



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136
(440) 238-6697
StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com
StrongsvilleUCC.com



Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor
Sunday, January 5, 2020 – 10:00 A.M.
Sacrament of Communion

WELCOME!

We are grateful you chose to worship with us this morning. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.
Please complete your Attendance Card and place it in the offering plate.

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE “Come, Now is the Time to Worship” Doerksen

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Joyce Reed

INTROIT “The Sabbath is Near” Butler

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: On this Epiphany Sunday, we gather wondering where we will find the Babe born in Bethlehem.

People: We will find the Babe in the laughter of children, and in the wisdom of grandparents.

Leader: Like the kings, we wander and wonder, asking where we will find the Christ Child.

People: We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope, where the oppressed are set free.

Leader: We gather wondering where we will find the Christ who has come to dwell among us.

People: We will find our Hope where fear has been overcome by grace, where hatred is overcome by love, where sadness is overcome by joy.

† HYMN 8 “Come, Thou Almighty King”

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS John 1: 1-9

PRAYING IN SILENCE

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,
ALL: Hear our prayers. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE “Hear My Humble Prayer” Butler

ANTHEM “Light In Heart of Winter” arr. Larson

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY “New Beginnings” Mehalko

† 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

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS

John 1: 10-18

SERMON

Pitching a Tent

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Why do we huddle in the shadowed corners of life, rather than running to the Light of life? Why do we embrace the wrong we do, rather than grasping the grace God offers? Let us offer to God all we have failed to do, seeking hope and grace as we pray:

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

We search for your light, Holy One, but too often end up settling for the dimness of temptation. Our motives for seeking Christ are not always pure; we expect him to fulfill our desires, rather than your hopes for us. We desire the gifts of wealth, health, success, fulfillment, rather than gifts of service, compassion, and peace. Forgive us, you who shapes our lives, that we would be so foolish as to put our wants ahead of your grace. Help us to be like those wise people of long ago, who sought hope, instead of a destination; who sought grace and received gratitude; who sought salvation, following a star. As we journey with your Son Jesus Christ, fill us with the light of your joy and love.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Arise, shine with the Light of the Lord! Grace has been poured into our hearts, love has flooded our souls, the light of hope shines in us. In the name of Jesus, know that you are forgiven!

This is the light which has come to all, the light we will carry and give to everyone we meet. In the name of Jesus, we all are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.

A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

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

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION “We Three Kings” Hopkins

THE 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.

† HYMN 572 “Blessed Assurance”

† BENEDICTION

† RESPONSE “Service Song” Butler

† POSTLUDE “Go Tell it on the Mountain” Traditional



The last **Penny Sunday** of 2019 brought in \$173.50 for the National Youth Advocate Program. Thank you to everyone who gives. The next Penny Sunday collection will be **January 26**.

SERVING

TODAY – JANUARY 5

Betty Craig
Elaine Coffey
Volunteers needed
Volunteers needed
Tom Foley
Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich
Ken Mehalko

Liturgist
Greeters
Ushers
Coffee Hour
Director of Music
Associate Director of Music
Supplemental Organist
Woodwinds

NEXT SUNDAY – JANUARY 12

Tom Gaumer
Volunteer needed
Volunteers needed
Volunteer needed
Tom Foley
Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich

The altar flowers are given—

In memory of Betty Bushea
In memory of Aimée Jannsohn
Hank Klink and Dorene Baldrige

Our steeple will light the sky this week—

In loving memory of Michael E. Dickson
Greg and Ingrid Dickson

Happy Birthday today to Linda Kapcar and Julie Dickinson!

PLEASE NOTE: Our worship services are video recorded each week and posted on our YouTube channel for all to enjoy. Just go to strongsvilleucc.com, select **Worship**, and click on **Service Videos**.

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Janet Kato at Kemper House, Martha Liebert, Marge McKinney, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

Church Family: Joan Beckwith, Elaine Coffey, Rev. Larry and Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Dan Davis, Sue Hawk, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Carole Kapcar, Debbie Krause, Karl Kuhlenschmidt, Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Lacey Marshall, Judy Maur, Laurie Meister, Michele Mhlack, Bill Ritchie, Alysha Rolland, Ginger Rothel, John and Maggie Struhar, Josh Trinckes, Bill Williamson, Sharon Wilson, Sally Vetovitz, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Amy Carroll (sister of Marty Winch), Hunter Colao (grandson of Mark & Barb Camp), Lyla Joy Crowley (great grand-niece of Irene Jannsohn), Elaine Fuelling (friend of Judi Pavisich), Joanne Gigliotti (mom of Lou), Rebecca Gordon (niece of Irene Jannsohn), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Jeff and Tiffany Hassel (son and daughter-in-law of Judi Pavisich), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Rev. Kent Knife (retired pastor from MHUCC), Diane Mason (friend of Lora Rung), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Zachary McKeever (great-nephew of Pastor Heidi and Chuck), Linda McNabb (sister-in-law of Ginger Rothel), Mae O'Shea (mom of Sandy O'Shea), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Terry Robson (friend of the Camps), Mike Rung (brother of Lora), Amanda Shannon (friend of Sarah & Jon Hayes), Sherry Sheeks (sister of Mark Camp), Brad Williams (friend of Judi Pavisich), Daphne Wilson (niece of Irene Jannsohn)

Our church has an e-mail prayer chain.

Please see Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to **Betty Yarnell** and the family and friends of **Allan Haberkorn**, who passed away suddenly on December 29, 2019. The funeral was yesterday at Jardine's Funeral Home.





We also send our **deepest sympathy** to the family and friends of **Bill Williamson**, especially his wife **Janis**. Bill died on January 2, 2020. Services are in Warren today.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,522.02
 Last Week's Offering Received \$1,608.25
 (Difference -\$1,913.77)

To date for the Stewardship Campaign, we have received 75 pledges totaling \$155,384.00. ***If you have not yet returned your Estimate of Giving card, the church will gratefully accept it at any time. Thank you very much for your support. Christmas offering: \$3,758.00***

HOW CAN YOU HELP OUT?

New Sign-up sheets for 2020 in Pilgrim Hall are waiting for **your name** to be added as a communion server, greeter, usher, coffee hour helper, bread/pastry sorter, or nursery helper! Don't know how to do any of those things? No worries—we will show you everything you need to know! No experience is needed and everyone is welcome to be a part of our church life.



PLEASE SIGN UP TO PLACE ALTAR FLOWERS IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF SOMETHING OR SOMEONE SPECIAL. MANY DATES ARE AVAILABLE FOR 2020. Cost is only \$15 per vase (\$30 for both).

SPONSOR CAROLINE IN INDIA

Our generous church members and friends have been sponsoring a little girl, Caroline Y., in India for several years and the sign-up sheet for 2020 is posted in Pilgrim Hall. The cost is \$30 for one month.



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 that are available include serving on the:

Moderator, who presides over the Official Board and represents the church in the community

Vice-Moderator, who works in tandem with the

Moderator, serves on the Nominating Committee, and enlists volunteers for dinners and other Official Board events.

Treasurer: Manages the outgoing finances of the church in conjunction with the Financial Secretary

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 and Memorial/Endowment.

Mission & Outreach, which sponsors projects and our church's benevolence in the local, national, and international communities, including the 5 for 5 offerings through the United Church of Christ

Stewardship, which administers a yearly campaign to assess and inspire giving of time, talent, and treasure

Christian Education, which oversees the Sunday School and Adult Education programs

Music Committee, which supervises all aspects of the Music Ministry

Remember the old but true saying, *Many hands make light work*. Plan to be a part of one of these boards or committees. Thank you for your consideration.

Our sincere sympathy is with **Tom, Suzi, Jimmy, Jackie, and Bobby Foley** as they mourn the passing of Tom's dad, **Bill Foley** on January 3, 2020. Please keep Bill's wife **Carol**, sons **Will** and **Ken** and their families in your prayers. There will be Memorial Service on Sat. Feb. 22 (Bill's Birthday) at the Federated Church in Chagrin Falls at 11:00 a.m.



TICKETS ON SALE NOW...

Strongsville UCC All-You-Can-Eat

SWISS STEAK DINNER

Saturday – January 18, 2020

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

Reservations Only: (216) 598-6198

Adults: \$14, Kids 6-12: \$6, 5 & Under: Free

Join us for this delicious all-you-can-eat meal which supports the Official Board and its programs.



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



ANNUAL ALL FAMILY WINTER RETREAT

February 14 - 16, 2020

Temple Hills Camp
 in Bellville, Ohio

The Church's Annual All-Family Winter Retreat will take place on President's Day weekend

2020: February 14, 15 and 16. The sign-up sheet to attend and the sign-up sheet for things to bring and to volunteer will soon be posted on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. Please reserve your spot and room now, as rooms will be first-come, first-served. The cut-off to sign up—January 19—will be strictly enforced this year. We will not have the same luxury as we've had in the past, in which we were able to take reservations up until the event weekend. Space is limited to 75 attendees. Also, please let us know if you have any special dietary needs. Finally, those who wish to come down on Saturday only—we would be happy to have you there, but we also need your reservation by January 19, and the cost is \$10 per meal. Please contact Irene Joyce or Rachel Zielinski if you have any questions.

Here is the cost (no change from last year):

ADULTS (12 and up): \$70

CHILDREN (6-11): \$15

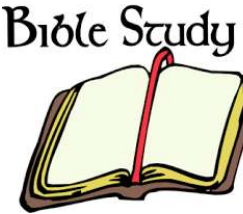
CHILDREN (5 and under): FREE

Important dates to remember:

JANUARY 19, 2020: Reservations close; **MONEY DUE**

JANUARY 26, 2020: Special dietary needs reported

FEBRUARY 9, 2020: Retreat planning meeting after the worship service



UPPITY WOMEN—Part III!

All are welcome to join us as we explore the Book of Esther starting on January 8th at 1 p.m. for a continuation of our Uppity Women of the Bible series. The class should last 6 weeks. We will have a special guest for some of our sessions, Rabbi Enid! Mark your calendar now! Please sign up for the study by writing "Bible Study" on the back of your attendance card and placing it in the offering plate.

CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2019

Officers elected on Jan. 27, 2019, have an asterisk by their names.
 ** = appointed by the Official Board*



Moderator Rachel Zielinski*
Vice-Moderator Rob Toth*
Treasurer Sally Herzog*
Clerk Judy Gaumer**

Sunday School Superintendent Kristen Clotworthy*

Board of Trustees

Greg Dickson* Mike Clotworthy
 Myron Costin Tom Gaumer Bill Giuliano*
 Dale Hawk* Bob Kovatich Sandy Pogozeleski*
 Ed Sobek* Linda Stepan* Rob Stepan*

Endowment Fund Subcommittee

Irene Jannsohn* Joyce Reed *

Diaconate

Serena Abruzzino Jennifer Barry* Eddy Bond* Barbara Camp*
 Kristen Clotworthy*

Judy Gaumer Cathy Hawk Sarah Hayes*
 Linda Plain* Linda Ponstingle** Nicole Stevens*
 Dawn Rolland Marty Winch*

Christian Education Committee

Kristen Clotworthy Mary Densmore* Linda Elkins*
 Suzi Foley* Sandy O'Shea* Lora Rung*

Music Committee

Ingrid Dickson* Ken Mehalko*
 Pam Keenen Tom Foley Mike Elkins

Stewardship Committee

Rosemary Bechtel Eddy Bond** Sue Gigliotti*
 Beth Giuliano Sharon Heinrich** Bill Schneider**

Mission and Outreach Committee

Judy Carte* Bobbie Krisak* Tony Koussa**
 Michele Mhlack* Gary Paul* Lora Rung Bev Wehr*

ANNUAL MEETING



The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place **Sunday, January 26, 2020**, and will be preceded by the traditional Pancake Brunch All are encouraged to attend this meeting and be a part of our family of faith. You do not have to be a member of the church to attend the meeting, but only members are entitled to cast a vote.



CHURCH CHRISTMAS MAIL BOX

Please pick up any greetings you may have received. Cards left after the second week of January will be discarded. Thank you.

PLEASE NOTE: The Church Office will be closed tomorrow, Monday, January 6, 2020.