

THE GOSPEL AS "SEED" FOR HARVEST



February 4, 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**

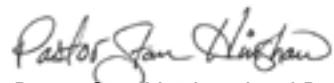
Prayer at the Altar

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

Ryan and Kelly Sauers – "newly arrived" in Honduras

With the mountain of luggage, stroller, baby seat, and other bags necessary to move their lives to Central America, it was not the most fun they have had in an airport. Travel itself is stressful because much can go wrong. One never knows if bags will be lost, flights delayed, or connecting flights missed. Furthermore, with all the protest in Honduras during the last month, the Sauers were unsure if they could make it from the airport in Tegus to their new home in Comayagua (which is about an hour away). Yet praise be to our awesome God who made things so smooth the whole trip!

Once Kelly and Ryan had a moment to sit and breathe as Ezra was sleeping, they began to pray. Then they cried, prayed some more, and cried more. The emotions of the past 18 months took over. The overwhelming realization of what God did to get them to Honduras overtook them – wondering if they were ever going to make it there; all the traveling sharing their hearts with churches; all the coffee, lunch, and dinner meetings; all the worrying of how their families would handle them taking their grandchild to Honduras; and all the frustrations, concerns, and fears – all were released into one big crying session, and prayer, "God, thank you for your goodness; thank you for keeping true to what you called us to do."

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.

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

Paul Johnson, Ron Crock, Rylan Peterson, Barry Betz, Christopher Weisse

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.

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 3:19-24



CHILDREN

Contact Tammy Forsythe at tforsythe@firstfriends.org

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

- 7 **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)
Please pray for us while we head to snow camp next weekend.

Meetings for Summer Mission Trip

Today at 12 pm or February 7 at 5:40 pm (E-101)
Come for a informational meeting about the middle schoolers heading to Long Island, NY this summer June 10 - June 16. A \$50 Deposit and application for this trip is requested on February 18. If you have any questions please come to one of the information meetings or feel free to contact Ben Croston at bcroston@firstfriends.org

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 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

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 and on our website, 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

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.



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 at this FREE event. We will also be accepting donations of personal care items for Rahab Ministries. See registration form for a list of needed items.

Priscilla Shirer Simulcast hosted by First Friends

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

Will include a box lunch. Watch for more information.

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.

Senior Adult Luncheon

February 10, 11:30 am (L-42 & 43)

The cost is \$8. Join us to hear the compelling story of Afghan refugee Mujeeb Wafa. His conversion to Christianity and the persecution he faced will challenge you. This event is sponsored by the Senior Adult Ministry, but is open to anyone who would like to hear his story. Sign up and pay at either Welcome Center by February 6.

FFC Financial Update 2018

	Weekly Need*	Received Last Week	Weekly Average
General Ministries	\$43,431	\$30,624	\$39,628
Missions/ Faith Promise	\$1,667	\$1,413	\$1,274
Total	\$45,098	\$32,037	\$40,902
Home Improvement Received in 2018			\$5,134
*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 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 10 & 24, 7 pm

Come Worship & Pray with us!



STEWARDSHIP

Biblical Wisdom:

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. – Matthew 6:33 NIV:

Question: If I tithed can I trust God to meet all of my needs?

Our God is sitting in Heaven waiting for us to come to Him and to trust Him with all of our needs. 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 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.





Celebrate Recovery*

A CHRIST-CENTERED
RECOVERY PROGRAM
All Welcome

THURSDAYS 6:30-8:30PM
FIRST FRIENDS CHURCH



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.**



SENIOR ADULT LUNCHEON

February 10, 11:30 am, Rooms L-42/43

Cost: \$8

Join us to hear the compelling story of Afghan refugee Mujeeb Wafa. His conversion to Christianity and the persecution he faced will challenge you. This event is sponsored by the Senior Adult Ministry, but is open to anyone who would like to hear his story.

Sign up and pay at either Welcome Center by February 6.