



December 17, 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 bad 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

### News from Josh and Abigail Jellel – SEND International (Taiwan)

We’ve been busy the past three months since starting our jobs alongside a three-day schedule of Chinese class. As a refresher, Josh’s job is to direct communication coming out of the Asia region (China, Japan, Philippines, Taiwan, and Thailand). Abigail’s primary role is to help fill open missionary spots in all our region. Abigail also has secondary responsibilities assisting our Regional Director and helping to manage our Taiwan guest house. She has also been helping to plan two retreats: one in January for the ladies from the Asia region, and a joint yearly conference for the China and Taiwan fields which will be held in Taiwan in April.

We kicked off this season of new responsibilities at our Asia Region Equipping Seminar (ARES) in October, where our team presented officially, for the first time, all the new roles of the Asia International Office (IO Asia). The move of regional office support from Michigan into SEND’s four geographic regions in order to better serve each region’s needs is a new initiative and we are the pilot. Our presentations were well received and the leaders of each field are grasping a vision for how we can offer a custom-tailored level of service that they haven’t previously experienced.

Your love and sacrifice is never out of our hearts and minds. And a special thank you to those who responded to our need for additional finances for language school! Your gifts have provided an additional four months of study.

## PRAYER & CHURCH NEWS

### Is this Your First Sunday at FFC? End Of Year Giving

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

### Have a Prayer Need?

Call or email Gerry Bradshaw at 330.499.5575. 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 Today, 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.

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.

### Rehab & Recovery

Janet Guiley, Beth Weingart, Dan Miller, and Gerald Schroeder

### Today’s Altar Flowers

were given by Sandy & Rod Guiley in memory of Sandy’s father, Marty Ekich.

## 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 1:5-10.



## CHILDREN

Contact Tammy Forsythe at [tforsythe@firstfriends.org](mailto:tforsythe@firstfriends.org)

### Sock & Mitten Tree

On behalf of the Salvation Army, thank you for the donations of socks, mittens, scarves and even a few coats. Many will be toasty warm this winter because of your generosity. You have blessed our community.

### Sunday, December 24th Christmas Eve Morning 9:00 Service Only

We will be having Sunday School for our children: Nurseries, Preschool and Elementary

### Sunday, December 31st New Years Eve 9:00 & 10:30 Services

Family Sunday. Come and worship together. There will be no children programming this morning. Nursery (infants & walkers) provided.

### 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 much 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.

### 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

### January

17 **Choirs & CLC resumes**

**Children's Choir 6 pm**

**CLC 7 pm**

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

Website: [www.greenhouse242.com](http://www.greenhouse242.com)

Contact Ben Croston at [bcroston@firstfriends.org](mailto:bcroston@firstfriends.org)  
Follow us on facebook at: [facebook.com/greenhouse242/](https://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

Wednesday, 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](mailto: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. Download flyers and registration online now!

## HIGH SCHOOL

Website: [www.warehouse514.org](http://www.warehouse514.org)

Contact Scott Calhoun at [scalhoun@firstfriends.org](mailto: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.

### Ugly Christmas Sweater Party

Wednesday, December 20, 7:00 - 8:30 pm (E-111)

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

### Holiday Youth Services

December 24 / 9:00 am Sunday Family Service

December 24 / 5:00 pm & 6:30 pm  
Candlelight Service

December 27 / NO Wednesday night youth service

# 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.

# WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Contact Theresa Maxin at [tmxin@firstfriends.org](mailto:tmxin@firstfriends.org)

For encouragement and all the latest information about Women's studies and events, follow All Things Women on Facebook.



## Women's Medical Clinic Mission Trip

April 14-21, Barahona, Dominican Republic

There will be an informational meeting this next Thursday evening, Dec. 21 from 7-8 PM in Room L-6. This outreach will be a women's clinic and therefore is open to women only. Nurses and medical professionals are needed for this outreach. Team size is limited and applications will be accepted only until Jan. 3, 2018. Informational packets and applications will be distributed at the meeting and are also available from Pastor Scott Calhoun, Missions Pastor, or Theresa Maxin, Director of Women's Ministry and Connect Groups. For questions, contact Lois Ferrel, Team Leader (330-280-2502) or Theresa Maxin at FFC (330-966-2800).

# 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. This trip is open to adults of any age. Registration deadline is February 28, 2018.

# MEN'S MINISTRY

## Men of Action Breakfast

Saturday, January 27, 8:00 - 10:00 am

Join us for breakfast, enjoy fellowship with other men and listen to an encouraging message that will build your faith.

# 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 (1/1-12/10)	\$2,075,424**	\$75,930
Remaining Need (12/17-12/31)	\$174,576	\$39,070
Weekly Need (3 weeks)	\$58,192	\$9,690
Received Last Week	\$47,739	\$1,551
Weekly Average to Date	\$41,508**	\$1,518
Home Improvement Income	\$74,220	
<b>Project 51 Offering</b>	<b>\$60,482</b>	

\*\* Does not include Project 51 Offering\*\*



# YOUNG ADULTS

Contact [info@firstfriends.org](mailto: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.

# SPORTS

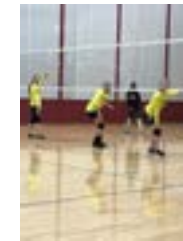
Call the Sports Office at 330.966.6868 or visit [firstfriendssports.com](http://firstfriendssports.com)  
Registrations available in the church brochure racks and on our website [firstfriendssports.com](http://firstfriendssports.com)



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



# Celebrate Recovery\*

A CHRIST-CENTERED  
RECOVERY PROGRAM

*All Welcome*

THURSDAYS 6:30-8:30 PM  
FIRST FRIENDS CHURCH



## *Christmas Opportunities 2017*

**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.