



**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
 (Congregational)  
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**Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor**  
**The Sacrament of Holy Communion**  
**The Baptism of Christ**

**Sunday, January 10, 2021 – Online**

**OPENING MUSIC** “Come, Now is the Time to Worship” Doerksen

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**INTROIT** “Open the Eyes of My Heart” Baloché

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

This past year, we found ourselves walking a different path; yet still, our hearts long to visit the Baby, born long ago in Bethlehem. In this new year, we continue to worship in different, sometimes difficult, ways; yet the promise of the Christ Child unites us across the miles until we can safely be together again. In this new year, we find ourselves in different places; yet the One who has come for us brings us together in Love, even as we remain apart for now. **Come, Lord Jesus. Come.**

**HYMN** “Baptized in Water”

Baptized in water, Sealed by the Spirit,  
 Cleansed by the blood Of Christ our King;  
 Heirs of salvation, Trusting His promise,  
 Faithfully now, God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, Sealed by the Spirit,  
 Dead in the tomb With Christ, our King;  
 One with His rising, Freed and forgiven,  
 Thankfully now, God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, Sealed by the Spirit,  
 Marked with the sign Of Christ our King  
 Born of one Father, We are His children.  
 Joyfully now, God's praise we sing!

CCLI Song # 5853694 Carlton Raymond Young | Michael Saward  
 © Words: 1982 Michael Saward - The Jubilate Group (Admin. by Jubilate Hymns Ltd, sub to Hope Publishing for various regions) (Admin. by Hope Publishing Company) Music: 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)

**FIRST READING** **Mark 1:4-8** (New Revised Standard Version)  
 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

**SHARING AND PRAYERS**

**MUSIC** “Word of God Speak” Millard/Kiple

**TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US**

**BEING COMMUNITY WHEN WE ARE APART**

**OFFERTORY** “O God our Help in Ages Past” Watts  
 We are off to a fresh start, a new day dawning in the year 2021.

Together, we again commit our lives and our resources to finding new, innovative ways to continue to walk with Jesus, making the most of each day and celebrating God’s living Presence in our lives. We appreciate your commitment to giving freely of your talents and your treasure, as you are able. Thank you. To give online, you may go to:

<https://www.myeoffering.com/eonline/index.php/dashboard/login/5027>

or mail your offering to **Strongsville UCC 13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, OH 44136**. You may also save a stamp and drop your envelope in the church mailbox at any time.

**SECOND READING** **Mark 1:9-11** (New Revised Standard Version)  
 In those days, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

**REFLECTION** Always Remember

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

You and I are now the ones who step forth out of the safe waters of baptism, to bring hope, to share a word of grace, to carry healing into the brokenness of the lives around us. Let us confess how we still struggle to follow in faith wherever Jesus leads us. Let’s pray together:

**UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

Forever God, you shine your Light into the dark places of our souls and call us your Beloved. Forgive us when we choose shadows over light; when we treat others in hurtful ways; when we speak words that bring pain. Forgive us when we fail to welcome the stranger; when we refuse to forgive those who have hurt us; when we believe we are too good to kneel down and tie the shoes of the least, the last, and the lost. *(silent prayer)*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Pastor: Hear this Good News! You are cleansed by the waters of life, fed at the Table of grace and hope, wrapped in the warmth of God's peace and love.

**All: Blessed by baptism's tears, called to be servants of the Lord Jesus Christ, filled with the peace of the Spirit, we are indeed God's people - redeemed, restored, refreshed to serve. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

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.

**HYMN**

**“Good Christians Friends Rejoice”**

Good Christian friends, rejoice, With heart and soul and voice!  
Give ye heed to what we say: News! News! Jesus Christ is born today!  
Ox and ass before Him bow, And He is in the manger now  
Christ is born today; Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice, With heart and soul and voice!  
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door And man is blessed forevermore  
Christ was born for this; Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice, With heart and soul and voice!  
Now ye need not fear the grave; Peace! Peace!  
Jesus Christ was born to save.  
Calls you one and calls you all To gain His everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save; Christ was born to save!

CCLI Song # 85158 John Mason Neale © Words: Public Domain Music: Public Domain

**BENEDICTION**

Now may the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Know that wherever you are, God is with you. Amen.

**POSTLUDE**

“Trading My Sorrows”

Evans

**SERVING**

**TODAY – JANUARY 10**

**NEXT SUNDAY – JANUARY 17**

Dave Williams	<b>Liturgist</b>	Irene Joyce
Tom Foley	<b>Director of Music</b>	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	<b>Associate Director of Music</b>	Mike Elkins
Doug Thorn	<b>Sound</b>	Doug Thorn
Chuck McDougall	<b>Video</b>	Chuck McDougall
Dave Williams	<b>Special Music</b>	Richard Densmore

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

*In loving memory of Carol L. Studer  
Love and miss you—Jeff and Kathy*

*A salute to everyone who produced the CD  
“Christmas Presence” for us! --Judy Carte*

**Additional song credits**

**Come, Now is the Time to Worship** CCLI Song # 2430948 Brian Doerksen © 1998 Vineyard Songs (UK/Eire) (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing (Integrity Music, David C Cook))

**Open the Eyes of My Heart** CCLI Song # 2298355 Paul Baloche © 1997 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing (Integrity Music, David C Cook))

**Word of God Speak** CCLI Song # 3912788 Bart Millard | Pete Kipley © 2002 Songs From The Indigo Room (Admin. by CURB | Word Music Publishing) Simpleville Music (Fair Trade Music Publishing [c/o Essential Music Publishing LLC]) Curb Wordspring Music (Admin. by W.C.M. Music Corp.)

**Our God Our Help in Ages Past** CCLI Song # 43152 Isaac Watts | William Croft © Words: Public Domain Music: Public Domain

**Trading My Sorrows** CCLI Song # 2574653 Darrell Evans © 1998 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing (Integrity Music, David C Cook))

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Many thanks to Dave Williams for joining us for today's service!

Happy Birthday today to Richard Taylor!

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Janet Kato, Marge McKinney, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

Church Family: Joan Beckwith, Adria Bond, Eddy Bond, Mary Carey, Elaine Coffey, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Linda Elliott, Don Gleichauf, Sue Hawk, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Elliott Joyce, Carole Kapcar, Tony Koussa, Lori Kovatich, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Lacey Marshall, Brigitte Matchett, Judy Maur, Laurie Meister, Michele Mhlack, Lola Millhoane, Judi Pavisich, Joyce Reed, Dorothy and Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Jamie & Josh Trinckes, Sharon Wilson, Sally Vetovitz, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch



Extended Church Family: Dorene Baldrige, Jackie & Phil Berkheimer (Judi Pavisich's friends), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Judy Carte's son-in-law, Ryan, Ruby Cuyler (Sam's sister), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Pam Hassell, (Judi Pavisich's daughter-in-law), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Gary Koly (Jo Ann Thomas's brother), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Pat Masuga (Dan's mom), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Zachary McKeever (Pastor Heidi and Chuck's great-nephew), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Carrol Riley (Marjorie Morrison's dad), Terry Robson (the Camps' friend), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Richard Sazima & Kathy Sazima (Judi Pavisich's friends), Anneke Scholtz (Irene Jannsohn's sister), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Daphne Wilson (Irene Jannsohn's niece)

Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain.

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY



We were deeply saddened to hear that Sally Mack, Cathy Hawk's mom, passed away on December 27, 2020. Our sympathy goes out to Cathy and Dale Hawk, Sarah, Jon, Jack, Ella, and Henry Hayes, and Amanda, John, Riley, and Lacey Marshall, as well as all of Sally's daughters, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and friends.

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We send our condolences and prayers to Irene Jannsohn, who lost her brother-in-law, Kenneth Jacoby on November 26 and another brother-in-law, Lukas Scholtz, on December 24, 2020.

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Our sympathy is also sent to the Mark and Barb Camp, as well as the family and friends of Sherry Sheeks, Mark's sister, who passed away on December 24, 2020 after a lengthy battle with breast cancer. Love and prayers also to Sherry's son, Rick Dennison.



OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Table with 2 columns: Description, Amount. Rows: Weekly Offering Needed (\$ 3,473.27), 12/27/20 Offering Received (\$ 3,479.00), Difference (\$ 5.73)

Table with 2 columns: Description, Amount. Rows: Weekly Offering Needed (\$ 3,649.37), 1/3/21 Offering Received (\$ 2,830.00), Difference (-\$ 819.37)

Thank you very much for your support of our church and its ministries.

THRIFT SHOP NEWS

The Thrift Shop will be back in business on Thursday, January 21st from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Come on down and see the fabulous new "refresh" with new merchandise, new displays, and new floor plan!



## ANNUAL REPORTS

# Annual Report



Although we are not meeting in person, we will still be compiling our Annual Report. Chairs of church organizations: Annual reports are due in the church office ASAP.

Please email your report to [strongsvilleucc@gmail.com](mailto:strongsvilleucc@gmail.com) and be kind to the Church Secretary by getting your reports in promptly during this unusual time.

**Thank you to everyone who has already submitted their report!**

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**Financial Officers of all church organizations:** Please submit your financial records, reports, and bank statements to the church office for audit as soon as possible.



### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

number available for pick-up at the church office during office hours in late January.

This year, because of the global pandemic, so much is different. Our routines, our events, our activities have had to be adapted for safety and social distancing. Consequently, our Annual Meeting and elections will not take place as usual. Most of our church officers have agreed to add a year onto their terms. The

Annual Report will be emailed to all households and there will be a limited number available for pick-up at the church office during office hours in late January.

## PEANUT BUTTER DRIVE FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

The Strongsville Emergency Food Bank is in need of peanut butter—all sizes and brands, crunchy or creamy. Please bring new, unopened jars of peanut butter to the church during office hours: Monday - Friday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.



**Are you an online shopper?** If so, why not benefit the church while you make your purchases from Amazon? It's incredibly easy! Here's what you do:

1. Instead of typing amazon.com into your search bar, type in **smile.amazon.com**.
2. Select United Church of Christ Congregational Strongsville by clicking this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-1298100>
3. Shop as you would normally—that's it!

Your addresses, billing information, and shopping cart are still saved and your Prime membership privileges still apply. A small percentage of your purchase price will go toward supporting the church.

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## ANNUAL WINTER RETREAT

**February 12-14, 2021**

**at Templd Hills Camp in Bellville, Ohio**

Upon consultation with the leadership at Templd Hills and the Heartland Conference Outdoor Ministries team, this year's Retreat has been cancelled for safety reasons. **Please save the dates for President's Day weekend, February 18-20, 2022!**



## DON'T FORGET TO PICK UP OUR PRESENT TO YOU:

# “Christmas Presence”

If you have not already gotten your copy of the CD of Christmas music put together by our music team, please stop by during church hours: Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

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