

Congregational Calendar

Your financial support makes all of this happen!

SUNDAY, November 24

9/10:30/11:59 Worship (Sanctuary)
9:00 am The 9 (Youth Room)
9:00 am Pathfinders (Chapel)
9:45 am Friends Class ((102))
10:30 am Breakfast Club (Youth Room)
2:00 pm Advent Wreath Making (Act. Rm.)
2:00 pm Count Down to Christmas (FH)
2:00 pm Simply Christmas (Youth Room)
4:00 pm Vespers (Laurel Lake)
6:00 pm SALT (Youth Room & FH)
6:00 pm Handbells (Choir Room)
7:00 pm Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
(Christ Church Episcopal)
7:30 pm Teen Band/Choir (Sanctuary)

TUESDAY, November 26

12:30 pm ROMEOs (Lager & Vine)
1:30 pm Congregational Conversations (LL)

WEDNESDAY, November 27

9:00 am WOW (FH)
10:00 am Chair Yoga (FH)
10:45 am Tai Chi (FH)

THURSDAY, November 28

Thanksgiving—Church Office Closed

FRIDAY, November 29

Church Office Closed

SATURDAY, November 30

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

Live Nativity is almost here! We are so blessed to be the church that creates the Live Nativity on our town green, so please come visit our table **TODAY** in Fellowship Hall to sign up to be part of the magic of this incredible tradition! The Live Nativity will be on **Sunday, December 8, 12:00 - 5:00 pm**. You can also contact Katie Morgan if you have any questions or want more information.

Today's Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:14-18

¹⁴And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. ¹⁵See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. ¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

WELCOME TO FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

SUNDAY, November 24, 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.

High School Choir - Sing with us on Christmas Eve!

All High School students are invited to sing together at the **5:00 pm** service on Christmas Eve. We will practice **Wednesdays** in **December** from **5:30-6:30 pm**. Dinner is included! Come meet our new choir director Chelsea Selvaggio and be a part of this fun new tradition! No audition required!

Any questions? Contact Chelsea cselfvaggio@hudsonucc.org or Callie cbaylor@hudsonucc.org. We hope to see you there!

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE is TONIGHT at 7:00 pm at Christ Church Episcopal, 21 Aurora Street - hosted by First Congregational Church of Hudson, Christ Church Episcopal and Temple Beth Shalom. There will be a service of stories, songs and sacred readings focused on our gratitude for our many blessings. Choir members from all three congregations will come together and offer an anthem. If anyone would like to sing, please come at **6:15 pm** for a short rehearsal before the service. Contact Charlotte Plank with any questions. (cplank@hudsonucc.org)

LIFT (Ladies in Fellowship Together) Annual Christmas Luncheon - All women are invited to the LIFT Christmas Luncheon on **Thursday, December 5 at 11:30 am** at Laurel Lake. Please bring an unwrapped child's Christmas gift for OPEN M. The cost is \$16.00—your check made out to FCCH (with LIFT in the memo line) is your reservation. Pick up a flyer in the workroom, fill out your luncheon choice and place with your check in the Finance Office mailbox. Deadline to RSVP is **Monday, December 2!** Contact Sue Conley with any questions. (sccnly@aol.com).

Coffee Hour today is provided by the Stewardship Board.

Family Promise of Summit County

Volunteer Celebration Dinner & Annual Meeting

Please join us for an evening to celebrate the meaningful work of the dedicated volunteers that serve the Family Promise program. The event is free of charge, dinner is included.

When: **Tuesday, December 3, 6:00 - 8:00 pm**

Where: St. Stephen Lutheran Church
3727 Kent Road
Stow, OH 44224

RSVP: Call Pauline (330-253-8082) or email pauline@familypromisesc.org.

ShE Holidazes - ShE, our fellowship group for moms with children in elementary school and younger, is meeting in the Youth Room **Monday, December 2 at 7:00 pm**. Discussion will center around holiday stress. Childcare will be available upon request. RSVP to JBarden@hudsonucc.org.

ShE/Dopplebockers Live Nativity Potluck - ShE and Dopplebockers (our fellowship groups for parents with children in elementary school and younger) are participating in the Live Nativity from **4:00-5:00 pm** on **Sunday, December 8**. A potluck taco bar will follow in the Activity Room at **5:00 pm**. RSVP to Jen Barden at JBarden@hudsonucc.org.

ShE Parties - ShE, our fellowship group for moms with children in elementary school and younger, will host a **holiday party** at Lager and Vine on **Monday, December 16** at **7:00 pm**. Childcare will be available upon request. RSVP to JBarden@hudsonucc.org.

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**.

Children's Ministry

For Children's opportunities, contact Dee Buchanan dbuchanan@hudsonucc.org or Katie Morgan: kmorgan@hudsonucc.org.

Camp Wednesday Christmas Pageant The children will perform *The Angel Band* on **December 24 at 3:00 pm**. We have about 70 children in our pageant this year! Camp Wednesday is for all children, **Kindergarten-5th grade**. We meet at the church from **5:00-6:30 pm Wednesdays** for dinner, games and singing! Contact Katie for more info.

Advent Wreath Making - Join us **TODAY** from **2:00 - 4:00 pm** for one of our favorite traditions: Advent Wreath Making! It is a fun day of candle dipping, candle rolling, wreath making, and more! This activity is for all 2nd through 5th graders and will take place in the Activity Room. RSVP to kmorgan@hudsonucc.org.

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Calling all Baby Jesuses! If you have ever been Baby Jesus in a pageant, live nativity or pretty much anywhere, we want to celebrate it! On **Sunday, December 15** during **fellowship hour**, we will have a Baby Jesus Celebration. All we need for you to do is send a photo of you or a loved one as Baby Jesus with the date and location as well as a current photo to JBarden@hudsonucc.org. The Baby Jesus photo can be from any time and place and does not have to have happened at FCCH.

NEW 2020 FLOWER CHART The 2020 Flower Chart is now hanging on the hallway bulletin board. If you would like to dedicate sanctuary flowers in loving memory or in honor of a loved one, sign up today!

Equal Exchange Coffee, Tea, Cocoa Mix and Chocolate Bars - Show your support of Fair Trade by stopping at the Equal Exchange table following all three services. Fair Trade enables farmers to stay on their land, receive a fair price, send their children to school and care for the environment.

All proceeds benefit Family Promise of Summit County.

Children's Ministry

For Children's opportunities, contact Dee Buchanan dbuchanan@hudsonucc.org or Katie Morgan: kmorgan@hudsonucc.org.

Teachers and Shepherds needed to teach the Christmas Story from **12/1 - 12/29**.

Pray-per-View Teacher (12/1 only)

Psalm of Music Teacher

3rd grade shepherd

Please contact Katie (kmorgan@hudsonucc.org) if you can help.

The Children's Center is about to **open our new preschool** in North Akron for children with no access to a preschool. We are looking for an assistant teacher to join our special school. Do you have preschool teaching experience or know someone who does? Our assistant teacher would work approximately **six hours** per day, **Monday, Wednesday and Fridays**. We are hoping to be open 5 days a week for the 2021 school year. Please contact Dee Buchanan (dbuchanan@hudsonucc.org) for more information.

The Children's Center is looking for a preschool teacher to teach our new after school care program for the 2020-2021 school year. The program will run **five days a week** and the hours will be **3:00 pm-6:00 pm**. This class will be for Kindergarten and First Grade students. If you are interested or know someone who would be perfect, contact Dee (dbuchanan@hudsonucc.org) for more information! Thank you!

Do you know any two year olds who are ready for their first time away at preschool? Yes? We have the perfect place to start! **Time for Tots**. We have a couple spots left on **Monday or Thursday, 9:15-11:45 am**. It is a 2.5 hour class with a 2:8 teacher to child ratio. Contact the Children's Center for more information: 330-342-3977.

Youth and Children's Ministries are looking for a **COOK** for our **Wednesday night** programs. This person purchases kid-friendly foods, then cooks and serves every **Wednesday** from approximately **4:00-6:00 pm**. This would be a paid position **starting January 8** and ending in May. Please contact Katie if you are interested!

Summer Intern - Do you love children and are looking for a summer job? The Children's Ministries team is looking for a summer intern. If you have a strong faith, have completed your sophomore year in high school and have experience working with children, please go to the church website (www.hudsonucc.org) and fill out the application. If you have any questions, please contact Dee Buchanan (dbuchanan@hudsonucc.org).

Adult/Health Ministry

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

FYI (Feeling Young Inside) luncheon and presentation will take place on **Monday, December 16 at 12:00 noon** in Fellowship Hall. Julia Ellifritt, a licensed social worker and Director of Education at Cornerstone of Hope will talk about "Hope for the Season". Holidays are not always the happiest times for everyone due to several reasons including the loss of a loved one, depression or stress. Join us for meaningful conversation and a healthy lunch. Sign up on the Connection Card or call the church office (330-658-4048) to secure your reservation.

Unused, unwanted or expired medications that you don't know what to do with? FCCH is partnering with the Summit County **Community Partnership** program to distribute *Deterra Bags*. These bags deactivate drugs so that you can safely throw them in your trash. A labeled bin of bags is located above the coat rack near the Health Ministries bulletin board. Help yourself - keep our community safe!

Mat Yoga will resume for 6 weeks beginning Monday, December 2. 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.

Chair Yoga, a gentle movement class, continues in Fellowship Hall every **Wednesday** through November from **10:00-10:30 am** with Kristin Keller. Chair Yoga will not meet in December. Donations are accepted but not required.

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 contact Kathy. Enjoy a fun time helping to serve our seniors!

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AmazonSmile - Did you know your purchases can make a difference? AmazonSmile donates to First Congregational Church of Hudson when you do your holiday shopping at smile.amazon.com/ch/34-0762813. SmileAmazon is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on smile.amazon.com, the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate a percentage of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

Cookie Exchange - Thursday, December 12 at 1:00 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Bring 7 dozen of your favorite home-baked holiday cookies to share. We will offer beverages to go along with the “taste-sharing” before creating our take home plates of delicious goodies. Sign up with your type of cookie (to avoid multiples of the same cookie) and submit the recipe to mkisthardt@hudsonucc.org by **12/5/19**. Questions? Contact Debbie Borgos at dborgos@windstream.net. This is a **Connections Ministries FREE** event. All are welcome!

Donation for OPEN M - Please donate a jar of RAGU Spaghetti sauce! We are looking to donate 210 jars to help fill **OPEN M holiday baskets**. Please purchase a 45 oz. PLASTIC jar with the yellow lid and place in the collection boxes in the main hallway. All donations need to be at the church **by December 1**. Thank you!

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!

Adult Faith Formation

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

Centering Prayer - Saturdays: 12/7 and 12/21 at 9:30 am. Join a small group of congregants and community members who gather on an ongoing basis to practice Centering Prayer (i.e., group meditation) together. No experience required!

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.

Save The Date! 2020 Women’s Winter Bible Study - Wednesdays, January 8 - February 19. Daytime Session: **9:30-10:45 am** and Evening Session: **6:45-8:00 pm**. We will be using Angie Smith’s study - *Seamless: Understanding the Bible as One Complete Story*. Mark you calendars and invite a friend today!

Pathfinders meets on the **2nd and 4th Sundays** of each month. Join us **TODAY** and on **Sunday, December 8 at 9:00 am** in the 3rd floor chapel as we study *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.

2020 Financial Giving Commitments - You should have received a letter in the mail regarding your 2020 financial commitment to the church. Thank you to everyone who has communicated their commitment for next year! If you have any questions, please contact Emily Lopick, Stewardship and Communications Director, at elopick@hudsonucc.org or visit her in Fellowship Hall following the service.

Youth Ministry

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

The 9 and Breakfast Club - All middle school and high school students are invited to the Youth Room during the 9:00 and 10:30 services. Today, we are talking about the birth of a very important person in our faith tradition: Moses! Join us.

SALT - A Christmas craft? A taste of ASP? Power tools? Preparation for Advent? It’s all happening tonight at SALT. High schoolers, **tonight** in the Youth Room from **6:00-7:30**.

D&D - Remember, since there is no school for Hudson on Wednesday, that means there will be NO D&D. Enjoy your long weekend. See you on **December 4!**

Simply Christmas - Middle school students are invited for a craft and snacks in the Youth Room **TODAY, November 24, 2:00-4:00 pm**. Join us for a fun start to the Advent Season. Check your email for more details and be sure to RSVP!

Homerun for the Homeless - Every year Gennesaret holds a **Thanksgiving morning** race to raise funds for the important work they do all year long. You can help by working the water station along the course. You’ll be home in plenty of time for your own Turkey dinner! Contact Jeff Wells (jeffreylwells@gmail.com) to sign up.

High School Choir - Sing with us on Christmas Eve!

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