



December 23, 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 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. 23 - Galatians 5:22-23

Monday, Dec. 24 - James 3:17-18

Tuesday, Dec. 25 - 1 Peter 3:11

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 AND NATIONS

Praises and Prayer Requests from Mark & Sandy Acell (People International)

"Thank you so much for praying as God is continuing to intervene in our lives and keep us going each month in improved health (slow but steady) and our needs being met."

- They are thankful that Kevin, PI's specialist in Latino recruiting, is doing well after his cancer surgery.
- They are thankful for the great team they work with in recruiting and training.
- They are also thankful that M has settled in and is teaching English alongside their daughter. They are thankful to the Lord for bringing M for this school year to fill that critical spot in the land of "D."

Please pray:

- For the follow-up of their short-termers, that some of them would take the jump of faith and sign up to go longer-term and serve in Greater Central Asia. Mark & Sandy are thankful that some are showing interest in going longer term.
- For wisdom for the PIW (People International Worldwide) leadership, for God's will to be done regarding potential long-term policy changes that might be made.
- For the T family, whom God has led to move back to the states from the country in which they were serving, to take up a role of mobilizing college students to reach that nation's people. Acells have had a vision for this people group since 1987, so they certainly support this strategy. Pray for fruit!

PRAYER & CHURCH NEWS

Have a Prayer Need?

Call or email Greg Roth at 330.454.4100 or groth@neo.rr.com and our prayer warriors will lift your request before the Lord in prayer.

Our Love and Sympathy

to Stephen & Beth Weingart in the death of Beth's sister, LuAnn Hostetler

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 31st. Since the church offices will be closed this year from December 24th through January 1st, the last day gifts can be received in the church office is 5:00 p.m. Friday, December 21st. The final day a contribution can be received in the church offering collection is Sunday, December 30th.

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, agricultural needs, Bibles, discipleship materials and much more. Consider being a blessing this Christmas to Evangelical Friends Missions. Visit www.friendsmission.com for more information.

Our church offices will be closed

December 24 - January 1. We will resume our normal office hours Wednesday, January 2, 2019.

Hospital and Rehab

Christopher Marx and Diana Collins

Christmas Photos

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

Sunday Morning Christmas Ornament

Today, make a family keepsake Christmas ornament for our FFC family tree. Tables next to the tree will have supplies to make your own family ornament. After Christmas ornaments will be available to take home.

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

Thank you so much for the many donations of hats, gloves, socks, mittens and scarves. A lot of people will be warm this winter due to your generosity.

Choirs and CLC

Choirs (6:00 pm) and CLC (7:00 pm) will resume Wednesday, January 23rd.

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)

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)

No Youth Group on Wednesdays December 26th and January 2nd. We will be picking back up January 9th. Enjoy your Christmas Break.

Christmas Caroling

Today, 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

Sunday, December 30th

We will not meet at 9:00 am. You are encouraged to attend the 10:30 am Family Friendly Worship Service with your family.

Sunday, January 6,

9:00- 10:30 am (E-101)

Join us for a time to grow in your faith, friendships, and giftedness through small groups, games, and encouraging lessons.



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.

Celebrate Recovery will NOT meet Thursday, December 27th.

Up All Night

January 4-5, 7:30 pm – 8:00 am (E-101)

Come experience an all nighter with food, friends, fun, and fellowship as we travel to Kent State University Rec Center. We encourage you to bring a friend with you. Cost is \$20. Sign up now in your youth room. Download all permission slips online.

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.

Holiday Youth services

December 26, January 2 - No Wednesday youth meetings
December 23 - Regular Sunday youth service
December 30 - No Sunday youth service.
One main service only at 10:30am

Wednesday Night Kick Off

Wednesdays, 7:00 – 8:30 pm (E-111)

Join us on January 9th as we kick off our new year and reconnect with friends. We will be having a special game night.

Save the Date

Jan 25-27 – Winter Retreat at Camp Gideon –
Download a release form online.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Women's Missions Trip

Women's Missions 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.

Book of James, Wednesdays, 7:00pm, room E-104, starting January 23rd. All moms are invited to join us as we study the book of James with Francis Chan

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

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 Wednesdays as we study "Missional Essentials: A Guide For Experiencing God's Mission In Your Life" We will meet next on January 9th.

	General Ministries**	Missions/Faith Promise
2018 Approved Budget	\$2,300,000	\$85,000
Received to Date(1/1-12/16)	\$2,105,390**	\$71,103
Remaining Need(12/23-12/31)	\$194,610	\$13,897
Weekly Need (2 weeks)	\$97,305	\$6,949
Received Last Week	\$37,135	\$3,416
Weekly Average to Date	\$42,108**	\$1,422
Home Improvement Received in 2018	\$69,655	
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 December 30th or postmarked by December 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. We will not meet December 27th.

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 directories have arrived! Pick up your copy today and prayerfully consider which group you should join.

Holiday Schedule and Events

Family Friendly Worship Service - Sunday, Dec. 30, 10:30-11:30am

One morning worship service for the whole family!

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

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services

December 24th
5:00 pm & 6:30 pm

All children in worship with us (No Nursery)

2019 Fall Mission Trip Opportunities Grace & Peace Missionary Fellowship – Dominican Republic



MEET THE RUMPLE'S

February 3, 2019

Informational meeting for both trips with Bill & Karen Rumble in L-42. Immediately following the 10:30 service. RSVP gwallace@fristfriends.org



MEDICAL TEAM

TRIP A

September 28 - October 5, 2019

Team Leaders: Gina Shamblen / Lois Ferrel



WOMEN'S TEAM

TRIP B

October 19 - 26, 2019

Team Leader: Theresa Maxin

APPLICATIONS LOCATED AT THE WELCOME CENTER