

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 7, 2014 9:45 A.M. Second Sunday of Advent

† *Those who are able may stand.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

† **HYMN 262** *Away in a Manger*

CALL TO WORSHIP *after Isaiah 40:1-11*

Leader: Listen! The voice of God calls out across the ages.

Men: We hear and respond. We rise up to worship God from the valleys, the mountains, and the plains.

Leader: Like a shepherd God leads us and tenderly gathers us together.

Women: Comfort, comfort O my people, says our God of love.

All: The grass withers and the flower fades; But the word of our God will stand forever!

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

Jamie Habart and Christian

Leader: We re-light the candle of Hope and now also light the candle of Love. We know that God is love. We remember with thankful hearts the gift of Jesus, who came as a babe in a manger, lived and loved among us, was killed on a cross, and arose! Love endures forever. *(Light two purple candles.)* Let us pray together .

Congregational Prayer: **Dear God of love, thank you for the gift of your Son who has brought perfect love to earth. May our concern for others be so real and sincere, that others will see the living Christ in us. Amen.**

† **HYMN 245** – Verse 2 only *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

PIANO RESPONSE

ANTHEM *Advent Celebration* John Paige
David Kay, Director

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

THE OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *God Rest Emmanuel* Jacob Williams
Amber Eckert, Violin; Devin Burgess, Violin; Jacob Williams, Viola;
Jacob Muratore, Cello; Elena Taylor, Piano

† **DOXOLOGY** (No. 815)

† **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SCRIPTURES John 1:6-9 New Testament, p. 79
Mark 1:1-8 New Testament, p. 30

SERMON *“John the Baptist”*

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

All are welcome to come forward, or Pastor Becky will come to you.

† **HYMN 763** *The King Is Coming*

† **BENEDICTION** *Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing*

† **POSTLUDE**

Serving Today

Worship Accompanist Elena Taylor
Interim Choir Director Ken Mehalko
Liturgist Lynne McCray
Greeters Lloyd and Barbara Bridle
Nursery Dianne Maringer
Coffee Hour Beth Giuliano

Holiday Cookie Sale – Too busy to bake for the holiday season? The Diaconate will hold its eighth annual Holiday Cookie Sale on Sunday, December 21, in Pilgrim Hall. Come prepared to buy all your favorite cookies. To provide bakery, please sign up on the sheet posted in Pilgrim Hall and bring your treats in half-dozen or dozen packages. All are welcome to participate!! For questions, please contact Dianne Maringer, (440) 243-3635.

Today is the deadline for ordering poinsettia plants for Christmas Eve. Order forms are on an insert in today's bulletin. Please place your order and payment in the church office today. Thank you.

December 2014

- 7 Sun KFC Meeting to make Christmas cards between the worship services
Trustees Meeting, after 9:45 a.m. worship
Deadline for ordering poinsettia plants
- 9 Tue Women's/Church Christmas Luncheon at Pomeroy, 11:30 a.m.
Diaconate Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 11 Thu Tuning of Pipe Organ, 1:00 p.m.
Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.
- 12 Fri Swingin' Carols of Christmas Concert, 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Sun Mission and Outreach Quilt Raffle Drawing between the services
Sunday School Christmas Pageant, 5:00 p.m.; children arrive at 4:30, with Christmas Potluck, after the Pageant
- 15 Mon January Newsletter Deadline
- 16 Tue Advertising Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 19 Fri Blue Christmas Service of Remembrance and Hope, 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Sat Parsonage Christmas Open House, 3:00 p.m.
- 21 Sun Diaconate Cookie Sale
- 24 Wed Christmas Eve – 7:30 p.m. Family Service
11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service
- 28 Sun KFC Penny Sunday
Combined Sunday School Class
January Newsletter Distribution / Pickup
- 31 Wed Annual Reports Deadline

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY – DECEMBER 7, 2014

Liturgist	9:45 a.m. Bruce Keenen	11:15 Sarah Hayes
Greeter		Claire Wills
Ushers for 9:45 a.m.		Volunteers Needed
Nursery for 9:45 a.m.		Sarah Hayes
Graphics Operation for 11:15 a.m.		Michele Mihlack
Coffee Hour		Cathy Hawk

ANNOUNCEMENTS – DECEMBER 7, 2014

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 others to get to know you.

This morning's altar flowers are given—
Happy Anniversary to our son Geoff and daughter-in-law Sara on December 10
George and Joyce Reed

Happy Birthday today to Sandy O'Shea and to Evan Elman!

Women's Fellowship will sell candy today after the Traditional Service during Coffee Hour.

Trustees will meet this morning after the 9:45 a.m. worship service.

Women's Luncheon / Church Luncheon will have a Church Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 11:30 a.m. at Don's Pomeroy House Restaurant. We will meet at the restaurant. For reservations, please call Lola at (440) 238-3037 or Millie at (440) 878-0912. We need reservations for the number of people attending. All are welcome.

The Mission and Outreach Committee will meet on Tuesday, December 9, at 6:30 p.m. at the church.

Diaconate will meet on Tuesday, December 9, at 7:00 p.m.

The Wednesday Free Lunch Program is now in operation. All are welcome to attend this free weekly lunch. Volunteers are asked to be at the church no later than 9:00 a.m. to prepare meals. Servers can arrive at 10:00 a.m. Doors open at 11:30 a.m., and lunch is served from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed. A signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area. Donations of canned or dry goods will be accepted, and monetary donations will be appreciated.

Christmas Pageant rehearsal is Thursday, December 11, at 6:15 p.m.

Thanksgiving Baskets – Thank you to all who brought items or contributed financially for our Thanksgiving Baskets. Thirteen families received baskets, and \$1,770 was collected. The remaining food and funds will be used for our Free Wednesday Luncheon program or to provide grocery gift cards to hungry families. Thanks again for your support of this community outreach project.

The Thrift Shop is giving away the 33 1/3 rpm records that are in boxes on the floor by the Royalton Road entrance door. Please feel free to help yourself!

The Christmas Fund welcomes gifts. For 112 years, the Christmas Fund, formerly known as Veterans of the Cross, has been a way in which members of the United Church of Christ have reflected the light of Jesus Christ in caring for men and women who have faithfully and selflessly served the church and now find themselves facing unforeseen financial crises. The Christmas Fund provides pension supplementation, health premium supplementation, emergency grants and Christmas "thank you" gift checks to individuals and families in need. We ask that you prayerfully consider supporting this year's appeal to the best of your ability. We know that the recipients are most grateful. Offering envelopes for The Christmas Fund are in the pew racks. Thank you for your support!

Swingin' Carols of Christmas Concert

featuring the

Strongsville City Jazz Swing Band

under the direction of Ken Mehalko and Jim Wonnacott
with vocals by Kim Wasielewski and Polar Vortex

Friday – December 12, 2014 – 7:30 p.m.

in our Sanctuary

\$10 – 13 years and older

\$4 – 6 to 12 years

Free – 5 years and under



For tickets, please call (216) 598-6198.

Help is needed. Please see the back of your attendance card.

Mission and Outreach – A beautiful quilt, handmade by Ha Bennett, will be raffled off **next Sunday, December 14 – between the worship services**. Proceeds from ticket sales will be used by the Mission and Outreach Committee for a variety of programs locally and globally. Raffle tickets prices are \$10 for one and \$15 for two, and they are available from Committee members: Kelly Bickley, Lora Rung, Elizabeth Snook, and Pastor Becky and in the Church Office. The queen-size quilt is on display in Pilgrim Hall. *Good friends are like quilts—they age with you, yet never lose their warmth.*

BLUE CHRISTMAS

Friday, December 19, 2014, 7:30 p.m.

A worship service remembering those who have passed away, while seeking hope for all of us during the Christmas season.



You are not alone . . . we welcome you. Come, join us in fellowship.

Parsonage Open House - On Saturday, December 20, beginning at 3:00 p.m., Pastor Becky and Jack Stephenson cordially invite you to a Christmas gathering at their home, 2214 Substation Road in Brunswick Hills (at the southwest corner of Substation and Sleepy Hollow Roads). All are welcome.

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: Janet Kato at Western Reserve Masonic Community in Medina, Sandra Kornick at Southwest Commons, Betty Kovach at Parkside Villa, Debbie Krause, Connie Rebar, Erla Mae Schultz at Medina Village

Church Family: Betty Babics, Betty Bushea, Marie Bury at Parkside Villa, Jim Davis at Parkside Villa, Rachel Kovatich, Dolores Matchett, Barbara Morgan

Extended Church Family: Bob Allwood (brother-in-law of Dale Hawk), Marianne Allwood (niece of Dale Hawk), Don Antos (friend of Judy Carte), June Brewer (niece of Ed Powers), Ryan Brubeck, Audrey Curry (mother of Pam Keenen), Zachary Crouse (grandson of Barbara Morgan), Rebecca Deeb (Goddughter of Lora Rung), Victor DiChiro (father-in-law of Rob Wentz), Pam Doubell (friend of Sue Gigliotti), Donna Fargo (mother of Sally Herzog), Ruth Fraley (relative of the Jannsohn family), Irene Hagemeyer (niece of Betty Craig), Phyllis Keenen (mother of Bruce), Christine Knudsen (friend of Lora Rung), Nancy Leasure (friend of Pastor Becky), Lily (friend of Lora Rung), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Barbara Sommers (mother of Sheri Martin), Trudie Taylor (sister of Karen Morgan), Bob Tomko (cousin of Ed Sobek), Donna Wadden (friend of Gayle Sperber), Marilyn Woodward Strongsville United Church of Christ (mother of David and Carol)

ALTAR POINSETTIA FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Order deadline is TODAY. Please complete this form and place it to the Church office with your cash or check payment **TODAY**. 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 **2014 Christmas Poinsettia**
Total number of plants: _____ Amount enclosed: \$ _____
Offering envelope number: _____ Cash/Check No. _____
Name: _____

The Southwest Community Chorus and the Chamber singers will present their 2014 Christmas concert TODAY at 3:00 p.m. in the Berea United Methodist Church at 170 Seminary Street in Berea. The chorus is directed by Thomas Foley, accompanied by Carol Konet, and includes church members, Pam Keenen, Bruce Keenen, Craig Hardy and Gary Hackett. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults; children under 12 are free.

The DFS singers, who sing at our annual Open House and church choir are members of the SWCC chorus and Chamber singers. The group works very hard to put on a great show for their audience, and we think you'll enjoy the program. You will leave the concert in a great Christmas mood!



STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY BAND
CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sunday – December 14, 2014 – 3:00 P.M.

Strongsville Senior Center

Admission is free!

All are welcome!