

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 6, 2015

9:45 A.M.

Advent II

† *Those who are able may stand.*

PRELUDE *A Celebration of Carols – A Christmas Medley*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT *We Have Come to Worship the Lord* Charles Yannerella

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Look! Do you see him?

People: **See whom?**

Leader: The angel. He's calling us to worship.

People: **God has sent a messenger. Let us give thanks and worship.**

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

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH Lori and Rachel Kovatich
The Second Sunday of Advent – The Angel Candle

Leader: Last week we lit the Prophet Candle, remembering the promise of God spoken by God's Prophet.
(Light the purple Prophet Candle.)

Leader: Today God's promise begins to be fulfilled. An angel of the Lord appeared to a virgin named Mary and said, "Greetings, favored one. The Lord is with you."

People: **Mary was perplexed as to his greeting.**

Leader: The angel responded, "Do not be afraid for you have found favor with the Lord. You shall conceive and bear a Son and name him Jesus."

People: **The time is coming when God's promise is being fulfilled.**

Leader: Today we light the Angel Candle for the angel who visited the virgin Mary.
(Light a second purple candle.)

People: **We celebrate the angel's visit and look for the Christ to come.**

† **HYMN 245** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Verses 1 and 2

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.

RESPONSE

The Lord's Prayer

ANTHEM

Sing We Now of Christmas

arr. Mark Hayes

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

* DOXOLOGY – *What Gift Can I Bring?*

What gift can we bring, what present, what token?

What words can convey it, the joy of this day?

When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,
what song can we offer in honor and praise?

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SCRIPTURES

Luke 3:1-6

New Testament, p. 52

SERMON

Then Along Came John!

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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

† **HYMN 240**

Of the Father's Love Begotten

† **BENEDICTION**

† **RESPONSE**

May the Lord Go with You

Don Besig

† **POSTLUDE**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 6, 2015

11:15 A.M.

† Those who are able may stand.

SONGS 244 *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*
 243 *Emmanuel*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SONG *14 Creation Sings the Father's Song*

CALL TO WORSHIP

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(*Light the purple Prophet Candle.*)

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People: Mary was perplexed as to his greeting.

Leader: The angel responded, “Do not be afraid for you have found favor with the Lord. You shall conceive and bear a Son and name him Jesus.”

People: The time is coming when God's promise is being fulfilled.

Leader: Today we light the Angel Candle for the angel who visited the virgin Mary.
(*Light a second purple candle.*)

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

GATHERING SONG *Sanctuary*

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INSTRUMENTAL OFFERTORY *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*
Vocal Trio

THE WORD OF GOD Luke 3:1-6 New Testament, p. 52

MEDITATION *Then Along Came John!*

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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

SONG 277 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

† BENEDICTION

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.

SERVING TODAY

Rita Budd – Tambourine
Christian Habart-Scott – Drum Pads
Gary Hackett – Acoustic Guitar, Voice
Aidan Hurtig – Drum Pads
Rachel Kovatich – Voice
Kyra Krause – Voice
Toni Newborn – Voice
Herbert Parker – Electric Guitar
Julia Soltis – Violin, Acoustic Guitar, Clarinet
Mike Soltis – Drum Set
Jack Stephenson – Bass Guitar, Voice
Elena Taylor – Praise Band Director, Voice, Keyboard
Robert Toth – Mallet Percussion
Clay Williams – Voice
Jake Williams – Acoustic Guitar, Viola
Doug Thorn – Sound System, Technical Setup and Operation
Kim McKenzie – Morning Announcements
Jack Stephenson – Liturgist
Vicky Masuga – Graphics Operation

DECEMBER 2015

- 6 Sun Communion, New Members Received
Women's Fellowship Candy Sale during Coffee Hour
Poinsettia Order Deadline
Advent Study, 5:30pm
- 8 Tue Women's Luncheon at Pomeroy, 11:30am
Diaconate Meeting, 7pm
- 11 Fri Blue Christmas Service of Remembrance, 7:30pm
- 12 Sat Christmas Open House at the Parsonage, 5pm – All welcome!
- 13 Sun Diaconate Holiday Cookie Sale during Coffee Hour
Women's Fellowship Candy Sale during Coffee Hour
Advent Study, 5:30pm
- 15 Tue Newsletter Deadline
Special Chancel Choir rehearsal for the cantata
Trustees Meeting, 7pm
Advertising Meeting, 7pm
- 18 Fri Strongsville City Jazz Fundraiser Concert, 7:30pm with
reception following
- 20 Sun **1 Sunday Morning Service ONLY at 9:45**, when Chancel
Choir will present Bach Cantata No. 63
Children's Christmas Presentation and Supper, 5pm
- 27 Sun KFC Penny Sunday

PARKING LOT UPDATE

Because of weather and inspections, concrete is now scheduled to be poured Tuesday, December 8. The parking lot repair is weather-dependent, so the schedule may be adjusted accordingly. We will keep the congregation updated by email.

Serving Next Sunday – December 13, 2015

Liturgists	9:45 Bill Schneider	11:15 Kenn Oerkfitz
Greeters		The Bickley Family
Morning Announcements		Irene Joyce
Ushers		Volunteers Needed
Coffee Hour		Rosemary Bechtel
Graphics Operation for 11:15		Rosemary Bechtel

ANNOUNCEMENTS – DECEMBER 6, 2015

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.

The altar flowers are given this morning—

Happy Birthday, Sarah!
Love, Mom and Dad

*Celebrating the Wedding Anniversary of Our Son and Daughter-in-Law,
Geoff and Sara, on December 10*
George and Joyce Reed

Happy Birthday today to Sarah Keenen!

Our love and prayers are extended in sympathy to Rev. Thomas Olcott, his daughter Brenda and family on the passing of his wife Lois on November 28, 2015. Rev. Olcott served as our interim minister from January 1997 to June 1998. If you wish to send him a card, his address is 319 Harbor Pointe Drive, Apt. 5, Mount Pleasant, SC 29464.

All are invited to enjoy coffee and baked goods in Pilgrim Hall after 9:45 worship today.

Today is the deadline to order poinsettia plants for Christmas Eve. Please use the order form on the insert. Thank you.

Women's Luncheon will be held Tuesday, December 8, at 11:30 a.m. at Don's Pomeroy House Restaurant. All ladies are welcome. To make your reservation, please contact Lola, 440-238-3037.

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,190			
Offering 11/29	Traditional \$1,329	Contemporary \$179	1,508
		Difference	\$1,682

SERVING TODAY

Worship Accompanist	Elena Taylor
Chancel Choir Director	Joshua Konow
Bell Choir Director	Barbara Fraunfelder
Technical Setup and Operation	Doug Thorn
Sound System	Jim Heinrich
Liturgists	9:45 Kelly Bickley
Greeter	11:15 Jack Stephenson
Morning Announcements	Linda Plain
Usher	Kim McKenzie
Coffee Hour	Linda Plain
	Cheryl Sobek

Tuesday Meeting: Diaconate, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday Free Lunch – All are welcome to this free lunch, which is served every Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall.

Wednesday Rehearsals: Children's Choir at 7:30 p.m.
Praise Band at 8:00 p.m.

Thursday Rehearsals: Bell Choir at 7:00 p.m.
Children's Instrumental at 7:30 p.m.
Praise Band at 8:00 p.m.

Cookie Sale – The Diaconate will hold its ninth annual Holiday Cookie Sale on Sunday, December 13, in Pilgrim Hall. Come prepared to buy all your favorite cookies. To provide bakery, there is a sign-up sheet posted in Pilgrim Hall. On that day, please bring your treats in half-dozen or dozen packages. All are welcome to participate!!

Southwest Community Chorus will present its 2015 Christmas concert, "In the Holiday Mood," today, December 6, beginning at 3:00 p.m. in the Berea Methodist Church, 170 Seminary Street, Berea. The chorus is directed by Tom Foley and accompanied by Carol Konet. UCC singers include Pam Keenen, Bruce Keenen, Jack Stephenson, Gary Hackett and UCC guest singer Craig Hardy. Children 12 and under are free, and adult tickets are \$10. Tickets are available from chorus members or at the door the day of the concert. Please plan to attend. We love seeing church members in the audience.

The Mitten Tree will be in the Gathering Area until today, December 6, for collecting hats, gloves, mittens and scarves for Brookside Center. Brookside is an ecumenical center that provides clothing and necessities to the poor and needy and is located on Pearl Road in Cleveland. After church services 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 us last year. **If you have not yet donated an ornament – or – if you'd like to donate an additional ornament this year, please bring your ornament to the church office in early December and include your name.** Official Board will prepare a tag with your name, attach the tag to your household ornament, and then hang the ornament on the Family of Faith Tree. Please understand that **your Christmas ornament will NOT be returned to you**, but it will become part of the Christmas decorations each year. It is recommended that you **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!

The Thrift Shop is overstocked right now. **Please hold your donations** until further notice. Thank you for your cooperation.

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. This list is updated weekly. If you wish someone to remain on the list, please call the church, (440) 238-6697.

Long-Term Care or Homebound Members: Ethyl Jeglie at Elmcroft of Sagamore Hills, Janet Kato at Western Reserve Masonic Community in Medina, Betty Kovach at Parkside Villa, Connie Rebar, Erla Mae Schultz at Medina Village

Church Family: Linda Elliott, Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Laurie Meister, Michele Mhlack at Pearlview, Eileen Pincombe, Denzil Richards, Sharon Ritchie, Barb Stayrook, Keith Sullen, Judy Thurn, Leah Tressa Forget, John Wood

Extended Church Family: Ryan Brubeck, Emelyn Carels (sister of Irene Jannsohn), Dylan Churnega (grandson of Ginny Churnega Oerkfritz), Zachary Crouse (grandson of Barbara Morgan), Audrey Curry (mother of Pam Keenen), Rebecca Deeb (Goddughter of Lora Rung), Angie Dickinson (friend of Lola Millhoane), Donna Fargo (mother of Sally Herzog), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Kay Gritti (friend of Lola Millhoane), Irene Hagemeyer (niece of Betty Craig), Amanda Hover (granddaughter of Betty Kircher), Phyllis Keenen (mother of Bruce), Pat Kolba (mother of Kelly Bickley), Jessica Lane (granddaughter of Len and Bev), Lily (student of Lora Rung), Maggie (friend of the Bickleys), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Dolores Mhlack (mother of Allen) at Southern Hills, Debbie Morey (sister of Steve Herzog), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Keith Stewart (cousin of Carol Woodward), Trudie Taylor (sister of Karen Morgan), Bob Tomko (cousin of Ed Sobek), Kathleen Wickline (mother of Darla)

DECEMBER 2015 CHURCH EVENTS

Women's Fellowship Candy Sale

Sundays – December 6 and 13 – during Coffee Hour – Pilgrim Hall

Advent Study with Pastor Becky

"Christianity's Impact in Christmas Movies"

Sundays – December 6 and 13 – 5:30 P.M. – Pilgrim Hall

A light meal of soup will be served; child care will be available.

Blue Christmas

Worship Service of Remembrance and Hope

Friday – December 11 – 7:30 P.M. – Sanctuary

Reception will follow in Pilgrim Hall.

To help, please mark the back of your Attendance Card.

Christmas Open House at the Parsonage

Saturday – December 12 – 5 P.M. – 2214 Substation Road in Medina

(Southwest corner of Substation and Sleepy Hollow Roads)

Diaconate Cookie Sale

Sunday – December 13 – during Coffee Hour – Pilgrim hall

Strongsville City Jazz Christmas Concert

Fundraiser for Our Music Ministry

Friday – December 18 – 7:30 P.M. – Sanctuary

\$10 – 13 years and up \$4 – 6 to 12 years Free 5 years and under

Reception will follow in Pilgrim Hall.

To help, please mark the back of your Attendance Card.

Sunday – December 20 – 1 Service ONLY – 9:45 A.M.

During worship, our Chancel Choir and guest musicians will present

J. S. Bach's Cantata No. 63 in the Sanctuary.

Sunday – December 20 – Children's Presentation – 5 P.M.

"Supper at the Inn" – Pilgrim Hall

A free, simple meal will be served.

Thursday – Christmas Eve – 7:30 P.M. – Sanctuary

Family Worship

Thursday – Christmas Eve – 11 P.M. – Sanctuary

Candlelight Service

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Please don't miss the Strongsville UCC Sunday School

CHRISTMAS PRESENTATION 2015

and

SUPPER "AT THE INN"

(A free, simple meal will be served.)



Sunday – December 20 – 5:00pm – Pilgrim Hall

All are welcome! Reservations are limited to 100 people. Please complete form below to make your reservation, and place form in the offering plate. You may also call the church to make your reservation.

One Rehearsal Only – Wednesday – December 16 – 6:30pm

FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN:

Yes! My child (or children) will participate. I will bring him/her/them to:
rehearsal on Wednesday, **December 16**, at **6:30pm** and
presentation on Sunday, **December 20**, at **5:00pm**.

Child's Name _____

Child's Name _____

Child's Name _____

Parent's
Name _____

E-mail Address _____

Phone Number _____

Reservations for attendees + volunteers: _____Adults _____Children

Name _____

For Adults: ☐ I / We would like to help with this event.

Please place this form in the offering plate.

Thank you for your participation!

ALTAR POINSETTIA FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Order deadline is Sunday, December 6, 2015. Please complete this form and place it to the Church office with your cash or check payment.
The cost is \$6.00.

Wording for bulletin: _____

Given by: _____

Total number of plants: _____

Please make your check payable to **Strongsville United Church of Christ**, and place it with your order in the offering plate or mail it to:

Strongsville United Church of Christ
13740 Pearl Road
Strongsville, OH 44136



Thank you for placing a poinsettia plant on the altar!

For Church Treasurer's Records

2015 Christmas Poinsettia

Total number of plants: _____ Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Offering envelope number: _____ Cash/Check No. _____

Name: _____

Order deadline is Sunday, December 6, 2015.