



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

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall
Designated Minister

JANUARY 21, 2018 – 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.*

BAND PRELUDE "Amazing Grace" Traditional American

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rachel Zielinski

BAND AND CHORAL INTROIT "Lord, Be Glorified" Bob Kilpatrick

† **CALL TO WORSHIP** *From Psalm 62*

Leader: Truly, my soul finds rest in God;
my salvation comes from God.

**People: Truly, God is my rock and my salvation;
God is my fortress, I will never be shaken.**

Leader: One thing God has spoken,
two things I have heard:

**People: "Power belongs to you, O God;
with you, Lord, is unfailing Love."**

† **HYMN 465** "Baptized in Water" Verses 1 and 3

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER and THE 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.

CHORAL PRAYER RESPONSE "Spirit of the Living God"

ANTHEM "Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God" Carl F. Mueller

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Lacey Jane Marshall
Parents: Amanda Hawk and John Marshall
Sponsors: Jonathan Hayes, Lauren Amanda Lapp, Heather Carolin

Welcome

Pastor: Matthew's gospel tells us how people were bringing children to Jesus, that Jesus might touch them, and how his disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant, and said to them:

People: Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the Kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a little child shall not enter it.

Pastor: And Jesus took the children into his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. The promise of the gospel is not only to us; it is also to our children. Baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal in their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

Questions and Responses

Do you desire to have your child baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ? (*We do.*)

Will you encourage her to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ? (*We will, with God's help.*)

Will you teach her, so that she may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior? (*We will, with God's help.*)

Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciples, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able? (*We do, with God's help.*)

Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with this child in the Christian faith, to help her be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, by celebrating Christ's presence, by furthering Christ's mission in all the world, and by offering the nurture of the Christian church so that she may affirm her baptism? (*We do, with God's help.*)

Congregational Promise

Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support and care to the one about to be baptized, as she lives and grows in Christ? (***We promise our love, support and care.***)

Prayer of Baptism

Christ be with you. (***And also with you.***)
Let us pray.

Gracious God, bless this water by your Holy Spirit. By that same Spirit, save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ, that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in the one baptized this morning, that they may rise in Christ. All glory and honor be to you, Eternal God, who was, who is, and shall always be, world without end. **Amen.**

Baptism

Lacey Jane Marshall, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Pray God's richest blessing upon you. **Amen.**

Let us pray together:

Gracious God, you have filled the world with joy with the gift of Jesus. Bless this child; may she be filled with strength and courage for life's journey; joy for all to see; freedom of love; hope for a new life; and may she never be ashamed to confess her personal faith in you. Bless us, O God, that we may be faithful to your Word, united in the peace of Christ and the company of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

† **HYMN 185** "Jesus Loves Me" All Verses

THE OFFERINGS

BAND OFFERTORY "Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child"
Spiritual

† **DOXOLOGY 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**

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 1:14-20

SERMON "Turn It Around"

† **HYMN 121** "How Majestic Is Your Name" Sing Twice

† **BENEDICTION**

† **RESPONSE** "Lead Me, Lord" Samuel S. Wesley

† **POSTLUDE**

This morning's altar flowers are given—

*In Loving Memory of Carol Studer
Kathy Studer Ketchum and Jeff Studer*

*In Loving Memory of Chris Morgan
Love, His Brother and Sisters*

Official Board meets Tuesday, January 23, at 7:00 p.m.

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation is Sunday, January 28, 2018, at about 11:45 a.m. and is preceded by the Traditional Pancake Breakfast.

In accordance with our church constitution and by-laws, the Board of Trustees are announcing a proposal requiring congregational approval during our church Annual Meeting. The Trustees are asking for a vote due to any costs which could cause each project to exceed \$5,000. Members must be present during this meeting to vote. The first item for consideration is painting of the church sanctuary. The sanctuary has not been painted since 1988 and is need of a complete paint job. The painting estimate is \$4,550. The second proposal is replacing the beige sanctuary carpet with matching cathedral red carpet. The beige carpet has lots of stains and is worn and in need of replacing. The carpet replacement estimate is currently \$5,045. Both projects will be financed through our church line of credit. There will be opportunity for questions leading up to the meeting and during the Annual Meeting. Please see a member of the Trustees with any questions. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Annual Reports – You may pick up your copy from the cabinet in the Gathering Area. To have one mailed to you, please call the church at 440-238-6697.

Nominating Committee – Many offices in the church are available for the coming year. Please consider saying yes when a member of the Nominating Committee asks you to serve.

Membership rosters will be distributed at the Annual Meeting. Does the church have your current address and phone number? If not, please call the church at (440) 238-6697 or please email your information to strongsvilleucc@gmail.com. Thank you.

Joining the Church – If you are interested in becoming a member of Strongsville UCC, please either inform Pastor Heidi or call the church office, (440) 238-6697. Thank you!

Lenten Study featuring the movie, *The Shack*, will be offered Sundays at noon, beginning February 18 in Pilgrim Hall. The first week will be simply viewing the movie; following weeks will be our chance to discuss, digest and explore together. A light lunch will be provided. Interested? Please let us know who and how many on the attendance card found in your bulletin.

Nursery – Helpers are needed because of the increase in number of children. A sign-up sheet is in Pilgrim Hall. For questions, please contact Amanda Hawk, Sarah Hayes, or Kelly Bickley.

Photo Directory – Please contact Sarah Hayes or Cathy Hawk today to get your picture re-taken **if your first picture was taken before September.**

The Wednesday Lunch Program really needs volunteers especially now when four regular volunteers went south for the winter. To help, please contact Betty Craig or call the church, (440) 238-6697. Thank you!

The sign-up charts for Greeters, Ushers, and Coffee Hour for 2018 are on Pilgrim Hall's bulletin board. Please sign up to help if you are able. Your help is greatly appreciated and needed!

S E R V I N G

January 21, 2018		January 28, 2018
Kelly Bickley	Liturgist	Pam Keenen
Linda Plain	Greeters	Betty Craig
Chuck McDougall	Ushers	Volunteers Needed
Myron Costin	Coffee Hour	(Pancake Breakfast)

When Strongsville City Schools are closed because of the weather:
The Wednesday Free Lunch Program will be "closed,"
and
The Thrift Shop will be "closed."

Thank you to all the generous folks who donated \$158.22 on the last Penny Sunday of 2017! The money will go to our Sunday School to replenish our donations to the National Youth Advocacy Program and Memorial School in Cleveland. The next Penny Sunday is January 28.

Thank you to everyone who signed up for the Annual Winter Retreat! Reservations are now closed. Please sign up for items to bring on the yellow sheet on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. We will have a brief organizational meeting on February 11 immediately following the worship service.

To make past services easier to view on the web, the church has a YouTube channel. To access it, go to the <http://strongsvilleucc.com/> website. Click on WORSHIP and then SERVICE VIDEOS. Once you get to YouTube, search for the service you wish to see and click on it. Alternately, you can go directly to YouTube and search for "Strongsville UCC". Most services from the beginning of 2017 have already been uploaded. To see an older service, please contact Jim Heinrich to see if it is available.

Updating Our Website and TVs – If you have updates for our church Website or TV screens at church, please inform:

Michele Mihlack (216) 324-9799 or m.mihlack@gmail.com
or Irene Joyce (216) 267-5043 or ij3e@sbcglobal.net

Strongsville UCC

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT

SWISS STEAK DINNER

Saturday – February 3, 2018

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

Reservations Only: (216) 598-6198

Adults \$14.00 Ages 6-10 \$6.00 Under 6 Free

After worship today, tickets are available for purchase in Pilgrim Hall.

Help is needed – especially on Friday at 9:30 a.m. 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.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed	\$3,649.31
Weekly Offering Received 1/14/2018	<u>\$2,249.50</u>
Difference	- \$1,399.81



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 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).

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, Janet Kato at Kemper House, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

Church Family: Dan Davis at Parkside Villa, Lacey Marshall (daughter of Amanda and John), Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt at Northwestern Health Care Center in Berea, Irene Jannsohn, Bruce Keenen, Martha Liebert, Sandra Manos (mother of Eli), Sloane Masuga (daughter of Jake and Lauren), Joyce Reed, Bill Ritchie, Betsey Santomen (wife of Rev. Joe Santomen), Leah Tressa Forget, Bev Wehr, Kyle Woodward

Extended Church Family: Luke Bazan (friend of Judi Pavisich's granddaughter), Donna Briggs (mother-in-law of Judi Pavisich's daughter), Kim Filiautraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Joyce Freeman (sister of Carol Woodward), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Sue Grunenwald (friend of the Heinrichs), Diane Mason (friend of Lora Rung), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), the Sink family (friends of Judy Pavisich's granddaughter), Keith Stewart (cousin of Carol Woodward), Frank Toth (father of Rob), Sheena Toth (mother of Dale), Joe Valli (brother-in-law of Vicky and Dan Masuga)

JANUARY 2018

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| 23 | Tue | Official Board Meeting, 7pm |
| 24 | Wed | Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-12:30pm
Men's Luncheon, 11:30am
Fit Club, 7pm |
| 28 | Sun | Penny Sunday
Bell Choir plays for worship.
Annual Meeting of the Congregation, after worship
(Traditional Pancake Breakfast will precede the meeting.)
Special Dietary Needs for the Winter Retreat must be reported. |
| 31 | Wed | Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-12:30pm,
Fit Club, 7pm |

MUSIC REHEARSALS DURING THE WEEK 🎵 🎵 🎵

Band (Adults and Students in Grades 6-12) – 8pm on Wednesdays

Bell Choir – 7pm on Thursdays

Chancel Choir – 8pm on Thursdays

For information about our church's music program, please see

Elena Taylor, Director of Music