



THE GOSPEL AS  
"SEED" FOR HARVEST



February 11, 2018

**Vision:**

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

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**FirstFriends.org**

Service Times  
9:00 am & 10:30 am

# Welcome to Worship at **First Friends!**



**Lead Pastor,  
Stan Hinshaw**

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

**Lent 2018 - "Pulling Weeds and Planting Seeds"**

This year we are asking God to deepen our experience of the Gospel "Good News" so we can participate in His mission and share it with those around us. The imagery we are using is found in Luke 8. We must prepare the fields of our souls with cultivation, weed pulling, and seed planting for an abundant harvest.

**During Lent we are asking everyone to participate in 40 days of prayer with some kind of "fasting" for spiritual renewal in our church, and Gospel harvest in our world.** Lent is a season of self-examination, repentance, fasting, and prayer leading up to resurrection Sunday, on April 1st. Lent begins Wednesday, February 14 and ends Saturday, March 31.

Instructions our Lent Prayer and Fasting can be found on our website (click on the scroller), on our FFC mobile App, and at our Welcome Center

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.

## **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.

## **REACHING NEIGHBORS & NATIONS**

### **David Thomas – Evangelical Friends Mission (EFM)**

This has been a great beginning year for David in his new role with EFM. He has a clear sense of God's purposes for him and has built relationships with some wonderful people. He has also learned a lot. He has made three trips to Thailand, one to Rwanda, one to Cambodia, and two trips to Barclay College in Haviland, Kansas. In Thailand he had the privilege of getting to know Ben and Charity Kibbe, their girls, Ben's parents, David and Marilyn, and their great Lahu team. The Kibbe's partner with Damascus Friends Church in Ohio. Last September four Navigator Discipling for Development mentors held a D for D Foundations training, which Ben's team attended. Afterwards both David's Navigator D for D mentors and Ben's team agreed to work together for the next five years for the purpose of establishing a whole-life disciple-making movement among the Lahu! David has been assigned the role of "project leader" for the Navigator D for D team, which will be a great learning opportunity. This will mean three trips a year for the next five years, as well as ongoing contact between trips. David was with them in early November 2017 for a short coaching visit. Ben's team will focus on mentoring three villages for the purpose of fostering whole-life transformation in every area of these communities' lives.

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

### **Water Baptism**

Our next Water Baptism will be held on Easter Sunday, April 1. A one time class will be held on Sunday, March 4 at 10:30 am in room E-106. Call Nancy Petroff at the church to register.

### **Hospitals & Rehab**

Garry Saurers, Meredith Rainsberger, Paul Johnson, Karen Warner, Christopher Weisse, Barry Betz

### **Today's Altar Flowers**

were given by Betty Bradshaw in celebration of her husband, Gerry's, 90th birthday.

### **First Friends Job Opportunities**

#### **Graphic & Print Designer**

This part-time position would prepare graphics and publications for web, social media and print. This position must have a good understanding of Adobe InDesign, and a proficiency in Adobe Photoshop and/or Adobe Illustrator. Qualified and interested parties can get an application at the main Welcome Center.

#### **Facilities Coordinator**

This position is 10-20 hours per week and mainly working on weekends and filling in for various shifts. Interested persons can get an application at the Welcome Center.

### **Our Love & Sympathy**

to the families of Lyndon & Barb Thomas in the death of Lyndon's mother, Janice Thomas, and to Dan & Jill Busken in the death of Jill's mother, Charline Fockler.

# 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

"For the Lord is good and his love endures forever." Psalm 100:5a

### Elementary Verse

"Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails." Proverbs 19:21

# 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

"For the Lord is good and his love endures forever." Psalm 100:5a

Elementary Children's Church will have a lesson based on the passage of scripture from 1 John 4:1-6



# CHILDREN

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

### Kids Open Gym February 19

Join us for a day of fun for all ages. We ask parents to stay and enjoy time with their children. It's a great opportunity to meet new people. Meet in the gym with the fun beginning at 10:30 am and ending at Noon.

### Children's Choirs

Do your children like to sing? Our Children's Choirs would be the perfect place for them. Join us on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm. Little Praisers: 4 yr old - 1st grade meet with Miss Glenda in room E-122. Glory Gazers: 2nd grade - 6th grade meet with Miss Tammy in room E-110. Questions? Call Tammy 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.

### 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

### February

- 14 **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**
- 19 **OPEN GYM 10:30 am - 12:00 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 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

Please pray for us while we head home from snow camp today.

### Missions Movie Night

**February 18, 4:30 - 7:30 pm (E-101)**  
We will be showing *End of the Spear*. Permission Slip required. The movie is PG-13. Please bring a snack to share

### Summer Mission Trip

**Mission Trip to Long Island June 10 – June 16**  
**A \$50 deposit and application are requested by February 18.** Any questions about the mission trip can be addressed to [bcroston@firstfriends.org](mailto:bcroston@firstfriends.org). Applications can be found outside and inside the Middle School Room.

## 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.

# 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 and a 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
- Girls Night Out: February 24

### High School Mission Trips

We will be taking mission trips to the Dominican Republic (June 15 – 22) and also Philippi, West Virginia (July 8 – 13) this summer. Information is available in room E-111 and on our website, [www.warehouse514.org](http://www.warehouse514.org).

### Movie Night

**Sunday, February 18, 4:30-7:30 pm (E-101)**  
Come as we join the Middle School in watching "End Of The Spear". This is a powerful story of 5 Christian missionaries in the Amazon Jungle in 1956. Bring a snack to share and a permission slip/medical form.

## CONNECT GROUPS

Contact Theresa Maxin at [tmaxin@firstfriends.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:tmaxin@firstfriends.org)

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



### 3rd Annual Swap, Not Shop: Muffins & Mugs

Saturday, March 17, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Bring 3-5 accessory items to swap PLUS bring your favorite coffee mug and enjoy coffee and brunch for this FREE event. We will be accepting donations of personal care items for Rahab Ministries. Registration forms available at the church and at [firstfriends.org/ministries/women](http://firstfriends.org/ministries/women).

### Priscilla Shirer Simulcast hosted by First Friends

Saturday, April 28, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

This event, hosted by First Friends, is open to the entire community. \$20 per person includes coffee/donuts and box lunch. Registration forms available at the church and at [firstfriends.org/ministries/women](http://firstfriends.org/ministries/women) - OR - register online at [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com).

## 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.

## FFC Financial Update 2018

|                                      | Weekly Need*    | Received Last Week | Weekly Average  |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| General Ministries                   | \$43,431        | \$48,835           | \$41,470        |
| Missions/<br>Faith Promise           | \$1,667         | \$1,897            | \$1,398         |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>\$45,098</b> | <b>\$50,732</b>    | <b>\$42,868</b> |
| Home Improvement Received in 2018    |                 |                    | \$7,263         |
| *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.

## YOUNG ADULTS

Contact [info@firstfriends.org](mailto:info@firstfriends.org) or follow us on Facebook at First Friends Young Adults.

### Altitude

Sundays, 9:00 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.

### ASCENT: The Worship Experience

Saturday, February 24, 7 pm

Come Worship & Pray with us!



## STEWARDSHIP

### Biblical Wisdom:

*Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. — Luke 16:10-11*

**Question:** If I give, can I trust that God will bless my obedience?

Every transaction we make is seen by God and is an opportunity to demonstrate our trustworthiness as stewards.

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](http://firstfriendssports.com)

Registrations available in the church brochure racks and on our website [firstfriendssports.com](http://firstfriendssports.com)



**Hey FFC Family! We would appreciate your prayers for 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 who will be teaching from God's Word each week: Beth Kerlin, Courtney Thoenen, Hannah Thoenen, Jeff Dieringer, Tammy Forsythe and Scott Streb

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



*All Things Women Presents  
3rd Annual*

# Swap Not Shop

**Saturday, March 17  
10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Rooms L-41, 42, 43**



# Water BAPTISM

**Easter Sunday, April 1**

A one-time, required class, will be held Sunday, March 4 at 10:30 am.

Call Nancy Petroff  
at the church  
to register.

**First Friends Church**

# *Marriage Retreat 2018*

**February 23 - 25**

*TO Love  
AND TO  
Cherish*

Pick up a brochure at  
either Welcome Center  
or in the gym hallway.  
**Final registration ends  
February 14.**