

THE GOSPEL AS "SEED" FOR HARVEST



March 18, 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**

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.

I hope you will join us as we prepare our hearts for personal Gospel renewal through the power of Jesus' death and resurrection. Please plan on participating in our Good Friday Freedom and Forgiveness Worship service, and our Easter worship services as well. Pray about who you can invite to join you!



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

Envelope Offering for Middle School & High School Missions

This year the Middle School will be going to Long Island, New York. The High School will be going to Philippi, West Virginia and also Barahona, Dominican Republic. There will be work projects, community involvement, and evangelism within the communities.

We would love for you to partner with our youth either financially, prayerfully, or both. We will have an opportunity for you to give financially on Sunday mornings, March 18 and March 25, via this year's Envelope Offering. We will also be offering "Student for A Day" work days on which you can hire students to do some yard work. The work days available are April 7, April 21, and May 5. Work day forms will be available at the Welcome Centers and the Envelope Offering stations.

PRAYER & CHURCH NEWS

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.

Today's Altar Flowers

were given by Ron & Sally Beitler in celebration of the birthday of their granddaughter, Elizabeth Hammers.

Hospitals & Rehab

Christopher Weisse

Our Love and Sympathy to

the families of Greg & Connie Roth in the death of Connie's mother, Ruth West and Daisy Beddell in the death of her sister, Dorothy Bake.

Newcomers Lunch

Sunday, April 15, 12:00 pm (L- 42, 43)

Are you new to First Friends in the past six months? Join us for lunch! Meet our staff and elders and learn more about our church. Families are welcome!

Adoption & Foster Family Lunch

Sunday, April 15, 12:00 pm (E-101)

Come and enjoy a time of fellowship with other families and get information on what the ministry team is offering for adoptive and foster families at First Friends. RSVP to Nancy Petroff at npetroff@firstfriends.org or call to let us know you are coming.

Women's Mission Trip Supplies

Help our team of women with supplies still needed for the Dominican mission trip departing April 14. Go to firstfriends.org/ministries/women to sign up to donate.

Photo Opportunity

To bless our First Friends family we will have a professional photographer here Easter Sunday (April 1) for the entire morning. Photo backdrop will be located at the gym/worship center entrance. Each family will be limited to one group photo.

Mission Trips to Barahona, Dominican Republic

Sunday, April 8, 12:00 pm (L-1) Join us for an informational meeting regarding our two trip dates. Please see the Mission Trips section inside for more info.

Cell Tower Construction

The construction of the tower to be placed at the south end of our parking lot will begin the week of Monday, March 19. For more information about the tower pick up a fact sheet at the Welcome Center desk.

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

"I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations." Psalm 89:1

Elementary Verse

"Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:23-24

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

"I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations." Psalm 89:1

Elementary Children's Church will have a lesson based on the passage of scripture from 1 John 4:13-21



CHILDREN

Contact Tammy Forsythe at tforsythe@firstfriends.org

Palm Sunday-March 25

Children will be waving palm branches at the 9:00 and 10:30 am services. Children will be coming down with their classes so please have children in class by 9:00 and 10:30 am. Elementary students begin their 10:30 am service in the main worship service so they may come out in the hall to join us.

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

March

21 **CHILDREN'S CHOIRS 6:00 pm**
Little Praisers E-122
Glory Gazers E-110
CLC 7:00 pm

28 **No Choir/ No CLC**

30 **Good Friday Service 7:00 pm**

31 **Easter Egg Hunt 1:00 pm**

April

1 **Easter-** Programing will be as usual.

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.

Family Pizza Night

Wednesday, March 21, 5:40 - 6:20 pm (E-101)

Bring a snack to share!

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGHSCHOOL

* Due to Spring Break youth will not be meeting on Wednesday, March 28.

* Easter Sunday we encourage you to spend time with your families in the main service.

Mission Trip Fundraisers

We will have our Envelope Offering in March and Student Work Days in April and May. Let your leaders know now what days you can serve. Donations for your services go towards your mission trip.

Love Your City

March 25-27 (FFC & Various Ministry Locations)

Join us as we partner with ministries in the Canton community in order to help transform our city for Christ. We will be staying at the church both nights. Look for information in your youth rooms or online. Registration and \$20 payment due March 21.

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.

High School Mission Trips

We still have space available for our Philippi, West Virginia trip (July 8 - 13) and would love to have you join us. Applications and information are in room E-111 and at www.warehouse514.org.

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.

CONNECT GROUPS

Contact Theresa Maxin at tmaxin@firstfriends.org

For Christ

Sunday mornings, 9:00 am, room L-43 is starting a new study in the Gospel of John. All are welcome.

Monday Night Couples

Join married couples of all ages and in any stage of life for *Cherish* study beginning March 26. In this 6-session, video study by Gary Thomas, learn simple practices that can reverse old habits of "going through the motions" and bring hope and life into your marriage as you learn what it means to cherish your spouse. Meets every other Monday at 6:30 pm in room E-102. Childcare provided.

MARRIAGE & FAMILY

CHERISH- New Wednesday Night Study

Wednesdays, 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*. This simple practice of cherishing- noticing, appreciating, honoring, and encouraging our spouse- can reverse old patterns of "going through the motions" and bringing hope and life into every marriage. Hope to see you there!

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.

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 - OR - register online at Eventbrite.com.

Mission Trip Supplies Needed!

Help our team of women with supplies still needed for the Dominican mission trip departing April 14. Go to firstfriends.org/ministries/women to sign up to donate.

Hebrews: The Nearness of King Jesus

New video study by Lisa Harper beginning Wednesday, April 4, 9:00 am in room L-42. Journey through this bridge between the Old and New Testaments to get to the heart of the matter - Jesus is our accessible king. He is not far away, but up close and personal. Study guides available in class for \$13. Childcare provided.

SENIOR MINISTRY

The Sojourner Quartet

March 25, 6:00 pm in L-42-43

The Senior Adult Ministry invites EVERYONE to join them for a potluck dinner on March 25 and enjoy the music of The Sojourner Quartet. This is a free event and sign-ups are available at both Welcome Centers.



FFC Financial Update 2018

	Weekly Need*	Received Last Week	Weekly Average
General Ministries	\$43,431	\$41,051	\$41,318
Missions/ Faith Promise	\$1,667	\$1,278	\$1,352
Total	\$45,098	\$42,329	\$42,670
Home Improvement Received in 2018			\$13,773
*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, March 24, 7:00 pm

Come Worship & Pray with us!



MISSION TRIPS

Barahona, Dominican Republic

September 22-29 (medical and prayer teams)

November 3-10 (construction, discipleship, evangelism, and possibly medical teams)

Team sizes for these two trips are limited and applications will be accepted only until April 15. Informational packets and applications will be distributed at the informational meeting April 8 at 12:00 pm (L-1) or you can pick one up at either Welcome Center. For questions, contact Lois Ferrel, Team Leader (330-280-2502) or Roger Foote at FFC (330-966-2800).

Holy Land 2019 Informational Meeting

Sunday, March 25, 12:00 pm (L-1,2)

Are you interested in travelling to the Holy Land? Join us for an informational meeting for our next trip that will take place March 2019. Hear about the experiences from those who went on our trip this past November. Lunch will be provided.

STEWARDSHIP

Biblical Wisdom:

Then God said, "Let us make a man[a]—someone like ourselves,* to be the master of all life upon the earth and in the skies and in the seas." — Gen: 1:26 TLB

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

Thank you so much to everyone who helped out with Sports Sunday on March 11! We had 34 guests come out to visit us from our sports leagues! In addition, We are excited to gear up for our spring 2018 sports season. We are asking that you would keep everyone from the following leagues in prayer, including players, parents, coaches and leaders... Youth Soccer, Youth Baseball/Softball, Men's Softball, High School Basketball, Adult Basketball, Adult Volleyball and Arts Academy.



Family Event... ALL are welcome



Fun & Food Game Show Night



"Prayers of Freedom
and Forgiveness"

March 30 @
7:00 pm

Good Friday

Nursery and Children's
programs available

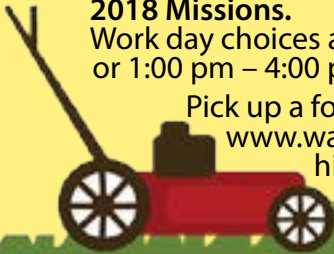
FIRST FRIENDS YOUTH MISSIONS WORK DAYS

Hire students to help out with your spring cleaning, landscaping and more. Cash or check donations can be made out to First Friends Church: **Memo line: Youth 2018 Missions.**

Work day choices are April 7, April 21, and May 5. Shifts are 9:00 am – 12:00 pm or 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm, or both.

Pick up a form at a Welcome Center or download one at our website:

www.warehouse514.org You may also email your request to highschool@firstfriends.org.



The Sojourner Quartet

Sunday March 25, 6:00 pm

Free
Potluck Dinner
Open to All!