



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)
13740 Pearl Road
Strongsville, Ohio 44136
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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall
Pastor



Sunday – November 25, 2018 – 10:00 A.M.
Hanging of the Greens
Penny Sunday

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 "Here I Am to Worship" Hughes

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Lora Rung

BELL INTROIT "As the Deer" arr. Bettcher

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus,
Son of the Most High?

People: By hearing again 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 garlands and wreaths of pine and fir,
whose branches are ever living, ever green.

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 the Light of God's promise and songs of celebration
and remembering. With stories that belong to all God's
children across the world.

HYMN 244 "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

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 "Now Thank We All Our God" Traditional

BELL ANTHEM "Ode to Joy" Beethoven

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Penny Sunday Collection

HYMN 262 "Away in a Manger" (Verse 1)

THE OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "Impromptu" Elkins

DOXOLOGY HYMN 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)

HOLLY AND IVY Isaiah 53:3a, 4a, 5-6

HYMN "The Holly and the Ivy"

The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown
Of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown.
The rising of the sun, and the running of the deer,
the playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.

WREATH Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

HYMN 256 "Love Has Come!" (Verse 1)

POINSETTIA Isaiah 11:1-2

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

PARAMENTS Isaiah 40:3-5

HYMN 279 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" (Verse 1)

EVERGREEN TREE Micah 5:2, 4

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

CHRIST CANDLE 1 John 1:1, 5

HYMN 270 "Joy to the World" (Verses 1 and 4)

BENEDICTION

RESPONSE/POSTLUDE "Shine, Jesus Shine" Kendrick



Penny Sunday today will benefit the National Youth Advocacy
Program (NYAP) and their Giving Tree for foster children. Thanks
to everyone who donates their spare change each month!

SERVING

Table with 3 columns: TODAY - NOVEMBER 25, NEXT SUNDAY - DECEMBER 2, and roles like Liturgist, Greeters, Ushers, etc.

The altar flowers are given—
"Happy Anniversary- Love you so much, Babes"
Mike and Kristen 18 years of wedded bliss

Our steeple will light the sky this week—
Happy Birthday Stephen Popovich on November 28th!
With Love, Grammy
Happy 10" A" Anniversary to Greg & Ingrid Dickson!

Worship Team will meet after worship today.
The Official Board will meet Tuesday, November 27 at 7 p.m.

Happy Birthday today Donald Dickinson!
Happy Anniversary today to Kristen and Mike Clotworthy
and to Ken Mehalko and Bev Wehr!

PLEASE NOTE: Our worship services are video recorded each week
and posted on our YouTube channel for all to enjoy.

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 at Danbury Senior Living
in Brunswick, Janet Kato at Kemper House, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar,
Trish Shields

Church Family: Betty Babics, Rev. Larry and Christina Craig, Steve
Herzog, Margot James, Evan Joyce, Bobbie Krisak, Karl
Kuhlenschmidt, Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Phyllis Kurz
(mother of Karen Morgan), Martha Liebert, Lacey Marshall
(daughter of Amanda and John), Laurie Meister, Karen
Morgan, Joyce Reed, Bill Ritchie, Linda Stepan, Barbara
Toth, Sally Vetovitz, Kyle Woodward

Extended Church Family: Luke Bazan (friend of Judi
Pavisich's granddaughter), Amy Carroll (sister of Marty
Winch), Michele Cortese (friend of the Heinrichs), Kim
Filiatraut (friend of Sarah Keenen), Joyce Freeman (sister of Carol
Woodward), Elizabeth Fulford (friend of Lora Rung), Karen Greenway and
daughters (friends of Judi Pavisich), Sam Harteis (friend of Reeds),
Margaret Haught (mother of Jen Barry), Sandra Manos (mother of Eli),
Diane Mason (friend of Lora Rung), Pat Masuga (mother of Dan), Zachary
McKeever (great-nephew of Pastor Heidi and Chuck), Carrol Riley (father of
Marjorie Morrison), Mary Joyce-Smith (mother of Jim Joyce), Frank Toth
(father of Rob), Joe Valli (brother-in-law of Vicky and Dan Masuga)



Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family
and friends of Doris Soucie, who passed away
on November 17. A memorial service will be held
here tomorrow, November 26 at 2 p.m., preceded
by visitation at Jardine's from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.



**THE THRIFT SHOP** is open for business on Thursdays, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., with a bonus Free Lunch for All sale day on Wednesdays once a month from 11 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. **WE NEED HELP!** If you can spare a few hours on Thursdays to volunteer in our Thrift Shop, please consider helping at the

Thrift Shop. **Also, an additional person is needed to work with us for 2 hours on the second Wednesday of the month. Please contact the church office if you can help either on Wednesdays or Thursdays.**

**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, or nursery helper! **Help is especially needed to pick up the donations from Panera on Monday or Friday mornings.** No experience is needed and everyone is welcome to be a part of our church life.



**THANK YOU** to everyone who donated to our **Thanksgiving Basket** program. 37 families were fed by our little congregation! Also thanks to everybody who participated in the **Open House & Live Nativity**; 662 people came through our doors that night!

**NOVEMBER 2018 DATES TO REMEMBER**

- 25 Sun **Worship 10am—Hanging of the Greens Penny Sunday**  
Children's Choir
- 27 Tues Official Board Meeting 7pm
- 28 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am to 12:30pm  
Fit Club, 7pm  
Band Rehearsal 8:15pm
- 29 Thurs Thrift Shop 10am-4pm  
Men's Luncheon 11:30am  
Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm

**DECEMBER 2018 DATES TO REMEMBER**

- 2 Sun **Worship 10am with Communion**  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Children's Choir
- 5 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am to 12:30pm  
Fit Club  
Band Rehearsal 8:15 pm
- 6 Thurs Thrift Shop 10am-4pm  
Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm
- 9 Sun **Worship 10am—Poinsettia orders due**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Children's Choir  
**Blue Christmas Service of Hope 7pm**
- 10 Tues Trustees Meeting 7pm
- 11 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am to 12:30pm  
Fit Club, 7pm  
Band Rehearsal 8:15pm
- 12 Thurs Thrift Shop 10am-4pm



- Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm
- 14 Fri **Swingin' Sounds of Christmas Concert 7:30pm**
- 16 Sun **Worship 10am Children's Pageant**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Reception to follow worship
- 17 Tue Diaconate Meeting, 7pm
- 18 Wed Free Lunch for All, 11:30am-12:30pm  
Fit Club  
Band Rehearsal 8:15 pm
- 19 Thurs Thrift Shop 10am-4pm  
Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm
- 23 Sun **Worship 10am**  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent
- 24 Mon **Christmas Eve Family Service 7pm**  
**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 11pm**
- 25 Tues Christmas Day
- 26 Wed No Free Lunch for All  
No Fit Club, No Band Rehearsal
- 27 Thurs Thrift Shop Closed  
Men's Luncheon 11:30am  
No Bell or Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 30 Sun **Worship 10am Penny Sunday**
- 31 Mon **Annual Reports Due**



**OFFERINGS RECEIVED**

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,649.51  
Last Week's Offering Received **\$2,878.75**  
(Difference -\$ 770.56)



**As of this printing, we have received 63 Estimate of Giving cards for a total of \$105,792.00. Thank you very much for your support.**

**FROM THE 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. Some of the positions that are available include serving on the:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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



**MITTEN TREE ~ FAMILY OF FAITH TREE**

The **Mitten Tree** will be in the Gathering Area until December 8 for collecting hats, gloves, mittens, socks, and scarves for Strongsville Food Bank. .

On December 8, 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!

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR THESE DECEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS HERE AT SUCC!**

**Blue Christmas Service of Remembrance**

Come for a quiet, contemplative time of reflecting, remembering, and healing on **Sunday, December 9 at 7 p.m.**



**Swinging Sounds of Christmas by the Strongsville Community Jazz Band on Friday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m.**

Tickets, which benefit our Music Ministry, are only \$10, \$5 for kids ages 6-12, and free for kids under 6. Tickets will be available for purchase in advance next week in Pilgrim Hall and at the door.



**Christmas Pageant and Reception**

**Sunday, December 16** during worship, the Sunday School will present their annual Christmas Pageant, followed by a reception in Pilgrim Hall. Plus...a visitor from the North may make an appearance.



**Christmas Pageant**

**SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CHORUS CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2018**

The **Southwest Community Chorus** and Chamber Singers will present their 2018 Christmas concert, "Carol Me Sweetly," on **Sunday, December 2, 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. So, please attend. Thank you!