



December 30, 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)

Today's Worship Service:

Today we are only having one worship service and inviting all our babies, children, youth and children's workers, to be together with us. Our theme is "Recovering Joy" and we pray as we close 2018 and prepare for a new year we will be filled with the Joy of the Lord by His Spirit! Nehemiah 8:10 "The joy of the Lord is your strength."

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

Abe & Diane Bible - Ukraine

Financial Freedom is a good topic for this holiday season when there is so much pressure to buy, to pay later, to push consequences to 2019. During one session they covered the lesson on not going into debt as well as the one on living within one's income. There were great testimonies from many people who have discovered the wisdom of both.

Abe had a church leader come by on 11/30 to pick up lessons for one of the local churches in Bibles' city. It is exciting to see people push forward on this. But Abe and Diane still have a longing to see many more churches across the whole country involved. One would think Christians would be excited to learn what the Scriptures have to say about finances. But there is a pervading attitude in many churches that what they do with their money has nothing, or at least little, to do with God.

So continue to pray along with Abe & Diane that these lessons would reach an ever increasing audience and that hearts would be changed as people experience new levels of faith—even reaching into their wallets! And praise God along with Abe & Diane for ministry fruit from 2018 such as a large group of prisoners making commitments to Christ, a mayor who was prayed with, Bibles being handed out on the streets, 20 church planters who are eager to double in size, and a spiritual movement in one particular province!

PRAYER & CHURCH NEWS

Have a Prayer Need?

Call Gerry Bradshaw 330-499-5575

Hospital and Rehab

Gina Shamblen and Eileen Kuluskey

Our church offices - will be closed

December 31 - January 1. We will resume our normal office hours Wednesday, January 2, 2019.

Statement of Giving

Since the church offices will be closed December 31 and January 1, to receive credit on your 2018 statement of giving, all contributions to First Friends Church must either be received at the church office by December 21 or postmarked by December 31. The final day a contribution can be received in the church offering collection is today, Sunday, December 30.

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 projects, Bibles, discipleship materials and much more. Consider being a blessing this Christmas to Evangelical Friends Missions.

Visit www.friendsmission.com for more information.

Family Friendly Morning Worship Service

Today, 10:30-11:30 am
One morning worship service for the whole family!

(All Children will attend worship with their families.)



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.

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)

Join us on January 9th as we kick off our new year and reconnect with friends.

Sunday Mornings

Sundays, 9:00 - 10:15 am (E-101)

Sunday School will NOT meet today December 30th.

All youth are encouraged to attend the 10:30 am Family Friendly Worship Service with their families.

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.

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

January 2 - No Wednesday Youth Meeting
December 30 - No Sunday youth service.
One main service only at 10:30am

Wednesday Night Kick Off

Wednesday, January 9th, 7:00 – 8:30pm (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.

Job: A Study of Unlikely Joy, Wednesdays, 7pm, room L-43, beginning January 23. Join women of all ages as we study Job's story of suffering and learn to use pain to strengthen our faith, point others to the gospel, and remember God's providence.

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

YOUNG ADULTS



ASCENT

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"

Our next time to meet is January 9th.

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

FFC Financial Update

General Ministries & Missions

2018 Budget	\$2,300,000
Received as of 2/16	\$2,105,390

Thank you for your generosity. God has abundantly blessed us this past year.

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

Men of Action Breakfast

January 26th
8:00am - 10:00 am



Congregational Meeting

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SERVICE

TODAY, Dec 30

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