



## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)  
13740 Pearl Road  
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(440) 238-6697

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[StrongsvilleUCC.com](http://StrongsvilleUCC.com)

**Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall**  
Pastor



**Sunday – December 9, 2018 – 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 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** "Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn" Haugen

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Joyce Reed

**BELL INTROIT** "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" Lezy

### † CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Into this season of waiting, our God comes.

**People: Holy God, come slowly into our expectations and fill us with your urgent hopes for justice.**

Leader: Into this holy season of delight and wonder, our Savior comes.

**People: Companion of the poor and lonely, come quickly. Challenge us to share in welcoming all.**

Leader: Into these days of remembering how we are called to live,  
our Spirit comes.

**People: Preparer of the Way, lead us as we walk together  
as brothers and sisters in service to you. Amen.**

† **HYMN 244** "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

### LIGHTING OF THE SECOND CANDLE OF ADVENT

The Candle of Love Richard Taylor and Linda Ponstingle

Leader: Jesus taught his disciples, saying, "I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." This message reminds us that God's Love for each one of us never fails.

**People: In a world where sometimes it can be so difficult to truly love one another as God has loved us, we thank God for this season of hope and love.**

Leader: We are all beloved children of the Most High. Today and every day, in our words and in the way we live our lives, Love wins. Knowing and believing in the power of Love, we light the Second Advent Candle – the Candle of Love, the Love Jesus has for all people.

**People: Jesus' promise of God's unconditional Love illuminates our souls. As we light the Candle of Love, may this light in our souls shine more brightly in the world.**

**HYMN 245** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Second Verse)  
**O, Come Thou Dayspring, come and cheer**  
**Our spirits by Thine advent here;**  
**Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,**  
**and death's dark shadows put to flight.**  
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel--shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT** Malachi 3: 1-4

### SHARING 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** "Help Us Lord" Foley

**BELL ANTHEM** "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" arr. Geschke

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### THE OFFERINGS

**OFFERTORY** "Meditation" Elkins

† **DOXOLOGY** **HYMN 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** Luke 21: 25-36

**SERMON** New Highways

† **HYMN 407** "God Has Spoken by His Prophets"

### † BENEDICTION

† **RESPONSE/POSTLUDE** "Jesus Will Come" Cöthen, arr. Burkhardt

### SERVING

**TODAY – DECEMBER 9** **NEXT SUNDAY – DECEMBER 16**

Pam Keenen	<b>Liturgist</b>	Dave Williams
Lola Millhoane	<b>Greeters</b>	The Rolland Family
Volunteers needed	<b>Ushers</b>	Volunteers needed
Cheryl & Ed Sobek	<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Volunteer needed
Tom Foley	<b>Director of Music</b>	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	<b>Associate Director of Music</b>	Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	<b>Organist</b>	Sharon Heinrich

**The altar flowers** are given—

*In Remembrance of my mother, Carmella Norris and Twin Aunts,  
Fran Zagar and Catherine Faulhammer --Ginger Rothel*

**Our steeple** will light the sky this week—

*In honor of the birthday of the "Pastor's Wife" on December 5<sup>th</sup>!  
In celebration of Suzi Foley's & Ken Mehalko's birthdays tomorrow!*

**Happy Birthday** today to Len Lane!

**PLEASE NOTE:** Our worship services are video recorded each week and posted on our YouTube channel for all to enjoy.

### 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 at Danbury Senior Living in Brunswick, Janet Kato at Kemper House, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

**Church Family:** Betty Babics, Rev. Larry and Christina Craig, Steve Herzog, Margot James, Bobbie Krisak, Karl Kuhlenschmidt, Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Phyllis Kurz (mother of Karen Morgan), Martha Liebert, Lacey Marshall (daughter of Amanda and John), Laurie Meister, Karen Morgan, Harvey Pincombe, Joyce Reed, Bill Ritchie, Linda Stepan, Barbara Toth, Sally Vetovitz, Kyle Woodward  
**Extended Church Family:** Luke Bazan (friend of Judi Pavisich's granddaughter), Amy Carroll (sister of Marty Winch), Michele Cortese (friend of the Heinrichs), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Joyce Freeman (sister of Carol Woodward), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Karen Greenway and daughters (friends of Judi Pavisich), Sam Harteis (friend of Reeds), Margaret Haught (mother of Jen Barry), Sandra Manos (mother of Eli), Diane Mason (friend of Lora Rung), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Zachary McKeever (great-nephew of Pastor Heidi and Chuck), Jeff Perrin (cousin of Barb Fraunfelder), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Frank Toth (father of Rob), Joe Valli (brother-in-law of Vicky and Dan Masuga)



**The Church Family Greeting Card Mailbox is located in Pilgrim Hall by the bulletin board for those who would like to send a Christmas wish and save a stamp.**



### CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Are you interested in joining our family of fellowship by becoming a member of the Strongsville UCC? Pastor Heidi will be having a membership class in January.

Please contact her or the church office if you would like to be a part of the new class of members or indicate your interest on your attendance card and place it in the offering plate.

### 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, or nursery helper! **Help is especially needed to pick up the donations from Panera on Monday or Friday mornings.** No experience is needed and everyone is welcome to be a part of our church life.



**Today is the last day to order poinsettias for Christmas Eve.** Please turn in your order form and \$7 per plant payment today. Thanks!

**CALLING ALL KIDS—BIG & SMALL!**  
**There is a part for you in the Pageant.**  
**Please report to the sanctuary immediately after class/nursery today!**





DECEMBER 2018 DATES TO REMEMBER

9	Sun	Worship 10am—Poinsettia orders due 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent Pageant Dress Rehearsal Blue Christmas Service 7pm
11	Tues	Trustees Meeting 7pm
12	Wed	Free Lunch for All, 11:30am to 12:30pm Fit Club, 7pm Band Rehearsal 8:15pm
13	Thurs	Thrift Shop 10am-4pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm
14	Fri	Swingin' Sounds of Christmas Concert 7:30pm
16	Sun	Worship 10am Children's Pageant 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent Reception to follow worship
18	Tue	Diaconate Meeting, 7pm
19	Wed	Free Lunch for All, 11:30am-12:30pm Fit Club Band Rehearsal 8:15 pm
20	Thurs	Thrift Shop 10am-4pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm
23	Sun	Worship 10am 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent
24	Mon	Christmas Eve Family Service 7pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 11pm
25	Tues	Christmas Day
26	Wed	No Free Lunch for All No Fit Club, No Band Rehearsal
27	Thurs	Thrift Shop Closed Men's Luncheon 11:30am No Bell or Chancel Choir Rehearsal
30	Sun	Worship 10am Hymn Sing Penny Sunday
31	Mon	Annual Reports Due to church office



OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,649.31  
Last Week's Offering Received \$4,159.00  
(Difference \$ 509.69)



As of this printing, we have received 67 Estimate of Giving cards for a total of \$108,712.00. Thank you very much for your support.



FAMILY OF FAITH TREE

Family of Faith Tree is decorated 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 to everyone who contributed mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, or socks to the Mitten Tree and to Tony Koussa for delivering the items to the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless!

Friendly reminder: If you are the last person to leave the building, please make sure doors are locked and lights are turned out. Thanks!

ENVELOPES ARE IN THE PEWS FOR THE UCC DECEMBER SPECIAL COLLECTION, "THE CHRISTMAS FUND," WHICH BENEFITS RETIRED CLERGY AND THEIR FAMILIES.

FROM THE 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.  
**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, non-clergy staff, and physical plant of the church. The committees of the Trustees are Building and Grounds, Finance, and Long-Range Planning.  
**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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR THESE DECEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS HERE AT SUCC!

TODAY: Blue Christmas Service of Remembrance

Come for a quiet, contemplative time of reflecting, remembering, and healing on Sunday, December 9 at 7 p.m.



Swinging Sounds of Christmas by the Strongsville Community Jazz Band on Friday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m. Followed by a reception! Tickets, which benefit our Music Ministry, are only \$10, \$5 for kids ages 6-12, and free for kids under 6. Tickets will be available for purchase in advance in Pilgrim Hall and at the door.



Christmas Pageant and Reception

Sunday, December 16 during worship, the Sunday School will present their annual Christmas Pageant, followed by a reception in Pilgrim Hall. Plus...a visitor from the North may make an appearance.

DRESS REHEARSAL IS TODAY IN THE SANCTUARY AFTER THE SERVICE.



Hymn Sing Sunday

Enjoy the best Christmas hymns as we join together in song on Sunday, December 30 during worship. Take a breath after the hectic month of planning and preparing and enjoy that Jesus Christ is born in our lives.



THE THRIFT SHOP is open for business on Thursdays, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., with a bonus Free Lunch for All sale day on Wednesdays once a month from 11 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. WE NEED HELP! If you can spare a few hours on Thursdays to volunteer in our Thrift Shop, please consider helping at the Thrift Shop. Also, an additional person is needed to work with us for 2 hours on the second Wednesday of the month. Please contact the church office if you can help either on Wednesdays or Thursdays. Please note: Thrift Shop will be closed on December 27.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Chairmen of church organizations: Annual reports are due in the church office on December 31. Please be kind to the new, inexperienced Church Secretary and get your reports in on time. Thank you!!! Once completed, Annual Reports will be available for pickup prior to the Annual Meeting.



ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place Sunday, January 27, 2019, and will be preceded by the traditional Pancake Brunch. All are encouraged to attend this meeting and be a part of our family of faith. (You do not have to be a member to attend the meeting, but only members are entitled to cast a vote.)

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.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES  
Monday, December 24, 2018

7 p.m.: Family Service of Lessons and Carols  
11 p.m.: Traditional Candlelight Service



Celebrate the birth of our Savior with your church family as we welcome the Light of the World into our lives with music, readings of the Christmas story, prayer, worship, and praise!