



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

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall
Designated Minister

JANUARY 7, 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.

PRELUDE "Prelude in C"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce

† CALL TO WORSHIP From Psalm 29

Leader: Give to our God, O heavenly beings,
Give to our God glory and strength.

People: Give to our God a glorious name;
worship our God in holy splendor.

Leader: The voice of our God is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders.

People: The voice of our God is powerful;
the voice of our God is full of majesty.

Leader: The voice of our God flashes forth flames of fire.
People: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
Our God sits enthroned as ruler forever.

ALL: May our God give strength to the people!
May the Lord bless the people with peace.

† HYMN 10 “Majesty”

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL PRAYER RESPONSE “Amen”

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 1:4-11

CHORAL ANTHEM “Once in David’s Royal City”
Arranged by Jay Althouse, based on “Irby” by Henry J. Gauntlett
Words by Cecil Frances Alexander

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

THE OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY “When I Get Where I’m Going” Rutherford and Teren
Gary Hackett, Soloist

† 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 Genesis 1:1-5

SERMON “In the beginning. . . .”

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Jesus taught his disciples: “Why spend money on what does not
satisfy? Why spend your wages and still be hungry? Listen to me,
and do what I say, and you will enjoy the best food of all. Come to
me, and you will have life! For where two or three are gathered in
my name, there I am, in the midst of them.”

Let us confess our sins together:

God of all mercy, we confess before you and each other that we
have been unfaithful to you. We lack love for our neighbors;
we waste opportunities to do good; we look the other way
when you cry out to us in the suffering of our brothers and
sisters in need. We are sincerely sorry for our sins, both those
we commit deliberately and those that we allow to overtake us.
We ask your forgiveness and pray for the strength to follow in
your way, to love all your people with that perfect love that
casts out all fear. Through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

Hear these words of assurance:

Trust in God that your sins are forgiven. Trust in God’s promises
and begin anew living a life in harmony with God and all God’s
children. Amen.

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts and give thanks to God.

Blessed are you, O God, who with your Word and Holy Spirit,
created all things and called them good

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

*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 “Communion Medley”

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.

† HYMN 170 “Give Thanks”

† BENEDICTION

† RESPONSE “The Lord Bless You and Keep You” Peter C. Lutkin

† POSTLUDE "Postlude in G"

Worship Committee will meet briefly today immediately after worship.

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!

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.

Church Christmas Mail Box is in the Gathering Area. Please check the
box for greetings you received. Cards that are left will be discarded.

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

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

Fit Club is back this Wednesday, January 10, at 7:00 p.m. Everyone at
any level is welcome to join. It’s a perfect opportunity to get your New
Year’s resolution to be more active started! Fit Club is fun and fellowship
while getting your body moving!

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

The family of former church member, Millie Lantzer, is requesting
cards, notes or memories for Millie’s 95th birthday on January 12, 2018.
Millie attended Strongsville United Church of Christ from 1967 until she
moved to Georgia in 2010. The family hopes that Millie will receive
95 cards. Her address is: Millie Lantzer
c/o PCA
6175 Hickory Flat Hwy 110-300
Canton, GA 30115

Annual Reports are due in the church office NOW. The Annual Meeting of
the congregation is Sunday, January 28, 2018.

S E R V I N G		
January 7, 2018		January 14, 2018
Betty Craig	Liturgist	Tom Gaumer
Linda Plain	Greeters	Billie Joe Cantrell
Ted and Kelly Bickley	Ushers	Chuck McDougall
Myron Costin	Coffee Hour	Cathy Hawk

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

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.

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

Stewardship – Seventy-one giving families have submitted cards totaling \$119,408 for the year 2018. If you have not yet submitted your Estimate of Giving card, your card will be gratefully accepted at any time. The cards are used to prepare the church budget. Thank you very much to all who submitted cards.

2018 ALL-FAMILY WINTER RETREAT AT PILGRIM HILLS

The Church’s Annual All-Family Winter Retreat will return to Templd Hills this year and will take place on President’s Day weekend 2018—February 16, 17 and 18. The sign-up sheet to attend 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 14—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 68 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 14, and the cost is \$10 per meal. Please contact Irene Joyce or Rachel Zielinski if you have any questions.

Here is the cost breakdown:

Adults (12 and up): \$70
Children (6-11): \$15
Children (5 and under): FREE

Special dates for the retreat are:
NEXT SUNDAY, January 14: Reservations close and money is due.
January 28, 2018: All special dietary needs must be reported.
February 11, 2018: Retreat planning meeting in the church after worship

OFFERINGS RECEIVED
Weekly Offering Needed \$3,865
Weekly Offering Received 12/31/2017 \$2,296
Difference - \$1,569



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: Lacey Marshall (daughter of Amanda and John), Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt at Northwestern Health Care Center in Berea, Martha Liebert, Sandra Manos (mother of Eli), Sloane Masuga (daughter of Jake and Lauren), Bill Ritchie, Betsey Santomen (wife of Rev. Joe Santomen), Rev. Oommen Thomas, Leah Tressa Forget, Kyle Woodward

Extended Church Family: Luke Bazan (friend of Judi Pavisich’s grand-daughter), Donna Briggs (mother-in-law of Judi Pavisich’s daughter), Audrey Curry (mother of Pam Keenen), Kim Filiatraut (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)

Next Sunday, January 14, after worship, Annual Reports will be collated in Pilgrim Hall. When all reports are collated, we will enjoy a simple lunch together. Please join in this productive exercise if you are willing and able. Thank you!

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).

Thank you for your cooperation.

JANUARY 2018

7	Sun	Worship with Communion, 10am Worship Committee Meeting, after worship
9	Tue	Trustees Meeting, 7pm
10	Wed	Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-12:30pm Fit Club, 7pm
14	Sun	Retreat Reservations close, and payment is due. Annual Reports are collated in Pilgrim hall, after church
15	Mon	Newsletter Deadline
16	Tue	Diaconate Meeting, 7pm
17	Wed	Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-12:30pm Fit Club, 7pm Adult Social Club Meeting, 7pm
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	Annual Meeting of the Congregation, after worship Special Dietary Needs for the Retreat must be reported.
31	Wed	Free Lunch Program, 11:30am-1pm, Fit Club, 7pm

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

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

