

WELCOME TO CANTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!



732 Main Street, Canton NC 28716 (formerly 190 Main Street)



Main contact: Rev. Esta Jarrett (828-549-8338, call or text)
Secondary contact: Rev. Jeanne Hoechst (615-542-8044, call or text)

Directions from I-40:

Note: GPS is unreliable in Canton! That was the case before 2021, but then they changed all our street addresses to comply with emergency response standards, and GPS is now VERY confused. Keep these directions on hand!

1. Take Exit 31 onto Champion Drive, heading south into Canton and toward the paper mill.
2. Go through two stoplights.
3. As you approach the mill, Champion Drive will curve steeply left and uphill.
4. At the next stoplight, you will see the church ahead of you on the right.
5. Turn right at the stoplight. Your GPS will call that cross street either Bridge Street or Main Street.

FIRST PARKING LOT ENTRANCE:

1. From Main/Bridge street, turn left into the church driveway, marked with the sign for 732 Main Street.
2. Drive uphill, following the driveway straight ahead.
3. Park anywhere behind or around the side of the building.

SECOND PARKING LOT ENTRANCE:

1. Instead of turning left into the driveway once you get onto Bridge/Main Street, go to the next stoplight.
2. Turn left onto Newfound Street.
3. Pass the red brick apartments and a small white apartment building on your left.
4. Turn left immediately into the parking lot for the small white apartments.
5. Drive through that small lot, and park in the lot behind the church or around the side.

ENTERING THE BUILDING:

There is a lockbox with a key by the door on the northwest side of the building, facing the intersection with Champion Drive. **The code is 1650.** Please use this key during your stay, and leave in the box after each use.



WHO WE ARE



Staff:

Music Director Jeffrey Gonce,
Minister Rev. Esta Jarrett

Session:

Tim Jacobs (Clerk),
Sally Morgan (Treasurer),
Lisa White



cantonpres1@gmail.com, cantonpresbyterian.com

OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT



People have told us that our church is unusual.

We don't all agree on everything, except for the one important thing: following Jesus.

This brings us together in a brave space that is unlike anything else out there.

Our beliefs, understanding of scripture, and leadership lead us to anti-racism work and LGBTQIA+ advocacy. At the same time, our membership is full of people across the political spectrum.

In our differences, we value human diversity and rights. Our differences create deep friendships, open curiosity, intellectual growth, the right amount of challenge, and contagious joy.

In our church, it's not acceptable to bad-mouth people because they vote differently. We don't do that here. We don't hate people for their opinions.

Here's what we do: we eat well. We look out for each other. We welcome strangers in a way that lets them know they are at home.

We work together to care for the least of these in our community. We laugh a lot.

We are bonded by our love of music, art, and storytelling, based on our mountain heritage.

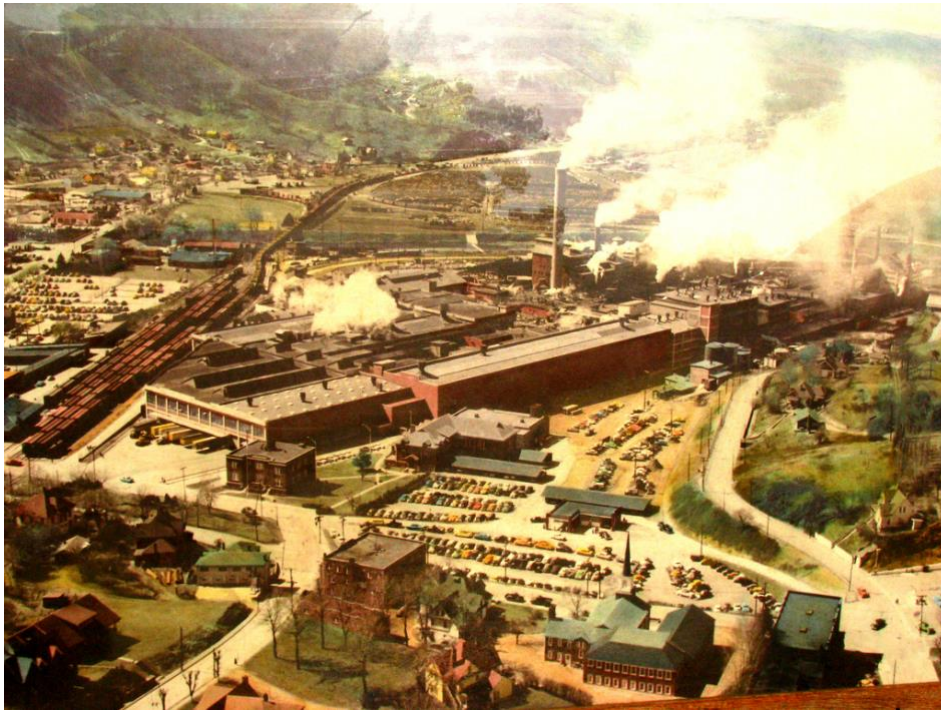
Our culture is divided.

Our church is not.

We follow Jesus.

- Copies of our sexual misconduct prevention policy and protection policy for children and vulnerable adults are available upon request.
- In the state of North Carolina, we are all mandatory reporters for suspicion of abuse.

OUR HISTORY



Canton Presbyterian Church was established 120 years ago in 1904. At the time, Canton, North Carolina was a small community organized around the railroad and the construction of a paper mill, then known as Champion Paper. Our church history was intertwined with Champion's for decades, since the mill was the town's primary employer, many of its employees were members of our church, and our building is on a hill overlooking the mill.

Originally a Presbyterian mission school in a largely Methodist town, we quickly became a worshipping community. For decades, our church enjoyed a position in Canton similar to other mainline churches in the 1900s. We were a hub of activity, had steady membership numbers and financial support, and were an important part in the lives of our members and their families. Generations of children were baptized and educated here, grew up, married, and brought their own children to church.

Our church has always been known for our emphasis on education, music, and art. Talented staff and members made our building a beautiful and gracious place. Teachers in our congregation, including the legendary Mary Gillis, made sure generations of children throughout Canton learned to love reading. Head Start, a preschool program, had its home in our building for years. A long line of brilliant musicians, including our current beloved Music Director, Jeffrey Gonce, have made our sanctuary organ sing.

In the 2000s, our then-pastor, the Rev. Beverly Brock, inspired our church to open The Community Kitchen in our building. That ministry's most recent location provided hundreds of meals to people in need every month, along with groceries and other supplies. That location was destroyed during Hurricane Helene in 2024, but the Kitchen's ministry survives, and they still seek to help our people as they plan for a new location.

Helene wasn't the first natural disaster in Canton. In 2004, two massive and devastating floods swept through our community. Our church partnered with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and became a home base for flood recovery operations. Many volunteers worked to help people rebuild, and were instrumental on getting our community through that difficult time.



In 2020, our lives changed forever with the rest of the world with COVID-19, and we entered the period of lockdown until

vaccines became available. Our Session and congregation agreed that keeping each other safe and healthy was an expression of our mission in Christ, so we began gathering online through Zoom and YouTube, and safely distanced outside, when the weather allowed it. We adapted and found new ways to provide for those in need in our community. We came through that traumatic year believing strongly that, even though we were small in number, we still have an important role to play in Canton.

In August 2021, another flood devastated Haywood County, including areas in Cruso, Bethel, downtown Canton, the paper mill (now known as Pactiv-Evergreen), and east of Canton. Our church partnered with the Canton Missional Network, United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), and Baptists on Mission to become a home base for volunteer groups yet again. Through the generosity and faith of supporters around the world, our church alone raised almost \$80,000 to support flood victims.



In March 2023, Pactiv-Evergreen announced without warning that it would soon be closing its location in Canton. This announcement sent shockwaves through our community, raising questions about our financial future as well as our identity beyond "that paper mill town." The mill's final whistle blew in July, and the last shift left the mill soon after.

Then, in September 2024, Hurricane Helene swept through the mountains and destroyed much of western North Carolina, including a portion of our downtown that had just finished rebuilding from Tropical Storm Fred. While this has been a terrible time, after everything we have been through in recent years, our town and church feel uniquely equipped to face the challenge of the present moment, with God's help.



Through it all, our church has remained steadfast in service. We will continue to be what we've always been: the body of Christ. We are small, creative, joyful, deeply connected, mutually supportive, grateful for our history, and excited to see what good things God has in store for us next. In this moment, we thank God for YOU, for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, for all our mission partners, and for everyone working hard to rebuild.

These are just some of the many groups who have helped us rebuild:





One more thing: you may notice antique wooden chairs with woven seats everywhere in our building. Those were handmade by members of the Mace family from Madison County, NC, around 1910. We have the world's largest collection of these chairs. They are prized by collectors, but we have been told the best thing we can do is use them as intended. Oral history says they were used by the youth group for Sunday School in the 1940s and may have been the sanctuary chairs in the original church building that stood until 1937. Please don't stand on them, but otherwise, feel free to use them as intended – that's the best way to honor their history!

A display about the history of the Mace family and the chairs is in the hallway by the sanctuary.

A few notes for your stay:

Supplies:

- Paper towels, hand towels, toilet paper, trash bags, and recycling bags are in the janitor's closet on the first floor.
 - A basket of toiletries for your use is on a table outside the Joy Room.
 - PDA t-shirts are in boxes in the library.
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Layout of the building:

- The church building is roughly divided into 4 sections: the first floor offices, the sanctuary, the first floor Education Wing, and the second floor.
 - The first floor Education Wing has the shower room, two bathrooms, a kitchenette, a nursery, a library, two storage rooms, a sacristy for worship storage, a janitor's closet, and a larger gathering space called the Joy Room.
 - The second floor has a large fellowship hall, a full kitchen (please note: the ice machine does not work), an artist's studio (privately leased), several classrooms, a bathroom, and a parlor.
 - You have access to the first floor of the Education wing, the unlocked rooms of the second floor, and the parlor on the second floor.
 - The fuse box for the first floor Education Wing (which you'll need, because the wiring in the Joy Room only allows for a few appliances at a time to be run) is on the wall in the hallway by the ramp leading into the sanctuary.
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Kitchens:

First floor:

- The kitchenette on the first floor Education Wing hallway has a small fridge/freezer, stove/oven, and microwave.
- There is a deep sink in the janitor's closet on the first floor near the kitchenette.
- There is a microwave and a coffee pot in the Joy Room.

Second floor:

- Full kitchen upstairs, with two sinks, fridge/freezer, microwave, dishwasher, plates, bowls, glasses, coffee cups, silverware, and a coffee pot.
- We're getting a new ice maker, but until then, you'll have to buy bagged ice.

Bathrooms:

First floor:

- Two bathrooms with sinks and toilets. They are labeled “men” and “women” but please use them however you wish.
- A shower room with 2 showers and sinks. Please leave the shower room door open after you use it, with a fan blowing, since there is no other ventilation or windows. **Please note that it takes much longer than you think it should for water in the showers to get hot. Just keep it running; it’ll get there, we promise.**

Second floor:

- One bathroom with a sink and toilet.

Sleeping:

First floor:

- There are signs on the doors of the rooms designated for sleeping on the first floor of the education wing, although you are welcome to spread out for more privacy.

Second floor:

- One room was damaged by water in 2024, and repair plans are underway. That room is closed and locked for your safety.
- Our artist-in-residence, Tim Jacobs, has his studio upstairs. Please do not go in his studio without his direct permission.
- You are welcome to stay in any other unlocked room upstairs.

Upstairs Lights:

- All the lights upstairs (except the parlor) are controlled by the fuse box in the fellowship hall. Once the fuses are on, you can use wall switches for individual rooms and hallways.
 - The one exception is the fellowship hall. There are no wall switches in that room. Its lights are turned on and off by flipping the top four fuses.
 - Please DO NOT touch any of the rest of the fuses.
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Air Conditioning:

- The fellowship hall upstairs is the only place you'll be staying with central AC. There are a few AC window units in rooms on the first floor Education Wing. You can adjust those as needed. There is no AC in the upstairs parlor.
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Trash Disposal and Clean-up:

- There is a recycling bin in the Joy Room on the first floor.
 - There is no recycling pick-up, so please bag up your items in the blue bags and leave them at the church. Volunteers will dispose of them.
 - At the end of your stay, please empty your trash cans, and take the trash out to the bins by the playground, on the north side of the building.
 - Please clean the spaces in which you slept, ate, and gathered before you leave.
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Fire/Weather Safety plans:

- Fire exits and hazardous weather plans will be reviewed during the orientation meeting. There are fire extinguishers placed throughout the building.
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Other Notes:

- Please turn off any lights when you leave the building, and keep the outside doors locked.
- If the temperature in the building is not comfortable, please contact Pastor Esta 828-549-8338. Please do not adjust the thermostats yourselves.
- There is **wifi**, with routers in the church office and in an upstairs classroom of the Education Wing, but the signal doesn't travel far. You may have to use your hotspots. Password is **presbyterian1904**.
- Anything else, just ask!

LOCAL RESOURCES

MEDICAL

Hospital:

Haywood Regional Medical Center
262 Leroy George Dr, Clyde, NC 28721
(828) 456-7311

Urgent Care:

Haywood Regional Medical Urgent Care
55 Buckeye Cove Rd, Canton, NC 28716
(828) 648-0282

Pharmacies:

Walgreens Pharmacy
244 New Clyde Hwy., Canton, NC 28716
(828) 648-4468

Ingles Pharmacy
630 Champion Dr, Canton, NC 28716
(828) 235-2795

First Aid supplies will be available at the church; however, groups will be responsible for their own First Aid supplies at the work site. It is recommended that each team member have a currently updated tetanus shot.

GROCERY STORES

Ingles
630 Champion Dr, Canton, NC 28716
(828) 648-3200

Food Lion
1 New Clyde Hwy, Canton, NC 28716
(828) 648-1550

U.S. POST OFFICE:

183 Park St.,
Canton, NC 28716
Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
828-648-2634

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS:

Champion Credit Union
3 Academy St, Canton, NC 28716
Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Drive-through ATM available
(828) 648-1515

LOCAL PLACES TO EAT:

Best Coffee in Western North Carolina:

Papertown Coffee
457 Main St, Canton, NC 28716
(828) 492-0993

Sandwiches, Burgers, and Wraps:

J-Ros Burgers and Subs
384 Main St, Canton, NC 28716
(828) 492-0015

Furman's Burger Bar
738 New Clyde Hwy, Canton, NC
28716
(828) 492-1777

Fast food:

McDonald's, Hardee's, Arby's, Bojangles, Popeye's,
Taco Bell, KFC, Pizza Hut, Papa John's Pizza

Sit-Down Restaurants:

Southern Porch
449 Main St, Canton, NC 28716
Phone: (828) 492-8006

Canelos Mexican Family Restaurant
15 Plaza Loop, Canton, NC 28716
(828) 648-0303

Grateful Table
473 Main St, Canton, NC 28716
(828) 276-2840

China King
49 Plaza Loop, Canton, NC 28716
(828) 235-8815

Three Compas Mexican Restaurant
124 Main St, Canton, NC 28716
(828) 235-9193

Kobe Express
49 Plaza Loop, Canton, NC 28716
(828) 235-8815

OTHER PLACES TO SHOP:

There are several gift stores in downtown Canton, including a local Artist's Co-op on Adams Street, who would welcome you warmly. Help us rebuild our local economy by purchasing souvenirs to take home!