

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

A United Church of Christ Congregation

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

\* Congregation may stand

**Prelude** *Gesu Bambino* Pietro Yon

**Welcome**

**Bringing in the Light of Christ**

Morgan Donaldson, Sofia Martinez

**Ringing in the Joy of Advent**

Maya Updegraff, Parker Zedak

**Introit**

J. S. Bach

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

*Chancel Choir*

**The Candle of Love**

**Jane Penny**, *Council Clerk*

Leader: So let us light candles.

**People: Candles of joy, despite all sadness,**

Leader: Candles of hope where despair keeps watch.

**People: Candles of courage for fears ever present,**

Leader: Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,

**People: Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens.**

Leader: Candles of love to inspire all our living,

**People: Candles that will burn all the year long.**

\* **Hymn 114**

VENI EMMANUEL

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (*all verses*)

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

**Prayer of Confession** (*unison*)

God of unconditional love, when we measure our loves against yours, we see your love is vulnerable, helpless as a new-born babe, while our love is often cautious, well defended. Your love is offered humbly, but our love too often seeks to impress with showy devotion. Your love is free; ours comes with strings attached. Loving God, forgive us, and teach us to love as you have loved us. Hear us pray... (*moments for silent reflections*)

**Words of Assurance**

**Anthem**

14<sup>th</sup> C. German, arr. M. Praetorius

*In Dulce Jubilo*

*In sweet rejoicing, now sing and be glad!*

*Our hearts' joy lies in the manger;*

*and it shines like the sun in the mother's lap.*

*You are the beginning and the end!*

*Ann Scott - contralto, Tom Scott - baritone*

**Children's Message and Lord's Prayer** Dee Buchanan

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

\* **Hymn 153**

GREENSLEEVES

What Child Is This, Who, Laid to Rest

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Peter Wiley**

**Offertory**

traditional German

Christ Was Born on Christmas Day

*Heather Carlson - soprano, David Burr - baritone*

\* **Doxology**

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise Him all creatures here below.**

**Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts.**

**Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\* **Prayer of Dedication**

**Scripture Lesson**

**Luke 1:39-55, pg 49 NT**

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

**Jeanette Brodersen**

\* **Hymn 149** It Came Upon the Midnight Clear CAROL

\* **Benediction**

\* **Passing of the Peace**

**Postlude**

Toccata in Seven

John Rutter

*First Congregational Church  
Welcomes Our Guests*

*We are thankful you are sharing  
in worship with us this morning.*

*Every Sunday, our 10:30 and 11:59 services  
are also live streamed on our website.*

**First-time visitors**, please take a  
**Welcome Bag** from outside of the sanctuary.

**Large print bulletins** and **hearing assist devices**  
are available from ushers.

**Following worship**, clergy will greet worshippers  
in the narthex or you may also exit the sanctuary  
through the door to the left of the chancel.

**Parents With Young Children**

During the **10:30 and 11:59 worship services**,  
the Alcove is available for parents with young children  
who would like to **view the worship service on  
live stream television**. Please feel free  
at any time to leave the sanctuary and make your  
way to the Alcove, located near the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor elevator.  
Check with an usher if you need assistance.

**An activity basket** is available at the back of the  
sanctuary for the enjoyment of young children.

Please join us in Fellowship Hall  
for coffee and fellowship after worship.

**Church Staff**

The Rev. Dr. Peter Wiley ..... Senior Pastor  
The Rev. Jeanette Brodersen..... Associate Pastor  
The Rev. Steve Hockstra ..... Associate Pastor  
Callie Baylor ..... Director of Youth Ministries  
Dee Buchanan ..... Director of Children’s Ministries  
Katie Morgan ..... Associate Director of Children’s Ministries  
Jen Barden ..... Coordinator of Young Families  
Dr. Tom Scott ..... Director of Music Ministries  
Charlotte Beers Plank ..... Organist  
Kathy Yeakley ..... Director of Health Ministries  
Sue Wimer ..... Director of First Serve & Outreach  
Emily Lopick ..... Director of Stewardship & Communication  
Diana Finkes ..... Business Manager  
Lora Eureka ..... Office Manager  
Laurie Berendsen..... Office Associate  
Amy Baldwin ..... Office Associate  
Bill Schmidt ..... Facilities Manager  
Laurence Frese ..... Custodial Manager

*Adjunct Clergy:*

*The Rev. Dr. Richard Clewell, Adjunct Minister*  
*The Rev. Jonathan Dodson, Chaplain, Laurel Lake Retirement Community*  
*The Rev. Dr. Janet Ross, Mission for Haiti/Amistad Chapel*

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

47 Aurora Street, Hudson, OH 44236

PHONE (330) 650-4048

WEBSITE: [hudsonucc.org](http://hudsonucc.org)

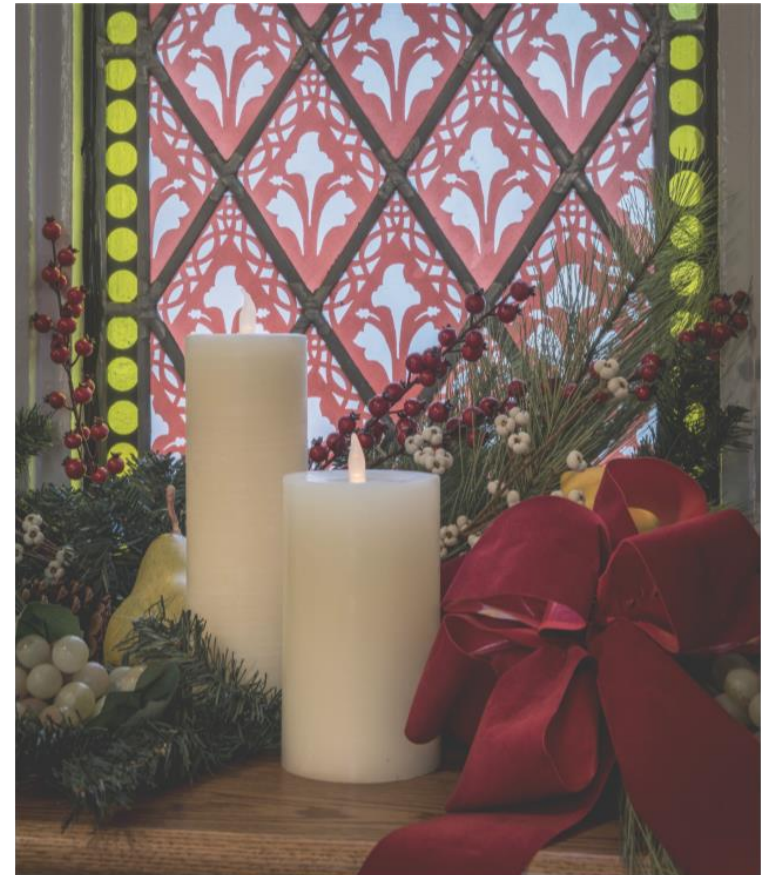
Find us on FACEBOOK: *First Congregational Church of Hudson*

CHILDREN’S CENTER

*Childcare & Preschool*

PHONE (330) 342-3977

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
United Church of Christ



**Fourth Sunday in Advent**

**Sunday, December 23, 2018**

**10:00 am**

*(Join us next Sunday at 9:00, 10:30 or 11:59)*