

## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (CONGREGATIONAL)

13740 Pearl Road, Strongsville, Ohio 44136

Rev. Rebecca Stephenson, Pastor Church (440) 238-6697  
Website strongsvilleucc.com Email strongsvilleucc@gmail.com

**November 22, 2015 9:45 A.M. Reign of Christ**

† *Those who are able may stand.*

PRELUDE *Close to Thee* Silas J. Vail

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT Natalie Daniels

INTROIT *Enter His Gates with Thanksgiving* Albin Whitworth

### † CALL TO WORSHIP

One: For the Thanksgiving harvest of plenty,

**Many: we are thankful.**

One: For the farm where calloused hands plant and tend,

**Many: we are thankful.**

One: For the rich earth, where roots stretch and seeds grow,

**Many: we are thankful.**

One: For this service of worship and praise to our God of creation,

**Many: we come and are thankful.**

† HYMN 790 *We Gather Together*

### SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

#### 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 *Holy Ground* Geron Davis

ANTHEM *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* George Elvey  
arr. Heather Sorenson

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Thankful* Foster/Sager/Page

Sarah Keenen, Vocalist

\* DOXOLOGY (No. 815)

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN 436 *Freely, Freely*

SCRIPTURES Mark 12:38-44 New Testament, p. 43

SERMON *Giving to Feel Good*

† HYMN 669 *Make Me a Servant*

† BENEDICTION

† RESPONSE *Go Forth with Thanksgiving* Albin Whitworth

† POSTLUDE *Since Jesus Came into My Heart* Charles H. Gabriel

---

**Welcome, visitors!** We are so glad you have chosen to worship with us this morning. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

**All are invited to have coffee and baked goods** in Pilgrim Hall after our worship service today.

Worship Accompanist  
Chancel Choir Director  
Bell Choir Director  
Technical Setup and Operation  
Sound System  
Liturgists  
Greeters  
Ushers  
Morning Announcements  
Coffee Hour

Elena Taylor  
Joshua Konow  
Barbara Fraunfelder  
Doug Thorn  
Jim Heinrich  
Michael Fischer and Dale Hawk  
Dale and Cathy Hawk  
Lloyd and Barbara Bridle  
Denise Bell  
Ginny Oerkfitz

## REIGN OF CHRIST

November 22, 2015

11:15 A.M.

† Those who are able may stand.

### SONGS

**84** *Trading My Sorrows*  
**4** *Awesome God / Humble Thyself*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Natalie Daniels

#### SONG

**9** *Calling All Nations*

#### † CALL TO WORSHIP

One: For the Thanksgiving harvest of plenty,

**Many: we are thankful.**

One: For the farm where calloused hands plant and tend,

**Many: we are thankful.**

One: For the rich earth, where roots stretch and seeds grow,

**Many: we are thankful.**

One: For this service of worship and praise to our God of  
creation,

**Many: we come and are thankful.**

#### † PASSING OF THE PEACE

#### GATHERING SONG

*Sanctuary*

#### JOYS AND CONCERNS

#### PASTORAL PRAYER

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

#### OFFERING

*Be Thou My Vision*

Traditional Irish Melody

#### THE WORD OF GOD

Mark 12:38-44

New Testament, p. 43

#### MEDITATION

*Giving to Feel Good*

#### SONG

*I Will Call upon the Lord*

#### † BENEDICTION

---

**Welcome, visitors!** We are so glad you have chosen to worship with us this morning. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

#### SERVING TODAY

Rita Budd – Tambourine

Christian Habart-Scott – Drum Pads

Gary Hackett – Acoustic Guitar, Voice

Aidan Hurtig – Drum Pads

Rachel Kovatich – Voice

Kyra Krause – Voice

Toni Newborn – Voice

Herbert Parker – Electric Guitar

Julia Soltis – Violin, Acoustic Guitar, Clarinet

Mike Soltis – Drum Set

Jack Stephenson – Bass Guitar, Voice

Elena Taylor – Praise Band Director, Voice, Keyboard

Robert Toth – Mallet Percussion

Clay Williams – Voice

Jake Williams – Acoustic Guitar, Viola

Doug Thorn – Sound System, Technical Setup and Operation

Denise Bell – Morning Announcements

Jim Nicoulin – Liturgist

Lori Kovatich – Graphics Operation

## NOVEMBER 2015

- 22 Sun Stewardship Sunday  
Set up Mitten Tree  
Church Open House, 5-8pm – in conjunction with the City of Strongsville's Holiday Lighting – **Baked goods are needed.**
- 23 Mon Assemble Thanksgiving Baskets in Pilgrim Hall, 9am  
Journey in Faith Membership Class, 7-9pm
- 24 Tue Official Board Meeting, 7pm
- 25 Wed Men's Luncheon, 11:30am at European's Best Restaurant  
Church Office will close at 1:00 p.m.  
Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Strongsville, **7:30pm**
- 26 Thu Thanksgiving Day
- 27 Fri Church Office is CLOSED
- 28 Sat Decorate Sanctuary for Christmas, 10am
- 29 Sun Hanging of the Greens in 9:45 worship  
Newsletter Pickup  
Deadline for submitting Constitution changes  
Kindred Spirit Singles arrive at 1pm, meeting at 2pm  
Advent Study, 5:30pm
- 30 Mon Journey in Faith Membership Class, 7-9pm

## DECEMBER 2015

- 6 Sun Communion, New Members Received  
Women's Fellowship Candy Sale  
Poinsettia Order Deadline  
Advent Study, 5:30pm
- 8 Tue Women's Luncheon at Pomeroy, 11:30am
- 11 Fri Blue Christmas Service of Remembrance, 7:30pm
- 12 Sat Christmas Open House at the Parsonage, 5pm – All welcome!
- 13 Sun Diaconate Holiday Cookie Sale  
Women's Fellowship Candy Sale  
Advent Study, 5:30pm
- 15 Tue Newsletter Deadline  
Special Chancel Choir rehearsal for the cantata
- 18 Fri Strongsville City Jazz Fundraiser Concert, 7:30pm with reception following
- 20 Sun **1 Sunday Morning Service ONLY at 9:45**, when Chancel Choir will present a cantata  
Children's Christmas Presentation and Supper, 5pm

### Serving Next Sunday – November 29, 2015

Liturgists	9:45 Kenn Oerkfitz	11:15 Dan Masuga
Greeter		Ginny Dangelo
Morning Announcements		Kim McKenzie
Ushers	9:45 Needed	11:15 Ginny Dangelo
Coffee Hour		Beth Giuliano
Graphics Operation for 11:15 Service		Sharon Heinrich

## ANNOUNCEMENTS – NOVEMBER 22, 2015

**Welcome, visitors!** We are so glad you have chosen to worship with us this morning. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

**The altar flowers** are given this morning—

*To Celebrate the Seven Year Anniversary of Greg and Ingrid Dickson  
In Honor of Lisa's Birthday Today  
The Heinrich Family*

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

*Happy Anniversary to Debbie and Larry Wentz on November 24 and  
Happy Birthday to Stephen Popovich on November 28  
With love, Mom and Grammy*

**All are invited to enjoy coffee and baked goods** in Pilgrim Hall after 9:45 worship today.

In conjunction with the City of Strongsville's Holiday Lighting, **TODAY is our Church Open House, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.** Volunteers are needed for the Live Nativity. To help, please see the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall. In addition, donations are requested for the cost of the live animals for the nativity. Please see Dale Hawk or Rachel Zielinski to make your donation.

**Thanksgiving Baskets** will be assembled tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. in Pilgrim Hall. Help is needed.

**Tuesday Meeting:** Official Board, 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday Free Lunch** – All are welcome to this free lunch, which is served every Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall.

**Men's Luncheon** will take place on Wednesday, November 25, at European's Best Restaurant at 11:30 a.m. All men are welcome.

**The Church Office will be closed** on Wednesday after 1:00 p.m. and all day on Friday, November 27.

**Wednesday Rehearsals:** Children's Choir at 7:30 p.m.  
Praise Band at 8:00 p.m.

Weekly Offering Needed	\$3,190
Offering Received 11/15	Traditional \$2,062 Contemporary \$138 2,200
	Difference (\$990)

**Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service** will take place Wednesday, November 25, at **7:00 P.M.** at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 12700 Pearl Road in Strongsville. Pastor Becky will give the message, and some of our choir members will sing in the Ecumenical Choir. All are welcome to attend.

**For Next Sunday, November 29 – The First Sunday of Advent, the Hanging of the Greens** will take place during 9:45 a.m. worship.

**Advent Study** – Pastor Becky will lead a study on “**Christianity’s Impact in Christmas Movies.**” The study will be held on the three Sunday evenings: November 29, December 6 and December 13 beginning at 5:30 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall. A light meal of soup will be served. Child care will be available, and children will view special movies as well.

**Our Church Constitution** is being reviewed this year. If you have suggestions for changes, please give them to Sally Herzog by next Sunday, November 29, 2015. Thank you.

**The Thrift Shop** is overstocked right now. **Please hold your donations** until further notice. Thank you.

**Women’s Fellowship will sell candy** between the two worship services on the Sundays of December 6 and December 13.

**Blue Christmas Service of Remembrance** will be held in our Sanctuary on Friday, December 11, at 7:30 p.m. Blue Christmas is a worship service remembering those who have passed away, while seeking hope for all of us during the Christmas season. All are welcome.

**Cookie Sale** – The Diaconate will hold its ninth annual Holiday Cookie Sale on Sunday, December 13, in Pilgrim Hall. Come prepared to buy all your favorite cookies. To provide bakery, there is a sign-up sheet posted in Pilgrim Hall. On that day, please bring your treats in half-dozen or dozen packages. All are welcome to participate!!

**Southwest Community Chorus** will present its 2015 Christmas concert, "In the Holiday Mood," on Sunday, December 6, beginning at 3:00 p.m. in the Berea Methodist Church, 170 Seminary Street, Berea. The chorus is directed by Tom Foley and accompanied by Carol Konet. UCC singers include Pam Keenen, Bruce Keenen, Jack Stephenson, Gary Hackett and UCC guest singer Craig Hardy. Children 12 and under are free, and adult tickets are \$10. Tickets are available from chorus members or at the door the day of the concert. Please plan to attend. We love seeing church members in the audience.

**Strongsville City Jazz Swing Band** will present a Christmas Concert as a fundraiser for our Music Ministry on Friday, December 18, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be available for purchase next Sunday.

## PARKING LOT UPDATE

Repair of our church parking lot is scheduled to begin next week. Saw cutting is scheduled for tomorrow-- Monday, November 23, at 7:00 a.m. This is expected to be an all-day event and may possibly go into Tuesday morning as well. Saw cutting is a very dirty job, and the contractor recommends that everyone refrains from parking in the lot during that process. If anyone needs to park in the lot, please park far away from the marked pavement. When the saw cutting is completed each day, the lot will be 100% open. The excavation/remainder of the parking lot work is scheduled to begin Monday, November 30. The parking lot will remain closed throughout this portion of the project. This phase should take 3-4 days to complete. The contractor intends to open the lot to traffic the Sunday following the completion of work. Much of this project is weather-dependent, so the schedule may be adjusted accordingly.

## 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. This list is updated weekly. If you wish someone to remain on the list, please call the church, (440) 238-6697.*

**Long-Term Care or Homebound Members:** Ethyl Jeglie at Elmcroft of Sagamore Hills, Janet Kato at Western Reserve Masonic Community in Medina, Betty Kovach at Parkside Villa, Connie Rebar, Erla Mae Schultz at Medina Village

**Church Family:** Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Laurie Meister, Michele Mihlack at Pearlview, Eileen Pincombe, Denzil Richards, Sharon Ritchie, Barb Stayrook, Keith Sullen, Leah Tressa Forget, John Wood

**Extended Church Family:** Ryan Brubeck, Emelyn Carels (sister of Irene Jannsohn), Dylan Churnega (grandson of Ginny Churnega Oerkfitz), Zachary Crouse (grandson of Barbara Morgan), Audrey Curry (mother of Pam Keenen), Rebecca Deeb (Goddaughter of Lora Rung), Angie Dickinson (friend of Lola Millhoane), Donna Fargo (mother of Sally Herzog), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Kay Gritti (friend of Lola Millhoane), Irene Hagemeyer (niece of Betty Craig), Amanda Hover (granddaughter of Betty Kircher), Phyllis Keenen (mother of Bruce), Pat Kolba (mother of Kelly Bickley), Jessica Lane (granddaughter of Len and Bev), Lily (student of Lora Rung), Maggie (friend of the Bickleys), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Dolores Mihlack (mother of Allen), Debbie Morey (sister of Steve Herzog), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Keith Stewart (cousin of Carol Woodward), Trudie Taylor (sister of Karen Morgan), Bob Tomko (cousin of Ed Sobek), Kathleen Wickline (mother of Darla)

Please don't miss the Strongsville UCC Sunday School

**CHRISTMAS PRESENTATION 2015**  
and  
**SUPPER "AT THE INN"**  
*(A free, simple meal will be served.)*



**Sunday – December 20 – 5:00pm – Pilgrim Hall**

*All are welcome! Reservations are limited to 100 people. Please complete form below to make your reservation, and place form in the offering plate. You may also call the church to make your reservation.*

**One Rehearsal Only – Wednesday – December 16 – 6:30pm**

**FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN:**

Yes! My child (or children) will participate. I will bring him/her/them to:  
**rehearsal** on Wednesday, **December 16**, at **6:30pm** and  
**presentation** on Sunday, **December 20**, at **5:00pm**.

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Reservations for attendees + volunteers:** \_\_\_\_Adults \_\_\_\_Children

Name \_\_\_\_\_

For Adults:  I / We would like to help with this event.

**Please place this form in the offering plate.**  
Thank you for your participation!

**ALTAR POINSETTIA FOR CHRISTMAS EVE**

Order deadline is Sunday, December 6, 2015. Please complete this form and place it to the Church office with your cash or check payment. The cost is \$6.00.

Wording for bulletin: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of plants: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to **Strongsville United Church of Christ**, and place it with your order in the offering plate or mail it to:

**Strongsville United Church of Christ**  
**13740 Pearl Road**  
**Strongsville, OH 44136**



*Thank you for placing a poinsettia plant on the altar!*

**For Church Treasurer's Records**

**2015 Christmas Poinsettia**

Total number of plants: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Offering envelope number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash/Check No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Order deadline is Sunday, December 6, 2015.*