

December 2024

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

New Members



The week before Thanksgiving, First Christian had much to give thanks for as we welcomed two new members officially to our congregation: Sharon Schrodt and Wendy Mayall.



Sharon is a retired nurse (RN-CNOR) from Graham Hospital surgery department. She was married for 48 1/2 years to the love of her life, Russell Schrodt, who passed in July 2012. She has two children, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren. She likes to quilt, do word searches and enjoys watching Duke men's basketball. Sharon lives in Trivoli.

You might know Wendy from her role as the manager of Helping Hands, where Wendy not only finds new homes for donations, but she helps support local nonprofits in the process.

(Pastor Steve editorial: Helping Hands always needs more volunteers who are willing to sort, donations, and help make the store be a positive influence in the community – so this would be a great volunteer opportunity for those of you who might be retired or thinking about it in the near future.) Wendy's kindness and compassion extend to her caring for Jonathan, Jacob and Ainsley.

We are so thankful for both Sharon and Wendy. Let's join together in praising God for these wonderful women and we look forward to serving beside you as fellow brothers and sisters in Christ!

Grateful, Thankful, & Blessed

We are so grateful for all the volunteers who helped with our community Thankful Meal! We served, handed out & delivered over 200 free meals to members of our community! Thank you to all who donated desserts, helped with cooking, serving, delivering & everything else!



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



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

The thrill of hope / a weary world rejoices... We'll sing these words from the beloved carol *O Holy Night* during Christmas and the Advent season (the time of preparing our lives and this world for the good news of Jesus' birth in our lives), but you might be asking, *How Does a Weary World Rejoice?* You're not alone. That is the question we'll be asking all Advent long: how does we make space for joy in such a world where people are exhausted and anxious? What kind of good news does Jesus bring to this time and place? Especially in a season that always seems to be rushed and stuffed with activities, it seems like there would be little room for genuine hope. But maybe, just maybe there's something more...

We'll be wrestling with this question of finding a space for joy alongside the real struggles that many of us know. We'll get into this question in worship, in our small group settings, in our outreach opportunities and in our personal devotions.

This Advent and Christmas, we will hold space for our weariness and our joy, we will seek a "thrill of hope" in our hurting world and we will welcome joy! My hope is that in all of it, you feel like this story that we'll see in the gospel of Luke is a story for YOU, that the incarnation of God's Love and Spirit is awaiting your life!

So, pick up your devotion—turn to it (ideally, daily, but if nothing else, let it be a calming routine) when you really need it. Check out our daily Facebook Advent calendar prompts and decide what of these activities, below, will help you find joy and hope in this weary world—so broken and, yet, so beautiful.

Blessings on your journey. May you experience the thrill of hope and find something to rejoice about this Advent!

Pastor Steve



How does a weary world rejoice? Advent at FCC

TODAY pick up your free Advent devotional!

- Dec. 1 @ 9am first Sunday in Advent and first of the daily Facebook Advent calendar posts
- Dec. 8 @ 9am special music from CHS Madrigals
- Dec. 15 @ 10am annual congregational meeting
- Dec. 15 @ 6pm Family Ministry Night: Gingerbread Bash
- Dec. 22 @ TBD caroling and dinner with First Pres.
- Dec. 24 @ 7pm Christmas Eve candle-lit worship
- Dec. 29 @ 9am walk-on Christmas pageant and potluck
- Jan. 12 @ 9am star words worship and Living Legacy celebration
- Jan. 19 @ 9am state of the church celebration



Elm Street Boo Bash

We had a frightfully fun time handing out 300 hotdog meals and lots of other treats at our Community Halloween event! Thank you to all who came out and joined us and thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this a successful and fun night!!



Thankful Art Event

We had a small but creative group for our Thankful Art night! We made Thankful collages, pinecone turkeys and pumpkins! We are so thankful for friends, fellowship, fun and family!

December Family Ministry
Night

Gingerbread Bash

Sunday, December 15th
6-7pm @ FCC



BECOMING
DEDICATED

Disciples

Passionate **SPIRITUALITY**

Joyful **SERVICE**

Inspiring **GENEROSITY**

The Sun Will Come Out Tomorrow

The sun will come out tomorrow...and when it does, we are quickly becoming ready to turn that solar energy into power! Our long-awaited work with Hawk-Attollo solar company is coming to fruition as panels are going up on the south side of the education wing's roof and the west side of the fellowship hall's roof. The team from RKE has been working on making our electrical details are in place so that once everything is connected and Ameren inspects the project, we anticipate to be producing solar energy by the 2nd week of December!



Thank you to all those who have helped make this project happen, especially Bruce Edwards and Greg Pollitt, who have been invaluable to being liaison with the various entities and to be the on-site leaders! Thank you to the property committee and finance committee, both of whom have worked together for almost 2 years (!!!) to make this project a reality. And thank you, FCC, for making sure we care for God's Creation and to help us be good stewards of our resources.

Inspiring Generosity Grants for 2025

FCC announced the awarding of their Inspiring Generosity Grants on Sunday, Nov. 24th. FCC received 17 grant proposals from non-profits in the Canton area and awarded 10 projects for a total of \$10,260 in grant monies in the following awards:

- \$2000 for the YMCA's "STEAM Activities" funding after school programming
- \$750 for The Friends of Westview Elementary's sensory room
- \$900 for Lincoln Elementary School's "Becoming a Better Me" program, helping students connect their mind, body and spirit through after-school yoga programming coordinated with the Breathing Tree's yoga instructors
- \$1,000 for Lutheran Social Services to provide a safe & comfy foster care visitation space
- \$750 for the Fulton County Rehabilitation Center's Fine Motor Activity Center
- \$750 for Ingersoll Middle School's "Guidance Counselor Care Closet" to provide specialized needs for students and families, as directed through school counselors
- \$1375 for The Back-to-School Bash to provide a meal at the event preparing students and families with needed supplies before the upcoming school year
- \$1572 for The Salvation Army to provide household supplies for the Angel Tree event
- \$500 for the Spoon River Economic Partnership to provide supportive incentives for participants in the Community Revitalization Partnership meetings
- \$663 for the Fulton County Health Department's Breast Cancer Support Group supplies

We are grateful to the Ingersoll Trust Fund, which allows us to be able to inspire the generosity of our neighbors.



LIVING LEGACY-UPDATE

- 2023 was Phase 1. It was an educational effort to explain the program utilizing seminars and newsletter articles. What can you do in your estate planning to bless our church that you love with a gift after your passing?
- In 2023 the Living Legacy brochure was created. It provides several options and ideas for a Legacy gift including the three most used methods. They are, including the church in your will or recipient of your IRA or as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy.
- 2024 is Phase 2. Personal giving testimonies in church and stories in our newsletters of past members who have contributed to the Living Legacy have been shared this year to encourage you to commit to be Living Legacy Charter Partner.
- So how are we doing? Gifts received in 2023 and 2024 have raised our Living Legacy Fund over the \$400,000 mark for the first time. So far in 2024 this fund has also generated over \$24,000 in interest and dividends that the Property Committee uses for church updates and repairs.
- 2024 is the commitment year to become a Living Legacy Charter Partner. So far 27 members, some couples and some individuals, have pledged their support.
- On Sunday January 12, 2025, our church will be celebrating Epiphany, which is when the wise men presented their gifts to Jesus. We will be in that service recognizing those who have become Living Legacy Charter Partners.
- On that same Sunday we will unveiling a very special wood carving done by a pastor friend of Steve's. It will be a 3 foot x 4 foot 3D tree and will be similar to the many carving we already have by Tom Snowman.
- The year is winding down fast. We are sure there are others that plan on signing up this year. Are you one of them? Your commitment to Living Legacy means you want to bless the church you love and has been there for you in good times and bad times. It also means you value our church and want to perpetuate it for your children and grandchildren's future.



WEEKLY WORD PODCAST

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



WORSHIP ONLY SCRATCHES THE SURFACE...

**DIGGING DEEPER
BIBLE STUDY**

Sundays at 10:30am
Room 104

Annual Congregational Meeting

Our annual congregational meeting will take place December 15th, following worship. We'll be presenting the 2025 budget and leadership slate.

December Birthdays

Luke Allard	Dec. 1
Mike Krulac	Dec. 1
Amanda Reed	Dec. 1
Kevin Morgan	Dec. 3
Tammy Weaver	Dec. 6
Chuck Taylor	Dec. 9
Jake Snowman	Dec. 15
Barb Pollitt	Dec. 27
Dick Van Rossem	Dec. 29
Tad Allard	Dec. 31
Bill Leitze	Dec. 31

December Anniversaries

Jacob & Lauren Ray	Dec. 13
Hank & Deann Anderson	Dec. 16
Bill & Judy Leitze	Dec. 18
David & Bea Meeker	Dec. 30

Please Pray For:

Mark Reneau (hip replacement surgery); Cathy Schoonover-Orwig (MS); Jeremy Fisher (nephew of Bruce & Sherry); Friends & Family of Ned Graham during his passing; Friends and Family of Sherry Lindzey during her passing; Mandy Sipe; Alan Coleman (recovering from heart surgery); Brenda Dilts (Lyn Snowman's mom); Ryan Hicks (nephew of Susan Perez); David Lueck (Janet White's nephew); Brad O'Brien (Sherry Hardy's friend); Tayvin Henderson (Friend of Jack Fitzjarrald); Larry Avery; Carol Harmon; Wendy Mayall; Jan Dearing; Kevin Allard (Tad Allard's brother); Sid Smith (Lyn Snowman's uncle); Liz Pollitt; Blaine Hardy (deployed overseas); Joyce & Zack Norris; Steve Moore; Those battling with cancer: Sharon Schrodt, Mark Stoneking, Sharon Blair, Brett Downy, Jason Lasseigne, Bev Lynch, Lloyd Leezer; Tracy Snowman; Cora Murphey

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

12/1/24-We Acknowledge Our Weariness		12/8/24-We Find Joy in Connection	
Scripture	Luke 1: 5-20	Scripture	Luke 1: 24-45 & 56
Greeters	Mike & Susan Walters	Greeters	McLean Family
Ushers	Spiva Family	Ushers	Ron Rupe & Pheobe Raker
Advent Wreath	Denny & Dee Doubet	Advent Wreath	Stephenson Family
Scripture Reader	Diane Schrodtt	Scripture Reader	Amanda Stephenson
Children's Moment	Jen Miller	Children's Moment	TBD
Children's Church	Jean & Bruce Edwards	Children's Church	Lyn Snowman/TBD
Invitation/Prayer	Brian Spiva/Bruce Edwards	Invitation/Prayer	Caitlin Mason /Daryle Coleman
Deacons (prepare)	Denny & Dee /Allen Eugenia	Deacons (prepare)	Zack & Janet /Jake Carisa
Counters	Bruce Edwards/Kevin Coleman	Counters	Daryle Coleman/Vinnie Cufaude
Coffee Fellowship	Michelle Spiva	Coffee Fellowship	Caitlin Mason
9/15/24-We Allow Ourselves to Be Amazed		9/22/24-We Make Room	
Scripture	Luke 1: 57-66	Scripture	Luke 2: 1-7
Greeters	Liz Pollitt	Greeters	Becky Wilcoxen
Ushers	Marilee Casper	Ushers	TBD
Advent Wreath	Bruce and Jean Edwards	Advent Wreath	Carissa Moser Family
Scripture Reader	Denny Doubet	Scripture Reader	Dee Doubet
Children's Moment	TBD	Children's Moment	TBD
Children's Church	Jen Miller & Family	Children's Church	Janet Krulac/TBD
Invitation/Prayer	Chuck Taylor/Steve Mason	Invitation/Prayer	Bill Leitze/Kevin Dearing
Deacons (prepare)	Corey & Mark /Judy & Susan	Deacons (prepare)	Mark & Michelle /Tad & Amy
Counters	Chuck Taylor/Alan Coleman	Counters	Bruce Edwards/Jen Miller
Coffee Fellowship	Daryle Coleman	Coffee Fellowship	Judy Leitze
9/29/24-We Tell the Story			
Scripture	No Scripture	Children's Moment	No Children's Moment
Greeters	Allen Smith	Children's Church	Children's Pageant
Ushers	Bonnie Harn	Invitation/Prayer	Tammy Weaver/Mike Krulac
Advent Wreath	Lori & Kevin Coleman	Deacons (prepare)	Shawn & Lyn /Shane & Chris
Scripture Reader	Amy Allard	Counters	Tammy Weaver/Don Heller
Coffee Fellowship	Potluck		

December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Worship 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM	Elder's Meeting 6:30PM		Bell Practice 6PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM	GEMS @ 10AM		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Worship 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM	Worship Meeting 11:00AM		Finance Meeting 5:30PM Bell Practice 6PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM	GEMS @ 10AM		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Worship 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM FMN: Gingerbread Bash 6-7pm	Christian Ed. Meeting 6:00PM	Outreach Meeting 5:00PM	Bell Practice 6PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM	GEMS @ 10AM		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Worship 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM TBD Caroling & Din. w/ 1st Pres.		Christmas Eve Candle-Lit Worship 7PM	Choir Practice 7:00 PM	GEMS @ 10AM		
29	30	31				
Worship 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM						