

September 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

Member Spotlight

We have a new Feature in our newsletter, the "Member Spotlight" as we shine a light to grow in how we know one another. Our first member Spotlight comes from the Hardy family, so thank you for the leadership! If you would like to be in our "Member Spotlight" please send Jessa a picture and article telling us more about your family, how you serve and connect through FCC and any other fun facts about you.

Bibles for Preschoolers & 2nd Graders

**If you have a
preschooler, or 2nd
grader in your family,
please let the office
know!**

**We will be giving out
Bibles during worship
on September 21st!**



First Christian Church
"Family Spotlight"
The Hardy Family
Chris, Sherry, Belle & Mia



We officially joined First Christian church in 2016. When we moved to Canton in 2008, we visited many Canton churches, some of which we really enjoyed. We kept going back to FCC because (as little Belle said back then), "It just feels like home". The PEOPLE are the reason we have continued to love our church. Everyone and anyone are welcomed with open arms. If you are looking for a church family who doesn't judge for any reason, encourages questions and doubts, has the BEST pastor, LOVES all humans, and enjoys having fun together...give our church a try! ❤️

Kickball
Family Ministry Night
Sunday Sept. 7th
@ 6pm

*Drinks and
Snacks
provided*

STOP BY FOR A BITE!
FREE FOOD, CANDY AND FUN FOR ALL!



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



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

I'm Curious...

I'm curious...

That's a statement I'm used to saying, ever since I could speak and I don't see it going out of my vocabulary anytime soon.

Curiosity is a trait that we love in kids (to a point, after you've answered "why?" 5 times in a row to your preschooler it starts to get old) but one that tends to be less popular among adults. After all, isn't that the point of being a grown up?! We're the teachers, the leaders, the professionals. Doesn't that mean that we have all the answers??

Some people certainly think so. That in order to be a good teacher, it means you have stopped learning and can now unload your wisdom. That to be a good politician means you don't ever change your positions because you have it all figured out. That to be a faith leader means you need to have your ideas solidified and codified into dogma.

But I like that Jesus seems perpetually curious throughout his life and his resurrected self. There was even a book a while ago by Martin Copenhagen called "Jesus is the Question: The 307 Questions Jesus Asked and the 3 He Answered." Turns out Jesus was more curious than even Curious George.

That's one of the things I love about our tradition, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). We believe that questions are a sign of a growing faith, not a lack of one. We believe Christian Education isn't just for kids and that God is big enough to handle all our questions, doubts and confusion as a part of our ongoing spiritual development. And I am definitely a lifelong learner in the faith. There's always some new fascinating book, some prayer practice I'm trying out or some bit of scripture that can be seen in a new light. After all, if religion is the communal practice of encountering the Holy, won't God always be a bit beyond our reach?

So, as we continue to offer Bible studies, small groups and other opportunities to grow in the faith, I'd invite you to be curious, to take on a posture that invites us all to be a little bit of a learner, a little bit of a teacher, but always a beloved child of God. And who knows, maybe someday, you might inspire someone else to stop you and inquire, "I'm curious..."

Pastor Steve

SABBATICAL UPDATE:

The Sabbatical committee has heard back from the Lily renewal grant and our proposal was NOT granted. Thank you for the team who worked so hard on this.



Pastor Steve will still be taking sabbatical next summer and working with the committee as we continue to update our plans and inform the church of next steps.



WORSHIP ONLY SCRATCHES THE SURFACE...

**DIGGING DEEPER
BIBLE STUDY**

Sundays at 10:30am

Room 104

Middle School Youth Group Fun at Lakeland Park

Sunday, August 24 we kicked off our new season of middle school youth group. The youth braved a windy afternoon for pizza and fishing at Lakeland Park. We heard the story of Jesus calling disciples to be "fishers of men" and talked about how God invites us to use our gifts to show love in this world.

Make sure middle schoolers in your life know they are invited on the fourth Sunday of each month from 5 to 6:30 for our middle school youth group. Next month, we will be meeting at church where we will be talking about friendship. See you there!



Welcome, Conrads!

On Sunday, August 17th, we had the joy of officially welcoming the Conrad family to FCC as they joined through a transfer of membership from Trinity Lutheran. The family has deep roots in Canton, Colleen just had her 50th CHS reunion last year. She went elsewhere for college and graduate school, but returned to Canton in 1992 to take care of her mother after her father passed away, and has been here ever since. Noelle and her son, Ruebynn, have lived in Canton all of their lives. Noelle graduated from Canton High School and attended Spoon River College. Noelle is skilled in housekeeping and custodial work, Ruebynn is a third grader at Eastview and Colleen is retired and an active grandma.

They came to FCC because they needed a church that was safe, inclusive and welcoming. Colleen's mother, Betty Conrad, had attended here, so she was familiar with the church. The most important thing was that Ruebynn felt comfortable. Colleen is interested in the worship committee and Bible study. Noelle is interested in the choir and special music. Ruebynn is interested in everything and wants to make new friends.



And when they're not at church, school or work, Colleen likes to read and watch PBS, especially British mysteries. Noelle likes trying new recipes and listening to music. Ruebynn enjoys playing with his cars and sharks when he isn't playing church.

What a gift to have these folks a part of our growing congregation. Welcome, Conrads! And we look forward to be transformed through your gifts and our shared ministry!



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

Information and spiritual formation on Facebook or in your email.

Watch, like and share!

BECOMING
DEDICATED

Disciples

Passionate **SPIRITUALITY**

Joyful **SERVICE**

Inspiring **GENEROSITY**

Congrats to the 2025 Fall Scholarship Recipients

Jake Miller	Addy Allard	Ella Goforth
Katie Smith	Marlee Miller	Lexie Shaw
Jaiden Walters	Kiera Raker	Aja Lawson
Jena Goforth	Belle Hardy	Mia Hardy
	Abby Stevens	

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Thank  
You

TO ALL THE  
SUMMER  
2025 SONG  
LEADERS!

~~~~~♪♪♪~~~~~



Mission Trip Success!

In response to Jesus' question about who is my neighbor, the man in the famous Good Samaritan parable answers, "the one who showed him kindness." August 3-9, a team of 8 folks from FCC went to Black Mountain, NC to "Be the Neighbor" for our brothers and sisters. There, we stayed and worked at Christmount, the national camp headquarters of the Disciples of Christ. We did many service projects helping Christmount recover from Hurricane Helene, as well as learning about how we can "Be the Neighbor" here in Canton. To do that, we learned about Creation Care, explored what issues we face and what assets we have to respond. Our group invites the church to discern how we could put together a "Green Team" to help us care for God's Creation and be kind and caring neighbors right here in Canton. Mission trip members shared our pictures, experiences and some great BBQ provided by Kevin Morgan at a potluck and presentation after worship, Aug 31st. Hopefully, this is the first of more mission and ministry to come!



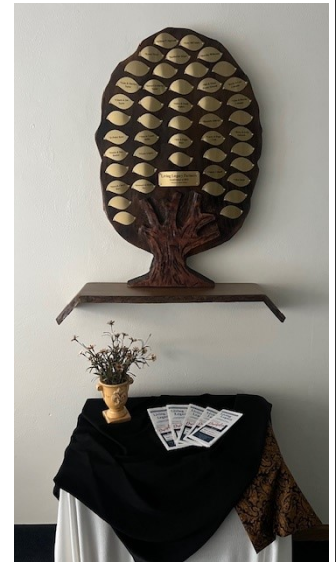
LIVING LEGACY PROGRAM UPDATE

As reported last month, the First Annual Living Legacy Celebration Dinner was in March. Then in July the recognition tree for the Charter Partners was created and put up in the hallway leading to the sanctuary.

Now we are pleased to announce additions to the Living Legacy Program. The newest Living Legacy Partner is Donald Powell. Don has only been a member for about three years. We certainly have benefited and enjoyed his culinary skills. He has also joined as a leader by serving as a deacon this year. When asked about why he chose to make a commitment to the Living Legacy Partners Program, he had a lot to say about his experience at our Church. He said, "I felt very welcomed here and fell in love with this church. I thank God everyday that I found this church. This church is my family. I made my mind up and knew I wanted to become a Living Legacy supporter of my church." We thank you Don for your signed commitment and will be adding your name to our recognition tree. Another addition from one of our Charter Partners has also been declared.

At the September Finance meeting, we will be discussing our next steps in the Program. Please do not hesitate to inquire about the Program if God is touching your mind and or heart about becoming, like Don, a new Living Legacy Partner. The Living Legacy brochures are available on the shelf under the recognition tree. Your prayers for this ministry are always welcomed.

Don Heller, on behalf of the Finance Committee



Inspiring Generosity Grants

Learn more, start brainstorming
about your plans & apply today on
our website!

cantonfcc.org/grants

September Birthdays

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Kara Fitzjarrald | Sept. 3 |
| John Jarvis | Sept. 4 |
| Connie Heller | Sept. 6 |
| Natalie Spiva | Sept. 8 |
| Pheobe Raker | Sept. 11 |
| Addison Allard | Sept. 21 |
| Finn Mason | Sept. 24 |
| SueEllen Stephenson | Sept. 26 |
| Judy White | Sept. 28 |
| Bronson Glomb | Sept. 29 |
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September Anniversaries

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| Aaron & Emily McLean | Sept. 1 |
| Don & Donita Taylor | Sept. 19 |
| Darryl & Kim Schrodtt | Sept. 22 |
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Please Pray For:

Jeff Ossman (stroke); Sharon Hall; Brice Heller (eye surgery); Ron "Speed" Bixby (badly burnt at work); Family & friends of Kay Speck Heatherly during her passing; John (& Connie) Burgard; Randy Weaver; Kelly (Laurie's husband); Don & Shirley Edwards (Bruce's parents); Griffin Beam; Cindy Schoenheider; Tyler Dixon's dad, Wayne (heart surgery); Ryan Hicks; 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: Katie Hill, Steve Lefferts, Barb Bishop, Gary (& Susan) Barnhart, Kim Schrodtt, Lana Formal, Jodi Smith, Haleigh Schoop, Crystal Graybel, Andrea (Shane Dixon's family), Pam Beadles, John Brown, Mark Stoneking, Sharon Blair, Jason Lasseigne; Tracy Snowman

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

| September 7 | | September 14 | |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|
| Scripture | Matt. 7: 1-12 | Scripture | Matt. 7: 13-23 |
| Greeters | McLean Family | Greeters | Axline Family |
| Ushers | Shawn & Lyn Snowman | Ushers | Spiva Family |
| CtW | Jack Fitzjarrauld | CtW | Video |
| Scripture Reader | Michelle Spiva | Scripture Reader | Aja Lawson |
| Children's Moment | Jean Edwards | Children's Moment | Jen Miller |
| Invitation | Tammy Weaver | Invitation | Jen Miller |
| Prayer | Mike Krulac | Prayer | Shawna Axline |
| Children's Church | TBD | Children's Church | Amanda & Grant |
| Deacons (prepare) | Shawn & Lyn /Shane & Chris | Deacons (prepare) | Allen & Eugenia /Denny & Dee |
| Counters | Tammy Weaver & Alan Coleman | Counters | Jen Miller & Shawna Axline |
| Coffee Fellowship | Judy Leitze | Coffee Fellowship | Daryle Coleman |
| September 21 | | September 28 | |
| Scripture | Matt. 7: 24-29 | Scripture | Matt. 8: 1-13 |
| Greeters | Moser Family | Greeters | Keith Munstedt |
| Ushers | TBD | Ushers | Marilee Casper |
| CtW | Amanda Stephenson | CtW | Video |
| Scripture Reader | Jean Edwards | Scripture Reader | Jack Fitzjarrauld |
| Children's Moment | Michelle Spiva | Children's Moment | Janet Krulac |
| Invitation | Chuck Taylor | Invitation | Brian Spiva |
| Prayer | Maida Williams | Prayer | Kevin Coleman |
| Children's Church | Michelle & Kathy | Children's Church | Janet & Caitlin |
| Deacons (prepare) | Jake & Carisa /Zack & Janet | Deacons (prepare) | Judy & Susan /Corey & Mark T |
| Counters | Chuck Taylor & Don Heller | Counters | Brian Spiva & Kevin Coleman |
| Coffee Fellowship | Bruce & Jean Edwards | Coffee Fellowship | Don & Connie Heller |

September 2025

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---------------------------|----------------------------|--|-----------|-----------|
| | 1 Labor Day | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| | Office Closed | | Choir Practice Starts! 7PM | | | |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| Worship 9:00AM
Bible Study 10:30AM
FMN: Kickball @
6 PM | Worship Meeting
11:00AM
Elder's Meeting
6:30 PM | Finance Meeting
5:30PM | Choir Practice 7PM | Lunch & Learn
12-1PM @
Baker Rec. Center | | |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| Worship 9:00AM
Bible Study 10:30AM | Christian Ed 6PM
Board Meeting 7PM | | Choir Practice 7PM | | | |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| Worship 9:00AM
Bible Study 10:30AM
Bibles for Pre-School & 2nd Grade | Property Meeting
4:00PM | | Choir Practice 7PM | | | |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |
| Worship 9:00AM
Bible Study 10:30AM | | | Choir Practice 7PM | | | |