



December 10, 2017

Vision:

Transform the Heart . . . Transform the Home . . . Transform the World

5455 Market Avenue North, Canton, Ohio 44714
330.966.2800 • info@firstfriends.org

FirstFriends.org

Service Times
9:00 am & 10:30 am

Welcome to Worship at **First Friends!**



**Lead Pastor,
Stan Hinshaw**

Prayer at the Altar

Here at First Friends, God works through prayer. We offer different opportunities for prayer at our altar each Sunday. During our musical worship, if you would like to come and pray at the altar in private, we invite you to come to the left side by our cross. If you would like one of our Prayer Team to pray with you, please come to the opposite side (right) of the altar. We will also continue to offer prayer at the end of each service.

Is the Gospel still good news...or is it fake news?

Old News? Fake News? Impossible News? In a social media culture overpopulated with the sharing of personal thoughts and opinions, status updates and “retweeted” headlines, it can be difficult to maneuver through the muck and answer the question; what really is “Good News?”

At Christmas time, we hear this phrase “Good News” refer to the exciting announcement and anticipation of Christ’s birth. But is that news still ‘Good’ and relevant for today? Over the next month, the pastoral team at First Friends will be maneuvering this question by delving into God’s Word to see what it has to say about the “Good News” and how it should shape our perspective this Christmas season. The hope is that you and your family will understand not only the important revelation of what God has saved us from and to, but also what He has saved us for, as we are sent into our various “mission fields” of life to proclaim His truth.

Join us as we ask, “Is the Gospel still Good News?”

Pastor Stan Hinshaw, Lead Pastor

Thank You for Considering Others in Worship

Please silence your cell phones during the worship service. Also, if your child becomes restless and loud, the service can be heard in the hall, the women's restroom nursing room, or you can take your child to one of our excellent church nurseries.

REACHING NEIGHBORS & NATIONS

Chad and Eva Frank – H2O: University church-planting ministry

- H2O Kent is arguably in the best place it’s ever been! This is astonishing because just this past summer, three of their talented staff members left to be involved in other church-planting efforts (Aidan and Chelsea Rinehart to Stockholm, Sweden, to assist with the refugee crisis, and Anthony Giambroni to Cleveland). However, in spite of this staffing setback, God has grown H2O Kent to the largest it’s been (averaging 225 on Sundays). What is more, they’ve seen multiple people give their lives to Christ and 11 people get baptized! It’s been an incredible school year thus far!

- Not to be outdone, H2O Akron (although much newer than H2O Kent) is also doing remarkably well. This fall they functionally doubled the size of their congregation from last spring (averaging around 65 on Sundays) AND on 11/26, they baptized 3 new students! What is perhaps even better, this summer the very first student to join the ministry in Akron, David Hench, decided to begin the support-raising process to join the staff team (hopefully) in the spring! Equally encouraging, just recently, one of the female student leaders, Madison Jones, decided to pursue full-time ministry with H2O upon graduating this May!

- Christmas break starts on Sunday, December 17. A lot of H2O students do not have spiritually (and in some cases emotionally) healthy homes to go to during Christmas break. Please pray that the Lord would love and protect them.

PRAYER & CHURCH NEWS

Is this Your First Sunday at FFC? Celebrate Recovery

That’s awesome! We are so glad that you are here. Please stop by and visit us at the Guest Central table in the Main Lobby. We’d love to thank you for being with us this morning and answer any questions you might have. God bless! -The FFC Guest Connections Team

Thursdays, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Join us for this new biblically based and Jesus centered recovery ministry.

Have a Prayer Need?

Call or email Greg Roth at 330.454.4100 or groth@neo.rr.com. Our faithful prayer warriors will lift your request before the Lord.

Photo Opportunity

To bless our First Friends family we will have professional photographers here Sunday, December 17, for the entire morning for taking Christmas photos. Photo backdrops are located at the gym/worship center entrance and at the main entrance. Each family will be limited to one group photo at one backdrop of their choosing.

End Of Year Giving

To receive credit on your 2017 statement of giving, all contributions to First Friends Church must either be postmarked or at the church office by December 31. Since the church offices will be closed this year from December 23 through January 1, the last day an offering can be received in the church office is 5:00 pm on December 22. The final day a contribution can be received in the church offering collection is Sunday, December 31.

Our Love & Sympathy to

Mary Ellen and family in the passing of Francis (Fran) J. Shields and Nick and Dawn Campanelli in the passing of Nick’s mom, Janet Campanelli.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:00 am

All children may go directly to their Sunday School Classes.

Help children hide God's Word in their hearts by memorizing their verses this month:

Preschool – Kindergarten Verse

"The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves." Zephaniah 3:17a

Elementary Verse

The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing. Zephaniah 3:17

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

10:30 am

Children in the nursery through kindergarten may go directly to their classrooms.

Children in grades 1 through 5 will be dismissed from the service to go to Children's Church in E-110.

Preschool – Kindergarten Verse

"The Lord Your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves." Zephaniah 3:17a

Elementary Children's Church will have a lesson based on the passage of scripture from 1 John 1:1-4.



CHILDREN

Contact Tammy Forsythe at tforsythe@firstfriends.org

Childcare Position Available

We are currently seeking people interested in working in our childcare room on Tuesday mornings, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. This is a paid position. If you have questions or would like to set up an interview, contact Kris Lackey at 330.966.2800

Parents

If you have a child/children in one of our nurseries, please leave your phone number with us when you drop them off. We will then add you to our Mobile Text Alert System. If we would need you for any reason we could then send you a text message.

4&5 Year olds are so fun!

Wouldn't you love to teach them about Jesus? Beginning in January they will need someone to teach them at the 10:30 service. Don't miss out on this awesome opportunity. Give Tammy a call at 330.966.2800.

Do you love holding babies? Playing with little ones?

We can help you! If you'd like to help us with our little ones in the nurseries on Sunday mornings, Jessica Bosley, our Nursery Coordinator would love to hear from you. You may email her for more information at jbosley@firstfriends.org

Safety Doors

Our safety doors will close 10 minutes after each service has started, opening again at the end of each service. If you would need to go to your child's classroom before the service has ended please go to the Welcome Center for assistance.

LOOKING AHEAD

December

13 Children's Choir 6 pm

CLC 7 pm

Tonight is the last night of Choir and CLC until 2018. We will resume January 17.

24 See back for Christmas Eve Service details

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Website: www.greenhouse242.com

Contact Ben Croston at bcroston@firstfriends.org
Follow us on facebook at: facebook.com/greenhouse242/



Sunday Morning

Sundays, 9:00 - 10:15 am (E-101)

Join us for a time to grow in your faith, friendships, and giftedness through small groups, games, and encouraging lessons. We hope to see you there.

Wednesday Night

Wednesdays, 6:30 - 8:30 pm (E-101)

Join us for a time of fun, friendships, and fellowship with God. We invite you to bring a snack to donate for the snack cabinet.

Christmas Palooza & Family Pizza Night

December 20, 5:00 - 8:30 pm (E-101)

Pizza is provided for Middle School families. Bring a beverage, chips or a dessert to share then stay and watch a movie with us!

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL

The Landing

Thursdays 6:30 - 8:30 pm (E-101)

Based on the Beatitudes, The Landing is a safe, healing place where teenagers can live a freer, healthier, and more God-centered life. There will be videos, worship, and great conversations to help develop tools to face life's hurts, habits, and hang-ups. Contact Ben at bcroston@firstfriends.org for more information.

Up All Night

December 29-30, 8:00 pm - 8:00 am

Come and experience an all nighter with food, friends, fun, and fellowship. Cost is \$20. More details to come.

HIGH SCHOOL

Website: www.warehouse514.org

Contact Scott Calhoun at scalhoun@firstfriends.org



Sunday Mornings

Sundays, 9:00 - 10:15 am (E-111)

Come join us for a relevant message to help you grow in your faith along with a student and leader. Bible study time in a friendly, fun, and exciting atmosphere.

Wednesday Nights

Wednesdays, 7:00 - 8:30 pm (E-111)

Join us for a high energy night of worship, games, and a relevant teaching, followed by a small group study time.

Gear Up Meeting

Today, 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm (E-111)

Join us in being a part of the student leadership team. We will be decorating our room. Pack a lunch.

Ugly Christmas Sweater Party

Wednesday, December 13, 7:00 - 8:30 pm (E-111)

Wear your "ugly" Christmas sweater and compete for a prize. Food. Fun. Friends!

MARRIAGE & FAMILY

Before You Say "I Do"

Sundays, January 14 - February 4, 8:00 - 9:00 am (E-108)

This 4 week class is for couples who are engaged or seriously dating and a requirement for those being married by a First Friends pastor. Call the church for more info and to register.

Marriage Retreat Weekend - Save the Date!

February 23-25, 2018

Save the date for this wonderful three day weekend! Enjoy fellowship with other married couples, one-on-one time with your spouse, testimonies from real-life couples and biblical teachings about building a healthy marriage relationship through the seasons of life.

SENIOR MINISTRY

Lancaster, PA Trip

May 4-5, 2018

The Senior Adult Ministry invites you to join them on a trip to Lancaster, PA to see the "Jesus" production at the Sight & Sound Theater. Pick up a flyer at either Welcome Center for more information. Registration deadline is February 28, 2018.

Senior Luncheon

December 16, 11:30 am (L-42/43)

Join us to hear the Glen Oak Drifters! Sign up and pay at either Welcome Center by December 12.

STEWARDSHIP

Contact Dave Williams at dwilliams@firstfriends.org

Biblical Wisdom:

Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment. For we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content 1 Tim 6:6-8 ESV

Blessing Board: Visit our Facebook at Blessing Board at First Friends. Enjoy being a blessing for it is better to give than to receive.

FFC Financial Update

	General Ministries**	Missions/Faith Promise
2017 Approved Budget	\$2,400,000	\$105,000
2017 Revised Budget	\$2,250,000	\$105,000
Received to Date (1/1-12/3)	\$2,027,684**	\$74,379
Remaining Need (12/10-12/31)	\$222,316	\$30,621
Weekly Need (4 weeks)	\$55,579	\$7,655
Received Last Week	\$45,640	\$1,292
Weekly Average to Date	\$41,381**	\$1,518
Home Improvement Received in 2017	\$71,688	
Project 51 Offering	\$60,482	

** Does not include Project 51 Offering**



YOUNG ADULTS

Contact info@firstfriends.org or follow us on Facebook at First Friends Young Adults.

Altitude

Sundays, 8:30 am (E-106)

Join us as we go through the book *Foundations* by Robby & Kandi Gallaty. *Foundations* will guide us through the Bible as we Seek, to Highlight, Explain, Apply and Respond to Scripture. Join us for discussion every Sunday morning at 9:00 am!

Connect

Wednesdays, 8:30 pm (L-6)

Join us as we study the book of Luke.

ASCENT: The Worship Experience

Saturday, December 16, 7:00 pm

Join us for an upbeat worship gathering.



SPORTS

Call the Sports Office at 330.966.6868 or visit firstfriendssports.com
Registrations available in the church brochure racks and on our website firstfriendssports.com



The winter season is upon us, and our Sports Ministry is accepting registrations for our Winter Leagues and Classes. See below:

Adult

- Men's Open Basketball (18-39)
- Men's Bring Your Own Team Basketball (18+)
- Men's Legends Basketball (40+)
- Women's Basketball (18+)
- Adult Coed Volleyball (18+)



Youth

- Girls Volleyball Clinic (Gr 2-3)
- Girls Volleyball League (Gr 4-12) **Assessments begin week of Nov 27, check website for schedule**
- Basketball Clinic (Gr K-1)
- Boys Basketball League (Gr 7-8)
- Youth Arts Academy (Dance, Drama, Drawing, Praise and Standard Flag)
- Ages vary based on program





JOSH
LAVENDER
PRESENTS
Christmas
NIGHT OF WORSHIP

**TONIGHT
7 PM**

**Tickets can be
purchased for \$5 at
the table immediately
outside the gym.**



Christmas Opportunities 2017

Sock and Mitten Tree - Due TODAY, Sunday December 10--place your donated mittens, scarves, gloves and socks on the tree in the hallway by the library.

Christmas Cards for Shut-Ins - Send a Christmas Greeting to our shut-ins to warm their hearts and encourage them. Call Janet at the church or stop at the Welcome Center for a list.

Missionary Christmas - Let's show our appreciation and support for missionary families through a monetary gift. Please designate "Missionary Christmas" on your offering envelope.



Christmas Eve
SERVICES

-Worship Service -
9:00 am (ONLY)
Children Sunday School will meet. Youth will worship
with adults. No Connect Groups will be meeting.

-Candlelight Services-
5:00 pm & 6:30 pm



**-New Years Eve Services-
December 31
9:00 am & 10:30 am**

We will be having a "Family Sunday".
No classes, children's church, Sunday
School, or Connect Groups will be
held. Nursery will be available.