

FIRST CHURCH OF THE
RESURRECTION
EST. 1810 | CANTON, OH



THE HELPER

February/March 2023

Strong Heritage Bright Future

Volume 103 Issue 2

Hello First Church of the Resurrection!

I pray this message finds you all doing well! You will recall that it was last summer that I had the chance to come and visit with you in relation to discerning your way into a new future.

Part of our discernment together was to live into a number of prescriptions together that would help all of the church leadership and congregation come into alignment and fuller trust with one another.

I am happy to share that significant progress has been and is being made on those prescriptions which are impacting your culture in a positive manner. Specifically you have:

- *Engaged in an intentional journey of 40 days of prayer along with a culminating worship service of confession, healing, and focus on the future*
- *Given permission and empowered the pastors to explore various forms of experimentation in regards to new worship possibilities and partnerships*
- *Reformatted your Sunday morning worship time to include time for Bible study which was a strong desire of the congregation*
- *Begun work on clarifying the roles of the Elders and Pastors in their leadership roles of governance and serving*
- *Created avenues for greater communication and transparency with quarterly gatherings with the pastors*
- *Continued to focus on prayerful surrender moving into the future*

It has been my joy to continue to meet with your elder team and pastors on a monthly basis since last summer. I have especially appreciated the increased alignment and trust growing between the elders and pastors.

At this point, I am now a bit over half way through my consultation journey with you. *It is my observation that now that some of the hard work of trust and communication has been improved, you are in a better position to move into a new future. The second half of our time together will focus on what new possibilities can look like for you in relation to worship and overall church vitality.*

I commend you for your willingness to take this journey. You are blessed with elders who truly love you and have the courage to share honestly about present realities while also recognizing that God can present new opportunities moving forward as they empower your pastors. You have pastors who want your best and are committed to exploring whatever opportunities God raises up for your church. And perhaps most significantly of all, you are a church that wants to make a difference and live into a lasting legacy of vitality moving into the future in whatever new form that needs to look like. I affirm you all for this heart posture because not all churches have it. I know the Lord will honor this desire in whatever form it may come about.

It is my hope and expectation that in the next number of months we will be able to gain greater clarity on what the best option/options for the long-term future vitality of your church will look like at a practical level. I believe this will involve both elements of recognizing what needs to be different moving forward but also celebrating what new life will look like.

I count it a privilege to journey with you in this time. Good progress has been made and a much more healthy foundation has been laid from which to move forward into God's desires for your church.

You are in my thoughts and prayers.

In Christ,
Matthew E. Lake

March 2023

Birthdays:

2nd-Helen Wentworth 8th-Jonathan Casto
 9th-Pastor JR 13th-Barb Ackelson
 17th-Briana Casto 30th-Anna Martin

Anniversaries:

4th-Jim & Sandy Bellamy

Your Friends and Family at First Church of the Resurrection want to wish you all a joyous celebration and many blessings for the year to come!

Please Pray for:

Shirley Jordy Judy Snyder Diane Fair
 Zella Yohe Donna Blair

In the Military:

Scott Gordon R J Smith Aaron Schlabach
 Josh Porco Kellan Gier Scott Smeltzer
 Brian George Steven Okey Ryan Souers
 Luke Groves Robert Blair

Serving as Mission Partners:

Leonel & Belgica Ortiz - Columbia
 Greg, Megan, Lydia & Theodore Owens - Middle East
 Andrew & Sarah - Middle East

**Your Leadership Council at Work
 February 14, 2023**

- Discussed and approved hiring The Forty-Three group for bookkeeping.
- Discussed, met with and approved Kate Williams for administrative needs and expanding and strengthening our ministry capacity.
- A plant and gift card will be sent to Johnna Artzner from One Center for loss of her husband.

Servants for God Forever,
 Leadership Council

**Join Us for Bible Study
 Sundays at 9:30am**



Volunteers for providing February snacks:

2/19 Sue Casto
 2/26 Jan & Bob Jozwiakowski
 3/5 Helen Wentworth
 3/12 Lois & Phil Vitale

**Pray for the following local churches, their
 Pastors and leadership:**

St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox
 St. Jacobs Lutheran Church
 St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church
 St. John Missionary Baptist Church
 St. John's Church of Canton
 St. Joseph's Church of Canton

We grieve with our sister, Helen Race on the loss of her last surviving sibling Carl Race. He passed on February 6th. Please remember Helen in your prayers.

Condolences can be sent to her home. Her address is below.

5925 Daisy St NE
 Louisville, OH 44641



Financial Report For January 2023

Income: \$ 10,188
 Expenses: \$ 12,018
 \$ -1,830

Usher's Committee Report Sunday Attendance

January 2023

Date	Adults	Children	Total
January 1	24	3	27
January 8	20	4	24
January 15	14	1	15
January 22	24	3	27
January 29	21	7	28
Total	103	18	121

Sunday total average = 24.2
 Sunday average of children = 3.6

TRANSITIONS!

While we have been sad to lose Tina Copeland as our long-time office administrator, we are excited to share that God, as always, has gone before us and provided above and beyond our expectations! Kate Williams, who had been working for Rahab as one of our missions partners, is joining our team! Kate has already begun working part-time with The One Center, but her heart for the local church, the city of Canton, and the marginalized have led her to link arms with us as well. Starting March 1, Kate will be serving with us as Director of Administration & Ministry Development. In this 10-hour per week role, Kate will not only assume all of Tina's administrative responsibilities, but will work alongside Pastors JR & Amy to assist with congregational care and expand our capacity for ministry. You can reach her at the church phone number or at kate@firstchurchcanton.com. Please reach out and send her a note of welcome!

We are also happy to report that we have come into an agreement with The Forty-Three Group, LLC, a firm with 35 years of accounting experience - particularly with churches and non-profits, to handle the bookkeeping and payroll. You can learn more about this firm at forty-threegroup.com/. The Leadership Council was excited to approve these staff changes that we hope will continue to propel us forward into the future God has for us, especially as they represent a net savings to our budget for the 2023 calendar year.



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the 40 day season of Lent. As in years past, we want to create a time for us to begin our Lenten journey together. All are welcome to join us in the Chapel on Wednesday, February 22 for a time of prayer, reflection and the imposition of ashes. In order to accommodate the most people, we will be offering this service from Noon-1pm and from 5-6pm. Please come at either time and invite others to join you. May this time of reflection and remembrance bring you closer to the Lord during this season.



CONDOLENCES

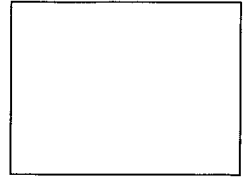
Many of us have had contact with Johnna Artzner, Executive Director for Centers and Communication for RiverTree Christian Church and the ONE Center and we have all benefitted from her service and dedication to the building. It is with deep sadness we share that her husband Jon Artzner passed away Monday, February 13. Details are at <https://www.gordonfuneralhomes.com/obituary/Jon-Artzner>. Condolences may be sent to the church office.

**Save
the
Date**

We have been thankful for the work of Matt Lake on behalf of First Church of the Resurrection over the past several months and we are excited that he is planning to be with us again in person on Saturday, March 25. More details will follow, but for now please save the date and plan to attend an all-church congregational conversation on Saturday, March 25 in the Hall. We hope to see everyone there!

THE HELPER

Serving God for 211 years
First Church of the Resurrection
901 East Tuscarawas St.
Canton, OH 44707



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



XXX

HELPER DEADLINE the 15th of each month

First Church of the Resurrection's Staff

Rev. JR Rozko, Lead Pastor
Rev. Amy Rozko, Lead Pastor
Katrina Kenyon, Worship Leader
Seth Kenyon, Music Director
Church Phone: 330.453.1719

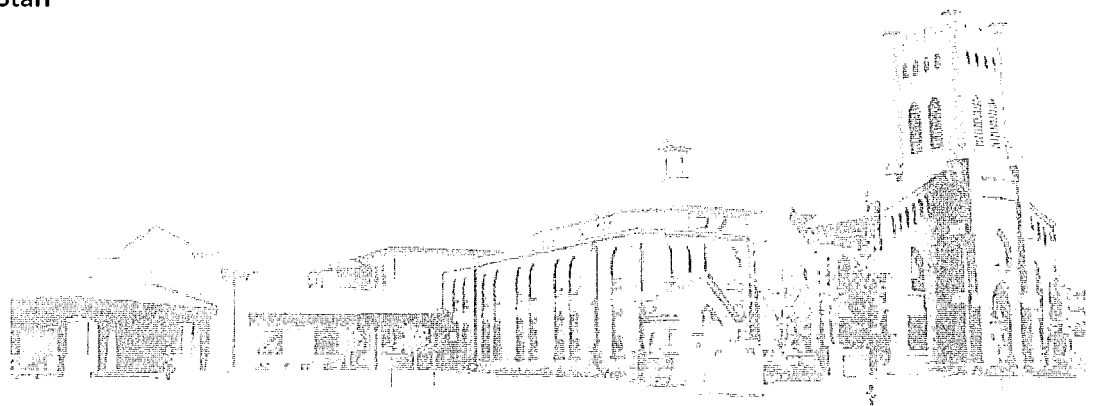
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website-www.firstchurchcanton.com

Visit our Facebook page



Our Vision Statement:

We invite seekers and followers to come with us on an ever deepening journey of discipleship, as we serve God by building the community of Jesus.