

Congregational Calendar

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SUNDAY, August 18

9:00 am Outdoor Worship (Courtyard)
9:00 am The 9 (Youth Room)
9:45 am Acolyte Training (Alcove)
10:00-12:00 Stuff the Backpacks (FH)
10:30/11:59 Worship (Sanctuary)
10:30 am Breakfast Club (Youth Room)
6:00 pm SALT (Youth & FH)

MONDAY, August 19

7:00 pm Deacons Board (304)

TUESDAY, August 20

1:00 pm Walking Warriors (Barlow CC)
1:30 pm Congregational Conversations (LL)
7:00 pm Music Board (Alcove)
7:00 pm Personnel Committee (304)
5:15 pm CC Ice Cream Social (Tots & Pre School @ Cascade Park)
6:30 pm CC Ice Cream Social (Childcare Children) @ Cascade Park

WEDNESDAY, August 21

9:00 am WOW (FH)
10:30 am Tai Chi (FH)
11:00 am Hudson Grande VIP Worship
3:00 pm D&D (Youth Room & FH)
5:00 pm Camp Wed. Kickoff (Cascade Park)
7:00 pm Council (304)
7:00 pm Men's Ensemble

THURSDAY, August 22

1:00 pm Happy Hikers (TBD)
7:00 pm Doppiebockers (off site)

SATURDAY, August 24

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: Isaiah 1:1, 10-20

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! ¹¹What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the LORD; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats. ¹²When you come to appear before me, who asked this from your hand?

Trample my courts no more; ¹³bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation — I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity.

¹⁴Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates; they have become a burden to me, I am weary of bearing them. ¹⁵When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. ¹⁶Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, ¹⁷learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.

¹⁸Come now, let us argue it out, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. ¹⁹If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; ²⁰but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

WELCOME TO FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

SUNDAY, August 18, 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.

Today is Backpack Stuffing Day! Please join us in Fellowship Hall following today's worship services to fill over 400 backpacks with school supplies for the students at Findley Community Learning Center. Thanks to your generosity, we are able to provide every student at Findley with a full backpack. What a great way for these students to start the school year!

We are so grateful for all of your donations! Our First Serve partners, Faith Lutheran Church in Fairlawn is stuffing 125 backpacks for us today! In addition, we want to thank the following for helping us collect so many supplies: Jeff Lehman- Great Clips, Holy Family Parish in Stow, The Islamic Society of Akron and Kent, and Temple Beth Shalom. Thank you, Captrust Community Foundation for donating \$500!

We will be delivering all of these backpacks to Findley on **Tuesday, August 27** in the morning/afternoon. If you would like to help transport, please sign up at the Backpack Boxing Station in Fellowship Hall today!

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 2nd floor elevator entrance.

Today's Flowers

The Sanctuary flowers are given by Grace Blower in loving memory of her husband, Ken, parents, Earl and Dorothy Holmes and brother, Earl.

Adult Faith Formation

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

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).

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.

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.

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) for more information.

Adult Ministry

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

Happy Hikers will be hiking the *O'Neill Woods Metro Park, Deer Run Trail*, 2550 Martin Road, Akron on **Thursday, August 22 at 1:00 pm**. This is a 1.8 mile moderate 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 **Wednesdays at 10:30 am** in Fellowship Hall by Laurence Frese. This class can help to improve blood circulation, posture, and balance. Beginners are welcome! **TIME CHANGE: Starting September 4**, class will begin at **10:45 am**.

Veterans! On **November 12, Tuesday, FYI (Feeling Young Inside)** luncheon and presentation will honor **all** veterans in our church. If you served in any branch of the service at any time, or have a child in the service, contact Kathy (kyeakley@hudsonucc.org) to provide information on the branch of service, tour of duty, years served and any other pertinent information that you would like to share. Pictures can be brought in (or emailed) and they will be copied - pictures will NOT be kept or damaged. I look forward to hearing from you!

Volunteers Needed! If you would like to help with the **FYI (Feeling Young Inside)** program for our 55 years of age and older population held on the third Monday of each month, please sign up on the Connection Card or contact Kathy. Enjoy a fun time helping to serve our seniors!

Children's Ministry

For Children's opportunities, contact Dee Buchanan dbuchanan@hudsonucc.org or Katie Morgan: 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** to learn more about Camp Wednesday!

Camp Wednesday Kick-Off - Kindergarten - 5th graders are invited to Cascade Park on **Wednesday, August 21** at from **5:00 - 6:30 pm** for the Camp Wednesday Kick-Off! No need to sign up... just join the fun! Contact Katie (kmorgan@hudsonucc.org) for more information.

Will you join us? We have some incredible opportunities to help with our 1st-5th 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
- 1st grade Shepherd
- 2nd grade Shepherd
- 3rd grade Shepherd
- 4th/5th grade Shepherd

Looking to Donate a bike? We have the place! At **First Serve**, Todd Zedak is partnering with Akron Children's Hospital to put on a bike repair/safety rodeo for the kids in North Hill. At the Findley CLC playground, Todd and his volunteers will fix flat tires and do safety checks for the kids who bring their own bikes. Sometimes, bikes are beyond repair or the bike is the wrong size for the child. This is where you come in by donating bikes that you or your children no longer use. We will clean them up and put them to good use. Bring them to church on Sunday, or contact Todd to coordinate a plan. Todd Zedak: (330-289-6465) or jtzedak@gmail.com. Thank you!

Fall Women's Bible Study - Have you been thinking about trying an organized Bible Study for the first time, or getting back into regular Bible Study, or participating in a new Bible Study group? Joining our Women's Study this fall might be your **Best Yes!!** Do you find yourself living with the stress of an overwhelmed schedule and an underwhelmed soul? Join us as we dive into Lysa Terkeurst's **SIX WEEK** Bible Study: *The Best Yes: Making Wise Decisions in the Midst of Endless Demands*. There is a big difference between saying yes to everyone and saying yes to God. Together we will examine how to make better use of the two most powerful words, yes and no. Through short daily exercises and weekly videos, using Biblical teaching and practical insights, this study will help you be more equipped to discern the Best Yes answers for your life. Invite a friend and mark your calendars now. Sign up on the Connection Card. All are welcome!

- Wednesdays, September 11 - October 23
- Morning: 9:30 - 10:45 am **OR** Evening: 6:45 - 8:00 pm (Evening childcare available upon request)
- Workbooks provided for all participants

Questions? Contact Tracy Zappone at pzappone@yahoo.com

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 or 330-256-4842.

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.

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 pm**. Childcare will be available for those who need it. Please contact Jen Barden at JBarden@HudsonUCC.org with questions or to request childcare.

Music Ministry

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), or Charlotte Beers Plank, Associate Director of Music Ministries & Organist (cplank@hudsonucc.org).

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).

Music Notes: This morning's music comes from two very different times and traditions.

Laudamus Te is from what is easily Vivaldi's (1678-1741) most famous sacred piece, the Gloria in D. Vivaldi was known as the red priest since he was ordained and had shocking red hair. Back in the Baroque Era, priests were often assigned non-clerical duties, and Vivaldi accepted an appointment as a violin teacher at a girl's orphanage. At the end of his life, he was interred in a pauper's grave, and his music largely forgotten. But in the 1920's, Vivaldi's sizeable music collection was discovered in a library in Turin, Italy. Included among the pieces was the Gloria, and its first modern performance was only 80 years ago.

John Foley's (b. 1939) Peace Prayer is based entirely on the famous Prayer of St. Francis (Lord, make me an instrument of your peace), and is rooted in the American folk tradition of the 1960's. But because the literal text translated from the Italian is not particularly suited for singing, he has chosen a more poetic and singable lyric. There have been literally hundreds of published versions of this famous prayer, and they all use a slightly different setting of the text to match the music that had been written for it.

Youth Ministry

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

ROCK (Remember Our College Kids) needs your help ASAP! Today is the **last day** for the adoption campaign and we still have 20 college students needing adoption. Come see our table in Fellowship Hall to learn more about this amazing program and how you can be a part of it.

Breakfast Club & The 9 - All 6th-12th graders are welcome to join us for donuts and discussion in the Youth Room. We meet every week during both the 9:00 and 10:30 services. Go directly to the Youth Room when you arrive - we can't wait to see you!

D&D - Middle Schoolers, it's almost time for D&D to begin. Our first meeting of the year is **this Wednesday**. We meet every week from **3:00-5:00 pm** in the Youth Room. Hudson Middle School students can walk to church as soon as your school day ends. (Callie will meet you just outside the commons, this week only, to walk you to church). We'll have snacks waiting for you along with some fun games. We also take some time each week to talk about a topic important to middle school students. We end with dinner just before your parents pick you up. It's a great mid-week break from the hustle of school and sports. We hope you'll join us!

SALT - High Schoolers, please join us **tonight** and every Sunday in the Youth Room for SALT (Serve and Learn Together). We meet from **6:00-7:30 pm** for snacks, games, and discussion. This is a great way to connect with friends and clear your head before your week starts. This week we kickstart a new year of fellowship and fun. See you there!

Confirmation - Eighth graders, please register for Confirmation if you haven't already. Our first meeting is **September 15**. Contact Callie with any questions.

First Serve - If you are looking for a First Serve project to work on with other Youth, check out **Elma Street (#7A-7E)** for high schoolers, and check **Elizabeth Park (#10)** for middle schoolers. Of course, you and your family are welcome to join any project that looks like a good fit for you.

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.