

Congregational Calendar

Your financial support makes all of this happen!

SUNDAY, September 1

9:00 am Outdoor Worship (Courtyard)
9:00 am The 9 (Youth Room)
10:30/11:59 Worship (Sanctuary)
10:30 am Breakfast Club (Youth Room)

MONDAY, September 2

LABOR DAY - Church Office Closed

TUESDAY, September 3

1:00 pm Walking Warriors (Barlow CC)
1:30 pm Congregational Conversations (LL)
6:30 pm Prayer Quilting (102)

Coffee Hour in September is provided through the generosity of members of the Deacons Board.

WEDNESDAY, September 4

9:00 am WOW (FH)
10:00 am Chair Yoga (FH)
10:45 am Tai Chi (FH)
3:00 pm D&D (Youth Room & FH)
5:00 pm Camp Wednesday (FH)
5:00 pm revoice (Choir Room)

THURSDAY, September 5

1:00 pm Happy Hikers (TBD)

FRIDAY, September 6

6:30 am JourneyMen (Yours Truly)

SATURDAY, September 7

9:00 am Gennesaret (off site)
10:00 am Pevette Memorial (Sanctuary)
10:30 am Al-Anon Newcomers (120)
11:00 am Al-Anon Meeting (102)
11:00 am Alateen (Youth Room)

Today's Scripture: Luke 14:1, 7-14

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely. ⁷When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸"When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; ⁹and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." ¹²He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

WELCOME TO FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

SUNDAY, September 1, 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.

First Serve Blood Drive - Join us at Patterson Park Community Center Dining Hall, 800 Patterson Avenue, Akron on **Sunday, September 8, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm.** Come to donate and receive Free Admission to the Lock 3 Celebration Concert beginning at 4:00 pm on Sunday. Complimentary pizza for donors at the Blood Drive! To make an appointment, go to RedCrossBlood.org and search for the drive by zip code or contact Kathy Yeakley at kyeakley@hudsonucc.org.

Not enough people donate blood. Only you can fill the #MissingTypes.

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.

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.

Today's Flowers

The Sanctuary flowers are given by Brian and Diana Taussig in loving memory of Daniel and Shirley Taussig.

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. **Registration is open through Labor Day weekend** by signing up in Fellowship Hall TODAY or contacting Nikki Wingerson (nikki1@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. **Registration is open through Labor Day weekend** by signing up in Fellowship Hall TODAY or contacting 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.

Pathfinders will resume on the **2nd and 4th Sundays** of each month starting **September 22** at **9:00 am** in the 3rd floor chapel. Our new study will be *The Apocryphal Jesus* with Dr. David Brakke, history professor at The Ohio State University. We hope to gain new perspectives on early Christian life and history.

Adult Ministry

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

Happy Hikers will be hiking the *Cascade Valley Metro Park, Chuckery Trail*, 837 Cuyahoga Street, Akron on **Thursday, September 5 at 1:00 pm**. This is a 2.4 mile difficult 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. Sign up on the Connection Card today or call the church office (330-650-4048).

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!

Chair Yoga, a gentle movement class, will be offered every **Wednesday, September 4 - October 9** 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.

Tai Chi, the ancient martial art of combining slow, deliberate movements that represent the art in self-defense, will continue to be offered on **Wednesdays at 10:45 am** in Fellowship Hall by Laurence Frese. This class can help to improve blood circulation, posture, and balance. Beginners are welcome!

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 Yeakley 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!

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. Contact Katie Morgan 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
- 1st grade Shepherd
- 2nd grade Shepherd
- 3rd grade Shepherd

Bible Sunday for 3rd graders will be on **September 22**. Please contact Katie Morgan to sign up your 3rd grader!

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**.

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.**

Journeyman Breakfast - All men are invited to breakfast and fellowship on **Friday, September 7** at Yours Truly restaurant. Come join us, as well, for spontaneous "Thirsty Thursdays" and service opportunities. Contact Trip Kern: Trip.Kern@gmail.com.

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

James Bible Study - Join Rev. Steve Hockstra for five weeks as we study one of his favorite books of the Bible, James. The study will take place on **Tuesday evenings, 7:00-8:00pm** in Room 301 beginning **September 17** and conclude on **October 15**. Sign up on the Connection Card, email the church office (churchoffice@hudsonucc.org) or call the church office (330-650-4048).

Intro to Vegan Cooking - Curious about the health benefits of vegan cooking? Want to try your hand(s) at a cooking class or do you want inspiration for the next time you entertain vegan guests? Come join us! We are offering a FREE class for up to 15 people (or maybe more this fall if there is interest) on **Sunday, October 13, 5:00-6:00 pm**. The first 20 minutes cover the principles of veganism and the last 40 minutes will be spent making two vegan appetizers. This beginner's class taught by Charlotte Hooker and her mom, Kathleen Leigh Lewarchick is fun and easy for all. Sign up on the Connection Card or contact the church office. (330-650-4048; churchoffice@hudsonucc.org)

Music Ministry

Our Wilhelm Organ - This summer, we have been doing some very much needed maintenance on our Wilhelm Organ. The process began on July 1, and Hal Gober and Hannah Loeffler have been working tirelessly throughout the last two months to make the organ sing beautifully again. This project has been completely funded by generous donations from church members. We are planning to start using the renewed instrument in worship again on **Sunday, September 15**. We cannot wait to have our organ lead us in worship again! We are already planning some exciting events over the next program year to celebrate our fantastic organ. If you have any questions, please contact Charlotte (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**.
- **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).

Parking Lot Hosts - Are you too busy to commit to a regular volunteer position, but would like to help out? This is your opportunity to volunteer just a few times a year for 25 minutes or less. Volunteers are needed to help direct traffic in the church parking lot, only on extra busy **Sunday mornings** from **10:10 - 10:35 am**. Parking lot hosts guide churchgoers to open parking spots and direct people to additional parking when the lots are full. Interested? Contact Melissa Lawton on Membership Board at mlawton@avestacorp.com, or sign up on the back of the Connection Card.

Youth Ministry

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

Breakfast Club & The 9 - Middle and High schoolers, please join us for donuts and discussion in the Youth Room every week during the **9:00** or **10:30** service.

SALT - SALT will **not** meet today. Enjoy your long weekend! We also won't be meeting on September 8 due to First Serve but join us on September 15 from **6:00-7:30 pm** in the Youth Room. Be sure to sign up for **kayaking** on **September 22, 2:30-7:30 pm**. Cost is \$35 (due by September 15) and friends are welcome!

D&D - Middle Schoolers meet every week from 3:00-5:00 pm in the Youth Room. Hudson Middle Schools students can walk to church as soon as your school day ends. We'll have snacks and fun games, and a lesson and discussion each week. And there's dinner! We hope you can join us!

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.

Looking for Mobile Meals Driver - Mobile Meals, an affiliate of Meals-on-Wheels, has served our region for many years. Through the Outreach Board, our church supports this organization financially and with volunteer driver help. The majority of Mobile Meals clients are elderly people with health issues. Many seldom go outdoors. Often the only person they see during the day is the Mobile Meals driver.

We currently have eleven Mobile Meals drivers serving the Stow and Cuyahoga Falls communities. We are in need of an additional driver for the Stow route. The driver commitment is to deliver meals **one Tuesday per month** between the hours of **11:00 am** and **12:30 pm**. Please call Henry Vigor for further information at 330-653-5200.

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