



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
(Congregational)  
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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, December 8, 2019 – 10:00 A.M.  
Second Sunday of Advent

## WELCOME!

We are grateful you chose to worship with us this morning. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.  
Please complete your Attendance Card and place it in the offering plate.

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE "O Come Emmanuel" Traditional

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Joyce Reed

INTROIT "Will We Know Him When He Comes?" Price/Besig

## † CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: During this season of bumper to bumper stress, our lives as crowded as the stores,

**People: God welcomes us to a feast of faithfulness, inviting us to sit in peace and gentleness.**

Leader: When rancorous rants and snide remarks disrupt the beauty of the season, and people seem just too busy to offer words of compassion,

**People: Jesus whispers hope into our broken hearts, singing carols of justice for all God's children.**

Leader: We seem to spend more and more time with our tablets and phones, and fewer moments with those who could touch us with joy;

**People: Christ's Holy Spirit embraces us with peace that comforts, loves us with a passion beyond our understanding. Come, Lord Jesus.**

† HYMN 760 "While We Are Waiting, Come"

## LIGHTING THE SECOND CANDLE OF ADVENT

The Zielinski Family

Leader: On the second Sunday of Advent, we know that God's love has always been with us. God's love has been made known to us in a new way, through the birth of the Christ-child.

**People: God has become one of us, the Word that breathes the Spirit into us, and in Christ we know the fullness of God's love. We are called to share that love with the world.**

Leader: We light this second candle, celebrating the love God has for the whole world.

(continued)

**People: "Come, wander where lion and lamb gently play, where evil is banished and faith takes the day. A babe in a manger to fool the world's eyes. One candle is lit for God's loving surprise."**

HYMN 245 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verse 2)

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS Matthew 3: 1-6

## SHARING OF 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.**

PRAYER RESPONSE "Lord, Hear Our Prayer" Elkins

ANTHEM "A Tiny Child Will Come" Price/Besig

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN 244 "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

## THE OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "Breathe" Barnett

† 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

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS Matthew 3: 7-12

SERMON Warm Up Act

† HYMN 754 "Lo, He Comes with Clouds Ascending"

† BENEDICTION

† RESPONSE "Two Fold Amen" Whitworth

† POSTLUDE "Allegretto in G Major" Daquin

## SERVING

### TODAY – DECEMBER 8

Jim Studer

Billie Cantrell

Roy Merkle

Volunteer needed

Tom Foley

Mike Elkins

Sharon Heinrich

Liturgist

Greeters

Ushers

Coffee Hour

Director of Music

Associate Director of Music

Supplemental Organist

Kenn Oerkfitz

Elaine Coffey/Teri Barbish

Teri Barbish

Pageant Reception

Tom Foley

Mike Elkins

Sharon Heinrich

The altar flowers are given—

In celebration of the holiday season!

Ginger and Ron Rothe

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

In memory of loved ones--Corrine Jackson

In memory of Jane C. Graves--Roberta Carpenter

Happy Birthday to the Pastor's Wife on December 5<sup>th</sup>!

Happy Birthday to Suzi Foley on December 10<sup>th</sup>!

Tom & the gang

The Board of Trustees will meet Tuesday, December 10 at 7 p.m.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Our worship services are video recorded each week and posted on our YouTube channel for all to enjoy. Just go to [strongsvilleucc.com](http://strongsvilleucc.com), select **Worship**, and click on **Service Videos**.



## OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,522.02  
Last Week's Offering Received \$3,282.25  
Difference (-\$239.77)

To date for the Stewardship Campaign, we have received 72 pledges totaling \$150,624.00. **If you have not yet returned your Estimate of Giving card, the church will gratefully accept it at any time. Thank you very much for your support.**

The last **Penny Sunday** of 2019 will be on Sunday, **December 29**, and will be donated to the National Youth Advocate Program. Thank you to everyone who gives their spare change—and more—for this important outreach. Our church is truly generous!



## OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office. Thanks!

**Long-Term Care or Homebound:** Janet Kato at Kemper House, Martha Liebert, Marge McKinney, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

**Church Family:** Dolores Bail, Jen Barry, Joan Beckwith, Elaine Coffey, Rev. Larry and Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Dan Davis, Sue Hawk, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Carole Kapcar, Debbie Krause, Karl Kuhlenschmidt, Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Lacey Marshall, Judy Maur, Laurie Meister, Michele Mhlack, Bill Ritchie, Alysha Rolland, Ginger Rothe, John and Maggie Struhar, Josh Trinckes, Bill Williamson, Sharon Wilson, Sally Vetovitz, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

**Extended Church Family:** Amy Carroll (sister of Marty Winch), Lyla Joy Crowley (great grand-niece of Irene Jannsohn), Elaine Fuelling (friend of Judi Pavisich), Joanne Gigliotti (mom of Lou), Rebecca Gordon (niece of Irene Jannsohn), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Jeff and Tiffany Hassel (son and daughter-in-law of Judi Pavisich), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Rev. Kent Knife (retired pastor from MHUCC), Diane Mason (friend of Lora Rung), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Zachary McKeever (great-nephew of Pastor Heidi and Chuck), Mae O'Shea (mom of Sandy O'Shea), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Terry Robson (friend of the Camps), Mike Rung (brother of Lora), Amanda Shannon (friend of Sarah & Jon Hayes), Sherry Sheeks (sister of Mark Camp), Brad Williams (friend of Judi Pavisich), Daphne Wilson (niece of Irene Jannsohn)

Our church has an e-mail prayer chain.

Please see Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others.







**SUNDAY – DECEMBER 15 – 7 P.M.**

## **BLUE CHRISTMAS**

**Service of Remembrance & Healing**

Join us for a time of reflection, remembrance and meditation as together we seek peace during this busy season. All are welcome—especially you.

### **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, bread/pastry sorter, or nursery helper! Don't know how to do any of those things? No worries—we will show you everything you need to know! No experience is needed and everyone is welcome to be a part of our church life. **Help will be needed in January/February/March to pick up Panera bakery donations on Monday mornings. Please see Kenn Oerkfritz to volunteer.**



### **THE CHRISTMAS FUND**

Formerly known as Veterans of the Cross, this special offering of the United Church of Christ provides direct financial assistance to retired and active United Church of Christ authorized ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses, including pension and health premium supplementation, emergency assistance, and Christmas thank-you checks. A ministry of the Pension Boards, the offering is received throughout December. Offering envelopes will be in the pew racks.



### **MITTEN TREE ~ FAMILY OF FAITH TREE**

The **Mitten Tree** will be in the Gathering Area through TODAY for collecting hats, gloves, mittens and scarves for the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless. After church today, the hats, gloves, mittens and scarves will be removed, and the tree will become the **Family of Faith Tree**, which we will decorate with Christmas ornaments donated by members and friends. **If you have not yet donated an ornament – or – if you'd like to donate an additional ornament, please bring it to the church office and include your name.** Official Board will prepare a tag with your name, attach the tag to your ornament, and hang the ornament on the Family of Faith Tree. Please know that **your ornament will NOT be returned to you**, but it will become part of the Christmas decorations each year. **Please do not bring expensive heirloom ornaments.**

Thank you for celebrating with your church family in the Mitten Tree, as well as the Family of Faith Tree!



### **CHRISTMAS JAZZ CONCERT** **Friday, December 13 at 7:30 p.m.**

Join the Strongsville City Jazz Swing Band for an evening of your favorite Christmas tunes with a little toe-tapping swing! Tickets are only \$10, \$5 for kids 6-12 and Free for kids under age 6  
**Followed by a wine & cheese reception!**



(Donations of finger foods will be needed for the reception. Please see **Ingrid Dickson, Pam Keenen, or Sharon Heinrich** if you can help.)

The **Strongsville Community Band** annual Christmas Concert will take place at the Ehrnfelt Senior/Recreation Center at 3 p.m. on **Sunday, December 15**. The program will include a potpourri of traditional holiday music. One of the highlights will be the narrated version of the ever popular “Twas The Night Before Christmas” with band accompaniment. As always-Admission is **FREE**. Families are encouraged to attend with their children.

### **CHURCH CHRISTMAS MAIL BOX**



To send Christmas greetings to fellow members and friends, the church “mail box” will again be available in Pilgrim Hall, starting next week. Please remember to check the box for greetings you receive.

Also, please do not put cards in the box for friends who are not in town for Christmas. The church office cannot mail your personal Christmas cards. Cards left after Christmas will be discarded. Thank you.

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT IS NEXT WEEK, DECEMBER 15**, followed by a reception and a visit from a friend from the North Pole. **Please wear your best (or worst) Christmas sweater, dress, tie, or outfit.**



**ATTENTION FAMILIES:** We will run through our scripts after worship today. Parents, please allow time after church TODAY for our children to rehearse the Christmas pageant. Thank You!

### **WEST PARK KIWANIS CHILDREN'S READING CENTERS IN NEED OF BOOK DONATIONS.**



The West Park Kiwanis set up a few children's reading centers in our area and it's been going really well. It's encouraging children to read and they are allowed to take a book with them. The Kiwanis are getting low on books and are looking for anyone who has children's books that would be willing to donate to their reading centers. If you have any to donate, please contact **Herb Hampson** at **216-287-3871** to arrange pick up or delivery! Thank you from our West Park Kiwanis and the kids in our area!

### **SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CHORUS** **CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2019**



The **Southwest Community Chorus** and Chamber Singers will present their 2019 Christmas concert, “Heart of Winter,” on **TODAY at 3:00 p.m.** in the United Methodist Church at 170 Seminary Street in Berea. This year's performance features our Music Director, **Tom Foley** as director, accompanist **Carol Konet**, and church singers: **Ingrid Dickson, Gary Hackett, Irene Joyce, Bruce Keenen, Pam Keenen, Sarah Keenen, Sharon Maresco, Dave Williams**, and UCC guest singer, **Craig Hardy**. Tickets are available in advance at a cost of \$12.50 for adults, \$15 at the door and free for children 12 and under. Save a few bucks by purchasing your tickets from any of the above choir members! You'll enjoy the music, and we'll get you in the Christmas mood. We like looking into the audience and seeing our fellow church members. Thank you!



### **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 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.

**Treasurer:** Manages the outgoing finances of the church in conjunction with the Financial Secretary

**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 and physical plant of the church. The committees of the Trustees are Building and Grounds, Finance, and Long-Range Planning and Memorial/Endowment.

**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

Remember the old but true saying, *Many hands make light work*. Plan to be a part of one of these boards or committees. Thank you for your consideration.

### **OFFICERS OF CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS:**

**Please remember annual reports and financial records are due December 31, 2019. Thanks!**

### **ADVENT EVENTS**

**Mark your calendars for a busy and blessed Christmas season:**

**December 8: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent—10 a.m.**  
**PAGEANT DRESS REHEARSAL**

**December 13: Christmas Jazz Concert**  
**Friday evening at 7:30 p.m.**

**December 15: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent—10 a.m.**  
**Christmas Pageant followed by reception and visitor from the North**  
**Blue Christmas Service**  
**Sunday evening at 7 p.m.**

**December 22: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent—10 a.m.**

**December 24: Christmas Eve Worship**  
**Tuesday at 7 p.m. & 11 p.m.**

**December 29: Last Sunday worship of 2019**  
**Penny Sunday**

