

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

(8:15)

“Love Has Come”

Carl Fernstrum, solo

Bible

(9:25)

“Shades of Forest Green”

Crossroad Ringers

arr. Waugh

Choral Call to Worship

(9:25)

“Savior of the Nations Come”

arr. Cornell

***Call to Worship** (Based on Isaiah 58)
Leader: Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke,
People: to stop pointing fingers, and to stop speaking evil?
Leader: Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house;
People: when we see the naked, to cover them and not to hide ourselves from our own kin?
Leader: Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly;
People: our vindicator shall go before us; the glory of the Lord shall be our rear guard.
Leader: Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
People: we shall cry for help,
All: and God will say, “Here I am.” And we shall be called the repairers of the breach, the restorers of streets to live in.

*Opening Hymn

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

UMH #240

Lighting of the Advent Candle, the Candle of Love

8:15 - Jeanne Colbert

9:25 - Jake & Abbigail Bruder

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)

“Joseph’s Lullaby”

Carl Fernstrum, solo

Millard/Bannister

(9:25)

“There Were Shepherds Abiding in the Field”,

“And Lo! The Angel of the Lord Came Upon Them”, “And the Angel Said Unto Them”, “ And Suddenly There Was With the Angel”, “Glory to God”

Sanctuary Choir; Paula Fultz and Melissa Montgomery, soloists

Handel

*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.)

Matthew 1:18-25

Message

“Waiting on Promises Fulfilled: Love”

Rev. Abby Auman

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

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

UMH #229

*Go and Serve

Choral Benediction

(9:25)

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Helmore

We welcome and celebrate the new members joining at the 9:25 service today: **Sandy Kelley and Marge Srack.**

Circle of Concern

HOSPITALIZED:

IN HOSPICE CARE: Sandie Wojnowski, Margaret Eakin, *home*

AT HOME: Gary Wojnowski, Jack Eck, Tammy Haseley, 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 Lendzian, *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 Royalton*; 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 Helderma, Rebecca Helderma, Jeremy Knowles, Andrew Dyer, Richie Ward

Online Giving



December 14			
Giving for Ministry: Weekly Receipts			
Regular Ministry Offering 2025	\$34,429	Attendance	
Hope Grows Here	\$100	Worship	151
		Sunday School	27

*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
STRONGVILLE 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:_____

Ministry Opportunities



Let us know how you would like to get involved. Fill out this tear off and place it in the offering plate.

_____I would like to serve communion.

COMING SOON: SUMDISCIPLIE
SUMDisciple will be a monthly digital resource sheet that will bring ideas for spiritual growth directly to your inbox. Each month will fall under a theme and will include such things as:

- Scripture passages to ponder
- Prayers and liturgies
- Further reading
- Action steps
- Songs, media, and more!

_____SIGN ME UP FOR THE SUMDISCIPLIE MONTHLY EMAIL LIST.

Name:_____

Phone:_____

E-mail:_____

DID YOU KNOW ?

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.

LONGEST NIGHT: We wish to invite anyone hurting to our Longest Night service that will be held tonight 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 and pick up a print devotional in the atrium (contact the office for downloadable versions) 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.

HOLIDAY SPECIAL HANDMADE GREETING CARD SALE: Check the display by the Welcome Center for an array of beautifully handmade greeting cards! For the holiday season, cards are 4 for \$10 and proceeds benefit SUMC’s Fostering the Future ministries. Pick up a premade bundle of 4 or choose your own. Pay by cash or check in the lock box or see the sign for Venmo information.

WINTER SMALL GROUPS: Pastor Lindsey and a team of faithful volunteers have put together a comprehensive program for our winter session of Adult Discipleship small groups here at SUMC. For offerings that are designed to take you deeper in your faith and community, see the full Adult Discipleship catalog in the atrium. You may sign up for classes and groups in the atrium or online by visiting strongsvilleumc.org/small-group-registration.

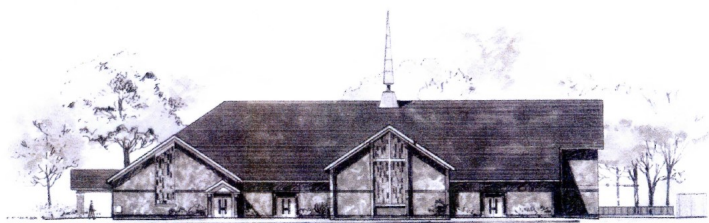
BISHOP JUNG VISITS SUMC: Join us Sunday, January 18 for special MLK weekend worship services featuring our Ohio Episcopal Area Bishop, Hee-Soo Jung, whose ministry centers on strengthening interracial cooperation in the church. You won’t want to miss this! Please note: we will not have an 8:15 service on January 18. Both 9:25 and 11:05 services will proceed as usual in person and via livestream. See you there!

COMMUNION: Serving communion to your community is a special honor. If you are willing to serve communion, please check the box on the tear off.

FAMILIES ANONYMOUS: THIS is a 12-step program for relatives and friends of individuals with substance abuse issues. It addresses addiction as a family illness, helping members learn to stop contributing to the problem and instead become part of the solution. Participants can find peace and serenity through the FA program amidst chaos. FA meets every Thursday at 7 pm in the SUMC conference room.

LOST AND FOUND: Looking for something lost at the church? Check the lost and found bin located in the Manna room!

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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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



Longest Night Service
Today, 7 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
12/24, 3, 5, 7 & 9 pm

Church Office Closed
12/24 & 25

