



December 9, 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:

*Find the complete list of Scriptures and Peace Prayers at: www.firstfriends.org/sermons

Sunday, Dec. 9 –	Numbers 6:24-26	Wednesday, Dec. 12 –	Psalms 85:8
Monday, Dec. 10 –	Judges 6:22-24	Thursday, Dec. 13 –	Proverbs 14:30
Tuesday, Dec. 11 –	Psalms 34:14	Friday, Dec. 14 –	Proverbs 17:1
		Saturday, Dec. 15 –	Isaiah 26:3

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

Ryan and Kelly Saurers - Honduras

This past month for us brought school to an end down here, both in the bilingual school where we have been teaching Bible classes, and in the night school program where we are helping to teach teens from the city and from two orphanages. One major blessing is seeing students willing to give their time to share the Gospel with us at the rec center. Even with school done for the year, they still come eagerly to serve. (Pretty awesome, considering most teenagers would sit at home and do nothing on their school breaks!) Please pray that their fire continues on into next year and we see more of their classmates seeking after God and bringing others to know Him.

We have also seen kids, teens, and young adults who come to the rec center show a desire to serve and engage in Bible study. It's here where we study the Word together, encourage one another, and discuss how we can better share the Gospel with our families, people at Enlaces or in the market, or wherever! Some are new believers learning what it means to follow Jesus. As we share, and you pray, God is hearing and moving!

We are reflecting and seeing clearly the purpose God has for us at Enlaces: discipleship. And we pray that during the busyness in all of our lives that we are able to reflect on the true reasons for this season and take every opportunity we are given to look to God.

PRAYER & CHURCH NEWS

Have a Prayer Need?

Call or email Greg Roth at 330.455.4100 or groth@neo.rr.com

Today's Altar Flowers

were given by Stan & Joy Sickafoose in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Statement of Giving

To receive credit on your 2018 statement of giving, all contributions to First Friends Church must either be postmarked or at the church office by December 31. Church offices will be closed this year from December 24 through January 1st, the last day gifts can be received in the church office is 5:00 p.m. Friday, December 21. The final day a contribution can be received in the church offering collection is Sunday, December 30.

Sunday Morning Christmas Ornament

December 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

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

Today is the last day for collecting socks, mittens, scarves, hats, and gloves for the Canton Salvation Army. Please place your donated items on the tree in the hallway by the Children's Welcome Desk. Thank you so much for everything that has been donated. Many will be blessed by your generosity.

Choirs and CLC

Choirs (6:00 pm) and CLC (7:00 pm) 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

Wednesday Nights

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

There will be no meetings on Wednesday Nights December 19, December 26, & January 2. We will resume our regular times on January 9th.

Youth Group Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 12th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm (E-101)
Pizza & beverages provided. Bring a snack or dessert to share. Fellowship, Christmas songs & games.

Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 23rd, 4:00 - 7:30 pm

Drop-off and Pick-up at First Friends Lobby
Join us as we go spread Christmas cheer through song throughout our community.

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.

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

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 for a local charity.



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.

Save the Date

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)

There will be no meetings on Wednesday Nights December 19, December 26, & January 2. We will resume our regular times on January 9th.

Ugly Christmas Sweater Party

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

Wear your "ugly" Christmas sweater and compete for a prize. Food. Fun. Friends!



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. Applications are available at the main Welcome Center. 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.

Marriage Retreat Weekend - Save the Date

February 22-24, 2019

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.

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(1/1-12/2)	\$1,956,623**	\$66,367
Remaining Need(12/9-12/31)	\$343,377	\$18,633
Weekly Need (4 weeks)	\$85,844	\$4,658
Received Last Week	\$49,181	\$2,310
Weekly Average to Date	\$40,763**	\$1,383
Home Improvement Received in 2018	\$66,059	
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>

CONNECT GROUPS

Winter 2019 Connect Group

Winter 2019 Connect Group Directories will be available next Sunday, December 16. We have several new groups/topics for men, women and families. Make sure to pick up your copy and prayerfully consider which group you should join.

A night of music. A night for the family



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

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.

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 today 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)

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