

THE GOSPEL AS "SEED" FOR HARVEST



January 21, 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

Happy New Year from SALT (Systematic Asian Leadership Training)

The year 2018 will bring many changes at SALT with staff relocations and new government regulations; but they are trusting that God will continue to lead and guide their mission to assist the church in Asia by equipping leaders to train others.

More than 50 students recently attended a training of the newly revised course, Resolving Spiritual Conflicts. Praise God for positive feedback, which brings encouragement in this new year! What follows is one sample of the feedback:

This course has been very beneficial. I see my limitations and inadequacies more clearly. My service in church is almost non-stop with long working hours every day. As a result, I am exhausted and do not have time to pray. I am not serving God; I am only working like ordinary people. The lessons in this course have inspired me to pursue my relationship with God. I must learn to reduce some of my duties in order to have more time for intimacy with Him. Pray that I will read the Bible more, be more alert to spiritual things, and understand God more fully.

Cary and Reny Clifton (who receive financial and prayer support from Canton First Friends) are excited to share a strategic change in Cary's role with SALT effective January 2018 – as Senior Researcher. Stay tuned for more details in a future bulletin column about what Cary will be doing.

PRAYER & CHURCH NEWS

Is this Your First Sunday at FFC?

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.

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.

Child Dedication

Our next child dedication service is February 18. A one time class is required. Call Nancy Petroff at the church to register.

Our Love & Sympathy to

to Geoffrey and Amanda Mears and family in the death of Geoffrey's father, Dr. G.L. Mears.

Hospitals & Rehab

Barry Betz and Shirley Brown

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 3:1-10



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

24 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

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

Chicken and water served. Bring a Snack to Share.

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.

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. 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.

Save the Dates:

Winter Retreat: March 2-4
Love Your City: March 25-27

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

Today, 11:45 am - 12:15 pm (E-111)

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

CONNECT GROUPS

Contact Theresa Maxin at tmaxin@firstfriends.org

It's not too late to join a group!

Registration is not required; all are welcome at any time. Pick up a directory at the church or go to firstfriends.org/connect-groups for times and descriptions.

MARRIAGE & FAMILY

Marriage Retreat Weekend

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.

We have many new studies just for women!

Pick up a Connect Group Directory or go to firstfriends.org/connect-groups for times and descriptions. Registration not required. All are welcome.

Save the dates:

Mark your calendar for these upcoming women's events!

Saturday, March 17, 3rd Annual Swap, Not Shop

Saturday, April 28, Priscilla Shirer Simulcast

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.

SENIOR MINISTRY

Senior Luncheon

RESCHEDULED for Saturday, January 27, 11:30 am

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. Please sign up and pay by January 23.



FFC Financial Update 2018

| | Weekly Need* | Received Last Week | Weekly Average |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| General Ministries | \$43,431 | \$39,512 | \$41,813 |
| Missions/ Faith Promise | \$1,667 | \$960 | \$1,190 |
| Total | \$45,098 | \$40,472 | \$43,003 |
| Home Improvement Received in 2018 | | | \$2,737 |

51

2018 Budget is based on 51 Sundays.
One Sunday General offering will be given to mission projects.

2017 Year End Summary

| | General Ministries & Missions |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2017 Budget | \$2,400,000 |
| 2017 Revenues | \$2,282,949 |
| 2017 Expenses | \$2,211,473 |
| 2017 Surplus | \$71,476 |
| Project 51 Offering | \$60,482 |

Thank you for your faithful giving.
2017 Financial Reports are available at the Welcome Center

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.

Connect

Wednesdays, 8:30 pm (L-6)

Join us as we study the book of Luke.

STEWARDSHIP

Biblical Wisdom:

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden to work it and take care of it. Gen 2:15

Question: Is work part of the fall of man or a curse from God?

No, when God created man he put him in the garden and had him take care of it. See above verse Gen 2:15

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 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, Tammy Forsythe 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.

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.



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.**



Belong Membership Class

**Saturday, February 3
9:00 am - 12:00 pm**

Join Pastor Stan for a deeper understanding of the past, present and future of our church. Belong is recommended for all First Friends attenders, and is the next step in becoming a member. Membership is how you help us make big decisions for our future!