

April 2026

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 to Holy Week

FCC gathered together on Palm Sunday to remember, reflect, and celebrate the beginning of Holy Week! Following the service, we shared a wonderful community meal filled with fellowship, conversation, and good food! It was such a blessing to come together—thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make it special! We are grateful for our church family! Also, shout out to the Stephenson family for bringing in, Preacher, the mini donkey for a special guest appearance!



Love In the Name of Christ

Thanks everyone for your generous donations of cleaning supplies and toiletries to Love INC so that everyone can have a clean and safe household. And thanks to Judy Leitze and Becky Wilcoxon for your leadership at Love INC and your willingness to share your stories!

Life Skills Academy Graduates!

This month we concluded our 5-part Life Skills Academy, giving juniors, seniors and recent graduates in Canton, soft skills for thriving in life. Brian Spiva led a team of wonderful volunteers (thank you Bruce, Greg, Shane, Michelle, Chuck, Kevin and others!) in welcoming in these young adults and area experts to help make sure our young people feel comfortable in applying for colleges, scholarships and jobs; in interviewing, curating their social media carefully, in managing their personal finances and basic independent living skills of budgeting, shopping, cooking, cleaning and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

While we had about a dozen young adults participate in the Academy, we want to celebrate the 4 graduates who participated in all sessions: Lumina Anttila, Emmaline Brobston, Alicyn Carrier and Tony Kajda.



L to R: Greg Glomb, Emmaline Brobston, Lumina Anttila, Alicyn Carrier, Tony Kajda, Pastor Steve & Brian Spiva



Steve Mason: Pastor
Jessa Wenger: Office Coordinator
Kevin Dearing: Care Coordinator



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

“I am the way, the truth and the life.”—Jesus (John 14.6)

When Jesus says he is “the way” it is quite a statement. Not only that he is the kind of leader who has good ideas or great intentions, but Jesus promises that if we follow him, if we walk his paths, he will be the way, the truth and the source of life. This metaphor of Jesus as a way shows up throughout scripture, in even broader terms as Jesus often meets followers on literal paths: dejected disciples walking on the road to Emmaus or Paul’s encounter with the Spirit of Christ on his Damascus road. The metaphor of “the way” was so important in Christianity that early Christians often described the faith as “the way” or would say they were “on the way.” Today, we talk about our faith vitality, by talking about our “walk with God.”

This April, we too are going to be “On the Way” in our new worship series, where we’ll hear some of these stories and remember how Jesus shows up in peoples’ ordinary lives, often as they are literally walking. And this series will not only invite each of us to consider our walks with God, but they will be an inroad to preparing us for this summer.

In the March newsletter, we highlighted the upcoming season of sabbatical for renewal—for me, my family and the church. I hope you read that article and if you need a refresher on when, why or how this is happening, I hope you’ll re-read the article. I’m very grateful for an amazing staff and Pastor Hank, who will be helping guide and support your ministries while I’m on sabbatical this summer.

The connection with the summer sabbatical and being on the way is that part of my sabbatical will to pilgrimage Camino de Santiago, an ancient route of walking paths that leads to the burial site of Saint James. There are many roads that lead there, but I will be starting in Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port, a tiny village in the Pyrenees mountains, in southwest France, and walking about 500 miles across northern Spain to get to Santiago de Compostela. I’ll be joining backpackers from around the globe and staying in alburges, simple hostels for pilgrims, that often are connected with churches or worshipping communities. So, for about a third of my sabbatical, I will be walking daily in this simple prayer practice. And if you have more questions, know you’ll be hearing more about this leg of my sabbatical in worship.

The rest of sabbatical will primarily be time reconnecting with family. Slowing down, talking, listening, biking, walking, playing games with Caitlin, Finn and Isaac, and visiting our extended family is just what the doctor ordered...and will be a chance for all of us to reconnect to the ways of Christ and to the love for one another.

(Continued on page 3)



(Page 2 continued)

I have felt called to walk the Camino for about the last 20 years and I'm so grateful not only to get to walk it, but to be able to share the fruits of this pilgrimage with you all. And I'm so grateful that I've been gifted the healthy process of sabbatical so that I can do this long walk, and return refreshed and ready for the next season of ministry that God calls us to together. I know that even though I will not be literally in touch with y'all during sabbatical, you will be near to my heart and in my prayers. There's a saying on the Camino that can be used for a greeting or departure, that no matter your native language, fits: "Buen Camino" which simply means, "good way." How fitting that a Christian pilgrimage taking folks on literal walking paths to a saint speak to one another the way Jesus describes himself, the good way.

So friends, I know we'll be seeing each other in worship and our ministry together during April, but as far as newsletter articles go, until September, I'll simply wish you... BUEN CAMINO!

Peace, *Pastor Steve*

Holy Week at FCC



Palm
Sunday

March 29th
9am



Maundy
Thursday

April 2nd
5:30pm



Good
Friday

April 3rd
7pm



Easter
Sunday

April 5th
9am

Upper Room Experience

Eat, hear & experience the last supper



April 2nd
@ 5:30pm

RSVP to 647-1363
by March 30th

Trivia for Good

It was the luck of the Irish at Trivia for Good, Tuesday March 17th, that brought together so many folks for a good cause! Together we raised \$610 for the Canton High School Care Closet!!

Special thanks to Chris and Sherry Hardy for hosting and bringing in the crowds. And as always, thanks to Old Dog for hosting our fundraising trivia ministry!



WORSHIP ONLY SCRATCHES THE SURFACE...

**DIGGING DEEPER
BIBLE STUDY**

Sundays at 10:30am
Room 104



YOUR WEEKLY
MINUTE AT FIRST

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

Information and spiritual formation on Facebook or in your email.

Watch, like and share!



Prayers Taking Wing

For February and March, we've been collecting paper cranes for Brad O'Brien's family, as he has been battling an aggressive leukemia. On March 19, FCC congregant, Chad Murphy, presented the O'Briens with our cranes, along



with others from the community, for a total of 1600!

For those who folded these, your individual efforts may not have seemed like much at the time, but collectively, these are 1600 prayers, 1600 reminders that they do not walk this road alone. You have helped be the angels surrounding his family in their time of need. Praise God for the many ways we get to show up for our neighbors, in the name and with the love of Christ.

Planting Seeds of Goodness

Thanks to Denise Jarvis for leading our March Family Ministry Night as we gathered to plant seeds of flowers and vegetables, did crafts, played games, had snacks and prayed together. Good times were had by all! We'll look forward to the next Family Ministry Night in May which should be a blast, playing some kickball!



LENT SUPPER & STUDY

We want to extend a heartfelt thanks to each of you who helped make the recent Lent Supper & Study such a meaningful and welcoming experience. Your generosity, time, and willingness to serve created not only a wonderful meal, but also a space for thoughtful conversation, learning, and connection. Thank you all for being such a caring and supportive congregation!

First Christian Church

Middle School Youth Group

5-6:30 pm Sun, April 12

Kickball & Questions

Know a Graduate?

Let us know so we can celebrate with you!

FCC's Newest Members

On March 22nd, FCC officially welcomed our five newest members: Connie Burgard, Noah Stevens, Anne Murphy, Don Taber and Kathy Taber. What a joy it is to officially count them as a part of the FCC family! Here is a little bit more about our new members.



Anne is a proud mother of two children, Noah and Abby Stevens. She is employed at Illinois Department of Human Services, where she works full-time as a Staff Development Specialist. Her hobbies include reading, playing games, spending time with family and friends, taking walks with her dogs and being outdoors. Anne is looking forward to becoming more involved in the First Christian Church and it's ministries!



Don owned & operated Taber Tire and Auto in Rushville IL. He retired and sold his business in 2015. Well sort of.....he continues to work 4 mornings a week at the car wash on 5th Avenue. Don loves the outdoors; fishing, hunting & golf to name a few.

Kathy retired from Wells Fargo Advisors June 2022 after 44 years in Financial services. The last 25 years as a Financial Advisor. Kathy is a member of PEO-JQ and the Altruistic Club.

Don & Kathy love to travel, antique and play cards.



Noah is a Senior at Western Illinois University. His Major is Broadcasting and Journalism. He will be graduating this year in May 2026. In his free time, he enjoys working at Walmart in Canton, IL, as a cart associate. He also likes running, biking, and spending time with friends and family as well. Noah loves watching baseball, and listening to it as well. His favorite team is the Chicago Cubs!

COMMUNITY WORK DAY

Saturday April 25, 2026

8:45 am - 12:00 pm

Arrive at Jones Park

Join together with our community to assist in beautifying Canton!! Please, RSVP to the church office if you are available to help!!

(309) 647-1363

THANK YOU NOTES

Dear First Christian Church,

Thank you for your generous scholarship and for supporting my education. I am very grateful for the opportunity to play my oboe during services and truly appreciate your encouragement. Your kindness helps me continue pursuing both my academic and musical goals! Thank you so much!

Sincerely,
Drake Miller

WHAT CAN WE DO?

A 5 week series on busting the myths and taking action on substance abuse

Led by Roger Larson from



Sundays in May

10:30-noon

room 102



April Birthdays

Harriett Schleich	April 1
Bruce Fisher	April 5
Lori Coleman	April 6
Kate Fitzjarrald	April 7
Lyn Snowman	April 14
Trevon Jackson	April 18
Larry Lefferts	April 19
Nathan Taylor	April 23
Stephen Snowman	April 26
Jake Miller	April 27
Carl Fisher	April 30

April Anniversaries

Wes & Jessa Wenger	April 1
Amanda & Bret Sipe	April 4

February 2026 Giving & Ministry Needs

		<u>YTD</u>
Ind. Giving:	16,719	33,720
Other Income:	539	24,675
Total:	17,258	58,395
Needs:	24,570	59,970
Difference:	7,312	1,575

Please Pray For:

Jeff Shelby & family; Penny Winters; Family & friends of Sue Weaver during her passing; Kathy Clifford (House Fire); Donna (Keith's Sister); Rickey Noe's Family; Sheila Bell; Carolyn Sue (Murphy) Tandy; Lorraine Neill; Diana Black Williamson; Christine Mallott; Wendy Mayall; Blaine Hardy; Sharon Hall; Don & Shirley Edwards (Bruce's parents); Cathy Schoonover-Orwig (MS); Brenda Dilts (Lyn Snowman's mom); David Lueck (Janet White's nephew); Brad O'Brien; Steve Moore; Those battling with cancer: Beverly McComb, Mary Beth Powell, Beverly, Stephanie Parson, Tim Roberts, Katie Hill, Steve Lefferts, Barb Bishop, Gary (& Susan) Barnhart, Kim Schrodt, Lana Formal, Jodi Smith, Crystal Graybel, Pam Beadles, John Brown, Sharon Blair, Jason Lasseigne

Care Facilities:

The Carriages Bloomington- David Meeker
Holly Brook Peoria - Liz Clark
Heritage Woods- Bruce Christy, Barb Uno, Nancy Cluts
Renaissance C.C.- Angie Slater; Bill Brockett
Sunset - Lori Bieber; Ed Ford; Keith Munstedt

BECOMING
DEDICATED

Disciples

Passionate **SPIRITUALITY**

Joyful **SERVICE**

Inspiring **GENEROSITY**

Scriptures, Sermons, & Serving Schedules

April 5-Easter Sunday		April 12	
Scripture	John 20: 1.-18	Scripture	John 13: 33-35, 14: 1-7 & 15-21
Greeters	Denny & Dee Doubet	Greeters	Karen Meade
Ushers	Judy Leitze	Ushers	Pheobe Raker
Call to Worship	Visio Divina	Call to Worship	Jack Fitzjarrald
Scripture Reader	Caitlin Mason	Scripture Reader	Susan Walters
Children's Moment	Jen Miller	Children's Moment	Rhonda Morgan
Invitation	Chuck Taylor	Invitation	Mike Krulac
Prayer	Sherry Coffey	Prayer	Tammy Weaver
Children's Church	No Children's Church: Egg Hunt	Children's Church	Michelle & Kathy
Deacons (prepare)	Denny & Dee/Allen & Eugenia	Deacons (prepare)	Zack & Janet/Jake & Carisa
Counters	Chuck Taylor/Sherry Coffey	Counters	Tammy Weaver/Alan Coleman
Coffee Fellowship	Jan & Chuck Taylor	Coffee Fellowship	Edwards & Whites
April 19		April 26	
Scripture	Luke 24: 13-19, 27-32	Scripture	Exodus 3: 1-14
Greeters	Vinnie Cufaude	Greeters	Doris Svob
Ushers	Eugenia Warden	Ushers	Chuck & Denise Jarvis
Call to Worship	Video	Call to Worship	Amanda Stephenson
Scripture Reader	Eugenia Warden	Scripture Reader	Janet Krulac
Children's Moment	Jean Edwards	Children's Moment	Janet Krulac
Invitation	Kevin Dearing	Invitation	Brian Spiva
Prayer	Rhonda Morgan	Prayer	Michelle Spiva
Children's Church	Lyn & Janet K	Children's Church	Rhonda & Amanda
Deacons (prepare)	Emily & Mark/Judy & Susan	Deacons (prepare)	Jean & Aja/Tom & Don
Counters	Daryle Coleman/Don Heller	Counters	Brian Spiva/Bruce Edwards
Coffee Fellowship	Daryle Coleman	Coffee Fellowship	Don & Maida

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Choir Practice 7PM	Upper Room Experience 5:30pm	Good Friday Service 7pm	
5 Easter Sunday	6	7	8	9	10	11
Worship 9AM Egg Hunt 10AM Bible Study 10:30 AM	Elder's Meeting 6:30 PM	GEMS 10AM	Choir Practice 7PM			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Worship 9AM Bible Study 10:30AM Middle School Youth Group 5-6:30PM	Worship Meeting 11:00AM	GEMS 10AM Finance Meeting 5:30PM	Choir Practice 7PM			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Worship 9AM Bible Study 10:30AM	Christian Ed 6PM Cabinet Meeting 7PM	GEMS 10AM	Choir Practice 7PM			Community Work Day 8:45-12PM
26	27	28	29	30		
Worship 9AM Bible Study 10:30AM	Property Meeting 4PM	GEMS 10AM	Choir Practice 7PM			