

**October 2024**

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



# First Christian Church

[www.cantonfcc.org](http://www.cantonfcc.org)

215 West Elm Street  
 Canton, IL 61520

office (309) 647-1363

## Welcome New Members!



This past month, our congregation had the pleasure of officially welcoming some familiar faces to become members of First Christian Church. On September 15th Shawna and Tom Axline came forward with Carissa Moser to transfer their memberships to FCC. The following week, Griffin Beam, Shawna and Tom's son also officially joined.

For Shawna, as a lifelong Cantonite, this is a return to her childhood church home, where she has many great memories. She not only has two adult sons at home, but another son in Springfield, and a daughter in Colorado. Shawna is a seasoned teacher in Peoria and carries that educational gifting into her faith journey as she has led women's Bible studies and loves to be a hospitable leader. She enjoys crafting, serves on many local leadership boards and is looking forward to joining the bell choir and helping FCC continue growing in our ministries of inclusion.

Tom Axline works as a plumber with the Local #25 Plumbers and Pipefitters union. Tom loves fishing, hunting and hasn't met a stranger yet! He is a fan of 80's movies and is excited to serve either on mission trips, helping with the youth or by deaconing. He says, "I felt welcomed as soon as I walked through the door."

You probably already know Griffin Beam from his work at HyVee, where he brings his friendly and outgoing spirit to make everyone feel loved. Griffin is a fan of video games and anime and would love to put his gifts to use at the church as a greeter. What a joy!

Carissa Moser was baptized here at First Christian and is glad to be back! She is a registered nurse at Graham Hospital and is married to Andrew, with two girls, Lainey, who turns 12 this November, and Laiken, who is 9. She too is a lifelong Cantonite, and is excited to get involved by helping to lead worship and serving however is needed. Their whole family are Disney fans, love to eat Mexican food and often are traveling to support Laiken on the Tumbling Tornadoes. She says, "I'm sure my grandma is beaming up in heaven to see me back in these pews again!"

For all of these wonderful folks who will help bring their gifts and interests to the life of this church, we say welcome, and welcome home again!

**Steve Mason:** Pastor  
**Jessa Wenger:** Office Coordinator  
**Email:** [contact@cantonfcc.org](mailto:contact@cantonfcc.org)



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

Dear FCC friends: normally, I use this space to share some new ministry or update you on a worship series. There are plenty of wonderful ministries—new and beloved—throughout this newsletter. And you can check out my article in last month’s newsletter to learn more about our current *1 & 2 Samuel: The Power of Love* series. But I thought this month, I would simply pass along this wonderful reflection written by our friends at the SALT Project that is their “Brief Theology of Halloween.” Enjoy!—Pastor Steve

Halloween: the name itself comes from “All Hallows’ Eve,” of course, the night before All Saints’ Day, a carnival-like inversion celebrating the shadow side of life - ghosts and ghouls and the like - just before the great festival celebrating the saints. Its deep roots may well include folk traditions of honoring the dead, appeasing evil spirits, and marking the end of the summer harvest and the beginning (in the Northern hemisphere, at least!) of the darkest days of the year.

But whatever its origins, Halloween today is worth thinking about. It’s now arguably the second-most-popular holiday in North America (second only to Christmas!), and at its best, it’s above all a magical, playful night of community-building and neighborhood-making. From this point of view, we might even call it a sacramental glimpse, if only for one night, of how the world is supposed to be: homes decked out in mischievous fun, front doors thrown wide open to visitors of all ages, a spirit of wit and excitement in the air, and simple, sweet gifts distributed to children (all children, not just “our” children!) dressed up as heroes and villains alike.

It’s easy to grumble about “all that sugar,” “marauding teenagers,” “a waste of time,” and so forth. But think of it: when else do we intentionally spend this kind of time together as a community? When else do we do something as a neighborhood that’s this intergenerational? This open to all? This playful, witty, and plain old fun? When else do our front doors swing open to so many strangers? And when else are so many gifts given out - gifts often given by strangers, to strangers - just for the sake of delight?

And there’s an even deeper side to all of this, too: in many neighborhoods, lines of social division - segregated lines of race and class, for example - are often crossed on Halloween night. In such moments, Halloween can become an all-too-brief time of sharing experiences and resources, catching sight of a true “commonwealth” too often obscured from view on the other 364 nights of the year. And what’s more, there’s now some intriguing social science showing a strong correlation between a community’s health and the extent to which it celebrates Halloween.

At its best, then, Halloween amounts to a vivid portrait of what “neighborhood” actually looks like. That alone is worth celebrating. And after all, what better way to honor the dead, prepare to celebrate the saints, and enter together the darkest time of the year than to embody - with equal parts creativity and joy - the “loving our neighbors as ourselves” to which Jesus calls us every day?—[saltproject.org](http://saltproject.org)

**BOUNCE HOUSE**  
**CANDY AND TREATS**  
**FREE HOTDOG AND CHIPS**

**FREE ELM STREET BOO BASH**

**OCT 31**  
**CANTON FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
**5-7PM**  
**UNTIL SUPPLIES RUN OUT**

**WEEKLY WORD PODCAST**

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

## Election Prayer Invitation

As we near election day in the United States on November 5th, the worship committee wants to make sure we all have ways to stay prayerfully grounded in our faith. That's why on the Sunday before the election, November 3rd, we'll have an in-person evening prayer vigil for our nation.

And each Tuesday leading up to and including election day, you are encouraged to pray on you own at 6pm, knowing that others will be joining with you in spirit. And if you'd like to tune in, Pastor Steve will be leading the prayer on the church's Facebook page. Starting October 6th, we will be inserting the prayer into the bulletin and posting the prayer online so that you can join in!

## PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

JOIN US IN WORSHIP, SUNDAY OCT. 13 AS WE HONOR PASTOR STEVE DURING PASTOR APPRECIATION SERVICE. WE BELIEVE THAT GOD WILL BLESS A CHURCH THAT HONORS AND BLESSES THEIR PASTOR AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE WANT TO DO!

WE'D LOVE TO SHARE SOME STORIES THAT HAVE A TOUCH OF HUMOR, BUT ALSO SHOW THE LOVING HEART OF PASTOR STEVE. PLEASE CALL PAULA GRIGSBY 309-224-9939 IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE. IF YOU'D LIKE TO PERSONALLY ...ETC. THANKS!

## All Saints Day



- Sunday, October 27  
9am Worship
- Please, bring a picture in honor of any of your saints to add to the celebration

## Inspiring Generosity Grants

Learn more & start brainstorming about your plans:  
[cantonfcc.org/grants](http://cantonfcc.org/grants)  
 Due Date: 10/15/24



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!

Canton First Christian Church  
 215 W Elm St



# SENIOR CARE CO-OP

LAKELAND COMMUNITY CHURCH (NEXT TO WALMART)  
1ST & 3RD TUESDAYS EVERY MONTH  
1-3:30PM

Providing care and activities for seniors needing assistance, to allow caregivers free time.



ACTIVITIES INCLUDE: BINGO, BIBLE STUDIES, MEMORY GAMES, DAILY CALENDAR, ART & SCIENCE, EXERCISE, ETC

Objective: Provide a "co-op" experience where the responsibility for providing the respite time is shared with the "caregivers" on a rotating basis and the full-time leader. Caregivers will have opportunities to participate in the organization and share in the costs of the programs.

Lunch Provided

If you are interested in Senior Care CO-OP, please contact JorDaynah Holm at [jordaynah4494@gmail.com](mailto:jordaynah4494@gmail.com) or (815) 216-3995



- is America a Christian nation?
- can we be faithful Christians and patriotic?
- concerned about Christian Nationalism?
- want to know how we got here and where we go?

come join the discussion...

American Idolatry Book Study

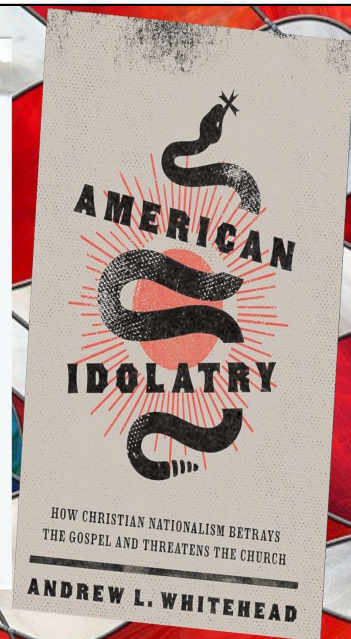
Wednesdays @ noon

starting Oct. 9

BYO lunch



First Christian Church



Let your voice be heard...

## FILL OUT YOUR SURVEY FOR RETIRED ADULT MINISTRIES TODAY!

available in the office

### \*NEW\* Youth Sermon Notes!

Due to a growing number of youth at church, we have sermon notes each week as a bulletin insert designed for middle and high school students.

Each note is designed to help make the scripture and sermon more applicable for youth. Just pick them up on Sundays, right beside the bulletins.

Youth are encouraged to not only fill them out, but to turn in their completed notes for a chance to win a monthly drawing for a prize! Enjoy!

**Sermon Notes** Fill this out and put it in the offering box today for a chance to win a prize.

What was today's text?

\_\_\_\_\_ Lord, for your servant is \_\_\_\_\_

Book: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_  
Verse: \_\_\_\_\_  
Old or New Testament? \_\_\_\_\_

Samuel says \_\_\_\_\_

Draw a conclusion: Doodle one lesson you learned today

A Bright idea!

Who is a mentor to you? Why them? \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

BECOMING DEDICATED

# Disciples

Passionate **SPIRITUALITY**

Joyful **SERVICE**

Inspiring **GENEROSITY**

## LIVING LEGACY-Phase 2

So far in this series you have learned how two ladies have blessed our church with their Living Legacy gifts. The first was through a life insurance policy that has provided support to many of our college students. The second through a 10% bequest of her estate to our church for outdoor beautification and capital improvements.

Now please meet Katherine Jaeger. She made the first gift in 1990 that started our current Living Legacy account. Katherine was an educator for over 30 years. She was also a community and civic leader involved in many organizations serving as president or chair of several of them. In 1984, the Canton Chamber of Commerce honored her volunteer work with the Community Service Award.



Katherine lived on the southwest corner of Fifth Avenue and Linn Street for almost 50 years. In her yard on that corner was a pole, that raised up a sign with a scripture text. She loved her Lord. She taught Sunday School class at First Christian for more than 40 years and was also a deacon. I was blessed to call on her as an elder through our shepherding program. It was always a great conversation especially if I could fill her in on church news.

Katherine had several designated gift amounts in her will to be given after her death. Our church received \$10,000 that prompted us to create our Living Legacy account. Her gift is still in the fund in perpetuity, generating interest, dividends and income. Katherine will be recognized as a Charter Living Legacy Partner. Interestingly, she also designated \$10,000 to the city of Canton for improvements to Jones Park and made several other designated gifts to televangelists, which she constantly watched during the last years of her life.

In this current series of three newsletter articles, we have chronicled the history of three church members who have set examples and made a difference through their generosity utilizing estate planning gifts. Hopefully you are considering the use of one of these three most used methods to make a Living Legacy gift. Those are 1.) making our church a beneficiary of all or part of your life insurance policy, 2.) making a percentage gift in your will or 3.) designating a gift amount in your will.

This Living Legacy Program is an opportunity that has not been uplifted for decades. It is meant to be for the benefit of generations to come. With an end-of-life gift you can create a Legacy of your own. As stated before, this phase of receiving commitments will be completed at the end of this year with recognition of the Charter Living Legacy Partners.

Blessings to you.

Don Heller, on behalf of the Finance and Stewardship Committee

## October Birthdays

|                  |         |
|------------------|---------|
| Sky Pollitt      | Oct. 1  |
| Dwayne Bernard   | Oct. 4  |
| Colette Krulac   | Oct. 4  |
| Darryl Schrodtt  | Oct. 10 |
| Bill Kemper      | Oct. 13 |
| Alan Coleman     | Oct. 14 |
| Oliver Crossland | Oct. 15 |
| Jean Edwards     | Oct. 15 |
| Susan Perez      | Oct. 22 |
| Carissa Moser    | Oct. 25 |
| Tyson Smith      | Oct. 26 |
| Greg Glomb       | Oct. 28 |
| Rhonda Morgan    | Oct. 29 |
| Janet Stone      | Oct. 29 |
| Kinnley Smith    | Oct. 30 |
|                  |         |
|                  |         |
|                  |         |

## October Anniversaries

|                         |         |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Craig & Amanda Reed     | Oct. 6  |
| Dave & Paula Grigsby    | Oct. 14 |
| Steve & Caitlin Mason   | Oct. 16 |
| Trent & Chantel Goforth | Oct. 31 |
| Marsha & Steve Moore    | Oct. 31 |
|                         |         |
|                         |         |
|                         |         |
|                         |         |
|                         |         |

## Please Pray For:

Alan Coleman (recovering from heart surgery); Friends & Family of Judy White during her passing; Brenda Dilts (Lyn Snowman's mom); Ryan Hicks (nephew of Susan Perez); Friends and Family of Carl Murphy during his passing (Wes Murphy's father); 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; Margaret Landgrebe (blood clots in her legs); 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), Jessica Mayall (Sandy Foutch's niece); 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

| <b>10-6-24 The Dark Horse Candidate</b> |  | <b>10-13-24 An Authentic Fit</b>           |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <b>Scripture</b>                        | 1 Sam. 16.1-13                           | <b>Scripture</b>                           | 1 Sam. 17.32-49                        |
| <b>Greeters</b>                         | Doris Svob                               | <b>Greeters</b>                            | Diane Schrodt                          |
| <b>Ushers</b>                           | Don & Connie Heller                      | <b>Ushers</b>                              | Jan & Chuck Taylor                     |
| <b>CtW</b>                              | Lori Coleman                             | <b>CtW</b>                                 | Video                                  |
| <b>Scripture Reader</b>                 | Hailey Bryant                            | <b>Scripture Reader</b>                    | Maddie Bryant                          |
| <b>Children's Moment</b>                | Michelle Spiva                           | <b>Children's Moment</b>                   | Grant Stephenson                       |
| <b>Invitation</b>                       | Caitlin Mason                            | <b>Invitation</b>                          | Tammy Weaver                           |
| <b>Prayer</b>                           | Kevin Dearing                            | <b>Prayer</b>                              | Steve Mason                            |
| <b>Children's Church</b>                | Rhonda M & Addy D                        | <b>Children's Church</b>                   | Daryle & Alan Coleman                  |
| <b>Deacons (prepare)</b>                | <b>Grant &amp; Amanda</b> /Dave & Sheila | <b>Deacons (prepare)</b>                   | <b>Shawn &amp; Lyn</b> /Shane & Chris  |
| <b>Counters</b>                         | Jen Miller/Doreen Atchley                | <b>Counters</b>                            | Tammy Weaver/Don Heller                |
| <b>Coffee Fellowship</b>                | Jan & Chuck Taylor                       | <b>Coffee Fellowship</b>                   | Don & Maida                            |
| <b>10-20-24 A Holy Mandate</b>          |  | <b>10-27-24 Absentee but Not Forgotten</b> |  |
| <b>Scripture</b>                        | 1 Sam. 24.8-12, 16-20                    | <b>Scripture</b>                           | 2 Sam. 1: 2-12, 17 & 27                |
| <b>Greeters</b>                         | TBD                                      | <b>Greeters</b>                            | Darryl & Kim Schrodt                   |
| <b>Ushers</b>                           | Judy Leitze                              | <b>Ushers</b>                              | Pheobe Raker                           |
| <b>CtW</b>                              | Amy Allard                               | <b>CtW</b>                                 | Video                                  |
| <b>Scripture Reader</b>                 | Vinnie Cufaude                           | <b>Scripture Reader</b>                    | Don Heller                             |
| <b>Children's Moment</b>                | Caitlin Mason                            | <b>Children's Moment</b>                   | Steve Mason                            |
| <b>Invitation</b>                       | Bruce Edwards                            | <b>Invitation</b>                          | Daryle Coleman                         |
| <b>Prayer</b>                           | Brian Spiva                              | <b>Prayer</b>                              | Caitlin Mason                          |
| <b>Children's Church</b>                | Janet Krulac & Allen Smith               | <b>Children's Church</b>                   | Judy Leitze & Aja Lawson               |
| <b>Deacons (prepare)</b>                | <b>Allen &amp; Eugenia</b> /Denny & Dee  | <b>Deacons (prepare)</b>                   | <b>Jake &amp; Carisa</b> /Zack & Janet |
| <b>Counters</b>                         | Bruce Edwards/Kevin Coleman              | <b>Counters</b>                            | Daryle Coleman/Vinnie Cufaude          |
| <b>Coffee Fellowship</b>                | Don & Connie Heller                      | <b>Coffee Fellowship</b>                   | Kevin Dearing                          |

# October 2024

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday                              | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday    | Saturday  |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|-----------|-----------|
|   |   | <b>1</b>                             | <b>2</b><br>Bell Practice 6PM<br>Choir Practice 7PM      | <b>3</b><br>GEMS @ 10AM                                      | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>6</b><br>Worship 9:00AM<br>XYZ Bible Study 10AM<br>Bible Study 10:30AM                 | <b>7</b><br>Elder's Meeting 6:30PM                                  | <b>8</b><br>Finance Meeting 5:30PM   | <b>9</b><br>Bell Practice 6PM<br>Choir Practice 7:00 PM  | <b>10</b><br>GEMS @ 10AM                                     | <b>11</b> | <b>12</b> |
| <b>13</b><br>Worship 9:00AM<br>XYZ Bible Study 10AM<br>Bible Study 10:30AM                | <b>14</b><br>Worship Meeting 11:00AM                                | <b>15</b><br>Outreach Meeting 5:00PM | <b>16</b><br>Bell Practice 6PM<br>Choir Practice 7:00 PM | <b>17</b><br>GEMS @ 10AM                                     | <b>18</b> | <b>19</b> |
| <b>20</b><br>Worship 9:00AM<br>XYZ Bible Study 10AM<br>Bible Study 10:30AM                | <b>21</b><br>Christian Ed. Meeting 6:00PM<br>Cabinet Meeting 7:00PM | <b>22</b>                            | <b>23</b><br>Bell Practice 6PM<br>Choir Practice 7:00 PM | <b>24</b><br>GEMS @ 10AM                                     | <b>25</b> | <b>26</b> |
| <b>27 All Saints Day</b><br>Worship 9:00AM<br>XYZ Bible Study 10AM<br>Bible Study 10:30AM | <b>28</b><br>Property Meeting 4PM                                   | <b>29</b>                            | <b>30</b><br>Bell Practice 6PM<br>Choir Practice 7:00 PM | <b>31 Halloween</b><br>GEMS @ 10AM<br>Elm St. Boo Bash 5-7PM |           |           |