

Congregational Calendar

Your financial support makes all of this happen!

SUNDAY, September 15

9/10:30/11:59 Worship (Sanctuary)
9:00 am The 9 (Youth Room)
9:45 am Friends Class (102)
11:45 am Confirmation Meeting (Youth/Act)
6:00 pm SALT (Youth & FH)
6:30 pm Handbells (Choir Room)
7:30 pm Teen Band/Choir (Sanctuary)

MONDAY, September 16

12:00 pm FYI Luncheon (FH)
7:00 pm Deacons (304)

TUESDAY, September 17

1:00 pm Walking Warriors (Barlow CC)
1:30 pm Congregational Conversations (LL)
7:00 pm Personnel Committee (304)
7:00 pm Music Board (Alcove)
7:00 pm Dopplebockers (off site)
7:00 pm Bible Study (301)

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

Today's Scripture: John 5:1-9

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ²Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. ³In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. ⁵One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. ⁶When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" ⁷The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me." ⁸Jesus said to him, "Stand up, take your mat and walk." ⁹At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath.

Today's Flowers

The Sanctuary flowers are given by the Bucey-Tikkanen family in loving memory of Dick Bucey.

WEDNESDAY, September 18

9:00 am WOW (FH)
9:30 am Women's Bible Study (Youth Room)
10:00 am Chair Yoga (FH)
10:45 am Tai Chi (FH)
11:00 am Hudson Grande VIP Service
3:00 pm D&D (Youth Room & FH)
5:00 pm Camp Wednesday (FH)
5:00 pm revoice (Choir Room)
6:45 pm Women's Bible Study (Youth Room)
7:00 pm Council (304)
7:00 pm Chancel Choir
8:30 pm Men's Ensemble

THURSDAY, September 19

9:30 am Prayer Quilting (102)
1:00 pm Happy Hikers (TBD)

SATURDAY, September 21

10:30 am Al-Anon Newcomers (120)
11:00 am Al-Anon Meeting (102)
11:00 am Alateen (Youth Room)
1:00 pm Handy Memorial (Sanctuary)

WELCOME TO FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

SUNDAY, September 15, 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.

Congratulations to Callie and Jason Baylor on the baptism of their daughter, Penelope Jane Baylor.

Healing Arts Mission - You are invited to join members of the Outreach Board as we welcome back Dr. Tracee Laing and husband, Paul Hammond, founders of Healing Arts Mission on **Sunday, September 22 at noon** in the Activity Room. Dr. Laing and her husband live in Granville, OH, and founded **Healing Arts Mission** 20 years ago. They have established a health clinic in Dumay, Haiti, and will be here to share their story with us. The Outreach Board has financially supported this mission for several years and this will be a great opportunity, first hand, to meet the directors and hear about the impact they are making each day. All persons interested in attending this event, please RSVP online at: churchoffice@hudsonucc.org, sign up at the Outreach Center in the church's main hallway or check the back of the Connection Card. A modest lunch will be provided.

Newcomers and Membership Informational Gathering

Are you interested in learning more about First Congregational Church and how to become a member? Or do you know someone who might be interested in learning more about membership and our congregation? Then, come join us for these two sessions:

PART I

Wednesday, October 9
7:00 - 8:30 pm; Youth Room
(child care available)

PART II

Sunday, October 13
5:00 - 7:00 pm; Activity Room & Room 102.
(meal provided & child care available)

Come learn about First Congregational Church, its ministries, and the many ways to engage your faith wherever you are on life's journey. Those who choose to become members will do so in worship on **Sunday, October 27**. To sign up, check the back of the Connection Card or call (330) 650-4048. For more information, contact Rev. Jeanette Brodersen at (330) 650-4048, jbrodersen@hudsonucc.org.

Adult Faith Formation

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

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. For more information or to register, 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.

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)

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 *Goodyear Heights Metro Park, Alder Trail*, 130 N. Main, Akron on **Thursday, September 19** at **1:00 pm**. This is a 1.4 mile easy trail. **Walking Warriors** walks behind **Barlow Community Center** every **Tuesday** at **1:00 pm**.

Mat Yoga returns! Starting **Monday, September 30**, Yoga with Cynthia Field will take place **Monday evening** at **7:00 pm** for **six weeks** in Fellowship Hall. Bring a mat and foam block if you have one or a towel roll. Relax and breathe while moving through gentle yoga poses. Beginners are welcome! Good will donation accepted.

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**, through **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.

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!

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.**

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 5:00-6:30 pm**. (Dinner is included!) We play games, sing songs and have an incredible time. Contact Katie Morgan for more information.

Teachers and Shepherds needed! We would love to have you join the fun on the 1st floor! We are still looking for a Tabernacle Teacher and a 3rd grade Shepherd from **9/22 - 10/20** and would love to have **YOU!** If those dates do not work, **Rotation 2** is from **10/27 - 11/24** and we would love to see your smiling face! Contact Katie if you can help. Thank you!

Hall Monitor Training - Would you be interested in being another set of eyes, ears and hands on the Sunday School level during worship hours? We are looking for a pool of people for hall monitor training on **October 20 at 10:45 am**. Please contact Dee or Katie if you can attend.

Fall Fellowship is coming! Mark your calendars - Trunk or Treat for kids of all ages will be on **October 20, 2:30-4:00 pm**. We will have snacks, crafts and some spooky trunks for trick or treating! **RSVP** to Katie (kmorgan@hudsonucc.org) **by October 16!**

Trunks Needed - If you have a trunk that you can decorate for trick or treaters at our **Fall Fellowship** on **October 20**, please contact Katie!

Save the Date: Halloween Pipe Screams! Thursday, October 31, 6:00-8:00 pm

Adults and children alike are invited to stop by the sanctuary to enjoy Halloween-themed organ music, also known as "pipe screams." When playing Halloween music, it can sometimes sound like the organs pipes are screeching or screaming, hence the phrase "pipe screams." All trick-or-treaters are welcome to stay for a few minutes while they pick up treats or take a seat in the pews to enjoy the entire casual concert.

Questions? Contact Charlotte at cplank@hudsonucc.org or call the Church Office.

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, 7:00-8:00 pm** 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).

Dopplebockers is a casual discussion and fellowship group led by Rev. Jon Dodson for Dads of elementary children and younger. Join us on **Tuesday, September 17 at 7:00 pm** at Cellar 59, 3984 Kent Road in Stow and/or on **October 15 at 7:00 pm** at the Thirsty Dog, 587 Grant Street, Akron. Contact Jen Barden (jbarden@hudsonucc.org) for more information.

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**.

CAKES FOR OPEN M - We are in need of bakers to provide desserts. Please bring your donation in a disposable container on **Wednesday, September 25, by 9:30 am** to the Fellowship Hall Kitchen. **Contact Nancy Martinez at martclan@outlook.com** if you have any questions.

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.

THESE DAYS Daily Devotions for Living by Faith The latest copy (October - December) of this magazine can be found at the Information Station.

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 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.**
 - **Chancel Choir** (adults) – **Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 pm.**
 - **Men's Ensemble** (adults) – **Wednesdays, 8:30-9:30 pm.**
 - **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.

This Morning: It's a special day! Callie's youngest daughter, Pippa, is being baptized during the 10:30 service, so Breakfast Club will **NOT** meet this morning. Instead, please join us in the Sanctuary to help officially welcome Pippa into our church family.

***The 9** will still meet this morning at **9:00 am** in the Youth Room.

Confirmation will have a short meeting this morning from **11:45-12:15**. Confirmands, mentors, and parents should all attend. Parents and mentors meet in the Activity Room. Youth will meet in the Youth Room.

This Evening: SALT resumes tonight from **6:00-7:30** in the Youth Room. We are so excited to be together with you again to talk about *Priorities*. Of course we will have games and snacks. Hope you can make it! Remember, sign-ups for **KAYAKING** are **due tonight**. (\$35 - Kayak date is **9/22, 2:30-7:30 pm.**) Friends are welcome!

This Wednesday - D&D meets this Wednesday, 3:00-5:00. Please join us for games, snacks, and a fun discussion about where your priorities are. Friends are always welcome!

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!