

Third Sunday of Advent

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“See Amid the Winter’s Snow”

Goss

Choral Call to Worship (9:25)

“Savior of the Nations Come”

arr. Cornell

***Call to Worship** (Based on Isaiah 35)
Leader: The wilderness and the dry land will be glad; the desert will rejoice and blossom.
People: Like a flower, it will blossom abundantly and rejoice with jubilation!
Leader: Stand firm in God’s steadfast love.
People: Do not fear! Here is your God who comes to save you.
Leader: The blind shall see, the deaf shall hear, and the speechless will sing for joy.
People: What is impossible in the world will be possible with God. The Holy Way will be safe for God’s people, and everlasting joy shall be upon their heads!

*Opening Hymn

“Angels From the Realms of Glory”

UMH #220

Lighting of the Advent Candle, the Candle of Joy

8:15 - Sylvia Gerkin

9:25 - Bill & Ellen Atkinson

Musical Response

“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

UMH #204

Time of Prayer

Prayer Response (9:25)
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.

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory (8:15)

“Hallelujah in the Hard Things”

Torwalt

(9:25)

“The Angel Gabriel”

arr. Leavitt

Carl Fernstrum, solo

Sanctuary Choir

*Doxology

UMH #95

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 1:26-57

Message

“Waiting on Promises Fulfilled: Joy”

Rev. Nichole Fewell

Reception of New Members (9:25)
Congregation Response: **We welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the Body of Christ, and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to share in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

*Closing Hymn

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

UMH #224

*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: **Tammy Haseley** in memory of her father, Robert E. Lee; **Tom & Barbara Wladyka** in memory of uncle **Joe Bochenek**.

Prayers and sympathy of the church are extended to: **Tammy Haseley** upon the passing of her step-daughter, **Pam Shanahan**, on December7; **Richard Hoglund** upon the passing of his wife, **Carol Hoglund**, on December 9.

We welcome and celebrate the new members joining at the 9:25 and 11:05 services today: **Whitney Kaster, Sandy Kelley, Patrick & Carol Schuette, Marge Srack, and Ellen Wagner.**

Circle of Concern

HOSPITALIZED: Gary Wojnowski, *Southwest*; Sandie Wojnowski, *Metro*

IN HOSPICE CARE: Margaret Eakin, *home*; Carol Hoglund, *Holy Family Home*

AT HOME: Ray Gross, Bob Holub, Dave Schantz, Hildi Fitzpatrick, Robin Szakacs, Betty Tatterson, Scott Halm, Jim Szakacs, Matt Jenkins, Dave Puffer, Joyce Bakeman

FRIENDS & FAMILY: Aubrey Bowers (Linda Voyles’ father), Jim Rogers (Ruth Rogers’ son)

OTHER PLACES OF RESIDENCE: Sandy Kepke, *Altenheim Rehab*; Jan Wardlaw, *Evergreen Gardens*; Rich Smyrak, *Brunswick Pointe*; Myrna Nored, John Lenzian, *Care Core Willowood*; Craig Comstock, *The Avenue*; Sandy Moir, *Arden Court*; Wendell Ebersole, *Brookdale Senior Living*, Sally Householder, *Shurmer Place*; Dave McKinnon, *Lake Continuing Care Center*, Bob Funk, Tom & Marion Mueller, *Vitalia North Royaltan*; Richard Pinkerton, *Vitalia Strongsville*; Jim Brickley, Jan Zverina, Nancy Jones, *Kemper House*; John Shanfelt, *Wesleyan Village*; Eva Hawk, Sally Spisak, *Western Reserve Masonic in Medina*; Ying Lai, *Vitalia Rockside*

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 Helderman, Rebecca Helderman, Jeremy Knowles, Andrew Dyer, Richie Ward

Online Giving



December 7

Giving for Ministry: Weekly Receipts		Attendance	
Regular Ministry Offering 2025	\$30,264	Worship	320
Hope Grows Here	\$4,350	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.

Today is the last day to order.

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 ?

EQUAL EXCHANGE: Don't forget to visit the Equal Exchange table after all services today and buy your coffee, hot chocolate, nuts, and cooking supplies for the holidays. Candy bars make great stocking stuffers!

SAM CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION: Join us Fridayat 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). Reminder: physical gifts are due back today! To join in the fun of the gift wrapping and/or delivery, please contact Dave Thomas at 440-665-3206. 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.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP: Join us for our next discussion on Thursday, December 18 at 10 am of "The Secret Gift" by Ted Gup and "The Santa Claus Girl" by Patricia Goodwin. Read one or both. See you there!

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.

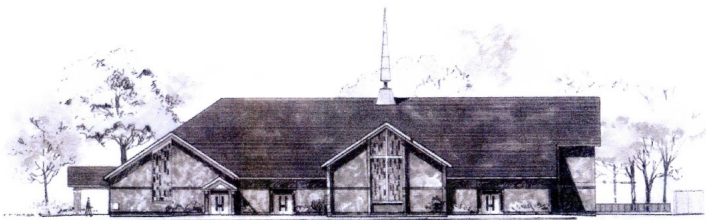
ADVENT: Join us in awaiting the birth of Christ this advent. Use our Reverse Advent calendar enclosed in your bulletin, pick up a print devotional in the atrium (contact the office for a downloadable version) and join us in worship on Christmas Eve:

- 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.

FOSTERING THE FUTURE: 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

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.



Strongsville United Methodist Church
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December 14, 2025

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



"What Sweeter Music"
Choral Cantata
Today, 4 pm
at Christ the Redeemer Church

Shield of Faith: LEO Group
12/15, 7:30 pm

Men's Group
12/18, 6:30 pm

