

March 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

March 5
7pm
Ash Wednesday

*Resurrection begins
by asking for help.*



Compassion
HEARD AND SEEN

SPECIAL OFFERING 2025
FEBRUARY 16 & 23

**LAST CHANCE
TO GIVE**

Wandering
Hearts

Ash Wednesday

March 5th @ 7pm

Palm Sunday

April 13th @ 9am

Maundy Thursday

April 17th @ 7pm

Good Friday

April 18th @ 7pm

Easter Sunday

April 20th @ 9am

Pick up your Daily Devotional & Wandering
Hearts Faith Map at the church!

Lunch and Learn already a success!

February 13th, FCC hosted our first "Lunch and Learn" with the Canton Park District. This partnership ministry is a monthly attempt on the 2nd Thursday of each month to bring retired adults together for a free lunch, fellowship and some education on topics that might be engaging to older adults. This first month, Jake Green taught about physical health and wellness, and Graham Health Systems provided a yummy lunch!

The event, hosted at the Gary Baker Rec Center not only had the full 50 participants but a big wait list, as well. If you're a retired adult, make sure to sign up for March's "Lunch and Learn" by contacting the Rec Center today!



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



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

The Disciples of Christ have an old motto: “where the Bible speaks, we speak. Where the Bible is silent, we are silent.” This sounds nice for a church that is founded on the concept that we are a “priesthood of all believers”—that each of us has the ability to read, interpret, and lead in our faith and discipleship.

Just one problem. While the Bible is still the most popular and influential book of all time, it seems no one likes to read it. According to a recent survey: only 11% of Americans read the Bible daily and 33% say they’ve never read any of the Bible on their own. How are we supposed to know what, how, when and why to speak, if we don’t know what the Bible says?

And I get it. The Bible is a complicated book—or more accurately, a library of books. It was written over centuries, millenia ago, by people from cultures very different from ours. It was written in different languages, has different translations, that even have a different number of books! No wonder it’s not on everyone’s audible list!

But there is still a need, maybe now more than ever, for biblical literacy. As we say on our website, at First Christian Church, we don’t take the Bible literally, but we take it seriously. And that is because, the Bible speaks to the deepest, most pressing issues of our world, and in our own lives...if we can just understand it better and get more comfortable with it.

That’s why we’re having our Bible Basics study Wednesday nights during Lent. Starting March 12th and continuing each Wednesday—except for our 6th and final lesson which will be on Maundy Thursday, April 17th—we’ll be gathering weekly from 5:30-7pm in the FCC Fellowship Hall for group a soup supper, study and discussion of the Bible. We’ll talk about what is the Bible, where’d it come from, what’s its purpose...all before taking a look at some of the big themes and sections of scripture. Each week, we’ll begin with dinner and fellowship before spending some time as I talk about the Bible and then we open our Bibles to engage scriptures together, using our hearts and our brains in the process. Each week, we’ll also use some of the engaging videos from the good folks at “The Bible Project” to guide our conversation.

The whole purpose of the series will be to help people—even if you’ve been afraid of, bored with, confused by or just want to know more about scripture—to feel comfortable and confident exploring the messages of the Bible to grow in our faith. Invite your friends and family to this all-ages study of Bible Basics. So that, thinking again about that old saying, we can know what the Bible is saying and we can help find the words for our faith! Hope to see you there!



Bible Basics
 Wed. March 12th from 5:30-7:00pm
 (6 Week Series)
 Soup Supper Provided



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

Information and spiritual formation on Facebook or in your email.

Watch, like and share!

Pastor Steve

Family Ministry Night: Super Bowl Pre-Game

No matter who you were rooting for in the Super Bowl, we were all winners at our Family Ministry Pre-game party! We had some delicious snacks, played some games and designed football helmets with our favorite team colors! Lots of food, fun and fellowship! Thanks to all who came out and supported our ministry!



Tie Dye Youth Night!

Sunday, Feb 23rd, our Middle School youth group got together for a fun and messy night of pizza and tie dying!

We started, as always, by praying through our "pits and cherries"—the lows and highs—since we've last met. We shared some food and did a Bible study of Genesis 6-9 and the story of Noah, the flood and the sign of affirmation in the rainbow. *(continued on p.5)*



KIDS DAY Camp



14-18 JULY

A FREE WEEK OF CAMP FOR KIDS FROM CANTON
WITH TRANSPORTATION AND LEADERSHIP FROM
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

**FAITH
FORMATION**

**OUTDOOR
ACTIVITIES**

**ARTS &
CRAFTS**

For more info: www.campem.com
14999 Reservoir Road Browning, IL

**March 30,
join us in
worship for
CAMP
SUNDAY!**

We'll have Camp Ambassadors, Amy and Brian Gillespie, from Camp Walter Scott sharing stories and information about summer church camp opportunities.

And after worship, we'll have a potluck where you can ask questions, get answers and learn more about this awesome ministry!

And don't forget—the church has scholarships available to make sure any kids who want to participate, can do so. Invite your friends!

2025 YOUTH & FAMILY CAMPS

AT WALTER SCOTT CAMP & LEARNING CENTER

Get ready for summer by registering for youth camps at Walter Scott today!

YOUTH CAMPS

- ✓ **CYF | Jun 8-14**
Grades 9-12
- ✓ **You & Me | Jun 15-18**
Grades K-5 + Adult(s)
- ✓ **Beginners | Jun 19-21**
Grades K-3*
- ✓ **JYF | Jun 22-28**
Grades 3*-5
- ✓ **Chi-Rho | Jun 29-Jul 5**
Grades 6-8

*3rd graders may attend either Beginners or JYF Camp.

FAMILY CAMPS

- ✓ **Memorial Day Weekend**
May 22-26
- ✓ **Labor Day Weekend**
Aug 28-Sep 1

Visit us online for full details, registration, and information on service opportunities, additional youth events, and more!



REGISTER NOW!



www.CampWalterScott.org


FCC DONATION DRIVE FOR THE CANTON HIGH SCHOOL CARE CLOSET

We're organizing a donation drive to provide essential, needed supplies for students at Canton High School.

Items needed: deodorant, shampoo, body wash, toothpaste, folders/binders, pencils, individual snacks, crackers, chips, granola bars, fruit cups

DROP OFF ITEMS IN BOX IN FOYER THROUGHOUT MARCH









(youth tie dye continued from p. 3)

It was an added bonus that 3 of our youth are involved in school archery—so we had plenty of insight when it came to bows!



Much fun was had as youth decorated their creations and we even provided tea towels for each family that will be a bright reminder for all of them! Special thanks to Amanda Stephenson



who provided some guidance and support for this activity!

Make sure any Middle School youth in your life join us on

the 4th Sunday of each month for our group. Currently, Pastor Steve is leading the group, so if you're interested in helping or connecting any youth, please reach out to him.



FCC FAMILY MINISTRY

ST. PATRICK'S DAY GAME NIGHT

MARCH 16TH 5PM

WE WILL HAVE ST PAT'S DAY THEMED SNACKS AND DRINKS- BRING A FAVE GAME TO SHARE WITH THE GROUP. ALL AGES WELCOME!



Who's Ready to Help?



Thanks to your interest, the Outreach Committee is moving ahead with a mission trip to North Carolina for recovery work from last year's hurricane. We're going through "Be the Neighbor" ministry and you can find full info on the trip at: betheneighbor.org/black-mountain-nc

We have 15 slots for middle schoolers and all ages of adults to participate **August 3-9** for a mix of manual labor and learning about environmental care and disaster recovery. We will take the church bus for transportation and stay at Christmount Camp cabins.

Cost is approximately **\$500** per person for all housing, transportation, food and activities...and we have funds to assist, as requested. A deposit of \$200 is needed by March 16th to secure your spot. Anyone--within or beyond the church--who feels physically able is welcome to come along.

Any questions, contact Pastor Steve



**REGISTRATION
IS NOW OPEN!**

**Memphis, Tennessee
July 12 - 15, 2025**



FCC plant watering

Volunteer needed

- ✓ Once a week each March
- ✓ Instructions & supplies provided
- ✓ Do on your own schedule

contact the office
to volunteer



**DISCIPLES
WOMEN**

MICHIGAN AND ILLINOIS & WISCONSIN
SPRING GATHERING



Tending Our Inner Gardens:
Sowing Seeds for Spiritual Growth

- Connect with recent and long-time friends.
- Explore various spiritual disciplines during this experiential retreat.
- Share Communion and dedicate your Blessing Box offerings.

APRIL 26, 2025
9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Mosaic Christian Church
2507 West Newman Parkway
Peoria, Illinois 61604

Find more info and register
cciwdisciples.org/events



AMY SUE JOHNSON
Keynote Speaker



Leadership Retreat Recap

Recently the FCC board, cabinet and elders met for a leadership retreat. We reaffirmed our structure—the board handles governance, finance and administration; the elders are the spiritual leaders; and the cabinet oversees programming and ministry of the church. We also asked committee chairs to create job descriptions to help with leadership expectations and transitions.

We admitted that the discipleship committee needs our attention. This vital part of our leadership is tasked with evangelism of sharing our message beyond the current membership of the church, helping cultivate first-time visitors into equipped leaders in the church, and providing programming to help deepen the discipleship of our adults. But ever since being created 6 years ago, it's never been functional. So, if you feel called to help jumpstart discipleship, know we are excited to support you!

We also talked about our mission with children and youth, as we named growth in the number of children and youth, with some moderate growth in programs designed for them. We also

brainstormed ideas of new ministries for youth.

In the afternoon, we talked about hospitality and welcome—especially as it related to welcoming marginalized communities—immigrants, LGBTQ, people of color, etc. To that end, we are going to explore becoming "Open and Affirming" (a ministry designation for Disciples congregations who are welcoming to everyone, expressly LGBTQ folks). As a first step, we are going to be doing a book study soon on the book "Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition" by Christine Pohl. Past Steve will lead it.

In a nutshell, this was a day where our leadership: remembered our respective ministry roles, committed to making them a success, came up with some ideas on furthering our youth ministry and invited us to explore becoming "Open and Affirming." It was a full day, full of laughs, of stories, guided by prayer and with a spirit of grateful praise to God for all that we've done and all we might do in the name of Christ!

YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR FREE

*Palm Sunday
Dinner*

April 13th 2025

Canton First Christian Church

215 W Elm St

**10:30AM Carry out and Delivery begins
Dine in with us from 11-12 PM**

CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT

**309-647-1363 TO RESERVE YOUR MEALS BY
THURSDAY APRIL 10TH**

PLEASE LEAVE MESSAGE IF NO ANSWER

Everyone Invited!

WORSHIP ONLY SCRATCHES THE SURFACE...

**DIGGING DEEPER
BIBLE STUDY**

Sundays at 10:30am

Room 104

WEEKLY WORD PODCAST



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

March Birthdays

Jan Dearing	March 1
John Osborne	March 1
Dennis Doubet	March 11
Eric Jarvis	March 12
Mark Reneau	March 12
Mark Taylor	March 12
Elizabeth Clark	March 13
Ron Rupe	March 14
Maralee Wright	March 14
Derek Spiva	March 15
Cyndi Bell	March 19
Griffin Beam	March 19
Bonnie Harn	March 21
Don Heller	March 24
Jake Smith	March 24
John Davis	March 26
Scott Snowman	March 26
Amanda Schrodt	March 28
Michelle Spiva	March 29

March Anniversaries

Stephen & Mareigh Snowman	March 3

Please Pray For:

Family & Friends of Lori Ellsworth during her passing; Family & Friends of Liz Pollitt during her passing; Family & Friends of Wanda Carmack during her passing; Bryce Heller (cornea transplant); Pheobe Raker (recovering from eye surgery); Cathy Schoonover-Orwig (MS); Mandy Sipe; Brenda Dilts (Lyn Snowman's mom); David Lueck (Janet White's nephew); Brad O'Brien (Sherry Hardy's friend); Tayvin Henderson (Friend of Jack Fitzjarrald); Carol Harmon; Jan Dearing; Kevin Allard (Tad Allard's brother); Blaine Hardy (deployed overseas); Joyce & Zack Norris; Steve Moore; Those battling with cancer: John Brown, Mark Stoneking, Sharon Blair, Jason Lasseigne, Diana Black Williamson; Tracy Snowman; Cora Murphey

BECOMING
DEDICATED

Disciples

Passionate **SPIRITUALITY**

Joyful **SERVICE**

Inspiring **GENEROSITY**

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

March 2		March 9-Jesus Sought Me	
Scripture	Luke 4: 1-13	Scripture	Luke 5: 1-11
Greeters	Eugenia Warden	Greeters	Lorraine Neill
Ushers	Griffin Beam	Ushers	Doris Svob
Call to Worship	Amanda Stephenson	Call to Worship	Video
Scripture Reader	Janet Krulac	Scripture Reader	Jack Fitzjarrald
Children's Moment	Brian Spiva	Children's Moment	Rhonda Morgan
Children's Church	Jean & Bruce Edwards	Children's Church	Rhonda Morgan & Amanda Stephenson
Invitation/Prayer	Steve Mason/Brian Spiva	Invitation/Prayer	Kevin Dearing/Shawna Axline
Deacons (prepare)	Corey & Mark T /Judy & Susan	Deacons (prepare)	Jean & Michelle /Tom A & Don P
Counters	Brian Spiva/Bruce Edwards	Counters	Shawna Axline/Vinnie Cufaude
Coffee Fellowship	Judy Leitze	Coffee Fellowship	Daryle Coleman
March 16-Rescue Me From Danger		March 23-Praise The Mount	
Scripture	Matt. 14: 22-33	Scripture	Matt. 16: 13-20
Greeters	Shawn & Lyn Snowman	Greeters	Spiva Family
Ushers	Mike & Janet Krulac	Ushers	Diane Schrodt
Call to Worship	Trygve Meade	Call to Worship	Video
Scripture Reader	Dave Bell	Scripture Reader	Carissa Moser
Children's Moment	Jen Miller	Children's Moment	Michelle Spiva
Children's Church	Michelle Spiva & Kathy Langlais	Children's Church	Caitlin Mason & Carissa Moser
Invitation/Prayer	Caitlin Mason/Grant Stephenson	Invitation/Prayer	Tammy Weaver/Mike Krulac
Deacons (prepare)	Carissa M & Amanda /Dave & Sheila	Deacons (prepare)	Shawn & Lyn /Shane & Chris
Counters	Grant Stephenson/Daryle Coleman	Counters	Tammy Weaver/Alan Coleman
Coffee Fellowship	Bruce & Jean Edwards	Coffee Fellowship	Don & Connie Heller
March 30 - CAMP SUNDAY! Camp Ambassadors Amy and Brian Gillespie Sharing			
Scripture	Matt. 16: 21-23	Children's Moment	Steve Mason
Greeters	Bruce & Sherry Fisher	Children's Church	No Children's Church
Ushers	Allen Smith	Invitation/Prayer	Jen Miller/Doreen Atchley
Call to Worship	Kate Fitzjarrald	Deacons (prepare)	Allen & Eugenia /TBD
Scripture Reader	Caitlin Mason	Counters	Jen Miller/Doreen Atchley
Potluck after Worship!			

March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5	6	7	1
Worship 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM	Elder's Meeting 6:30PM		Ash Wednesday 7:00 PM	GEMS @ 10AM		8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Worship 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM	Worship Meeting 11:00AM	Outreach Meeting 5:00PM Finance Meeting 5:30PM	Bible Basics 5:30-7 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM	GEMS @ 10AM		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Worship 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM FMN: St. Pat's Day Game Night 5PM	Christian Ed 6PM Board Meeting 7PM		Bible Basics 5:30-7 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM	GEMS @ 10AM		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Worship 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM			Bible Basics 5:30-7 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM	GEMS @ 10AM		
30	31					
Worship 9:00AM Bible Study 10:30AM	Property Meeting 4:00PM					