

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)
13740 Pearl Road
Strongsville, Ohio 44136

Rev. Rebecca Stephenson, Pastor

JANUARY 1, 2017 – 10:00 a.m.



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 The First Noel Traditional

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT DUET One Small Child Meece

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

People: From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

Leader: You make all things new in heaven and on the earth.

People: We come to you in a new year
with new desires and old fears,
new decision and old controversies,
and new dreams and old weaknesses.

Leader: You are the God of our faith.

We enter your gates with thanksgiving and praise.

People: We come into your presence
with gladness and a joyful noise to serve you. Amen

† HYMN 682 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE 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.

RESPONSE Threefold Amen Danish
SPECIAL MUSIC One King Phelps

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE Rev. Joseph Santomen

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY Joy to the World Handel

† DOXOLOGY 166 Tune: Lasst uns erfreunen
Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

† PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SCRIPTURES Matthew 25:31-46 New Testament, p. 25

SERMON No New Year Necessary Rev. Joseph Santomen

† HYMN 688 Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

† BENEDICTION

† RESPONSE One King Borders, Borders, Alexander

† POSTLUDE He Is Born! Traditional French Carol

We welcome back Rev. Joseph Santomen and his wife Betsey, and we thank him for leading us in worship today. Rev. Santomen is the retired minister from Strongsville United Methodist church, where he served for 10 years. Rev. Santomen has been retired 21 years; this is the 55th year of ordination in the United Methodist Church. For the past 19 years, Rev. Santomen has been preaching in the Adirondacks at Caroga Lake, New York. In addition, Rev. Santomen is a long-time Rotarian; he is the president of the Strongsville Food Bank Board; and for the past four years he has been teaching the Bible Study class at the Strongsville United Methodist Church. This past September 6, Rev. and Mrs. Santomen celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary.

Pastor Becky and Jack Stephenson are away this week, and Pastor Becky will be back in the pulpit next Sunday.

SERVING TODAY

Greeter – Linda Plain

Liturgist – Bev Wehr

Vocalist – Sandy O’Shea

Vocalist and Guitarist – Gary Hackett

Flugelhorn – Rob Stepan

Worship Accompanist – Sharon Heinrich

Sound System – Jim Heinrich

2017 All-Family Winter Retreat at Pilgrim Hills – Mark your calendars now and sign up TODAY for the annual retreat, which is on President’s Day weekend: February 17, 18 and 19, 2017. The sign-up sheet and the “I Will Bring” sign-up are posted on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. We have to get an earlier start now as the reservation and payment processes for Pilgrim Hills have changed. We now must have full payment to the camp by the end of January. Reservations will close on January 15, 2017, and payment in full will also be due that day. We won’t have as much wiggle room as in years’ past and the rooms will definitely fill up, so please sign up early to ensure your spot and choice of lodging. We will have our regular planning meeting on Sunday, February 12, 2017, at the Church in the pre-school classroom after the service. If you have any questions, please contact Charles Jannsohn.

200th Anniversary Church Cookbooks – Please see Dianne Maringer to get your copy. Price per book is \$12; mailing the book is an extra \$3.

Church Christmas Mail Box is now in the Gathering Area by the Church Office door. Please remember to check the box in the Gathering Area for greetings you received. Also, please make sure you did not put cards in the box for those who are currently out of town, because the church office cannot mail your personal Christmas greetings. Cards left at the church after Christmas will be discarded. Thank you.

Adult Social Club – Our next event is a potluck and game night at the church on Saturday, January 14, at 6:00 p.m. We will have our January meeting at that time to plan for our trip to the Rocksino in February. All adults are welcome. Please bring a covered dish to share and a game!

Annual Reports are due in the church office now. The Annual Meeting of the congregation is Sunday, January 29, 2017.

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.

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 29, 2017. 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.

Annual Report Booklets – After they are printed and assembled, the booklets will be available for pickup at the church. If you want a copy mailed to you, please call the church office at (440) 238-6697.

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 provide updates for this list. Thank you.

Long-Term Care or Homebound Members: Eric Brand, Betty Bushea, Margot James, Ethyl Jeglie at Elmcroft of Sagamore Hills, Janet Kato at Western Reserve Masonic Community in Medina, Dolores Mhlack at Southern Hills, Harvey Pincombe, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields, Doris Soucie

Church Family: Shirley Brand, Betty Craig, Steve Herzog, Lori Kovatich, Pam Peacock, Denzil Richards, Melinda Slavik, Leah Tressa Forget, Kyle Woodward

Extended Church Family: Bri Brostek, Thom Cerny, Dylan Churnega, Zachary Crouse, Audrey Curry, Edie Deitcher, Hollie Paine Dodge, Kim Filiatraut, Elizabeth Fulford, Matthew Geletka, Dan Karoly, Sue Mason, Pat Masuga, Debbie Morey, Tonette Putrino, Carrol Riley, Keith Stewart, Frank Toth, Joe Valli

JANUARY 2017

4	Wed	Free Lunch Program, 11:30am to 1:30pm
8	Sun	Worship Committee Meeting, 11:30am
10	Tue	Diaconate Meeting, 7pm
11	Wed	Free Lunch Program, 11:30am to 1:30pm
14	Sat	Adult Social Club Potluck Meal/Meeting/Game Night, 6pm
15	Sun	Newsletter Deadline
17	Tue	Advertising Committee Meeting, 7pm
		Trustees Meeting, 7pm
18	Wed	Free Lunch Program, 11:30am to 1:30pm
22	Sun	Concert, 4pm
24	Tues	Official Board Meeting, 7pm
25	Wed	Free Lunch Program, 11:30am to 1:30pm
		Men's Luncheon, 11:30am
29	Sun	Pancake Breakfast and Annual Meeting of the Congregation

ARTS IN STRONGSVILLE

and

THE STRONGSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

SUNDAY – JANUARY 22, 2017 – 4:00 P.M.

Mary Beth Ions, Violin
and

Jim's Little Band

Freewill Offering ~ Reception after the Concert
All are welcome!

Whether on stage at Severance Hall with the Cleveland Pops Orchestra or in the orchestra pit for touring Broadway shows at Playhouse Square, violinist **Mary Beth Ions** brings her passion for music to these and many other venues in the Greater Cleveland area. She is equally at ease playing country fiddle, Classical concertos, Gershwin, Sinatra, Coldplay, Bruno Mars and Adele! She has provided back-up music for a wide variety of performers such as Rod Stewart, Josh Groban, Barry Manilow, Smokey Robinson and Mannheim Steamroller. Her diverse musical life includes performances at weddings, churches and synagogues, even symphonic concerts of Video Game Music. Mary Beth presents a one-woman violin show where she takes the audience on a musical journey from the Classics to music from the Trans-Siberian Orchestra!

A great believer in the power of music to heal and inspire, Mary Beth is dedicated to the mission of bringing live music up close and personal to those who might not otherwise experience it. She is thrilled to be a member of MetroHealth's Arts in Medicine Department and looks forward to enhancing patient experience with all genres of music.

Jim's **Little Big Band** is an 8-piece combo with vocalist, Cindy Smith, that will perform songs of the American Song Book in a "little big band" format directed by Jim Wonnacott.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Offering Received 12/24/2016	\$3,952
Offering Received 12/25/2016	1,959
\$3 Project Funds Received	3,828
Jazz Concert Fundraiser for Music Ministry	1,006

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY – JANUARY 8, 2017

Greeter – Volunteer Needed
Morning Announcements – Irene Joyce
Liturgist – Kelly Bickley
Ushers – Volunteers Needed
Coffee Hour – Cheryl Sobek

Sign-up Charts for 2017 are now posted on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Please sign up to greet, prepare for coffee hours, provide altar flowers, or usher if you are able. Volunteers are **greatly** needed!

Capital Punishment – The United Church of Christ denomination historically has opposed capital punishment and has postcards opposing the state's use of the death penalty. The postcards will be mailed to Ohio governor, John Kasich. For those wishing to support this belief, the postcards are on the rectangular table in the Gathering Areas and require your printed name and your city of residence. The church will mail your card if you slide it under the church office door. Thank you for your support.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Strongsville UCC

SWISS STEAK DINNER

Saturday – February 4, 2017

Seatings at 5:00 and 6:30 P.M.

Reservations Only: (216) 598-6198

Adults \$15.00 Ages 6-12 \$6.00 Under 6 Free

Tickets will be available soon.

Help is needed – especially on Friday for browning meat.

The sign-up sheet will be posted on Pilgrim Hall's board.

For safety reasons, no children under age 6 (with or without parent) can be helpers in any capacity during the serving hours of 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Children 6 to 10 must have a parent helping them.

The Thrift Shop will be open.



MUSIC REHEARSALS DURING THE WEEK

Children's Choir - 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays

Band (for adults and children) – 8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays

Bell Choir – 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays

Chancel Choir – 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays

STRONGSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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