



**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
 (Congregational)  
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**Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor**  
**Sunday, November 24, 2019 – 10:00 A.M.**  
**Reign of Christ--Hanging of the Greens**  
**Penny Sunday**

**WELCOME!**

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. Please complete your Attendance Card and place it in the offering plate.

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

**PRELUDE** "As the Deer" Nystrom arr. Bettcher  
**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Joyce Reed  
**INTROIT** "Thank You, Lord" Children's Choir

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**  
 Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, Son of the Most High?  
**People: With thanksgiving for the words of the prophets, who told long ago of God's victory over darkness.**  
 Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the eternal Christ?  
**People: With evergreen symbols of our faith, with garlands and wreaths of pine and fir.**  
 Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, our Savior?  
**People: With arrangements of holly and ivy, reminders of Jesus' passion, death and victory over death.**  
 Leader: How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus, the King?  
**People: With thanksgiving and praise, with songs of celebration and remembering. With stories that belong to all God's children across the world.**

† **HYMN 788** "Now Thank We All Our God"

**A READING FROM THE PSALMS** Psalm 100

**SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**DEDICATION OF THANKSGIVING BASKETS**

**PASTORAL 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.**

**PRAYER RESPONSE** "Hear Our Prayer, Lord" Foley

**BELL ANTHEM** "Hymn of Thanksgiving" arr. Lorenz

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** Penny Sunday Collection

**HYMN 262** "Away in a Manger" (verse 1)

**THE OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY** "Beautiful Savior" Folk Melody

† **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**

**HANGING OF THE GREENS**

**HYMN 406** "Wonderful Words of Life" (verse 1)

**PRESENTATION OF THE HOLLY AND IVY** Isaiah 53:3a, 4a, 5-6

**HYMN** "The Holly and the Ivy" (verse 1)  
**The holly and the ivy, When they are both full grown,**  
**Of all trees that are in the wood, The holly bears the crown:**  
**O, the rising of the sun, And the running of the deer**  
**The playing of the merry organ, Sweet singing in the choir.**

**PRESENTATION OF THE WREATH** Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

**HYMN 256** "Love Has Come!" (verse 1)

**PRESENTATION OF THE POINSETTIA** Isaiah 11:1-2

**HYMN 255** "Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming" (verse 1)

**PRESENTATION OF THE PARAMENTS** Isaiah 40:3-5

**HYMN 279** "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" (verse 1)

**PRESENTATION OF THE EVERGREEN TREE** Micah 5:2, 4

**HYMN 249** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (verse 1)

**PRESENTATION OF THE CHRIST CANDLE** 1 John 1:1, 5

† **HYMN 270** "Joy to the World" (verses 1 and 4)

† **BENEDICTION**

† **RESPONSE** "Three-fold Amen" Traditional

† **POSTLUDE** "Now Thank We All Our God" Karg-Elert, arr. Wells



**OFFERINGS RECEIVED**

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,522.02  
 Last Week's Offering Received \$2,728.25  
 Difference (-\$793.77)

To date for the Stewardship Campaign, we have received 70 pledges totaling \$147,704.00. **If you have not yet returned your Estimate of Giving card, the church will gratefully accept it at any time. Thank you very much for your support.**

**SERVING**

**TODAY – NOVEMBER 24** **NEXT SUNDAY – DECEMBER 1**

Betty Craig	<b>Liturgist</b>	Linda Ponstingle
Jennifer Barry	<b>Greeters</b>	Linda Plain
Roy Merkle	<b>Ushers</b>	Linda Plain
Volunteer needed	<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Sharon Heinrich
Tom Foley	<b>Director of Music</b>	Tom Foley
Mike Elkins	<b>Associate Director of Music</b>	Mike Elkins
Sharon Heinrich	<b>Supplemental Organist</b>	Sharon Heinrich
Megan Denman	<b>Guest Organist</b>	

**The altar flowers** are given—  
*In loving memory of my buddy, Betty Bushea. Miss you forever.*  
 Lola Millhoane

*In honor of our church's many helping hands—The Hawks*

**Our steeple** will light the sky this week—  
*Happy 46<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to Debbie and Larry Wentz and*  
*Happy 28<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Stephen Popovich on November 28<sup>th</sup>!*  
 With love, Mom/Grammy

**Happy Birthday today** to Karen Rak, and Ben & Emma Clotworthy!

**Happy Anniversary today** to Larry and Debbie Wentz!

**The Official Board** will meet Tuesday, November 26 at 7 p.m.

**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](http://strongsvilleucc.com), go to **Worship**, and click on **Service Videos**.

**OUR PRAYER LIST**

Please provide updates for this list to the church office. Thanks!

**Long-Term Care or Homebound:** Janet Kato at Kemper House, Martha Liebert, Marge McKinney, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields



**Church Family:** Dolores Bail, Jen Barry, Joan Beckwith, Elaine Coffey, Rev. Larry and Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sue Hawk, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Carole Kapcar, Debbie Krause, Karl Kuhlenschmidt, Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Lacey Marshall, Judy Maur, Laurie Meister, Michele Mihlack, Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, John and Maggie Struhar, Josh Trinckes, Bill Williamson, Sharon Wilson, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

**Extended Church Family:** Amy Carroll (sister of Marty Winch), Lyla Joy Crowley (great grand-niece of Irene Jannsohn), Joanne Gigliotti (mom of Lou), Rebecca Gordon (niece of Irene Jannsohn), Kim Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Jeff Hassel (son of Judi Pavisich), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Rev. Kent Knife (retired pastor from MHUCC), Diane Mason (friend of Lora Rung), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Zachary McKeever (great-nephew of Pastor Heidi and Chuck), Mae O'Shea (mom of Sandy O'Shea), Carrol Riley (father of Marjorie Morrison), Terry Robson (friend of the Camps), Mike Rung (brother of Lora), Amanda Shannon (friend of Sarah & Jon Hayes), Brad Williams (friend of Judi Pavisich), Daphne Wilson (niece of Irene Jannsohn)

**Our church has an e-mail prayer chain.**  
**Please see Pastor Heidi if you would like to be added.**

Today's **Penny Sunday** will go to the **National Youth Advocate Program** helping foster children in Cuyahoga County with programs, activities, financial support, counseling, placement, and scholarships.





Our most heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of 59 year member **Betty Bushea**, who went home to the Lord on November 20. Love and prayers to her children **Barb Fraunfelder (Dennis Smith)**, **Frank Bushea (Karen)**, **Sue Citino (Roger)**, and **Sally Bushea**, as well as her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Visitation will be at Jardine's Funeral Home today, November 24 from 2 p.m. – 6 p.m. and the funeral will be at Jardine's tomorrow, Monday, November 25 at 11 a.m. Interment will be at Strongsville Cemetery, followed by a luncheon in Pilgrim Hall.



**Women's Fellowship** will host a **Christmas Tea** in Pilgrim Hall next Sunday, December 1, at 1:30pm. All ladies of the church are welcome. Please sign up on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall if you will join us.

### THANKSGIVING BASKETS

It's not too late to make a cash donation. Please make your check payable to **Strongsville United Church of Christ**. On the memo line, write **Thanksgiving Basket**. \$20 covers the cost of the turkey or ham; \$40 covers the cost of a whole basket. All financial donations will be gratefully accepted, whatever the amount. Thank you for your support of this worthwhile project.



**ARE YOU AVAILABLE TOMORROW, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25 AT 9 A.M.? WE NEED HELP PUTTING TOGETHER THE THANKSGIVING BASKETS FOR DISTRIBUTION. PLEASE COME FOR AN HOUR OR SO AND HELP PACK THE FOOD!**



### ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP SERVICE November 27 at 7 p.m.

This year, First Evangelical Lutheran church (just down Royalton Road) is hosting the community Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service. Worship with fellow Christians as we give Thanks for the many blessings God has bestowed upon us. Our own Pastor Heidi will be delivering the message.

Clergy and choir members from our sister churches here in Strongsville will be participating in the service. Won't you join your fellow Christians for a time of gratitude and praise?

### HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE & LIVE NATIVITY TODAY 5 P.M. – 8 P.M.



Join the Strongsville Community, your church family, and their furry friends for the Live Nativity and Open House. Bask in the glow as the City of Strongsville lights the town square and our church welcomes families and friends into our worship home for cookies and hot cider. There are many ways to be involved in this major event: There is a sheet on the bulletin board in Pilgrim Hall where you can sign up to be a part of inviting the community into our church with fellowship, warmth, music, and celebration.

**DONATIONS OF BAKED GOODS. FINGER FOODS ARE STILL NEEDED.**

### 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, bread/pastry sorter, or nursery helper! 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. **Help will be needed in January/February/March to pick up Panera bakery donations on Monday mornings. Please see Kenn Oerkfitz to volunteer.**



### MITTEN TREE ~ FAMILY OF FAITH TREE

The **Mitten Tree** will be in the Gathering Area through December 8<sup>th</sup> for collecting hats, gloves, mittens and scarves for the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless.



On December 9<sup>th</sup>, the hats, gloves, mittens and scarves will be removed, and the tree will become the **Family of Faith Tree**, which we will decorate with Christmas ornaments donated by members and friends. **If you have not yet donated an ornament – or – if you'd like to donate an additional ornament, please bring it to the church office and include your name.** Official Board will prepare a tag with your name, attach the tag to your ornament, and

hang the ornament on the Family of Faith Tree. Please know that **your ornament will NOT be returned to you**, but it will become part of the Christmas decorations each year. **Please do not bring expensive heirloom ornaments.**

Thank you for celebrating with your church family in the Mitten Tree, as well as the Family of Faith Tree!

### CHRISTMAS JAZZ CONCERT Friday, December 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Join the Strongsville City Jazz Swing Band for an evening of your favorite Christmas tunes with a little toe-tapping swing! Tickets are only \$10, \$5 for kids 6-12 and Free for kids under age 6

**Followed by a wine & cheese reception!**

(Donations of finger foods will be needed for the reception. Please see **Ingrid Dickson** or **Pam Keenen** if you can help.)



### CHURCH CHRISTMAS MAIL BOX



To send Christmas greetings to fellow members and friends, the church "mail box" will again be available in Pilgrim Hall, starting next week. Please remember to check the box for greetings you receive.

Also, please do not put cards in the box for friends who are not in town for Christmas. The church office cannot mail your personal Christmas cards. Cards left after Christmas will be discarded. Thank you.

**Animals for Our Live Nativity** - Your wonderful response to our plea for donations generated \$774.90 so we can once again have a camel, a donkey, a sheep, and a goat for our Live Nativity this evening at our annual Holiday Open House. Thank you to everyone who so generously contributed!

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT IS DECEMBER 15**, followed by a reception and a visit from a friend from the North Pole. Please wear your best (or worst) Christmas sweater, dress, tie, or outfit.



### WEST PARK KIWANIS CHILDREN'S READING CENTERS IN NEED OF BOOK DONATIONS:

The West Park Kiwanis set up a few children's reading centers in our area and it's been going really well. It's encouraging children to read and they are allowed to take a book with them. The Kiwanis are getting low on books and are looking for anyone who has children's books that would be willing to donate to their reading centers. If you have any to donate, please contact **Herb Hampson** at **216-287-3871** to arrange pick up or delivery! Thank you from our West Park Kiwanis and the kids in our area!



### SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CHORUS CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2019



The **Southwest Community Chorus** and Chamber Singers will present their 2019 Christmas concert, "Heart of Winter," on **Sunday, December 8, at 3:00 p.m.** in the United Methodist Church at **170 Seminary Street** in Berea. This year's performance features our Music Director, **Tom Foley** as director, accompanist **Carol Konet**, and church singers: **Ingrid Dickson, Gary**

**Hackett, Irene Joyce, Bruce Keenen, Pam Keenen, Sarah Keenen, Sharon Maresco, Dave Williams**, and UCC guest singer, **Craig Hardy**. Tickets are available in advance at a cost of \$12.50 for adults, \$15 at the door and free for children 12 and under. Save a few bucks by purchasing your tickets from any of the above choir members! You'll enjoy the music, and we'll get you in the Christmas mood. We like looking into the audience and seeing our fellow church members. Thank you!

### AED IS HERE

The church has purchased an AED with funds from the Memorial Fund. It is located just outside the interior entrance to Pilgrim Hall. Rachel Zielinski and Dale Hawk will soon be instituting a program to teach people how to use it to save someone's life.

### FROM THE KITCHEN:

**We are in need of gallon pails with lids!** If you have any of these buckets, most commonly containing ice cream or sherbet, please consume all the contents (in one sitting, if necessary), and bring the empty container and lid to us!

### FROM THE MISSION OUTREACH COMMITTEE:

Mission Outreach has a display in the Gathering Area with information about our Veterans. Upon reading the materials and researching websites, we feel the most effective way to assist them is through Church Street Ministries in Berea. They assist them for the entire Cuyahoga County. During the month of November, we will be accepting cash or check donations for them. Those who wish can place them in the Sunday offering collection. Please put them in a pew envelope and mark "Veterans" on it. Checks should be made out to Strongsville UCC with Veterans in the memo line.



**LOOKING AHEAD TO ADVENT**

Mark your calendars for a busy and  
blessed Christmas season:

December 1: 1st Sunday of Advent—10 a.m.  
CHRISTMAS TEA

December 8: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent—10 a.m.

December 13: Christmas Jazz Concert  
Friday evening at 7:30 p.m.

December 15: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent—10 a.m.  
Christmas Pageant followed by reception  
and visitor from the North  
**Blue Christmas Service**  
Sunday evening at 7 p.m.

December 22: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent—10 a.m.

December 24: Christmas Eve Worship  
Tuesday at 7 p.m. & 11 p.m.

December 29: Last Sunday worship of 2019

