

Congregational Calendar

Your financial support makes all of this happen!

SUNDAY, December 9

9/10:30/11:59 Worship (Sanctuary)
9:00 am Pathfinders (Chapel)
9:00 am The Nine (Youth Room)
9:45 am Friends Class (102)
10/11:30 am Blood Pressure Clinic (Office)
10:30 am Breakfast Club (Youth Room)
3:30 pm CC Christmas Program (Sanctuary)
5:00 pm Family Promise Dinner (FH)
6:00 pm Impact (Villeneuve's Home)
6:00 pm Handbell Choir

MONDAY, December 10

9:00 am Advent Breakfast (Laurel Lake)
10:30 am Advent Worship (Hudson Grande)
1:00 pm Advent Worship (Maplewood-CF)
2:00 pm Advent Worship (Maplewood-TB)
3:00 pm Advent Worship (American House)
5:00 pm Family Promise Dinner (FH)
7:00 pm Stew Crew (304)

TUESDAY, December 11

12:30 pm ROMEOS (Lager & Vine)
1:30 pm Congregational Conversations (LL)
5:00 pm Yoga (Youth Room)
5:00 pm Family Promise (FH)
6:30 pm Children's Ministries Board (offsite)
7:00 pm Membership Board (301)
7:00 pm Trustees (102B)
7:00 pm Personnel Committee (304)

WEDNESDAY, December 12

9:00 am WOW (FH)
3:00 pm D&D (Youth Room & FH)
5:00 pm Family Promise Dinner (Act. Rm.)
5:00 pm Wonderful Wednesday (FH)
5:00 pm revoice (Choir Room)
7:00 pm Chancel Choir (Choir Room)
7:00 pm Council (304)
8:30 pm Men's Ensemble (Choir Room)

THURSDAY, December 13

5:00 pm Family Promise Dinner (FH)
7:00 pm NAMI (102)
7:00 pm Women's Ensemble (Choir Room)

FRIDAY, December 14

5:00 pm Family Promise Dinner (FH)

SATURDAY, December 15

10:00 am AlAnon-Newcomers (120)
11:00 am AlAnon (102)
11:00 am Alateen (Youth Room)
5:00 pm Family Promise Dinner (FH)
7:00 pm Christkindl Concert (Sanctuary)

Today's Scripture: Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth;⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

WELCOME TO FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

SUNDAY, December 9, 2018

Wherever you are on your journey... you are welcome here.

Guests are invited to participate in any of the church's varied activities.

Contact the Church Office (330) 650-4048 for more information
or check off your interests on the back of the Connection Card.

Worship Opportunities During Advent

Sundays in Advent: December 9 and 16 ~ Worship at 9:00, 10:30 and 11:59 AM

December 23 ~ Single Worship at 10:00 AM

Longest Night Service: December 20 at 7:00 PM

December 24 Christmas Eve Services: 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 11:00 pm

December 30: Worship at 9:00, 10:30, 11:59 AM

Advent Breakfast at Laurel Lake: Monday, December 10, 9:00 AM

Advent Event at Hudson Grande: Monday, December 10, 10:30 AM

Advent Event at Maplewood-Cuyahoga Falls: Monday, December 10, 1:00 PM

Advent Event at Maplewood-Twinsburg: Monday, December 10, 2:00 PM

Advent Event at American House: Monday, December 10, 3:00 PM

Christmas Caroling! - Join us for Christmas Caroling after our 10:00 am (single) worship service on **December 23**. Come to church dressed for the weather and ready to **SING!**

Christmas Angel Tree - Once again this year, we will have the opportunity to help make Christmas a little brighter for the children at Findley Community Learning Center and SWAG in the Summit Lake neighborhood. Please visit the Christmas tree in Fellowship Hall where you can select a tag identifying the age of the student and a few gift suggestions. Unwrapped gifts can be dropped off at the church no later than **Friday, December 14**.

Today's Flowers

The Sanctuary flowers are given by Robin Benoit in loving memory of her sister, Judy Moore Ross.

Children's Ministry

For opportunities in Children's Ministry, contact Dee Buchanan or Katie Morgan:
(330) 650-4048, ext. 301 or email dbuchanan@hudsonucc.org; kmorgan@hudsonucc.org.

Can you help us teach the greatest story ever told? We are looking for some incredible people to help teach and spend time with some amazing children! The open slots for **December 16, December 30** and **January 6** are listed below:

9:00 am Toddler-K Teacher and Toddler-K Shepherd
1st - 5th Grade Shepherd

10:30 am Fun & Godly Stuff Teacher Toddler/K Crafts & Activities Teacher
Pre-K/K Shepherd 1st Grade Shepherd 5th Grade Shepherd

Please contact Katie Morgan if you can help (kmorgan@hudsonucc.org).

Children's Mission Project - 2018 Holiday Toy Room Program

Children served by Summit County Children Services need your help! Please donate **NEW** toys or gift cards for a child this holiday season. Through the agency's **HOLIDAY TOY ROOM PROGRAM**, parents, foster parents, grandparents, etc. are able to select gifts for the children in their care. This extra support makes a tremendous difference! *The greatest need this year is for toys and items for tween girls, ages 10-13. Examples are hair-spray, body lotion, nail polish, perfume, hair clips and ribbons.* Donations will be collected downstairs under the Christmas tree in the Children's Center. **Donations must be made by December 16 so the gifts will be available when the toy room opens.**

Birthday Party for Jesus - Celebrate Jesus' birthday with games, songs, crafts, and of course, birthday cake!

Who: All Preschoolers - Kindergarteners

When: **Sunday, December 16** during the 9:00 am and 10:30 am worship services

Where: Drop off and pick up in the Activity Room (not the classrooms)

RSVP: **JUST JOIN THE PARTY!** Come help us celebrate!

Email jbarden@hudsonucc.org to volunteer. If you would like to bring an unwrapped toy to donate to Summit County Children's Services Toy Room (our Children's Ministries Christmas Mission), we would greatly appreciate it!

Offering Envelopes - If you would like to receive 2019 offering envelopes, please sign up at the table in the hallway outside the Church Office. The offering envelopes will be available starting **December 9** in the workroom. Questions? Contact Diana Finkes at dfinkes@hudsonucc.org or 330-650-4048.

ACME Cash Register Receipts - It is that time of year, again! Look for the words **Community Cashback** at the bottom of your receipts along with a dollar value. Bring the entire receipt to the church and drop it in the marked box in the hallway. Register receipts must be current and have the **Community Cashback** notation on them dated **August 9 to December 29, 2018**. Thank you for supporting our Women's Ministries.

Volunteer Opportunities in Friends' Class! Our church has supported **Friends** since 1976 and **we need your help** to keep it going!

- We follow the school calendar year, with no classes on the major holidays.
- Music therapy is the first Sunday of each month, October - May.
- Communion is provided by Rev. Hockstra, the third Sunday of each month.
- We have three teams of teachers/assistants who rotate during the school calendar year.
- We meet **Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:45 am**, each team only teaches a few weeks, twice a year.
- We use children's Bible stories, a craft or art project, music and lots of smiles and hugs.

Please contact Sandy Miller at sandyxd91@gmail.com or 216-310-1489 for more information. Thank you!

Youth Ministry

For Youth opportunities, contact Callie Baylor cbaylor@hudsonucc.org or Amy Baldwin abaldwin@hudsonucc.org.

Impact - Our Christmas party is **TONIGHT!** Join us at **6:00 pm** at Burke Villeneuve's house - wear your best Christmas gear and bring a tasty treat. And of course, remember your white elephant gift. See you tonight!

D&D - We are also celebrating Christmas this week! Come to church on **Wednesday** at **3:00 pm**. Christmas jammies and a white elephant gift are highly encouraged!

TPP - Registration just closed! We are so excited for this year's middle school mission trip. If you missed the deadline, contact Callie ASAP - we have a few spots left!

Breakfast Club/The Nine - Hey 6th - 12th graders! Come grab a donut in the Youth Room and stay for Sunday discussions, this week and next during the 9:00 and 10:30 services. **There will be no Breakfast Club/The Nine on December 23 and 30.** We will resume on January 6.

Coffee Hour during the month of December is provided through the generosity of the members of the Mission Board.

Music Ministry

Women's Ensemble - Our new pop-up Women's Ensemble will continue, having one more singing opportunity in 2018. Please join us for a short hour of Advent singing and fellowship on **Thursday, December 13** from 7:00-8:00 pm with a performance on **Sunday December 16** for both the 9:00 and 10:30 services. Please be in touch if you need childcare secured for these dates. If you're looking for a way to reconnect with your creative side, meet new people, or try something new, please join us! Can't make all rehearsals? No problem! Email Charlotte at cp plank@hudsonucc.org to get involved.

Christkindl Concert! On **Saturday, December 15**, the Chancel Choir, Men's Ensemble and Charlotte Plank at the organ will present a one hour concert of Christmas music. The concert will feature music of German origin in conjunction with the city-wide celebration of *Christkindl*, sponsored by Destination Hudson, in collaboration with our sister city, Landsberg, Germany. The concert begins at **7:00 pm** and admission is free.

Music Notes:

- The 9:00 anthem features a macaronic Christmas text, which means that it is sung in two different languages; typically the vernacular of the region and Latin. In this case, the vernacular language is German.
- The 10:30 anthem finds our children from Wonderful Wednesday singing the finale of their Christmas Eve pageant, *The Great Angel Mystery*. Congregationalist Marty Haugen, like Stephen Sondheim, is fond of writing lots of words, so pay close attention to the lyrics as they fly by!
- Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) wrote *Behold a Star from Jacob Shining* for the unfinished oratorio *Christus*. The text is taken from the book of Numbers, a passage that is considered by many to be a prophecy concerning Christ's birth.
- Our special music today is presented by sopranos, Susan Wozniak and Emily Updegraff. They are singing Henry Purcell's *Sound the Trumpet*. The text, like Advent itself, has a double meaning, pointing to Christ's birth as well as his coming at the end of time. Incidentally, a *hautbois* is the original name for an oboe!

NEW 2019 FLOWER CHART The 2019 Flower Chart is now hanging on the hallway bulletin board. If you would like to dedicate sanctuary flowers in loving memory or in honor of a loved one, sign up today!

Outreach Ministries

Trinity Clothing and Household Mission accepting fall and winter items - *Please place your donations in the blue bin by the coat rack or the wooden cabinet in the stairwell. No food, please!*

Greatest Needs (in good, re-usable condition):

- Flannel or percale sheet sets - Twin, Full, Queen, King
- Blankets, comforters - Twin, Full, Queen, King
- Towels, washcloths, sleeping pillows (new or very good condition)
- Throw rugs
- Pots and pans, kitchen items (no knives)
- Boots, gloves, hats, scarves for all ages and sizes
- Preschool and Toddler clothing, sizes 2T - 5 (we never have enough!)
- Shoes - men, women, children
- Jeans for men (especially smaller waist sizes)
- Sweaters and sweatshirts for adults and children

Questions? Please contact Sandy Miller at sandyxd91@gmail.com. Thank you!

Need a ride to an appointment? Called to Care is here for you. Just let us know! Called to Care transportation volunteers seek to help people in times of need, like an illness or injury. They provide church members and friends with transportation for occasional needs, like a medical appointment or treatment. **Coordinator Tom Hudson will connect you with a driver (330) 650-1199 or tghudson@juno.com.**

Findley School is collecting **Box Tops for Education**. Please place in the marked envelope by the Findley bin near the coat racks. Thank you!

AmazonSmile - Did you know your purchases can make a difference? AmazonSmile donates to First Congregational Church of Hudson when you do your holiday shopping at smile.amazon.com/ch/34-0762813. SmileAmazon is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on smile.amazon.com, the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate a percentage of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

Adult Faith Formation

For opportunities in Adult Faith Formation, contact Steve Hockstra, (330) 650-4048 or shockstra@hudsonucc.org.

Pathfinders - Please join us **today, 9:00-10:30 am** as we discuss topics such as “love of hypocrites” and “grouchy givers” from the Advent Devotional, *Come, Lord Jesus*. Contact Marie Libby for more information: mclibby64@aol.com.

ROMEOs (Retired Older Men Eating Out) will meet at **12:30 pm, Tuesday, December 11** at Lager and Vine for lunch and fellowship. Contact Henry Vigor for more information (hkvigor@windstream.net).

Women’s Short Term Bible Study, Wednesdays, January 9 - February 27, 12:30-2:00 pm OR 6:45-8:15 pm. Women of FCCH, we’ve got the perfect New Year’s resolution for you! Resolve now to try an organized Bible Study for the first time, or to get back into regular Bible Study, or to participate in a new Bible Study in 2019! Join us as we dive into God’s word together using Kelly Minter’s “No Other Gods: Confronting our Modern Day Idols / The Unrivaled Pursuit of Christ.” Idols are often obvious – money, power, or fame. Sometimes idols are subtler in the form of sweet loved ones, Instagramable interiors, or busy seasons of ministry. This study will challenge women to evaluate modern-day idols and embrace a deeper, more meaningful relationship with Jesus. Through daily exercises and weekly videos we will explore God’s word and strengthen our faith together. All are welcome! Invite a friend and mark your calendars now!

- Workbooks provided for all participants
- Evening childcare available upon request
- Sign-ups via the Connection Card throughout December

Questions? Contact Tracy Zappone: pzappone@yahoo.com.

SoulCollage® EXPERIENCE: Prayerfulness and Self-Discovery....

- Do you aspire to connect more closely to that which is holy within?
- Would you enjoy exploring your spirituality through the use of imagery, imagination and intuition?
- Are you open to experiencing your “self” and spirit in a playful way?

On **Saturday, January 26, 9:30-11:30 a.m.**, OR **Sunday, January 27, 12:30-2:30 p.m.**, Kelly Berger will introduce us to the quiet, reflective, and illuminating process of SoulCollage®, where participants prayerfully create unique, personal and meaningful collaged cards. No artistic ability or fee is required! Light refreshments will be provided. Child care is available upon request. Please register via the church office or Connection Card. Questions? Kelly Berger: KACBerger@aol.com.

The Bridge Club: Mothers of teens and young adults meet monthly for friendship and support as they transition to a new phase of life. We are planning another great winter retreat! Contact Katie Morgan for more information: kmorgan@hudsonucc.org.

Clergy-Led Bible Study - “Jesus Changed the World!” on **Thursdays from January 10 - February 28, 10:00-11:30 am OR 7:00 –8:30 pm.** The Reverend Steve Hockstra will offer this eight-week study of the first book of the New Testament, Matthew, which covers the life, death and resurrection, and ministry of the person who changed the world! For more information, contact Steve: shockstra@hudsonucc.org.

Small Home Study Groups - Connecting ... Equipping ... Transforming

- Are you interested in joining or forming a small home study group?
 - Do you want to explore the possibility of growing in your faith and connect with others?
 - Are you simply curious about what a small home group might be able to offer?
- Small home study groups offer social connections, trust, faith, fun and fellowship and are now forming. If you are interested in learning more or have questions, contact Bob Carleton: bobcarleton@adjob.com.

Adult Ministry

For questions, contact Kathy Yeakley, (330) 650-4048, or kyeakley@hudsonucc.org.

FYI (Feeling Young Inside) luncheon and program on **Monday, December 17 at noon** will feature Detective Kaija Jeantet. The detective’s topic will be “Scamming and Internet Safety”. Do you know someone, or have you been the victim of a phone or internet scam? Come and listen to tips on ways to prevent telephone and internet fraud. Sign up on the Connection Card on Sunday, call the church office (330-650-4048) or email Kathy.

Yoga with Cynthia Field is available every **Tuesday** evening, **5:00-6:00 pm** in the Youth Room on the 3rd floor. This is a gentle class. There is no pressure to do more than you are able to do! Everyone is welcome, whenever you can attend. Goodwill donations accepted.

Blood Pressure Clinic - Stop by the church office **TODAY** after the 9:00 and 10:30 services.

Weekly health tips can be found on the Health Ministry bulletin board in the hallway.

Need help getting started on REALM®? Questions about Recurring Giving? Visit the REALM® Information Table in Fellowship Hall after the 9:00 and 10:30 services.