



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, Ohio 44136
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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, January 9, 2022 – 10:00 A.M.
Baptism of Christ, Celebrating Epiphany



WELCOME!

For the safety and protection of your church family, please continue to wear a mask before, during, and after worship. Thank you.

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE "Pavane de la Belle Au Bois Dormant" Ravel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Irene Joyce
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.

INTROIT "Baptized in Water" Traditional Gaelic Melody

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Word of the Lord came,

People: Bringing hope for all people, cradled in his mother's loving arms.

Leader: The Word of the Lord comes,

People: Calling us out of our comfort zones, to offer grace where it is needed most.

Leader: The Word of the Lord will come,

People: Gathering all, outsiders and insiders, into one community, the Kingdom of God. Amen.

† HYMN 225 "Come Christians, Join to Sing"
(If you wish to sing with us, please have your mask in place.)

A READING FROM THE PROPHETS Isaiah 60:1-5
(New International Version)

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you.

Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you;

your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip.

Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy;

the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,

to you the riches of the nations will come."

Leader: The Word of God, for us, the people of God;

People: Thanks be to God.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER

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.

ANTHEM "Mary's Little Boy Chile" Hairston
Craig Hardy, soloist

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

Thank you for your continuing commitment to giving freely of your talents and your treasure, as you are able, in service to Christ in the world. Thank you. To give online, please go to:

<https://www.myeoffering.com/eonline/index.php/dashboard/login/5027>

OFFERTORY "He is Born" French carol, arr. Carter

† 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.

† DEDICATING OUR LIVES AND OUR GIFTS

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS Matthew 2:1-12
(New Revised Standard Version)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

SERMON "All Shall Come to Worship"

† HYMN 288 "We Three Kings"
(If you wish to sing with us, please have your mask in place.)

† BENEDICTION from Nathan Nettleton. *Laughing Bird Ministries*
Go now as a light to the nations. Honor the Lord; preach what you know of the risen Christ, and fulfil all righteousness. And may God strengthen you and bless you with peace; may Christ Jesus bring forth justice for you and among you; and may the Holy Spirit alight upon you and affirm you as God's beloved ones. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

† POSTLUDE "Shaker Parting Song" arr. Purdum

SERVING	
TODAY – JANUARY 9	NEXT SUNDAY – JANUARY 16
Dale & Cathy Hawk	Greeters Mark & Barb Camp
Pam Keenen	Liturgist Herb Hampson
Volunteers needed	Ushers Volunteers needed
Tom Foley	Director of Music Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	Associate Director of Music Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	Supplemental Organist Sharon Heinrich
Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich	Sound Doug Thorn/Jim Heinrich
Chancel Choir/Craig Hardy	Special Music Bell Choir

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**.

The altar flowers are given—

In celebration of Abby Kuzmickas' birthday today!

Pam & Bruce Keenen

In loving memory of Mark's sister, Sherry Sheeks

Mark & Barb Camp

A new year, new beginnings, let us work on ourselves and our lives walking with the Lord our beloved savior--Krisak Abruzzino Familia

Our steeple will light the sky this week—
In loving memory of Michael E. and Deborah M. Dickson
Love, Ingrid & Greg Dickson

Happy Birthday today to Abby Kuzmickas!

WE NEED YOU IN 2022!

Sign-up sheets are waiting for **your name** to be added as a communion server, greeter, usher, coffee hour helper, or bread/pastry sorter. 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.

If you like to cook . . . or bake . . . or reach out to others in love . . . as winter and circumstances continue to make it hard to stay connected, your Diaconate Committee is organizing a **Pastoral Care Ministry Team** and would LOVE to have you take part! (You do not need to be a member of the Diaconate to participate, and you may come and go as you are led.) Watch for more details to come!



FREE LUNCH FOR ALL
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2022

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

LIMITED RESERVATIONS--Call (440)

238-5389 (To-go meals will be available.)

What a lovely surprise we received to start the New Year! The **Deaconess Foundation** has awarded our Free Lunch for All program a grant for \$5000 to continue this ministry that offers so much to our community, and we are so very grateful for the support. Thank you to all our volunteers who help make the Free Lunch possible. We cannot do it without you! —Pastor Heidi



Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to **Greg and Ingrid Dickson**, and the Dickson family on the sudden death of **Deborah Dickson** on December 31, 2021. Please keep her children, **Ryan and Hannah**, in your prayers; their dad, Greg's brother, Mike died suddenly on January 3, 2013.



CHURCH CHRISTMAS MAIL BOX

Please remember to check the box for greetings you received. The Church Mail Boxes will be up an extra week (through January 16th), so that our church friends may gather their greetings from their church family.



PENNY SUNDAY

Save those pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and yes, DOLLARS for our next Penny Sunday collection, January 23rd! All money collected will go to our own Sunday School for special programs.



In other news, our upstairs painting project has begun! Thank you to everyone who has made this long-awaited project happen!

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Janet Kato, Ruth Milidonis, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields



Church Family: Serena Abruzzino, Joan Beckwith, Eddy Bond, Mary Carey, Elaine Coffey, Kathy Cockrell, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sam Cuyler, Sr., Linda Elliott, Tom Foley, Ramona Glaze, Sue Hawk, Bob Heddleson, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, George Kapcar, Tony Koussa, Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Vicky Masuga, Judy Maur, Reggie McCray, Heidi & Chuck McDougall, Laurie Meister, Roy Merkle, Michele Mihalack, Lola Millhoane, Gary Paul, Judi Pavisich, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, Peter Smith, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Sharon Wilson, Sally Vetovitz, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Mary Ellen & Bob Zimmerman

Extended Church Family: Dorene Baldridge, Fred Beba (Theresa's husband), Jackie Berkheimer (Judi Pavisich's friend), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Jerry Cergol, (Barb Fraunfelder & Dennis Smith's friend), Hunter Colao (Barb & Mark Camp's grandson), Ron Colosimo (Judi Pavisich's friend), Lou Conte (Judi Pavisich's friend), Mary Ann Csory (Judi Pavisich's friend), John Dickson (Greg's dad), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Marty Hassel (Judi Pavisich's friend), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Zachary McKeever (Pastor Heidi and Chuck's great-nephew), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Thomas O'Shea (Sandy's dad), Terry Robson (Barb & Mark Camp's friend), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Sandra Wentz (Debbie's daughter-in-law)

Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain. h.e.denman@gmail.com

ANNUAL REPORTS

Chairs of church organizations: Annual reports are due in the church office as soon as possible. Please be kind and email your reports right away. Thank you!!! Once completed, Annual Reports will be available for pickup prior to the Annual Meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING



The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place Sunday, **January 30, 2022**, and will be preceded by the traditional Pancake Brunch. All are encouraged to attend this meeting.

FINANCIAL OFFICERS OF CHURCH GROUPS:

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

It is extremely important that all books be audited before the Annual Meeting on January 30, 2022. 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).

IT'S TIME TO SIGN UP!

SPONSORSHIP OF CAROLINE IN INDIA

Our church sponsors a child in India through the United Church of Christ. If you would like to sponsor Caroline for a month in 2022, please sign up on the list in Pilgrim Hall. Cost is \$30 and the check should be made payable to Strongsville UCC with "Child Sponsorship" in the memo line. Thanks!

SIGN UP NOW!

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,649.37
Last Week's Offering Received \$1,616.00
Difference (-\$2,033.37)

Thank you very much for your support.



PLEDGE CARDS RECEIVED TO DATE: 59

THRIFT SHOP



The Thrift Shop is OPEN on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. with lots of interesting merchandise. Donations are being accepted, but you must call the church first to arrange a time for drop-off.

THRIFT SHOP BONUS HOURS

The 3rd **Thursday** of the month,
January 20, 2022 — 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(We're still open on Thursdays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- The Board of Trustees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, **January 11th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Diaconate will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **January 18th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.
- The Official Board will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **January 25th** at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.



UCC DISASTER RELIEF--TORNADOES



In response to the recent devastating storms that have decimated parts of the country (especially Kentucky), the United Church of Christ is accepting donations to aid the victims of severe weather. To contribute, please go to

<https://www.ucc.org/appeal-severe-storms-2021/> and follow the prompts. You also mail a check made payable to the **United Church of Christ PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194**. Please be sure to note "2021 Severe Storms" on your check in the memo section.

Camel procured! The 6' camel for our outdoor Nativity set has been acquired and will be on display for Christmas 2022. Thank you to everyone who made this decades' long dream a reality! Please take a look in Pilgrim Hall and see our new addition.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Oh, my goodness! We had no idea there were so many talented cooks in our congregation! We have enjoyed yummy dishes ranging from meatloaf to pulled pork, pasta to delicious soups—and desserts! A million thanks to you all as we travel this journey together. Peace, **Pastor Heidi and Chuck**

WOULD YOU LIKE A WAY TO SERVE GOD AND SERVE YOUR CHURCH AT THE SAME TIME? How about volunteering to serve on a church board or committee?

The Nominating Committee, through the Official Board, will be looking for church members to fill the many open positions on our boards. Please consider saying **YES** when a member of the Nominating Committee asks you to serve. Some of the positions that are available include:



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.

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER!

ANNUAL ALL FAMILY WINTER RETREAT

February 18 - 20, 2022--Templed Hills Camp in Bellville, Ohio
The Church's Annual All-Family Winter Retreat will take place on President's Day weekend 2022: 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 9th—will be strictly enforced. Space is limited to 14 families. 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 TODAY, and the cost is \$10 per meal. Please contact Irene Joyce or Rachel Zielinski if you have any questions.

Here is the cost:

ADULTS (12 and up): \$75
CHILDREN (6-11): \$20
CHILDREN (5 and under): FREE

Important dates to remember:

TODAY, JANUARY 9, 2022: Reservations close; **MONEY DUE**

TODAY, JANUARY 9, 2022: Special dietary needs reported
FEBRUARY 13, 2022: Retreat planning meeting in the church after the worship service.

