



December 24, 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

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.

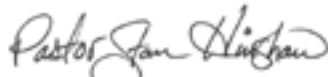
Is the Gospel still good news...or is it impossible news?

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?”

Today, we will be hearing from Scott Calhoun, Pastor of High School Youth and Missions.



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

Christmas Memory from SK

“I wanted to share with you **my favorite Christmas memory** in China! As a student in Beijing I would ride my bicycle daily through the streets on my way back and forth to classes at the University.

One day, along my route, I noticed some children with their parents sitting outside of a gate and I stopped to say, “Hello.” This place was actually a small private clinic for **children with cerebral palsy** and parents from all over the country would come here to receive treatment for their child(ren) with the hope they could be healed. I spent many hours there and brought other brothers and sisters [in Christ] to the clinic for visits. It was such a sweet time with these precious kids and their families.

...We brought all these wonderful friends their **first ever Christmas**. I borrowed youth Nativity play costumes from a church, and the children dressed up to play all the parts. We read the Christmas Story to all the families and workers. They **heard about Jesus for the first time!** We also had a very large cake and each child was made to feel special as they all were celebrated! Everyone had such a wonderful time and the Good News of Peace was shared in this **small hidden community in China** one winter day in the year 2000. These precious ‘hidden ones’ were not forgotten by the heavenly Father.”

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

Congregational Meeting

January 7, 6:30 pm, Room L-42/43
Mark your calendars for our annual Congregational Meeting. Members will be voting on new elders and the 2018 budget. All are welcome and encouraged to attend! Childcare will be available.

Newcomers Lunch

January 14, 11:45 am, Room L-42/43
Are you new to First Friends in the past six months? Join us for lunch! Meet our staff and elders, and learn more about the church. Families are welcome!

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

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 31 New Years Eve 9:00 & 10:30 am 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 am service. Don't miss out on this awesome opportunity. Give Tammy a call at 330.966.2800.

CLC - Wednesday Evening

January 17 - April 25 our 5th grade class will need a teacher and assistant. If you would be interested or have questions please give Tammy or Kris 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

LOOKING AHEAD

January

17 **Choirs & CLC resumes**

Children's Choir 6 pm

CLC 7 pm

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Website: www.greenhouse242.com

Contact Ben Croston at bcroston@firstfriends.org

Follow us on facebook at: facebook.com/greenhouse242/

No Sunday Morning Youth Service this morning, December 24. Please join your family in the main service. Sunday Morning youth group will resume December 31.

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.

No Wednesday Night Youth Group on Wednesday, December 27 & Wednesday, January 3. We will resume on January 10.



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. Download flyers and registration online now!

Service Times

Sunday, December 31, 9:00 - 10:15 am

The Middle School and High School will be having their regular morning services.

HIGH SCHOOL

Website: www.warehouse514.org

Contact Scott Calhoun at scalhoun@firstfriends.org

Sunday Mornings

December 24

NO youth service today. Please join us on December 31 from 9:00 - 10:15 am in room E-111.

Wednesday Nights

December 27

NO youth service. Please join us on January 3, 2018 from 7:00 - 8:15 pm in room E-111.

High School Mission Trips

We will be taking mission trips to the Dominican Republic and also Philippi, West Virginia this summer. Information is available in room E-111.

Holiday Youth Services

December 24 / 9:00 am Sunday Family Service

December 24 / 5:00 pm & 6:30 pm
Candlelight 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 tmaxin@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

Senior Luncheon

Saturday, January 13, 11:00 am (E-111)

Join us for a time of fellowship and music as we hear the stories and history behind the original music of Stan Hinshaw through the years. Sign ups will be available at both Welcome Center's on December 31.

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 & listen to an encouraging message that will build your faith.

FFC Financial Update

As of 12/17

	General Ministries**	Missions/Faith Promise
2017 Approved Budget	\$2,400,000	\$105,000
2017 Revised Budget	\$2,250,000	\$105,000
Received to Date (1/1-12/17)	\$2,129,576**	\$76,538
Remaining Need (12/24-12/31)	\$120,424	\$28,462
Weekly Need (3 weeks)	\$60,212	\$14,231
Received Last Week	\$54,153	\$608
Weekly Average to Date	\$41,756**	\$1,501
Home Improvement Income	\$74,824	
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.

CONNECT GROUPS

Contact Theresa Maxin at tmaxin@firstfriends.org

Winter 2018 Connect Group directories are available today! Stop by the table to pick up a copy and sign up for a group at the kiosk.

SPORTS

Call the Sports Office at 330.966.6868 or visit firstfriendssports.com

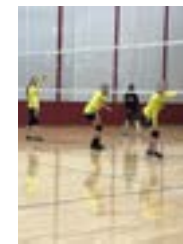
Registrations available in the church brochure racks and on our website firstfriendssports.com



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 were completed 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 6:30-8:30PM
FIRST FRIENDS CHURCH



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

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Mark your calendars for our annual Congregational Meeting. Members will be voting on new elders and the 2018 budget. All are welcome and encouraged to attend! Childcare will be available.



Newcomers Lunch

JANUARY 14

11:45 AM ROOM L-42/43

Are you new to First Friends in the past six months? Join us for lunch! Meet our staff and elders, and learn more about the church. Families are welcome!



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

We will have a "Family Sunday". No adult classes, children's church or Sunday School. Nursery will be available.

