#### **December 2025**

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



www.cantonfcc.org

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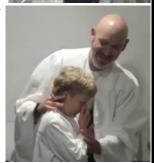
# **Baptisms Begin Church Year**

What a joy to begin the Advent season with the culmination of our discipleship class! Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year, and so our youth chose to get baptized on the New Year's





Day (of the church calendar) Nov. 30th. We welcomed three kids who got baptized—Scarlett McLean, Laiken Moser and Gavin Stephenson. We also reaffirmed the baptisms and welcomed into membership Bronson and Harrison Glomb. And Isaac Mason, while deciding to wait to get baptized, also completed the class. What a joy to have these young people a part of the church! And thank you to all their mentors—Shawna Axline, Shane Dixon, Caitlin Mason, Grant Stephenson, Kevin Coleman and Pastor Steve.



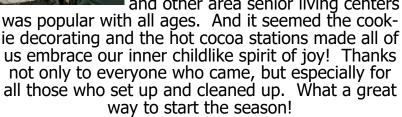
### **Advent Festival**





The winter weather didn't stop our Advent Festival Sunday Nov. 30th as about 35 of us gathered for fun and fellowship to kick off this season. We had Christmas carols blasting, a nice potluck to fill everyone's bellies, along with plenty of Advent activities. The bird ornament decorating stations were popular with the kids, along with the peanut butter pine cone bird

feeders. Making cards for residents of the Loft, Heritage Woods and other area senior living centers





Steve Mason: Pastor

Jessa Wenger: Office Coordinator Email: contact@cantonfcc.org



Rick Coulter: Building Supervisor John Davis: Director of Music Gretchen Fuller: Organist Welcome to Advent, the season of not only counting down to Christmas, but also, remembering what Good News in Christ we are preparing for in this world. When we look around us, the earth itself is getting quieter: days getting shorter, nights starting earlier, the colder air making the stars twinkle. And as more and more wildlife burrows down or migrates away, we begin to notice some of those faithful birds who bring little dashes of color and song to our community.

This Advent, we're learning from the wisdom of the earth—and particularly, our native birds—how they help teach us the gospel that Christ embodies, in a series we're calling Heaven & Nature Sing. We'll be learning more about what these birds, their songs, their communities and migratory patterns can teach us about what God is doing in the life of Jesus.

We have devotionals ready for you, written by our friends at the SALT Project, that are beautiful and have meaningful insight. Take one for you and share one with a friend. But I'd invite you to turn to it (ideally, daily, but if nothing else, let it be a calming routine) when you really need it.

I'd also highlight in this season, we're trying a new worship experience called a Longest Night Service (on Monday, December 22nd at 7 PM). While so much of this season is a rush of shopping and parties, of forced glee and holly-jolly good tidings, many

Heaven & Nature Sing

of us need a space, like many in nature do this time of year, that is slower and quieter. We need a space to bring our grief, our sadness, our struggles and our silence. So, if you or any of your friends, could use a break and want to hear some quiet music, rest your body and soul and light some candles, join us for our Longest Night Service.

And you can see from the rest of this newsletter that we have other opportunities to really make your season a meaningful one: from our final Lunch and Learn of the year, to caroling and pizza party with First Presbyterian and looking ahead to our Star Word celebration the first Sunday of next year. But no matter how you journey; blessings on your journey. May you learn from nature, grow closer in Christ and may we all be able to join together in a song of hope, peace, joy and love in Christ so that Heaven & Nature Sing!

# Pastor Steve





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

Information and spiritual formation on Facebook or in your email.

Watch, like and share!



#### **Socktober Fest Success**

Thank you everyone who donated to our Socktober Fest Sock donation! FCC really showed up for our kids in our community and provided approximately 510 pairs of socks to our local elementary schools here in Canton! As always, we Gately appreciate your giving spirits and kind hearts!



# Grateful, Thankful, & Blessed

We are so grateful for all the volunteers who helped with our community Thankful Meal! We served, handed out & delivered over 200 free meals to members of our community! Thank you to all who donated desserts, helped with cooking, serving, delivering & everything else!



#### **Halloween on Elm Street**

Another spooktacular event from our event committee! We served 400 hot dogs, along with chips and treats to our community Halloween night! Thank you to all the volunteers who helped out! We loved seeing all the fun and scary costumes! It was a frightfully fun evening of community friendship, fun and fellowship! See you all next year!



## **IGG 2025 Recipients**

FCC announced the awarding of our Inspiring Generosity Grants in worship on Sunday, November 16th. We received 16 grant proposals from non-profits in the Canton area & awarded 10 projects totaling \$10,356.29! Congratulations to this year's recipients!

\$900 for Lincoln Elementary School's program to support nonverbal students with playground communication tools and visuals

\$1,000 for The Back-to-School Bash, as requested by Police Officer Buhl, to provide haircuts for students before the upcoming school year

\$2,000 for The Salvation Army to provide supplemental household supplies for the Angel Tree event

\$2,000 for The Salvation Army to provide a daily soup kitchen in Canton

\$500 for the Spoon River Economic Partnership to provide supportive incentives for participants in the Pathway to Home Ownership

\$809.70 for the Fulton County Health Department's Breast Cancer Support Group supplies

\$1,000 for the United Way to participate in "Dolly Parton's Imagination Library" to provide books for early education learners

\$800 for First Baptist's Food Pantry to purchase an ergonomic card and new shelving

\$546.59 for Camp Big Sky to create an inclusive archery range for all abilities of campers

\$800 for Temple Baptist Church's Pantry Box during the busiest seasons of need



#### **FCC Advent Schedule**

Worship every Sunday at 9am

<u>Dec 6 Spoon River Community Chorus 7pm</u> get your tickets for this festive concert featuring Handel's Messiah

<u>Dec 7 Spoon River Community Chorus 3pm</u> get your tickets for this festive concert featuring Handel's Messiah</u>

<u>Dec 8<sup>th</sup> Turn in angel tree and mitten gifts for local nonprofits</u>

Dec 11 Lunch and Learn noon (at the Baker Rec. Center)
potluck and learning about thriving during the holidays for
area seniors

Dec 21—caroling and pizza 4—8pm (meet at First Pres.)
go with First Presbyterian Church to bring cheer to assisted
living folks

<u>Dec 22—Longest Night worship 7pm</u> quiet, reflective worship that makes a space for grief and sadness

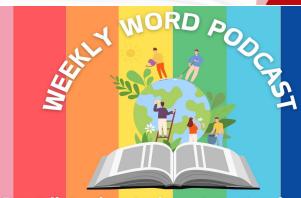
<u>Dec 24—Christmas Eve worship 7pm</u> candlelit worship

<u>Dec 28th—Comfy Christmas worship 9am</u> carols and communion in a laidback setting

Jan 4th—Star Words worship 9am receive a special gift to guide your spiritual journey in the coming year

Annual Congregational Meeting

Our annual congregational meeting will take place December 14th, following worship. We'll be presenting the 2025 budget and leadership slate



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#### LIVING LEGACY

#### **End of the Year Planning**

Wow, this year has flown by! Here we are in December 2025 already. This month is an appropriate time to look back over the year. How have you used the monies that God has provided you this year?

Did you have a giving goal of the amount you were planning on contributing to our church in 2025? December is a good time for you to catch up on your giving to First Christian. For our senior members December is the month when a decision is made on how they will utilize their Required Minimum Distribution. Any amount received from your IRA that is given to the church is not taxable.

During this season of giving, you also could take time to look at how you plan to give in 2026 as well as give in the future. Future giving is possible through our Living Legacy Ministry. This type of financial commitment does not require any money to start. You can become a Living Legacy Partner by just signing the Living Legacy Brochure noting the method of the future giving plans you have selected. It could be making the church the beneficiary of your life insurance policy or including the church in your will. These are the two most used and easiest ways, but there are many more. Various methods are listed in our Living Legacy Brochure that you can pick up at our church.

Please don't hesitate to ask any questions you have about the Living Legacy Ministry

to your Finance Committee members. We would love to assist you with this future giving opportunity to bless those who follow us here at Canton First Christian Church.

May God continue to bless our Living Legacy Ministry.

Don Heller, on behalf of the Finance Committee



Our discipleship class (from L to R): Bronson Glomb, Harrison Glomb, Pastor Steve Mason, Isaac Mason, Gavin Stephenson, Scarlett McLean and Laiken Moser



# **December Birthdays**

•
Dec. 1
Dec. 1
Dec. 1
Dec. 3
Dec. 6
Dec. 9
Dec. 12
Dec. 15
Dec. 27
Dec. 27
Dec. 29
Dec. 29
Dec. 31
Dec. 31

# **December Anniversaries**

Jacob & Lauren Ray	Dec. 13
Hank & Deann Anderson	Dec. 16
Bill & Judy Leitze	Dec. 18
David & Bea Meeker	Dec. 30

#### <u>Last Months Giving</u> & Ministry Needs

Ind. Giving: 22,703 YTD: 187,070
Other Income: 24,321 YTD: 102,525
Total: 47,044 YTD: 289,595
Needs: 25,473 YTD: 292,046
Difference: 21,571 YTD: -2,451

**YTD** 

# **Please Pray For:**

Family & friends of Laura Taylor upon her death; Wendy Mayall; Family & friends of SueEllen Stephenson upon her death; Blaine Hardy; Beverly McComb; Sharon Hall; Randy Weaver; Kelly (Laurie's husband); Don & Shirley Edwards (Bruce's parents); Cindy Schoenheider; Cathy Schoonover-Orwig (MS); Brenda Dilts (Lyn Snowman's mom); David Lueck (Janet White's nephew); Brad O'Brien; Steve Moore; Those battling with cancer: Beverly, Stephanie Parson, Tim Roberts (Diana Drinkwater's brother), Katie Hill, Steve Lefferts, Barb Bishop, Gary (& Susan) Barnhart, Kim Schrodt, Lana Formal, Jodi Smith, Haleigh Schoop, Crystal Graybel, Pam Beadles, John Brown, Mark Stoneking, Sharon Blair, Jason Lasseigne; Tracy Snowman

# **Care Facilities:**

Holly Brook Pekin - David & Bea Meeker Heritage Woods— Bruce Christy, Barb Uno Renaissance C.C.- Angie Slater, Bill Brockett & Sue Weaver Sunset - Lori Bieber; Ed Ford; Keith Munstedt

	Scriptures, Sermon	s, & Serving Schedu	ıles
Dec	cember 7	D	ecember 14
Scripture	Matt. 13: 31-35	Scripture	John 15: 1-11
Greeters	Eugenia Warden	Greeters	Chuck & Denise Jarvis
Ushers	Vinnie Cufaude	Ushers	Doris Svob
CtW (Star Word)	Tom Axline	CtW (Star Word)	Lori Coleman
Scripture Reader	Vinnie Cufaude	Scripture Reader	Don Heller
Children's Moment	Grant Stephenson	Children's Moment	Jen Miller
Invitation	Jen Miller	Invitation	Chuck Taylor
Prayer	Grant Stephenson	Prayer	Maida Williams
Children's Church	Amanda & Grant	Children's Church	Michelle & Kathy
Deacons (prepare)	<b>Allen &amp; Eugenia/</b> Denny & Dee	Deacons (prepare)	Jake & Carisa/Zack & Janet
Counters	Jen Miller & TBD	Counters	Chuck Taylor & Don Heller
Coffee Fellowship	Judy Leitze	Coffee Fellowship	Daryle Coleman
Dec	ember 21	D	ecember 28
Scripture	Matt. 1: 18-25, 2.13b-15	Scripture	TBD
Greeters	Lorraine Neill	Greeters	Spiva Family
Ushers	Mike & Janet Krulac	Ushers	Susan Perez
CtW	Video	CtW	NA
Scripture Reader	Lyn Snowman	Scripture Reader	Kate Fitzjarrald
Children's Moment	Janet Krulac	Children's Moment	Jean Edwards
Invitation	Brian Spiva	Invitation	Shawna Axline
Prayer	Kevin Coleman	Prayer	Kevin Dearing
Children's Church	Corey & Jen	Children's Church	Prayground
Deacons (prepare)	<b>Judy &amp; Susan/</b> Corey & Mark T	Deacons (prepare)	Dave & Sheila/Carissa M & Amanda
Counters	Brian Spiva & Kevin Coleman	Counters	Shawna Axline & Vinnie Cufaude
Coffee Fellowship	TBD	Coffee Fellowship	Michelle Spiva

		Decer	cember 2025	5		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Satur- day
	1	2	3	4	2	9
		GEMS 10:00AM	Choir Practice 7PM			
	Elder's Meeting					
	6:30 PM					
2	8	6	10	11	12	13
Worship 9:00AM		GEMS 10:00AM				
Bible Study 10:30AM		Finance Meeting	Choir Practice 7PM	Lunch & Learn		
	Worship Meeting	5:30PM		12-1PM @		
	11:00AM			Baker Rec. Center		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Worship 9:00AM		<b>GEMS 10:00AM</b>				
Bible Study 10:30AM						
	Christian Ed 6PM		Choir Practice 7PM			
	Cabinet Meeting 7PM					
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Worship 9:00AM	Property Meeting	GEMS 10:00AM				
Bible Study 10:30AM 4:00PM	4:00PM		No Choir Practice	Merry		
Caroling @ 4pm	Longest Night		Christmas Eve	Christmas!		
	Worship 7pm		Service @ 7pm	(office closed)		
28	53	30	31			
Worship 9:00AM		GEMS 10:00AM	No Choir Practice			
Bible Study 10:30AM			New Year's Eve	New Year's Day		
				(office closed)		