



THE GOSPEL AS  
"SEED" FOR HARVEST



February 25, 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**

## 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!**

**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 began Wednesday, February 14 and ends Saturday, March 31.

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

Join us this week as we hear from Pastor Scott Calhoun.

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

**A message from Jill Taylor, CEO of Pregnancy Choices (PC):**

"When hearts unite, great things happen! [In the month of February] we love to share the times we see changed hearts. When an abortion-minded client walks through our doors, we know we are having one of our very best moments, because we are putting on the armor and battling for life. And when we can show that little child to [her] while tucked safely in the womb...and when that little baby turns or waves or simply has a steady heartbeat...well, we know we are also surrounded by angels protecting that precious gift from God.

Pray with us that every day we will have someone who is bringing a beating heart to us...at EVERY location. Because we want to save the lives of those vulnerable unborn babies as well as "SAVE" the lives of women who don't have hope and most likely don't know what Christ has done to protect them from death!

That's right—February is the best time to tout God's love for beating hearts. So, how's your heart beating right now? I hope you've been revved up a little as you realize how effective your prayers and gifts are when it comes to those precious baby heartbeats. And the "beat" goes on!"

## PRAYER & CHURCH NEWS

### Have a Prayer Need?

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

### Ushers Needed

We need more ushers for both services. If you are able to serve once or twice a month, contact Paul Johnson, Kate Harris, or write "Usher" on your communication card.

### 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

Kathy Waltz, Dean Pugh, Dennis Painter, Barry Betz, Christopher Weisse.

### First Friends Job Opportunity

#### 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 main Welcome Center.

## 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)

### Easter Egg Candy Donations

Would you like to donate candy for our Easter Egg Hunt? We need small, individually wrapped candy that will fit inside our plastic eggs. Place donations in the red tub near the main Welcome Center by March 18. Thank you!

### 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

28 **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](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.

### Summer Mission Trip

Mission Trip to Long Island June 10 – June 16

**A \$50 deposit and application are due ASAP.** If you are still interested in going and aren't prepared to apply today, or have any questions about the trip, please email [bcroston@firstfriends.org](mailto:bcroston@firstfriends.org)

### Girls Study for 7th and 8th Graders

TODAY, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

At Leader Allison Harris' house. Transportation provided (meet in room E-101).

## 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.

### Adult Leadership Meeting

TODAY, Noon - 1:00 pm (E-111)

No lunch provided.

### High School Mission Trips

Our space is filling up fast for the Dominican Republic (June 15-22) and Philippi, West Virginia (July 8-13). Turn in your application and deposit now. Information at [www.warehouse514.org](http://www.warehouse514.org).

### Winter Retreat: Camp Gideon

March 2-4, 2018

Cost is only \$40. Permission slip/medical form and payment are due ASAP. Information at [www.warehouse514.org](http://www.warehouse514.org).

### Save the Date:

Love Your City: March 25-27

## 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

Please be praying for everyone who has attended the retreat this weekend that they would feel the presence of the Holy Spirit and learn what it looks like "to love and to cherish" one another.

### New Wednesday Night Study

Wednesdays, Starting March 7, 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm (E-102)

All ages are invited to join us for this six week marriage study led by Shawn and Mary Yost. We will be studying Gary Thomas' book *Cherish*. Hope to see you there!

## 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. Open to adults of any age. This trip is now full, but there is a waiting list.



## FFC Financial Update 2018

	Weekly Need*	Received Last Week	Weekly Average
General Ministries	\$43,431	\$52,531	\$41,115
Missions/ Faith Promise	\$1,667	\$1,694	\$1,426
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$45,098</b>	<b>\$54,225</b>	<b>\$42,541</b>
Home Improvement Received in 2018			\$9,488
*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, March 10, 7 pm

Come Worship & Pray with us!



## STEWARDSHIP

### Biblical Wisdom:

*If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? – John 3:17 NIV*

## 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 Strebler

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.



# the sojourner quartet

**Sunday March 25, 6:00 pm**  
**Free Potluck Dinner**  
**Open to All!**

Sponsored by the Senior Adult Ministry  
Sign up at either Welcome Center