

October 2026Office 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**

NEWSLETTER CHANGES

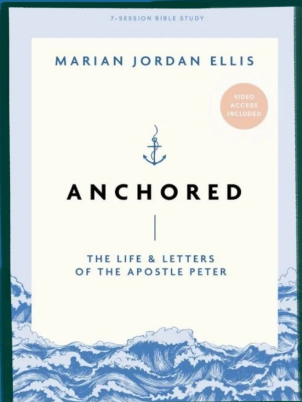
Software we had been using for our printed monthly newsletter is being discontinued, so **beginning next month, we are reformatting our newsletter to a bi-weekly digital format** that would allow us to connect you with tools to grow in your faith, have more photos, more updated information and links to direct sign-ups, all emailed to you. This way we can also be good stewards of our resources by reducing our paper usage and postage costs.

We have heard that many of you like to keep the serving schedule and calendar posted somewhere in your home, so, aside from the emailed newsletter, we **will also send a monthly serving schedule and calendar in a printable PDF file**, and have copies of these available at the connection center (where we previously had copies of the newsletter). We hope this new format helps you stay connected and inspired with stories of the ministries at First Christian Church, as we are becoming dedicated disciples!

Camino Conversations

On August 30th, to wrap up the summer sabbatical season, Pastor Steve took a packed fellowship hall on a tour of the Camino de Santiago. There were pictures and stories from his trip, Spanish food and music, for what was an enjoyable afternoon for all! And remember, buen camino!





GEMS Book Study

**Ladies, join us on
Tuesdays @
10:00am in Room
104**

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



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

Thank you!

These are essential words to learn. They are some of the first words we teach our kids. When traveling abroad, learning the local way to say “thanks” will build bridges across any language barrier. Thank you should be some of the most frequently uttered words on our lips.

And yet...

It’s easy to take things for granted. To forget to express gratitude for the little acts of daily love. For the unnecessary kindness shown by a stranger. For the door held open, the snack shared, the extra effort given.

And as a church, we should be a community drowning in thank you—with so many people doing selfless acts, so many opportunities to gather and so many moments of worship in grateful praise to God. Gratitude should be a constant season in the life of a church. But every now and again, we should take some extra intention to say “thank you” as a church. That’s why you’ll be hearing “thank you” quite a bit in the month of October at First Christian Church. Our theme this month is There Our Hearts will Be and we’ll be talking about stewardship. But unlike many stewardship drives you might be thinking of, this will be a season to make sure our practices, priorities, and resources all align. Rooted in Jesus’ teaching from Matthew 6, we’ll learn that faithful stewardship is not primarily about money; and that giving is not performance or obligation, but the courageous work of connecting our heart’s values with our actions. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)



Lunch & Learn

Getting Smart, Getting Connected

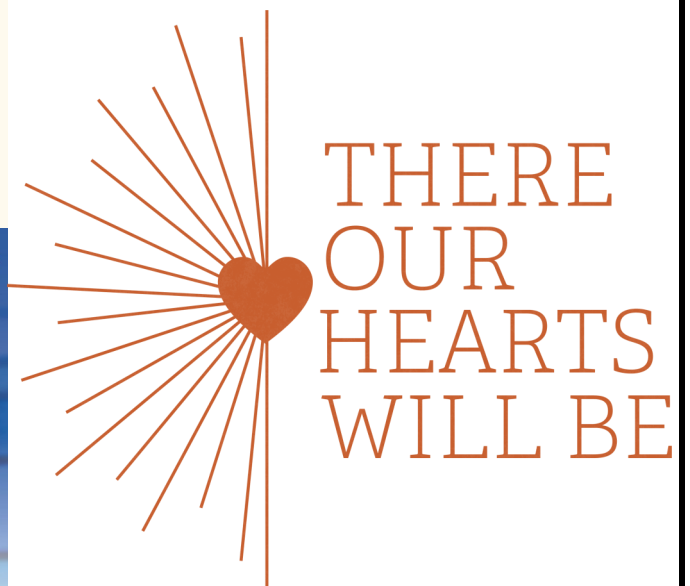
Date: Thursday, October 8th Time: 12:00pm -1:00pm Location: Donaldson Center 250 S Ave D <i>Free with lunch provided!</i> call 309-647-1345 to RSVP	Topic: Funeral Planning, Wills & Grief with Oak-Hines Funeral Home & Crematory
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New to Disciples? Wanting to remember what makes us unique?
 Join together for a 6-week small group study...

WE CALL OURSELVES

Disciples

Wednesdays @ 11am starting 9/30, or
 Tuesdays @6:30pm starting 10/6
RSVP today



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2) During *There Our Hearts will Be* we will: re-center our lives on God's presence, help our giving reflect our deepest values, allow God to transform, heal, and renew our hearts and practice generosity that is joyful and Spirit-led.

We know that you are all faithful givers to help support the ministries of First Christian Church and that so many of you have already gone above and beyond, this year especially, with your financial giving. And so, throughout this month's worship, you won't hear big pleas for more dollars for ministry, you'll be hearing "thank you" and stories of what your giving has done in the lives of one another and in the community.

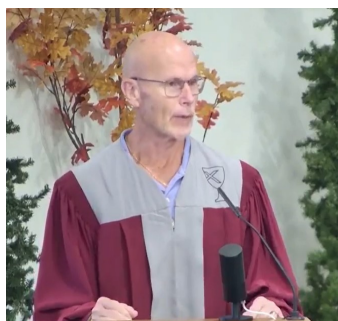
We'll even have a massive thank you card where you can add your gratitude for someone or some ministry at the church! And we'll even have a tangible gift to help you remember the lessons from *There Our Hearts will Be*. I look forward to seeing you there! And, of course, THANK YOU!

Peace, *Pastor Steve*

Holy Friendships

Thanks to all those who made our

"Holy Friendships" worship series extra special by talking about their *beloved bonds* of friendship. It was a joy to hear from Jean



Edwards, Keith Mundstedt, Carissa Moser and Kevin Dearing thru the month! Thank you all, and may everyone have some beloved bonds in your lives!



All Saints Day

- Sunday, November 1ST
9am at Worship
- Please, bring a picture, or cherished item in honor of any of your saints to add to our altar as we celebrate.



Grief Support Group

Thursdays at 1pm at FCC
Oct 8 until Nov 19

group for those grieving the death of a loved one

RSVP to the office required





First
Christian
Church

Middle School
Youth Group

5-6:30 pm
Sun, Oct 25

**Pumpkin
Carving**

STOP BY FOR A BITE!

FREE FOOD, CANDY AND FUN FOR ALL!

**FIRST
CHRISTIAN
CHURCH**

OCTOBER 31ST 5-7PM

THEOLOGY OF HALLOWEEN **by the Salt Project**

Halloween: the name itself comes from "All Hallows' Eve," of course, the night before All Saints' Day, a carnival-like inversion celebrating the shadow side of life - ghosts and ghouls and the like - just before the great festival celebrating the saints. Its deep roots may well include folk traditions of honoring the dead, appeasing evil spirits, and marking the end of the summer harvest and the beginning (in the Northern hemisphere, at least!) of the darkest days of the year.

But whatever its origins, Halloween today is worth thinking about. It's now arguably the second-most-popular holiday in North America (second only to Christmas!), and at its best, it's above all a magical, playful night of community-building and neighborhood-making. From this point of view, we might even call it a sacramental glimpse, if only for one night, of how the world is supposed to be: homes decked out in mischievous fun, front doors thrown wide open to visitors of all ages, a spirit of wit and excitement in the air, and simple, sweet gifts distributed to children (all children, not just "our" children!) dressed up as heroes and villains alike.

It's easy to grumble about "all that sugar," "marauding teenagers," "a waste of time," and so forth. But think of it: when else do we intentionally spend this kind of time together as a community? When else do we do something as a neighborhood that's this intergenerational? This open to all? This playful, witty, and plain old fun?

When else do our front doors swing open to so many strangers? And when else are so many gifts given out - gifts often given by strangers, to strangers - just for the sake of delight?

And there's an even deeper side to all of this, too: in many neighborhoods, lines of social division - segregated lines of race and class, for example - are often crossed on Halloween night. In such moments, Halloween can become an all-too-brief time of sharing experiences and resources, catching sight of a true "commonwealth" too often obscured from view on the other 364 nights of the year. And what's more, there's now some intriguing social science showing a strong correlation between a community's health and the extent to which it celebrates Halloween.

At its best, then, Halloween amounts to a vivid portrait of what "neighborhood" actually looks like. That alone is worth celebrating. And after all, what better way to honor the dead, prepare to celebrate the saints, and enter together the darkest time of the year than to embody - with equal parts creativity and joy - the "loving our neighbors as ourselves" to which Jesus calls us every day?—saltproject.org

IL&WI Region
of the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
&
Canton First Christian Church
cordially invite your presence
and prayers for the

Ordination of Christian Ministry

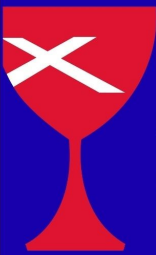
Caitlin Dally Mason

NOVEMBER 1

3PM

First Christian Church
215 W. Elm St. Canton, IL

*Clergy please come robed.
Reception to follow.*



WORSHIP ONLY SCRATCHES THE SURFACE...

DIGGING DEEPER BIBLE STUDY

Sundays at 10:30am
Room 104



WEEKLY WORD PODCAST



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

Thank You Notes

Dear First Christian Church,

Thank you so much for awarding me this scholarship. I am truly grateful for your generosity and for supporting me as I continue my nursing education. Becoming a nurse is something I have worked very hard for, and knowing that my community believes in me means more than I can put into words.

This scholarship will help me continue pursuing my dream of becoming a nurse and making a difference in the lives of others. I am so thankful for your kindness and for investing in my future. Thank you again for believing in me and helping me get one step closer to my goals.

With gratitude, Jaiden Walters

Last Call for IGG! Apps due 10/15

INSPIRE

Inspiring
Generosity
Grants are
HERE

Learn more and apply today at: cantonfcc.org/grants



BECOMING
DEDICATED

Disciples

Passionate **SPIRITUALITY**

Joyful **SERVICE**

Inspiring **GENEROSITY**

October Birthdays

Sky Pollitt	Oct. 1
Dwayne Bernard	Oct. 4
Colette Krulac	Oct. 4
Darryl Schrodtt	Oct. 10
Bill Kemper	Oct. 13
Alan Coleman	Oct. 14
Oliver Crossland	Oct. 15
Jean Edwards	Oct. 15
Susan Perez	Oct. 22
Carissa Moser	Oct. 25
Tyson Smith	Oct. 26
Greg Glomb	Oct. 28
Rhonda Morgan	Oct. 29
Kinnley Smith	Oct. 30
Shawna Axline	Oct. 31

October Anniversaries

Craig & Amanda Reed	Oct. 6
Dave & Paula Grigsby	Oct. 14
Steve & Caitlin Mason	Oct. 16
Marsha & Steve Moore	Oct. 31

August 2026 Giving & Ministry Needs

YTD

Ind. Giving:	20,411	154,029
Other Income:	350	84,751
Total:	20,760	238,779
Needs:	33,586	327,396
Difference:	12,826	88,617

Please Pray For:

Doris Taylor, diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer; Vinnie Cufaupe & family during the passing of her nephew; Family & friends of Alma Lee Wertman during her passing; Lynn Jarvis; Blaine Hardy; Don Powell; Dave Lefferts; Kim Stoneking; Jeff Shelby & family; Penny Winters; Carolyn Sue Tandy; Diana Black Williamson; Brenda Dilts; Steve Moore; Those battling with cancer: Carol Poindexter, Gary Reneau, Brad O'Brien, Beverly McComb, Stephanie Parson, Tim Roberts, Katie Hill, Steve Lefferts, Barb Bishop, Gary Barnhart, Kim Schrodtt, 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

Scriptures, Sermons, & Serving Schedules

October 4: Heart Re-alignment		October 11: Hearts Transformed, Healed and Renewed	
Scripture	Matt. 6.1-6, 16-21	Scripture	Proverbs 3.1-12
Greeters	Bruce & Sherry Fisher	Greeters	Bruce & Jean Edwards
Ushers	McLean Family	Ushers	Axline Family
CtW	Janet Krulac	CtW	TBD
Scripture Reader	Colleen Conrad	Scripture Reader	Caitlin Mason
Children's Moment	Jen Miller	Children's Moment	Rhonda Morgan
Invitation	Kevin Dearing	Invitation	Brian Spiva
Prayer	Rhonda Morgan	Prayer	Michelle Spiva
Deacons (prepare)	Emily & Judy K	Deacons (prepare)	Jean & Aja /Tom & TBD
Counters	Daryle Coleman/Jen Miller	Counters	Brian Spiva/Bruce Edwards
Coffee Fellowship	Daryle Coleman	Coffee Fellowship	Kevin Dearing
Children's Church	Lyn, Kate & Jack	Children's Church	Caitlin & Mindy
October 18: Contented Hearts		October 25: Hearts Overflowing	
Scripture	Matt. 6.24-34	Scripture	Luke 19.1-10
Greeters	Bonnie Harn	Greeters	Nancy Cluts
Ushers	Moser Family	Ushers	Keith Munstedt
CtW	TBD	CtW	TBD
Scripture Reader	Susan Walters	Scripture Reader	Eugenia Warden
Children's Moment	Janet Krulac	Children's Moment	Sherry Coffey
Invitation	Kevin Coleman	Invitation	Maida Williams
Prayer	Shawna Axline	Prayer	Grant Stephenson
Deacons (prepare)	Carissa & Amanda /Dave & Corey	Deacons (prepare)	Shawn & Lyn /Shane & Greg
Counters	Kevin Coleman/Don Heller	Counters	Grant Stephenson & TBD
Coffee Fellowship	Paula Grigsby	Coffee Fellowship	Amanda & Grant Stephenson
Children's Church	Janet, Kate & Jack	Children's Church	Amanda, Kate & Jack

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Worship 9AM Bible Study 10:30AM	Elder's Meeting 6:30PM	GEMS Bible Study Starts 10AM	Disciples Small Group Study @ 11AM Choir Practice 7pm	Lunch & Learn 12-1PM Grief Support Group 1PM		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Worship 9AM Bible Study 10:30AM	Worship Meeting 11:00AM	GEMS 10AM Finance Meeting 5:30PM	Disciples Small Group Study @ 11AM Choir Practice 7pm	IGG Apps. Due Grief Support Group 1PM		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Worship 9AM Bible Study 10:30AM	Christian Ed 6PM Cabinet Meeting 7PM	GEMS 10AM	Disciples Small Group Study @ 11AM Choir Practice 7pm	Grief Support Group 1PM		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Worship 9AM Bible Study 10:30AM Middle School Youth Group 5-6:30PM	Property Meeting 4PM	GEMS 10AM	Disciples Small Group Study @ 11AM Choir Practice 7pm	Grief Support Group 1PM		Happy Halloween!