



**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
(Congregational)  
13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136  
(440) 238-6697

[StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com](mailto:StrongsvilleUCC@gmail.com) [StrongsvilleUCC.com](http://StrongsvilleUCC.com)

**Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall**  
Pastor



**Sunday – January 6, 2019 – 10:00 A.M.**  
**Sacrament of Communion**

### 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, please call the church at (440) 238-6697. Please complete your Attendance Card and place it in the offering plate. We hope to see you again soon!

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

**PRELUDE** "Rhapsody for Piano 1 in B<sup>b</sup> Major" R.C. Foley

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Irene Joyce

**INTROIT** "We Have Come to Worship the Lord" Yannerella

### † CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather wondering where we will find the Babe, the Savior born in Bethlehem.

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

Leader: We gather asking where we will find the Child of Christmas.

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

Leader: We gather wanting to know: where is the Christ who has come to save us?

**People: We find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace, where hatred is overwhelmed by love, where all people are overwhelmed by joy.**

† HYMN 288 "We Three Kings"

**A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT** Isaiah 60: 1-6

### SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

### PASTORAL PRAYER

**PRAYER RESPONSE** "Ask, Seek, Knock" Larson

**ANTHEM** "Song of Peace" Donnelly/Strid

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### THE OFFERINGS

**OFFERTORY** "Meditation on a Native American Theme" Mehalko/Elkins

† **DOXOLOGY** **HYMN 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** Matthew 2: 1-12

### SERMON

The True Gifts

### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

#### WORDS OF CONFESSION AND RECONCILIATION

Pastor: Before we take down the tree and put away the wreaths, before we glance through the cards one last time, before we store the movies and music of this Christmas season back in the closet, let us confess how easily and how quickly we forget the true meaning of this holy season, the original meaning of the celebration. Let us offer our prayers to God together:

**People: Loving God, teach us your patience. Help us to be loving and patient as we put up with the foolishness we see in others. You to dwell among us, in human flesh; yet we keep wanting everything to be about us. You model a life of service to others; yet we are convinced life is all about power and success. All creation sings of your loving kindness; yet we hurt those we say we care about the most with our thoughtless, uncaring words. Still, Holy One, you continue to forgive us. We pray that you would clothe us in your love, leading us to live more compassionate lives. Touch us with your grace, that we might live as kinder, gentler people. Fill our hearts with your perfect peace, as we continue our journey with the Child of Bethlehem, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. [silent prayer]**

Pastor: Take a moment and let God's peace dwell in your hearts. For God gives us hope, gives us peace, and gives us new life in the forgiveness of God's grace. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**People: Thanks be to God, in receiving God's forgiveness, we are enabled to live as faithful followers of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP** "How Beautiful" Paris

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

### 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 562** "Be Thou My Vision"

### † BENEDICTION

† **RESPONSE** "Adoramus Te Christe" Dubois

† **POSTLUDE** "Go Tell it on the Mountain" Traditional

### SERVING

#### TODAY – JANUARY 6

Jennifer Barry

Linda Plain

Linda Plain

Volunteer needed

Tom Foley

Mike Elkins

Bobby Foley, Ken Mehalko

**Liturgist**

**Greeters**

**Ushers**

**Coffee Hour**

**Director of Music**

**Associate Director of Music**

**Keyboard, Native American Flute**

#### NEXT SUNDAY – JANUARY 13

Pam Keenen

Billie Jo Cantrell

Bill and Beth Giuliano

Volunteer needed

Tom Foley

Mike Elkins

**The altar flowers** are given—

*With loving memories of Carol Studer--Kathy Ketchum and Jeff Studer*

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

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

**Worship Team** will meet today following the worship service.

**The Trustees** will meet on Tuesday, January 8 at 7 p.m.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Our worship services are video recorded each week and posted on our YouTube channel for all to enjoy.

### 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 at Danbury Senior Living in Brunswick, Janet Kato at Kemper House, Marge McKinney, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

**Church Family:** Betty Babics, Rev. Larry and Christina Craig, Steve Herzog, Margot James, Elena Joyce, Bobbie Krisak, Karl Kuhlenschmidt, Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Phyllis Kurz (mother of Karen Morgan), Martha Liebert, Lacey Marshall (daughter of Amanda and John), Laurie Meister, Karen Morgan, Harvey Pincombe, Joyce Reed, Bill Ritchie, Linda Stepan, Barbara Toth, Sally Vetovitz, Kyle Woodward  
**Extended Church Family:** Luke Bazan (friend of Judi Pavisich's granddaughter), Amy Carroll (sister of Marty Winch), Michele Cortese (friend of the Heinrichs), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Joyce Freeman (sister of Carol Woodward), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Karen Greenway and daughters (friends of Judi Pavisich), Sam Harteis (friend of Reeds), Margaret Haught (mother of Jen Barry), Sandra Manos (mother of Eli), Diane Mason (friend of Lora Rung), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Zachary McKeever (great-nephew of Pastor Heidi and Chuck), Jeff Perrin (cousin of Barb Fraunfelder), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Frank Toth (father of Rob), Joe Valli (brother-in-law of Vicky and Dan Masuga)



**The Church Family Greeting Card Mailbox is located in the Gathering Area. Please don't forget to check the box for any greetings you may have received. January Newsletters are also in the box for those who receive a printed version.**



### CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Are you interested in joining our family of fellowship by becoming a member of the Strongsville UCC? Pastor Heidi will be having a membership class in January. Please contact her or the church office if you would like to

be a part of the new class of members or indicate your interest on your attendance card and place it in the offering plate. **The next New Member Class will be next Sunday, January 13 following worship and new members will be received into the congregation on January 20.**

### HOW CAN YOU HELP OUT?

Sign-up sheets in Pilgrim Hall are waiting for **your name** to be added as a communion server, greeter, usher, coffee hour helper, or nursery helper! **Help is especially needed to pick up the donations from Panera on Monday or Friday mornings.** No experience is needed and everyone is welcome to be a part of our church life.



### PENNY SUNDAY

Last week's Penny Sunday collection of \$173.07 went to the National Youth Advocacy Program (NYAP), which offers services to children in foster care throughout Cuyahoga County. Thank you to everyone who gave!





## OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,649.31  
Last Week's Offering Received \$3,633.00  
(Difference -\$ 16.31)



**It is not too late to submit an Estimate of Giving card and place it in the plate. Thank you very much for your support.**



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**THE THRIFT SHOP** is open for business on Thursdays, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., with a bonus Free Lunch for All sale day on Wednesdays once a month from 11 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. **WE NEED HELP!** If you can spare a few hours on Thursdays to volunteer in our Thrift Shop, please consider helping at the Thrift Shop. **Also, an additional person is needed to work with us for 2 hours on the second Wednesday of the month. Please contact the church office if you can help either on Wednesdays or Thursdays.** Please note: Thrift Shop will reopen on **January 10, 2019.**

## CHILD SPONSORSHIP

Our church sponsors Caroline Y. in India. For only \$30, you can provide for her for a month, through the UCC Global Ministries. Please sign up on the yellow sheet on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall if you can support this important international outreach.



## FROM THE 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 as/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.

**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, non-clergy staff, and physical plant of the church. The committees of the Trustees are Building and Grounds, Finance, and Long-Range Planning.

**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

## ANNUAL REPORTS

**Chairmen of church organizations:** Annual reports were due in the church office on December 31. Please be kind to the new, inexperienced Church Secretary and get your reports in right away. Thank you!!! Once completed, Annual Reports will be available for pickup prior to the Annual Meeting.

## FINANCIAL OFFICERS OF CHURCH GROUPS:

Please turn in your financial statements to the Auditing Committee through the church office this week.

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).

Thank you for your cooperation.

## TICKETS ON SALE NOW!!!

**Plan to attend this delicious home-style, all-you-can-eat meal!**  
*Strongsville UCC*



## SWISS STEAK DINNER

**Saturday – January 19, 2019**

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

Reservations Only: (216) 598-6198

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

**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 during the serving hours. Children 6 to 10 must have a parent helping them.

**THE THRIFT SHOP WILL BE OPEN WITH A SPECIAL SALE.**

## ALL FAMILY WINTER RETREAT

**February 15 - 17, 2019**

Templed Hills Camp in Bellville, Ohio

The Church's Annual All-Family Winter Retreat will take place on President's Day weekend 2019: February 15, 16 and 17. The sign-up sheet to attend and the sign-up sheet for things to bring and to volunteer is 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 13**—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 60 attendees. Also, please let us know if you have any special dietary needs. Finally, those that wish to come down on Saturday only—we would be happy to have you there, but we also need your reservation by January 13, 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 13, 2019: Reservations close; **MONEY DUE**

JANUARY 27, 2019: Special dietary needs reported

FEBRUARY 10, 2019: Retreat planning meeting in the church after the worship service.

## JANUARY 2019 DATES TO REMEMBER

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>6 Sun</b>    | <b>Worship 10am with Communion</b><br>Children's Choir   |
| <b>8 Tues</b>   | Trustees Meeting 7pm   |
| <b>9 Wed</b>    | Free Lunch for All, 11:30am to 12:30pm<br>Fit Club 7:15pm<br>Band Rehearsal 8:15pm                                   |
| <b>10 Thurs</b> | Thrift Shop 10am-4pm<br>Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm<br>Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm                                |
| <b>13 Sun</b>   | <b>Worship 10am</b><br><b>Membership meeting after worship</b><br>Payment due for Retreat<br>Children's Choir        |
| <b>15 Tues</b>  | Diaconate Meeting 7pm  |
| <b>16 Wed</b>   | Free Lunch for All, 11:30am to 12:30pm<br>Adult Social Club Meeting 7pm<br>Fit Club, 7:15pm<br>Band Rehearsal 8:15pm |
| <b>17 Thurs</b> | Thrift Shop 10am-4pm<br>Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm<br>Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm<br>Swiss Steak prep 9am        |
| <b>18 Fri</b>   |  |
| <b>19 Sat</b>   | <b>Swiss Steak Dinner 5pm &amp; 6:30pm</b>   |
| <b>20 Sun</b>   | <b>Worship 10am</b><br><b>New Members welcomed</b><br>Children's Choir   |
| <b>21 Mon</b>   | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  |
| <b>22 Tue</b>   | Official Board Meeting, 7pm  |
| <b>23 Wed</b>   | Free Lunch for All, 11:30am-12:30pm<br>Fit Club 7:15pm<br>Band Rehearsal 8:15pm                                      |
| <b>24 Thurs</b> | Thrift Shop 10am-4pm<br>Men's Lunch 11am<br>Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm<br>Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm            |
| <b>27 Sun</b>   | <b>Worship 10am--Penny Sunday</b><br><b>Annual Meeting &amp; Pancake Brunch</b>                                      |
| <b>30 Wed</b>   | Free Lunch for All, 11:30am-12:30pm<br>Fit Club 7:15pm<br>Band Rehearsal 8:15 pm                                     |
| <b>31 Thurs</b> | Thrift Shop 10am-4pm<br>Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm<br>Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm                                |



## ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place **Sunday, January 27, 2019**, 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 to attend the meeting, but only members are entitled to cast a vote.)

## FROM THE KITCHEN:

1. If you have any large plastic serving trays with domed covers, round or rectangular, that you do not need, please donate them to the kitchen for our Coffee Hour pastries. Thanks!
2. Are you missing some of your dishes or serving utensils? Please check the kitchen because we have several lost and found items.

**Friendly reminder:** If you are the last person to leave the building, please make sure doors are locked and lights are turned out. Also, please push or pull on the doors to make sure they are securely closed. Thanks!