



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

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall
Designated Minister

DECEMBER 31, 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 "Musical Meditation of the Season"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

† **CALL TO WORSHIP** *(based on Psalm 8)*

Leader: One Beyond Us, One Around Us, One Within Us,
Sovereign:
your name is majestic in all the earth
and your glory is beyond our imagination.

**People: We come, at this time, to worship you.
We look to the sky and see the wonders of your
creation:
the moon, the stars, the works of your hands.**

Leader: What are we that you are mindful of?
Mortal beings limited by time and space,
yet you care for us?

**People: We come, at this time, to worship you.
You have made us a little less than gods;
you form us in your sacred dreams
and give us the honor of being your children.**

Leader: Truly your name is majestic in all the earth.

People: We come, at this time, to worship you.

† **HYMN 288** "We Three Kings"

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER and 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.

PRAYER RESPONSE

SPECIAL MUSIC

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

† **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 Matthew 25:31-46

SERMON "The Fourth Wise Man"

† **HYMN 429** "They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love"

† **BENEDICTION**

† **BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

† **POSTLUDE** "Improvisation on Christmastide"

Eli Manos is our worship accompanist today while Elena Taylor is away. We thank him very much for his special music.

Happy Birthday today to Melinda Slavik!

Joining the Church – If you are interested in becoming a member of Strongsville UCC, please either inform Pastor Heidi or call the church office, (440) 238-6697. Thank you!

The Church Office will be closed tomorrow for New Year's Day.

The Sacrament of Communion will be celebrated next Sunday, January 7.

Family of Faith Tree – If you are new to the church or haven't yet added your special ornament to our tree in the Gathering Area, we invite you to donate an ornament that represents you or your family. Besides new members bringing in ornaments, we also gladly accept any additional ornaments which current members might want to add in recognition of important events in their lives--such as a new baby, marriage, special trips or a new job. Please do not bring an heirloom, since it will not be returned to you, but will be used for years to come. Please place your ornament into the church office. A nametag will be prepared and attached to your ornament. Thank you!

Stewardship – Seventy-one giving families have submitted cards totaling \$119,408 for the year 2018. If you have not yet submitted your Estimate of Giving card, your card will be gratefully accepted at any time. The cards are used to prepare the church budget. Thank you very much to all who have submitted cards.

Nursery – Helpers are needed because of the increase in number of children. A sign-up sheet is in Pilgrim Hall. For questions, please contact Amanda Hawk, Sarah Hayes, or Kelly Bickley.

Help Needed – Diaconate is removing Christmas decorations on Saturday, January 6, at 10:00 a.m. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Mission Outreach distributed the hats, scarves and mittens from our Mitten Tree in the gathering area this past week. Thanks to the always amazing generosity of our congregation, there was enough abundance to give to Brookside Center, the Refugee Relocation program of Cleveland, and the Puerto Rican immigration (post Hurricane Maria).

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

Church Christmas Mail Box is for giving Christmas greetings to church friends and is available in the Gathering Area. Please check the box for greetings you received. Please do not put cards into the box for those who are not in town for Christmas, because the church office cannot mail your personal greetings. Cards left will be discarded.

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

Fit Club is on hiatus until Wednesday January 10, at 7:00 p.m. Everyone at any level is welcome to join. It's a perfect opportunity to get your New Year's resolution to be more active started! Fit Club is fun and fellowship while getting your body moving!

The sign-up charts for Greeters, Ushers, and Coffee Hour for 2018 are posted on Pilgrim Hall's bulletin board. Please sign up to help in these areas if you are able. Your help is greatly appreciated and needed!

Annual Reports are due in the church office **TODAY**. The Annual Meeting of the congregation is Sunday, January 28, 2018.

Membership Rosters will be distributed at the Annual Meeting. Does the church have your current address and phone number? If not, please email that information to strongsvilleucc@gmail.com or call the church at (440) 238-6697. Thank you.

Nominating Committee – Many offices in the church are available for the coming year. Please consider saying yes when a member of the Nominating Committee asks you to serve.

The family of former church member, Millie Lantzer, is requesting cards, notes or memories for Millie's 95th birthday on January 12, 2018. Millie attended Strongsville United Church of Christ from 1967 until she moved to Georgia in 2011. The family hopes that Millie will receive 95 cards. Her address is:
Millie Lantzer
c/o PCA
6175 Hickory Flat Hwy 110-300
Canton, GA 30115

Thank you to Jim Dettmer, Ingrid Dickson, Greg Dickson, Irene Joyce, Jim Joyce, and Jim Heinrich for "flipping" our "flop" of a classroom into a bright and wonderful place to learn about and worship God!

Lora Rung and the Confirmation Class

Worship Committee will meet next Sunday after the worship service.

To make past services easier to view on the web, the church has a YouTube channel. To access it, go to the <http://strongsvilleucc.com/> website. Click on WORSHIP and then SERVICE VIDEOS. Once you get to YouTube, search for the service you wish to see and click on it. Alternately, you can go directly to YouTube and search for "Strongsville UCC". Most services from the beginning of 2017 have already been uploaded. To see an older service, please contact Jim Heinrich to see if it is available.

Updating Our Website and TVs – If you have updates for our church Website or TV screens at church, please inform:

Michele Mihlack (216) 324-9799 or m.mihlack@gmail.com
or
Irene Joyce (216) 267-5043 or ij3e@sbcglobal.net

2018 ALL-FAMILY WINTER RETREAT AT PILGRIM HILLS

The Church's Annual All-Family Winter Retreat will return to Temple Hills this year and will take place on President's Day weekend 2018—February 16, 17 and 18. The sign-up sheet to attend is and the sign-up sheet for things to bring and to volunteer will 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 14—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 68 attendees. Also, please let us know if you have any special dietary needs. Finally, those that wish to come down on Saturday only—we would be happy to have you there, but we also need your reservation by January 14, and the cost is \$10 per meal. Please contact Irene Joyce or Rachel Zielinski if you have any questions.

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

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

Special dates for the retreat are:

January 14, 2018: Reservations close AND MONEY IS DUE.

January 28, 2018: All special dietary needs must be reported.

February 11, 2018: Retreat planning meeting in the church after worship

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,865
Weekly Offering Received 12/24/2017 * \$8,487
Difference \$4,622



* The total of \$8,487 includes \$4,391 that was given as Christmas Offering.

SERVING	12/31/2016 – 10AM	1/7/2017 – 10AM
Liturgist	Ted Bickley	Betty Craig
Greeters	Sharon Heinrich	Linda Plain
Ushers	Volunteers Needed	Ted and Kelly Bickley
Coffee Hour	Cathy Hawk	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, Janet Kato at Kemper House, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

Church Family: Betty Babics, Lacey (daughter of Amanda Hawk), Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt at Northwestern Health Care Center in Berea, Martha Liebert, Sandra Manos (mother of Eli), Bill Ritchie, Betsey Santomen (wife of Rev. Joe Santomen), 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), 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 the Heinrichs), Diane Mason (friend of Lora Rung), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), the Sink family (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)

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.

DECEMBER 2017

31 Sun Penny Sunday
Annual Reports are due in the church office.

JANUARY 2018

1 Mon New Year's Day – Church office is closed.
2 Tue Worship Committee Meeting, 7pm
3 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-12:30pm
4 Thu Rehearsals for Bell Choir and Chancel Choir resume.
6 Sat Removal of Christmas decorations, 10am – Help is needed.
7 Sun Worship with Communion, 10am
Worship Committee Meeting, after worship
9 Tue Trustees Meeting, 7pm
10 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-12:30pm
Fit Club, 7pm
14 Sun Retreat Reservations close, and payment is due.
Annual Reports are collated in Pilgrim hall, after church
15 Mon Newsletter Deadline
16 Tue Diaconate Meeting, 7pm
17 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-12:30pm
Fit Club, 7pm
Adult Social Club Meeting, 7pm
23 Tue Official Board Meeting, 7pm
24 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-12:30pm
Men's Luncheon, 11:30am
Fit Club, 7pm
28 Sun Annual Meeting of the Congregation, after worship
Special Dietary Needs for the Retreat must be reported.
31 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm,
Fit Club, 7pm

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

*For information about our church's music program, please see
Elena Taylor, Director of Music*

