

## Congregational Calendar

*Your financial support makes all of this happen!*

### **SUNDAY, December 22**

10:00 am Worship (Sanctuary)  
10:00 am Breakfast Club (Youth Room)  
10:00 am Jesus' Birthday Party (Activity Rm.)  
11:00 am Caroling (Downtown Hudson)  
4:00 pm Vespers (Laurel Lake)

### **TUESDAY, December 24**

3:00 pm Children's Christmas Program (Sanctuary)  
5:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship (Sanctuary)  
7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship (Sanctuary)  
11:00 pm Christmas Eve Communion Worship (Sanctuary)

### **MONDAY, December 23**

9-11:00 am Children's Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal (Sanctuary)  
7:00 pm Mat Yoga (FH)

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

### **WEDNESDAY, December 25**

**Christmas Day—Church Office Closed**

### **SATURDAY, December 28**

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

**ACME Cash Register Receipts** - Look for the words **Community Cashback** at the bottom of your receipts along with a dollar value. Register receipts must be current and have the **Community Cashback** notation dated **August 8 to December 28, 2019**. Place the entire receipt in the marked box in the hallway. Thank you!

**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! Questions, please contact Emily Lopick, Stewardship and Communications Director, at [elopick@hudsonucc.org](mailto:elopick@hudsonucc.org).

### ***Today's Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25***

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

## WELCOME TO FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

*SUNDAY, December 22, 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.

**Join us for Christmas Caroling - TODAY** directly after worship!

### **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.

**2020 Christian Unity Prayer Service** - Hudson churches will gather on **Thursday, January 23 at 10:00 am** at Hudson United Methodist Church, 2670 Hudson-Aurora Rd. After the prayer service, ticket holders will enjoy a luncheon catered by Nosh's Eatery. 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 tickets may be obtained by calling the church office (330-650-4048). Reservation deadline is January 19.

**Social Justice Book Club - Thursday, January 16, 6:00-8:00 pm** in Room 301. (Please note corrected time.) Our first book, *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson, is an unforgettable story of racial injustice and has recently been turned into a movie generating a lot of Oscar buzz. It will be facilitated by two University of Akron Law Professors. Email [mkisthardt@hudsonucc.org](mailto:mkisthardt@hudsonucc.org) to register. All are welcome! Bring a friend!

**Poinsettias are available after today's worship for those who ordered them. Cellophane "slipcovers" are available at the front and back doors.**

## 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!

**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)).

**Amazing Opportunities Available** to help teach and shepherd downstairs in the New Year! Will you join us? Below, are the openings that we need to fill:  
(1/5 only) - 9:00 and 10:30 - Tabernacle Teacher and Shepherd: the students will watch a video of our church's Baptism.

1/12 - 2/2:

- 9:00 (1/19 only) and 10:30 - Our Acts Teacher: the students will create a puppet show.
- 9:00 (1/26 only) and 10:30 - The Psalm of Music Teacher: the children will learn several hymns associated with Baptism.
- 9:00 (1/5 only) and 10:30 - Fun & Godly Stuff Teacher: the children will create and play a memory game.
- 9:00 - 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade shepherd
- 10:30 1<sup>st</sup> grade shepherd                      2<sup>nd</sup> grade shepherd  
            3<sup>rd</sup> grade shepherd                      4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade shepherd

## Adult/Health Ministry

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

**FYI (Feeling Young Inside)** luncheon on **Monday, January 13**, at noon in Fellowship Hall will feature **Dave Basil**, former mayor of Hudson. Sign up today on the Connection Card or call the church office (330-650-4048).

**Mat Yoga** will continue on **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.

## 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).

**Christmas Eve Luminaries** - 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.

**High School Choir** - The big day is almost here. Our High School Choir debuts on **Christmas Eve** at the **5:00 pm service**. We hope you will join us.

**The 9 and Breakfast Club** - Join us in the Youth Room at **10:00 am** for Morning at the Movies. We'll wrap up our Christmas movies series with popcorn and a movie.

**Christmas Break** - Breakfast Club, The 9, SALT, D&D, Confirmation and HS Choir are all off until the new year. See you **Sunday, January 5, 2020!**

**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 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.

## Adult Faith Formation

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

**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 today** but will resume on **January 12**.

**Journeymen 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).

**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.