

May 2021
Volume 67, Issue 5

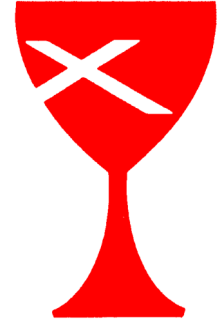
Office Hours
Monday & Wednesday
8:30 a.m.-11a.m. & 11:30a.m.-4p.m.

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

First Christian Church

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

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



Welcome
to
Our
Family



Welcome Pastor Steve Mason & Family Outdoor Reception, Sunday, May 2

Please join us in welcoming Pastor Steve Mason and family! The reception will be outside in the church parking lot immediately after Steve's first 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 Steve, Caitlin, Isaac, and Finn to greet you immediately after the service until 11 AM. 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.

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>

Steve Mason: Pastor

Rick Coulter: Building Supervisor

John Davis: Director of Music

Misti Crossland: Office Coordinator

Gretchen Fuller: Organist

www.cantonfcc.org

Church Email: contact@cantonfcc.org

Re-Entry Committee Notes:

The Re-Entry Committee met on Wednesday, April 7 via Zoom. Not a lot of changes for FCC are being recommended at this time. What follows is a summary of the committee's discussion:

- First and foremost, we will continue to follow the CDC and State of Illinois Guidelines for group meetings.
- Sunday worship services will continue as they have been. We will continue to –
 - ◆ Take attendance in case contact tracing is needed.
 - ◆ Take temperatures at the entry door.
 - ◆ During Children's Moment, kids present may be asked to stand where they are rather than come up front where distancing could be hard to arrange if there is a large group.
 - ◆ Singing can continue with masks on.
 - ◆ Actual serving of communion will not start up yet. Communion packets will still be provided but people are encouraged to bring their own communion elements if they don't like the packets.
- Kids' activities –
 - ◆ Chi Rho may continue with their planned activities using the guidelines that Michelle Spiva has set up (masks, distancing, pre-packaged snacks, etc.)
 - ◆ Family Night may start up using the same guidelines as Chi Rho.
 - ◆ We encourage meeting outside whenever possible.
 - ◆ Larger children's activities, including Children's Church, may possibly begin with VBS, depending on the status of the pandemic at that time. VBS is scheduled for the week of July 25.
- Church Use –
 - ◆ Funeral services, but not visitations, may be held at FCC as long as protocols are followed, i.e. masks are worn, distance seating is followed, temperatures are taken, and the numbers attending fit with our sanctuary guidelines. Visitations will have to be held at a funeral home or elsewhere.
 - ◆ Funeral meals will not be available at this time.
 - ◆ The church is NOT available for outside group's use.
- Bus Ministry –
 - ◆ The bus ministry will not start back up until all restrictions are lifted. Distance seating is not possible on the bus for the wheelchairs, and to assist the blind and semi-ambulatory there would have to be physical contact.

The Re-Entry Committee for FCC continues to be cautious in recommending guidelines for the safety and well-being of our members. These guidelines will be re-visited as state-wide restrictions open up, local Covid numbers decrease, and more people are vaccinated. Please be patient with the recommended restrictions and know that the guidelines above have been carefully and prayerfully considered.

Committee members present: Kevin Dearing, Janet Krulac, Bill Leitze, Greg Pollitt, Laura Taylor, Tammy Weaver, Daryle Coleman, Hank Anderson

How good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! It is like precious oil on the head...for there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

I'm not sure why, but Psalm 133 has been on my heart lately. Maybe it's seeing those precious moments when our boys, Isaac and Finn, actually play gently with one another or without being asked, Isaac grabs his little brother's hand when they're walking. Maybe I keep thinking of the dew described in verse 3 of this psalm with each lovely, dewy morning in our new backyard and feeling floored at how God is showing all with all the blossoming trees. But I really think Psalm 133 has been calling to me because ever since we got here in Canton—heck, from the moment we were called months ago!—there has been a welcoming spirit of loving hospitality from this church and community.

I know many of us were taught it's our duty to be a good neighbor. But I hope y'all realize how good you are at going WAY beyond neighborliness and getting deep to the core of welcome and hospitality. Trust me—if you listen to my sermons, you'll hear me say this a few times, but at the root of the word hospitality in its original, biblical Greek, means "brotherly love of the stranger." And y'all have welcomed our strange, Nebraska family with a love that can only be described as brotherly or sisterly! With each day of knowing a prayer vigil is going on, with each letter introducing yourself and where God has been moving in your lives, with each scrumptious meal delivered to our house (thank you, a million times over!) and each person who kindly stops by or reaches out on Facebook or sends a text, saying hi—FCC Canton is a living blessing, bringing life, unity and love into this world.

I'm excited (and honestly, a bit nervous) to begin as your pastor—preaching, listening, learning, building relationships with y'all. I'm sure there will be times when I screw up or almost forget a part of worship until I get in the groove—but I pray my intention will keep me focused on continuing your great ministry of hospitality and a unity the brings us together in brotherly and sisterly love. And who knows, maybe this psalm about the precious gift of a loving community, holy, dewy mornings and God's blessings, might be on your heart this month too!

Peace, Steve

Greeters



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!

ST. JUDE RUNS



Well it's getting to be that time of year again, the St. Jude run is just around the corner, **July 17th**.

We are all very excited that we are going to do an actual run this year, unlike last years virtual run.

I am again in search of donations. Any amount large or small will be taken and sent to St. Jude's.

I know there are many of you who have donated year after year and it is greatly appreciated.

Remember that cancer in children is not going away. Look at the great things St. Jude in Memphis did for Ava Leitze and her family.

We've got a miracle example right in our own church. I usually run most of the Canton to Peoria route, 33 miles.

I am dedicating this year's run to Ava Leitze.

If you want to donate I'll be more than happy to take your check or cash at church, or you can mail it to me at Kevin Dearing 1585 East Sycamore Canton.

Checks made out to St. Jude.

Thanks in advance, Kevin.



Church friends, I'm sure that spring will eventually get here to stay. As COVID continues to be very real in our county I hope that the vaccine has been able to at least give some peace of mind. If anyone is in the need of prayer or even friendly conversation I want to assure you that the Elders are available. Whether by phone or in person we would enjoy sharing with you. It is a very exciting time in our church. Keep Steve and his family in our prayers as he begins his journey of leading us closer to God. Why is our Church so strong? Because of it's people! Prayers-Mike Krulac, Elder Chair

ELDERS

TEACHING + GUIDING + SERVING

News From Outreach, May 2021



A big THANK YOU for the socks donated during the Lent Season. We collected 195 pairs of socks which I distributed to Lincoln, Eastview, Westview, Ingersoll, YMCA and YWCA. Everyone was very grateful for the donation. It is a needed article of clothing. We hope to do this project again in the fall.

The Outreach Committee would like to help anyone who might need a helping hand. We can help with yard work, light furniture moving, or any other work you need help with. You can leave a message with Misti if you have a job for us. Last month we "hailed away" furniture for two members.



OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH: **SATURDAY MAY 1 from 9AM-Noon**



There will be a Community Work Day on Saturday, May 1st. We are signed up to help at the Canton YMCA. They need bushes trimmed, spreading of mulch, pulling weeds, spreading pea gravel, and cleaning up garden area. You do not have to sign up and any amount of time you can give that day is appreciated. Just show up at Jones Park to get a group photo, water, snacks and a United Way T-shirt. We will then go to the YMCA.

MAY DONATION PROJECT

Fulton Mason Crisis Services is in need of toiletries (soap, shampoo, conditioner) and cleaning products (dish soap, cleaning soap, furniture polish). Please put products in donation box in the Lobby of the church. I will deliver on May 31. Thank you.



MAY CARD MINISTRY



If you would like to send a card to someone in a care facility or Courtyard Estates, you can drop into the large poster board "envelope" on the bulletin board. Cards will be delivered for Mother's Day on Monday, May 3. Please put name of person and care facility on your envelope. It brightens someone's day and saves you the cost of the stamp. You can also put "thinking of you" cards, birthday or get well cards in the Poster envelope. They will all be delivered on May 3.

Outward Ingersoll will not be having their event this year. We donate \$300 annually so we will not be donating at this time. Canton High School parents will be having a Prom this year. Amy Allard is one of the leaders of this project. We have donated \$300 to the event. It is important that we support our youth. The attendees are required to have vaccines and all CDC/Health Department guidelines will be followed. In this time of COVID, we are challenged to look at things differently. We prayerfully consider all our donations made in behalf of our church members.

Outreach Committee will meet at **12 noon on Wednesday, May 12 in Room 104** at the church. Please consider being a part of our committee.

Judy Kemper-Chairperson, Kevin Dearing, Amy Smith, Paula Grigsby, Ron Rupe

First Christian Church of Canton will always hold a very special place in our memories. You have blessed us both in ways that you cannot imagine. The Riverfront Museum membership and restaurant certificate were both generous and meaningful. They will be enjoyed very much. But we also want to thank you for the many other expressions of support. The thank you video was priceless as have been the many other cards, gifts and comments offered by so many. You are a wonderful congregation with so many gifts and talents. We know that God will continue to bless you in the years to come and are so very thankful that we had the opportunity to share a small part of the journey with you.
 Hank and Deann



To First Christian Church,
 We would like to express our heartfelt thanks for the prayers, cards, calls, and support we received from many members or the congregation.
 -Connie Heller and Family

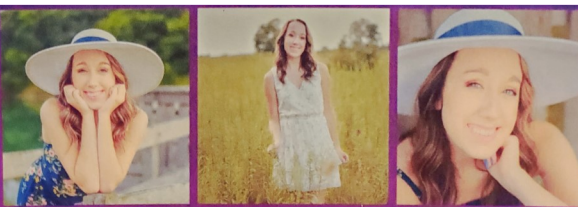


We would love more volunteers to lead Children's Moment! Currently you can choose to record yourself or come up front during worship service. Having new faces deliver the message allows for a wider variety. Please contact Jen Miller or Misti Crossland if you'd like to volunteer or get more information.



Graduates!

If you have someone in your household graduating from High School or College this Spring please send the office a picture of them, what degree they achieved, and a couple sentences on what their future plans are. We'd love to recognize them in the June Newsletter!



2021
 Class of
21

Addy Allard
 Canton High School May16th

Class of 2021

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN OPEN HOUSE TO CELEBRATE THE GRADUATION OF
Jordynne Richardson, Addison Allard, A Roos, Katie Giacabazi, Claire Mason, & Kayleen Tarter

SUNDAY MAY 16

from 12 – 4 pm
 Food served 12 - 2 pm
 Deserts available 12 – 4 pm

Evangelical Free Church
 1300 E Chestnut Street
 Canton, Illinois 61520

CHI RHO

Unfortunately, we will need to cancel our May 2nd Chi Rho field trip to the rock-climbing gym. We only had two friends sign up to attend. It turns out that many of our Chi Rho friends are afraid of heights and several others have ball games that day and cannot attend. Instead, we will do a regular Chi Rho meeting on **Sunday, May 16th from 6pm to 7pm**. We will meet outside on the playground for some fun outdoor games, snacks, and a scavenger hunt with prizes. As always, all middle school students are welcome to attend so please feel free to bring your friends.

-Thanks, Michelle



Chi Rho Youth Group
 Sunday May 16th
 6pm to 7pm
 First Christian Church
 Meet on the Playground

PIC·COLLAGE



Canton First Christian Church Family Ministry Nights are Back!!!

Join Us **Sunday May 23rd at 5PM** at Big Creek Park Pavilion to take a Nature Walk and make Journey Sticks with the treasures we find!

All ages welcome!

You can even just join us for the walk and fellowship!

What is a Journey Stick? Native Americans and Aboriginal people used them to track their journeys and tell stories about their travels. Items collected on a journey would be tied to a large stick in the order that they were found. Symbols could also be painted or carved onto the stick. Each item on the stick would help to build up a picture of the journey, including things such as natural features, weather and adventures. The stick would then be used as a prompt for the retelling of the journey upon return, and also as a way to navigate the trip in the future.



We will provide paint, colored floss, ribbon and charms to add to your stick. If you have a nice big stick at home that is good for walking, bring it along to decorate, or find one during the walk.

RSVP to Amy Allard 309-357-3493 by May 22nd if you plan to attend!

Scriptures, Sermons, & Serving Schedules

5/2/2021-Steve's 1st Sunday!		5/9/2021-Mother's Day	
Scripture	1 John 4:7-12 & 18-21	Scripture	John 15:9-17
Sermon	Let's See	Sermon	Party People
Children's Moment	Randy Weaver	Children's Moment	Jean Edwards
Invitation	Mike Krulac	Invitation	Bill Leitze
Elder	Tammy Weaver	Elder	Alan Coleman
5/16/2021		5/23/2021	
Scripture	Ephesians 1:15-23	Scripture	Acts 2:1-8
Sermon	Heart Healthy	Sermon	Miracle Ear
Children's Moment	Michelle Spiva	Children's Moment	Janet Krulac
Invitation	Trygve Meade	Invitation	Jen Miller
Elder	Daryle Coleman	Elder	Jan Dearing
5/23/2021-Pentecost		Children's Moment	Judy Kemper
Scripture	John 3:1-17	Invitation	Chuck Taylor
Sermon	Baby Steps	Elder	Kevin Dearing
Events & Meetings			
Sat, May 1	8:30a.m.-12:p.m.	Community Work Day at the YMCA	
Sun, May 2	9:00 a.m.	Worship (In-person & Facebook Live)- Steve's First Sunday!	
Mon, May 3	7:00 p.m.	Elders Meeting (Fellowship Hall & Zoom)	
Sun, May 9	9:00 a.m.	Worship (In-person & Facebook Live)-Mother's Day	
Mon, May 10	6:00 p.m.	Worship Committee Meeting (Room 104 & Zoom)	
Tue, May 11	12:00 p.m.	Personnel Committee Meeting (Room 104)	
Wed, May 12	12:00 p.m.	Outreach Committee Meeting (Room 104)	
Wed, May 12	6:00 p.m.	Finance Committee Meeting (Room 104)	
Thu, May 13	1:00 p.m.	Board Packet & Committee Minutes Packet Deadline	
Sun, May 16	9:00 a.m.	Worship (In-person & Facebook Live)- Pentecost Special Offering	
Sun, May 16		Canton High School Graduation	
Sun, May 16	6:00 p.m.	Chi Rho Youth Group-Scavenger Hunt	
Mon, May 17	6:00 p.m.	Christian Education Comm. Meeting (Rm 104 & Zoom)	
Mon, May 17	7:00 p.m.	Board Meeting (Fellowship Hall & Zoom)	
Sun, May 23	9:00 a.m.	Worship (In-person & Facebook Live)- Pentecost & Pentecost Special Offering	
Sun, May 23	5:00 p.m.	Family Ministry Night: Nature Walk & Journey Sticks at Big Creek Park	
Mon, May 24	1:00 p.m.	Newsletter Deadline	
Mon, May 24	6:00 p.m.	Finance Committee Meeting (Room 104)	
Sun, May 30	9:00 a.m.	Worship (In-person & Facebook Live)	
Mon, May 31		Office & Building Closed for Memorial Day	
Future Events (Subject to change)			
Sun, Jun 6		Carry-out Community Meal	
Sun, Jun 13		Family Ministry Night	
Sat, Jul 17		St. Jude Run	
7/25-7/29		Vacation Bible School	



Prayer List – May 2021

Our prayers and sympathies go out to Connie Heller and the family and friends of **Robert Coyle**. Robert passed away on 4/17/21.

Our prayers and sympathies go out to the family and friends of **Rev. Don Williams**. He passed away on 4/19/21. Please keep the Knoxville First Christian Church congregation within your thoughts and prayers.

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 Wheeler); Larry Latimer (nephew of Karen Wheeler); Ava Leitze (granddaughter of Bill & Judy Leitze); David Maier (friend of Marsha Moore); Terry Reed (friend of Diane Sickle); Linda Reneau (sister-in-law of Mark & Marla Reneau); 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.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Misti Crossland	1-May
Nicole Fisher	5-May
Mikayla Osborne	5-May
Larry Warden	8-May
Trinity Baldry	9-May
Leta Krock	11-May
Cayden Snowman-King	12-May
Doris Svob	12-May
Kim Schrodt	13-May
Margaret Wright	13-May
Nancy Cluts	18-May
Judy Wickert	19-May
Gillian Spiva	21-May
Amy Smith	29-May

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Greg & Barb Pollitt	2-May
Jon & Cindy LaSalle	4-May
Bill & Judy Kemper	8-May
Dennis & Dee Doubet	10-May
Marty & Judy White	25-May
Kevin & Lori Coleman	26-May
Frank & Melinda Jones	28-May

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; Ed Ford; Raymond Lindsey; Shawn Nikula**