

THE GOSPEL AS "SEED" FOR HARVEST



January 14, 2018

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.

Welcome! We are so glad you're here today!

Our messages in 2018 will focus on the "mission" of God to rescue and restore his creation, and all of humanity! The biblical writers, and Jesus himself, called this "good news" of the kingdom of God. Our English translations use the word "Gospel". God has a mission and He commissions His people, the "Church" to join Him in the mission (Matthew 28:19-20).

Jesus gave us His authority to live and share this Good News that Jesus is Lord. As our hearts are being transformed, our homes begin to be transformed, and then our world is transformed. This transformation works in the same way God created seed to be planted, die, watered and nurtured to live, and bear fruit. The Gospel is "seed" for life!

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

Mark and Sandy Acell – People International

Some highlights from 2017:

- 41 workers were sent out: 23 for long-term assignments, 4 for over 1 month up to a year, and 14 for short-term (up to one month) assignments.

- Their financial accounts are finally wrapped up with Mark's July hospital stay for the two stents he received after his second heart attack. Including their deductible, it only cost them about \$2300. They are very thankful for Christian Care Medi-Share.

- After much experimentation under a doctor's care, Mark's blood pressure and cholesterol have drastically come down!

Some prayer requests for 2018:

- Mark and Sandy are looking for a new, free (or very inexpensive) weeklong Spiritual Retreat venue in the mountains in CO. Their goal is to get away from all work, including phone calls, internet communications, emails, and TV and spend much time in silence seeking God in order to continue to serve Him with strength and wisdom in their work. They are now working from Mark's mom's home office through the end of February in Castle Rock, CO. Daughter, Kelsey, a traveling surgical nurse, has recently found a job in Denver! Mark & Sandy are enjoying spending time with her while in Colorado!

- For another teacher to step forward to join H in September 2018 for at least a one-school-year commitment. That the *** government will grant H another yearly work visa to go back for an additional year this coming September.

*** undisclosed for security

PRAYER & CHURCH NEWS

Is this Your First Sunday at FFC? Newcomers Lunch

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

Today, January 14, 11:45 am, Room L-1-2
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!

Have a Prayer Need?

Call Gerry Bradshaw at 330.499.5575. Our faithful prayer warriors will lift your request before the Lord.

Our Love & Sympathy to
to Howard Moore and family in the death of brother-in-law Harry Mosher.

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.

Hospitals & Rehab

Jenny Straw

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

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

Elementary Verse

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'" Luke 4:8

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

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

Elementary Children's Church will have a lesson based on the passage of scripture from 1 John 2:15-29



CHILDREN

Contact Tammy Forsythe at tforsythe@firstfriends.org

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.

Positions Filled

Thank you, thank you! Our needs for teachers for our Children's Church 4 & 5 year olds class and our CLC 5th grade class have been filled.

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 **CHILDREN'S CHOIRS 6 pm**
4 yr olds - 1st grade (Little Praisers)
Room E-122
- 2nd grade - 6th grade (Glory Gazers)
Room E-110
- CLC 7 pm**

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Website: www.greenhouse242.com

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

Sunday Mornings

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. We invite you to bring a snack to donate for the snack cabinet.

Wednesday Nights

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.

Snow Camp

February 9-11 (\$80)

Come join us for our winter retreat in Somerset, Pennsylvania. It is a great weekend to grow in your relationship with GOD and other middle schoolers. There will be a powerful speaker, time to hang out with friends, paint balling, snow-tubing, nine-square in the air, horse-back riding, group games, archery, a climbing wall, and more.

Experiencing God Bible Study

Sunday, January 21, 4:30 - 6:30 pm (E-101)

Chicken and water served. Bring a Snack to Share.

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGHSCHOOL

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.

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.

SENT - Warehouse 514 Service Project

Saturday, January 20, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

We will be going to Refuge of Hope and Total Living Center. Meet at the church at 8:45 am. Wear work clothes. Permission slip/Medical form required.

High School Mission Trips

We will be taking mission trips to the Dominican Republic (June 15 - 21) and also Philippi, West Virginia (July 8 - 13) this summer. Information is available in room E-111.

Parent/Student Missions Trip Meeting

Sunday, January 21, 11:45 am - 12:15 pm (E-111)

This informative meeting is for anyone interested in going to the Dominican Republic or West Virginia.



CONNECT GROUPS

Contact Theresa Maxin at tmaxin@firstfriends.org

Winter 2018 Connect Group Directories

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.

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. Brochures with more information available today! **The deadline to register is February 14.**

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

This outreach to a women's clinic is open to women only. Nurses and medical professionals are needed for this outreach. Informational packets and applications are available from Scott Calhoun-Missions Pastor or from Theresa Maxin-Director of Women's Ministry and Connect Groups. For questions, contact Lois Ferrel-Team Leader (330-280-2502) or Theresa Maxin (330-966-2800).

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 2018

	Weekly Need*	Received Last Week	Weekly Average
General Ministries	\$43,431	\$44,114	\$44,114
Missions/ Faith Promise	\$1,667	\$1,420	\$1,420
Total	\$45,098	\$45,534	\$45,534
Home Improvement Received in 2018			\$2,118
*To fully fund budget - \$ 2,300,000			51

2018 Budget is based on 51 Sundays.

One Sunday General offering will be given to mission projects.

STEWARDSHIP

Biblical Wisdom:

"Wonderful!" his master replied. "You are a good and faithful servant. I left you in charge of only a little, but now I will put you in charge of much more. Come and share in my happiness." Matthew 25:23 CEV

Question: What does Stewardship really mean?

Stewardship is not another word for "giving." Stewardship is the act of managing wisely the resources entrusted to us by another. Visit the First Friends Blessing Board on Facebook if you have some items you would like to bless someone else with..

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

Hey FFC Family! We would appreciate your prayers this season as we start our Winter 2018 sports season. Here's some of the needs that we have...

1. Pray for our participants (we have about 1000 this winter!) that God would speak to them and open their hearts to hear what our devotional coordinators have prepared each week.

2. Pray for our devotional coordinators that will be teaching from God's Word each week: Beth Kerlin, Courtney Thoenen, Hannah Thoenen, Jeff Dieringer and Scott Strebel

3. Pray for all the families involved... that God would bring about divine appointments and opportunities as they do their P3 Home devotional booklets.

YOUNG ADULTS

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

Altitude

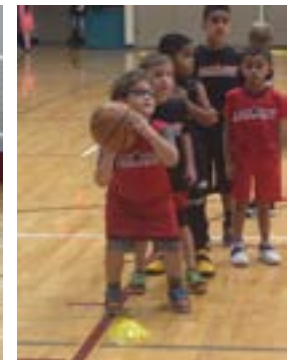
Sundays, 8:30 am (E-106)

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.



"HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM" (H.O.T.)

One of our First Friends members, Steve Robinson, is living out the Gospel by providing temporary shelter for homeless in Canton. Pick up a "H.O.T." change bank, fill it full of money, and **bring it back Super Bowl Sunday, February 4**, to join us in supporting Steve's ministry.



TO Love
AND TO
Cherish

**First Friends Church
Marriage Retreat 2018
February 23 - 25**

Pick up a brochure at either
Welcome Center or in the
gym hallway.

**The early bird registration
deadline is February 4.
Final registration ends
February 14.**

Newcomers Lunch

TODAY, JANUARY 14
11:45 AM ROOM L-1-2

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!

