



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)

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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, November 27, 2022 – 10 A.M.

First Sunday of Advent

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 stand as you are comfortable.

As you enter the sanctuary, welcome one another. As you hear the chimes ring, settle your mind in silence. As worship begins, welcome God's Holy Spirit.

- PRELUDE "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" Smith
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Joyce Reed
INTROIT "Of the Father's Love Begotten" Traditional

CALL TO WORSHIP
Leader: Now, in this holy season of Advent, we wait.
People: For the faithful God is coming to us.
Leader: Now, in this season of waiting, we listen.
People: For the faithful Word speaks of good news to us.
Leader: Now, in the waiting and listening, we watch.
People: For the faithful Spirit is moving among us.

HYMN 760 "While We Are Waiting, Come"

LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE (HOPE) Judi & George Pavisich
Leader: On the first Sunday of Advent, we look for signs of hope in our world. People helping each other. Walls of separation being broken down. Bridges crossing great divides.
People: We see signs of hope in a family, traveling a long way from home, expecting a baby and being surrounded by the compassion of strangers.

Leader: We light this first candle for the hope we find in the world, as we wait for Christ to come into our world and lives in a new way.
People: Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night, our hearts long to greet you, as roses love light. Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage. One candle is lit for the Hope of the age.

HYMN 245 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verse 1)

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 122 (New Revised Standard Version)

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!" Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together. To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord. For there the thrones for judgment were set up, the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls and security within your towers." For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, "Peace be within you." For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

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 "Prepare the Way of the Lord" Rowan

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Penny Sunday

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" Pachelbel

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 PROPHETS Isaiah 2: 1-5 (New Revised Standard Version)
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. God will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths."

SERMON "Transformation"

HYMN 754 "Lo, He Comes with Clouds Ascending"

BENEDICTION
Be people of hope. Let hope live in your heart and share the hope of Christ with all you meet. Share hope by noticing someone else's humanity. Share hope by listening to someone's story. Share hope by praying for our world. In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share hope. As you go out into the wonder of God's creations, share hope with those you meet. Amen.

RESPONSE "Emmanuel" McGee

POSTLUDE "Wachtet Auf!" Bach

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.

PENNY SUNDAY TODAY

Today is the last Penny Sunday of the year. Money will go to Together We Rise Giving Tree for young people who are aging out of the Cuyahoga County foster care system. (Checks to SUCC) Our next collection will be January 29, 2023.



SERVING

TODAY – NOVEMBER 27

NEXT SUNDAY – DECEMBER 4

Table with 3 columns: Today's roles (Elaine Coffey, Pam Keenen, etc.), Serving roles (Greeters, Liturgist, etc.), and Next Sunday's roles (Linda Plain, Dale Hawk, etc.).

The altar flowers are given—
Gone but not forgotten, JayJay. We miss you. Rock out in Heaven—Serena Abruzzino & Familia



Our steeple will light the sky this week—
Happy Birthday to Stephen Popovich on November 28th!
With Love, Grammy

Happy Birthday today to Joan Beckwith, Madelyn Ewald, and Trevor & Cooper Bell!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Live Nativity event last Sunday!



UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

The Official Board will meet on the fifth Tuesday of the month, November 29th at 7 p.m. in the Parlor. (Please note date change.)

The Mitten Tree...

We will collect hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, and socks for the needy this year. Now through December 4th, bring your items to the church during office hours and they will be placed on the Mitten Tree. After the 4th, the items will be given to the homeless shelter and the tree will become the Family of Faith tree. If you have not donated an ornament for yourself/your family, you may bring it to the church office and your ornament will join the others on our tree!



OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed \$3,649.37
Last Week's Offering Received \$2,052.00
Difference -(\$1,597.37)

Thank you very much for your support.

Pledge cards received to date:



THE CHRISTMAS FUND



Formerly known as Veterans of the Cross, this special offering of the United Church of Christ provides direct financial assistance to retired and active United Church of Christ authorized ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses, including pension and health premium supplementation, emergency assistance, and Christmas thank-you checks. A ministry of the Pension Boards, the offering is received throughout December. Offering envelopes will be in the pew racks.



**OUR PRAYER LIST**

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

**Long-Term Care or Homebound:** Ruth Milidonis, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar

**Church Family:** Serena Abruzzino, Joan Beckwith, Lloyd Bridle, Mary Carey, Gina Cathcart, Kathy Cockrell, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Sam Cuyler, Sr., Sue Hawk, Paul Hirt, Wayne Krisak, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Len Lane, Judy Maur, Reggie McCray, Laurie Meister, Roy Merkle, Michele Mhlack, Lola Millhoane, Kenn Oerkitz, Gary Paul, Sandy Pogozelski, Joyce Reed, Dorothy & Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, Tracy Seneff, Peter Smith, Maggie Struhar, Sharon Wilson, Dave Williams, Janis Williamson, Claire Wills, Marty Winch, Rachel Zielinski, Mary Ellen Zimmerman



**Extended Church Family:** Dorene Baldrige, Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Ron Colosimo (Judi Pavisich's friend), John Dickson (Greg's dad), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Jennifer Gleichauf (Don & Sandy's daughter-in-law), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Tiffany Hassel (Judi Pavisich's daughter-in-law), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Ed Kuhn (Sandy & Don Gleichauf's friend), Andrew Majoros (Michele Mhlack's cousin), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Rudy Matjazic (Judi Pavisich's friend, Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Zachary McKeever (Pastor Heidi and Chuck's great-nephew), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Heather Overman (friend of Judi Pavisich), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Thomas O'Shea (Sandy's dad), Jeff Peacock, Terry Robson (Barb & Mark Camp's friend), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Tina Serrano (Elliott Joyce's grandma), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Vicky Smith (Venner Clarinets), Bruce Unger (Sally Herzog's friend), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Weston (Chelsea Cathcart's friend's baby), Tom (friend of Judi Pavisich), The people of Ukraine, victims of violence, those affected by severe weather

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

**THRIFT SHOP**



The Thrift Shop is OPEN on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. but we will have special bonus hours in December. Come and shop lots of interesting

merchandise. Donations are being accepted during those hours, but please try to limit your donations to what you can carry downstairs.

**Thursday, December 1 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**Friday, December 2 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

**Thursday, December 8 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**Thursday, December 15 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.**

**Thursday, December 22 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**Wednesday, December 28 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**CLOSED THURSDAY DECEMBER 29**

**Friday, December 30 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

Special thanks to all our dedicated volunteers!

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT IS COMING!**



The Sunday School Christmas Pageant will be on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, during our 10 a.m. worship service. We will have parts for everyone!

Brief rehearsals will take place during and after our Sunday School classes on the weeks prior to the pageant. Please plan to stay after church for the dress rehearsal on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP--UPCOMING EVENTS**



The Women's Fellowship will be making candy in November and selling it to members of the congregation in December. We will make dark and light chocolate candies – chocolate with peanuts or raisins or coconut, pretzel bark, and pecan bark.

We will package candy:

- Monday, 11/28, 10 am – 2 pm (bring your own lunch if you wish)

We will sell candy after our worship services:

- Sunday, 12/4/22
- Sunday, 12/11/22

All women of the church are welcome to join the fun and fellowship!

Please contact Barb Fraunfelder with any questions – bfraunfelder@gmail.com or 440-227-9051

**Saturday, December 3 at 2 p.m. – Christmas Tea (Please note change in date.) Sign-up sheet is in Pilgrim Hall.**



**FROM OUR FRIENDS AT SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CHORUS:**

**Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m.** is our Christmas concert, "In a Holiday Mood," at the Berea United Methodist Church (170 Seminary Street in Berea). After 2 years

without a Christmas concert, we are back under the direction of Tom Foley, accompanied by Carol Konet. Many of our own SUCC Chancel Choir members also sing in the Southwest Community Chorus. We hope you will support our singers and celebrate the Christmas season with music! Tickets are \$15 at the door.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR 2 LIVE MUSIC EVENTS AT OUR CHURCH!**

**Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.: Swinging Sounds of Christmas Jazz Concert**, featuring the Strongsville City Jazz Swing Band, followed by a wine reception. Tickets will be \$10 each and are on sale now.

**Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.: Christmas Cantata "Peace"** Our Chancel Choir, in cooperation with the Columbia United Methodist Church choir, and special guest musicians will present this beautiful cantata. There is no admission charge for this program.

**FREE LUNCH FOR ALL**

**Wednesdays 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

We have room for YOU! Please join us for a nutritious meal and warm fellowship.

**GOOD NEWS: Our church has received a Making A Difference Grant from the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ to support our Free Lunch program!**

**GIFT CARDS**

**GET YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING DONE AND BENEFIT THE CHURCH!**

You can order gift cards by calling Jim Joyce at 216-267-5043 in advance with your order. Limited stock is available for purchase on Sunday mornings. **ORDER EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS!**



**NEWS FROM THE KITCHEN**

Reminder: For the safety of our volunteers and friends, when the Strongsville City Schools are closed on a Wednesday for the weather, the Free Lunch for All will not be serving lunch.



Did you know? The "tip jar" you see next to the coffee on Sunday mornings is there for a reason. The "tips" go directly to keeping the coffee, tea, sugar, creamer, etc., supplied. Your generosity is appreciated!

**CHURCH CHRISTMAS MAIL BOX COMING DECEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>...**

To send Christmas greetings to fellow members and friends, the church "mail box" will again be available in the Gathering Area. 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.

**ALTAR POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE**

Order deadline is Sunday, December 4, 2022. Please complete this form and place it the offering plate or give it to the Church office with your cash or check payment. The cost is \$7.00.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Number of plants: \_\_\_\_ X 7.00 / plant = \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to **Strongsville United Church of Christ**, and place it with your order in the offering plate or under the office door.

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

**For Church Treasurer's Records  
 2022 Christmas Poinsettia**

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

Amount enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Offering envelope number: \_\_\_\_\_

Cash/Check No. \_\_\_\_\_

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



**Order deadline is Sunday, December 4, 2022.**

## Strongsville United Church of Christ 2023 Estimate of Giving

In recognition of God's many blessings to me, I am happy to join with others in the following commitment for 2023:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

I plan to give \$\_\_\_\_\_ each

week  month  other \_\_\_\_\_ to be used for

Our Congregation's Ministries and Operations \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to talk with someone from the Endowment Committee about including the church or church-related institution in my Will.

I would like to talk with someone about using the automatic deduction plan from my checking account.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**You may turn in a pledge card at *any* time.**

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**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.

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:

**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.

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**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

### DON'T FORGET!

If you're doing your Christmas shopping online, why not benefit the church while you make your purchases from Amazon? It's incredibly easy! Here's what you do:

1. Instead of typing amazon.com into your search bar, type in **smile.amazon.com**.
2. Select United Church of Christ Congregational Strongsville by clicking this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-1298100>
3. Shop as you would normally—that's it!

Your addresses, billing information, and shopping cart are still saved and your Prime membership privileges still apply. A small percentage of your purchase price will go toward supporting the church.

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**A NOTE OF THANKS—**  
Today, we thank the **the Chancel Choir, Tom Foley, Sharon Heinrich, and Mike Elkins** for sharing their music with us today.

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**A REMINDER:** Pastor Heidi will never, ever, EVER send you a text or email asking you to "do me a favor" or any such language, and purchase gift cards. If you receive such a note, please feel free to reach out directly to Pastor Heidi or Irene to confirm its authenticity. Thank you.

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### IN OUR COMMUNITY



Girl Scouts.

Girl Scout Troop #71363 has placed, and will be stocking and maintaining a weather-proof box with hygiene items on the church's property for people in need. The "Hygiene Library," is located on the lawn facing Royalton Road.

