



December 2, 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 to worship at First Friends!

Classic Family Christmas PEACE

Luke 2:13-14 "Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth PEACE to those on whom his favor rests.'"

What's missing inside our hearts, homes and our world? Peace with God and others! This is exactly what Jesus came to bring. So why don't we experience more of Jesus' peace?

This Christmas season my sermon messages, our prayers as a congregation, and our daily scripture meditations will all be focused on how Jesus, the Prince of Peace calls us to His mission of peace. If ever there was a time our world needs peacemakers it is now! Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. (St. Francis of Assisi)

Daily Scripture Meditation:

Saturday Dec. 1 – Luke 2:13

Sunday, Dec. 2 – Isaiah 9:6-7a

Monday, Dec. 3 – Matthew 5:9

Tuesday, Dec. 4 – Colossians 3:15

Wednesday, Dec. 5 – John 14:27

Thursday, Dec. 6 – John 16:33

Friday, Dec. 7 – Philippians 4:6-7

Saturday, Dec. 8 – Ephesians 6:13-15

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 AND NATIONS

News from the Jellels

—We departed for Taiwan in March 2017: settled in Taichung quite quickly, found an apartment, bought a used car, and started Mandarin Chinese study at a Christian Chinese Language School.

—We studied Chinese full-time through summer 2017, then switched to part-time study and part time in our SEND Asia office - the first of its kind within SEND. The goal is offering regionalized services to missionaries in our Asia fields (Japan, Taiwan, Thailand, China, and Muslim ministries in SE Asia) to provide support in their roles of outreach, church planting, discipleship, and other ministries. Our Regional Director has helped us grow/shape our services in finance for field missionaries, media/communications (Josh), security (Josh), recruiting for short-term through career missions service (Abigail), training/continuing education/conferences (Abigail), member care, and other services needed for missionaries serving in intense ministries.

—We moved to full-time ministry in May and have more projects than hours in the week! But, it's great to have tangible, beneficial ways to use our abilities to serve our missionaries well.

—We are a part of a bilingual church in Taichung. Approximately 50% are Taiwanese (Chinese speakers) and 50% are English speakers from around the world. It's great for building relationships and continuing our language learning.

—Taiwan is a good fit for us in almost every way! Other than Mandarin Chinese being so hard to learn and use, we feel completely at home there and have enjoyed making many Taiwanese friends.

—We are thankful for the Lord's provision to allow us to use our gifts and abilities to serve in Asia and for all First Friends does to reach the world for Jesus!

PRAYER & CHURCH NEWS

Hospitals and Rehab

David Laliberte, Joshua Hammond, Karen Wood

Have a Prayer Need?

Call Gerry Bradshaw at 330.499.5575 and our prayer warriors will lift your request before the Lord in prayer.

Our Love and Sympathy

to Merritt & Pam Kirkwood in the death of Pam's mother, Loraine Yoho.

Sunday Morning Christmas Ornament

December 2, 9, 16 and 23. Make a family keepsake Christmas ornament for our FFC family tree by the gym. Tables next to the tree will have supplies to make your own family ornament. After Christmas ornaments will be available to take home.

Christmas Photos

Sunday, December 23, all morning, we will have a professional photographer to take family photos outside the gym. One photo per family.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:00 am

All Children:

All children may go to their Sunday School Classes

Help children hide God's Word in their hearts by memorizing their verses this month:

Preschool/ Kindergarten Verse:

"Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things, things planned long ago." Isaiah 25:1

Elementary Verse:

"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them." Luke 1:68

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

10:30 am

Children in the nursery through kindergarten may go directly to their classrooms.

Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things, things planned long ago. Isaiah 25:1

Elementary Department: Children in grades 1 through 5 will be dismissed from the service to go to Children's Church in E-110.

Elementary Children's Church

Today we begin a new series called, "The Gift". Over the next few weeks we will look at God's gifts to us of grace, joy, peace and wisdom. Through the experiences of several characters in the Christmas Story we will discover even more about this amazing story than we ever thought possible



CHILDREN

Contact Tammy Forsythe at tforsythe@firstfriends.org

Sock & Mitten Tree

We are collecting socks, mittens, scarves, hats, and gloves for the Canton Salvation Army once again this year through December 9. Please place your donated items on the tree in the hallway by the Children's Welcome Desk. Let's be a blessing to those in need.

Children's Choirs and CLC

This Wednesday, December 5th, will be our last night for Choir and CLC to meet before our winter break. We will resume Wednesday, January 23rd.

Child Care Opportunities

Would you like to be a part of our Child Care Team? This is a paid position. We need workers for Monday and Wednesday evenings and Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. If you are interested, please contact Kris Lackey at klackey@firstfriends.org or call the church office 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 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.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Website: www.greenhouse242.com



Contact Ben Croston at bcroston@firstfriends.org
Follow us on facebook at: facebook.com/greenhouse242/
website: www.greenhouse242.com

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.

Wednesday Nights

Wednesdays, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm (E-101)

Join us for a time of fun, friendships, and fellowship with God.

Second Saturday Serve

Saturday, December 8th, 8:30 am - 2:30 pm

Help us staff The Christmas Shop at The Martin Center | Permission Slip Required. Pickup & Drop-off E-101. Details on GH242 website on how to contribute requested gift items by December 2nd.

Youth are encouraged to attend 10:30 am Sunday Worship Service with their family.

Experiencing GOD Bible Study

Today 4:30 pm- 7:00 pm (E-101)

Come join us for our weekly Middle School Bible Study. Bring your Bible and a snack to share. Chicken and water will be provided.

Youth Group Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 12th, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm (E-101)

Pizza & beverages provided. Bring a snack or dessert to share. Fellowship, Christmas songs & games.

Lord of the Rings Movie Marathon

Saturday, December 15th, 9:00am - 9:00pm (E-101)

Enjoy fellowship for all or parts of this movie series. Bring a friend and a snack to share and bring a child's gift to give to the giving tree if you would like.

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL

The Landing – Celebrate Recovery For Students Grades 6-12

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.

The Christmas Shop (Shopping Day)

Today, December 2, Noon – 4:00 pm

Join us for lunch and an afternoon shopping trip. Bring money for lunch and also to purchase gifts for children. Sign up in E-111. A Permission/Medical form is required for this event.

Save the Date

Dec 12 – Ugly Sweater Christmas Party
Dec 19 – Leaders Christmas Party
Jan 4-5 - Up All Night
Jan 17-25 Winter Retreat

Wednesday Nights

Wednesdays, 7:00 – 8:30 pm (E-111)

Come experience a high energy night of worship, games, and a relevant teaching, followed by a small group study time.

The Christmas Shop Event

Saturday, December 8, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm at The Martin Center

Help us as we help others get ready for the holiday season. We are in charge of gift wrapping as people shop for gifts for their children. Meet at FFC lobby at 8:30 if you need a ride. Sign up in E-111. Don't forget you Permission/Medical form!

Ugly Christmas Sweater Party

Wednesday, December 12, 7:00 – 8:30pm (E-111)

Come experience a high energy night of worship, games, and a relevant teaching, followed by a small group study time.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Women's Medical & Evangelical Trip

Women's Medical Mission Team to Barahona, Dominican Republic, October 19-26, 2019. Now taking applications and \$250 deposit. Due by January 14, 2019. Once a month training will begin in February after the team is established. For more information, contact Theresa Maxin at 330-966-2800 or tmaxin@firstfriends.org

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Before You Say I Do Class

Sundays, January 13 - February 3, 8:00 am -9:00 am (room E-102)
This 4-week class is for couples who are engaged or seriously dating and is a requirement for those being married by a First Friends pastor. Call the church for more information or to register. You can also register on our church website.

CONNECT GROUPS

Intercessory Prayer

T-Th 9:00-11:00 am (Tue, Wed, Thur in E-112)

Sunday Morning Groups

We have many Sunday morning groups that are ongoing. Join anytime! See a Fall Connect Group Directory for descriptions, times and locations.

SPORTS

Call the Sports Office at 330.966.6868 Registrations available in the church brochure racks and on our website: www.firstfriendssports.com.



Youth Basketball

Jr High Boys (Gr 7-8) Jan 3 - Mar 9
Co-ed (Grade K-1) Jan 5 - Feb 23

Men's Basketball

Men's Legend's Basketball Age 40+ Jan 3 - Mar 28
Men's Open Basketball Age 18+ Jan 3 - March 21
Women's Basketball Age 18+ Jan 3 - March 14

Volleyball

Adult Co-ed Volleyball Age 18+ Jan 8 - April 9

Arts Academy: Jan 7 - Feb 28
NEW Adult Flag class for age 18+ (focus on exercise)
Traditional Dance Classes (Age 3-17)
Hip Hop Dance Classes (Age 6-17)
Flag Classes (Age 10-17)
Stage Acting (Age 6-17)
Drawing Class (Age 6-17)

Spring Soccer
Age 4,5,6 Apr 27-June 21
Age 7-15 Apr 13-June 21

FFC Financial Update



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 for a study on the End Times every Sunday. We will look at Revelations, Ezekiel, Daniel and Matthew.

Connect

Wednesdays, 8:30 pm (L-6)
Join us every Wednesday as we study "Missional Essentials: A Guide For Experiencing God's Mission In Your Life"

	General Ministries**	Missions/Faith Promise
2018 Approved Budget	\$2,300,000	\$85,000
Received to Date(1/1-11/25)	\$1,907,442**	\$64,057
Remaining Need(12/2-12/31)	\$392,558	\$20,943
Weekly Need (5 weeks)	\$78,512	\$4,189
Received Last Week	\$25,229	\$680
Weekly Average to Date	\$40,584**	\$1,363
Home Improvement Received in 2018	\$64,539	
Project 51 offering 10/28/18	\$50,167	51 Sundays

** Does not include Project 51 Offering

To receive credit on your 2018 giving statement, all contributions must either be a the church on Sunday Dec 30th or postmarked by Dec 31. Church offices will be closed December 24-31.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Kathleen Dungan kdungan@firstfriends.org

Celebrate Recovery Thursdays, 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Join us for this biblically based and Jesus centered recovery ministry. By working and applying the biblical principles and 12 Steps we grow spiritually. Programs for youth are also available: The Landing Grades 6-12, Nursery/infant and Kindergarten.

STEWARDSHIP

Biblical Wisdom:

- Come join in giving blessings to others by posting some gently used items on the Blessing Board on Facebook.
- Take the guess-work and stress out of your weekly giving by giving on line. Go to the First Friends website and click on the E-giving button; <https://secure.firstfriends.org/give/egiving>

Senior Luncheon



December 8th
Saturday

11:30 am
8\$ / person

Come and enjoy the sounds of the GlenOak Drifters and Brian Keifer
Sign Up at the Welcome Center



A night of music. A night for the family



December 16, 7:00pm - Tickets are Free and available at the Welcome Center.

Christmas Projects

Operation Christmas Child Update

On November 11, 54 adults and children gathered here to pack gift boxes with goodies donated by members of our congregation. In addition to those 158 there were 270+ filled boxes dropped off here equaling over 428+ boxes from FFC for Samaritan's Purse to deliver to impoverished children throughout the world. Thank you for your generosity.

The Christmas Shop Giving Tree

This year we are partnering with the Martin Center. Beginning Sunday, November 4th, take a tag from the tree (located across from L-1,2,3), purchase the gift, and then return it unwrapped to a Welcome Center by Sunday, December 2nd. Also, consider joining us as we serve during The Christmas Shop event on December 8th. Sign-ups to volunteer can be found at our Welcome Centers.

Sock and Mitten Tree

Every year we donate hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, and socks to the Salvation Army to distribute to those in need during the winter months. Beginning Sunday, November 4th through December 9th, place your donated items on the tree in the Hallway by the Library.

Evangelical Friends Missions Christmas

Join us as we show our appreciation and support for our Evangelical Friends Missionaries and their projects this Christmas. During our Christmas Eve services, we will take a special offering that will support communities, businesses, medical needs, agriculture, Bibles, discipleship materials and much more. Consider being a blessing this Christmas to Evangelical Friends Missions. Visit www.friendsmission.com for more information.

Holiday Schedule and Events

Candle Light Christmas Eve Services - 5:00pm and 6:30pm
All children in worship with us (no nursery provided)

Family Friendly Worship Service - Sunday, Dec. 30, 10:30-11:30am
One morning worship service for the whole family!
(No Sunday School, Children's Church or Nursery)

Congregation Meeting - Sunday, Dec. 30 @ 11:30am-12noon
We will meet immediately following the worship service
to approve the 2019 budget.