

November 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

A Child-like Faith



This fall at FCC, we've taken Jesus seriously to have a child-like faith as volunteers have responded to the needs of Lincoln Elementary School to have volunteers supporting a few of their offerings for wholistic growth in their students. The school asked for volunteers with their Kindness Club, the Lego Builders Club and a handwriting helper in Mrs. Sipe's 2nd grade classroom. And FCC answered the call!



Jean Edwards, who is one of the handwriting volunteers, says, "After being an educator for over 35 years, I saw this as an opportunity for me to give back in a small way." And her husband Bruce volunteers at Westview elementary to give incentive awards for kindness to students alongside Larry Lefferts. Sherry Coffee, who volunteers with the Builder's Club says, "For each smile I give, I receive several more. After spending 60 minutes with the kids, I feel more energized and happier the rest of the day. It is a joy to show God's love by listening and showing kids that they are unique and valued because someone spent some time with them."



While we have enough volunteers for handwriting, we could still use at least one volunteer for the monthly Builders Club on Tuesday afternoons and one or more volunteers for the twice a month Wednesday morning Kindness Club. Any committed and compassionate adult would make a wonderful difference in the lives of these kids.



PRAYER VIGIL FOR UNITY



Sunday, November
3rd at 4pm

*to lift up our
candidates and country
in a spirit of hope*



How does a
weary world
rejoice?

**COMING
SOON**

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



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

*Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.
When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.
Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God.
--Psalm 146.3-5*

I don't have to tell you that in a few short days we'll be winding down an election that has seemingly put so many things in limbo for the past months or even years. And even the words "winding down" are probably inaccurate, as we might be in for a long season of litigious limbo as votes are recounted, certification processes are challenged, and who knows what else. It's an election that has been tough to even summarize in words: at times surprising, shocking, exhausting, electrifying, terrifying...these words all fall short of describing what many of you have shared you have been carrying around in your body.

But here's what; as your pastor, I want to remind you and assure you: God is bigger than all of this. No matter who wins, no matter what takes place in the halls of government, the God we know through Jesus remains faithful and able to continue Christ's ministry of resurrection and the fulfilling of the kingdom of God. God's ministry of reconciliation and wholeness with Creation is bigger than any one party, any one country, any one time.

I've been thinking about the weeks leading up to and after this election for quite some time, and I believe we have been doing practices that will help sustain our congregation through this turbulent season. We've been sharing in worship, qualities of leadership that God calls us to cultivate. We've been studying the dangers of Christian Nationalism and beginning to consider what to do in response. We've been offering a prayer for people to support them and give voice to our hopes. And I hope you'll be joining us for our prayer vigil for unity on the afternoon of Nov. 3rd. This is what we've been doing collectively as a church.

But each of us have gifts and practices to keep our eyes focused on God, to nourish our souls and support our community. It might look different for everyone, but I'll suggest some things that I think we might all benefit from:

- Pay attention to your media diet. Jesus says that what goes into us matters, and what media we are fed with and how much we ingest matters. Step away from the screen when you need.
- Breathe! Simple practices of breathing or gratitude can actually re-direct our attention to see all the blessings in our lives, no matter what is going on in the larger world.
- Do something. Action absorbs anxiety. Things like elections often feel so big that we can sometimes feel powerless to make a difference. But your simple act of kindness, hospitality or intentional spending is a vote on the world you want to create. And here's an example of an action...
- VOTE! Be an informed voter who uses the power you have to guide the government in the direction you feel aligns with your ethics.
- Nurture your friendships. Stay close to the people that feed your spirits—not necessarily the people that are in your social media feeds. And if you can, be an example by being curious and humble enough to stay close to people who might or definitely don't vote like you.

(Continued on pg. 3)

(Pg. 2 continued)

There have been difficult seasons in the past, I'm sure there will be more in the future, but for now remember that in the midst of fear and uncertainty, Jesus told his disciples, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." (John 14.27).

Pastor Steve



Middle School Youth Group

Sunday, November 10th
from 5-6:30pm at FCC

**This month
we're making
bread!**



YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR FREE

Community Thankful meal

NOV 24TH 2024

11AM CARRY OUT AND DELIVERY BEGINS
DINE IN WITH US FROM 10:45AM-12PM

**CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT
309-647-1363 TO RESERVE YOUR
MEALS BY THURSDAY NOV 21ST!**

Middle School Youth Group Starts Off Strong

Sunday October 27th, we had a fun gathering of 7 middle school youth at the pavilion outside church for our first youth group of the year. This group of youth and some trusted adults gathered for a firepit and cookout, as the youth checked in with one another, talked about important spiritual formation and threw out some ideas for what they'd like to see going forward with a youth group. It turns out this group really loves to help kindle a fire with leaves and just as excitedly wants to ask questions about what different stories in the Bible mean to their lives! It doesn't hurt that we ended the evening with some smores!

This group is open to any kids 5-8th grade and any of their friends in the same age range. The group will meet once a month on Sunday evenings for food, spiritual formation and deepening friendships. By 2025, we hope to have a regular meeting night to help accommodate family schedules.

FAMILY MINISTRY NIGHT

THANKFUL ART EVENT

Please bring pictures of family, friends, pets or anything you are thankful for and we will make a heart shaped collage to take home!

**JOIN US IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
NOV 17TH 6-7PM
ALL AGES WELCOME!**

WE WILL PROVIDE DRINKS AND SNACKS, BUT FEEL FREE TO BRING A SNACK TO SHARE IF YOU LIKE!

Upcoming Thanksgiving Special Offering. Starting November 17th

THANKSGIVING SPECIAL OFFERING



SUPPORTING HIGHER EDUCATION



Impacting the Church and World by Bringing Students and Resources Together

Inspiring Generosity Grants

The polls may not have closed for voting, but our application process has closed for the 2025 Inspiring Generosity Grants...and boy, did we get some good ones! Hopefully you know that each year at FCC, we fund almost \$10,000 worth of grants to local people and organizations trying to make a positive impact in the community. We especially fund new or creative solutions for all kinds of issues that need to be addressed to care for our neighbors. This year, the committee received 17 grant applications, requesting almost \$25,000. This means the committee will have to choose some ideas over others, but make sure to join us in worship on Nov. 24th as we award next year's recipients and share their dreams with you!

SAVE THE DATE

On November 24th, The Inspiring Generosity team will be announcing and handing out checks to the 2025 IGG recipients during worship at 9am!



Update of Hurricane Relief from Week of Compassion

The needs are and will be great. The compassion of Christ's people is greater still.

Be part of the Hurricane Helene response -

PRAY for those impacted and all who respond.

GIVE to Week of Compassion, designating 'Hurricane 2024'.

STAY until plans are in place for you to safely volunteer in person.

Virtual volunteers are urgently needed right now through our partner Crisis CleanUp. Help respond to survivor help lines, serving from home, with simple training and phone/computer access. Contact volunteer@weekofcompassion.org

We remain grateful for our Disciples community and hold those impacted and those responding close in our prayers.



Thank you very much, FCC, for such a lovely Pastor Appreciation Celebration!
We feel the love!

Thanks so much for the gift of ministry together and we look forward to many more years of being church together!

—Steve and Caitlin Mason

LIVING LEGACY-Phase 2

Toby McCamey, can you see her sitting with Wanda Carmack, Peg Hayes and Peg Cook in the back row pew under the narthex windows? She always looked so prim, proper and stylish. I phoned her on her birthday each year. There was one time that her birthday was on a Sunday. At church she was telling everyone that she was 49 while she was really 94. She was spunky too! I know I bought Community Concert tickets from her year after year even though I never intended to attend a concert. She was a special lady.

Toby went to see her savior in September of 2018. Her Living Legacy gift was received on the last day of 2019. The gift was a tithe of her estate and was by far the largest gift given our Living Legacy Fund to date. It was also very significant because it was the catalyst that got your Finance Committee thinking about this type of giving.



After COVID and a year of planning, the Living Legacy Partners program was introduced in 2023. That first year, Phase 1, was an educational effort to make sure members were aware of this type and opportunity of future gift giving. Now we are closing in on the last two months of Phase 2. We want to remind everyone that to become a Charter Partner in the Living Legacy Program a commitment must be declared by the end of the year. That can be done by filling out the form in our Living Legacy brochure, no details or amounts are needed. A special recognition event is planned to honor those who say yes to a future planned gift to the Living Legacy Fund.

Please pray concerning your own options to be one of the initial members who become Charter Partners. May God continue to bless our Living Legacy efforts.

Don Heller, on behalf of the Finance and Stewardship Committee

BECOMING
DEDICATED

Disciples

Passionate **SPIRITUALITY**

Joyful **SERVICE**

Inspiring **GENEROSITY**

WEEKLY WORD PODCAST

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

November Birthdays

Caitlin Mason	Nov. 3
Scarlett McLean	Nov. 5
Cindy Hankins	Nov. 9
Dan Fitzjarrald	Nov. 10
Judy Kemper	Nov. 10
Lincoln Krulac	Nov. 10
Ella Goforth	Nov. 14
Jenna Goforth	Nov. 14
David Meeker	Nov. 19
Marilee Casper	Nov. 20
Katie Smith	Nov. 22
Lainey Moser	Nov. 22
Belle Hardy	Nov. 24
Shirley Harris	Nov. 28
Mia Hardy	Nov. 28

November Anniversaries

Misti & Ryan Crossland	Nov. 5
Ashley & Chris Jump	Nov. 18

Please Pray For:

Friends & Family of Jessica Mayall during her passing (Sandy Foutch's niece); Mark Riathel; Donna Phillip's daughter, Megan; Friends & Family of Joe Stone during his passing; Mandy Sipe; Alan Coleman (recovering from heart surgery); Brenda Dilts (Lyn Snowman's mom); Ryan Hicks (nephew of Susan Perez); David Lueck (Janet White's nephew); Brad O'Brien (Sherry Hardy's friend); Tayvin Henderson (Friend of Jack Fitzjarrald); Larry Avery; Carol Harmon; Wendy Mayall; Jan Dearing; Kevin Allard (Tad Allard's brother); Sid Smith (Lyn Snowman's uncle); Liz Pollitt; Blaine Hardy (deployed overseas); Joyce & Zack Norris; Steve Moore; Those battling with cancer: Sharon Blair, Brett Downy, Jason Lasseigne, Bev Lynch, Lloyd Leezer (Marla Hedden's brother); 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

11-3-24 Turnout for Joy		11-10-24 Speaker of the House	
Scripture	2 Sam. 6: 1-5 & 15-19	Scripture	2 Sam. 7: 1-14a
Greeters	Sheila Dye	Greeters	Susan Perez
Ushers	Eugenia Warden	Ushers	Chuck & Denise Jarvis
CtW	Tammy Weaver	CtW	Video
Scripture Reader	Lyn Snowman	Scripture Reader	Mark Taylor
Children's Moment	Jean Edwards	Children's Moment	Michelle Spiva
Invitation	Alan Coleman	Invitation	Kevin Dearing
Prayer	Chuck Taylor	Prayer	Bill Leitze
Children's Church	Caitlin Mason & Connie Heller	Children's Church	Marsha Moore & Eugenia Warden
Deacons (prepare)	Judy & Susan /Corey & Mark T	Deacons (prepare)	Tad & Amy /Jean & Michelle
Counters	Alan Coleman & Chuck Taylor	Counters	Kevin Coleman/Don Heller
Coffee Fellowship	Paula Grigsby	Coffee Fellowship	Doreen Atchley
11-17-24 Term Limits		11-24-24 A Lasting Legacy	
Scripture	2 Sam. 11: 26 & 12: 13a	Scripture	2 Sam. 22: 1-7, 17-20 & 23: 2-4
Greeters	Bruce & Sherry Fisher	Greeters	Alan & Daryle Coleman
Ushers	Lorraine Neill	Ushers	Shawn & Lyn Snowman
CtW	Kara Fitzjarrald	CtW	Video
Scripture Reader	Kate Fitzjarrald	Scripture Reader	Tammy Weaver
Children's Moment	Grant Stephenson	Children's Moment	Rhonda Morgan
Invitation	Jen Miller	Invitation	Mike Krulac
Prayer	Doreen Atchley	Prayer	Tammy Weaver
Children's Church	Kara Fitzjarrald & Jake Bryant	Children's Church	Amanda Stephenson & Carissa Moser
Deacons (prepare)	Dave & Sheila /Grant & Amanda	Deacons (prepare)	Shane & Chris /Shawn & Lyn
Counters	Doreen Atchley/Jen Miller	Counters	Tammy Weaver/Vinnie Cufaude
Coffee Fellowship	Judy Kemper	Coffee Fellowship	Amanda & Grant Stephenson

November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Worship 9:00AM XYZ Bible Study 10AM Bible Study 10:30AM Prayer Vigil @ 4pm Daylight Savings	4 Worship Meeting 11:00AM Elder's Meeting 6:30PM	5	6 Bell Practice 6PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM	7 GEMS @ 10AM	8	9
10 Worship 9:00AM XYZ Bible Study 10AM Bible Study 10:30AM Middle School Youth Group 5-6:30pm	11 Veteran's Day (Office Closed)	12 Finance Meeting 5:30PM	13 Bell Practice 6PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM	14 GEMS @ 10AM	15	16
17 Worship 9:00AM XYZ Bible Study 10AM Bible Study 10:30AM FMN: Thankful Art @ 6pm	18 Christian Ed. Meeting 6:00PM Board Meeting 7:00PM	19 Outreach Meeting 5:00PM	20 Bell Practice 6PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM	21 GEMS @ 10AM	22	23
24 Worship 9:00AM XYZ Bible Study 10AM Bible Study 10:30AM Thankful Meal	25 Property Meeting 4PM	26	27 Bell Practice 6PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM	28 Happy Thanksgiving!! (Office Closed)	29	30