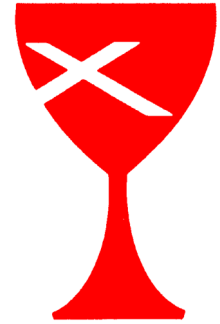


April 2021
Volume 67, Issue 4

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)
215 West Elm Street
Canton, IL 61520-2496
Church office (309) 647-1363



Office Hours
Monday & Wednesday
8:30 a.m.-11a.m. & 11:30a.m.-4p.m.

Tuesday & Thursday
8:30 a.m.-11a.m. & 11:30a.m.-3p.m.

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
9:00 Worship & Children's Church
10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
10:30 Sunday School

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

All services are being held in the Sanctuary and streamed on Facebook Live. Reservations are not required. We are still following COVID guidelines on social distancing and wearing masks. If you are ill please join us from home.



3/28/21-9:00 a.m. Service

4/1/21-7:00 p.m. Service



4/2/21-7:00 p.m. Service

4/4/21-9:00 a.m. Service



Useful Websites:

- Website-** <https://cantonfcc.org/>
- Facebook-** <https://www.facebook.com/Canton-First-Christian-Church-192804694616/>
- YouTube-** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChlr0uGWtYHF7SUNXg27F5Q>
- Online Giving-** <https://engage.suran.com/cantonfcc/s/give/new-gift>

Hank Anderson: Pastor

Rick Coulter: Building Supervisor

Misti Crossland: Office Coordinator

John Davis: Director of Music

Gretchen Fuller: Organist

www.cantonfcc.org

Church Email: contact@cantonfcc.org

From Hank

Deann and I have been so blessed to be part of this church over the past two and a half years. You have welcomed us warmly and helped us to feel very much a part of this congregation. Words alone can not convey the depth of our appreciation.

It is always difficult when a pastor leaves a church, and this is no less true for interim ministers. Over time, pastors develop deep relationships and share many of life's most important moments with people. It is difficult to see such relationships come to an end but there comes a time when that must happen. My love and respect for this congregation will not change. You have touched my life and you have touched it deeply. Wherever I go or whatever I do, that will always be cherished. But the nature of our relationship is about to change fundamentally.

In short, after April 11, I will remain your friend but will no longer continue as your pastor. That means that I will no longer be seeking out people in this congregation. While I will always care deeply about you and your journey through life, I will no longer seek to offer you pastoral care or support. I will no longer be available to do funerals or any other special events of a pastoral nature. While the well-being of this church will always be important to me, I will no longer offer advice or suggestions for the future of this church. While it is difficult for many people to understand why such a change is necessary, such change is critical for the future of this congregation.

Steve Mason will be your pastor. While I do not know Steve personally, everything I have heard tells me that he is a caring person, a strong leader and that he will be a great pastor for this congregation. I know that he and his family will be a blessing to you.

So, my final request to you as pastor is that you welcome Steve as you welcomed me. Invite him into your life as you have invited me. Look to him for wisdom and guidance as you have looked to me. Look to him for pastoral care as you have looked to me. If you do those things then I have every confidence that you and Steve will have a long and positive relationship.

As most everyone knows, I will take a bit of a break after April 11. I expect to spend some time relaxing. Deann and I are planning a trip or two. I hope to do some research into how the church can minister most effectively post-pandemic. And then, on July 1, I will become the Transitional Interim Minister of First Christian Church in Bloomington, IL. Deann will continue to work as a chaplain at OSF St. Francis and we will continue to make the far north end of Peoria our home.

Trust me, I will continue to follow the progress of First Christian Church of Canton, IL—from a distance. Please know that you, the church, your leaders and your ministries will remain in my prayers. I know that you will have a great journey ahead and that God will bless each of you and your ministry together in wonderful ways.

Grace and peace, Hank

Hello FCC Canton Friends,

Here we are, in Holy Week, not only remembering the changes of death and resurrection, but also, you as a church, are in a season of change. I am so excited and hopeful for our ministry together—and I'm praying that we have many Holy Weeks together! I'm sure you've already seen the video introduction from my family and I'm working with your board chair, Kara, to set up some chances for us to get to know one another better on social media; but I wanted to take this opportunity before we officially begin our ministry together in May to say hi!

I must say your search team, your staff and town made quite a wonderful first impression on our family when we visited! The warm welcome we felt, the genuine desire to help people grow deeper in their faith through spiritual practices, through serving their neighbors and being good stewards was a wonderful witness from this church. It was really important to me to find a church that had a clear vision—which y'all have been working so hard on; but to also serve a congregation committed to explicitly welcoming everyone in the name of Jesus. And as we explored Canton and met some great folks, it became evident that God was calling us here. And so, I've been winding down ministry in Lincoln and packing our home for the last two months—although, some days, it feels like years! We've been saying our goodbyes and trying to end ministry and our 9 years of living in Lincoln well.

We're hoping to move around the time you get this newsletter to give us time to get settled, unpack, get our 7-year-old son, Isaac, placed for school and get both of our baseball-fanatic boys signed up for the summer season...not to mention, we're planning a long-delayed road trip to Florida to visit some family so that I can begin May 1st fully refreshed and ready to focus on our ministry together. But I'd like to borrow some words about pastoral transition from a mentor of mine, Rev. David Shirey who wrote a letter to his upcoming congregation as he was in the process of moving and getting settled. Here are a few of his wise and comforting words:

Dear friends,

I'm glad to be here, but I'm not here yet...Please bear with me as my stuff arrives...but there's more of me that's not here yet than furniture, books, and clothes. There's a 12-year investment of my heart, mind, and soul that is still out west. I'm well aware of the baggage I did bring across the country—a measure of grief. It, too, will pass. In time. The depth of it is a measure of the love I developed for those dear folks at [his previous church]. In time, I will develop that same love for [his new church, or what I'd say to you at First Christian]. Count on it. I'm a pastor at heart. I love people. Especially God's people. That means you. I'm glad to be here, but I'm not all here yet. But I'm coming. Thank you for your patience as my stuff...and my soul...make the move.

Friends, like David, I would say, I too am counting on a deep love and partnership in our ministry and life together. Your welcome thus far has been SO gracious. I'm not all here yet, but I am coming...and I am looking forward to it!

Peace, Steve

CHI RHO On Sunday, March 14th we had an awesome group of 14 friends attend Chi Rho in our fellowship hall. We played minute to win it games with candy prizes and had our long-anticipated rematch of the game Werewolf. Keeping the kids spread out for socially distancing made it a little hard for Kevin and me to judge the minute to win it games. Our friends are super competitive, and many finished within seconds of each other. Instant replay would have been helpful to determine the winners! The kids were all great about social distancing and managed to have fun interacting with each other from across the room.

We added a new detail to our Werewolf game that turned out to be a big hit. We worked on character development. Since Werewolf is a game of strategy, we thought adding back stories for each of our friends would be fun. These kids were so creative with their character names and occupations that they kept us all laughing the entire time. The werewolves were victorious over the townspeople once again. I would guess that the kids will be eager for another rematch soon!

Our next scheduled Chi Rho meeting will be on **Sunday, April 11th from 6pm to 7pm** outside of the church. We have planned an evening of outdoor games with plenty of stations to help with social distancing. Our friends will get to choose from games like Giant Jenga, Spike Ball, Bags, Frisbee Bottle Bash and Basketball. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate but I will be sure to have indoor games ready to go just in case it is a rainy day. As always, we will have individually packaged snacks for the kids to enjoy. Drop off and pick up will be at First Christian near the playground.

SAVE THE DATE! Last March we had planned a rock-climbing field trip to First Ascent in Peoria. Unfortunately, that needed to be postponed due to Covid. Luckily, they are going to be kind enough to let us reschedule for no additional charge over a year after we originally paid for the trip. Our new rock-climbing adventure will be **Sunday, May 2nd** from 4pm to 6pm. We will leave from the church at 3pm and return to the church at 7pm. The trip has already been paid for so there will be no cost for parents. We will be limited to 12 climbers due to social distancing so spaces will be on a first come first served basis. I will have safety waivers available at our April gathering or parents can contact me at michellespiva@live.com to receive a waiver. I am sure this is going to be an amazing adventure for all our friends!

-Thanks, Michelle



CHI RHO YOUTH GROUP
SUNDAY APRIL 11TH,
6PM-7PM
FIRST CHRISTIAN
CHURCH



Join us
for an evening of
outdoor games,
snacks and fun!
We will meet at the
playground of
First Christian Church
for some healthy
competition
and lots of laughs!



SAVE THE DATE

YOUTH GROUP FIELD TRIP TO
FIRST ASCENT IN EAST PEORIA
SUNDAY MAY 2ND
3PM TO 7PM



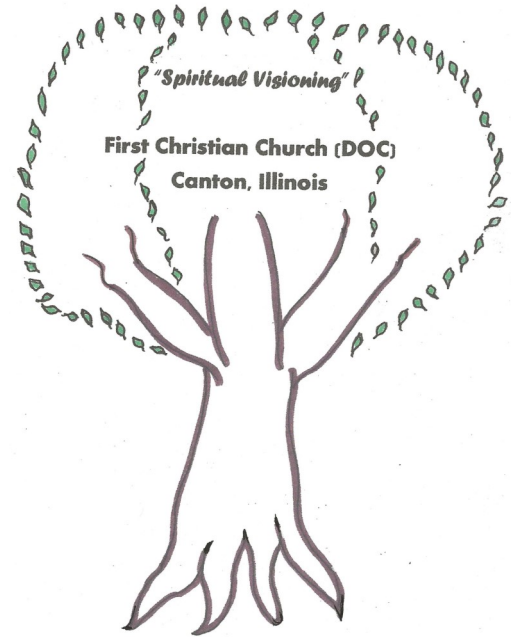
TRANSPORTATION WILL BE PROVIDED
FROM FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH.
MUST HAVE A WAIVER SIGNED IN ADVANCE.
MUST RSVP TO MICHELLESPIVA@LIVE.COM
BY SUNDAY APRIL 25TH

Update from the Board:

There are many exciting things happening in the life of the church! At the March Board meeting, we worked on our vision schedule. With the pandemic, we recognize that things will happen on a different schedule than we had originally planned. The board has decided to focus on these items: funding community needs, establishing work projects, creating new worship practices, and serving free meals. We believe we can move forward with these vision items while still being safe. If you are interested in being a part of any of these items, please contact me and I can point you in the right direction.

We are moving quickly through this time of transition. Personnel committee will be planning a celebration of Pastor Hank's time here on April 11th. The Mason Family will be moving to Canton in April and Personnel is planning on several items to welcome them. Please keep the Masons in your prayers as they begin their trek to Canton and the Andersons in your prayers as they start their next journey.

In Christ, Kara Fitzjarrald, Board Chair



Technology Upgrades

One of the outcomes of the pandemic is our increased reliance on technology. This has been most obvious in our streaming of worship services. But in addition to the technology upgrades that are ongoing in the sanctuary, we also have two rooms in which we have added both monitors and cameras. This new equipment allows us to use those rooms for meetings that include participation both in-person and online. This capability has been added to both room 104 (located across the hall from the church office) and the fellowship hall. Since the first of the year, both rooms have been used for Bible studies and meetings of the board, the elders as well as other groups. Doing this has allowed us to involve people who otherwise would not have been able to participate.

Updating Files

In the church office we are trying to update all of our membership records. We want to be sure we have the most up to date, accurate, and complete information we can have. You will be receiving a letter that should contain an informational sheet for each member of your household. Please make any necessary corrections and fill in any blanks. Please also answer the additional question sheet. Do you want to be included in the online directory? Do you have any familial relations within the church? The additional sheet also directs you to submit an individual and family photo. This is important to add to your profile so that Steve can begin putting names to faces! Email digital photos to contact@cantonfcc.org. Thank you! -Misti





Online Church DIRECTORY

The online Directory was introduced in 2019. If you would like access to this directory please contact the office. I can let you know if you already have an account established. I do not have access to your passwords, but I can give you your username and you can then have your password reset using the email connected to your account. If you no longer have access to that email I can reset the email connected to your account. This is a simple process and will only take a few minutes.

Once you have access to the database you will be able to edit your address, phone number, email address, add a picture, & put in your birthdate. This is beneficial because if you move or change phone numbers/emails you can make the change yourself without calling into the office, many people forget to update me! Other people connected to the database will be able to view your profile to get your contact information, they will not see your birthday or age though. **It is a private database in which access has to be granted.**

There is a group tab that allows you to see what groups you are a part of. If you click on one of your groups it will pull up the other members of that group.

There is an Online Directory group that I have added all Active Members to, & a few out of state former members. If you do not want to be a part of the Online Directory group please inform me & I will remove you. By doing this others will not be able to see your contact information from the Online Directory group, but members of the other church groups you are a part of, such as Deacon or Choir, will be able to see your information. If you do not want to have your information viewable at all, then I will remove you from all groups.

Unfortunately, there is no way to limit what part of your profile is viewable, it is all or nothing. Please do not take off your email or phone number if you do not want people contacting you! If you do I lose that contact information from our actual database as well. They are all linked. If you do not want the congregation to have access to this information I will simply remove you from the "groups", like I said above.

The login website for our church is: <https://engage.suran.com/cantonfcc>. You can either mark the website as a favorite on your phone/desktop or save it as an icon on your phone. This creates a shortcut button that looks like an app button. To do this on your phone open a web browser & go to the above address. Then click on the share symbol on your phone. This will pop up various actions you can take, like mail, copy, bookmark. Click on Add to Home Screen. Then it'll ask you what you want to name the icon. It will then be saved to your phone. Click the icon & it will reopen the web browser to the login screen.

Please let me know if you encounter any issues! I would be glad to help.

Misti Crossland, contact@cantonfcc.org

News from Outreach

Project for Lenten Season: Sock collection for children of Canton. We will distribute socks on **Monday, April 5** to area schools. The socks you have donated will make their way to children who will love a new pair of socks for spring. This kindness gesture by our church will mean so much to those in need. Let's fill the box! (located in the entrance)



Mark your calendars for **Sunday, June 6**. We will be doing a carry out ham dinner. It will be our first in over a year. The meal will be ham, potatoes, green beans, roll and dessert. We will have sign up sheets for anyone wishing a meal delivered or picked up. This is a free meal for any one in the Canton area.

The Outreach Committee would like to help anyone in the church who would like a "helping hand". We will help you with your spring yard work. We have a truck available if you need items delivered: Furniture to Love, Inc.; clothing, dishes, items to Helping Hands; electrical appliances, old computers, etc. to the Health Department. We want to Spring into Action to help you with Spring Clean-up. We will be doing this in April and May. If you have a need please call the church office and let us know how we can help. If you would like to be a worker, please call the church and leave your name and phone number. We will arrange dates to meet the needs. Don't be shy or hesitate... we are here to help.



In Christian Love,
Judy Kemper jkkrn1@gmail.com



Best Wishes Hank & Deann Outdoor Reception, Sunday, April 11

Please join us to thank Hank and Deann and wish them well! The reception will be outside in the church parking lot immediately after Hank's last service here at FCC. This will be

similar to the drive by birthday celebrations many of us have participated in. We'll set up a tent for Hank and Deann to greet you. You'll be able to drive through the parking lot to see them or you can park to visit a few minutes. Masks will be required.

**Welcome
Pastor
Steve
Mason &
Family**

The
Personnel

Committee will be putting together a welcome basket filled with a variety of gifts for the family. We'd also like to provide meals for them for their first few weeks here in Canton. Watch for more details to be shared soon!

~
*Welcome
to our
family.*
~



A Word of Thanks

With fewer people in the church building these past several months, many may not realize the work that our Building Supervisor, Rick Coulter has been doing. In addition to his regular duties, he has been painting the inside of the church! In fact, he is just now completing the last section that has not been painted. This has been a major project and it helps to make the church look so much nicer. He has also hung new dry erase boards that have replaced the old chalkboards and helped to mount the new televisions that have been added to several rooms to help us better utilize the newer multi-media resources that are available. Great job, Rick!



By now most people know I have moved. I am now in Columbia, MO closer to one of my daughters. It was not an easy decision, however one that needed to be made. I have lived here all my life. Fulton County is my home. My memories and heartaches are here. I pray the best for all of us and for Hank and our new minister. Take care of each other and stay healthy! My phone is the same. My new address is: 1717 Linkside Dr. Columbia, MO 65201. -Jo Potter Keen



To my Church Family,
We would like to thank you for your kindness and sympathy at a time when it was deeply appreciated. Knowing we were in so many people's thoughts and prayers helped us get through this difficult time. My heartfelt thanks to all of you.
-Marilee Casper and Family

Easter Offering

a special day offering of Disciples Mission Fund
March 28 and April 4, 2021



supporting general ministries of the
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Online Greeters are needed! If you are willing to do a video greeting to welcome people to our church at the beginning of the service, please email kara.fitzjarrald@gmail.com. There is no script or certain way to do it, but it is a great way to welcome old and new friends alike!



Scriptures, Sermons, & Serving Schedules

4/4/2021-Easter Sunday		4/11/2021-Hank's last day	
Scripture	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Scripture	Numbers 27:15-23
Sermon	Telling the Story	Sermon	Moses to Joshua
Children's Moment	Jen Miller	Children's Moment	Deann Anderson
Invitation	Daryle Coleman	Invitation	Jan Dearing
Elder	Trygve Meade	Elder	Jen Miller
4/18/2021		4/25/2021	
Sermon	Revisiting the Vision	Sermon	Transition
Children's Moment	Daryle Coleman	Children's Moment	Judy Kemper
Invitation	Kevin Dearing	Invitation	Bruce Edwards
Elder	Chuck Taylor	Elder	Mike Walters

Events & Meetings

Thu, Apr 1	7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday (In Sanctuary & Online)
Fri, Apr 2	7:00 p.m.	Good Friday (In Sanctuary & Online)
Sun, Apr 4	9:00 a.m.	Easter Sunday (Easter Special Offering)
Mon, Apr 5	7:00 p.m.	Elders Meeting (Fellowship Hall & Zoom)
Sun, Apr 11	9:00 a.m.	Worship (In-person & Facebook Live)- Hank's Last Sunday
Sun, Apr 11	6:00 p.m.	Chi Rho-Outdoor Games
Mon, Apr 12	6:00 p.m.	Worship Committee Meeting (Room 104 & Zoom)
Wed, Apr 14	6:00 p.m.	Finance Committee Meeting (Room 104 & Zoom)
Sun, Apr 18	9:00 a.m.	Worship (In-person & Facebook Live)
Mon, Apr 19	6:00 p.m.	Christian Education Committee Meeting (Room 104 & Zoom)
Mon, Apr 19	7:00 p.m.	Cabinet Meeting (Fellowship Hall & Zoom)-Even months
Sun, Apr 25	9:00 a.m.	Worship (In-person & Facebook Live)
Mon, Apr 26	1:00 p.m.	Newsletter Deadline
Sun, May 2	9:00 a.m.	Worship (In-person & Facebook Live)- Pastor Steve's First Sunday!
Sun, May 2	3:00-7:00 p.m.	Chi Rho-Field Trip to First Ascent in East Peoria



Prayer List – April 2021

Our prayers and sympathies go out to the family and friends of **Terry Scalf**. Terry passed away on 3/14/21.

Sadie Clanin is in the hospital in Springfield.

Ava Leitze, granddaughter of Bill & Judy Leitze, is back home!

Please Continue to Pray For:

Gretchen Beaty (friend of Sherry Hardy); Mark Bitner (friend of Rickey Noe); Robert Coyle (father of Connie Heller); Jordan Erskine (great-great nephew of Doris Taylor); Terry Foland; Crystal Grabel (niece of Denny Doubet); Blaine Hardy; Lita Harris (daughter-in-law of Jim & Judy Wickert); Dan Heffern (cousin of Janet Stone); Karen Latimer (niece of Karen Walker); Larry Latimer (nephew of Karen Walker); Ava Leitze (granddaughter of Bill & Judy Leitze); David Maier (friend of Marsha Moore); Terry Reed (friend of Diane Sickle); Crystal Robinson; Jean Vandergrift (sister of Deann Anderson); Randy Weaver; Brian Wheeler (son of Karen Wheeler); Cain Wilson (grandson of Martha Harr); Jamie Young (friend of Eugenia Warden); Those not named who are carrying great burdens. Our world, that where there is strife & brokenness, God's light will bring healing & wholeness.

April Birthdays

Beckett Berry	1-Apr
Harriett Schleich	1-Apr
Bruce Fisher	5-Apr
Joe Stone	5-Apr
Lori Coleman	6-Apr
Kate Fitzjarrald	7-Apr
Lyn Snowman	14-Apr
Norm Pollitt	16-Apr
Nathan Taylor	23-Apr
Vicci Brandel	25-Apr
Stephen Snowman	26-Apr
Jake Miller	27-Apr
Cindy LaSalle	28-Apr
Carl Fisher	30-Apr

Care Facilities:

At Courtyard Estates-**Shirley Harris; Mildred Weber; Margaret Wright**

At Red Oak Estates-**Betty Kost; Tom Neill**

At Renaissance Care Center-**Curtis Krock; Angie Slater**

At Sunset-**Lori Bieber; Edd Ford; Raymond Lindsey; Shawn Nikula**