

September 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



End of Summer Fun

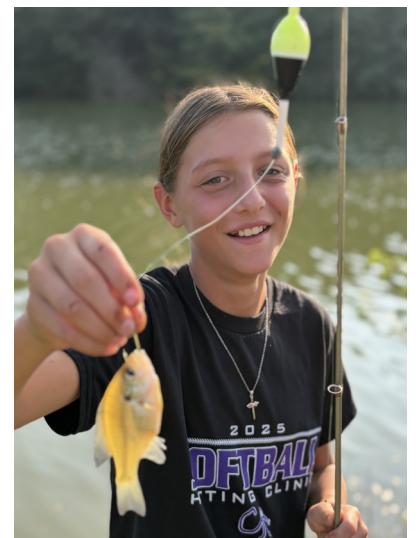
On August 23, we had our first youth group of the season out at Lakeland Park. Nine youth came out and shared some pizza, talked about the summer



and dreamed ahead of our future meetings. We read the story in Luke 5.1-11 of Jesus, calling Simon Peter and his friends with the miraculous catch of fish and decided to try out own hand with a lovely night of fishing. We may not have caught so many that it strained our nets, but the kids had a blast!



If you have a middle school youth, make sure they join us Sunday, September 27 from 5-6:30 at FCC for our next group!



September 13th

Children's Church 2nd Grade Bible Giveaway
new season begins
ages 4-4th grade



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



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

Staying Present

I am a future-oriented person. Sounds good, sounds very responsible. But really, it just means that when my mind meanders, it tends to focus on what is coming up next. It's easy for those of us who are future-oriented to miss out on the present and what's going on right where our bodies are.

That's why it's been such a needed treat this summer to be on sabbatical. To take three months of not looking ahead at next Sunday or the next newsletter or upcoming programs for the back of the bulletins or preparing for the next committee meeting...I needed to take some time to be in the present, and even to linger and look back a bit to learn from the past.

I doubt I'm the only one who needs these kinds of seasons to refresh. If you too are focused less on where you are and more on where you're going or where you've been, maybe you need some time and space to just be. Psalm 46 is one of those that always calls me back to the holy present, "be still and know that I am God." On sabbatical, many of my days were spent simply being, whether it was with my family at a beach, reading a book alone or walking across Spain.

And now that I have returned, along with the return of school, busy schedules and new ministries; I want to be intentional in keeping that future-oriented distraction at bay, to stay in the present tense. A practice that has carried me through sabbatical and beyond is my journaling. For years, I'd make half-hearted attempts that would sputter out after a few weeks, but I have been consistent so far. And I'm discovering one of the best effects from the journaling as I've been taking the time to go back and read over my notes, to hear my thoughts from that not-too-distant past. As I've flipped through my journal, I'm reminded of insights I gained, of intentions I still want to keep, or little epiphanies that I want to continue to explore. Especially, going through my camino memories and having the space to share them with y'all, whether in sermon antidotes or in my Camino Convo at the end of August, it has been a blessing to be able to share some thoughts with people I care about. And now that I know my past reflections can be held lightly without dissipating away, I can be more fully engaged in the here and now, without having to constantly be looking ahead. That's my journey, but we all have a tendency to flee from the present. I pray that you will find a way to embrace your daily growth as well.

So, even as the ministry calendar speeds up, as the autumn days approach with waning sunlight, let's not worry about the future or get trapped in the past, but find a way to "be still" and stay in this holy moment we are gifted with, the present.

Peace, *Pastor Steve*

2026 FALL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Jena Goforth	Belle Hardy	Jaiden Walters
Ella Goforth	Aja Lawson	Addy Allard
Katie Smith	Grant Stephenson	Drake Miller
Abby Stevens	Natalie Spiva	Marlee Miller
Mia Hardy		Lexie Shaw



Blessing of the Backpacks

As a new school year begins, our congregation gathered for a special Blessing of the Backpacks, led by Pastor Steve. Students, teachers, and administrators were invited to bring their backpacks as a reminder that God is with them wherever their school year may take them. We are grateful for the opportunity to surround our students, teachers, and administrators with prayer and to remind them that they are supported and loved by their church family. May God bless each of them throughout the coming year!

WORSHIP ONLY SCRATCHES THE SURFACE...

DIGGING DEEPER BIBLE STUDY

Sundays at 10:30am
Room 104

New to Disciples? Wanting to remember what makes us unique?
Join together for a 6-week small group study...

WE CALL OURSELVES

Disciples

Wednesdays, starting Sept 30 @ 11 am
RSVP today

IMS Care Connections



Thank you for all the wonderful donations to help fill the empty shelves of the Ingersoll Middle School care connections food pantry. Denise and Kevin brought our collected goods to the grateful staff at Ingersoll the week before school got started so that from day one, they could continue their ministry of caring for students. Thank you, church, for your compassion to our community's kids.

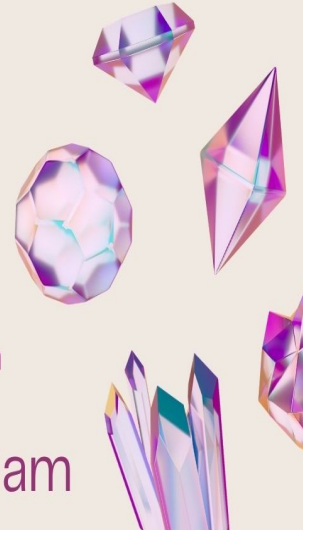
CHS Soccer Support

On Thursday, August 20, our outreach committee generously provided some hospitality for our CHS soccer team and their families. It was a celebration to begin the season off right, led by their new coach, FCC's own, Grant Stephenson.

Thanks to Kevin, Judy, Denise, Maida, Amy, and all those who helped in this ministry to support our young people.

GEMS bible study resumes

Starts Sept. 8th
Tuesdays at 10am



Thank You Notes

Dear FCC,
Thank you very much for awarding me this scholarship! The money will go towards funding my tuition as I start my junior year of nursing school. I am very grateful for this support! God Bless, Abby Stevens

Dear First Christian Church,
Thank you so much for awarding me this scholarship. I truly appreciate your generosity and support as I continue my education. This scholarship means a lot to me and will help me as I work towards my goals. Thank you again for believing in me and supporting students like me! Sincerely, Ella Goforth

First Christian Church,
I am so blessed to be a part of this church community and incredibly grateful to have received this scholarship. It means so much to me to know that my church is supporting me as I start my senior year at Illinois State University.

I am especially grateful to be supported by a church that has been a special part of my life. I have always appreciated the kindness and generosity within our church, and it means a lot to know that you are supporting me and other students as we work towards our goals!

Thank you, Jena Goforth

BECOMING
DEDICATED

Disciples

Passionate **SPIRITUALITY**

Joyful **SERVICE**

Inspiring **GENEROSITY**



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



FALL DISCIPLES WOMEN'S RETREAT

Braiding Sweetgrass

September 26 - 27, 2026
Walter Scott Camp and Learning Center

REV. JENNIE CHURCHMAN,
KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Disciples Women's Ministry

Join with women from across the region for a soul-nourishing Women's Retreat inspired by *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. During this weekend at Camp Walter Scott, we will explore themes of gratitude, reciprocity, and sacred connection to the earth. Our keynote speaker, Rev. Jennie Churchman, will lead us in thoughtful sessions that intertwine spirituality and ecological wisdom, inviting us to deepen our faith and relationship with creation. The retreat will culminate in a meaningful worship and communion service on Sunday, grounding us in community and shared purpose.

This is a time for rest, renewal, and spiritual growth among women of all ages. Participants may arrive Friday evening for an additional fee of \$25.00—please note that no programming or meals will be provided that night. We hope you'll join us for this sacred weekend of learning, connection, and reflection. RSVP at cciwdisciples.org/events

Lunch & Learn

Getting Smart, Getting Connected

Date: Thursday, September 10th
Time: 12:00pm -1:00pm
Location: **Gary Baker Rec. Center**
940 N. Main St.
Free with lunch provided!
call 309-647-1345 to RSVP

**Topic: Banking
Fraud**

with MidAmerica
National Bank

HOSTED BY:
CANTON PARK DISTRICT
&
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Safe Kids Training

Do you want to volunteer in any children's or youth ministries? If you'd like to help with things like children's church, VBS, nursery or youth group, you must go through training every 3 years.

We have scheduled a Safe Kids Training to take place on **Sunday September 20th** immediately after worship in room 205 (directly beside the upstairs elevator). If you'd prefer to attend online, we will also have it on Facebook Live. You

will need to comment at the start of the video & complete the paperwork separately.

We have not offered training in over 3 years, therefore everyone needs to go through training again. Please try to attend this meeting either in person or virtually!

If you have not gone through FCC's Safe Kids before, you also need to complete the free, one-hour online Mandated Reporter Training (<https://mr.dcfstraining.org>) before our in-person session and send the certificate to Jessa in the church office.

Thanks for your dedication to helping us be a safe and welcoming church for our kids to grow in their faith journey!

SAFE KIDS TRAINING FOR
ADULT VOLUNTEERS
WORKING W/ CHILDREN &
YOUTH

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

September Anniversaries

Aaron & Emily McLean	Sept. 1
Don & Donita Taylor	Sept. 19
Darryl & Kim Schrodtt	Sept. 22

July 2026 Giving & Ministry Needs

YTD

Ind. Giving:	18,671	133,776
Other Income:	24,284	84,401
Total:	42,954	218,177
Needs:	108,143	293,810
Difference:	65,189	75,633

Please Pray For:

Family & friends of Jody Ann Brubaker during her passing; Blaine Hardy (being actively deployed to the Middle East); Don Powell; Donna Phillips; Dave Lefferts; Kim Stoneking (Kevin's brother); Tammy Weaver; Lela Marie & Lonnie; Jeff Shelby & family; Penny Winters; Carolyn Sue (Murphy) Tandy; Lorraine Neill; Diana Black Williamson; Christine Malott; Sharon Hall; Cathy Schoonover-Orwig (MS); 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

September 6: David & Jonathan		September 13: Paul, Timothy & Lydia	
Scripture	1 Samuel 18: 1-4	Scripture	Acts 16: 1-15
Greeters	Chuck & Denise Jarvis	Greeters	Lorraine Neill
Ushers	Susan Perez	Ushers	Sheila Dye
CtW	None	CtW	Kathy Taber
Scripture Reader	Jean Edwards	Scripture Reader	Jack Fitzjarald
Children's Moment	Sherry Coffey	Children's Moment	Jean Edwards
Invitation	Shawna Axline	Invitation	Grant Stephenson
Prayer	Kevin Coleman	Prayer	Maida Williams
Deacons (prepare)	Dave & Corey /Carissa M & Amanda	Deacons (prepare)	Shane & Greg S /Shawn & Lyn
Counters	Kevin Coleman & Don Heller	Counters	Grant Stephenson & TBD
Coffee Fellowship	Judy Leitze	Coffee Fellowship	Jan & Chuck Taylor
September 20: Mary & Elizabeth		September 27: Jesus and His Disciples	
Scripture	Luke 1: 39-45, 56	Scripture	John 15: 9-17
Greeters	Shawn & Lyn Snowman	Greeters	Spiva Family
Ushers	Alan & Daryle Coleman	Ushers	Mike & Sue Walters
CtW	Video	CtW	TBD
Scripture Reader	Dave Bell	Scripture Reader	Carissa Moser
Children's Moment	Grant Stephenson	Children's Moment	Michelle Spiva
Invitation	Chuck Taylor	Invitation	Steve Mason
Prayer	Sherry Coffey	Prayer	Tammy Weaver
Deacons (prepare)	Denny & Dee /Judy K & Eugenia	Deacons (prepare)	Zack & Janet /Jake & Carisa
Counters	Chuck Taylor & Sherry Coffey	Counters	Tammy Weaver & Alan Coleman
Coffee Fellowship	Bruce & Jean Edwards	Coffee Fellowship	Daryle Coleman

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Worship 9AM Bible Study 10:30AM	Office Closed Labor Day Elder's Meeting 6:30PM	GEMS Bible Study Starts 10AM	Choir Practice Starts 7pm	Lunch & Learn 12PM		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Worship 9AM Bible's for 2nd Graders Bible Study 10:30AM		GEMS 10AM Finance Meeting 5:30PM	Worship Meeting 11:00AM Choir Practice 7pm			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Worship 9AM Bible Study 10:30AM Safe Kid's Training	Christian Ed 6PM Cabinet Meeting 7PM	GEMS 10AM	Choir Practice 7pm			
27	28	29	30			
Worship 9AM Bible Study 10:30AM	Property Meeting 4PM	GEMS 10AM	Disciples Small Group Study @ 11AM Choir Practice 7pm			