

**April 2024**

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

## Palm Sunday Dinner

**Joyful Service and Inspiring Generosity at work during our Palm Sunday Community Meal!! We served around 200 free meals (delivery, carry out and dine in).**

**Thanks to our many volunteers who joyfully prepped, cooked, served, delivered and helped with clean up**



Thank you to all the wonderful helpers at our church for your dedication, kindness, and support during Holy Week! Your selfless efforts truly make a difference in our community and bring light into our lives!

**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

In time of silver rain,  
the earth puts forth new life again.  
Green grasses grow  
and flowers lift their heads,  
and over all the plain,  
the wonder spreads.  
Of Life, of Life, of life!

In time of silver rain,  
the butterflies lift silken wings,  
to catch a rainbow cry.  
And trees put forth new leaves to sing  
in joy beneath the sky.  
As down the roadway  
Passing boys and girls,  
go singing, too.



In time of silver rain. When spring  
and life  
are new.

--*In Times of Silver Rain* by Langston Hughes

This is one of my favorite poems by one of my favorite poets. Each year, it's lines blossom up in my head—even on springs like this that seem a bit stubborn to be sprung! But I believe there is something beautiful, something magical, something holy about this season of new life, new cycles of Creation and promises of new chances. No wonder it's the Easter season! Resurrection is all around us.

In the church, we'll not only start our discipleship class on Sundays after worship, beginning April 7<sup>th</sup>, for those who are considering wading into the waters of new life; but we'll also be having a camp celebration at the April 21<sup>st</sup> worship where we'll bring the spirit of Camp Walter Scott (our regional church's camp) to FCC with Camp Ambassadors to tell all our kids and youth who are all invited to participate in camp—as well as adults who would like to volunteer as counselors—all about the joys of church camp! Then the following Saturday, the 27<sup>th</sup>, everyone is invited to lend a hand and join in the community clean up day, sponsored by the Chamber.

So, whether it's at church, at school concerts and plays, at the beginning of outdoor youth sports, the growing evenings; may you experience the feeling of Resurrection wherever you are in this time of silver rain!

*Pastor Steve*

BECOMING  
DEDICATED

*Disciples*

*Passionate* **SPIRITUALITY**

*Joyful* **SERVICE**

*Inspiring* **GENEROSITY**



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

Information and spiritual formation on Facebook or in your email.

Watch, like and share!

**Want to be baptized?**  
**Or even just want to discuss the foundations of our faith?**

**Talk with Pastor Steve about joining our discipleship class**

**6-week class, starting April 7, from 10:15-11**



# LOOKING FOR NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

Are you good with toddlers? Are you the person who asks to hold other peoples' babies? Are you over 15 and have done our Safe Kids training? If so, we would love you to volunteer as a backup nursery attendant. Every worship service we try and have the nursery available for parents to be able to worship fully. We currently have a small team of trained nursery staff who are CPR and First Aid certified, but sometimes in order to maintain our proper ratio of nursery adults with children, we might need to call on some volunteers who can help when it's needed. If you'd like to be added to the list, please get in touch with Michelle Spiva at 405.436.7060.

## Coffee Fellowship – A “Joyful Service” at FCC By Daryle Coleman

First Christian has a cadre of volunteers who graciously supply coffee and treats after church each Sunday. Would you like to be one of them?! For those who love hospitality, it's a pretty simple ministry, but a vital one; because during that ½ hour, connections are made, friendships are cultivated and the church is strengthened.

If you were to volunteer, you would be a part of a team who rotates hosting coffee fellowship by providing snacks, setting them up and then cleaning up. Coffee is taken care of each week by our custodian, Rick Coulter (thank you, Rick!), and the office makes sure there is always ½ and ½, flavored creamer, juice and milk provided in the refrigerator. Coffee fellowship isn't a contest, nor does it need to be a full meal—what refreshments you choose to provide are simply an important way to bring people together in fellowship. And to make sure cost isn't prohibitive, any coffee fellowship items can be reimbursed up to \$40/week—simply turn your receipts into the office, if you like.

Additionally, all silverware and serving tools are provided by the church. So, as host, you get to decide if you would prefer to use disposable items—many of which are compostable and/or recyclable. Or if you prefer to help us in our ministry to care for God's Creation, we have reusable mugs, plates and silverware that are easy to clean up in the dishwasher (we also have extra pairs of hands who can help with this too!).

The host list is posted on the freezer in the kitchen, to help accommodate your schedule. Everyone on the list agrees that they would welcome an extra pair of hands for this ministry. *We would love your help and your hospitality. If you are willing to help lead this ministry, please consider volunteering by reaching out to the office and we'll get you all set up!*

## FCC Cares for our Furry Companions with March Drive

Throughout March, folks have been donating items for the Humane Society of Fulton County. We do this because our pets are such an important part of caring for people and helping us care for the rest of Creation. We showed love by donating items the Humane Society needs (pictured below)—like cleaning supplies, litter, food, pet toys, treats and towels.

Steve, Isaac and Finn Mason dropped off the church donations at the end of the month, and the Humane Society team were overwhelmed with gratitude for your inspiring generosity. Thanks to everyone who donated, prayed, who adopts pets or just cares for those canine and feline friends.



**COMMUNITY WORK DAY**  
Sat, April 27th  
9:00am-12:00pm

Arrive at 8:45am in Jones Park  
Call the Church Office if you plan on  
attending (309) 647-1363

# **SPORTS EQUIPMENT GETTING DUSTY?**

**IF YOU'VE BEEN AT THE CHURCH ON A NICE SPRING AFTERNOON, YOU PROBABLY HAVE NOTICED THE CONSISTENT PRESENCE OF KIDS FROM OUR COMMUNITY PLAYING ON OUR PLAYGROUND, BASKETBALL HOOP AND IN THE GRASS. IT'S GREAT TO KNOW THAT OUR NEIGHBORS SEE US AS A WELCOMING AND SAFE PLACE FOR KIDS. WE WANT TO MAKE IT EVEN MORE HOSPITABLE BY ADDING A STORAGE BOX SPORTS EQUIPMENT (LIKE FRISBEES, SOCCER BALLS, BASKETBALLS, FOOTBALLS, KICKBALLS, SIDEWALK CHALK, ETC.) FOR KIDS TO PLAY WITH WHEN THEY'RE HERE. WE'RE HOPING TO TRY THIS IN A MANNER SIMILAR TO THOSE "LITTLE LIBRARIES" WHERE PEOPLE BORROW BASED ON A TRUST SYSTEM AND ARE INVITED TO DONATE ITEMS AS WELL AS BORROWING THEM. MIGHT SOME ITEMS GET WORN OUT OR STOLEN? YES. AND I THINK WE'LL JUST BE OKAY WITH THAT AND KNOW THAT WE CAN ONLY SHARE WHAT WE HAVE. WE'LL MARK THE ITEMS "FCC" SO PEOPLE KNOW TO BRING THEM BACK BUT WE FEEL THAT THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW SOME LOVE AND KINDNESS TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD'S KIDS FAR OUTWEIGHS ANY POTENTIAL RISK. WE SHOULD HAVE THE CONTAINER AND SIGNAGE UP LATER THIS MONTH, BUT YOU CAN HELP FILL THE CONTAINER WITH ANY OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT DONATIONS (PLEASE NO HARD BASEBALLS OR BATS, TO HELP KEEP EVERYONE SAFE).**



# 2024 SUMMER CAMP

Walter Scott Camp & Learning Center



S M T W T F S

June

09 10 11 12 13 14 15  
CYF Completed grades 9-12

16 17 18 19 20 21 22  
You & Me Completed grades K-5 + adult(s)      Beginners Completed grades K-3\*

23 24 25 26 27 28 29  
JYF Completed grades 3\*-5

June July

30 01 02 03 04 05 06  
Chi-Rho Completed grades 6-8

\*3rd graders may attend either Beginners or JYF Camp

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

## SAVE THE DATE

CORE YOUTH CAMPS



Connect with us to learn about these and additional opportunities

- Family Camps
- Work Days
- Young Adult Camp
- Themed Weekend Camps
- More!



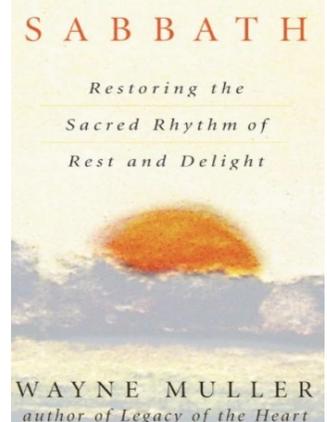
VBS SAVE THE DATE: AUGUST 4-8

POOL PARTY KICKOFF:  
AUG. 4

Come join the women of G.E.M.S.

**Thursdays at 10am** as they study Wayne Muller's book "Sabbath"

about restoring the sacred rhythm of rest and delight.



## LIVING LEGACY – Phase 2

Your Finance Committee announced on February 19th, 2023, at the worship service its intention to advocate and emphasize the Living Legacy Program in 2023. It was basically a year to educate our congregation about our Living Legacy Fund and how people can become a Living Legacy Partner through a planned gift to the Canton First Christian Church. Numerous newsletters and other methods of communication were used throughout the year to explain opportunities available. We finalized Phase 1 with Rev. Matt Rosine, President of the National Christian Church Foundation, preaching at our worship service on November 19, 2023. He also presented a planned giving seminar during coffee fellowship that day.

Then there was a scheduled hiatus over the busy Advent and Lenten seasons before proceeding with Phase 2 of the Living Legacy Program efforts.

The second phase will be announced in worship on April 7, 2024. We will be working on this phase reminding the congregation about the Living Legacy Program and its purpose throughout this year. Some new information will be provided as well as some of the financial information concerning our current Living Legacy Fund. The goal of this phase is to create a list of congregates who have made a commitment to the Living Legacy Program and have become Partners in the effort. Those supporters will become Chartered Members. The effort in this phase will be completed in 2024 preparing us to move into Phase 3 in 2025.

As always, your prayers are appreciated for this program.

Don Heller, on behalf of the Finance Committee



Know a Graduate?



Let us know so we can celebrate with you!

Contact the office by April 30th!

## Succulents and Snacks

JOIN US TO PLANT YOUR OWN SUCCULENTS! WE WILL SUPPLY THE DIRT AND THE PLANTS, AND CONTAINERS, OR BRING A CONTAINER FROM HOME AND BRING A SNACK TO SHARE

Canton First Christian Church  
April 28th 5PM All ages welcome!





## Scriptures, Sermons, & Serving Schedules

<b>4/7/2024-The Story of our Scars</b>		<b>4/14/2024-We are Not Alone</b>	
<b>Scripture</b>	John 20.19-29	<b>Scripture</b>	Luke 24.36b-48
<b>Greeters</b>	Allen Smith	<b>Greeters</b>	Kevin & Jan Dearing
<b>Ushers</b>	Corey & Jen Miller	<b>Ushers</b>	Dee & Denny Doubet
<b>CtW</b>	Allen Smith	<b>CtW</b>	Video
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Susan Walters	<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Liz Pollitt
<b>Children's Moment</b>	Daryle Coleman	<b>Children's Moment</b>	Brian Spiva
<b>Children's Church</b>	Michelle Spiva & Kathy Langlais	<b>Children's Church</b>	Janet Krulac & Amanda Stephenson
<b>Invitation</b>	Alan Coleman	<b>Invitation</b>	Bill Leitze
<b>Prayer</b>	Chuck Taylor	<b>Prayer</b>	Kevin Dearing
<b>Deacons (prepare)</b>	<b>Corey &amp; Mark</b> /Judy & Susan	<b>Deacons (prepare)</b>	<b>Mark R &amp; Michelle</b> /Tad & Amy
<b>Counters</b>	Alan Coleman/Chuck Taylor	<b>Counters</b>	Kevin Coleman/Don Heller
<b>Coffee Fellowship</b>	Don & Connie Heller	<b>Coffee Fellowship</b>	Kevin Dearing
<b>4/21/2024-Church Camp Sunday</b>		<b>4/28/2024-Fair Wages</b>	
<b>Scripture</b>	Psalm 23	<b>Scripture</b>	Matt. 20.1-15
<b>Greeters</b>	Becky Wilcoxon	<b>Greeters</b>	Pheobe Raker & Ron Rupe
<b>Ushers</b>	Vinnie Cufaude	<b>Ushers</b>	Dick VanRossem
<b>CtW</b>	Video	<b>CtW</b>	Video
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Eugenia Warden	<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Janet Krulac
<b>Children's Moment</b>	Steve Mason	<b>Children's Moment</b>	Janet Krulac
<b>Children's Church</b>	Jean & Bruce Edwards	<b>Children's Church</b>	Jen & Corey Miller
<b>Invitation</b>	Doreen Shaw	<b>Invitation</b>	Tammy Weaver
<b>Prayer</b>	Jen Miller	<b>Prayer</b>	Mike Krulac
<b>Deacons (prepare)</b>	<b>Grant &amp; Amanda</b> /Dave & Sheila	<b>Deacons (prepare)</b>	<b>Shawn &amp; Lyn</b> /Shane & Chris
<b>Counters</b>	Doreen Shaw/Jen Miller	<b>Counters</b>	Tammy Weaver/Vinnie Cufaude
<b>Coffee Fellowship</b>	Paula Grigsby	<b>Coffee Fellowship</b>	Doreen Shaw

# April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> Elder's Meeting 6:30PM	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Worship 9:00AM Discipleship Class 10:15-11AM Bible Study 10:30AM	<b>8</b> Worship Meeting 6:00 pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Finance Meeting 6PM Choir Practice 7PM	<b>11</b> G.E.M.S. 10AM	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Worship 9:00AM Discipleship Class 10:15-11AM Bible Study 10:30AM	<b>15</b> Christ. Ed. Meeting Cabinet Meeting 7PM	<b>16</b> Outreach Meeting	<b>17</b> Choir Practice 7PM	<b>18</b> G.E.M.S. 10AM	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Camp Sunday Worship 9:00AM Discipleship Class 10:15-11AM Bible Study 10:30AM	<b>22</b> Newsletter Deadline Property Meeting 4PM	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Choir Practice 7PM	<b>25</b> G.E.M.S. 10AM	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Worship 9:00AM Discipleship Class 10:15-11AM Bible Study 10:30AM	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				