

October 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

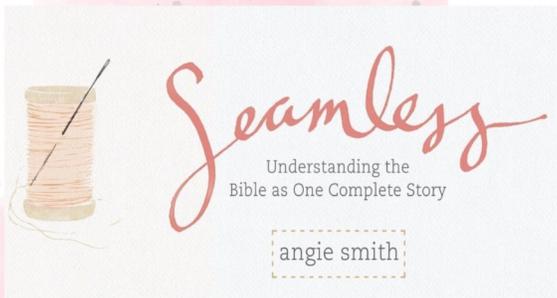
G.E.M.S

Women's Bible Study

New Meeting Time

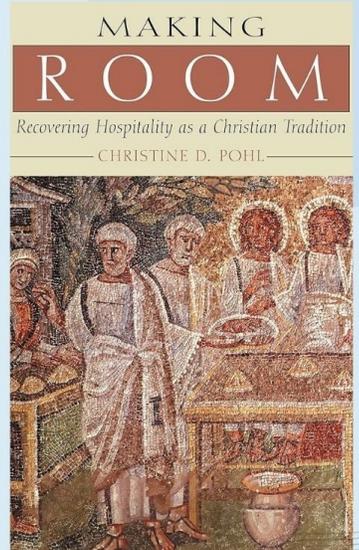
Tuesdays @ 10am
Room 104

Come & check it out!



Book STUDY

Join us for a 6 week study on the theology and practice of hospitality. Discover the history, the challenges and gifts we have as individuals, and as church, to be a people of hospitality.



Mondays starting
October 20th



10-11 am in room 104



Reserve a spot or a book by calling the office
309.647.1363

At FCC, we are becoming dedicated disciples. To help us, we're having a Discipleship Class—primarily for those seeking to get baptized—for anyone who wants to get back in touch with the foundations of our faith.

This 6 week class will take place in Room 104
Sundays from 10:30-11:30 am, starting October 12.

We will cover themes of prayer, Sabbath, the Bible, communion, baptism, church history, Disciples identity and FCC participation

You are invited to join us! RSVP with Pastor Steve!

Pastor Appreciation Month

This year as we celebrate the shared ministry we do as a church with our pastor, we're taking special care to highlight the gift not only that Steve brings to our church, but to especially celebrate and support Caitlin. Not only as clergy partner, but also as a chaplain and a minister under our care for ordination, we need your help recognizing her.

Please call Paula Grigsby
224.9939 if you want to help.

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



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

"There's no such thing as a free lunch!" My grandad was a strong advocate of this saying, always believing that if something didn't involve blood, sweat and tears, it probably wasn't worth having. He instilled in his kids and grandkids a strong work ethic and a desire to be independent and self-sufficient. I remember his legacy as so valuable for much of my better qualities and values I want to teach my kids.

And while this saying holds true for much of our lives, when it comes to faith and the love and support of God, maybe there IS such a thing as free lunch! Isaiah 55 is a memorable chapter in a prolific book of the Bible, one of Jesus' favorites. And at the start of chapter 55, is this invitation to God's people, "Listen up, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters. You who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." God is inviting us to an abundant feast of goodness and the only ticket we need for entry is to simply acknowledge we're hungry! It's a free lunch!

Even better, it's not just physical nourishment God is offering, but the very gift of life itself. Isaiah continues, "Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The rest of the chapter, Isaiah points out how all of Creation is set up in an interconnected pattern, where God doesn't waste anything and everything that is needed, God supplies.

This wisdom and imagery are the core ideas behind our stewardship emphasis that we'll be doing this month in worship, Satisfy the Hungry Heart: Feasting with God. All this month, we're going to be reminding each other of the good things God has given us and desires for us to share with one another. In our worship series, we will explore scripture, sing songs, as well as hear from people about what feeds them at God's table and how they've extended the invitation for others. We'll talk about our own personal practices to help make sure that the things we spend our time and energy on really connect us to the nourishment of God so that our hungry hearts might be deeply satisfied.

Because for so many of us, church is that place where we find our meaning, the community where we are known and fed; we can also consider what our stewardship practices can be. As we look to fund the ministries God is calling our church to in 2026, we need to know that this community is ready to extend a welcome table, to feast with God and share the goodness God has given us so that we can continue to be a church leading in love and discipleship going forward. So join us this month as we celebrate together ***Satisfy the Hungry Heart: Feasting with God***



Pastor Steve



Youth Group Discovery!

On September 28, we had a great group of 13 middle school youth who joined together for a scavenger hunt and DIY pizza night. It was a great evening that started off reading Matthew 7 where Jesus tells us to "ask, seek and knock"; and then we put his wisdom into literal action, discovering all kinds of clues in the Bible and around the church for our scavenger hunt. It was a great time for all and many thanks to the adult adults who helped lead!

Make sure to invite the middle school youth in your life to our next group on October 26, from 5-6:30 when we'll be making Jack-o-lanterns and letting our light shine.



First Christian Church

Middle School
Youth Group



5-6:30pm
Oct 26, Sunday

Pumpkin Carving

Support our Day Camp Ministry

At the Woodland Church of the Brethren trivia night

Saturday October 25
@ 6pm

3485 N Co Rd 2, Astoria

Max 8 person teams
\$10 per person
PRIZES AWARDED!

Food for purchase begins at 5pm or BYO snacks

All proceeds go to the Community Kids Day Camp Fees at Camp Emmanuel

STOP BY FOR A BITE!

FREE FOOD, CANDY AND FUN FOR ALL!

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 31 5-7PM



YOUR WEEKLY
MINUTE AT FIRST

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

Information and spiritual formation on Facebook or in your email.

Watch, like and share!

BECOMING DEDICATED

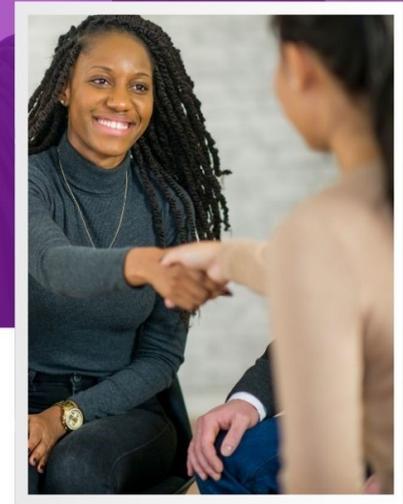
Disciples

Passionate **SPIRITUALITY**

Joyful **SERVICE**

Inspiring **GENEROSITY**

LIFE SKILLS ACADEMY



Prepare for the next steps of life with experts and one-on-one support in a welcoming space.

\$500
scholarships
for 5 who
complete all
sessions

Who: Juniors, Seniors and 2025 Grads
When: 3rd Wednesdays from 7-9pm
(Oct, Nov, Jan, Feb and March)
Where: First Christian Church
Cost: *FREE! And snacks provided!*

- ✓ Applications and Scholarships
- ✓ Managing your Digital Footprint
- ✓ Interviewing Skills
- ✓ Financial Literacy
- ✓ Independent Living Skills



Sock-toberfest

Bring donations of NEW socks for Canton kids to FCC during October!



WEEKLY WORD PODCAST



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

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

Inspiring Generosity Grants

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

cantonfcc.org/fcc-grants

Applications due October 15th



All Saints Day

- Sunday, November 2nd
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.



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

Last Month's Giving and Ministry Needs		YTD
Giving from Individuals: \$15,993		\$145,772.83
Other Income: \$1,385.97		\$ 77,313.98
Total Income: \$17,378.97		\$223,086.81
Ministry Needs: \$49,521.82		\$241,184.75
Difference:	-\$32,142.85	-\$18,097.94

Please Pray For:

Family & friends of John Burgard; Jeff Ossman (stroke); Sharon Hall; Randy Weaver; Kelly (Laurie's husband); Don & Shirley Edwards (Bruce's parents); Cindy Schoenheider; Tyler Dixon's dad, Wayne (heart surgery); 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: Tim Roberts (Diana Drinkwater's brother), 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:

Holly Brook Pekin - David & Bea Meeker
Heritage Woods— Bruce Christy, Barb Uno
Renaissance C.C.- Angie Slater, Bill Brockett & Sue Weaver
Sunset - Lori Bieber; Ed Ford; Keith Munstedt

Scriptures, Sermons, & Serving Schedules

October 5		October 12	
Scripture	Isaiah 55:1-3	Scripture	Isaiah 55:1-9
Greeters	Mark & Laura Taylor	Greeters	Kevin & Jan Dearing
Ushers	Bruce & Jean Edwards	Ushers	Bonnie Harn
CtW	Dave Bell	CtW	Video
Scripture Reader	Dave Bell	Scripture Reader	Carissa Moser
Children's Moment	Steve Mason	Children's Moment	Rhonda Morgan
Invitation	Chuck Taylor	Invitation	Grant Stephenson
Prayer	Kevin Dearing	Prayer	Caitlin Mason
Children's Church	TBD	Children's Church	TBD
Deacons (prepare)	Tom A. & Don P./ Mark & Michelle	Deacons (prepare)	Dave & Sheila/ Carissa M & Amanda
Counters	Chuck Taylor/Vinnie Cufaude	Counters	Grant Stephenson/Daryle Coleman
Coffee Fellowship	Jan & Chuck Taylor	Coffee Fellowship	Don & Maida
October 19		October 26	
Scripture	Isaiah 55:8-13	Scripture	Isaiah 55:1-13
Greeters	Becky Wilcoxon	Greeters	Allen Smith
Ushers	Nancy Cluts	Ushers	Bill & Judy Kemper
CtW	Janet Krulac	CtW	Video
Scripture Reader	Colleen Conrad	Scripture Reader	Caitlin Mason
Children's Moment	Jean Edwards	Children's Moment	Janet Krulac
Invitation	Tammy Weaver	Invitation	Tammy Weaver
Prayer	Steve Mason	Prayer	Jen Miller
Children's Church	TBD	Children's Church	TBD
Deacons (prepare)	Shane & Chris/ Shawn & Lyn	Deacons (prepare)	Denny & Dee/ Allen & Eugenia
Counters	Tammy Weaver/Bruce Edwards	Counters	Jen Miller/Tammy Weaver
Coffee Fellowship	Kevin Dearing	Coffee Fellowship	Paula Grigsby

October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Choir Practice 7PM			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Worship 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM	Elder's Meeting 6:30 PM	GEMS 10:00AM	Choir Practice 7PM	Lunch & Learn 12-1PM @ Baker Rec. Center		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Worship 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM	Worship Meeting 11:00AM	GEMS 10:00AM Finance Meeting 5:30PM	Choir Practice 7PM			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Worship 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM	Making Room Book Study 10-11AM Christian Ed 6PM Cabinet Meeting 7PM	GEMS 10:00AM	Choir Practice 7PM			Trivia Night 6PM in Astoria
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Worship 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM Middle School Youth Group 5-6:30PM	Making Room Book Study 10-11AM Property Meeting 4:00PM	GEMS 10:00AM	Choir Practice 7PM		Halloween @ FCC 5-7PM	