

September 2021
Volume 67, Issue 9

Office Hours
Monday & Wednesday
8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday
8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Friday-Sunday
Closed

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



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Useful Websites:

Website- <https://cantonfcc.org/>

Facebook- <https://www.facebook.com/Canton-First-Christian-Church-192804694616/>

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

Have you ever been really struggling with something? Something that's got your heart heavy and tearing at the seams? There's no clear answer, it seems like any road forward will be imperfect and no real guaranteed of success? And then someone unhelpfully suggests you just read your Bible. As though the Bible was a Magic Eight Ball, with the ability to answer every question you've had in a short, clear statement. Or, if you grew up, as I did, with friends that would encourage you to randomly open a page of the Bible, and with your eyes closed, point to a scripture that was supposedly going to answer your deepest questions and concerns. I don't know your track record with treating the Bible as a go-to for easy and clear answers in modern language with culturally-relevant responses, but for me, it very rarely worked that way.

For even the most biblically literate and faithful folks, the Bible is still a complex book—actually a collection of 66 books (unless you're Catholic, there's another 7 books, but that's another story)—written by many authors over centuries in different languages, edited and translated into more language over even more years. Our Bible contains history, poetry, propaganda, letters to individuals and communities; and most of these texts are written for ancient agrarian, clan-based societies shaped by ancient Greek philosophy. And as much as we modern American Christians might hope the Bible would be a straight-forward, self-disclosive, book of self-help, or the ways we treat it that way, it isn't.

The Bible is complicated. There are teachings that seemingly contradict each other. So while the Bible can be beautiful, motivating, can show us how other folks have searched for and found the Holy...most of it isn't direct and simple. (Even to a pastor—shh, don't tell anyone that!)

But that's good news.

First because, as church, we have the gift of reading and studying scripture together—which I hope we'll be able to announce ways to do that soon.

Secondly, it's good news because James is such a biblical breath of fresh air. James is direct and straightforward. It's accessible and a practical guide to help us live Christ-shaped lives to not only help us be more faithful Christians, but better people. All month long in Sunday worship, we'll work our way through the Letter of James in our worship series James and the Giant Preach. James wants us to find inner peace that can support us in difficult seasons, to use our words wisely, to act in ways that support vulnerable folks and to remember that we're all in this together. James is that rare biblical gem that does easily translate to our world, that offers us simple ways to practice what we preach and that doesn't take a degree in philosophy to understand.

I hope you will join us this (and every!) month in worship for James and the Giant Preach. It'll be an especially good chance for you to invite your neighbors, family, co-workers or friends to share in the good news and wisdom James shares with us. See you then!

--Pastor Steve





Installation Day Reflection from Search Committee Chair, Chuck Taylor

Well – This is a great day in the life of our church as we install our 21st minister here at First Christian. As the chair of the Search Committee and on behalf of Kara Fitzjarrald, Amy Allard, Grant Stephenson, and Mark Reneau who made up our committee of 5 people, I would like to officially welcome Steve and Caitlin and Isaac and Finn to our church and our community here in Canton. We are glad that you are here. And we look forward to furthering the teachings of Christ and spreading the love of Jesus alongside you.

As the 5 of us on the committee went thru the many profiles and interviews of possible pastors, we saw a variety of talents and characteristics in each one of them. But we wanted 100% consensus before we extended a call to our next pastor and we didn't have that in those before Steve. When we read thru Steve's profile and talked with him via Zoom, we saw many traits that the church wanted in a pastor.

Let me read some of what he wrote in his profile.

"I need to serve a church that dares to have fun, seek beauty and owns their ministry "edge." While I value the rich history and ancient traditions of our faith, I don't want to "play" church or serve status quo. I hope to serve alongside a congregation that knows why it exists and dares to embrace that vision and serve their neighbor out of an abundance of joy from God."

"I love to preach and teach – to craft worship that engages the community to be sent out to love and serve the Living God by loving and serving their neighbors. And teaching as a facilitator, to tease out wisdom and help folks apply it to daily life."

And finally he wrote:

Romans 12:9-18 is a guide for me. I faithfully hold onto the good, joyfully care for people and give them a charitable read. I'm hopeful, flexible, and patient and can live peaceably with just about anybody. The way I stay in that healthy space is in collaborative, celebratory communities that can creatively work towards a shared gospel vision.

Oh – and one last statement:

Also, I'm passionate about music making as a holy and joy-filled pursuit and hope to put my vocal gifts to use.

Well – Steve - we love that you are passionate about music making and we too hope that you are able to put your gifts to use. And you, as well, Caitlin.

So, let me finish by saying "We prayed, we prepared, we sought God's guidance and we are grateful we can celebrate this day together with you. It's a new beginning!"



News From Outreach, September 2021

Some red letter dates for Outreach events:

- ◆ **Sunday, September 12**-Ministry Fair. Join us in the Fellowship Hall following the church service to see the different committees and groups you can join. People will be available to answer your questions.
- ◆ **Sunday, September 12**-Awarding of scholarships to our college students.
- ◆ **Fall Donation Project:** We will be collecting Diapers for infant through adult sizes to donate to the Loving Bottoms Project through the Salvation Army. There will be a collection box in the entrance way for donations **September 1- October 31.**
- ◆ Continue to remember our shut in friends with the gift of a Thinking of You card.



Submitted by Judy Kemper, Outreach Chairperson

Community Friendship Meal on Sunday, September 19th

11a.m.-12:00p.m.

Open to all Canton residents!

Menu: Pork BBQ Sandwich, Baked Beans,
Pasta Salad, Chips & Brownie.

Carry-out or Delivery only.

Reservation are required for Carry-out & Delivery.

Call Jan at 309-226-3296 between 1p.m.-6p.m. by Monday, September 13th.



Property committee news!

With the anticipation of some up & coming projects the property committee has decided the old 8' X 12' shed just east of the garage that has been on the property for many years is no longer needed & needs to be removed. We would like to invite any member or friend of First Christian Church the opportunity to have this structure. We are inviting interested parties to offer a modest donation to the church in exchange for the shed.

If this is something you or some one you know would be interested in, leave your name and number with the office or call Greg Pollitt (property chairman) at 309-566-0346. We would like to have all offers in by **9-15-2021** & the shed off the property by **10-1-2021**. Thank-you all. -FCC Property Committee.



Options for Children during Worship:

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

- ◆ Nursery– Infant-3 years old
- ◆ Preschool/Kindergarten Church– Children age 3-Kindergarten
- ◆ Children's Church– Children 1st-4th grade

Each room will have 2 people with the children who have gone through our Safe Kid's Training. Children are welcome to go into the Nursery at any time during worship & invited to Preschool/Kindergarten & Children's Church following Children's Moment.

Summer Outdoor Worship



1st Sunday each
month @ 9am

Cantonfcc.org

Outdoor Worship On September 6th

This is our last Sunday outside our church parking lot this year. Please come join us for Sunday fun under the Sun (or in the shade if you choose.) Please remember to bring your lawn chair!!!!

Welcome Emily Douglas!

We are so excited to welcome Emily Douglas, our new Office Coordinator to FCC! Emily and her husband, Jason, moved to Canton a few years ago when Jason accepted a position as one of the surgeons at Graham Medical Hospital. Originally from the Columbus, Ohio area, Emily has a professional background in engineering as well as business administration, finance and communications! She not only impressed our search committee with her credentials and skill set, but also with her ideas on how she can help us communicate and administer our ministry. One of her references described Emily as, "outgoing, brilliant, dependable, and kind."



We hope you will join us in welcoming her with love, patience and excitement! Emily began her training with Misti on August 16th and they have had about two weeks together. For now, as Emily is getting into the groove of the Office Coordinator position, she will be working Monday-Thursdays, from about 9am-1pm.

We are blessed and glad to have Emily at FCC! Join us in welcoming her!
-The Personnel Team

From the Re-Entry Committee:

We continue to follow the State of Illinois guidelines on masking, social distancing, sanitation and large gatherings. Several requests have come to the committee this past month for consideration on using the church and while we are all wanting to "get back to normal" there are still restrictions that need to be followed. If you are planning an event and would like to use the church, please contact Daryle Coleman who will pass along your request to the full committee. Covid-19 has presented a fluid situation that changes from month to month and priority #1 is still health and safety for our congregation.



G.E.M.S. is meeting weekly at **10:00 a.m. on Thursdays** in room 104. They are currently discussing Women from the "Bible People" study series from Abingdon Press. This group is open to anyone would like to attend.

Chancel Choir:

We are tentatively set to begin choir rehearsal again on **9/8/21**. The first date for the Chancel Choir to return to worship as not been set yet. As with all of our church activities, we are following recommended safety guidelines.



Church Family-
Thank you for all your kind and generous gifts of love and monetary contributions to Norman's memorials.

-The Family of Norman Pollitt

First Christian Church:

Sam & I would like to thank everyone for the many nice cards we received for our anniversary. It was so nice of you all to think of us. -Sam & Maralee





Prayer List – September 2021



Our prayers and sympathies go out to Elizabeth Pollitt and the family and friends of **Norman Pollitt**. Norm passed away on 8/9/21.

Please Continue to Pray For:

Gretchen Beaty (friend of Sherry Hardy); Mark Bitner (friend of Rickey Noe); Terry Foland; Blaine Hardy; Carol Harmon; Lita Harris (daughter-in-law of Jim & Judy Wickert); Dan Heffern (cousin of Janet Stone); Nancy Hendrix (sister of Janet Krulac); Karen Howell (cousin of Judy Wickert); Karen Latimer (niece of Karen Wheeler); Larry Latimer (nephew of Karen Wheeler); David Maier (friend of Marsha Moore); Linda Reneau (sister-in-law of Mark & Marla Reneau); Crystal Robinson; Randy Weaver; Brian Wheeler (son of Karen Wheeler); Cain Wilson (grandson of Martha Harr); Those not named who are carrying great burdens. Our world, that where there is strife & brokenness, God's light will bring healing & wholeness.

September Birthdays

Kara Fitzjarrald	3-Sep
Connie Heller	6-Sep
Natalie Spiva	8-Sep
Pheobe Raker	11-Sep
Curt Krock	16-Sep
Addison Allard	21-Sep
Finn Mason	24-Sep
SueEllen Stephenson	26-Sep
Judy White	28-Sep
SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES	
Aaron and Emily McLean	1-Sep
Darryl & Kim Schrodt	22-Sep

Care Facilities:

At Courtyard Estates-**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; Shirley Harris; Raymond Lindsey; Shawn Nikula**

Scriptures, Sermons, & Serving Schedules

9/5/2021

Scripture	James 2:1-10
Sermon	A Labor of Love
Greeters	Bonnie Harn
Ushers	Chuck & Jan Taylor
CtW Reader	Tammy Weaver
Scripture Reader	Tammy Weaver
Children's Moment	Daryle Coleman
Summer Children's Church	Daryle & Alan Coleman
Invitation	Tammy Weaver
Elder	Mike Krulac
Counters	Alan Coleman & Tammy Weaver

9/12/2021

Scripture	James 3:13-4:3 & 7-8a
Sermon	Don't Get Burnt
Greeters	Susan Perez
Ushers	Mark & Laura Taylor
CtW Reader	Jean Edwards
Scripture Reader	Eugenia Warden
Children's Moment	Steve Mason
Children's Church	Jean & Bruce Edwards
PreK/K. Church	Jen Miller & Family
Invitation	Alan Coleman
Elder	Bill Leitze
Counters	Kevin Coleman & Doreen Shaw

9/19/2021

Scripture	James 5:13-20
Sermon	Inside Out
Greeters	Marsha Moore
Ushers	Corey & Jen Miller
CtW Reader	Amanda Stephenson
Scripture Reader	Lori Coleman
Children's Moment	Michelle Spiva
Children's Church	Michelle Spiva & Kathy Langlais
PreK/K. Church	Lyn Snowman & Eugenia Warden
Invitation	Daryle Coleman
Elder	Trygve Meade
Counters	Daryle Coleman & Vinnie Cufaude

9/26/2021

Scripture	James 3:1-12
Sermon	In This Together
Greeters	Don & Connie Heller
Ushers	Bruce & Jean Edwards
CtW Reader	Grant Stephenson
Scripture Reader	Amanda Stephenson
Children's Moment	Grant Stephenson
Children's Church	Kim & Daryl Schrodt
PreK/K. Church	Marsha Moore & Jan Taylor
Invitation	Jan Dearing
Elder	Jen Miller
Counters	Don Heller & Jen Miller

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Installation Service 9:00 a.m. Worship	30 2:00 p.m. Card Group	31	1-Sep	2 10:00 a.m. G.E.M.S. Room 104	3	4
5 9:00 a.m. Outside Worship	6 7:00 p.m. Elders Meeting Office & Building for Labor Day	7 12:00 p.m. Personnel Committee Meeting	8 6:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	9 10:00 a.m. G.E.M.S. Room 104	10	11
12 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Ministry Fair	13 6:00 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting	14	15 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	16 10:00 a.m. G.E.M.S. Room 104 1:00 p.m. Minutes Packet Deadline	17	18
19 9:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Friendship Meal	20 6:00 p.m. CE Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m. Board Meeting	21	22 12:00 p.m. Outreach Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	23 10:00 a.m. G.E.M.S. Room 104 1:00 p.m. Newsletter Deadline	24	25
26 Reconciliation S.O. 9:00 a.m. Worship	27 6:00 p.m. Property Committee Meeting	28	29 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	30 10:00 a.m. G.E.M.S. Room 104	1-Oct	2