

December 2025

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



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 was popular with all ages. And it seemed the cookie decorating and the hot cocoa stations made all of us embrace our inner childlike spirit of joy! Thanks not only to everyone who came, but especially for all those who set up and cleaned up. What a great way to start the season!



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.



Heaven & Nature Sing

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 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

WORSHIP ONLY SCRATCHES THE SURFACE...

DIGGING DEEPER BIBLE STUDY

Sundays at 10:30am
Room 104

YOUR WEEKLY
MINUTE AT FIRST

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

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

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

Dec 8th Turn in angel tree and mitten gifts for local nonprofits

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

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

Dec 24—Christmas Eve worship 7pm
candlelit worship

Dec 28th—Comfy Christmas worship 9am
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.

WEEKLY WORD PODCAST



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

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

Leave a
Legacy



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

BECOMING
DEDICATED

Disciples

Passionate **SPIRITUALITY**

Joyful **SERVICE**

Inspiring **GENEROSITY**

December Birthdays

Luke Allard	Dec. 1
Mike Krulac	Dec. 1
Amanda Reed	Dec. 1
Kevin Morgan	Dec. 3
Tammy Weaver	Dec. 6
Chuck Taylor	Dec. 9
Colleen Conrad	Dec. 12
Jake Snowman	Dec. 15
Barb Pollitt	Dec. 27
Noelle Conrad	Dec. 27
Dick Van Rossem	Dec. 29
Hank Anderson	Dec. 29
Tad Allard	Dec. 31
Bill Leitze	Dec. 31

December Anniversaries

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

Last Months Giving & 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

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 Schrodtt, 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, Sermons, & Serving Schedules

December 7		December 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)	Allen & Eugenia /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
December 21		December 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)	Judy & Susan /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

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Elder's Meeting 6:30 PM	GEMS 10:00AM	Choir Practice 7PM			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Worship 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM	Worship Meeting 11:00AM	GEMS 10:00AM Finance Meeting 5:30PM	Choir Practice 7PM	Lunch & Learn 12-1PM @ Baker Rec. Center		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Worship 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM	Christian Ed 6PM Cabinet Meeting 7PM	GEMS 10:00AM	Choir Practice 7PM			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Worship 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM Caroling @ 4pm	Property Meeting 4:00PM Longest Night Worship 7pm	GEMS 10:00AM	No Choir Practice Christmas Eve Service @ 7pm	Merry Christmas! (office closed)		
28	29	30	31			
Worship 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM		GEMS 10:00AM	No Choir Practice New Year's Eve	New Year's Day (office closed)		