

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
(Congregational)  
13740 Pearl Road  
Strongsville, Ohio 44136

Rev. Rebecca Stephenson, Pastor

**JANUARY 15, 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** *Jehovah-Jireh* Merla Watson

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

† **CALL TO WORSHIP** *Based on Psalm 40*

One: I waited patiently for GOD; who turned to me and heard my  
cry, who lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire;  
and set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.

**ALL: We sing a new song!**  
**Our mouths are full of the praise of God.**

One: Blessed are we when we make the Lord our trust;  
when we do not turn aside to false gods.

**ALL: We sing of all your many wonders, O God,  
too many to declare them all.**

One: Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but our ears  
you have pierced and a body you have prepared for us.

**ALL: We sing, "Here I am, I have come—  
desire to do your will, O my God;  
your law is in my heart."**

† **HYMN 589** *Here I Am, Lord*

### 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** *Amazing Grace*

**CHOIR ANTHEM** *A Joyous Psalm, Psalm 138* Eugene Butler

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### THE OFFERING

**OFFERTORY** *You Are My All in All (with I Surrender All)*

† **DOXOLOGY 166** Tune: *Lasst uns erfreuen*  
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** Luke 4:1, 2 New Testament, p. 53

**SERMON** *Satan*

† **HYMN 69** *Holy, Holy*

### † BENEDICTION

† **RESPONSE** *May the Peace of the Lord Go with You*

† **POSTLUDE** *Organ Postlude in C Major*

### Today's altar flowers are given—

*In loving memory of Carol Studer  
Kathy Studer Ketchum and Jeff Studer*

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

*Happy Birthday to Tony Tran on January 20  
With love, Grammy*

**Annual Report Booklets** – If you want to get some exercise today after  
church, join us in collating annual reports in Pilgrim Hall. When the  
booklets are all collated, we will enjoy lunch together in Pilgrim Hall.  
All are welcome to join in the fun!

### SERVING TODAY

Greeters – The Bickley Family  
Morning Announcements – Irene Joyce  
Liturgist – Jim Nicoulin  
Coffee Hour – Ginny Churnega Oerkfitz  
Director of Music – Elena Taylor  
Bell Choir Director – Barb Fraunfelder  
The Chancel Choir  
Bass Guitar – Jack Stephenson  
Acoustic Guitar – Gary Hackett  
Electric Guitar – Jake Williams  
Mallet Percussion – Rob Toth  
Drum Set – Mike Soltis  
Sound System – Jim Heinrich

**2017 All-Family Winter Retreat at Pilgrim Hills** – Today is the cut-off to  
sign up for the Annual All-Family Winter Retreat at Pilgrim Hills, which will  
be on President's Day weekend: February 17, 18 and 19. Most of the  
rooms have been reserved, but anyone that still wishes to come should  
make arrangements immediately after the service. In addition to the sign-  
up ending today, payment in full is also due. Costs are:

\$65 for adults (over age 12) \$10 for children ages 6-11  
Children under age 6 are free

Checks should be made out to Strongsville UCC. Please see Charles  
Jannsohn after the service to make payment. To those attending the  
Retreat: please continue to sign up to bring items. The sheet is posted on  
the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. As always, any questions, comments or  
concerns should be directed to Charles Jannsohn.

**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 needed!

**Today is the February Church Newsletter deadline.** You may place your  
article(s) under the church office door. Thank you.

**Stewardship** – The campaign's goal for 2017 is 125 pledges by today.  
We have received only 67 to date. If you have not yet made your pledge,  
please fill out a pledge card and put it in the offering plate or slide it under  
the church office door. Thank you. Additional pledge cards are in the  
Gathering Area.

**Can you help?** The Sunday School is looking for a few items for our  
costume stash:

- Old graduation gowns--any color, any size
- Striped/earth-tone skinny ties (from the 80's)
- Pieces of soft rope for belts (about 2 feet long)
- Winter scarves--plain or with rustic/earth-tone patterns/stripes

Please bring your items to Irene Joyce when you have a chance.  
Thanks for cleaning out your closets to benefit the Sunday School!

### THIS WEEK

**Today** Collating Annual Reports in Pilgrim Hall, after church  
**Tuesday** Advertising Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
Trustees Meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
**Wednesday** Free Lunch Program, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Fitness Club, 7 p.m.  
Children's Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.  
Band Rehearsal, 8:00 p.m.  
**Thursday** Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Bell Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 8 p.m.  
**Sunday** Performing Arts Series Concert, **3:00 p.m.** in our  
Sanctuary

### OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,900  
Weekly Offering Received 1/8/2016 **\$4,338**  
Difference + 438

*Special thanks to those who have given their pledge a year in advance.*

**Gift Baskets for Wing Nite** – The Diaconate is looking for donations of gift baskets for the next Wing Nite, which will take place sometime in the Spring. Please think about donating a basket of new items that is theme-based. A signup sheet will be posted in Pilgrim Hall for you to write your name and the type of basket you are donating.

**Diaconate “Show and Tell”** – The Diaconate will have a “Show and Tell” at their March 14 meeting at 7:00 p.m. to see what their duties are. Anyone interested may attend.

**Coffee Hour** – Please see a Diaconate member if you are interested in learning how to do coffee hour. You do not have to be a Diaconate member to do this. We can train you after church on the Sunday of your choice.

**Journey in Faith Mini-series** – This membership class will be held on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. at the church. Class begins on March 1 and concludes on April 5. New members will be received into the church on Palm Sunday, April 9, 2016.

**Jesus and the Movies II** is a Lenten Study on Sunday evenings that includes a light meal of soup and bread. The study begins on March 5 at 5:30 p.m. Together we will explore the life of Jesus as portrayed in the movies. We will compare the movies with the Gospel accounts and our life experiences. Possible movies include *Ben Hur*, *The Young Messiah*, *Risen*, *Godspell*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Jesus of Nazareth* (selected sections), *Last Temptation*, or others. Movie suggestions are welcome.

**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.

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

### 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, Harvey Pincombe, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields, Doris Soucie

**Church Family:** Shirley Brand, Betty Craig, Steve Herzog, 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

## ARTS IN STRONGSVILLE

and

### THE STRONGSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

**NEXT SUNDAY – JANUARY 22, 2017 – 3:00 P.M.**

**Mary Beth Ions, Violin and Jim’s Little Band**

**Freewill Offering ~ Reception after the Concert**



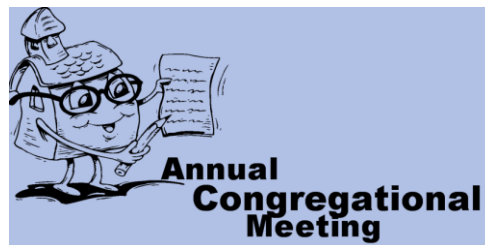
Whether on stage at Severance Hall with the Cleveland Pops Orchestra or in the orchestra pit for touring Broadway shows at Playhouse Square, violinist **Mary Beth Ions** brings her passion for music to these and many other venues in the Greater Cleveland area. She is equally at ease playing country fiddle, 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.

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.



### JANUARY 2017

- 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, **3pm** – *Please note time change to 1 hour earlier.*
- 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



**Sunday – January 29, 2016 – 11:45 A.M.**

(preceded by the Traditional Pancake Breakfast)

**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 assembled today, the booklets will be available at the church for you to take home and read. For those who want a copy mailed to them, please call the church office at (440) 238-6697.

*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 are available to purchase after church.**

Help is needed – especially on Friday for browning meat. The sign-up sheet is 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.**



### SERVING NEXT SUNDAY – JANUARY 22, 2017

- Greeter – Gina Cathcart
- Morning Announcements – Irene Joyce
- Liturgist – Kenn Oerkfitz
- Ushers – Volunteers Needed
- Coffee Hour – Gina Cathcart

