

RETREAT INFORMATION

Overnight Package

Cost: \$240

Includes: All sessions

Accommodations: Two nights hotel (based on two mothers per room)

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch and dinner Saturday and breakfast Sunday

Seminar Only Package

Cost: \$100

Includes: All sessions

Meals Included: Lunch and Dinner Saturday

Registration Deadline

Return attached registration form to First Friends church or register online by **September 16**.

Additional Information:

For more information or any questions call, text or email:

Cindi Sutter
330-323-5741
icindi@me.com

**"The Lord is close
to the brokenhearted
and saves those who
are crushed in spirit."**

Psalm 34:18



SCHEDULE

Friday, October 23

3:00-6:45 pm	Check In/Dinner on your own
7:00-9:00 pm	Introduction/Adult Adoptee Panel discussion

Saturday, October 24

6:30-9:00 am	Breakfast on location, Breakfast area
9:00-12:00 pm	Morning Program
12:00-1:00 pm	Lunch provided on Location
1:00-3:00 pm	Afternoon Program
3:00-6:00 pm	Free Time
6:00-7:00 pm	Dinner provided on location
7:00-9:00 pm	Evening Program

Sunday, October 25

6:30-9:00 am	Breakfast on location, Breakfast area
9:00-11:30 am	Morning Worship and Program
11:30-12:00 pm	Check Out

Adult Adoptee Panel

Brittany Fegancher
Tim Perdion
Maddie Ricker
Casey Weisend

Highlighting
challenges of identity,
loss and grief,
attachment and trust
during Adult Adoptee
Panel Friday evening.



Sponsored By:
First Friends Church, Canton, OH

Adoptive Foster & Kinship MOTHERS' WEEKEND RETREAT

Wholeness For Every Heart



Friday, October 23 -
Sunday, October 25 2026

Berlin Grande Hotel
4787 Township Road 366
Berlin, OH 44610
Phone (330) 403-3050



5455 Market Ave N, Canton OH 44714
www.firstfriends.org 330-966-2800

SPEAKERS

Gail Weisend

Gail is an adoptive parent to thirteen special needs children and has two sons by birth. With her husband Denny they were foster parents, as well, for many years. She and her husband have found great satisfaction as well as a challenges, in raising their large family. Their children are now grown. They have 28 grandchildren. Gail has worked in the field of adoption as an adoptive and foster parent trainer, and as a clinical social worker. She specializes in trauma treatment and in treating Dissociative Disorders in patients at 4 Kid Help And Adults in Canton.

Heather Weisend Knapik

Heather is happily married to Mark Knapic, and they are enjoying raising their large family together. Heather has lived deeply in different roles in the adoption experience. She has lived with her birth family, and continues to be involved with them. She lived in foster care, and was adopted at the age of nine into the large Weisend family. She enjoys her teenage stepdaughter and is the adoptive parent of three boys. She and her husband are currently foster parenting a one year old. She has been a speaker at adoption and foster parenting gatherings.

Noelle Beck

Noelle Beck is a passionate spiritual entrepreneur within the city of Akron. She has founded several organizations and ministries over the years ministering to teenagers, women and believers. Most recently, in 2024 Noelle launched a ministry called Jesus is Enough helping every individual to experience the fullness of relationship with God. Noelle resides in Akron with her husband of twenty five years and has the distinct pleasure of being Enoch, Trinity and Gio's mom. Noelle will share an amazing adoptive story with her struggles and joys.



Heather and Gail



Noelle Beck

WEEKEND THEME

Wholeness for Every Heart

W Ways for healing child and mother
H Holes in the heart
O Openness in sharing
L Loss is origin of behaviors
E Encouragement to peace

Main challenges to address:

- Identity
- Loss and Grief
- Attachment and Trust

Questions to be addressed:

- What's under my child's behavior?
- What are the holes in my child's heart?
- What can I do to help?
- How do the holes in my child's heart affect me?
- How do I get to a place of peace?

Come join us:

- To connect with other adoptive, foster and kinship mothers with children of any age
- To relax and refresh for the journey
- To gain understanding of your child's challenges and learn how you can help your child
- To look under your brokenness to find peace and wholeness

2026 Adoptive, Foster & Kinship MOTHERS' WEEKEND RETREAT REGISTRATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

I AM A(N) *MARK ALL THAT APPLY*

___ ADOPTIVE MOTHER

___ FOSTER MOTHER

___ KINSHIP MOTHER

PLEASE MARK THE AGE(S) OF YOUR CHILDREN:

___ 0-11 ___ 12-17 ___ 18-ADULT

I WILL BE ATTENDING

___ OVERNIGHT ATTENDEE \$240

___ SEMINAR ONLY ATTENDEE \$100

ROOMMATE PREFERENCE:

FOOD ALLERGIES:

SATURDAY LUNCH CHOICE:

___ HAM SANDWICH

___ TURKEY SANDWICH

___ SALAD WITH CHICKEN (GF/DF)

AMOUNT ENCLOSED

___ \$240 ___ \$100

___ CASH ___ CHECK

OR SCAN TO
REGISTER
ONLINE

Registration form and
payment may be brought or
mailed to:

First Friends Church
Attn: Nancy Petroff
5455 Market Ave N
Canton, OH 44714