

WELCOME TO FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

# FIRST STEP

THE PATH TO PARTNERSHIP,  
GROUPS, SERVING, GIVING



**DISCOVER**  
YOUR NEXT STEP

# A NOTE FROM THE LEAD PASTOR

At First Christian Church, we are chasing a dream. It's not "my dream." It's not "yours." It's not even "our dream."

This idea that everyone matters. A wild notion, that Jesus finds us in the places we thought he'd left us. That He finds worth in us and actually wants to see us through.

It's a dream birthed from boldness, not settling for status quo. A dream that wakes you up in the morning, that you're willing to risk something for. The kind of thing you know can't reach alone.

Because it urges me to love the people I think I'd rather hate, and include the people I'd rather excommunicate. It welcomes questions, like "Are you really there, God?"

It's a dream where hope is restored. Where the dead are given life. Where second chances are born!

It's a dream about next steps in a forward direction. Families anchored and connected (not perfect). Of impact we'll never truly be able to measure.

It's not our dream, but we've been asked to dream along. To chase something bigger than we could ever imagine. This is *His* dream—it always has been.

We're chasing after it with everything we've got, until we've got nothing left:

The vision of *Jesus for all people*.

  
**Ryan Rasmussen**





*This is a group of people struggling just like you and I, but trying to live out the mission.*

*A place where you are accepted and loved and can feel at home. I love this place and I am proud to call FCC "my church."*

**BETH  
KNAPPENBURGER**

church partner



# Jesus For All People

# JESUS LOVES CANTON, OHIO

our story  
& movement

**We are a church for Canton that started in 1855.** First Christian Church was the first church of its kind in the city, born out of a movement that wanted to get back to the core teachings of the Bible and about Jesus, and to unite around an authentic, common faith for all people.

While meeting places and ministries have changed with the years, our heart remains the same. We are not just a church "*in Canton.*" We are a church "*for Canton.*"

We see so much potential for our city. We are grateful to serve our community alongside other incredible churches

and organizations. We believe Jesus loves this place, and so do we. We will always be a church where *Jesus is for all people.*

**First Christian Church is an independent, non-denominational, Christian church.** We identify with a movement started in the early 1800s called "The Restoration Movement." The founders of the Restoration Movement wanted to get away from all denominational labels.

The goal was to return to the purposes and practices of the first-century churches that are described in the New Testament (the Book of Acts & Letters).

The Restoration Movement was primarily about unity. Some of its guiding principles included phrases like this:

*"We are Christians only, but not the only Christians."*

*"In essentials, unity; in opinions, liberty; in all things love."*

For more about our specific beliefs, see p. 8.

**WHY WE EXIST**

# Vision

## **JESUS FOR ALL PEOPLE**



# Mission

**TO REACH OUT IN  
UNCONDITIONAL LOVE TO  
ALL PEOPLE AND GROW  
FOLLOWERS OF JESUS.**

# CORE VALUES

how the vision & mission  
become a reality

7

---

*We reach out in  
unconditional love to*  
**ALL PEOPLE.**

*We take our*  
**NEXT STEPS** *toward*  
*Jesus together.*

*We make an* **IMPACT**  
*on a local and*  
*global level.*

*We become the*  
*spiritual leaders*  
*in the* **FAMILY.**

**TEAM**

A group of men who have been charged with the responsibility of protecting the doctrinal and theological integrity of the church and providing accountability and oversight for our Lead Pastor.

**TEAM**

A group made up of different people, gifted and wired in different ways, and called by God to lead in the day-to-day operations of the church. This includes our ministry team of Pastors, Directors, Coordinators, Assistants, and various other roles spread across several teams.

**WHAT WE BELIEVE**

Jesus is the [REDACTED]  
*Colossians 2:9; Titus 2:11-14; John 10:10; John 3:16*

The Bible is God's [REDACTED]  
*2 Timothy 3:16-17*

We are all [REDACTED]  
*Genesis 1:27; Ephesians 2:10; James 1:14-15; Romans 3:23, 6:23*

We all need [REDACTED]  
*Ephesians 2:8-9; Acts 4:12; Romans 1:16; Acts 2:38*

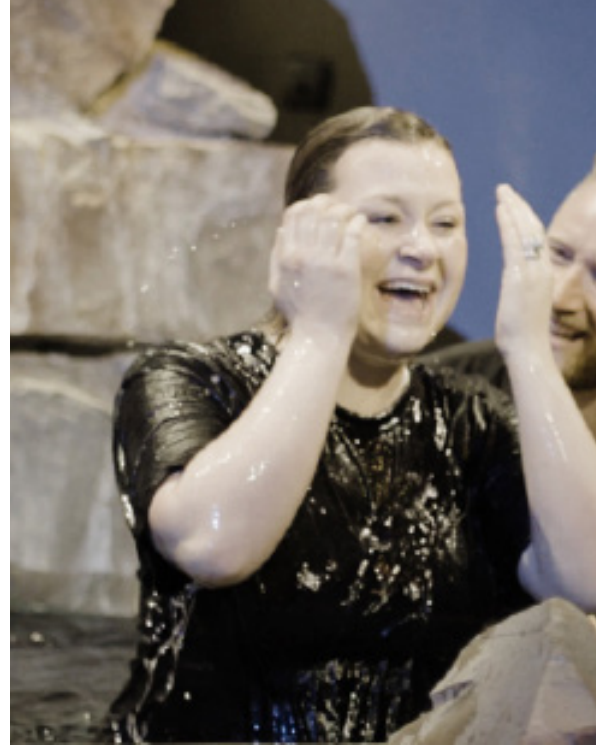
We have [REDACTED]  
*Acts 2:38, 9:31; 2 Timothy 1:7-8; John 16:8, 13; 1 Corinthians 12:7*

We're in this [REDACTED]  
*1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Matthew 28:19-20*

You have something to [REDACTED]  
*Ephesians 4:12; 1 Corinthians 12:7*

God gives good [REDACTED]  
*Acts 20:28-35; Galatians 6:1*

The best is [REDACTED]  
*1 Corinthians 2:9; 1 Peter 2:9-12; Isaiah 11:1-10; Revelation 21:1-5*







# BAPTISM IS A BIG DEAL.

*When I got baptized, it wasn't even on my mind that Sunday. It was one of those things that I "wanted to do" but never got around to doing it. So there I was, sitting in service with my mom, my aunt, my uncle and my husband. . . I leaned over and told my mom and husband that I was going to do it and they were so happy for me. . . When I came out of the water, I just felt new and refreshed. My sins were washed away.*

**EMILY HYDE**

baptized April 23, 2017

## 5 STEPS TO SALVATION

about Jesus.

*Romans 10:14; Revelation 1:3*

in Jesus.

*Mark 16:16; John 5:24, 6:29; Romans 10:9-10*

from sin.

*Acts 2:38; 26:20*

your need for Jesus.

*Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10*

Be

*Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21-22*

## WHY DO WE TAKE COMMUNION?

- Jesus started the practice (1 Corinthians 11:23-25).
- The early church set the precedent (Acts 2:42).
- It's an act of worship and community (1 Corinthians 10:16-17).
- It helps us remember and celebrate Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection (1 Corinthians 11:26).
- It reminds us to start fresh each week (1 Peter 3:18).

# YOUR NEXT BEST STEP

expectations for a partner of First Christian Church

## CONNECT IN



We were never meant to go through life alone. God created us to exist in community with other people—to be supported, encouraged, and challenged in our journey of following Jesus. Bigger life change happens in circles of people than in rows of seats. We want you to find a place where you can truly say, “these are my people.” Why not start by joining a group?

Some groups meet year-round, others are seasonal or study-based. The best kind of group is the one you are in!

### WHAT KIND OF GROUPS are available?

- Rooted group
- Life group
- Men's group
- Women's group
- Student (grade 6-12) tribes
- Sunday Bible studies
- Next steps courses

## SERVE



God gave you gifts and abilities to help the church become better. The church gets a little more generous, vibrant, and diverse every time you take part. When you serve at an event or on a team at First Christian, you use your gifts to honor the one who gave them to you.

### WHAT TYPES OF SERVING OPPORTUNITIES are available?

- First Impressions
- Kids Ministry
- Student Ministry
- Common Goods Food & Clothing Ministry
- Mission trips
- Creative arts & media
- Administration & database
- Cafe & Kitchen Ministry
- Special events

Turn the page for a full list of serving opportunities.

## GIVE



As partners, we give financially not because God needs our money—but because He wants our hearts. We give because we think Christians should set the bar for generosity. We give because the church has the best hope for changing the world.

When you give, you not only enable daily and weekly ministry to happen within our church, but part of that also goes toward supporting local and global missions.

### WHAT ARE WAYS for me to give?

- Contribute securely online at [firstchristian.com/give](http://firstchristian.com/give) (phone, computer, or tablet)
- Text any amount to 84321 and follow the instructions.
- Give via cash or check in the Sunday service.



“

*Loved my group . . . I was apprehensive at first, but even though we were all across a broad spectrum of life experience, we connected in our love for Jesus.*



## **ROOTED**

**A GROUP EXPERIENCE  
FOR EVERYONE**

Rooted is a 10-week journey for people in every life stage, wherever they are on their walk with Christ. It provides the opportunity to connect with God, the church community, and your ultimate purpose in unexpected, life-changing ways. The weekly readings will cover foundational elements of your faith: Scripture, prayer, worship, generosity and service.

Rooted is an interactive experience. In the course of 10 weeks, you'll get together weekly with your group. You'll talk about what God has been revealing to you as you go through the week's readings, journal entries, and prayer. You'll also learn from one another, and ask God's Spirit to comfort, encourage, and guide each person.

Your group will share two experiences together outside of your group time: Prayer and serving. After the last session, you'll join together with all the other groups and celebrate how God is working to connect each of you with your passion, your purpose, and your community.

**10**  
**WEEKS**

**CONNECT WITH GOD,  
EACH OTHER,  
YOUR PURPOSE**

Join the next session at  
[firstchristian.com/rooted](http://firstchristian.com/rooted)

# MADE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

58 WAYS FOR YOU TO HAVE AN IMPACT



If you spend any amount of time around First Christian Church, you'll quickly discover that everything happening here only works because of the people who offer their time, talents, and resources week in and week out as volunteers.

If you're brand new to our church (or maybe just new to volunteering), we want to express our excitement that you're thinking about joining a team! Serving is a huge step that will bring you closer to Jesus and the people you serve and volunteer with.

If you're already plugged in and serving, we want to take the opportunity to say "Thank You!" We couldn't do this without you. You rock. For real.

If you're not yet part of a team, the next few pages will help you discover some different ways you can contribute.

To sign up to volunteer and serve on a team at First Christian Church, go to **[firstchristian.com/serve](http://firstchristian.com/serve)**.

## MEET

# KURT

## First Impressions Team

Kurt is one of those people who makes everybody feel like somebody. If you've gone through the front doors on a Sunday morning chances are you've been greeted with a handshake, high five, or hug from him.

It's people like Kurt that take "Jesus For All People" from being a catchy slogan, to something you experience as soon as you walk in the door.

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

### **SUNDAY MORNING HOST**

Greet new families, help at check-in, and show guests to their kids' classrooms. Open to adults.

- Y Sunday, 9:15-9:45am, and/or 10:45-11:15am
- M Weekly or twice a month

### **NEW MOM MEALS**

Provide a meal for a new or new-again mom and her family.

- Y Commitment varies
- M As-needed

### **CURRICULUM SUPPORT**

Assist First Kids staff with curriculum prep to ensure everything is ready for volunteers on Sundays.

- Y Weekdays, varies (can be done from home)
- M Weekly

### **NURSERY HELPER**

Re-assure parents, rock and care for children in our Infants, Crawlers, and Walkers rooms. Be on-call to be pulled from service as-needed. Background check/references required.

- Y Sunday, 9:05-10:40am or 10:35am-12:10pm
- M Twice a month, monthly, or "on-call"

### **SUNDAY SUBSTITUTE**

Fill-in for Sunday morning volunteers. Can specify preferred age and service. Advance notice given or on-call if available. Background check/references required.

- Y Sunday, 9:05-10:40am or 10:35am-12:10pm
- M As-needed

### **ROOM LEADER**

Provide leadership and oversight in children's ministry areas within specific ministry rooms. Consistent person who interacts with parents at check in and out as well as leading room activities. Can specify preferred placement—GROW, QUEST, or MERGE. Curriculum provided and prepared. Open to adults. Background check/references required.

- Y Sunday, 9:05-10:40am or 10:35am-12:10pm
- M Weekly

### **TODDLER/PRE-K SMALL GROUP LEADER**

Care for kids and encourage participation in group activities in toddler-preschool GROW class. Curriculum provided and prepared. Open to adults, middle and high school students. Background check/references required.

- Y Sunday, 9:05-10:40am or 10:35am-12:10pm
- M Weekly (preferred) or twice a month

### **ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP LEADER**

Engage kids and lead a provided small group time in one of our K-3rd grade QUEST classes. Curriculum provided and prepared. Open to adults and high school students. Background check/references required.

- Y Sunday, 9:05-10:40am or 10:35am-12:10pm
- M Weekly (preferred) or twice a month

### **LARGE GROUP TEAM MEMBER**

Be part of team that engages children in high-energy song time and Bible story through creative presentation. Worship leaders, storytellers, and lighting/audiotechnicians needed. Ability to act, sing, and work with instruments and computers a plus. Curriculum provided. Open to adults and teens. Background check/references required.

- Y Sunday, 9:05-10:40am or 10:35am-12:10pm
- M Weekly (preferred), or month by month

### **PRE-TEEN SMALL GROUP LEADER**

Engage kids, and lead a provided small group time in one of our 4th-5th grade MERGE classes. Open to adults and high school students. Background check required.

- Y Sunday, 9:05-10:40am or 10:35am-12:10pm
- M Weekly (preferred) or twice a month

### **MERGE LIFE GROUP HELPER**

Engage with kids and help the leader during mid-week 4th/5th grade group located in leader's home. Dinner provided. Open to adults and high school students. Open to adults and high school students. Background check/references required.

- Y Wednesday, 6-7:30pm
- M Twice a month

### **HOMEFIRST CENTER HOST**

Introducing families to and answering questions about Faith Path and HomeFirst resources.

- Y Sunday, 10:30-11 or noon-12:30
- M Twice a month



## COMMUNICATIONS

### PHOTOGRAPHY TEAM

Capture creative, professional photo and/or video on Sundays and at special events to be shared through social media, website, and print.

Y Sunday, 9-11am or 10:30am-12:30pm

M Once a month

### SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM

Help someone encounter Jesus simply by liking, commenting, or even sharing social media posts.

Y Any time

M Daily

## DISABILITY MINISTRY

### KINGDOM BUILDERS VOLUNTEER

Volunteer in a Sunday school class for adults with disabilities.

Y Sunday, 9:30am-10:30am

M Weekly or Twice a month

### SHINE MINISTRY BUDDY

Work in the Shine class for kids with disabilities, or accompany a buddy to a Pre-K-5th grade class (background check/reference required).

Y Sunday, 10:30am-12:15pm

M Weekly or twice a month

### FIRST CHRISTIAN DAY SERVICES VOLUNTEER

Work with our Day Services participants in the area of Faith, Fitness, Arts, or Outings.

Y Weekdays, 2 hours (plus up-front training)

M Once or twice a month

### DANCE PARTY VOLUNTEER

Join hundreds of other volunteers as we throw the most massive dance party for adults with disabilities and their friends!

Y Special event, 5-9pm

M Once a year (see [firstchristian.com/prom](http://firstchristian.com/prom))

### RECESS VOLUNTEER

Help us provide kids with developmental disabilities an amazing, fun, safe space, while their parents get the night off.

Y First Fridays, 5:30-9pm xx

M Monthly (during the school year)

## ALLIE Disability Ministry Team

Allie helps on Sunday mornings in SHINE and at Recess nights. She makes things so much fun for kids with different abilities.



## GROUPS

### GROUP LEADER

Lead a small group by facilitating discussion, inviting participation, and coordinating meetings with your group.

Y Varies, 1-2 hours per meeting (including prep)

M Varies, usually weekly or twice a month

### GROUP HOST

Host a group in your home.

Y Varies, 1-2 hours per meeting

M Varies, usually weekly or twice a month

## FIRST IMPRESSIONS

### COMMUNION & OFFERING SERVER

Pass communion and offering containers through the Worship Center during services.

Y Sunday, during 9:30am and/or 11am service

M Weekly or twice a month

### WELCOME TEAM MEMBER

Greet everyone with a smile at the outside or worship center doors or in the lobby, and help guests find children's ministry, restrooms, etc.

Y 9:10-9:40am, 10:40-11:10am

M Weekly or twice a month

### WELCOME CENTER HOST

Greet, help people sign up for events and opportunities and answer questions at the welcome center before and after services.

Y Sundays in 45m increments from 9am-12:30pm

M Weekly or twice a month

**IMPACT**

**CARE TEAM**

Visit members of FCC at local hospitals or at-home to check in and pray with them.

Y Weekdays (varies), 1-2 hours

M Once a month

**NURSING HOME CALLS**

Visit elderly FCC members in nursing homes to check in and pray with them.

Y Weekdays (varies), 1-2 hours

M Once a month

**COMMON GOODS SORTING ROOM**

Sort clothing donations, restock display.

Y Weekdays, evenings, or Saturday AM, 3 hours

M Weekly, twice a month, or monthly

**COMMON GOODS STORE ASSOCIATE**

Assist customers in store, clean and organize store, sort donations, track purchases.

Y Weekdays, evenings, or Saturday AM, 3 hours

M Weekly, twice a month, or monthly

**COMMON GOODS WELCOME & INTAKES**

Welcome customers, manage files/applications, explain guidelines, assist when needed in store.

Y Weekdays, evenings, or Saturday AM, 3 hours

M Weekly, twice a month, or monthly

**FIRST FRUITS FOOD PICK-UP**

Pick up Foodbank orders in Akron and deliver to FCC food pantry.

Y Weekdays (varies), approximately 2 hours

M Twice a month

**FIRST FRUITS FOOD PREP DAY VOLUNTEER**

Assist in stocking shelves and bagging groceries for distribution day.

Y 3rd Thursday, 1:30-3:30 pm

M Once a month

**FIRST FRUITS DISTRIBUTION DAY VOLUNTEER**

Greet customers, help them with product choice, and carry groceries to their vehicle.

Y 3rd Friday, 9-11 am

M Once a month



**FIRST FRUITS WELCOME & INTAKES**

Greet customers, manage intakes on computer, follow Foodbank guidelines (training available).

Y 3rd Friday, 9-11 am

M Once a month

**ESL @ FCC VOLUNTEER TEACHER**

Develop lesson plans, teach English to local international adults, help them adjust to US culture/customs (training is provided).

Y Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 (plus prep time)

M Weekly (September-May)

**ESL @ FCC CONVERSATION HOST**

Lead our ESL Conversation Group in a relaxed, easy-going setting with international adults who want to improve daily conversation skills.

Y Tuesday, 10:30am-12:30pm

M Weekly (September-May)

**ESL @ FCC VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT**

Help ESL teacher in class, work with students in small groups or one-on-one.

Y Wednesday, 6:30-8:30

M Weekly (September-May)

**DEAN & MEL**

**Kids & Special Event Teams**

Dean and Mel are rockstar volunteers! (Mel is also on staff.) They serve across multiple areas—including our annual Harvest Meal.



## MAI First Impressions Team

Mai (on the right) makes FCC a brighter place on Sunday mornings by greeting guests and during the week as a Common Goods volunteer.

## KITCHEN & FOOD

### CAFE VOLUNTEER

Receive customer orders, serve food, help run Cafe on Sunday morning.

Y Sunday, 10am-1pm

M Once a month

### CATERING & BANQUETS VOLUNTEER

Help prepare and serve food for special events.

Y Special events, time varies

M Occasional, as-needed

### HARVEST MEAL VOLUNTEER

Help FCC and area churches prepare and deliver 10,000 meals to people in need at Thanksgiving.

Y Wednesday and Thursday of Thanksgiving week

M Once a year

## NEXT STEPS

### THE 5 HOST

Welcome guests after services, and get to know them as you field any questions they might have.

Y Sunday, 10:30-10:45am or noon-12:15pm

M Weekly or twice a month

### NEW GUEST FOLLOW-UP

Contact first-time guests, thank them for visiting and ask how we can pray or help them get connected.

Y Sunday, 10:45-11am or 12:15-12:30pm

M Weekly, or twice a month

### FIRST STEP TABLE HOST

Facilitate conversation for a group of 5-6 people, and help with sign-in, nametags, and answering FAQs.

Y First Sunday, 12:30-2pm

M Once a month

### BAPTISM HOST

Welcome people who respond to baptism call. Walk with them backstage, and help guide them through the baptism process. Follow up the same week via email.

Y Sunday, 9:30-10:45am & 11am-12:15pm

M As-needed, a few times per year

## OPERATIONS

### GROUNDSKEEPING

Help keep the church grounds in top shape by weed-eating, push mowing, and/or cleaning up the mulch and beds.

Y Weekdays, 2-4 hours

M Weekly or twice a month

### VAN DRIVER

Drive a van to transport people to and/or from church on Sunday (must be at least 25 years old).

Y Sunday, 7-9:30am and/or noon-1pm

M Once or twice a month

### PARKING ATTENDANT

Help cars find a place to park on Sunday.

Y Sunday, 9-9:40am and/or 10:30-11:10am

M Once or twice a month

### SECURITY & MEDICAL TEAM

Help maintain a safe Sunday environment and provide security for events (background check required).

Y Sunday, 8:30am-12:30pm (and special events)

M Weekly or twice a month



## STUDENT MINISTRY

### MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY LEADER

Invest in middle school students as an adult volunteer leader (background checks/references required).

M Weekly

### HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY LEADER

Invest in high school students as an adult volunteer leader (background checks/references required).

M Weekly

## WORSHIP ARTS

### AUDIO TEAM

Operate one of three mixing consoles during rehearsal and our Sunday worship services (will require job shadowing).

Y Tuesday, 6:30-9pm | Sunday, 7am-noon

M Once or twice a month

### VIDEO TEAM

Operate and creatively frame shots with a video camera or make sure all videos and media hit the screen on time.

Y Sunday, 8am-noon

M Once or twice a month

### LIGHTING TEAM

Program lights and operate the lighting console for our Sunday worship services (will require job shadowing).

Y Sunday, 7am-noon, hours vary during the week

M Once a month

### STAGE TEAM

Help out backstage by facilitating band members, speakers, etc. and making sure props go out when needed.

Y Sunday, 7am-noon

M Once or twice a month

### VOCALIST

Prepare for, rehearse with, and sing in the band for Sunday morning worship services.

Y Tuesday, 6:30-9pm | Sunday, 7:30am-noon

M Once or twice a month

### INSTRUMENTALIST

Prepare for, rehearse with, and play in the band for Sunday morning worship services.

Y Tuesday, 6:30-9pm | Sunday, 7:30am-noon

M Once or twice a month

## BRIANA Worship Team

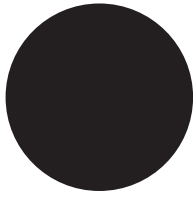
Briana helps lead our church from stage as a vocalist. She helps others encounter God in worship.



## RYAN & RICK Student Ministry Team

Ryan and Rick are buds leading a 6th-8th grade guys' group together. They're





# READY TO BECOME A CHURCH PARTNER?

## QUESTIONS BEFORE YOU COMMIT

### What is a "church partner"?

Some churches say "members," but we believe that belonging to a church involves an active role and partnership. The expectation for a partner at First Christian Church involves serving, taking part in a group, and giving. We won't come knocking on your door to volunteer, or hitting you up on the phone for money—but the expectation is that you would be actively taking these next steps toward growing in your faith and helping your church.

### Who can become a partner?

If you have been baptized and you're at least 16 years old, you can become church partner.

If you still need or want to be baptized, we're happy to help you make that happen, but want you to understand you are baptized into Christ, and *not* First Christian Church.

### How do I become a partner?

If you've made it this far, then you're almost there! Attached you will find an opportunity to sign a commitment to partner with First Christian.

Simply complete the card included with this book, and return it to your First Step host today.

If you have other steps you're ready to take—like getting baptized—let us know! Your team today will be glad to help make it happen!

**PARTNERS OF  
FIRST CHRISTIAN**

**CONNECT IN  
COMMUNITY**

**SERVE  
FAITHFULLY**

**GIVE  
GENEROUSLY**



## CONNECT ONLINE



HOMEPAGE  
[firstchristian.com](http://firstchristian.com)



FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM  
[@fcccanton](https://www.facebook.com/fcccanton)



SIGN-UPS / NEXT STEPS  
[hub.firstchristian.com](http://hub.firstchristian.com)



USE THE HASHTAG  
[#JesusForAllPeople](https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/JesusForAllPeople)