

February 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

Children's Christmas Pageant

On Sunday, December 29th, the kids of FCC led us in a walk-on Christmas Pageant. With the help of some invaluable adult helpers, over a dozen kids helped tell the story of Jesus' birth as the congregation joined in singing beloved carols to bring the story to life. It was a joy-filled and creative worship that was finished off with a festive coffee fellowship where we had birthday cake for Jesus' birthday and even sang "Happy Birthday" to our Savior. Thanks to everyone who made this wonderful day happen!




 First Christian Church
LEADERSHIP RETREAT
Feb 22
9am-3pm
 FOR BOARD, ELDERS AND CABINET MEMBERS
 TO CLARIFY OUR VISION AND
 SUPPORT OUR MINISTRIES

WEEKLY WORD PODCAST
 Start listening today at cantonfcc.org & [spotify.com](https://open.spotify.com)

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



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

*Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.—
Philippians 4.8-9*

These final words from the Apostle Paul to his beloved community in Philippi are words of supportive instruction. Focus on the good. Remember what you have heard and what you have seen that is good. Do the good. Go with God's goodness.

These words are the foundation for our worship series "Heard and Seen" as we remember our calling to hear, see and do the good things modeled by Christ and those early followers of Jesus. This title is also the theme of the special annual offering we'll receive for the "Week of Compassion" our church's global disaster relief and recovery ministry. All month long, we'll be hearing stories and seeing clips from this ministry of how the gospel compels us to respond today. And I hope what you see and hear compels you to support this vital ministry.

Some days it seems that the good things Jesus calls us to do and Paul preached about are pretty mundane—feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, taking our concerns to prayer so they can come back to us with Christ's peace. But as we look closer to home, it seems that maybe these very things can soon be deemed radical or countercultural.

We need not look nor hear any further than the homily given at the worship service at the National Cathedral by Bishop Marriann Budde as a part of the Inaugural ceremonies. This worship service is a tradition meant to both be from a specific faith (as the host church the "National Cathedral" is an Episcopalian congregation) but also to represent the diversity of faiths encompassed in our country. Often, the sermonic moment is delivered both to the whole assembly and specifically to the incoming President.

But when Bishop Budde gave her sermon, her words were received as too political, divisive and unpatriotic. Her words were a cause for national controversy...but what I heard and saw is a gospel call rooted in our shared faith. I'd invite you, if you haven't listened or watched it yet, to do so, and to judge for yourself.

And, church, may we discover personally, and as a community of faith, what it means for us to hear and see the gospel today. And even if it causes us to stand up on our faith and stand out from the crowd, may we think about these things, do these things and trust that the peace of God will go with us.

Pastor Steve



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

Information and spiritual formation on Facebook or in your email.

Watch, like and share!



SUN FEB 9TH
1-2PM JOIN US FOR A

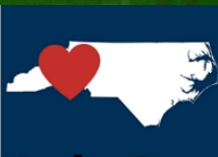
CANTON FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

SUPERBOWL PRE-GAME PARTY

WE WILL HAVE GAMES, PRIZES, FOOTBALL THEMED CRAFTS AND LIGHT SNACKS AND DRINKS! WEAR YOUR TEAM COLORS!!
ALL AGES WELCOME!!!

LUV SUPER BOWL

Be the
NEIGHBOR



Who's Ready to Help?

The Outreach Committee needs your help to gauge interest if and when we could do a mission trip to Black Mountain, North Carolina for recovery work from last year's hurricane. We would go through "Be the Neighbor" ministry that blends action, spirituality and learning, so we can apply lessons in our own backyard when we return. Full info on the trip can be found at:

betheneighbor.org/black-mountain-nc

Ideally, we would use the church bus for transportation and bring a maximum of 20 people. Participants would stay at Christmount Camp cabins and days would be a mix of manual labor and learning about environmental care and disaster recovery. Middle schoolers and any adults can go. We have funds to assist costs for individuals as needed.

We have two options for a trip:

- July 27-Aug 2 for a full week experience and a day of play for about \$500 per person
- Aug 29-Sept 2 for a quick weekend of 3 days working and no play day for about \$300 per person

If you would be seriously interested in participating in either trip, please indicate which one, tear it off and place this in the offering box (or to the office) by Monday, Feb 10. A deposit of half would be due by March 1. We need a minimum of 10 participants to go.

Luau BINGO

It may be cold outside, but it was feeling "sunny" and warm inside Canton First Christian Church for Luau Bingo tonight! Thanks to all who joined us for fun Bingo, prizes, fruity snacks and fellowship!



WORSHIP ONLY SCRATCHES THE SURFACE...

DIGGING DEEPER BIBLE STUDY

Sundays at 10:30am

Room 104

Literacy Tutors Needed!



Did you know that 1 out of every 5 adult Americans cannot read? They cannot complete a job application, read a bedtime story to their child, or write letters to loved ones.

- 15 million adults holding jobs today are functionally illiterate.
- 1/3 of mothers on AFDC are illiterate.
- 85% of all juvenile offenders have reading problems.
- The U.S. ranks 49th in adult literacy when compared to other nations.
- 75% of the unemployed have inadequate basic skills.

How do you become a Literacy Tutor?

SRC Literacy will hold free training sessions for you and your fellow volunteers either daytime or evenings.

When do you meet the students?

Volunteers usually meet with students once or twice a week for 1-2 hours while an adult education class is in session. Those meeting times may be in the morning, afternoon, or evening.

Where do you meet with students?

Volunteers generally meet with students at a Spoon River College facility. By meeting at an SRC facility, tutors have access to instructional materials, faculty, and professional staff.

Who are the students?

SRC Literacy will match you with an adult student age 16 or older who needs help with basic reading or math skills.

What materials are used?

SRC Literacy will provide you with a variety of free instructional materials to use.

Does the student pay?

No, because of your volunteer effort, this service is provided at no charge to the student.

Spoon River College, an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, complies with applicable federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination, including Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. It is the policy of the College that no person, on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or veteran's status, shall be discriminated against in employment, in educational programs and activities, or in admissions.

In accordance with the Stevens Amendment of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 1998, Section 511 of Public Law 101-166, 100% of the total cost of the project is financed with federal money and \$68,812 of federal funds support the project. 2014 Spoon River College is an equal opportunity affirmative action employer that complies with applicable federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination.

Contact us!

Melissa Koke
309-649-6310
melissa.koke@src.edu

Taking You Where You Want To Go

Canton

Havana

Macomb

Rushville

src.edu 1-800-degrees

SPOON RIVER
 COLLEGE

You're Invited to join in a
Townhall Meeting
about our
Clergy Renewal Grant Application
Feb 9th following worship

This is for anyone who wants to learn what a clergy sabbatical is, what grant our church is seeking, who is coordinating the grant and how you can help.

The Lilly Endowment National Clergy Renewal Program seeks to strengthen congregations by providing opportunities for their pastors to step away from the demands of daily parish life and engage in a period of renewal and reflection. "What will make your heart sing?" is a simple question, but one that pastors and congregations explore together and design programs to help their pastors reconnect with their deep roots and sources of joy in ministry and in life. We believe that when pastors have the opportunity to step away from their congregations and engage in activities that make their hearts sing, the whole church benefits. Sabbath rest includes time for pastors to renew themselves physically, emotionally, relationally, and spiritually. Clergy renewal periods are not vacations; rather, they provide opportunities for discovering what will make the pastor's heart sing through well-planned purposeful activities. Life-giving experiences—strengthening relationships, renewing a sense of call, meeting and serving the neighbor in a new way, finding joy and purpose in a simplified life, traveling to new lands and unfamiliar territories, creating opportunities where members of the congregation can exercise their gifts for ministry—are common themes of these renewal times.

Congregations may request a total maximum award of \$60,000. Of that amount, up to \$20,000 may be allocated to the congregational budget for the sabbatical. Proposals are due March 12. Awards will be announced on August 29. 180 grants are expected to be awarded to congregations who submit the most outstanding proposals.

What are the selection criteria?

- Clearly articulated vision for what will make the pastor's heart sing.
- Leave-taking Pastor's program balances time for rest and reflection with travel, activities, and time spent connecting with others.
- Budgets are realistic and well-researched.
- Evidence of broad congregational awareness of and support for submitting the proposal.
- Proposals will be evaluated in terms of the renewal program's feasibility, coherence, creativity, and potential benefits to the congregation and pastor.

Find out more details at: <https://www.cts.edu/cpe/clergy-renewal/>

Lunch & Learn

Getting Smart, Getting Connected

Date: Thursday, February 13th
 Time: 12:00pm -1:00pm
 Location: Baker Rec. Center
 940 N. Main St.
Free with lunch provided!
 call 309-647-7665 to RSVP

Topic - Health & Well Being
 Learn from Graham Health System expert Jake Green about activities and practices to help older adults maintain a healthy lifestyle.

HOSTED BY:
 CANTON PARK DISTRICT
 &
 FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

SPONSORED BY
 GRAHAM HEALTH SYSTEM

Discover clarity,
support freedom and love...

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AWARENESS GROUP

Sundays Jan 19, 26,
Feb 2 and 9

ROOM104

February Birthdays

Neville Crossland	Feb 1
Shirley Taylor	Feb 1
Daryle Coleman	Feb 2
Sherry Hardy	Feb 2
Lexie Shaw	Feb 4
Nathan Bloyd	Feb 5
Chris Walters	Feb 10
Isaac Mason	Feb 12
Brenda Dilts	Feb. 13
Marsha Moore	Feb 19
Derek Schrodt	Feb 21
Olivia Walters	Feb 21
Jaiden Walters	Feb 22
Laiken Moser	Feb 24
Wes Wenger	Feb 24
Jo Potter Keen	Feb 25
Tate Bryant	Feb 26
Bruce Edwards	Feb 27
Frankie Kemper	Feb 27

February Anniversaries

Mark & Marla Reneau	Feb. 12
Larry & Eugenia Warden	Feb. 23
Tyson & Amy Smith	Feb. 26

Please Pray For:

Roxanne Slater who was injured during Wisconsin shooting (Friends of Greg & Barb Pollitt); Pheobe Raker (recovering from eye surgery); Cathy Schoonover-Orwig (MS); Mandy Sipe; Brenda Dilts (Lyn Snowman's mom); David Lueck (Janet White's nephew); Brad O'Brien (Sherry Hardy's friend); Tayvin Henderson (Friend of Jack Fitzjarrald); 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 Downey, Jason Lasseigne, Bev Lynch, Lloyd Leezer; Tracy Snowman; Cora Murphey

BECOMING
DEDICATED

Disciples

Passionate **SPIRITUALITY**

Joyful **SERVICE**

Inspiring **GENEROSITY**

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

February 2, 2025		February 9, 2025	
Scripture	Matt. 25: 31-40	Scripture	Phil. 4: 4-7
Greeters	Judy Leitze	Greeters	Jan & Chuck Taylor
Ushers	Keith Munstedt	Ushers	Mark & Laura Taylor
CtW	Dave Bell	CtW	Video
Scripture Reader	Bill Leitze	Scripture Reader	Kara Fitzjarrald
Children's Moment	Jen Miller	Children's Moment	Jean Edwards
Invitation	Grant Stephenson	Invitation	Mike Krulac
Prayer	Caitlin Mason	Prayer	Tammy Weaver
Children's Church	Janet Krulac/Belle Hardy	Children's Church	Miller Family
Deacons (prepare)	Dave & Sheila /Michelle & Amanda	Deacons (prepare)	Shane & Chris /Shawn & Lyn
Counters	Grant Stephenson/Daryle Coleman	Counters	Tammy Weaver/Alan Coleman
Coffee Fellowship	Judy Kemper	Coffee Fellowship	Amanda & Grant Stephenson
February 16, 2025		February 23, 2025	
Scripture	Phil. 4: 8-9	Scripture	Phil. 4: 10-13
Greeters	Pheobe Raker	Greeters	Eugenia Warden
Ushers	Corey & Jen Miller	Ushers	Karen Meade
CtW	Janet Krulac	CtW	Video
Scripture Reader	Michelle Spiva	Scripture Reader	Aja Lawson
Children's Moment	Michelle Spiva	Children's Moment	Judy Kemper
Invitation	Doreen Atchley	Invitation	Maida Williams
Prayer	Jen Miller	Prayer	Chuck Taylor
Children's Church	Lyn Snowman/Becky Wilcoxon	Children's Church	Caitlin Mason/TBD
Deacons (prepare)	TBD /Allen & Eugenia	Deacons (prepare)	Zack & Janet /Jake & Carisa
Counters	Jen Miller/Doreen Atchley	Counters	Chuck Taylor/Don Heller
Coffee Fellowship	Rhonda Morgan	Coffee Fellowship	Michelle Spiva

February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
				GEMS @ 10AM		
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Worship 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM	Elder's Meeting 6:30PM		Choir Practice 7:00 PM	GEMS @ 10AM		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Worship 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM FMN: Superbowl Pre-Game 1-2pm	Worship Meeting 11:00AM	Finance Meeting 5:30PM	Choir Practice 7:00 PM	GEMS @ 10AM Lunch & Learn @ Barker Rec 12-1pm	Happy Valentines Day!	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Worship 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM	President's Day Office Closed Christian Ed 6PM Cabinet Meeting 7PM	Outreach Meeting 5:00PM	Choir Practice 7:00 PM	GEMS @ 10AM		Leader- Ship Retreat 9-3pm
23	24	25	26	27	28	
Worship 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM	Property Meeting 4:00PM		Choir Practice 7:00 PM			