

September 2024

Office Hours
Monday — Thursday
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.



First
Christian
Church

www.cantonfcc.org

215 West Elm Street
Canton, IL 61520

office (309) 647-1363

VBS 2024: A Splashing Success!

Aug 5-8, FCC welcomed over 40 kids between 3 and 5th grade to our Vacation Bible School, themed "SCUBA: Diving into Friendship with God"! We began with a "dive in" pool party, held at Big Creek Pool, in conjunction with Maples Mills UMC's VBS that was a fun evening for all. And the great times continued throughout the week as kids enjoyed meals, explored scripture, did science experiments and played games. Each night helped kids explore a new depth to their relationship with God; that God is a friend who is real, a friend we can trust, a friend who loves and a friend for everyone!

Many thanks to the whole team of volunteers—everyone who helped with decorations, crew leaders, station leaders and even making sure that our space was welcoming and safe!

Together we are helping make new friends of God and that is good news, in deed!



Steve Mason: Pastor
Jessa Wenger: Office Coordinator
Email: contact@cantonfcc.org



Rick Coulter: Building Supervisor
John Davis: Director of Music
Gretchen Fuller: Organist

Who do we turn to in times of stress and trial? What kind of leaders do we seek in tumultuous times? What does it mean to be a “faithful” or “righteous” leader? These are the questions that are explored in the narrative of 1 and 2 Samuel. And these will be the guiding stories for our shared worship from September all the way through this November called *1 and 2 Samuel: The Power of Love!* It’s a big chunk of time and it not-so-coincidentally pairs up with the general election this November. As we, in our individual lives are asking ourselves what we need out of leaders and government, what kinds of visions and community we believe God is calling us to empower, 1 and 2 Samuel will show us the good, the bad and the ugly of leaders in another time and place, that still carry the same weight and bear similar burdens that we face in 21st Century America.

As John Goldingay writes in the introduction to his book, *First and Second Samuel for Everyone*, “These two books are thus part of a huge narrative that extends from Genesis to 2 Kings, and they bring that narrative to its second great climax. Its first climax is the Israelites’ escape from Egypt, their time at Sinai, and their arrival in Canaan. Its second climax is the reign of David, during which Israel becomes not only a free people in its own land but a successful nation and a significant player on the international scene in its region.” Judges, the book right before 1 Samuel is a low point in Israel’s moral compass but the story of 1 and 2 Samuel and their leaders—Samuel, Saul and David—attempt to lead the country in a better, more faithful direction. But as Goldingay continues, “having kings who can exercise some moral leadership makes it possible for the people to turn their backs on the social and moral chaos of the Judges period...yet the stories of the first two kings, Saul and David, portray them, too, as people who do what is right in their own eyes. Being the king makes it easier to do so. First Samuel is the story of Saul’s reign, and Second Samuel, the story of David’s reign. You could say that 1 and 2 Samuel are stories about men behaving badly. Saul and David are not the only men in the books who do so, but they take a lead in doing so.” That’s why our worship series is entitled *1 and 2 Samuel: The Power of Love* because we will see that the best of leaders don’t have a love of power, but can celebrate God’s powerful love.

As we go through these two books in the Bible, we will be like theologian Karl Barth who famously said, “read the Bible in one hand and holding the newspaper in the other.” In other words, I hope you will explore lessons in leadership and ethics that still hold true as we read today’s news and prepare to cast our ballots.

Similarly, you will see elsewhere in our newsletter, that we’re offering a book study of Andrew Whitehead’s *American Idolatry: How Christian Nationalism Betrays the Gospel and Threatens the Church*. We’re hoping to begin this book study weekdays later this month to use this book as a guide for either helping us become aware of or grow in our faithful response to the danger of Christian Nationalism.

(continued on pg. 3)

(continued from p. 2) Finally, as we are worshipping and studying about lessons that are applicable, especially, as our country approaches a momentous election; we also need prayer. That's why you'll see next month information from our worship committee about some specific prayer guides and opportunities that will carry us through this tumultuous season, knowing that whatever happens on November 5 and beyond, God is here to guide and support us, individually and collectively, calling us to unity, hope and love. So join us in study, prayer and our worship series that starts this week, *1 and 2 Samuel: The Power of Love*.

Peace,

Pastor Steve

Bibles for 2nd Graders

If you have a 2nd grader in your family, please let us know!



We will be giving out Bibles during worship on September 15th!

COMMUNITY MEAL

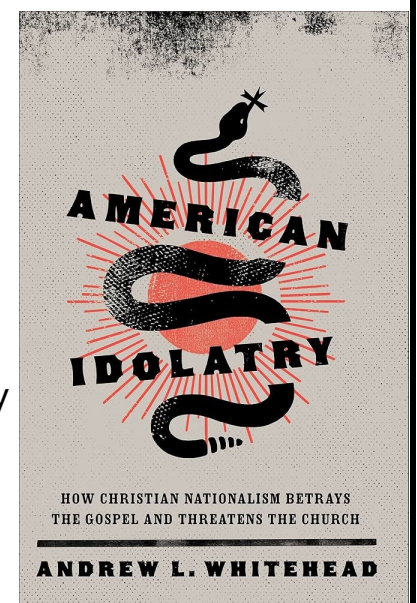
- SEPT. 29TH IN FELLOWSHIP HALL AFTER WORSHIP
- CHURCH WILL PROVIDE MAIN COURSE
- PLEASE, BRING A DISH TO SHARE!

Christian Nationalism Book Study Coming Soon!

Have you heard of Christian Nationalism? Are you wanting to be more informed about its roots, how it's shaping our country and ways Christians can respond?

No matter how you responded to those questions, you are invited to join a short-term book study of Andrew Whitehead's *American Idolatry: How Christian Nationalism Betrays the Gospel and Threatens the Church*. This brief but thorough book offers an insight into how many well-meaning Christians who also love their country have allowed their faith and patriotism to be warped into a destructive movement of Christian Nationalism.

We are wanting to base the meeting times around the schedules of participants, so please reach out to the office or Pastor Steve if you're interested in participating in this study, where we'll not only learn about Christian Nationalism but talk about what it means for us to be Christian and American in the healthiest ways possible. Limited copies of the book are available at the church for those who are interested.





If you are interested in Senior Care CO-OP, please contact JorDaynah Holm at jordaynah4494@gmail.com or (815) 216-3995

SENIOR CARE CO-OP

LAKELAND COMMUNITY CHURCH (NEXT TO WALMART)
1ST & 3RD TUESDAYS EVERY MONTH
1-3:30PM

Providing care and activities for seniors needing assistance, to allow caregivers free time.



ACTIVITIES INCLUDE: BINGO, BIBLE STUDIES, MEMORY GAMES, DAILY CALENDAR, ART & SCIENCE, EXERCISE, ETC

Objective: Provide a "co-op" experience where the responsibility for providing the respite time is shared with the "caregivers" on a rotating basis and the full-time leader. Caregivers will have opportunities to participate in the organization and share in the costs of the programs.

Lunch Provided

WEEKLY WORD PODCAST

Start listening today at cantonfcc.org & [spotify.com](https://open.spotify.com/)

WORSHIP ONLY SCRATCHES THE SURFACE...

DIGGING DEEPER BIBLE STUDY

Sundays at 10:30am
Room 104

NEW

XYZ Bible Study

If you're Gen X, Gen Z or anywhere in between... come explore where scripture meets real life

Sundays during coffee fellowship

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



Information and spiritual formation on Facebook or in your email.

Watch, like and share!

SNACKS DRINKS PROVIDED

FAMILY MINISTRY NIGHT

OUTDOOR GAME AND ART NIGHT

SUNDAY SEPT. 8TH 5:30 PM

ALL AGES WELCOME! FEEL FREE TO BRING AN OUTDOOR GAME TO SHARE

BADMINTON, KICKBALL, FRISBEE, AND CHALK ART!

LIVING LEGACY-Phase 2

In this second year of your Finance Committee's effort to promote Living Legacy commitments, we are looking back at past Legacy gifts that have certainly impacted our church's ability to thrive as a congregation.

In last month's newsletter the first lady that was highlighted was Dorothy Willcoxon. She was a lifetime educator. Her gift from an insurance policy was put into our Scholarship Fund. Many of our college students over the years have benefitted from her Legacy gift.

This month another lady and her Legacy gift is being remembered. Karen Threw had a vivacious personality, loved all animals and drove a purple Riveria. She was a choir member and active congregante. Karen passed away prematurely in 2001 at the age of 54 years old. Her Legacy gift was created with one sentence in her will. It stated, "I do direct 10% of my estate to the First Christian Church to be used for landscaping and outdoor improvements". One very visible use of her gift is our playground that so many children love to use. Recently, the expenses were paid for the concrete improvements at the main church entrances and the driveway for the bus. Funds for these types of renovations and improvements qualify for use from our Outdoor Improvement Fund, which was created to honor Karen's Legacy gift. Annual expenses for our landscaper who cares for our prayer garden and the flowers around the church as well as mowing expenses are paid from this fund. With these outdoor expenses covered through Karen's Legacy gift, our church has more resources for our ministries that directly touch people's lives.

Do you ever feel like you would like to leave a Legacy to your church or if you are even the type of a person who can do such a thing? Anyone can leave a Legacy gift that impacts future generations just like Karen did with one sentence stipulating a percentage gift in their will. This type of gift ensures that your donation will remain proportionate to your estate size, no matter how it may fluctuate over the years. Please prayerfully consider this option to become a Charter Partner this year.

Don Heller

On behalf of the Finance Committee

Leave a
Legacy



Congrats, Samantha!

Friendship Festival Board Member, Tina Myers, presented the 2024 Parade Marshall to Samantha Norton with her official invitation and flowers. Samantha was nominated by her daughter Bailey for the great work she does at the YWCA!



Friendship Festival 2024

Inspiring Generosity Grants

Learn more & start
brainstorming about
your plans:
cantonfec.org/grants

September Birthdays

Kara Fitzjarrald	Sept. 3
John Jarvis	Sept. 4
Connie Heller	Sept. 6
Natalie Spiva	Sept. 8
Pheobe Raker	Sept. 11
Addison Allard	Sept. 21
Finn Mason	Sept. 24
SueEllen Stephenson	Sept. 26
Judy White	Sept. 28
Bronson Glomb	Sept. 29

September Anniversaries

Aaron & Emily McLean	Sept. 1
Don & Donita Taylor	Sept. 19
Darryl & Kim Schrodt	Sept. 22

Please Pray For:

Ryan Hicks (nephew of Susan Perez); Friends and Family of Carl Murphy during his passing (Wes Murphy's father); David Lueck (Janet White's nephew); Brad O'Brien (Sherry Hardy's friend); Norma Snowman (broken hip) & the Snowman family; Tayvin Henderson (Friend of Jack Fitzjarrald); Larry Avery; Carol Harmon; Wendy Mayall; Margaret Landgrebe (blood clots in her legs); Jan Dearing; Kevin Allard (Tad Allard's brother); Doris Taylor recovering from back surgery; Sarah & Tas in their work at Salvation Army and for all of those w/o safe housing; Sid Smith while hospitalized (Lyn Snowman's uncle); Liz Pollitt; Blaine Hardy (deployed overseas); Joyce & Zack Norris; Steve Fisher (diagnostic procedures); Those battling with cancer: Jason Lasseigne, Bev Lynch (friend of Daryle Coleman), Lloyd Leezer (Marla Hedden's brother), Jessica Mayall (Sandy Foutch's niece); The Stephenson family on SueEllen's transplant recuperation; Steve Moore; Tracy Snowman; Cora Murphey

Care Facilities:

At Courtyard Estates: David & Bea Meeker

At Sunset: Lori Bieber; Ed Ford; Keith Munstedt

At Renaissance Care Center: Angie, Bill & Sue

Scriptures, Sermons, & Serving Schedules

9/1/24-Growing Down		9/8/24-Campaign for Compassion	
Scripture	Mark 10: 13-16	Scripture	1 Sam. 1: 4-7, 20 & 2: 1-11
Greeters	Denny & Dee Doubet	Greeters	Karen Meade
Ushers	Kevin & Jan Dearing	Ushers	Becky Wilcoxon
CtW Reader	Video	CtW Reader	Randy Weaver
Scripture Reader	Caitlin Mason	Scripture Reader	Liz Pollitt
Children's Moment	Jen Miller	Children's Moment	Janet Krulac
Children's Church	Jean & Bruce Edwards	Children's Church	Michelle Spiva & Kathy Langlais
Invitation/Prayer	Mike Krulac/Tammy Weaver	Invitation/Prayer	Steve Mason/Bruce Edwards
Deacons (prepare)	Shane & Chris /Shawn & Lyn	Deacons (prepare)	Denny & Dee /Allen & Eugenia
Counters	Tammy Weaver/Kevin Coleman	Counters	Bruce Edwards/Doreen Atchley
Coffee Fellowship	Michelle Spiva	Coffee Fellowship	Bruce & Jean Edwards
9/15/24-Grounds for Recall		9/22/24-A Call for Election	
Scripture	1 Sam. 2: 12-17 & 27-35	Scripture	1 Sam. 3: 1-20
Greeters	Vinnie Cufaude	Greeters	Mike & Janet Krulac
Ushers	Allen Smith	Ushers	Doris Taylor
CtW Reader	Video	CtW Reader	Diane Schrodt
Scripture Reader	Susan Walters	Scripture Reader	Janet Krulac
Children's Moment	TBD	Children's Moment	TBD
Children's Church	Amanda & Grant Stephenson	Children's Church	Jen & Corey Miller
Invitation/Prayer	Brian Spiva/Caitlin Mason	Invitation/Prayer	Alan Coleman/Chuck Taylor
Deacons (prepare)	Zack & Janet /Jake & Carisa	Deacons (prepare)	Corey & Mark T /Judy & Susan
Counters	Daryle Coleman/Jen Miller	Counters	Alan Coleman/Chuck Taylor
Coffee Fellowship	Judy Leitze	Coffee Fellowship	Daryle Coleman
9/29/24-The Strongman Myth			
Scripture	1 Sam. 8: 4-11, 16-20	Children's Moment	TBD
Greeters	Tad & Amy Allard	Children's Church	No Children's Church
Ushers	Wanda Carmack	Invitation/Prayer	Bill Leitze/Kevin Dearing
CTW Reader	Video	Deacons (prepare)	Jean Michelle /Tad & Amy
Scripture Reader	Eugenia Warden	Counters	Don Heller/Vinnie Cufaude
Coffee Fellowship	Community Meal		

September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM	2 Labor Day Office Closed	3	4 Choir Practice 7:00 PM	5	6	7
8 Worship 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM FMN: Outdoor Game & Art Night	9 Worship Meeting 11:00AM Elder's Meeting 6:30PM	10 Finance Meeting 5:30PM	11 Choir Practice 7:00 PM	12 G.E.M.S. @ 10:00AM	13	14
15 Worship 9:00AM Bibles for 2 nd graders Bible Study 10:30AM	16 Christian Ed Meeting 6PM Board Meeting 7:00PM	17 Outreach Meeting 5pm	18 Choir Practice 7:00 PM	19	20	21
22 Worship 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM	23 Property Meeting 4PM	24	25 Choir Practice 7:00 PM	26	27	28
29 Worship 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM	30	31				