisak, Karl Kuhlenschmidt, Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Phyllis Kurz (mother of Karen Morgan), Martha Liebert, Lacey Marshall (daughter of Amanda and John), Laurie Meister, Karen Morgan, Harvey Pincombe, Joyce Reed, Bill Ritchie, Linda Stepan, Barbara Toth, Sally Vetovitz, Kyle Woodward

Extended Church Family: Luke Bazan (friend of Judi Pavisich's granddaughter), Amy Carroll (sister of Marty Winch), Michele Cortese (friend of the Heinrichs), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Joyce Freeman (sister of Carol Woodward), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Karen Greenway and daughters (friends of Judi Pavisich), Sam Harteis (friend of Reeds), Margaret Haught (mother of Jen Barry), Sandra Manos (mother of Eli), Diane Mason (friend of Lora Rung), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Zachary McKeever (great-nephew of Pastor Heidi and Chuck), Jeff Perrin (cousin of Barb Fraunfelder), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Frank Toth (father of Rob), Joe Valli (brother-in-law of Vicky and Dan Masuga)



The Church Family Greeting Card Mailbox is located in the Gathering Area. Please don't forget to check the box for any greetings you may have received.



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, or nursery helper! **Help is especially needed to pick up the donations from Panera on Monday or Friday mornings.** No experience is needed and everyone is welcome to be a part of our church life.



TICKETS AVAILABLE SOON!

Plan to attend this delicious home-style, all-you-can-eat meal!
Strongsville UCC



SWISS STEAK DINNER

Saturday – January 19, 2019

Seatings at 5:00 and 6:30 P.M.

Reservations Only: (216) 598-6198

Adults: \$14, Kids 6-12: \$6, 5 & Under: Free

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 during the serving hours. Children 6 to 10 must have a parent helping them.

THE THRIFT SHOP WILL BE OPEN WITH A SPECIAL SALE.

DECEMBER 2018 DATES TO REMEMBER

- 30 Sun Worship 10am Hymn Sing
Penny Sunday
31 Mon Annual Reports Due to church office

JANUARY 2019 DATES TO REMEMBER

- 1 Tues New Year's Day
2 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am to 12:30pm
No Band Rehearsal
No Fit Club
3 Thurs Thrift Shop CLOSED
No Bell Choir Rehearsal
No Chancel Choir Rehearsal
6 Sun Worship 10am with Communion
Children's Choir
8 Tues Trustees Meeting 7pm
9 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am to 12:30pm
Fit Club 7:15pm
Band Rehearsal 8:15pm
10 Thurs Thrift Shop 10am-4pm
Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm
13 Sun Worship 10am
Membership meeting after worship
Payment due for Retreat
Children's Choir
15 Tues Diaconate Meeting 7pm
16 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am to 12:30pm
Adult Social Club Meeting 7pm
Fit Club, 7:15pm
Band Rehearsal 8:15pm
17 Thurs Thrift Shop 10am-4pm
Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm
18 Fri Swiss Steak prep 9am
19 Sat Swiss Steak Dinner 5pm & 6:30pm
20 Sun Worship 10am
New Members welcomed
Children's Choir
21 Mon Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
22 Tue Official Board Meeting, 7pm
23 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am-12:30pm
Fit Club 7:15pm
Band Rehearsal 8:15pm
24 Thurs Thrift Shop 10am-4pm
Men's Lunch 11am
Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm
25 Sun Worship 10am--Penny Sunday
Annual Meeting & Pancake Brunch
30 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am-12:30pm
Fit Club 7:15pm
Band Rehearsal 8:15 pm
31 Thurs Thrift Shop 10am-4pm
Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,649.31
Last Week's Offering Received \$2,767.00
(Difference -\$ 882.31)
Christmas Eve Offerings: \$3,581.00



Also, an additional person is needed to work with us for 2 hours on the second Wednesday of the month. Please contact the church office if you can help either on Wednesdays or Thursdays. Please note: Thrift Shop will be closed on January 3, 2019.

FROM THE 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 as/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. 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, non-clergy staff, and physical plant of the church. The committees of the Trustees are Building and Grounds, Finance, and Long-Range Planning. 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

ANNUAL REPORTS

Chairmen of church organizations: Annual reports are due in the church office on December 31. Please be kind to the new, inexperienced Church Secretary and get your reports in on time. Thank you!!! Once completed, Annual Reports will be available for pickup prior to the Annual Meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING



The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place Sunday, January 27, 2019, and will be preceded by the traditional Pancake Brunch. All are encouraged to attend this meeting and be a part of our family of faith. (You do not have to be a member to attend the meeting, but only members are entitled to cast a vote.)

FINANCIAL OFFICERS OF CHURCH GROUPS:

Please turn in your financial statements to the Auditing Committee through the church office by December 31. It is extremely important that all books be audited before the Annual Meeting on January 28, 2018. 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.

ALL FAMILY WINTER RETREAT
February 15 - 17, 2019

Templed Hills Camp
in Bellville, Ohio



The Church's Annual All-Family Winter Retreat will take place on President's Day weekend 2019: February 15, 16 and 17. The sign-up sheet to attend and the sign-up sheet for things to bring and to volunteer will soon be posted on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Please reserve your spot and room now, as rooms will be first-come, first-served. The cut-off to sign up—January 13—will be strictly enforced this year. We will not have the same luxury as we've had in the past, in which we were able to take reservations up until the event weekend. Space is limited to 60 attendees. Also, please let us know if you have any special dietary needs. Finally, those who wish to come down on Saturday only—we would be happy to have you there, but we also need your reservation by January 13, and the cost is \$10 per meal. Please contact Irene Joyce or Rachel Zielinski if you have any questions.

Here is the cost (no change from last year):

ADULTS (12 and up): \$70
CHILDREN (6-11): \$15
CHILDREN (5 and under): FREE

Important dates to remember:
JANUARY 13, 2019: Reservations close; MONEY DUE
JANUARY 27, 2019: Special dietary needs reported
FEBRUARY 10, 2019: Retreat planning meeting in the church after the worship service.

Friendly reminder: If you are the last person to leave the building, please make sure doors are locked and lights are turned out. Please push or pull the doors to make sure they are closed and locked. Thanks!

STEWARDSHIP NOTE

It is not too late to submit an Estimate of Giving card and place it in the offering plate. Thank you very much for your support.