

## Congregational Calendar

*Your financial support makes all of this happen!*

### **SUNDAY, December 8**

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)  
10/11:30 am Blood Pressure Clinic (Office)  
10:30 am Breakfast Club (Youth Room)  
12-5:00 pm Live Nativity (The Green)  
5:00 pm ShE/Dopplebockers Potluck (AR)  
6:00 pm SALT (off site)  
7:30 pm Teen Band/Choir (Sanctuary)

### **MONDAY, December 9**

9:00 am Advent Breakfast (Laurel Lake)  
10:30 am Advent Worship (Hudson Grande)  
11:30 am Advent Worship (Danbury)  
7:00 pm Outreach Board (304)  
7:00 pm Stew Crew (off site)  
7:00 pm Mat Yoga (FH)

### **TUESDAY, December 10**

12:30 pm ROMEOs (Lager & Vine)  
1:30 pm Congregational Conversations (LL)  
6:30 pm Children's Ministries Brd. (off site)  
7:00 pm Trustees (301)  
7:00 pm Membership Board (102)  
7:00 pm Youth Board (Youth Room)  
7:00 pm Personnel Committee (304)

### **WEDNESDAY, December 11**

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  
7:00 pm Council

### **THURSDAY, December 12**

1:00 pm Cookie Exchange (FH)  
7:00 pm NAMI (102)  
7:00 pm Dopplebockers (off site)  
7:00 pm Women's Ensemble Party

### **SATURDAY, December 14**

10:00 am Al-Anon Newcomers (120)  
11:00 am Al-Anon Meeting (102)  
11:00 am Alateen (Youth Room)  
7:00 pm Western Reserve Band Concert (FH)

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

### ***Today's Scripture: Matthew 3:1-3***

*In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."<sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"*

## WELCOME TO FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

*SUNDAY, December 8, 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 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

**Live Nativity is TODAY!** We are so blessed to be the church that creates the Live Nativity on our Clock Tower green. Come visit us from **12:00 - 5:00 pm!**

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

**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 by Robin Benoit in loving memory of her sister, Judy Moore Ross.

**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](mailto:cselvaggio@hudsonucc.org) or Callie [cbaylor@hudsonucc.org](mailto:cbaylor@hudsonucc.org). We hope to see you there!

**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](mailto:JBarden@hudsonucc.org).

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**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](mailto:elopick@hudsonucc.org) or visit her in Fellowship Hall following the service.

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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](https://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.

**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**.

**Adult/Health Ministry**

*For questions, contact Kathy Yeakley, (330) 650-4048, or [kyeakley@hudsonucc.org](mailto: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.

**Mat Yoga** is here **Mondays** at **7:00 pm** in Fellowship Hall starting tomorrow, **Monday, December 9** for six weeks. Classes take place 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.

**Want to keep moving** but the snow and cold is keeping you inside? Look for opportunities to **move this winter** in Fellowship Hall starting in January. Details will be coming soon!

**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!

**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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**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!

## Children's Ministry

For Children's opportunities, contact Dee Buchanan [dbuchanan@hudsonucc.org](mailto:dbuchanan@hudsonucc.org) or Katie Morgan: [kmorgan@hudsonucc.org](mailto:kmorgan@hudsonucc.org).

**Teachers and Shepherds needed** to teach the Christmas Story from **12/15 - 12/29**.

9:00 Garden of Eatin' Teacher (12/15 only)

Psalm of Music Teacher

4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade shepherd (12/15, 12/22, 12/29)

1<sup>st</sup> grade Shepherd (12/29)

Please contact Katie ([kmorgan@hudsonucc.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.hudsonucc.org)) and fill out the application. If you have any questions, please contact Dee Buchanan ([dbuchanan@hudsonucc.org](mailto:dbuchanan@hudsonucc.org)).

## **Longest Night Service \* Thursday, December 19 ~ 7:00 PM**

If Christmas doesn't quite feel like a happy time this year, join us for this quiet, meditative service where we'll pray, sing, read scripture, light candles, and remember that God's presence is with all of us, no matter where we are on life's journey during this holy season.

*~ All are welcome ~ Childcare provided ~*

*\*This service is held near the winter solstice, the longest night of darkness during the year, and acknowledges how we are sometimes living through the "longest nights" of our lives during the holiday season.*

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**Celebrating Baby Jesus! Next Sunday, December 15** during **fellowship hour**, join us for our Baby Jesus Celebration as we enjoy photos of all our Baby Jesuses throughout the years. It's not too late to send in 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](mailto:JBarden@hudsonucc.org). The Baby Jesus photo can be from any time and place and does not have to have happened at FCCH.

**Thanks from Findley Community Learning Center!** Thank you to everyone who helped with the Findley Family Harvest Dinner. The youth and adult volunteers were wonderful and the generosity of so many Family Sponsors ... well, you all made this event happen beautifully! I appreciate the time and resources you dedicated to this special dinner that is loved by the Findley students, their families and staff. Extra thanks to Cindy Deily and Lisa Twardzik for handling so many of the details. Kudos to Katie Kelly, Jeff Wells, Dave Longfellow, Main Street Gourmet, the culinary crew at Kenmore Garfield HS in Akron, the Jennings Middle School orchestra and jazz band, Good Samaritan Hunger Center and our cookie bakers. It is an honor to serve the Findley elementary Akron Public School our church has adopted; helping to fill the needs of an underserved school with love and care.

*Jane Penny, FCCH member and Findley CLC Volunteer Coordinator ([janempenny@gmail.com](mailto:janempenny@gmail.com)).*

**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](mailto:tghudson@juno.com).**

**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 ASAP to [mkisthardt@hudsonucc.org](mailto:mkisthardt@hudsonucc.org). Questions? Contact Debbie Borgos at [dborgos@windstream.net](mailto: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](mailto:shockstra@hudsonucc.org).*

**Centering Prayer - Saturday, December 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](mailto:shockstra@hudsonucc.org)) for more information.

**SIGN UP TODAY - 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 your calendars and invite a friend today! Sign up on the Connection Card or call the Church Office. Questions? Email Tracy Zappone: [pzappone@yahoo.com](mailto:pzappone@yahoo.com).

**Pathfinders** meets on the **2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays** of each month. Join us **TODAY** at **9:00 am** in the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. Pathfinders **will not meet** on **Sunday, December 22**.

**ROMEOS, “Retired Older Men Eating Out,”** will meet at **12:30 pm, Tuesday, December 10** at Lager and Vine for lunch and fellowship. For more information, contact Henry Vigor: [hkvigor@windstream.net](mailto:hkvigor@windstream.net).

**Journeyman Breakfast** - All men are invited to breakfast and fellowship the **first Friday** of the month at **6:30 am** at Yours Truly restaurant. Our next gathering will be **Friday, January 3**. Come join us, as well, for spontaneous “Thirsty Thursdays” and service opportunities. Contact Trip Kern: [Trip.Kern@gmail.com](mailto:Trip.Kern@gmail.com).

**Christmas Caroling!** - Join us for Christmas Caroling after our 10:00 am (single) worship service on **December 22**. Come to church dressed for the weather and ready to **SING!**

### **Youth Ministry**

*For Youth opportunities, contact Callie Baylor [cbaylor@hudsonucc.org](mailto:cbaylor@hudsonucc.org) or Amy Baldwin [abaldwin@hudsonucc.org](mailto:abaldwin@hudsonucc.org).*

**High School Choir** - We got off to a great start this week at our first ever High School Choir rehearsal! If you missed it, don’t worry! All high schoolers are invited to join us this **Wednesday, December 11**. Dinner is included - Chipotle! 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 Chelsea at [cseivaggio@hudsonucc.org](mailto:cseivaggio@hudsonucc.org) 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. We’re going to have a wonderful chat about a wonderful Christmas movie. Can you guess which one?

**SALT** - Tonight is our annual **SALT Christmas Party** at Ben Martinez’s house. Bring a white elephant gift and a treat to share. Check your texts/email for other details. See you at **6:00 pm**.

**D&D** - Join us **this Wednesday, 3:00-5:00 pm** for snacks, games, discussion and dinner. And remember, our Christmas Party is **December 18** during our regular D&D hours.

**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.

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**Offering Envelopes** - If you would like to receive 2020 offering envelopes, please sign up at the table in the hallway outside the Finance Office. Questions? Contact Diana Finkes at [dfinkes@hudsonucc.org](mailto:dfinkes@hudsonucc.org) or 330-650-4048.