

December 2021**First Christian Church**
(Disciples of Christ)Office Hours
Monday — Thursday
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.215 West Elm Street
Canton, IL 61520www.cantonfcc.org

Church office (309) 647-1363

Save the Date!Our annual congregational meeting will take place
December 12th immediately following worship.

We will be presenting the 2022 Budget and voting on the leadership slate.

**Family Ministry Night****Dec 14th 6-7PM Fellowship Hall**Join us to create your very own
Gingerbread house craft that
you can keep for years to come!
(not made of real gingerbread)
then we will finish the night off
with a snack before heading
home! We will also be making a
"good news" garland that you
can share with another family,
inviting them to our Christmas
Eve Service on Dec 24th!Please bring 1-2 bags of
wrapped hard candy to use for
our garland!All ages welcome- bring friends
and family to join us!Please RSVP on Facebook, or by
calling the church office.**close to
HOME****Take your devotional
home today**

and join the

discussion group**Wednesdays at 9am**

Room 104 and on Zoom

Celebrate Christmas**SUNDAYS @ 9AM****CHRISTMAS EVE @ 7PM****WWW.CANTONFCC.ORG****Steve Mason:** Pastor**Emily Douglas:** Office Coordinator**Email:** contact@cantonfcc.org**Rick Coulter:** Building Supervisor**John Davis:** Director of Music**Gretchen Fuller:** Organist

Welcome to Advent, that season where we remember Jesus' birth, hold onto the promises of God and actively wait for God's kingdom to take root in our lives. Advent reminds us that Christmas is too big, too real and too necessary to be viewed from a distance, it needs to start in our hearts, in our lives, in our homes. That's why this Christmas our Advent theme is ***Close to Home*** where we'll recall what kind of global home is promised and we'll find the hope, peace, joy and love of Christ as we draw near to the Christmas message.

Close to Home is from "A Sanctified Art" liturgy resource. As they describe, "when something hits close to home, it affects us deeply...

home is both physical and metaphorical, something we seek and something we are called to build. Ultimately, God is our home and resting place. God draws near and makes a home on earth—sacred ground is all around us. This Advent, may we be comforted by the One who dwells intimately with us. May we expand safety and sanctuary for everyone wandering far from home. May we come home—wherever home is found—to live fully with joy, hope, and courage." I hope you're as excited as I am for this Advent and Christmas season. And to help our ***Close to Home*** theme come alive this year, here are a few things we're doing to help:

- **Daily Devotional** is offered for you to pick up. You can use it on your own or join us for our **weekly discussion group Wednesdays at 9am in room 104** starting Dec. 1
- **Family Advent Calendar** is another fun resource for you to take home and do
- **Special worship** during Advent we'll have High School madrigal singers enhancing worship, we'll bless college care packages, our giving trees and celebrate our first Inspiring Generosity Grant recipients. We'll have weekly videos featuring a host of FCC folks
- **Family Ministry Night** join with friends of all ages to make some gingerbread homes, give away good news garlands and share some snacks and fellowship **Tuesday, Dec. 14th from 6-7pm**
- **Christmas Eve** at 7pm will make you feel right at home and on Sunday the 26th, we'll celebrate our
- **Comfy Christmas** for a relaxed morning of carols and communion...and you can even wear your PJs!
- **Christmas Break** will be offered for Junior and Senior High students through our **3:16 youth ministry** to give them a chance to name anxieties and stresses; and invite God to make something cool out of it
- **Social media** will be used creatively to bring statements from some artists whose work we are using in worship, to share stories and videos from worship and help you enjoy and share the Christmas spirit

However you choose to participate in this Advent and Christmas season, I hope it is a memorable one, one you feel compelled to invite your friends and family to join in. I hope the message of Jesus blesses you so closely that you have no doubt that this Christmas hits *Close to Home!*

—Peace, Pastor Steve



Options for Children during Worship:

Children are welcome to remain in the sanctuary during worship services. We do offer alternative options as well.



- ◆ **Nursery** - Infant-age three (children are welcome at any time during worship)
- ◆ **Children's Church** - Children age four-4th grade (following the Children's Moment)

Each room will have two people with the children who have gone through our Safe Kid's Training.



G.E.M.S. is meeting weekly in room 104
10 am Thursdays.

We are currently discussing Women from the "Bible People" study series. This group is open to all.

From the Re-Entry Committee:

The FCC Re-Entry Committee met on Nov. 2 to discuss next steps in addressing Covid19 precautions for our congregation. We are thankful for the cooperation demonstrated by our membership in both worship and group settings. Part of the discussion was determining how to handle upcoming events with larger audiences. The state of Illinois is currently in Phase 5 of Covid rules, which requires masks for unvaccinated only and no limitation on group size for meetings. Because we continue to operate from the stance of a caring community, here are the decisions made by the committee:

Sanctuary Seating – Distancing will remain the same for now, but we will accommodate for the SRC Chorus in Dec. Seating will be arranged using the Narthex and Chapel area and will maintain as much social distancing as possible. Christmas Eve Service will have no cap on attendance, but it will be helpful for people to R.S.V.P. to help us prepare a space for everyone.

Face Masks – Will still be required for congregation members and attendees of all performances. Masks will be optional while on the chancel/stage during a performance unless a performer is unvaccinated. Masks must be worn by performers while entering & exiting the Sanctuary.

Food – Food that is wrapped or served by one person may be provided for small group events, but Coffee Fellowship will not start up just yet. The coffee bar will soon be set up again in the Narthex.

Small Group Gatherings – There will be no limit on the size of small groups. Wearing masks is the decision of the group or the individual attending. If your group is planning on using a room other than 104, please inform the office so that we can coordinate our cleaning and disinfecting procedures.



Sign-in – We will continue to track worship attendance and one person will oversee signing in attendees to reduce the amount of touching on the iPad screen. Small groups should continue to sign in on the clipboard.



Thanks to everyone who helps with the **Community Thanksgiving Meals**. We served over 250 people—including all of Canton's First Responders who were on duty Sunday, Nov. 21st! Over 36 people helped to procure, prepare, package and deliver these meals—thank you! And FCC had support from First Baptist's Food Pantry, Peoria Southside Mission and Canton Family Restaurant—thank you one and all!

We hope the meals are a time for fellowship and friends. Jesus and his disciples traveled the countryside spreading the Word. People would open their homes and dinner tables to offer a meal. Jesus would talk to them, play with their children, listen to their concerns and needs. Yes, we can all imagine the warmth and friendship. We hope our meals encourage that same hospitality and generosity. The next meal will be a Valentines Pasta meal on Sunday, February 13.

An act of generosity which our church has participated in for decades is the **Salvation Army Angel tags and more recently the Fulton Mason Crisis Center Mitten tags**. The tags are in the Narthex. Please return the gifts to the church by **Monday, December 6 in a bag**. Please do not wrap. Just attach the gift tag. This is a wonderful act of generosity during the Season of Advent.



A new opportunity for us to do some joyful service in the community. We will be **helping at the Basketball Concession Stand on January 7 and February 1**. January 7 is a girls and boys varsity game. Shifts are 5p-7p and 7p-8:30p. February 1 is a girls game, same shifts. This consists of serving hotdogs, popcorn, candy and drinks and doing the cash box. We need 4-5 people per shift. The Booster Club will open, set up and close. I will have a sign up on the bulletin board. If you would like a Red First Christian T-shirt, please let Emily in the office know your size. These are free. In the winter, we can't do some of the service activities but this is a way we can serve in the community. It is fun and warm. Doesn't cost a thing...just time and "talent".

A reminder that **Scholarship applications are due on December 12**.

Have a blessed Christmas with your friends and loved ones as you celebrate the birth of our Lord. May we seek ways to be generous of our time and talent in the coming year.



Monday mornings, start your week off right with your weekly **Minute at First**.

Find this good minute of information and spiritual formation in your email or on Facebook. Watch, like and share!

Church, the time has finally come! The Inspiring Generosity Grants (IGG) Team has been hard at work and we're ready to formally invite you to apply for an IGG. Have you ever had an idea of how you could make your neighborhood a better place if you only had some extra money? That's what the IGG is for, to help address a community need or support a new community service project in the Canton area! And we believe that everyone is a beloved and capable child of God; which means everyone has some good idea just waiting to be unearthed. Often, we just don't know how to celebrate and utilize such gifts. But with the support and encouragement of FCC's IGG, we might just be able to inspire folks to do something great for their neighbor!

We're most interested in proposals that creatively address needs in the areas of education, poverty, personal care supplies or human services. However, any proposal that uplifts people and meets a basic human need will be carefully considered. We want anyone or any organization in the Canton area to use their creativity to address a need and support the flourishing of their neighbors or community. Grants might be given to people within the church or people without any connection to FCC. Grants might be awarded to an existing local non-profit to be able to start a new initiative. The sky's the limit!

While this grant will be awarded annually; for 2021, the application deadline is December 15 and grants will be awarded in the weeks following. Grants will not be awarded for capital campaigns, building drives, political causes, annual fundraising events, or direct personnel expenses. Grant applications can be found at www.cantonfcc.org/grants.

So, on your marks. Get set. Go! Go, let your inspiration run free! Get your friends to start thinking about how they could make Canton a better place. Talk with your family about what they would do to serve their neighbors if they had the financial support. And even if you don't personally apply for a grant, let us pray together for all God can do through these gifts and let's look forward to celebrating these grants when we give out our first awards in January!





Prayer List: December 2021

Please Continue to Pray For:

Bruce Edwards & His Family; Brenda Lybarger (Melissa Dean's mom); Crystal Grabel (Denny D's niece); Ashley Jump & Her Family; Craig Zilly (friend of Eugenia Warden); Doug Falk (friend of Daryle Coleman); Pastor Steve Mason & His Family; Isaac Rubble (grandson of Daryle Coleman's friend); Bill Rozier (son of Evelyn Lowe); Leta Krock; Gretchen Beaty (friend of Sherry Hardy); Mark Bitner (friend of Rickey Noe); Emma Coody; Terry Foland; Blaine Hardy; Lita Harris (daughter-in-law of Jim & Judy Wickert); Karen Howell (cousin of Judy Wickert); David Maier (friend of Marsha Moore) and Brian Wheeler (son of Karen Wheeler).

Those not named who are carrying great burdens. Our world, that where there is strife & brokenness, God's light will bring healing & wholeness.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sherry Smith Lindzey	12/2
Samuel Junior Wright	12/3
Kevin Kevin Morgan	12/3
Tammy Weaver	12/6
Connie Jean (Jones) Reed	12/7
Chuck Howard Taylor	12/9
Carter MacVean	12/14
Parker DeRenzy	12/19
Barb Ann (Doran) Pollitt	12/27
Dick VanRossem	12/29
Hank Anderson	12/29
Bill Edward Leitze	12/31
Tad Allard	12/31

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Jacob & Lauren Ray	12/13
Hank & Deann Anderson	12/16
Bill & Judy Leitze	12/18
David & Beatrice Meeker	12/30

Care Facilities:

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

At Graham Hospital Extended Care- **Leta**
Krock

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

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

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

Scriptures, Sermons, & Serving Schedules

12/5/2021

Scripture	Luke 1:57-80
Sermon	Laying The Foundation
Greeters	Chris & Ashley Jump
Ushers	Paula Grigsby
CtW Reader	Sherry Hardy
Scripture Reader	Randy Weaver
Wreath Lighters	Janet & Joe Stone
Children's Moment	Daryle Coleman
Children's Church	Trygve/Mike Meade & Rhonda Morgan
Invitation	Alan Coleman
Elder	Bill Leitze
Counters	Kevin Coleman & Doreen Shaw

12/12/2021

Scripture	Luke 3:1-18
Sermon	A Home For All
Greeters	Marsha Moore
Ushers	Connie Brady & Betty Tracey
CtW Reader	Tammy Weaver
Scripture Reader	Jan Dearing
Wreath Lighters	The Krulac Family
Children's Moment	Randy Weaver
Children's Church	Amy & Tad Allard
Invitation	Daryle Coleman
Elder	Trygve Meade
Counters	Daryle Coleman & Tammy Weaver

12/19/2021

Scripture	Luke 1:39-55
Sermon	Seeking Sanctuary
Greeters	Doris Svob
Ushers	Marilee Casper
CtW Reader	Lyn Snowman
Scripture Reader	Lori Coleman
Wreath Lighters	Liz Pollitt, Nancy Cluts Bonnie Harn, Margaret Wright
Children's Moment	Michelle Spiva
Children's Church	Daryle & Alan Coleman
Invitation	Jan Dearing
Elder	Jen Miller
Counters	Don Heller & Jen Miller

12/26/2021

Scripture	Luke 2:1-20
Sermon	Invited Home
Greeters	Mike & Janet Krulac
Ushers	Barb Pollitt
CtW Reader	
Scripture Reader	
Children's Moment	No Children's Moment
Children's Church	No Children's Church
Invitation	Kevin Dearing
Elder	Chuck Taylor
Counters	Chuck Taylor & Trygve Meade

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Chancel Choir 7:00 P.M.	2 G.E.M.S. Room 104 10:00 A.M.	3	4 SRC 7:00 P.M.
5 Worship 9:00 a.m. Bible Study 10 a.m. Room 104 & Zoom SRC 7:00 P.M.	6 Elders Meeting 7:00 P.M.	7	8 Chancel Choir 7:00 P.M.	9 G.E.M.S. Room 104 10:00 A.M.	10	11
12 Worship 9:00 a.m. Bible Study 10 a.m. Room 104 & Zoom Congregational Meeting Christmas Break at First Presbyterian 4:30 - 6:00 P.M. Scholarship Applications Due	13 Worship Meeting 6:00 P.M.	14 Family Ministry Night In Fellowship Hall 6:00 - 7:00 P.M.	15 Chancel Choir 7:00 P.M.	16 G.E.M.S. Room 104 10:00 A.M. Newsletter Deadline 11:00 A.M.	17	18
19 Worship 9:00 a.m. Bible Study 10 a.m. Room 104 & Zoom	20	21	22 Chancel Choir 7:00 P.M.	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 7:00 P.M.	25
26 Worship 9:00 a.m. Come Christmas	27	28	29	30	31	
FCC Office Will Be Closed This Week						
		Card Club 2:00 P.M.				