

## Congregational Calendar

*Your financial support makes all of this happen!*

### **SUNDAY, December 15**

9/10:30/11:59 Worship (Sanctuary)  
9:00 am The 9 (Youth Room)  
9:45 am Friends Class (102)  
10/11:30/12:30 Equal Exchange Sale (FH)  
10:30 am Breakfast Club (Youth Room)  
6:00 pm SALT (Youth & FH)  
7:30 pm Teen Band/Choir (Sanctuary)

### **MONDAY, December 16**

12:00 pm FYI Luncheon (FH)  
7:00 pm Deacons Board (304)  
7:00 pm ShE (Lager & Vine)  
7:00 pm Mat Yoga (FH)

### **TUESDAY, December 17**

1:30 pm Congregational Conversations (LL)  
7:00 pm Music Board (Alcove)

### **WEDNESDAY, December 18**

9:00 am WOW (FH)  
10:00 am Tai Chi (FH)  
11:00 am Hudson Grande VIP Worship  
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

### **THURSDAY, December 19**

9:30 am Prayer Quilting (102)  
7:00 pm Longest Night Service (Sanctuary)

### **SATURDAY, December 21**

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

**Celebrating Baby Jesus! TODAY**, during fellowship hour, join us for our Baby Jesus Celebration as we enjoy photos of all our Baby Jesuses throughout the years.

### ***Today's Scripture: Luke 1:26-38***

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."<sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

## WELCOME TO FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

*SUNDAY, December 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.

### **Worship Opportunities During Advent**

**Sunday, 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**

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

**Longest Night Service: A time for those who are grieving, struggling, or looking for a time of quiet this holiday season. ~ Thursday, December 19, 7:00 p.m.**

Are you longing for a space of quiet and reflection this Christmas? Does joy seem hard to find in the midst of the grief that can arise at this time of year? Join us for this service of prayer, song, and candles—and be reminded that God's presence is with us all, no matter where we are on life's journey during this holy season. Childcare available.

*\*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.*

### **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES ~ All with candlelight**

**3:00 PM *Camp Wednesday Children's Pageant***

"The Angel Band" Nursery care available.

**5:00 PM** A traditional service of hearing the story and singing carols.

High School Choir, Memorial Choir and strings. Nursery care available.

**7:00 PM** A traditional service of hearing the story and singing carols.

Men's Ensemble and members of the Men of Independence with brass quintet and timpani. Nursery care available.

**11:00 PM *Communion Service*** - Bring in Christmas at a service concluding at midnight with the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Chancel Choir and instrumental consort.

# *POINSETTIAS*

*December 2019*

*The Poinsettias in the sanctuary this morning are given by the following people. Earlier this season, the Deaconesses delivered poinsettias to members who are over 85 & those in care facilities*

Marcia Boote in memory of Norman and Mary Walker and Hazel Boote.

Lois Brown in memory of Walter Tinner.

Roger and Claire Burgess in memory of Christopher S. Burgess.

The Burling Family in memory of their mother and grandmother, Cindy Burling.

Deanna and Bob Carleton in memory of their parents and in honor of their children.

Larry and Heather Carlson in honor of their family and loved ones.

Julie Erickson and family in memory of Mrs. C. F. Wallman and John Bradley Erickson.

Annie and Kyle Haluch in honor of their grandparents, Tom and Peggy Hudson and Frank and Alma Haluch.

Howard E. Hendershott, Jr. in memory of Virginia L. Hendershott and Kevin Knox.

Bob and Marty Hills in honor of their loving family and their loving church family.

Rosemary Jones in memory of David Jones and Alison Burner.

Holly Keenan in memory of Jack Crichton.

Bess Lighthiser and sons in loving memory of J. Lawrence Lighthiser and their parents.

Virginia and David Longfellow in memory of mother, Jane Longfellow.

The Matyja Family in honor of blessed grandparents, Joan and Joe Selden.

Amy McCarthy in memory of Randolph J. Dubitsky and in honor of Rachel Lester and Eric Dubitsky.

Joy and Tom Murdough in memory of loved ones.

Pat Myers in memory of her son, David.

Bill Oldham in memory of Patricia J. Oldham.

Beth and Allen Park in honor of their parents and their children.

Bob Prevette in memory of Caroline Ann Davis Prevette and Robert "Rob" Eugene Prevette, Jr.

The Query and Prevette families in memory of Dr. Maggie Query Prevette.

Kathy Schieber in memory of John and Eileen Berg and Reinhard and Rose Marie Schieber.

The Selden Family in memory of their loving parents.

Ginger Sorg and Al Strodbeck in memory of Barbara Strodbeck, Walter Sorg and Douglas Sorg and in honor of Al's family and Ginger's nine grandchildren and eighteen great-grandchildren.

**ShE Parties** - ShE is having their **holiday party** at Lager and Vine **tomorrow, Monday, December 16** at **7:00 pm**. RSVP TODAY to Jen Barden at [JBarden@hudsonucc.org](mailto:JBarden@hudsonucc.org). Childcare is available upon request.

**Plant-based Potluck!** On **Sunday, January 12** at **12:30 pm** following the 11:59 service, please join us for a vegetarian/vegan potluck lunch. All are welcome and your RSVP is required by **Thursday, January 9**. The main vegan entrée will be provided by the Adult Faith Formation Board and attendees are asked to contribute either a vegan or vegetarian side dish that serves 6-8. Questions about what to bring? Contact Kathleen Leigh Lewarchick at 330-414-0338.

**Social Justice Book Club - Thursday, January 16** at **7:00 pm** in Room 301. In a small group setting, read and discuss the book *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson, a powerful true story of justice and redemption. Books will be provided to all who register. Email [mkisthardt@hudsonucc.org](mailto:mkisthardt@hudsonucc.org) to register. All are welcome! Bring a friend!

**Save the Date!** The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is celebrated each January. Hudson churches will gather for the 2020 Christian Unity Prayer service on **Thursday, January 23** at **10:00 am** at Hudson United Methodist Church, 2670 Hudson-Aurora Road. After the prayer service, ticket holders will enjoy a luncheon catered by Nosh's Eatery and Creative Catering. Our featured speaker after the luncheon will be Professor Carolyn Behrman from the University of Akron. She will share her stories of working with the Asian immigrant communities in Akron. Ticket price is \$18 (checks payable to FCCH) and may be obtained by calling the church office (330-650-4048). Reservation deadline is January 19.

**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! 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!

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

**Equal Exchange Coffee, Tea, Cocoa Mix and Chocolate Bars on sale TODAY** following all three services in Fellowship Hall. Show your support of Fair Trade!

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

### **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).*

**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)).

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**Family Promise** - Please visit the Family Promise of Summit County mission table in Fellowship Hall today after our 9:00 and 10:30 services. We are excited to share information about this mission at FCCH. Family Promise provides emergency shelter to homeless families. FCCH serves as a host congregation, housing families one week, every twelve weeks. We look forward to spreading the word of this mission!

**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.

Mike and Lori Stickler in memory of Alan Stickler.

Jane and Mike Swain in memory of their parents.

Joanne Tortoriello and family in loving memory of Thomas Ross Tortoriello.

Timothy and Suzann VanDuzer in memory of their parents: David and Rosemary

VanDuzer, Keith Hubler, and Barbara and Lee Whitehill and in memory of siblings:

David VanDuzer, Kathy VanDuzer, and Bryan Hubler.

Women on Wednesday (WOW) in memory of Mary Griffiths.

Susan Wozniak in memory of grandmother, Alice Wilenius.

Kathy and Bill Yeakley in memory of Bob and Lois Yeakley and Eugene Thress and in honor of Norma Thress.

Michele Zelko in memory of those we hold close in our memories.

Mary Zielasko in memory of loved ones.

Donna and David Zuro in loving honor of their family.

### **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 **TOMORROW at 12:00 noon** in Fellowship Hall.

**Mat Yoga** is here **Mondays at 7:00 pm** 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!

**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.

**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!

**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!

**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.

### **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 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor chapel at **9:00 am**. Pathfinders **will not meet** on **Sunday, December 22** but will resume on **January 12**.

**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).

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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 and prices, 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.

### **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** - "The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear!" We have one more rehearsal before Christmas Eve and it's not too late for you to join in. We have been having so much fun—you should really check it out! All high schoolers are invited to join us to rehearse this **Wednesday, December 18**. Dinner is included. And next week we'll sing at the **5:00 pm service on Christmas Eve**. 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** - "There's room for everyone on the Nice List." And there's room for all middle school and high school students in the Youth Room during the 9:00 and 10:30 services. Join us to talk about everyone's favorite Christmas movie. Can you guess which one it is?\*

**SALT** - "I thought maybe we could make ginger bread houses, and eat cookie dough, and go ice skating, and maybe even hold hands." Or maybe we'll just watch a movie (Home Alone!) and decorate a few Christmas cookies. Stop by the Youth Room tonight from **6:00 - 7:30 pm** for a study break before your last week of school this semester.

**D&D** - "We elves try to stick to the four main food groups: candy, candy canes, candy corn and syrup." Join us this **Wednesday, 3:00 - 5:00 pm**, for our annual Christmas Party. Wear your Christmas Jammies and be ready for fun. We'll probably even have some of those elf food groups on hand. Remember to bring a pair of wrapped Christmas socks for our gift exchange.

**Summer Missionary Program 2020** - "Then, I traveled through the seven levels of the Candy Cane forest, past the sea of twirly-swirly gum drops, and then I walked through the Lincoln Tunnel." You might not travel that far, but you will travel all around Akron if you decide to be part of our Summer Missionary Program. 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 this summer, if you want to make a difference in the community, please apply. These are paid positions. Check our website for details or contact Callie.

**Christmas Eve Luminaries** - "You have such a pretty face. You should be on a Christmas card." Our beautiful luminaries will also be Christmas-card worthy. Can you help us light our walkways this Christmas Eve? We need help for the start and end of each service. Contact Callie to sign up or check your email for a link to our Sign Up Genius.

\*It's Elf.