

## Congregational Calendar

*Your financial support makes all of this happen!*

### **SUNDAY, August 11**

9:00 am Outdoor Worship (Courtyard)  
9:00 am The 9 (Youth Room)  
9:45 am Bible Carrier Training (Alcove)  
10:30/11:59 Worship (Sanctuary)  
10:30 am Breakfast Club (Youth Room)  
6:00 pm Frosh Event (off site)  
7:00 pm FYI Event (Blossom Music Center)

### **MONDAY, August 12**

7:00 pm Mission Board (304)  
7:00 pm Stew Crew (301)

### **TUESDAY, August 13**

12:30 pm ROMEO's (Lager & Vine)  
1:00 pm Walking Warriors (Barlow CC)  
1:30 pm Congregational Conversations (LL)  
7:00 pm Trustees (301)

### **WEDNESDAY, August 14**

9:00 am WOW (FH)  
10:30 am Tai Chi (FH)

### **THURSDAY, August 15**

9:30 am Prayer Quilting (102)  
1:00 pm Happy Hikers (TBD)  
7:00 pm Endowment Meeting (304)

### **SATURDAY, August 17**

10:30 am Al-Anon Newcomers (120)  
11:00 am Al-Anon Meeting (102)  
11:00 am Alateen (Youth Room)

**Coffee Hour** in August is provided through the generosity of members of the Adult Faith Formation Board.

### ***Today's Scripture: Luke 12:32-40***

<sup>32</sup>"Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup>Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. <sup>35</sup>"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup>be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup>Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup>If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. <sup>39</sup>"But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup>You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

## WELCOME TO FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

*SUNDAY, August 11, 2019*

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

Guests are encouraged to participate in any of the church's varied activities or support groups. Contact the Church Office (330) 650-4048 for more information or check off your interests on the back of the Connection Card.

**ShE is coming on August 26!** ShE, FCCH's new group for moms with elementary-aged and younger children, is hosting its first meeting **August 26 at 7:00 pm** in the Youth Room. ShE is a place to grow and re-energize with both large and small group discussions and to share concerns and joys. ShE meets **every other Monday from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.** Childcare will be available for those who need it. Please contact Jen Barden at [JBarden@HudsonUCC.org](mailto:JBarden@HudsonUCC.org) with questions or to request childcare.

**Water!** We encourage you to **collect water** from a place this summer that has special meaning for you and to bring it to church on **Sunday, September 15**. On that day, we will pour all our water together and bless it as our holy water for the upcoming year. We'll use it in baptisms, confirmation, and other special blessings, adding it to water collected in the last two years. **Pick up your water bottle** from the baskets outside the sanctuary doors and at the Welcome Table by the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor elevator entrance.

**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 8 to December 28, 2019**. Thank you for helping us with this very easy fundraiser for the continued support of the **Women's Ministries of First Congregational Church**.

### ***Today's Flowers***

The Sanctuary flowers are given by Mackenzie Hester in loving memory of her grandfather, Jacob W. Balsiger, Sr.

## Adult Faith Formation

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

### **Exploring Migration: a Faith Journey - Thursdays, September 12 - October 31,**

**9:30 am - 12:00 pm or 7:00 - 9:30 pm.** Join others to explore the complex issue of global migration through the lens of our Christian faith. This *Just Faith* program includes immersion and action opportunities, as well as readings, and is co-sponsored by FCCH and St. Mary Church. Register or find more information on August Sundays in Fellowship Hall or contact Nikki Wingerson ([nikkil@akron.edu](mailto:nikkil@akron.edu)).

**Dinners for Eight** - Meet new people and strengthen connections within our FCCH faith community during three adult dining opportunities **September - December!** After the first "arranged date" each group picks their own time, location and host. Register or find more information on August Sundays in Fellowship Hall or contact Joanna Menolasino ([meno1@aol.com](mailto:meno1@aol.com)).

**River of Fire Book Review and Discussion** - Sister Helen Prejean, author of *Dead Man Walking* and advocate for the poor and marginalized, will discuss her new book "River of Fire: My Spiritual Journey". Please join our group for the author's presentation at the Hudson library on **Thursday, September 19** and then our own group discussion at Aladdin's Restaurant following the presentation. **You must personally register on the library's website** under Programs & Events/Adult Events in order to attend. Registration is on a "first-come" basis and is expected to fill up fast. Also, RSVP to Nancy Gasparovic at [nkgasparovic@gmail.com](mailto:nkgasparovic@gmail.com).

**Centering Prayer** is a contemplative way to pray, offering a deeper relationship with God. Based on Thomas Keating's "Open Heart, Open Mind", Centering Prayer utilizes mindfulness teachings and scripture. Join Kelly Berger and Julie Alexander for a free, introductory session with a certified teacher from The Contemplative Outreach Center of Cleveland, on **Saturday, September 28, 10:00 am - noon**, in Conference Room 301. Register or find more information on August Sundays in Fellowship Hall or contact Kelly Berger: [KACBerger@aol.com](mailto:KACBerger@aol.com).

**Congregational Conversations** - This weekly Bible study, led by Rev. Steve Hockstra meets **every Tuesday** from **1:30-2:30 pm** at Laurel Lake Mixing Place #1. Contact Steve Hockstra ([shockstra@hudsonucc.org](mailto:shockstra@hudsonucc.org)) for more information.

**Dopplebockers** is a casual discussion and fellowship group led by Reverend Jon Dodson for dads of elementary kids and younger and it is gearing up for a great Fall! Our next meeting is **August 22 at 7:00 pm** at Hop Tree Brewery (1297 Hudson Gate Drive, Hudson, Ohio 44236). Join us when you can, as you are! RSVP to [JBarden@hudsonucc.org](mailto:JBarden@hudsonucc.org).

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**Family Promise** is an inter-faith program that provides emergency shelter to families in crisis due to homelessness. **FCCH's Family Promise Host Week starts TODAY!** There remains a **critical need for volunteers** as we host 3 - 4 families overnight, throughout the week. Please check the volunteer board as you leave the service today. The following opportunities are available:

- Day Leader: **Friday, August 16**; additional dates available
- AM Drivers
- Dinner Host: **Saturday, August 17** (1)
- Evening Hosts: **Sunday, August 11** (2); **Monday, August 12** (1); **Tuesday, August 13** (1); **Thursday, August 15** (2); **Friday, August 16** (2); **Saturday, August 17** (2)
- Overnight Hosts: **Thursday, August 15**

Donations that are **still needed**: individually packaged Kleenex packs and "gently loved" hand towels and washcloths. Donations may be left in the Family Promise bin across from the office. Email Beth Sosinski ([bethsosinski@gmail.com](mailto:bethsosinski@gmail.com)) for more information.

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

**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](mailto:tghudson@juno.com).**

## Children's Ministry

For Children's opportunities, contact Dee Buchanan [dbuchanan@hudsonucc.org](mailto:dbuchanan@hudsonucc.org) or Katie Morgan: [kmorgan@hudsonucc.org](mailto:kmorgan@hudsonucc.org).

**All Kg-5th graders** are invited to join **Camp Wednesday!** Camp Wednesday meets every **Wednesday 5:00-6:30pm**. (Dinner is included!) We play games, sing songs and have an incredible time. Join us at the "campground" in Fellowship Hall after both services **TODAY** and **next Sunday** to learn more about Camp Wednesday! Our **Kick-Off Event** is on **Wednesday, August 21** at Cascade Park from **5:00 - 6:30 pm**. Contact Katie ([kmorgan@hudsonucc.org](mailto:kmorgan@hudsonucc.org)) for more information.

**Will you join us?** We have some incredible opportunities to help with our 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders this Fall! Below are the open Teacher and Shepherd spots for the rotation starting on **September 15**.

### 10:30 am

- Pray-Per-View Teacher (9/15 only): Watching a movie about the Ten Commandments.
- Tabernacle Teacher: Playing Pictionary
- Thou Art Teacher: Making the Ten Commandments
- Psalm of Music Teacher: Singing and playing rhythm instruments
- Our Acts Teacher: Playing the 20 questions game
- 1<sup>st</sup> grade Shepherd
- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Shepherd
- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Shepherd
- 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade Shepherd

**Acolyte Training** - All 4th and 5th graders who are interested in bringing in the Light of Christ during our worship services are invited to be an Acolyte.

- Acolyte training is on **Sunday, August 18**. It begins promptly at **9:45 am** and ends at **10:15 am**. Please be sure your acolyte is inside in the Alcove by **9:45!** We are trying to squeeze training into a very slim time period between the 1st & 2nd services!
- Acolyte training is mandatory for all acolytes, even if the child was an acolyte last year.
- Acolytes will start at both services on **September 15** and continue through **May 24**. Please email Dee or Katie & give acolyte's name, grade, mailing address & best email.

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**ROMEOS, "Retired Older Men Eating Out,"** will meet at **12:30 pm, Tuesday, August 13** at Lager and Vine for lunch and fellowship. For more information, contact Henry Vigor: [hkvigor@windstream.net](mailto:hkvigor@windstream.net).

**Parenting with Love and Logic** will be offered again this fall starting on **Sunday, September 15** at **6:30 pm** at the Hudson United Methodist Church, 2600 Hudson-Aurora Road. The class will meet for six sessions and is taught by Joan Sauer, Hugo and Kathy Sandberg, and Pam Vanags. The cost is \$18 which covers the workbook. If you are interested or have questions, contact Kathy Sandberg at [ksandbe1@kent.edu](mailto:ksandbe1@kent.edu) or 330-256-4842.

## Adult Ministry

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

**Happy Hikers** will be hiking the *Hinckley Reservoir*, **Hinckley Lake Loop** (Rt. 303, 14 miles to State Road (Rt. 44), turn left and then right on Metropolitan Park West to Trailhead) on **Thursday, August 15** at **1:00 pm**. This is a 2.9 mile, easy trail. **Walking Warriors** walks behind **Barlow Community Center** every **Tuesday** at **1:00 pm**.

**FYI (Feeling Young Inside)** on **Monday, September 16** at **12 noon** will feature Elaine Marsh, Watershed Specialist, Summit Metroparks. The Cuyahoga River and its recovery from infamy is a tale packed with drama and battles, with ignorance and science, with losses and victories. It features the civic leaders and citizens of watershed in the starring roles. Our burning river had its last fire 50 years ago. This presentation will explore the conditions that led to a century of fires, the consequence of those fires and the river's remarkable recover from them. It will outline the benefits of clean water to northeast Ohio and the river's role in the region's future.

**Chair Yoga**, a gentle movement class, will be offered for **6 weeks** starting **Wednesday, September 4** from **10:00-10:30 am**. Kristin Keller will be the instructor. This activity is open to everyone - all ages, body types and levels of flexibility are welcome! All equipment will be provided. Sign up on the Connection Card or call the church office. Questions? Email Kathy Yeakley.

**Tai Chi**, the ancient martial art of combining slow, deliberate movements that represent the art in self-defense, is offered every **Wednesday** at **10:30 am** in Fellowship Hall by Laurence Frese. This class can help to improve blood circulation, posture, and balance. Beginners are welcome! **Starting September 4**, class will begin at **10:45 am**.

## Music Ministry

**Our Wilhelm Organ** - This summer, we will be doing some very much needed maintenance on our Wilhelm Organ. The process began on July 1, and will last through the end of August, in the hopes of having the bulk of the work finished by Labor Day. This project has been completely funded by generous donations from church members. We will still be worshipping in the sanctuary, but we will be using the piano and other additional instruments to lead our music in worship. If you have any questions, please contact Charlotte ([cplank@hudsonucc.org](mailto:cplank@hudsonucc.org)).

**Come sing with us!** Opportunities for every age... no auditions required!

- **Cherub & Explorer Choirs** (grades K-5) – Camp Wednesday program, **Wednesdays, 5:00-6:30 pm**, kick off is at Cascade park on **August 21!**
- **revoice** (middle school) – **Wednesdays**, after D&D at **5:00 pm**, starting **August 28**.
- **Chancel Choir** (adults) – **Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 pm**, starting **September 11**.
- **Men’s Ensemble** (adults) – **Wednesdays, 8:30-9:30 pm**, starting **September 11**.
- **Handbell Choir** (families welcome!), **Sundays, 6:00-7:30 pm**, starting **September 15**.
- **Teen band & vocalists** (high school), **Sundays, 7:30-8:30 pm**, starting **September 15**.
- **Pop-up Women’s Ensemble** (high school & up), **Thursdays, 7:00-8:00 pm** as posted.

For more information, please contact Dr. Tom Scott, Director of Music Ministries ([tscott@hudsonucc.org](mailto:tscott@hudsonucc.org)), or Charlotte Beers Plank, Associate Director of Music Ministries & Organist ([cplank@hudsonucc.org](mailto:cplank@hudsonucc.org)).

**Women’s Ensemble** - Our pop-up Women’s Ensemble provided our special music this morning. Interested in being a part of this group? We would love for you to join us! We meet again in October and December—details to come. This group is a wonderful opportunity to join our music ministries and be a part of a creative and musical community within the church. Contact Charlotte ([cplank@hudsonucc.org](mailto:cplank@hudsonucc.org)) for more information.

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**Project Live Well Wall** - In John 10:10, Jesus promised abundant life - but what does it mean to you to live abundantly or live well? We invite you to stop by our Live Well Wall. Share your hopes, dreams, desires ... whatever living well means to you. While there, take a picture and share on social media using #LiveWellWall.

## Youth Ministry

For Youth opportunities, contact Callie Baylor [cbaylor@hudsonucc.org](mailto:cbaylor@hudsonucc.org) or Amy Baldwin [abaldwin@hudsonucc.org](mailto:abaldwin@hudsonucc.org).

**Breakfast Club & The 9** - Welcome to all returning 7-12<sup>th</sup> graders! Today we meet in Fellowship Hall before church starts for Blessing of the Backpacks. Afterwards, 6<sup>th</sup> graders will join us in the Youth Room. We are so excited for a new school year to begin!

**D&D Kickoff** - Middle Schoolers, get ready for another great year of D&D! Starting **August 21**, we meet every **Wednesday** from **3:00-5:00 pm**. Hudson Middle Schoolers – Callie will meet you (**first day ONLY**) outside the commons right after school to walk over with you. We’ll have a snack, play some games, have a great chat, and finish with dinner before you head home or to **revoice** at **5:00 pm**.

**SALT Kickoff!** High Schoolers, we are so excited to KICKSTART another amazing year of SALT. Join us **Sunday** from **6:00-7:30 pm** in the Youth Room for games, snacks, and time together. This is a great way to connect with friends, relax, have fun, and clear your head before you start each week. Make us a part of your routine. Can’t wait to see you!

**ROCK** (Remember Our College Kids) adoption campaign is still going! Come to our table in Fellowship Hall to learn more about this amazing program and how you can be a part of it!

**Freshman Welcome** - Celebrate the end of summer and the beginning of high school with ice cream and a pool party! Please join us at Eve and Sydney Jones’s house **tonight** from **6:00-7:30 pm** (1790 Old Tannery Circle). You’ll make some new friends and reconnect with old ones. It’s a perfect way to kick off your week. RSVP to Callie or Amy. Hope to see you there!

**Chalk the Walks** - Hey Middle Schoolers! Join us for our annual Chalk the Walk event this **Tuesday** at **1:00 pm**. We’ll meet outside the commons and cover the sidewalks with welcome messages, inspirational sayings, and fun artwork. Callie will bring the chalk (and a few ideas to get you started) - you just show up. Our students and teachers love to see these positive messages on the first day of school. Hope you can be a part of it! RSVP to Callie.

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**Trinity Household/Clothing Ministry** - Looking for a place to donate clothing or household items? Our Outreach Info Station has a list of needed items and drop off information!