

# THE GOSPEL AS "SEED" FOR HARVEST



March 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**

**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**

Cary Clifton's Perspective (SALT – Systematic Asian Leadership Training)

"Being a student (even part time) after all these years is a trip! ...I have been pleasantly surprised to find I have been drawn to it. This is largely because I am actually learning stuff! Four things I have learned so far:

Repetition and memorization methods get bad PR. [But...] the fact is that our brains develop deep memories when the same neural pathways are fired repeatedly (repetition!). And memorization can be a vital tool when not used as a terminus; but as a springboard toward other activities such as meditation and application

Theological education needs a revamp. It is ironic considering how quickly and uncritically the Chinese church is running toward traditional Western approaches to train their pastors. This is happening [while some are] calling for a re-think on how pastoral and theological training is done in the West.

Storytelling is good, but not all stories are equal. Research suggests stories must have the right ingredients to be memorable and impactful. Storytelling seems to be critical, but it is only one part of a proper educational framework in missions.

I have a long way to go! ...I am now recognizing all there is that I need to learn, whether it be from neuroscience, cognitive psychology, the orality movement, or storytelling for business.

Please pray for me as I launch out into the deep end of this pool, so that I may know the best way to take what I really need, weaponize it for the Kingdom, and throw the rest away."

## **PRAYER & CHURCH NEWS**

### **Have a Prayer Need?**

Call Gerry Bradshaw at 499.5575. Our faithful prayer warriors will lift your request before the Lord.

### **Hospitals & Rehab**

Cheryl Jackson, Christopher Weisse, Christopher Marx

### **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](mailto:npetroff@firstfriends.org) or call to let us know you are coming.

### **First Friends Recycle Bins**

Help us take care of God's good world and spread the word about our new bins. We accept paper, cardboard, plastic, and aluminum.

### **Women's Mission Trip Supplies**

Help our team of women with supplies still needed for the Dominican mission trip departing April 14th. Go to [firstfriends.org/ministries/](http://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 1st) 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.

### **"Fields of Gold" by Andy Stanley**

Pick up a free copy of this book on generous living at the Welcome Centers.

# 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

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20

# 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 5:1-5



# CHILDREN

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

### Friendly Reminder

We will not be having Choir or CLC this week - Wednesday, March 28th.

### Good Friday Service March 30 @ 7:00pm

Please check your child/children in as if it was a Sunday morning service. Children 3 years old and younger may be taken to the nursery. Children 4 years old through 5th grade should meet in L-110 for their program.

### Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 3 @ 1:00pm

Meet in the gym for a short program before going out to collect eggs. Don't forget your basket. We will have the Easter Egg Hunt rain or shine.

### 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

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](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. **We will be in the main service on Easter Sunday, April 1st.** Please sit with your family.

## 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. We will be meeting March 28th for youth group.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGHSCHOOL

\* Due to Spring Break High School will not be meeting on Wednesday, March 28. Middle School Will Meet

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

## Mission Trip Fundraisers

We will have our 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) Please arrive between 6 pm – 7 pm. Pizza will be available. Make sure you have your \$40 and your Permission/Medical form

# 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.

## High School Mission Trips

We still have space available for our Phillippi, 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](http://www.warehouse514.org).

## Parent/Student Missions Trip Meeting Sunday, April 15 (E-111)

Immediately following the 2nd service we will have an informational meeting and talk about forms needed and travel information. We will try to have a notary for the Dominican group's paperwork.

# CONNECT GROUPS

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

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. 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.



## 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).

## 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](http://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

Tonight, 6:00 pm in L-42-43

The Senior Adult Ministry invites EVERYONE to join them for a potluck dinner tonight 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	\$46,224	\$41,764
Missions/ Faith Promise	\$1,667	\$1,209	\$1,339
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$45,098</b>	<b>\$47,433</b>	<b>\$43,103</b>
Home Improvement Received in 2018			\$14,640
<b>*To fully fund budget - \$ 2,300,000</b>			



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, April 14, 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

Today 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:

*Give as freely as you have received. Matthew 10:8*

# 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)



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

# He is Risen

JOIN US THIS EASTER

9:00 & 10:30 am Worship



# the sojourner quartet

Tonight, 6:00 pm  
Free  
Potluck Dinner  
Open to All!