

Church News

Sympathy to

The family and friends of Howard Moore, who pastored here 1999-2001.

Congratulations to

Luke & Jessica Wallace on the birth of their daughter, Emma Noelle.
Also to big sister Scarlett, and grandparents Tom & Patty Wallace,
and Craig & Judy Wheeler.

Food Pantry Needs

dish soap, hand soap, laundry detergent

Operating Expenses

		Hands & Feet Budget
Weekly Needed:	\$ 11,250.00	\$ 350.00
Jan 9:.....	\$ 14,567.78	\$ 235.00
Jan 2:.....	\$ 20,747.55	\$ 240.00
Dec 26:.....	\$ 7,431.52	\$ 185.00
Dec 19:.....	\$ 20,048.84	\$ 255.000

Financial Snapshot: Last Four Weeks

Needed:	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 1,400.00
Received:.....	\$ 62,795.69	\$ 915.00

If you have a prayer request you'd like added to the prayer chain, or if you or someone you know is having a test, surgery, or hospital stay, please notify the church. Known prayer concerns (including those recuperating, continuing concerns and concerns of our community) can be addressed via the prayer chain. To be added to the prayer chain, please contact the church office or subscribe online at saalemfirstfriends.org/email-subscribe.



1028 Jennings Ave., Salem, Ohio 44460

☎ 330.332.0001 • www.salemfirstfriends.org

✉ churchoffice@saalemfirstfriends.org

📘 facebook.com/saalemffc • @ instagram.com/saalemfirstfriends

Office Hours

M-Th, 9:00am-3:00pm

Little Friends Preschool

330.332.4905

www.lfpreschool.org

Pastoral Staff

Peter Fowler Lead Pastor

Andy BlackWorship & Administrative Pastor

Sarah HodgsonYouth Pastor

Cheryl Woolman ...Director of Children's Ministries

The TV broadcast of our local Sunday morning worship service can be viewed on channel 1021. Broadcast times are as follows: Wed. at 11:00am, Thurs. at 7:00pm, Sat. at 9:00am and 2:00pm, and the following Mon. at 11:00am and 7:00pm. You can also find the service broadcast live on YouTube by visiting www.youtube.com/SalemFFC, where all services are available for viewing at any time.



First Friends Church

Gathering in Community • Growing in Christ • Going into the World



Welcome to worship!

January 16, 2022

8:00am Simplicity Service

10:30am Celebration Service

9:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Fellowships

Message

Open Invitation: No Dancing or Dirges

Pastor Pete Fowler

Welcome, friend!



First Friends Church

We're glad to have you with us today. If you're new to First Friends, please be sure to grab a Welcome Brochure from the Welcome Desk in the Foyer. We'd love to get to know you a little better and invite you to fill out a Connect Card located in the pew racks.

We hope you enjoy this time of gathered worship as we celebrate who God is and all that He has done for us in Christ.

We believe that the Word of God changes people. Whether studied together on a Sunday morning, discussed with friends over coffee, or read individually in the home, Scripture helps us grow and enables us to live with purpose. As we open ourselves to the Word, the Spirit of God guides us in the decisions we make every day.

We encourage people to connect with one another in relationships that extend past Sunday morning worship. Through this kind of community, we are able to strengthen and support one another.

We're passionate about following God's call to go – outside our church building, beyond our families and church community – to love and serve others, sharing with them the love we have received from Christ.

I look forward to worshiping, growing, and serving with you,

Pete Fowler, Lead Pastor

Events & Activities

2022 Flower Chart

The 2022 Flower Chart is posted on the north hall bulletin board. **If you wish to present sanctuary flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one, sign up on the chosen Sunday; flowers will be ordered for you.** Be sure to indicate whether you want one or two vases (\$30 each) presented on that day and circle the date if the flowers can be taken to our shut-ins during the week.

The Gate Summer Discipleship-Mission Trip

There will be a meeting on **Sunday, January 30, at 9:00am** downstairs in the Youth Room for any Gate Youth Ministry student who would be interested in going on our discipleship-mission trip to Stone Mountain Church in Georgia this summer. **This meeting is for both students and parents.**

The Gate Winter Retreat

Monday, February 17–Wednesday, January 19. Cost per student is \$25. Contact Sarah Hodgson with further questions!



Online Giving

First Friends is equipped to accept online giving! Find out more at the Welcome Center, on our church website, or by using the *EasyTith* app.



Parents or caregivers of young children are welcome to utilize the Parlor (down the office hallway, first door on the right) where the service can be shown on a closed-circuit TV.

Recurring Events

Most Weeks/Months

- Call to Prayer** | Mon, 7:00pm
- FFC (Gr. K-6)** | Wed, 6:30-8:00pm
- The Gate (Gr. 7-12)** | Wed, 6:30-8:00pm
- Choir** | Wed, 6:30-8:00pm
- Handbell Choir** | Thurs, 7:00-9:00pm
- Secret Sisters** | Fourth Tues. of the month
- Men's Fellowship** | Fourth Sat. of the month

For more information, visit us online (saalemfirstfriends.org), or call the church office (330.332.0001).

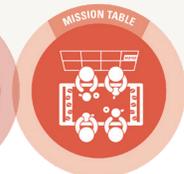
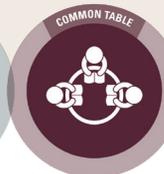
Christmas Offering Update

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to raise \$5,350! We will be giving half (\$2,675) to the Luke 10 initiative with a goal of sending 10 new families to five new mission fields in the next five years. The other \$2,675 will go toward the following Love Gifts from the EFM Christmas Catalog for villages and missionaries in need:

- One motorcycle (\$1,500)
- Two sewing machines (\$500)
- Contribution toward a tailor shop (\$250)
- Two student school kits (\$50)
- Two goats (\$100)
- Two pigs (\$80)
- Six chickens (\$30)



Thank you for your generosity and for helping us further God's Kingdom in this way!



First Friends Church
Discipleship Rhythm

Diving Deeper into Discipleship for January 16, 2022

Pastor Pete Fowler | *Open Invitation: No Dancing or Dirges*

Sermon Reflection Questions:

- Do your chosen affiliations hold too much influence when you are making decisions about truth, ethics or purpose? Do you hold the words of Jesus in a place of primacy, strong enough to stand on their own?
- Do you have a tendency or temptation to stand in disconnected criticism when confronted with someone/something you don't like?
- Ask the Spirit to help you better see and understand the "interests of others" (Phil. 2:4) and avoid being blinded by your own comfort.
- What kinds of "table customs" do you hold in your mind or heart? What kinds of things allow you to feel comfortable in dividing yourself from other Christians?

Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **Joshua 24:1-15** | How is Joshua calling the people to examine their affiliations, and calling them to repentance, in this passage?
- **Proverbs 2:1-22** | According to the passage, what are some benefits of "turning your ear to wisdom?"
- **Acts 11:1-18** | What does Peter do when criticized for extending table fellowship too far? Why is this important? What effect did it have?

Weekly Spiritual Practice

January Practice: Simplicity | Money

(from *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster, pg. 79-80)

- The Christian discipline of simplicity is an inward reality that results in an outward lifestyle. Both the inward and the outward aspects of simplicity are essential. We deceive ourselves if we believe we can possess the inward reality without it having a profound effect on how we live. To attempt to arrange an outward lifestyle of simplicity without the inward reality leads to deadly legalism.
- Experiencing the inward reality liberates us outwardly. Speech becomes truthful and honest. The lust for status and position is gone because we no longer need status and position. We cease from showy extravagance not on the grounds of being unable to afford it, but on the grounds of principle. Our goods become available to others.
- In our affluent culture, we serve the god of wealth. We treat the rich as celebrities and build false promises that more money = more happiness. However, more money usually leads to more stuff and more stuff steadily squeezes God out of the equation. Jesus even challenged the rich young ruler to give away all his possessions in order to follow Jesus. In what ways has money become an idol for you? Are you willing to be generous with the wealth you have obtained to help others?

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