

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 3, 2015 9:45 A.M. Second Sunday after Christmas

† *Those who are able may stand.*

PRELUDE *One Small Child* Meece, arr. Larson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT *Holy, Holy, Holy*

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In the beginning, there was the Word;
People: the Word was in God's presence, and the Word was God.
Leader: The Word was present to God from the beginning.
Through the Word all things came into being.
People: In the Word was life, and that life was humanity's light.
Leader: And the Word became flesh and stayed for a little while among us;
People: we saw the Word's glory—
Leader: the favor and position a parent gives an only child—
People: filled with grace, filled with truth.
Leader: Let us rejoice in the Word!

† HYMN 548 *As the Deer* Verses 1 and 2

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 *Alleluia, We Adore You* Ruby Mann Pool

SOLO *Mary, Did You Know?* Lowry and Greene, arr. Schrader

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow* arr. Dewey

* DOXOLOGY (No. 815)

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SCRIPTURES John 1:1-18 New Testament, p. 79

SERMON *The Word Made Flesh*

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

All are welcome to come forward to partake of the Lord's Supper, or Pastor Becky will come to you, if you wish.

MUSIC during Communion *Let Us Break Bread Together* Traditional
There's Something about that Name Gaither

HYMN 690 *He Leadeth Me* Verse 1

† BENEDICTION

† RESPONSE *Till We Meet Again* Kirk Franklin

† POSTLUDE *We Three Kings of Orient Are* Hopkins, arr. Burkhardt

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.

We welcome and thank vocalist, Deborah Lewis, and flutists, Abby Moore and Lisa Heinrich, for their special music this morning. Our Worship Accompanist, Chancel Choir, and Choir Director are on holiday break today and will return next Sunday.

Worship Accompanist
Chancel Choir Director
Bell Choir Director
Technical Setup and Operation
Sound System
Substitute Worship Accompanist
Liturgist
Greeter and Usher
Morning Announcements
Coffee Hour

Elena Taylor
Joshua Konow
Barbara Fraunfelder
Doug Thorn
Jim Heinrich
Sharon Heinrich
Kelly Bickley
Linda Plain
Kim McKenzie
Bev Wehr

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

January 3, 2016

11:15 A.M.

† Those who are able may stand.

SONGS

27 *He Is Exalted*
82 *Thy Word*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SONG

22 *Glorify Thy Name*

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In the beginning, there was the Word;

People: the Word was in God's presence, and the Word was God.

Leader: The Word was present to God from the beginning.
Through the Word all things came into being.

People: In the Word was life, and that life was humanity's light.

Leader: And the Word became flesh and stayed for a little
while among us;

People: we saw the Word's glory—

Leader: the favor and position a parent gives an only
child—

People: filled with grace, filled with truth.

Leader: Let us rejoice in the Word!

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

GATHERING SONG

Sanctuary

Sing 3 times.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow
Deborah Lewis, Vocalist

arr. Dewey

THE WORD OF GOD

John 1:1-18

New Testament, p. 79

MEDITATION

The Word Made Flesh

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*All are welcome to come forward to partake of the Lord's Supper, or
Pastor Becky will come to you, if you wish.*

SONG

39 *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

† 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.

We welcome guest vocalist Deborah Lewis, and thank her for singing with our praise band this morning.

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

SERVING TODAY

Gary Hackett – Acoustic Guitar

Sharon Heinrich – Keyboard (Substitute)

Kyra Krause – Voice

Deborah Lewis – Voice (Guest)

Mike Soltis – Drum Set

Jack Stephenson – Bass Guitar, Voice, Song Leader

Doug Thorn – Sound System, Technical Setup and Operation

Kim McKenzie – Morning Announcements

Dan Masuga – Liturgist

Lori Kovatich – Graphics Operation

January 2015

- 3 Sun Communion at both worship services
- 5 Tue Mission and Outreach Committee, 7pm
- 6 Wed Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm
- 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

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY – JANUARY 10, 2015

Liturgists	9:45 Jim Studer	11:15 Dale Hawk
Greeter		Volunteer Needed
Morning Announcements		Irene Joyce
Coffee Hour		Volunteer Needed

ANNOUNCEMENTS – JANUARY 3, 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.

Mission and Outreach Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 5.

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.

Annual Reports – Chairmen of church organizations: Annual reports are due in the church office now. Thank you for your cooperation.

Offering 12/24	7:30 Service \$174	11pm Service \$145	\$319 Total
		Weekly Offering Needed	\$3,190
Offering 12/27	Traditional \$1,664	Contemporary \$162	1,826
		Difference	(1,364)

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 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 by December 31. 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 on Thursday evening, January 14, 2016. 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 Crystal Waters, Linda Elliott, Betty Kircher at West Bay Center in Westlake, Laurie Meister, Michele Mhlack, Eileen Pincombe, Denzil Richards, Sharon Ritchie, Barb Stayrook, Keith Sullen, Judy Thurn, Leah Tressa Forget, John Wood

Extended Church Family: 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 Mhlack (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)