

Congregational Calendar

Your financial support makes all of this happen!

SUNDAY, December 1

9/10:30/11:59 Worship (Sanctuary)
9:00 am The 9 (Youth Room)
10:30 am Breakfast Club (Youth Room)
11:30 am Confirmation (Activity Room)
6:00 pm SALT (Youth Room & FH)
6:00 pm Handbells (Choir Room)
7:30 pm Teen Band/Choir (Sanctuary)

MONDAY, December 2

9:00 am Deaconess Board (304 & Chapel)
7:00 pm ShE (Youth Room)
7:00 pm Mat Yoga (FH)

TUESDAY, December 3

1:30 pm Congregational Conversations (LL)
6:30 pm Prayer Quilting (102)
7:00 pm Adult Ed Board (301)

WEDNESDAY, December 4

9:00 am WOW (FH)
3:00 pm D&D (Youth Room & FH)
5:00 pm revoice (Choir Room)
5:00 pm Camp Wednesday (FH/Act/Choir)
5:30 pm High School Choir (Youth Room)
7:00 pm Chancel Choir
8:30 pm Men's Ensemble

THURSDAY, December 5

11:30 am LIFT Christmas Lunch (Laurel Lake)
7:00 pm Just Faith (301)

FRIDAY, December 6

6:30 am JourneyMen (Yours Truly)

SATURDAY, December 7

9:30 am Centering Prayer (Chapel)
10:00 am AI-Anon Newcomers (120)
11:00 am AI-Anon Meeting (102)
11:00 am Alateen (Youth Room)

Coffee Hour in December is provided through the generosity of members of the Outreach Board.

Today's Scripture: Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ²In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

WELCOME TO FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

SUNDAY, December 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.

Worship Opportunities During Advent

Sundays in Advent: December 1, 8 and 15 ~ Worship at 9:00, 10:30 and 11:59 AM
December 22 ~ Single Worship at 10:00 AM

Longest Night Service: December 19 at 7:00 PM

December 24 Christmas Eve Services: 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 11:00 pm

December 29: Worship at 9:00, 10:30, 11:59 AM

Advent Breakfast at Laurel Lake: Monday, December 9, 9:00 AM

Advent Worship at Hudson Grande: Monday, December 9, 10:30 AM

Advent Worship at Danbury: Monday, December 9, 11:30 AM

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 TOMORROW - Monday, December 2!** Contact Sue Conley with any questions. (scnly@aol.com).

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!

Today's Flowers

The Sanctuary flowers are given in memory of
John Fish from his family.

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 cselvaggio@hudsonucc.org or Callie cbaylor@hudsonucc.org. We hope to see you there!

ShE Holidazes - ShE, our fellowship group for moms with children in elementary school and younger, is meeting in the Youth Room tomorrow, **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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Shoebox Ministry-Operation Christmas Child 2019 - Thank you! Thanks to everyone who participated in this year's filling of the Shoeboxes. Because of your donations of toys, school supplies, and craft supplies, we were able to fill 118 shoeboxes and deliver them to the local drop-off site. Many thanks, also, to those who participated on packing day; your giving of time is so much appreciated. Our shoeboxes from Hudson will be delivered to children all around the world. Thank 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.

Teachers and Shepherds needed to teach the Christmas Story from **12/8 - 12/29**.

9:00 Garden of Eatin' Teacher (12/15 only)	Psalm of Music Teacher
4 th /5 th grade shepherd (12/15, 12/22, 12/29)	1 st grade Shepherd (12/8, 12/29)

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 spot left on **Thursdays, 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.

Birthday Party for Jesus - Sunday, December 22 at 10:00 am in the Activity Room. All children, 2 years old through Kindergarten, are invited to Jesus' Birthday Party! Our party will take the place of Sunday School on **December 22**. Cake, party games, crafts and a great time will be had by all!

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 a healthy lunch and stimulating conversation. 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 is here **Mondays at 7:00 pm** in Fellowship Hall starting tomorrow, **Monday, December 2** for six weeks. 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, will resume on **Wednesday, January 8, 2020** from **10:00-10:30 am** with Kristin Keller in Fellowship Hall.

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.

It's Gift Wrapping Sunday! Join us in Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour **TODAY** to wrap gifts. Haven of Rest has delivered toys that they will be giving to families in need in the Akron area this Christmas season. We are helping in this endeavor by wrapping each gift **today**. Wrapping paper, scissors, and tape will be provided. See you there!

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!

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.

Journeyman Breakfast - All men are invited to breakfast and fellowship, **Friday, December 6** at Yours Truly restaurant. Come join us, as well, for spontaneous "Thirsty Thursdays" and service opportunities. Contact Trip Kern: Trip.Kern@gmail.com.

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.

Youth Ministry

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

High School Choir starts this week! All High School students are invited to join us this **Wednesday, December 4** in the Youth Room to meet Chelsea and check out our new choir. Dinner is included (Chick-fil-A!) as we get this group started. We'll meet **each Wednesday in December** and sing at the 5:00 service on Christmas Eve. No worries if you can't make all the dates. Join us anyway! Contact Callie to RSVP (so we have enough food) or with any questions you may have. Can't wait!

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. Join us as we begin Advent.

SALT - High schoolers, we meet **tonight** in the Youth Room from **6:00-7:30 pm**. Building off the craft we did last week, we have a great night planned to help us begin Advent together. No worries if you weren't here last week - we will take care of you! Everyone is welcome!

D&D - We are back in action this week, Dreaming Big and talking about Christmas wishes. Join us **this Wednesday, 3:00-5:00 pm**.

Confirmation - We meet today in the **YOUTH ROOM** (new spot!), right after the 10:30 am service. Please join us for lunch and our meeting.

Summer Missionary Program 2020 - We are looking for a college student and four high school students to form our SMP team this summer. If you love to serve, if you want to be a part of our church family in a new way, if you want to make a difference in the community, please consider being a part of our Summer Missionary Program. You will spend seven weeks serving all around Akron. These are paid positions. Check our website for details or contact Callie.

Gennesaret - Our monthly visit to Gennesaret is this **Saturday, December 7**. Contact Jeff Wells (jeffreylwells@gmail.com) to sign up.