

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

13740 Pearl Road
Strongsville, Ohio 44136

Rev. Rebecca Stephenson, Pastor

JANUARY 22, 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 **Hymn 78** *I Love You, Lord* Sing twice.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: When we love God by serving others,

People: we fulfill the greatest of the commandments.

Leader: When we share bread with the hungry poor,

People: then light shall break forth like the morning.

Leader: When we bring in those who are cast out,

People: then righteousness shall go before us.

Leader: When we are foolish to believe that love can save the
perishing,

**People: then the message of the cross is being lived and
proclaimed.**

Leader: When we stand on our heads to understand the wisdom
of God.

People: then the poor are raised up, the low ones lifted high.

Leader: When we extend mercy.

People: then we receive mercy.

Leader: So, let the one who boasts,

People: boast in the Lord!

Leader: For God is the source of your life, in Christ Jesus.

All: Let us rejoice and be glad!

† **HYMN 422** *I Love You with the Love of the 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 *Amen*

BELL ANTHEM *Your Grace Is Enough* Matt Maher, arr. Peggy Bettcher

CHILDREN'S CHOIR ANTHEM *The BIBLE*

The Children's Choir

Teddy Bickley, Russell Bickley, Anna Bickley,
Rowan Garcia, Luke Giuliano, Christian Habart-Scott

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Do You Love God?*

† **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 John 21:1-4 New Testament, p. 101

SERMON *Act of Love*

† **HYMN 508** *Love Lifted Me*

† BENEDICTION

† **BELL RESPONSE** *We Will Glorify* Twila Paris
arr. Peggy Bettcher

† **POSTLUDE** *The Love of God* Frederick M. Lehman

SERVING TODAY

Greeter – Gina Cathcart
Morning Announcements – Irene Joyce
Liturgist – Michele Mhlack
Coffee Hour – Gina Cathcart
Bell Choir Director – Barb Fraunfelder
The Bell Choir
Director of Music – Elena Taylor
Saxophone / Clarinet – Ken Mehalko
Bass Guitar – Jack Stephenson
Acoustic Guitar – Gary Hackett
Bass Guitar – Jack Stephenson
Electric Guitar – Jake Williams
Mallet Percussion – Rob Toth
Drum Set – Mike Soltis
Sound System – Jim Heinrich

Today's altar flowers are given—

*In Honor of Rachel's and Kennedy's Birthdays and
In Remembrance of Chris on His Birthday
The Morgan and Zielinski Families*

In Celebration and Gratitude of Our Music Ministry

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

*In Memory of Our Mother, Dolores Mhlack—Happy Birthday on January 27
Allen and Michele*

**The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place next Sunday,
January 29, after 10:00 a.m. worship.** The meeting will be preceded by
the traditional pancake brunch. All members and friends of the church are
encouraged to attend this meeting, where reports of officers and
organization will be presented for approval, and the election of officers for
the new year will take place.

Annual Report Booklets are available in the Gathering Area 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.

2017 All-Family Winter Retreat at Pilgrim Hills – The sign-up for the
Church Retreat is closed and all space has been reserved. Thank you to
everyone who signed up to attend. If you haven't paid, please contact
Charles Jannsohn (who unfortunately is not here today) to make payment
arrangements. The planning meeting will be Sunday, February 12, 2017,
after the service in the sanctuary. Those attending, please continue signing
up to bring items and volunteer for various Retreat weekend activities prior
to the planning meeting. Looking forward to another fun Retreat with plenty
of snacks and games, but (hopefully) no hamloaf! As always, any
questions, comments, or concerns should be directed to Charles Jannsohn.

Church Sign-up Charts for 2017 are posted on the bulletin board in
Pilgrim Hall. Please sign up to greet, prepare/serve at coffee hour, provide
altar flowers, or usher if you are able. Volunteers are needed!

Stewardship – The campaign's goal for 2017 is 125 pledges by today, but
we have received only 75 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 on the rectangular table.

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!

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,900
Weekly Offering Received 1/15/2016 \$2,421
Difference -\$1,479

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

THIS WEEK

Today	Performing Arts Series Concert, 3:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary, with a reception in Pilgrim Hall afterwards
Tuesday	Official Board 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	Pancake Brunch, after church Annual Meeting of the congregation

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 (after the 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday service) and concludes on April 5. New members will be received into the church on Palm Sunday, April 9.

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.

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.

Gordon Food Service – A reminder that GFS gives the church a rebate on purchases. When you check out, just tell them you are from Strongsville UCC.

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

TODAY – January 22 – 3:00 P.M.

Mary Beth Ions, Violin and Jim's Little Big 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

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



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

(preceded by the Traditional Pancake Breakfast)

FEBRUARY 2017

3 Fri	Preparation for the Swiss Steak Dinner, 9am
4 Sat	Swiss Steak Dinner
5 Sun	Installation of church officers during worship
12 Sun	Retreat Planning Meeting in Sanctuary, after church
17-18-19	Friday through Sunday – Winter Retreat at Pilgrim Hills

MARCH 2017

1 Wed	Ash Wednesday Worship at 7:00 p.m. – Please note earlier time.
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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 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.



SERVING NEXT SUNDAY – JANUARY 29, 2017

Greeter – Kenn and Ginny Oerkfitz
Morning Announcements – Irene Joyce
Liturgist – Kenn Oerkfitz
Ushers – Volunteers Needed
Coffee Hour – Annual Meeting Breakfast