

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

January 10, 2015 9:45 A.M. First Sunday after Epiphany

† *Those who are able may stand.*

PRELUDE *Shout to the Lord* Darlene Zschech

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT *There Is None Like You* Lenny LeBlanc
Duet – Elena Taylor and Jack Stephenson

† CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Sisters and brothers, today we recall: Jesus came to the waters of baptism.

All: In baptism, our Creator claims us and frees us from the power of hatred and death.

One: In baptism we are joined to Christ and we are joined together in unity, recalling

All: “There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”

One: In baptism, the Spirit of God anoints us for ministry and makes us signs of divine love. It is the mark of acceptance into the church and the beginning of our growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

All: Therefore on this day, the whole church, the Body of Christ, remembers and celebrates.

One: Let us worship God

† **HYMN 207** *We Have Come to Join in Worship*

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.

RESPONSE Ken Mehalko – Native American Flute

ANTHEM *Deep River* Traditional Spiritual, arr. William Bliem
Ken Mehalko – Clarinet

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *How Majestic Is Your Name* Michael J. Smith
Ken Mehalko – Saxophone Jack Stephenson – Bass Guitar

* **DOXOLOGY** (No. 815)

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

† **HYMN 465** *Baptized in Water*

SCRIPTURES Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 New Testament, p. 52

SERMON *The Ministry Begins*

HYMN 436 *Freely, Freely*

† BENEDICTION

† **RESPONSE** *Benediction* Jean Spencer
Gary Hackett – Voice and Guitar

† **POSTLUDE** *Grace Alone* Jeff Nelson

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.

Welcome back to our worship accompanist, Elena Taylor, from her holiday break! **We thank her, Gary Hackett, Ken Mehalko, and Jack Stephenson** for their special music this morning.

Worship Accompanist
Technical Setup and Operation
Sound System
Liturgist
Greeter
Morning Announcements
Coffee Hour

Elena Taylor
Doug Thorn
Jim Heinrich
Jim Studer
Barbara Bridle
Irene Joyce
Cheryl Sobek

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 10, 2016

11:15 A.M.

† Those who are able may stand.

SONGS

*Thy Word
Glorify Thy Name*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SONG

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

† CALL TO WORSHIP

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One: In baptism we are joined to Christ and we are joined together in unity, recalling

All: “There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”

One: In baptism, the Spirit of God anoints us for ministry and makes us signs of divine love. It is the mark of acceptance into the church and the beginning of our growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

All: Therefore on this day, the whole church, the Body of Christ, remembers and celebrates.

One: Let us worship God

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

GATHERING SONG

Sanctuary

Sing 3 times.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING

There Is None Like You Lenny LeBlanc
Duet – Elena Taylor and Jack Stephenson

THE WORD OF GOD Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 New Testament, p. 52

MEDITATION *The Ministry Begins*

SONG *He Is Exalted*

† BENEDICTION

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.

Special thanks and appreciation are extended to our Praise Band, who provides music all year long!

SERVING TODAY

Christian Habart-Scott – Drum Pads
Gary Hackett – Acoustic Guitar, Voice
Aidan Hurtig – Drum Pads
Rachel Kovatich – Voice
Kyra Krause – Voice
Toni Newborn – Voice
Julia Soltis – Violin, Acoustic Guitar, Clarinet
Mike Soltis – Drum Set
Jack Stephenson – Bass Guitar, Voice
Elena Taylor – Praise Band Director, Voice, Keyboard
Robert Toth – Mallet Percussion
Clay Williams – Voice
Jake Williams – Acoustic Guitar, Viola
Doug Thorn – Sound System, Technical Setup and Operation
Irene Joyce – Morning Announcements
Dale Hawk – Liturgist
Rosemary Bechtel – Graphics Operation

January 2015

- 12 Tue Diaconate Meeting, 7pm
Worship Team Meeting, 7:30pm
- 13 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm
- 14 Thu New Journey in Faith Class Begins, 7-9pm
- 15 Fri February Church Newsletter Deadline
- 19 Tue Advertising Team Meeting, 7pm
Trustees Meeting, 7pm
- 20 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm
- 21 Thu Journey in Faith Class, 7-9pm
- 24 Sun Kindred Spirit Singles arrive 1pm, meet at 2pm
- 26 Tue Official Board Meeting, 7pm
- 27 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm
Men's Luncheon at European's Best Restaurant, 11:30am
- 28 Thu Journey in Faith Class, 7-9pm
- 31 Sun 1 Service ONLY at 9:45am
KFC Penny Sunday
Newsletter Pickup
Annual Meeting at 11:45am, preceded by the traditional
Pancake Brunch

The February Church **Newsletter deadline is this Friday, January 15.**
You may want to leave your article(s) in the church office today.

Thanks to all who contribute to the Coffee Hour Fund. With the continual increase in the cost of paper products, etc., your donation is greatly appreciated. All these products are available to the Wednesday Free Lunch Program and all Church groups. However, if you use the last of any of these items—paper towels, napkins, cups, coffee, tea, sugar, or drinks for the children—please use the sheet on the refrigerator to write down what is needed, or inform the Church office or Betty Craig, 440-238-5389, so that replacements can be purchased. Thank you!

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY – JANUARY 17, 2015

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|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Liturgists | 9:45 Pam Keenen | 11:15 Jack Stephenson |
| Greeter | | Volunteer Needed |
| Ushers | | Volunteers Needed |
| Morning Announcements | | Natalie Daniels |
| Coffee Hour | | Volunteer Needed |
| Graphics Operation | | Adria Bond |

ANNOUNCEMENTS – JANUARY 10, 2016

Welcome, visitors! We are so glad you are with us this morning. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

All are invited to enjoy coffee and baked goods in Pilgrim Hall after 9:45 worship today.

The altar flowers are given—
Celebrating the Life of Carol Studer
Jim, Kathy and Jeff

The steeple will light the sky this week—
Thank you to everyone for your prayers and thoughts
while Michele was recuperating, and
Thank you to Pastor Becky and Jack for their accommodations
while Michele was recuperating in their home
Michele and Allen Mhlack

Diaconate will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 12.
Worship Team will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 12.

Wednesday Free Lunch – All are welcome to this free lunch, which is served every Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall.

2016 All-Family Winter Retreat at Pilgrim Hills – Mark your calendars now and sign up TODAY for the Annual All-Family Winter Retreat at Pilgrim Hills. The Retreat will take place on 2016 President's Day weekend: February 12, 13 and 14. The sign-up sheet and the "I Will Bring" sign-up have been 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 changed last year. We now must have full payment to the camp by the end of January. Reservations will close on January 17, 2016; 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 7, 2016, at the Church in the pre-school classroom after the traditional service. Those wishing to come down for just Saturday should make arrangements with me. If you have any questions, please contact Charles Jannsohn.

	Weekly Offering Needed	\$3,190
Offering 1/3/16	Traditional \$6,604	Contemporary \$136 6,740
		Difference \$3,550

The new charts for 2016 for Greeters, Ushers, and Altar Flowers are on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. **Please help** in these areas if you are able. Your assistance is needed. Thank you!

Annual Reports – Chairmen of church organizations: Annual reports are due in the church office NOW. 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.**

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place Sunday, January 31, 2016, when **we will have only one worship service— at 9:45 a.m.** The traditional Pancake Brunch will follow worship, and the meeting will commence at about 11:45 a.m. All are encouraged to attend the meeting.

Financial Officers of Church Groups: Please turn in your financial statements to the Auditing Committee through the church office NOW. It is extremely important that all books be audited before the Annual Meeting on January 31, 2016. 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).

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 available include serving on the:

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.

Pastor Becky will again teach a Journey in Faith Membership Class.

The class will begin this Thursday evening, January 14. Class is held at the church from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Members, as well as potential members, are welcome and encouraged to attend. Topics covered include: *Establishing the Group, The Bible as Our Authority, Discovering Jesus, What We Believe and How We Got Here, The Nature of the Church, From the Early Church to Us, We Are ALL Gifted, Investigating the Local Church, Christian Giving, Understanding Different Levels of Living and Giving, The Meaning of Christian Covenant, and Investigating Worship.* Both members and nonmembers will enjoy the camaraderie within the group and the knowledge that Pastor Becky shares. To register, please mark your Attendance Card, tell Pastor Becky, call the Church Office, or see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall.

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. This list is updated weekly. If you wish someone to remain on the list, please call the church, (440) 238-6697.

Long-Term Care or Homebound Members: Ethyl Jeglie at Elmcroft of Sagamore Hills, Janet Kato at Western Reserve Masonic Community in Medina, Betty Kovach at Parkside Villa, Connie Rebar, Erla Mae Schultz at Medina Village

Church Family: Jim Davis at Falling Water, Linda Elliott, Betty Kircher at West Bay Center in Westlake, Laurie Meister, Michele Mihalack, Eileen Pincombe, Denzil Richards, Sharon Ritchie, Barb Stayrook, Keith Sullen, Judy Thurn, Leah Tressa Forget, John Wood

Extended Church Family: Elizabeth Arendt (granddaughter of Bev Wehr), Ryan Brubeck, Emelyn Carels (sister of Irene Jannsohn), Dylan Churnega (grandson of Ginny Churnega Oerkfitz), Zachary Crouse (grandson of Barbara Morgan), Audrey Curry (mother of Pam Keenen), Rebecca Deeb (Goddaughter of Lora Rung), Angie Dickinson (friend of Lola Millhoane), Donna Fargo (mother of Sally Herzog), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Kay Gritti (friend of Lola Millhoane), Irene Hagemeyer (niece of Betty Craig), Amanda Hover (granddaughter of Betty Kircher), Phyllis Keenen (mother of Bruce), Pat Kolba (mother of Kelly Bickley), Jessica Lane (granddaughter of Len and Bev), Lily (student of Lora Rung), Maggie (friend of the Bickleys), Sue Mason, Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Dolores Mihalack (mother of Allen) at Southern Hills, Debbie Morey (sister of Steve Herzog), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Keith Stewart (cousin of Carol Woodward), Trudie Taylor (sister of Karen Morgan), Bob Tomko (cousin of Ed Sobek), Kathleen Wickline (mother of Darla)