

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

Rev. Rebecca Stephenson, Pastor

**JANUARY 8, 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

*Days of Elijah*

These are the days of Elijah, declaring the Word of the Lord;  
And these are the days of Your servant, Moses,  
righteousness being restored;  
And though these are days of great trials,  
of famine and darkness and sword;  
Still we are the voice in the desert crying, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord."  
Behold He comes, riding on the clouds, shining like the sun,  
at the trumpet call; Lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee,  
and out of Zion's hill salvation comes. These are the days of Ezekiel,  
the dry bones becoming as flesh; And these are the days of Your servant,  
David, rebuilding a temple of praise; And these are the days of the harvest,  
the fields are as white in the world;  
And we are the laborers in Your vineyard,  
declaring the Word of the Lord. Behold He comes,  
riding on the clouds, shining like the sun, at the trumpet call; Lift your voice,  
it's the year of Jubilee, and out of Zion's hill salvation comes.  
There is no god like Jehovah, there is no god like Jehovah,  
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There is no god like Jehovah, there is no god like Jehovah.  
Hey! Behold He comes, riding on the clouds, shining like the sun  
at the trumpet call; Lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee,  
and out of Zion's hill salvation comes.  
Behold He comes, riding on the clouds, shining like the sun  
at the trumpet call; Lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee,  
and out of Zion's hill salvation comes.

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### † CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Arise! Shine! Your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

**People: We have seen the star in the east,  
and we are following.  
We have remembered God's wonder and promise,  
and we are worshipping.  
We have come not to get presents, but to give them!**

One: Lift up your eyes and look around;  
God's people now gather together,  
to open our hearts and sing our praise.

All: **The mystery of God's wonder and grace is here:  
Come, let us adore!**

#### † HYMN

*This Little Light of Mine*

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. *(Short music interlude.)*

Hide it under a bushel no, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Hide it under a bushel no, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Hide it under a bushel no, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. *(Short music interlude.)*

Don't let Satan blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Don't let Satan blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Don't let Satan blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. *(Short music interlude.)*

Let it shine till Jesus comes, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine till Jesus comes, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine till Jesus comes, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

CCLI Song #6322344  
Harry Dixon Loes | Richard Phillips © Words: Public Domain

### 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

*Amazing Grace*

#### ANTHEM

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

#### THE OFFERING

#### OFFERTORY

*Jesus, Lead Us to the Father*

#### † 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

Matthew 2:1-12

New Testament, p. 1

#### SERMON

*Having an Epiphany*

#### 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

*Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord*

#### † HYMN 235

*Take the Name of Jesus with You*

#### † BENEDICTION

#### † RESPONSE

*May the Peace of the Lord Go with You*

#### † POSTLUDE

*Organ Postlude in C Major*

**We welcome back** Pastor Becky and Jack Stephenson, Elena Taylor, and the Chancel Choir!

**Our love and prayers are extended in sympathy** to two families on their recent losses:

To Adria Bond and family on the death of her father, Albert Solderitsch, on December 28. The funeral was held on January 4 in Avon Lake.

To Allen Mhlack and family on the passing of his mother Dolores on December 31. The funeral was held on January 5 at Baker Funeral Home in Berea.

**Stewardship** – The campaign's goal for 2017 is 125 pledges by January 15. We have received only 54 to date. If you have not yet made your pledge, please fill out your pledge card and put it in the offering plate. Thank you. Additional pledge cards are in the Gathering Area.

**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.

#### OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,900  
Weekly Offering Received 1/1/2016 \$6,188  
Difference + 2,288

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

**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!

### THIS WEEK

<b>Today</b>	Worship Committee Meeting, 11:30 a.m.
<b>Tuesday</b>	Diaconate Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
<b>Wednesday</b>	Free Lunch Program, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fitness Club, 7 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m. Band Rehearsal, 8:00 p.m.
<b>Thursday</b>	Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 8 p.m.
<b>Saturday</b>	Adult Social Club Potluck/Meeting/Game Night, 6 p.m.

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## ARTS IN STRONGSVILLE

and

### THE STRONGSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

**SUNDAY – JANUARY 22, 2017 – 4:00 P.M.**

**Mary Beth Ions**, Violin and **Jim's Little Band**  
Freewill Offering ~ Reception after the Concert  
All are welcome!

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.

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### SERVING TODAY

Greeters – Ed and Cheryl Sobek  
Morning Announcements – Irene Joyce  
Liturgist – Kelly Bickley  
Coffee Hour – Cheryl and Ed Sobek  
Director of Music – Elena Taylor  
Bell Choir Director – Barb Fraunfelder  
The Chancel Choir  
Bass Guitar – Jack Stephenson  
Acoustic Guitar – Gary Hackett  
Electric Guitar – Jake Williams  
Mallet Percussion – Rob Toth  
Drum Set – Mike Soltis  
Sound System – Jim Heinrich

**Annual Reports** are due in the church office now. The Annual Meeting of the congregation is Sunday, January 29, 2017.

**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.

**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 29, 2017. 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.

**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.

**2017 All-Family Winter Retreat at Pilgrim Hills** – Mark your calendars now and sign up TODAY for the annual retreat, which is on President's Day weekend: February 17, 18 and 19, 2017. The sign-up sheet and the "I Will Bring" sign-up are 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 have changed. We now must have full payment to the camp by the end of January. Reservations will close on January 15, 2017, 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 12, 2017, at the Church in the pre-school classroom after the service. If you have any questions, please contact Charles Jannsohn.

**200th Anniversary Church Cookbooks** – Please see Dianne Maringer to get your copy. Price per book is \$12; mailing the book is an extra \$3.

**Church Christmas Mail Box** is in the Gathering Area by the Church Office door. Please check the box in the Gathering Area for greetings you received. Also, please make sure you did not put cards in the box for those who are currently out of town, because the church office cannot mail your personal Christmas greetings. Cards left in the box will be discarded. Thank you.

**Adult Social Club** – Our next event is a potluck and game night at the church on Saturday, January 14, at 6:00 p.m. We will have our January meeting at that time to plan for our trip to the Rocksino in February. All adults are welcome. Please bring a covered dish to share and a game!

## 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, Lori Kovatich, 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

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### JANUARY 2017

8 Sun	Worship Committee Meeting, 11:30am
10 Tue	Diaconate Meeting, 7pm
11 Wed	Free Lunch Program, 11:30am to 1:30pm
14 Sat	Adult Social Club Potluck Meal/Meeting/Game Night, 6pm
15 Sun	Newsletter Deadline
17 Tue	Advertising Committee Meeting, 7pm Trustees Meeting, 7pm
18 Wed	Free Lunch Program, 11:30am to 1:30pm
22 Sun	Concert, 4pm
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

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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 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.**

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### SERVING NEXT SUNDAY – JANUARY 15, 2017

Greeter – Volunteer Needed  
Morning Announcements – Irene Joyce  
Liturgist – Jim Nicoulin  
Coffee Hour – Volunteer Needed