

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 8, 2013

11:00 A.M.

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.*

† *Those who are able may stand.*

PRELUDE *Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming* arr. Whitworth

INTROIT *Emmanuel*

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Listen, I hear a woman singing!

People: **She sounds so excited.**

Mary: *My soul does magnify the Lord!*

Leader: Something wonderful has happened.

People: **Let us come near and listen.**

Mary: *The Lord has done a wonderful thing.*

All: **Bless the Lord my soul.**

ADVENT WREATH *The Angel Candle* The Charles Jannsohn Family

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 one who visited the virgin. *(Light a second purple candle.)*

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

† HYMN 251

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

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.

PRAYER RESPONSE

What Can I Give Him?

CHOIR ANTHEM

Angels from the Realms of Glory

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE / DEDICATE HATS, SCARVES, MITTENS

If you are seated in the alcove and would prefer sitting in the sanctuary, please feel free to move to the sanctuary after the Children's Message.

THE OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Angels of Glory

Smith

† DOXOLOGY (No. 815)

† PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN 265

The First Noel

Verses 1, 3, 5

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:46-55

New Testament, p. 49

SERMON

"Mary's Song"

THE 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 on Insert

Christ the Lord

† BENEDICTION

† RESPONSE

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

† POSTLUDE

Serving Today

Music Director / Drums

Andrew Purdum

Organist / Pianist

Susan Stevenson Tressa

Sound System

Jim Heinrich

Liturgist

Charles Jannsohn

Greeter

Jim Studer

Nursery

Sarah Hayes

Ushers

Ha and Dick Bennett, Gary and Kathie Paul

Coffee Hour

Rachel Zielinski

Communion Barb Fraunfelder, Beth Giuliano, Vicky Masuga, Bev Wehr

Paper Recycling – The church's new paper recycling bin from River Valley Paper Company is in our church parking lot – the same location as the old bin.

Acceptable for Recycling: Brown Paper Bags, Cardboard, Catalogs, Hard and Soft Bound Books, Magazines, Mail, Newspapers, Office and School Paper, Phone Books

Not Acceptable: Aluminum, Glass, Metal, Plastic of any type, Styrofoam, Trash

December 2013

- 8 Sun Advent 2
Communion at both services, Dedicate Mitten Tree
Deadline for Ordering Poinsettias
Strongsville City Jazz Concert, 3:00 p.m.
- 9 Mon Praise Band Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.
- 10 Tue Diaconate Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 13 Fri Blue Christmas Service, 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Sun Advent 3
Dedicate Remembrance Tree
Newsletter Deadline
Holiday Cookie Sale, during Coffee Hour
Kindred Spirit Singles Meeting, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Open House at the Parsonage, beginning at 3:00 p.m.
- 16 Mon Praise Band Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.
- 18 Wed Worship Team, 9:00 a.m.
- 21 Sat Pageant Dress Rehearsal
- 22 Sun Advent 4
Gather for the Pageant and Christmas Potluck Meal, 5:00 p.m.
- 23 Mon Praise Band Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.
- 24 Tue Christmas Eve Services, 7:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.
- 29 Sun Combined Sunday School Class
- 31 Tue Annual Reports Deadline

Serving Next Sunday – December 15, 2013

Liturgist	Tom Gaumer
Greeter	Roy Merkle
Nursery	Beth Giuliano
Ushers	Volunteers Needed
Coffee Hour	Doug Thorn

ANNOUNCEMENTS – DECEMBER 8, 2013

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 visitors, our minister, and other members 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, 2013
George and Joyce Reed*

*Happy Birthday, Sandy, on December 7
With love, Doug, Schyler and Devin*

Happy Birthday today to Darrell McGuire!

Our love and prayers are extended in sympathy to the family of our church member, Louetha Rieth, on the occasion of her passing on November 24, 2013, in Pennsylvania. A memorial service will take place in our sanctuary on Friday, January 31, at 11:30 a.m.

Poinsettia order deadline is today. Please use the order form on the insert, and place your order with payment in the church office. Thanks.

Diaconate will meet on Tuesday, December 10, at 7:00 p.m.

Women's Luncheon will take place **Tuesday**, December 10, at Don's Pomeroy House (at Pearl and Westwood). The ladies will meet at the restaurant at 11:30 a.m. For reservations, please contact Lola at (440) 238-3037.

Blue Christmas Worship will take place Friday, December 13, at 7:30 p.m. in our sanctuary. We will remember those who have passed away, while seeking hope during the holidays. Postcards about the service are available in the Gathering Area, should you wish to share this information with someone who might appreciate this special service.

Remembrance Bows – To remember loved ones, you may write their names on the bows on the round table in the Gathering Area. The bows will be hung on the blue spruce Remembrance Tree on the front lawn of the church. The Remembrance Tree will be dedicated next Sunday.

Holiday Cookie Sale –The Diaconate will hold its seventh annual Holiday Cookie Sale on Sunday, December 15, at 10:00 a.m. 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.

The Adult Discussion Group continues to meet on Sunday mornings between the two worship services. Newcomers are always welcome. Please note: The group will not meet on the Sundays of December 15 and December 29.

Mitten / Family of Faith Tree – The items from our Mitten Tree in the Gathering Area will be dedicated today during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The items will be taken to Brookside, an ecumenical center that provides clothing and necessities to the poor and needy. Today the Mitten Tree will become the Family of Faith Tree, which we will decorate with Christmas ornaments donated by us last year, that represent our individual households. **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 know 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!

Our Proposed Vision . . .

A world filled with God's love, where all are welcome at God's table.

Our Proposed Mission Statement . . .

*Wherever you are on life's journey,
the Strongsville United Church of Christ (Congregational)
welcomes all to become passionate followers of Christ through—
Unconditional Love with Justice and Peace † Meaningful Prayer
The Celebration of Worship † Uplifting Music † Mutual Support
Joy of Service † Honoring Creation † the Giving Spirit,
where all are welcome at God's table.*

Note: "**with Justice and Peace**" was added.

Thank you to all who helped make and sell candy. We had a couple new people—newcomers are always welcome! Thanks also to all who purchased candy. When all the money is in and all expenses are paid, we should have a profit of \$413. Thank you!

Betty Craig, Chairman

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: Bill Betz at Chapel Hill Community in Canal Fulton, Edith Graves at Century Oak Care Center, Debbie Krause, Connie Rebar, Erla Mae Schultz at Medina Village

Church Family: Dan Davis, Holly Elkins, Janet Kato at Southwest General, Betty Kovach at Parkside Villa, Dolores Matchett, Katie Renfro, Bill Ritchie, Doris Soucie, Rich Tressa

Extended Church Family: June Brewer (niece of Ed Powers), Logan Churnega (grandson of Ginny Churnega), Audrey and Gene Curry (parents of Pam Keenen), Zachary Crouse (grandson of Barbara Morgan), Tom Davern (relative of the Woodwards), Rebecca Deeb (Goddaughter of Lora Rung), Victor DiChiro (father-in-law of Rob Wentz), Donna Fargo (mother of Sally Herzog), Ruth Fraley (relative of the Jannsohn family), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Irene Hagemeyer (niece of Betty Craig), Kate Heisler (friend of Lora Rung), Janine Kaltenstein (cousin of Vicky Masuga), Phyllis Keenen (mother of Bruce), Erik Kratky (friend of Sarah Hawk), Rick Mahon (friend of the Woodwards), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Kerrin Shafer (friend of Irene Jannsohn), James Smith (brother of Katie Renfro), Barbara Sommers (mother of Sheri Martin), Trudie Taylor (sister of Karen Morgan), Bob Tomko (cousin of Ed Sobek), Marge Tressa (mother of Rich)

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