

December 7, 2025	Order of Worship	8:15 & 9:25 am
Second Sunday of Advent		
Welcome and Announcements		
Prelude	“Comfort Ye”	Handel
Choral Call to Worship (9:25)	“Savior of the Nations Come”	arr. Cornell
*Call to Worship (Based on Isaiah 11:1-10)		
Leader:	Something new and green and living shall burst forth from the stump of Jesse; a branch shall grow from roots once thought dead.	
People:	We are aching for refreshed life, for peace to break in where hope has grown thin.	
Leader:	The Spirit of the Lord rests upon the One who is coming— the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, knowledge and holy reverence.	
People:	We open our arms to welcome Christ, the One who judges with righteousness and brings peace to all creation.	
Leader:	The day of the Lord will find the lamb in the embrace of the wolf, the leopard and the goat will frolic side by side, the calf and the cub will feast together, and a little child will be at the helm of it all, leading with an unburdened heart.	
People:	We come to worship the God who transforms enemies into neighbors, and turns our fear into flourishing.	
Leader:	The Peace of God is the very atmosphere of this Kingdom which is already breaking through!	
People:	May the peace of Christ take root in us, grow through us, and spring verdant in our world.	
All:	Come, let us worship the God of Peace!	
*Opening Hymn	“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (Verses 1-4)	UMH #211
Lighting of the Advent Candle, the Candle of Peace 8:15 - Jessica Van Lehn 9:25 - Jeff & Sue Shear		
Musical Response	“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”	UMH #204
Time of Prayer		
Prayer Response (9:25)		
Giving of Tithes and Offerings		
Offertory (8:15)	“Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord” Carl Fernstrum, solo	Schwartz
(9:25)	“People Look East” Sanctuary Choir	arr. Leavitt
*Doxology Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.		
*Offertory Blessing		
*Gospel Lesson (Response: Thanks be to God.) Luke 3:1-14		
Message	“Waiting on Promises Fulfilled: Peace” Rev. Lindsey Funtik	

Sacrament of Holy Communion
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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

*Closing Hymn	“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”	UMH #218
*Go and Serve		
Choral Benediction (9:25)	“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”	Helmore
		
The flowers for this morning's services are dedicated to the glory of God and are given by: David & Myrna George in honor of their family; Lynn Tinnirello and Leslie Leis in memory of their parents, Chuck & Lita Staley's , wedding anniversary.		
Prayers and sympathy of the church are extended to Andrew & Jackie Kinnen upon the passing of Andrew's father, Edwin Kinnen , on November 28.		
<u>Circle of Concern</u>		
HOSPITALIZED: Sandie Wojnowski, <i>Metro</i>		
IN HOSPICE CARE: Margaret Eakin, <i>home</i> ; Carol Hoglund, <i>Holy Family Home</i>		
AT HOME: Ray Gross, Bob Holub, Dave Schantz, Hildi Fitzpatrick, Robin Szakacs, Betty Tatterson, Scott Halm, Jim Szakacs, Joe Fink, Matt Jenkins, Dave Puffer, Tammy Haseley, Bill Fiesler, Cedric Plavney, Frank & Eleanor McGee, Joyce Bakeman		
FRIENDS & FAMILY: Aubrey Bowers (Linda Voyles' father), Jim Rogers (Ruth Rogers' son)		
OTHER PLACES OF RESIDENCE: Sandy Kepek, <i>Altenheim Rehab</i> ; Jan Wardlaw, <i>Evergreen Gardens</i> ; Rich Smyrak, <i>Brunswick Pointe</i> ; Myrna Nored, John Lenzian, <i>Care Core Willowood</i> ; Craig Comstock, <i>The Avenue</i> ; Sandy Moir, <i>Arden Court</i> ; Wendell Ebersole, <i>Brookdale Senior Living</i> , Sally Householder, <i>Shurmer Place</i> ; Dave McKinnon, <i>Lake Continuing Care Center</i> , Bob Funk, Tom & Marion Mueller, <i>Vitalia North Royalton</i> ; Richard Pinkerton, <i>Vitalia Strongsville</i> ; Jim Brickley, Jan Zverina, Nancy Jones, <i>Kemper House</i> ; John Shanfelt, <i>Wesleyan Village</i> ; Eva Hawk, Sally Spisak, <i>Western Reserve Masonic in Medina</i> ; Ying Lai, <i>Vitalia Rockside</i>		
IN UNIFORM: Bradley Chiseck, Connor Funk, Erich Reese, Elise Schraibman, Noah Polcar, Adam Schraibman, Devin Fullerman, Zak Boggs, Adam Nebenzahl, Phillip Giampapa, Chad & Nicole Droney, Brendon Horn, Bryan Rocks, Jay Rueschhoff, Brandon Vanderwyst, Jerry Pickryl, Bob Waltz, Patrick Helderma, Rebecca Helderma, Jeremy Knowles, Andrew Dyer, Richie Ward		
<u>Online Giving</u>		
		
<u>November 30</u>		
Giving for Ministry: Weekly Receipts		
Regular Ministry Offering 2025	\$30,709	Attendance
Hope Grows Here	\$525	Worship 221
		Sunday School 63

*Please rise in spirit or body. Our different physical abilities mean we will assume different postures of worship.

UMH refers to the United Methodist Hymnal.

Each week's music and streaming are licensed by: CCLI #1090790, CCLI #20259337 and One License #736411-A.

Please note, security cameras are in use in our facility.

WELCOME TO
STRONGSVILLE UMC!

INTRODUCE YOURSELF...
Don't worry, we won't make you stand in front of everybody. Help us get to know you by filling out some basic information and dropping the tear-off in the offering plate later in the service.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME...
To all God's children, we offer the opportunity to explore the love of God and the hope found in Christ through relationships and the study of God's Word with our Children's Ministry. Children and youth ages 3-18 can participate in Sunday School during 9:25 and 11:05 worship services. The sensory friendly class is offered during 11:05. Parents and guardians may leave children ages 0-3 in the nursery during 9:25 and 11:05 and take a pager to worship. They can stay in the nursery where children can play while listening to the worship service as well. We also welcome children in worship and are not fussed if they fuss! To learn about any of these opportunities, contact Ms. Leanne at LeanneG@StrongsvilleUMC.org.

HOW ELSE CAN WE HELP?
Hearing aid devices and large print hymnals are available from our ushers. Children's activity bags are also available. Let us know if you have other needs while you're with us today.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO SUMC THIS MORNING?
___visiting family
___new in community
___looking for a church
___invited by:_____
___other_____

I WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ON:
___Children/Youth Ministries
___Music Ministries
___Small Group Opportunities
___Missions at SUMC
___A Discovery Class where I can learn more about SUMC.

Contact me:

Name:_____

Phone:_____

E-mail:_____

Christmas Poinsettias



Poinsettias will decorate our worship center for a portion of the Christmas season, and can be dedicated in honor of and/or in memory of loved ones.

Orders are due by Sunday, December 14.

Number of plants @ \$13 each: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Envelope # (if applicable): _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

___ I **will not** be picking up my poinsettias.

___ I **will** pick up my plants after the last Christmas Eve service.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

DID YOU KNOW



GENERATIONS OF JOY: Embrace the holiday spirit with a celebration of musical talent across all ages! Enjoy a Christmas Cantata by the Sanctuary Choir, joyful bell ringing and performances by our children on today at 2 pm. See you there!

FOSTERING THE FUTURE: Support Fostering the Future this holiday season! Stop by the Fostering the Future Fundraising Committee table in the atrium today after all services. Donate and receive a beautiful, unique ornament, generously provided by The Pour Inspiration group. Interested in planning the 2026 auction? Reach out to Paige Pierce at ppierce90@gmail.com or Barb Diver at gbdiverjr@gmail.com to join the Committee. Need the perfect Christmas gift? Consider tickets to Choir of Man, a high energy song and dance show at Playhouse Square, with every ticket benefiting Foster the Future Ministries. Tickets for Tuesday, March 3, are \$81.88, just a couple bucks more than the list price and we make \$25 on each ticket. Tickets are limited and are available at <https://ChoirRFKC.eventbrite.com>. If you want to sit with a group, please have one person purchase all the tickets together. Physical tickets will be distributed well ahead of the show. Direct questions to Brian Sheetz, BrianDSheetz@gmail.com

SAM CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION: Join us Friday, December 19 at 11:30 for food and fellowship! Before lunch is served, we will enjoy a program by Jenny Cochran’s jazz group. We will collect donations for ReSource Cleveland of hygiene supplies, but no shampoo. The cost is \$6 at the door. Contact the office to RSVP. See you there!

ANGEL TREE: Support Angel Tree by sponsoring a child online (contact the office for the link). Remember that physical gifts are due back December 14. Thank you, church!

HAT & MITTEN TREE: Donations of hats and gloves are being collected to help as many people along our Blue Bus ministry route as possible. Simply hang your donation on the Christmas tree located outside of the parlor.

CHRISMON TREE: Take a moment to enjoy the beautiful Chrismon ornaments on display in the worship center. Each ornament is a symbol sharing something unique about our faith and all have been lovingly hand-crafted by members of our congregation. For in-depth information about the history of the Chrismon tradition and the symbolism of each piece, pick up a Chrismon booklet in the atrium.

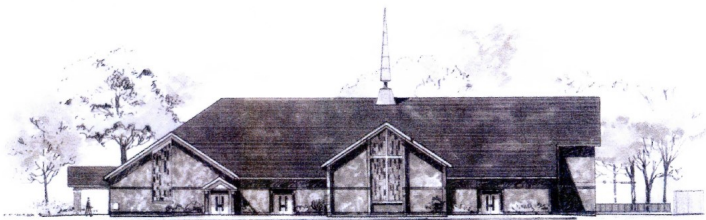
LONGEST NIGHT: We wish to invite anyone hurting to our Longest Night Service that will be held Sunday, December 21, at 7:00 pm in the Worship Center. This service is a time for remembering both loved ones and events that have been a part of our lives in the past, but have now changed. We will worship in a quiet meditative service that makes time for remembering, sharing our hurting places with God, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ.

ADVENT: Join us in awaiting the birth of Christ this advent. Use our Reverse Advent calendar enclosed in your bulletin, pick up a print devotional in the atrium (contact the office for a downloadable version) and join us in worship on Christmas Eve:

- 3 PM:** Traditional service with soloists, nursery care available for children under 3.
- 5 PM:** Livestreamed contemporary service, nursery care available for children under 3.
- 7 PM:** Traditional service with communion.
- 9 PM:** Livestreamed traditional service with bell choir, brass ensemble, sanctuary choir.

NIGHT TO SHINE: Registration for Night to Shine 2026, a prom for people with special needs, is now open! If you would like to volunteer please visit www.baypres.org/night-to-shine. If you would like to make a donation, or want to know more, please contact Shelley Hoffman at sea6shell@att.net or Janet Doak at jrdoak12@gmail.com.

You are invited to the Holy Grounds Café for refreshments and fellowship following each service. If you would like to take a turn serving in the café contact Krissi Swab at kswab10@aim.com.



Worship Schedule

Sunday: Traditional - 8:15, *9:25
Contemporary - *11:05
Monday: Adult Meditative Worship - 7:30 pm

*Livestreamed service

Rev. Abby Auman, Senior Pastor
Rev. Lindsey Funtik, Associate Pastor

Strongsville United Methodist Church
is committed to:

Making and maturing disciples of
Christ for the transformation of the
world.

We do this by:

Showing God’s Love,
Sharing God’s Word,
and
Serving in God’s World

Strongsville United
Methodist Church
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office@strongsvilleumc.org

December 7, 2025



**Generations of Joy
Christmas Concert**
Today, 2 pm

Angel Tree Gifts Due Back
12/14

Youth Christmas Party
12/14, 5 pm

