

January 2025

Office Hours
Monday — Thursday
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.



**First
Christian
Church**

www.cantonfcc.org

215 West Elm Street
Canton, IL 61520

office (309) 647-1363

Welcome Aja and Congrats on Eureka College Scholarship!



On December 29th, we joyously, officially welcomed Aja Lawson as a member of FCC! Aja has regularly shared her gifts through choir, special music, participation at Family Ministry Nights and she offers wonderful insight in our Digging Deeper Bible studies. She currently is a postal worker at Ellisville. We are so grateful to be able to welcome her into the community...and so excited to announce that this fall, Aja will begin her studies at Eureka College, where she has been awarded the prestigious Disciples Leadership Program scholarship, a "top-tier, competitive scholarship" based on "leadership, academic excellence, and the commitment to explore during college a life of faith-based servant leadership." It not only covers 4 years of FULL tuition (!!!) but also provides two onsite mentorships with covered travel expenses anywhere in the world to explore service opportunities. We celebrate with Aja on her full acceptance, both at FCC and Eureka!

Merry Christmas, First Christian Church!

This Advent and Christmas Season, with the theme of "How does a Weary World Rejoice?" has been a meaningful one and brought many opportunities for us to gather, call on God and celebrate the hope, peace, joy and love of Christ that we celebrate in Christmas. Whether it was taking photos at the backdrop, welcoming the Canton High School Madrigal singers, lighting candles, caroling to retirement communities with our friends at First Pres. or decorating and sharing cookies at the Gingerbread Bash, we hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas!



Steve Mason: Pastor
Jessa Wenger: Office Coordinator
Email: contact@cantonfcc.org



Rick Coulter: Building Supervisor
John Davis: Director of Music
Gretchen Fuller: Organist

Whew! What a year 2024 was. My prayer is that over Christmas and New Year's, you and your family and friends had a chance to quiet down, breathe, reflect and say some prayers of thanks and gratitude for all of God's blessings. And I hope that 2025 can be a time where we can be faithful in our call and courageous in our witness as a church.

In worship on January 19th, I'll be doing what I like to call our "State of the Church" during worship where we look back at our year together and also cast our gaze into what might be in store for 2025. Now, I'm not going to give it all away, and I hope you join us in worship that day (and every Sunday!) but here are a few things will happen or I'm hoping might come to fruition in 2025:

- upgrades to our worship equipment
- new staff devoted to Congregational Care
- "Lunch and Learn" (formerly "Happy Timers") and other programs for retired adults in partnership with Canton parks district
- new small group studies: hospitality and welcome, Bible 101, discipleship class, "Banned Questions" discussion group
- training groups for substance abuse and suicide prevention
- intergenerational summer mission trip to help recovery efforts in Asheville, NC
- opportunities to go to General Assembly in Memphis, Regional Assembly in Chicago and Camp Walter Scott in Effingham
- Date Night ministry for adults to connect
- new worship series: Beginning with Blessing, Soaking up the Psalms, House Keeping, Amazing Grace, Imagining a World with More, Living Generously and Simply Jesus

But no matter what programs we do, or what changes happen in this world, I'm grateful to start off another year of ministry with you and with this wonderful faith community we call First Christian Church. Happy New Year!

Pastor Steve



Find your **Minute at First** every Monday morning.

Information and spiritual formation on Facebook or in your email.

Watch, like and share!



Congregational Care Coordinator

You probably already know Kevin Dearing and the many "hats" he wears—elder, runner, Helping Hands volunteer, hospitality champ, choir member... but starting this month, Kevin is wearing another "hat" as our new Congregational Care Coordinator.

This 10 hour per week position is designed to supplement the pastoral work of our pastor and elders. Kevin's focus in this role will be to make homebound and hospital visits, to care for folks facing specific seasons of hardship and to vision areas of potential growth for the care of our congregants. For years, Kevin has been doing most of this work on a volunteer basis, but this creates some clear expectations, direction and compensation for this essential work.

If you have someone who might need some visits or attention from our Congregational Care Coordinator, please let Kevin, Pastor Steve or Jessa, in the office, know.

On behalf of the staff and congregation, welcome Kevin to this ministry and we look forward to its flourishing!



On behalf of the staff, we would all like to thank you all for the lovely appreciation and gifts for the Christmas season. Your kindness and compassion does not go unnoticed!

Personnel Committee News

We've started working on the 2025 Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Program application that's due March 20th. It's a fantastic grant that could fund Steve's sabbatical set for 2026.

We're having a Town Hall meeting after worship on Feb. 9th to share the exciting details and answer any questions you may have.

We're happy to announce that Kevin Dearing will be our new part time Congregational Care Coordinator starting in January!

Happy New Year!
Paula Grigsby, Chair

2024 Annual Congregational Meeting Results

Proposed Budget

Regular Giving	257,000
Ingersoll Trust	92,000
Outside Capital Funds	3,500
Scholarship Funds	10,000
Foundation Funds	
Other Regular Income	12,000
Total Income	374,500

Personnel	206,934
Administrative	11,810
Christian Education	4,400
Discipleship	5,500
Inspiring Generosity Grant	9,500
Property	74,540
Stewardship	4,800
Worship	7,175
Budgeted Missions	49,841
Total Expense	374,500

Difference 0

Proposed 2025

Elders

2023-2025: Tammy Weaver, Jennifer Miller

Caitlin Mason, Kevin Coleman

2024-2026: Mike Krulac, Doreen Atchley,

Chuck Taylor, Brian Spiva

2025-2027: **Kevin Dearing, Shawna Axline**

Maida Williams, Grant Stephenson

Church Board

Pastor: Steve Mason

Board Chair: **Michelle Spiva**

Vice-Chair: **Rhonda Morgan**

Secretary: **Shane Dixon**

Treasurer: Janet Krulac

At-large Representatives: Ashley Jump and Greg Pollitt

2 Deacon Representatives: Allen Smith and Susan Walters

3 Elder Representatives: (elders to decide in January)

Gingerbread Bash

On December 15th, we had our last Family Ministry Night of the year as folks gathered to bake, decorate and share cookies at the Gingerbread Bash.

Kids and kids at heart all had a good time as we listened to holiday hits, indulged in some snacks and played some games.

Thanks to Shane Dixon for taking photos.

And be ready for many more Family Ministry Nights in 2025!



Mike Meade Book Fund

Mike Meade was a champion for literacy, in general, and for the ministry of providing books for each 1st grader in Canton, specifically. He started this ministry and for years,



the children of Canton benefited from his passion. When he died last Spring, his wife Karen was bound to continue his legacy and so her family gave a generous seed gift of \$5000 to start a Mike Meaded Memorial Book Fund in order to guarantee the continuation of this ministry. This month we are finalizing a fund through the Christian Church Foundation set up specifically for this cause. Others have been so inspired by Mike's witness and the Meade family's generosity that they too have given. And, as it stands, with only \$2000 more in gifts, we can double the initial impact of the fund and show our support for the Meades and the literacy of our town's children. If you would like to make a gift, simply indicate Mike Meade Book Fund, and we will designate it as such. Thank you all for your generosity and passion! Mike would be proud!

New AED at FCC

Last month, First Christian received a new AED machine from Graham Hospital's Foundation. This machine that can be a lifesaver in case of a heart attack, is going to be installed on the first floor of the church, near the fellowship hall. First Christian already has another AED machine, on the top floor, by the bell tower, directly outside of the sanctuary area. But in his grant request to the Foundation, Pastor Steve noted the need for another machine much closer to the side of the church that gets used on a more frequent basis and how those seconds of not having to find it upstairs could help save lives.



Steve gratefully received the AED unit on behalf of FCC, from the Foundation's President and our very own Board Chair, Michelle Spiva, and the President and CEO of Graham

Medical Systems, Bob Senneff. Thank you, Graham Hospital Foundation!

In the coming weeks, stay tuned as we will host a brief training for any who wants to learn how to operate an AED unit.

BECOMING
DEDICATED

Disciples

Passionate **SPIRITUALITY**

Joyful **SERVICE**

Inspiring **GENEROSITY**

LIVING LEGACY-PHASE 2 Celebration and Dedication

It's hard to believe that the second year of our efforts for the Living Legacy Ministry is now concluding. To celebrate this on January 12th during our worship service, there will be a special ceremony and dedication for those who are Charter Partners. That is the members who have committed to a future gift through their will, life insurance or other planned gifts. Currently we have 38 names but hope to have some more sign up and be included before the extended deadline of January 8, 2025. Please fill out the Living Legacy form and turn it into the office before noon on Wednesday January 8th or give it to Steve by that date.

This special celebration and dedication service also serves as a way to say "thank you" to those Charter Partners. Members who want this church to be a vital, Christ filled congregation for decades to come for their children and grandchildren. During Chuck Taylor's giving testimony, he said it the best. We want this church to continue to "thrive not just survive". There is still time to join and become a Charter Partner.

Starting in March of 2025 Phase 3 of the Living Legacy Plan will begin. The first event will be a celebration dinner for all who are Living Legacy Partners at that time. Quarterly efforts will follow through the year. Please pray that God continues to bless this giving ministry.

Blessings,

Don Heller, on behalf of the Finance Committee



CHURCH SERVICES DURING



INCLEMENT WEATHER



During severe weather conditions, the Board Chair, Pastor, Greg Pollitt (as worship AV person), Director of music, Bill Leitze (as bus driver) and Custodian will decide whether to cancel worship service on Sunday. If a majority of these people agree to cancel (or have the pastor lead a Facebook online worship from their home--which), we will make the announcement on local radio, TV and through a Facebook message NO LATER than 7am the morning of worship.

January Birthdays

Chuck Jarvis	1/1
Amanda Stephenson	1/5
Brody Webb	1/5
Sherry Fisher	1/10
Jan Taylor	1/16
Bea Meeker	1/18
Timothy Scott	1/18
Peg Hays	1/19
Kevin Dearing	1/25
Jennifer Miller	1/26
Vinnie S Cufaude	1/31
Michael W Walters	1/31

January Anniversaries

Don & Connie Heller	1/1
Bill & Doris Svob	1/16

Please Pray For:

Roxanne Slater who was injured during Wisconsin shooting (Friends of Greg & Barb Pollitt); Family & Friends of Sharon Schrodtt during her passing; Pheobe Raker (recovering from eye surgery); Family & Friends of Curt Norton during his passing (Jason father); Cathy Schoonover-Orwig (MS); Mandy Sipe; Brenda Dilts (Lyn Snowman's mom); Ryan Hicks (nephew of Susan Perez); David Lueck (Janet White's nephew); Brad O'Brien (Sherry Hardy's friend); Tayvin Henderson (Friend of Jack Fitzjarrald); Larry Avery; Carol Harmon; Jan Dearing; Kevin Allard (Tad Allard's brother); Sid Smith (Lyn Snowman's uncle); Liz Pollitt; Blaine Hardy (deployed overseas); Joyce & Zack Norris; Steve Moore; Those battling with cancer: John Brown, Mark Stoneking, Sharon Blair, Brett Downy, Jason Lasseigne, Bev Lynch, Lloyd Leezer; Tracy Snowman; Cora Murphey

Care Facilities:

At Courtyard Estates: David & Bea Meeker

At Sunset: Lori Bieber; Ed Ford; Keith Munstedt

At Renaissance Care Center: Angie, Bill & Sue

Scriptures, Sermons, & Serving Schedules

1-5-25 We Root Ourselves in Ritual		1-12-25 We Build a Legacy of Love	
Scripture	Luke 2: 21-38	Scripture	Matt. 2: 1-12
Greeters	Moser Family	Greeters	Axline Family
Ushers	Liz Clark	Ushers	Nancy Cluts
CtW	Jack Fitzjarrald	CtW	Brian Spiva
Scripture Reader	Lori Coleman	Scripture Reader	Trygve Meade
Children's Moment	Jean Edwards	Children's Moment	Janet Krulac
Invitation	Jen Miller	Invitation	Chuck Taylor
Prayer	Doreen Atchley	Prayer	Maida Williams
Children's Church	Rhonda Morgan	Children's Church	Grant & Amanda Stephenson
Deacons (prepare)	Allen & Eugenia /Judy & Susan	Deacons (prepare)	Jake & Carisa /Zack & Janet
Counters	Jen Miller & Doreen Atchley	Counters	Chuck Taylor & Don Heller
Coffee Fellowship	Jan & Chuck Taylor	Coffee Fellowship	Don & Maida
1-19-25 We Trust Our Belovedness		1-26-25	
Scripture	Luke 3: 21-22	Scripture	TBD
Greeters	Doris Taylor	Greeters	Wanda Carmack
Ushers	Bill & Judy Kemper	Ushers	Paula Grigsby
CtW	Amanda Stephenson	CtW	Video
Scripture Reader	Randy Weaver	Scripture Reader	Brian Spiva
Children's Moment	Michelle Spiva	Children's Moment	Jen Miller
Invitation	Brian Spiva	Invitation	Shawna Axline
Prayer	Kevin Coleman	Prayer	Kevin Dearing
Children's Church	Michelle Spiva & Kathy Langlais	Children's Church	Jean & Bruce Edwards
Deacons (prepare)	Judy & Susan /Corey & Mark	Deacons (prepare)	Tom & Don P. /Michelle & TBD
Counters	Brian Spiva & Kevin Coleman	Counters	Shawna Axline & Vinnie Cufaude
Coffee Fellowship	Paula Grigsby	Coffee Fellowship	Kevin Dearing

January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				GEMS @ 10AM		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Worship 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM	Elder's Meeting 6:30PM			GEMS @ 10AM		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Worship 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM	Worship Meeting 11:00AM	Finance Meeting 5:30PM	Choir Practice 7:00 PM	GEMS @ 10AM		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Worship 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM	Martin Luther King Jr Day-Office Closed Christian Ed 6PM Board Meeting 7PM	Outreach Meeting 5:00PM	Choir Practice 7:00 PM	GEMS @ 10AM		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Worship 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM			Choir Practice 7:00 PM			