

**August 2025**

Office Hours  
**Monday — Thursday**  
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.



**First  
Christian  
Church**

[www.cantonfcc.org](http://www.cantonfcc.org)

215 West Elm Street  
Canton, IL 61520

office (309) 647-1363

## Welcome Kevin and Vicky Stoneking

On July 6th, we had the pleasure of officially welcoming Kevin and Vicky Stoneking as members of First Christian Church. Get to know them this month and next month you'll get to hear more about them in their own words.



✧ ✧ *New Directory Coming Soon!*  
**Make sure you can put a face with a name for all the wonderful folks at FCC by picking up your updated photo directory, available on Aug 17th. Directories will be at the information station underneath the larger bulletin board at the foot of the stairs.** ✧ ✧

## Back to School Bash



On July 27th, at the Big Creek Pool, over 200 families got their school supplies, connected with vital services and shared in an evening of uplifting fun and fellowship at this year's Back-to-School Bash. This community ministry was stewarded and supported by many FCC folks, not to mention a generous contribution from our Outreach funds.

Thanks to you, kids have all the supplies needed to start the year off right and a community showing them love and encouragement to have great attitudes all along the way. Special shout out to Rhonda Morgan, who led and coordinated this vital ministry. Way to go, FCC!



**Steve Mason:** Pastor  
**Jessa Wenger:** Office Coordinator  
**Email:** [contact@cantonfcc.org](mailto:contact@cantonfcc.org)



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

## Why Church?

This past month I hope you've enjoyed hearing the Sermon on the Mount at least as much as I've enjoyed preaching on it. Earlier this year, to my surprise, I realized I'd never had the pleasure of walking a congregation through the biggest single teaching Jesus ever did in Matthew chapters 5-7. I've preached on little parts of it, but never had the chance to connect the pieces to give us the bigger view of what Jesus was trying to teach us. It's a rich teaching—Matthew treats it as Jesus' biggest mountaintop moment—and I'm so glad we're taking the time to really dig in!

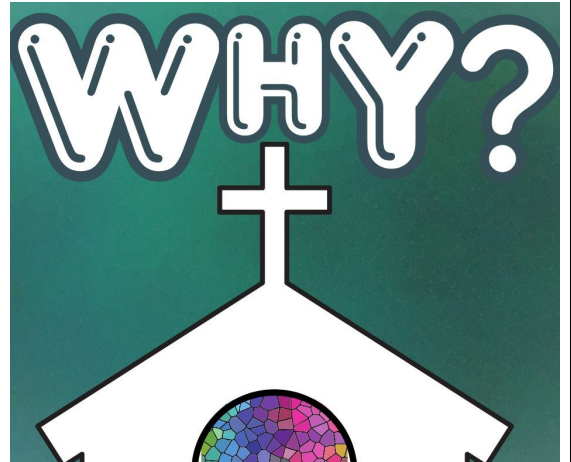
So please know we will continue to focus on this text that speaks into our lives—try and tell me that our relationships with anger, jealousy, greed, God and our neighbors aren't important these days!—through September.

And while we'll continue unpacking these scriptures and big teaching of Jesus, we'll also take time in August to ask my favorite question: "why?" We'll be asking *Why Church?* because as helpful as Jesus' teachings are, many people ask themselves this answer of why they should do it through organized religion, what's unique about a congregation or denomination and how do we share our voice in church. So each week in August, we'll hear from a different ministry committee to see why we do what we do—Worship, Christian Education, Discipleship, ministries of administration and Outreach.

It's good for us to be reminded of why we do what we do together as a church; and it's also a great opportunity if you've been looking to plug in or redirect some of your gifts to discover how God might be calling you to help.

So as we go through this month, continuing to hear from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and learning from our ministry committees, I hope that you will be able to confidently answer for yourself—and any friends that you invite along the way to share in worship—*Why Church* matters for you and how God is calling you to participate in response.

*Pastor Steve*





# IMPACT.

## MENTORING

### Mentors Needed

This fall we are beginning a pilot ministry to help Lincoln Elementary students in a mentoring relationship. Those students who have been identified as in need of safe, consistent and caring adults in their lives are paired up with mentor volunteers to meet one hour a week, at school, during the school day.

By committing one hour a week, volunteer mentors can not only grow a relationship with their student, but while they're doing something as simple as reading together, going over homework, playing a game or simply talking together, they're actually sharing the healing power of Christ that reminds us all that we are beloved and capable children of God. Lincoln Elementary Principal McFerren will serve as the coordinator to support and guide mentors, as well as student placement.

To be qualified, be willing to pass a background check and be consistent in showing up for your weekly time slot that you will schedule with the school. All it takes is that one hour a week of a positive presence in the life of an elementary student, to make a world of change.

Please respond to Pastor Steve

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH UPDATE

Children's Church will  
resume Aug 17th

### New Beginnings

If you are a student, teacher or school administrator, let us offer you a blessing in worship on August 10th as we celebrate all that God will be doing in your life this school year. Kids are invited to bring their backpacks to worship and we all can bring full hearts that day! For kids who have aged out of our children's church ministries (those older than 4th grade) we will have a special gift we hope becomes an annual ritual, with the gift of a prayer journal. Kids will have these to write down Bible scriptures that connect, prayers they're praying or just thoughts on their faith to be able to help them continue to grow in Christ and mature in their faith.

### Journal Gifting &

### BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

AUG 10 @ 9AM



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

Information and spiritual formation on Facebook or in your email.

Watch, like and share!

### Summer 2025 Song Leaders

**Aug. 3rd** - Allen Smith

**Aug. 10th** - Tammy Weaver

**Aug. 17th** - Sherry Coffey

**Aug. 24th** - Kevin Dearing

**Aug. 31st** - John Davis

## Camp Emmanuel a stunning success!

July 14-18, 7 kids from First Christian joined a full 72 kids from around Fulton County at Camp Emmanuel's free day camp. Frankie Kemper, Lainey and Laiken Moser, Andie and Gavin Stephenson and Isaac and Finn Mason spent the week from 9am-3 pm at the Church of the Brethren camp at an ecumenical ministry designed to give a more robust VBS experience, with more access to time in the outdoors, to kids who have completed Kindergarten thru 6th grade. Campers spent time in worship, doing Bible study, nature adventures, crafting, sharing meals and lots of fun in the sun! Fishing, kayaking and the camp's slip 'n slide were some of the afternoon favorites. Pastor Steve, Larry Lefferts and Josh Kemper all volunteered throughout the week. Bill Leitze provided an essential gift in driving campers to and from church each day (thank you, Bill!!!!) and whole team of volunteers provided campers a snack and hospitality while they waited to be picked up each afternoon. Gratitude is also needed for Harold Rose, from the Canton Church of the Brethren for extending the community invitation and directing the camp! Everyone involved felt very good about this new ministry. Plans are already under way for continuing the partnership in 2026!





## LIVING LEGACY PROGRAM 2025

The Living Legacy Program continues this year. In the first quarter of 2025 the main effort was an event celebrating those who had committed to the Program during the Charter year of 2024. In March there was a first annual Celebration Dinner. It was sponsored, provided and hosted by Don and Connie Heller. It was very well attended and a fun filled way to thank everyone for their commitment to the Living Legacy Program.

In the second quarter of this year attention was given to the development of the recognition tree for the Living Legacy Program. It is a uniquely designed, one of a kind, wooden tree created and carved by T.C. Gill of Edelstein Illinois. Then golden leaf plates were secured from an Iowa contact. Next Camillee's did the engraving of the 24 leaves with 39 names on them. The final item needed was a shelf to support the tree. Again, this shelf is hand crafted wood and was created by our own Mike Krulac. The tree and shelf were recently put up. You can see the recognition tree and read the names as you come and go from worship services. It is in the upstairs hallway.

Planning for the next steps in 2025 are in progress. Future newsletters will be forthcoming with additional information about the 2025 Living Legacy Program.

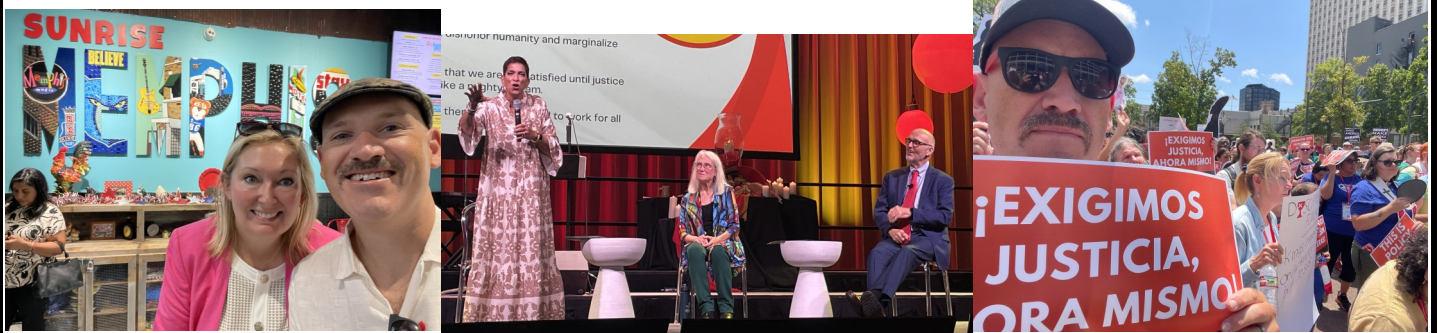
May God continue to bless our efforts.

Don Heller, on behalf of the Finance Committee



## General Assembly Goes BEYOND Expectations!

Last month, Disciples gathered in Memphis from across the country and world to go "BEYOND!" at General Assembly. Shane Dixon, Caitlin and Steve Mason all went as representatives from FCC. Over the 4 days of worship, business, exhibitions, workshops and fellowship, we were reminded of the words from Ephesians 3.20-21 that through us, God can go beyond our expectations and is faithful forever and ever! Our delegates not only were enriched by the experience, but are excited to make sure our ministries will benefit from all that we learned. Please ask any of us about our time to learn more. And start considering whether you might go to the next General Assembly on FCC's behalf in 2028!



## August Birthdays

Kevin Coleman	Aug 2
Zack Krulac	Aug 3
Clint Coleman	Aug 4
Dave Grigsby	Aug 4
Karen Meade	Aug 4
Susan Walters	Aug 4
Tracy Snowman	Aug 5
Norma Snowman	Aug 11
Savannah Snowman	Aug 12
Gary Zaborac	Aug 12
Trygve Meade	Aug 19
Doris Taylor	Aug 20
Allen Smith	Aug 21
Cami Bernard	Aug 22
Dee Doubet	Aug 22
Josh Kemper	Aug 23
Judy Leitze	Aug 23
Char VanRossem	Aug 31

## August Anniversaries

Shawn & Lyn Snowman	Aug 4
Bruce & Jean Edwards	Aug 6
Mike & Janet Krulac	Aug 7
Chris & Sherry Hardy	Aug 12
Scott & Tracy Snowman	Aug 13
Dick & Char VanRossem	Aug 14
Trent & Chantel Goforth	Aug 16
Chuck & Jan Taylor	Aug 19



## Please Pray For:

Randy Weaver; Family & friends of Carol Harmon during her passing; Kay Speck Heatherly (friend of Tom Axline); Family & friends of Melba Dearing during her passing (Kevin's mom); Llyod Kemper; Kelly (Laurie's husband); Don & Shirley Edwards (Bruce's parents); Griffin Beam (recovering from back surgery); Gary Barnhart; 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: 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

August 3		August 10	
<b>Scripture</b>	Ephesians 3: 20-21	<b>Scripture</b>	Matt. 6: 7-15
<b>Greeters</b>	Diane Schrodt	<b>Greeters</b>	Susan Perez
<b>Ushers</b>	Judy Leitze	<b>Ushers</b>	Eugenia Warden
<b>Call to Worship</b>	Video	<b>Call to Worship</b>	Grant Stephenson
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Trygve Meade	<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Randy Weaver
<b>Children's Moment</b>	Daryle Coleman	<b>Children's Moment</b>	Michelle Spiva
<b>Song Leader</b>	Allen Smith	<b>Song Leader</b>	Tammy Weaver
<b>Invitation/Prayer</b>	Shawna Axline/Chuck Taylor	<b>Invitation/Prayer</b>	Maida Williams/Chuck Taylor
<b>Deacons (prepare)</b>	<b>Denny &amp; Dee</b> /Allen & Eugenia	<b>Deacons (prepare)</b>	<b>Zack &amp; Janet</b> /Jake & Carisa
<b>Counters</b>	Bruce Edwards & Chuck Taylor	<b>Counters</b>	Chuck Taylor/Don Heller
<b>Coffee Fellowship</b>	Amanda & Grant	<b>Coffee Fellowship</b>	Judy Kemper
August 17		August 24	
<b>Scripture</b>	Matt. 6: 1-6, 16-21	<b>Scripture</b>	Matt. 6: 22-34
<b>Greeters</b>	Sheila Dye	<b>Greeters</b>	Alan & Daryle Coleman
<b>Ushers</b>	Pheobe Raker	<b>Ushers</b>	Chuck & Denise Jarvis
<b>Call to Worship</b>	Video	<b>Call to Worship</b>	Brian Spiva
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Kara Fitzjarrald	<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Bill Leitze
<b>Children's Moment</b>	Grant Stephenson	<b>Children's Moment</b>	Steve Mason
<b>Song Leader</b>	Sherry Coffey	<b>Song Leader</b>	Kevin Dearing
<b>Invitation/Prayer</b>	Kevin Coleman/Brian Spiva	<b>Invitation/Prayer</b>	Kevin Dearing/Shawna Axline
<b>Deacons (prepare)</b>	<b>Corey &amp; Mark T</b> /Judy & Susan	<b>Deacons (prepare)</b>	<b>Jean &amp; Michelle</b> /Tom & Don P
<b>Counters</b>	Brain Spiva/Kevin Coleman	<b>Counters</b>	Shawna Axline/Vinnie Cufau
<b>Coffee Fellowship</b>	Rhonda & Kevin	<b>Coffee Fellowship</b>	Michelle Spiva
August 31			
<b>Scripture</b>	Matt. 5: 38-48	<b>Children's Moment</b>	Rhonda Morgan
<b>Greeters</b>	Mike & Sue Walters	<b>Song Leader</b>	John Davis
<b>Ushers</b>	Lorraine Neill	<b>Invitation/Prayer</b>	Caitlin Mason/Grant Stephenson
<b>Call to Worship</b>	Video	<b>Deacons (prepare)</b>	<b>Carissa M &amp; Amanda</b> /Dave &
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Brian Spiva	<b>Counters</b>	Grant Stephenson/Daryle Coleman
<b>Coffee Fellowship</b>	<b>Potluck</b>		

# August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
Worship 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM	Elder's Meeting 6:30PM					
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
Worship 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM Blessing of the Backpacks	Worship Meeting 11:00AM	Finance Meeting 5:30PM		Lunch & Learn 12-1PM @ Baker Rec. Center		
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
Worship 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM Children's Church Resumes	Christian Ed 6PM Cabinet Meeting 7PM					
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
Worship 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM Youth Group: Picnic & Fishing 5-6:30PM	Property Meeting 4:00PM					
<b>31</b>						
Worship 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM						