

**January 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



**CAROLING AT  
CARE FACILITIES**

On Dec 17th, 22 total carolers from 1st Presbyterian Church & FCC were able to bring good tidings of comfort & joy to Renaissance, Courtyard, Sunset & Graham Hospital extended care. After, 1st Presbyterian hosted us for Monical's Pizza & games! Thank you 1st Presbyterian Church for involving us & Bill Leitze for driving the bus!



**FCC Annual Congregational Meeting**

On December 17th, immediately following Sunday worship, FCC held its annual congregational meeting, led by our Board chair, Jennifer Miller. She began by sharing the leadership slate, with gratitude to the Leadership Selection Committee and their chair, Michelle Spiva for the great work. The slate (below and on following pages, with names in black that are already serving and names in red for those who were voted in) was approved in a vote. Pastor Steve updated the congregation on opportunities to get more engaged with the congregation and to keep posted for new leadership opportunities.

**Church Board**

Pastor	Steve Mason
<b>Board Chair</b>	<b>Jennifer Miller</b>
<b>Board Vice Chair</b>	<b>Michelle Spiva</b>
<b>Board Secretary</b>	<b>Rhonda Morgan</b>
<b>Board Treasurer</b>	<b>Janet Krulac</b>
At Large Representatives	Ashley Jump Greg Pollitt

Steve also shared the breaking news that we have come to an agreement with Hawk-Attollo solar company for a system of solar panels to be leased on the church's roofs. This will greatly reduce our electric bill, help us divert that money to active ministry and to help us be good stewards of God's (continued on p.3)

**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

Usually in this article space I write to you about something from our church's recent past to reflect on, or I share about an upcoming ministry that I hope is in your future plans. But today, I want to take this space to write about presence...I know you just got done with Christmas, but I want to be clear, I'm not talking about presents, rather presence. Which, really is, in its own way, an invaluable gift.

Or so I'm told.

Because I really struggle to be present to the moment, in the here and now. In fact, in the time it took me to type this far, I've been distracted with 7 texts, 3 calls, two dogs who think they'll die without being constantly petted and I actually had to stop once to pick up a kiddo who didn't get on the bus they were supposed to after school. No wonder, if you're anything like me, your thoughts are about replaying past events or thinking about the next thing coming up in the future. How often are we *really* in the present, as fully mentally and spiritually in the same place as our body is?

Not only does being distracted make us spend a lot of time collecting our thoughts as we're constantly pivoting in our brains, and regardless of the scientific studies that show effective multitasking is actually a myth; but as Christians, our faith calls us to be present. It might still be the Christmas season when you read this, a season that is all about when God decides to teach us and save us by being present with us! And even in his birth, Jesus is calling us to work on our presence—think of Mary who is said to have “pondered everything in her heart”, the shepherds simply show up and the Magi are so dedicated to being present to what is happening in that moment that they trek across a desert just to be here and now.

As we begin a new year, I hope it will be a year where you can receive and give the gift of presence. To let go of the idolatry of efficiency, to put down the phone at the dinner table, to spend many days going on long walks, marveling at God's Creation and building relationships with those you're privileged to share this life with.

I'm sure throughout this year, we'll talk about specific spiritual practices to help us learn and model the discipline of presence. But if you want suggestions *right now* of some ways, I would start not only with the phone, walking and relationship-building ideas I've already discussed, but to check out *lectio divina* (a way of praying scripture—I use the Ritual app for their daily lectio), explore and practice “mindful eating” and work on your active listening skills.

I would say that we will cover all these things and more in worship or small groups, but right now, I'm just going to celebrate and give thanks for today. And I hope you will too.

*Pastor Steve*



Find your **Minute at First** every Monday morning.  
Information and spiritual formation on Facebook or in your email.

Watch, like and share!



## Family Ministry Night: Hot Chocolate & Cookies

We had a great turn out for our Hot Chocolate and Cookies family ministry night on December 10th! We had some delicious cookies, some fancy hot chocolate concoctions and a few crafts. Most importantly we had some wonderful conversations and company. It was a relaxing evening full of fun and treats! Thanks to everyone who came!

(Annual Meeting, continued from p. 1) earth for years to come--all without costing the church a single cent extra! Once we have more details, they will be shared widely, but many thanks went to the solar team--Bruce Edwards, Greg Pollitt, Harriett Schleich and Mark Taylor for their dedication to get this project on the right track.

The final piece of our meeting was approving a budget for 2024 (below). Don Heller presented the budget, with gratitude to the committees for a faithful and fiscally responsible requests. The budget was unanimously approved and Jenn closed the meeting in prayer.

### Elders

2024 thru 2026	2023 thru 2025	2022 thru 2024
Mike Krulac	Alan Coleman	Caitlin Mason
Doreen Shaw	Daryle Coleman	Kevin Dearing
Chuck Taylor	Jennifer Miller	Bruce Edwards
Brian Spiva	Tammy Weaver	Bill Leitze

### Deacons

2024 thru 2026	2023 thru 2025	2022 thru 2024
Tad Allard	Dee Doubet	Eugenia Warden
Amy Allard	Denny Doubet	Janet Krulac
Dave Bell	Lyn Snowman	Zack Krulac
Sheila Bell	Shawn Snowman	Michelle Spiva
Mark Reneau	Mark Taylor	Grant Stephenson
Judy Leitze	Sue Walters	Amanda Stephenson
Corey Miller	Allen Smith (finishing Paula G's spot through 2025)	
Jake Bryant		
Carisa Bryant		
Shane Dixon		
Chris Jump		

### 2024 Proposed Budget:

Income	2024 Proposed
Regular Giving	\$240,000
Ingersoll Trust	93,203
Foundation Funds	10,725
Other Regular Income	11,500
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$355,428</b>
Expense	
Personnel	\$188,737
Administrative	13,810
Christian Education	4,400
Discipleship	4,100
Inspiring Generosity Grant	9,500
Property	73,800
Stewardship	3,375
Worship	7,865
Budgeted Missions	49,841
<b>Total Expense:</b>	<b>\$355,428</b>
<b>Projected Difference:</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>



## Family Ministry Nacho Average Trivia Night



Canton First Christian Church  
Jan 28th  
6-7PM

Join us for nachos and a  
trivia game!

All ages welcome- trivia  
questions will be geared  
toward all ages, families  
welcome, we will break into  
teams!



## The Work of Christmas

by Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with their flock...  
the work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost,  
to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry,  
to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among others,  
to make music in the heart.



## CHURCH SERVICES DURING



## INCLEMENT WEATHER



During severe weather conditions, the Board Chair, Pastor, Greg Pollitt (as worship AV person), Director of music, Bill Leitze (as bus driver) and Custodian will decide whether to cancel worship service on Sunday. If a majority of these people agree to cancel (or have the pastor lead a Facebook online worship from their home--which), we will make the announcement on local radio, TV and through a Facebook message NO LATER than 7am the morning of worship.



Thank you, church!  
Thank you, Personnel Committee!

On behalf of the staff, we would all like to thank you for the lovely appreciation and gifts for the Christmas season...not only the gifts presented in worship on the 17th of December, but so many of you shared cookies, Chex Mix and other treats to fuel us during the busy end-of-year/Christmas season. Your kindness and compassion does not go unnoticed!

It is a pleasure to be a part of this ministry team for a congregation that is so considerate and helpful for it's staff.

We look forward to serving God with you in the coming New Year!

With gratitude,  
Pastor Steve and the FCC staff

WORSHIP ONLY SCRATCHES THE SURFACE...

# DIGGING DEEPER BIBLE STUDY

Sundays at 10:30am  
Room 104

## Alzheimer's Support Group

● <b>Where:</b> Wesley United Methodist Church 120 N Ave. A Canton, IL 61520 (309) 647-1015	● <b>When:</b> The fourth Tuesday of the month 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.	● <b>What:</b> Build a support system with people who understand. Meetings are a safe place for people living with dementia and their care givers.	● <b>Presented By:</b> Alzheimer's Association Illinois <a href="http://www.alz.org/illinois">www.alz.org/illinois</a>
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## Hey kiddos!

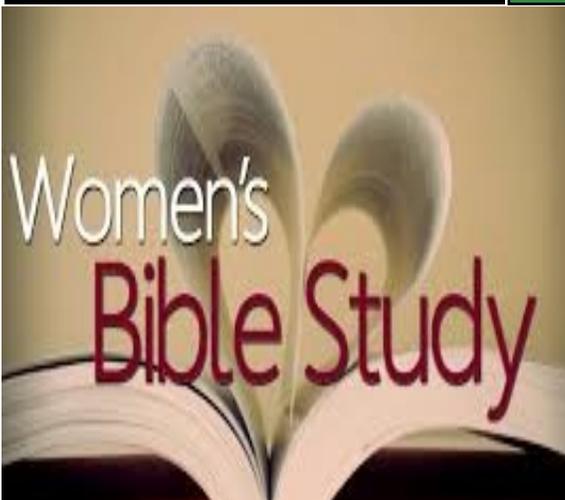
Join the cool kids at  
Children's Church



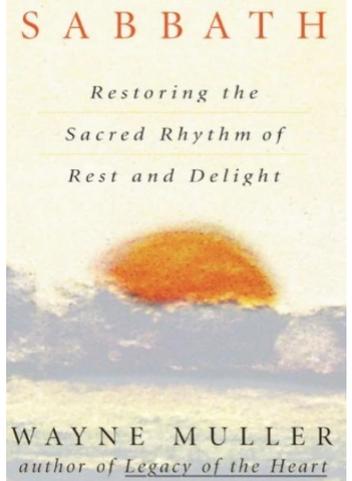
using the new *Whirl*  
curriculum

ages 4-5th grade

right after the children's message



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.



# Prayer Request

## Please Pray For:

Blaine Hardy (deployed overseas); Evelyn Hicks; Joyce & Zack Norris; Steve Fisher (diagnostic procedures); Michelle Stremmel (undiagnosed illness); Those battling with cancer: Lloyd Leezer (Marla Hedden's brother), Jessica Mayall (Sandy Foutch's niece), Tony Long, Ava Leitze, Eli McLaren (Josh Kemper's friend); The Stephenson family on SueEllen's transplant recuperation; Steve Moore; Tracy Snowman; Cora Murphey

## Care Facilities:

**At Courtyard Estates:** Margaret Wright; David & Bea Meeker

**At Sunset:** Lori Bieber; Ed Ford; Keith Munstedt

**At Renaissance Care Center:** Angie Slater; Shirley Harris

## January Birthdays

Chuck Jarvis	1/1
Amanda Stephenson	1/5
Brody Webb	1/5
Sherry Fisher	1/10
Jan Taylor	1/16
Bea Meeker	1/18
Timothy Scott	1/18
Peg Hays	1/19
Kevin Dearing	1/25
Jennifer Miller	1/26
Vivian W. Lefferts	1/29
Vinnie S Cufaude	1/31
Michael W Walters	1/31

BECOMING  
DEDICATED

*Disciples*

*Passionate* **SPIRITUALITY**

*Joyful* **SERVICE**

*Inspiring* **GENEROSITY**

## January Anniversaries

Don & Connie Heller	1/1
Bill & Doris Svob	1/16

## Scriptures, Sermons, & Serving Schedules

January 7, 2024: The Wise Men-the Gift of Curiosity		January 14, 2024: John the Baptizer-Let's Get Fired Up	
<b>Scripture</b>	Matt. 2.1-12	<b>Scripture</b>	Luke 3.2b-3, 10-18, 21-22
<b>Greeters</b>	Janet & Mike Krulac	<b>Greeters</b>	Bruce & Sherry Fisher
<b>Ushers</b>	Allen Smith	<b>Ushers</b>	Chuck & Denise Jarvis
<b>CtW Reader</b>	Amy Allard	<b>CtW Video</b>	Video
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Hailey Bryant	<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Susan Walters
<b>Children's Moment</b>	Jean Edwards	<b>Children's Moment</b>	Daryle Coleman
<b>Children's Church</b>	Janet Krulac & Addy Domenski	<b>Children's Church</b>	Amanda Stephenson & Caitlin Mason
<b>Invitation</b>	Daryle Coleman	<b>Invitation</b>	Alan Coleman
<b>Prayer</b>	Caitlin Mason	<b>Prayer</b>	Chuck Taylor
<b>Deacons (prepare)</b>	<b>Zack/Janet</b> & Jake/Carissa	<b>Deacons</b>	<b>Corey/Mark T</b> & Judy/Susan
<b>Counters</b>	Daryle Coleman & Bruce Edwards	<b>Counters</b>	Alan Coleman & Chuck Taylor
<b>Coffee Fellowship</b>	Chuck & Jan Taylor	<b>Coffee Fellowship</b>	Caitlin Mason
January 21, 2024		January 28, 2024	
<b>Scripture</b>	Mark 2: 1-12	<b>Scripture</b>	Mark 4: 35-41
<b>Greeters</b>	Susan Perez	<b>Greeters</b>	Lyn Snowman & Family
<b>Ushers</b>	Judy Leitze	<b>Ushers</b>	Keith Munstedt
<b>CtW Reader</b>	Kate Fitzjarrald	<b>CtW Video</b>	Video
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Janet Krulac	<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Maddie Bryant
<b>Children's Moment</b>	Rhonda Morgan	<b>Children's Moment</b>	Janet Krulac
<b>Children's Church</b>	Lyn Snowman & Rhonda Morgan	<b>Children's Church</b>	Michelle Spiva & Kathy Langlais
<b>Invitation</b>	Bill Leitze	<b>Invitation</b>	Doreen Shaw
<b>Prayer</b>	Kevin Dearing	<b>Prayer</b>	Jen Miller
<b>Deacons</b>	<b>Mark R/Michelle</b> & Tad/Amy	<b>Deacons</b>	<b>Grant/Amanda</b> & Dave/Sheila
<b>Counters</b>	Kevin Coleman & Vinnie Cufaude	<b>Counters</b>	Jen Miller & Doreen Shaw
<b>Coffee Fellowship</b>	Doreen Shaw	<b>Coffee Fellowship</b>	Bruce & Jean Edwards

# January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Worship 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM	<b>8</b> Worship Meeting 11:30AM Elder's Meeting 6:30PM	<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 Bible Study 10:30AM	<b>15</b> Christ. Ed. Meeting 6PM Board Meeting 7PM	<b>16</b> Outreach Meeting 6PM	<b>17</b> Choir Practice 7PM	<b>18</b> G.E.M.S. 10AM	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Worship 9:00AM 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 Bible Study 10:30AM FMN: Nacho Average Trivia Night 6-7PM	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			