

## First Church

604 Market St.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

570-322-3572

office@firstchurch.cc

Check us out at

www.firstchurch.cc

Donate



### SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00 am—Traditional

604 Market St.

9:30 am—Blended

604 Market St.

11:00 am—Contemporary

601 Market St.

4:30 pm—Celebrate Recovery

604 Market St.

### WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

5:00 pm—601 Market St.

First Night meal, fellowship, music,  
brief message, children's ministries,  
fuse\* (youth ministries), First  
Friends (special needs group) &  
adult small groups.

### CYCLE OF PRAYER:

May 27— June 2:

Jami, Betsy, Wyatt, & Hunter  
Nolan; Frank, Cindy, & Alexander  
Norris; Eric, Stephanie, Sophie,  
Jackson, & Carson Orndorff; Lou &  
Sue Palazzo; Bryan, Belinda,  
Zachery, & Kortnei Parsons; Jay &  
Peggy Pauling; Darryl & Shana  
Payne; Bill & Cindy Peck; Christie  
Peck; Larue & Ruth Pepperman;  
Linda Pepperman; Mike Petro;  
Fran Pfaff; Doug Pitt; Lamar,  
Sherry, Miranda, Julia, & Dylan  
Ploppert; Ken Poorman; Edwin,  
Maria, & Aizaer Portalatin; JoJo &  
Sue Potts; Bill & Rita Pyscher;  
Stephanie & Lyric Quartman;  
Adam & Amanda Quinton; Matt,  
Anna, Megan, Elizabeth, & Nina  
Radspinner; Josh, Shauna,  
Jackson, & Gracelyn Raker; Rob &  
Laurie Raker; Kyle, Laura,  
Maxwell, & Lyla Rankin; Ryan,  
Zavier, & Rymir Ransom; Mark, Jill,  
Michael, & Rebekah Reamsnyder;  
Michael, Christina, Gavin, &  
Calissa Reed; Joe Reifsnyder; and  
Steve & Montrae Reigle.

# PRAY

Welcome to



# First Church

United Methodist

Week of May 27, 2018

Transformation in Christ | Changing lives inside and out (Romans 12:1-2)

### FIRST CHURCH 2018 GRADUATES

On Sunday, June 10th, we will offer a special prayer in recognition of all our First Church graduates at each worship service. We will also list their names in the weekly newsletter and in the pre-service rolling slides. If you are a First Church graduate or have a First Church graduate (high school, college, military, grad school, etc.) that you would like us to include in prayer, please email their name and graduation info to the office no later than Monday, June 4, 2018, at office@firstchurch.cc or provide the information on the back of the communication card.

### BAPTISM

First Church would like to congratulate Laurel Alexander, Kaleb Meyer, and Ben Robbins on their baptisms on May 20, 2018.

### CYF CONFIRMATION

First Church would like to congratulate Laurel Alexander, Addie Bower, Jackson Emery, Jett Johnson, Josh Lake, Zach Lake, Kaleb Meyer, Josh Ritter, Kaitlyn Ritter, Ben Robbins, Jackson Shangraw, and Kathryn Shangraw who joined the First Church family on May 20, 2018 through CYF Confirmation.

# INVITE

## LOOKING FOR A SMALL GROUP?

If you are looking for a Small Group to attend over the summer, the First Church website is a wonderful resource to help you find a new group. Also, updated Small Group Information Sheets are available at the Information Centers of the FEC and CLC. You may also contact Kathy Miller at [kcmiller1961@gmail.com](mailto:kcmiller1961@gmail.com) or (570) 651-2165 for help with matching you with the perfect group.

## MONTHLY CHRISTIAN BOOK GROUP

Join us on Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Donna Johnson (1701 Clarion Dr.) for the June book – The Rent Collector by Camron Wright. No reservation needed. Come once, come every time!!!! Great discussion, good fellowship. “COME AND SEE.”

## SUMMER SMALL GROUPS

Summer is coming! Some Small Groups take a break from meeting during the summer. If you are a small group leader of a group that **DOES NOT** meet during the summer, please email [office@firstchurch.cc](mailto:office@firstchurch.cc) to let us know so that we can keep our calendar accurate for the custodial staff. Thank you for your help!

## REGULATING TEMPERATURE ON SUNDAY MORNING

You may have noticed that it is challenging to regulate the temperature in a large space filled with people. This is especially true in the Spring and Fall. While we recognize that it is impossible to please everyone, we strive to provide a comfortable worship space for the majority who join us on Sunday morning. The temperature is currently set at 75°, but you will find that different parts of the room can feel significantly different in temperature. The edges of the room and rear of the room tend to be warmer. Obviously, it is cooler when you sit below a blower. We ask for your continued patience and understanding as we try to make each worship space as comfortable as possible.

## MISSION ITEMS NEEDED

**Local Food Pantry** — canned tuna fish, peanut butter, and jelly.

**Shepherd of the Streets** — diapers, wipes, and baby bath.

Donations for these missions may be left in the baskets at the following locations: Christian Life Center - the Market Street entrance; First Evangelical Center - the Ross Street entrance; North Campus - Lounge.

**PLEASE DO NOT PLACE OPENED OR EXPIRED ITEMS IN THE BASKETS.**

## FAMILY PROMISE HOST WEEK

First Church is hosting Family Promise families June 3 - 10 at North Campus. Please contact Patty Fox (570-971-2872) if you are interested in helping to share God's love to local homeless families. Thank you.

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE DURING ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Annual Conference this year is being held May 31-June 2. Retired Pastor Dave Searly is available for congregational care needs on Thursday, May 31, while the other pastors are away. If you need care that day, please contact Dave Searly at 570-506-1594. Pastor D.G. will be available on Friday, June 1, and Saturday, June 2 for congregational care. Her number is 570-447-8469.

## SECOND MILE GIVING

Transform is our local mission experience where we seek to meet some of the practical needs in our community as the hands and feet of Jesus by blessing our community through home repair, landscaping, painting, cleaning, volunteering, and serving. Instead of just one week of serving, Transform 2018 will occur multiple times throughout the year. Our next event will be August 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>.

## SPRING OUTDOOR CLEANUP

Please join us on **Wednesday** evening, **June 6**, beginning at **5:45 PM**, right as First Night dinner is ending. We are asking for help from those who usually come to First Night as well as ANYBODY **interested in helping the church save money** by joining us to clean up the landscape around the CLC, FEC, and parking lots as well as possible mulching at the Bennett St. parking lot. Many gardening tools will be available but, if you can, please bring garden rakes, wheelbarrows, shrub trimmers, gloves, pitch forks, shovels, and/or tarps. **Small Groups** - need a service idea? JOIN US! Meet in CLC Parking Lot. Children under 18 must be accompanied by their parent. Rain Date - Wed, June 13. Questions? Call Ken Durrwachter at 570-560-3213. Of course...have dinner at 5:00 PM at First Night!

TEACH

SEND



Fuse\* student ministries announces our summer mission trip experience to Buffalo, New York from July 15 – 21, 2018. This trip is primarily for students in grades 6-12. Adult leaders to fulfill roles of project manager, crew leader, and nurture and support are also needed. Preference for adult applicants will be given to fuse\* volunteer staff, parents/relatives of participating students, and then

others. Since this is a student ministry mission experience, we will limit the number of adults to the team needs.



6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students are invited to join fuse\* student ministries at the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the nation's largest Christian music festival, Creation! Join thousands of believers for camping, music, speakers, food, and more from June 26<sup>th</sup>- July 1<sup>st</sup>. Registration is required by June 10<sup>th</sup>, with early bird discounts before May

20<sup>th</sup>. Register online at [firstchurch.cc](http://firstchurch.cc) or using registration cards found in the fuse\*box or at campus information centers. Contact Josh Tobias, [jtobias@firstchurch.cc](mailto:jtobias@firstchurch.cc), with questions or for scholarship requests.

### SEAN WALKER'S BASKETBALL CAMPS

Is your child entering Kindergarten through 5th grade? If so, plan on joining us for an amazing week of basketball camp!

**June 11th to 15th** (Registration and payment due Wednesday, June 6th)

**July 9th to 13th** (Registration and payment due Tuesday, July 3rd.)

Kindergarten through 2nd grade will meet from 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. each day. 3rd through 5th grade will meet from 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. each day.

The cost is \$20.00 per child per week.

*Activities will include free shooting, Bible teaching, warm-ups, skills, and scrimmages. Any questions, please feel free to call Kathy Choate at 570 322 3993 or email [kchoate@firstchurch.cc](mailto:kchoate@firstchurch.cc).*

Register online NOW at <http://www.firstchurch.cc/childrens-ministries/>.

## CHILDREN/YOUTH

*Continued from Pastor Page...*

With these changes in responsibility, our staff will also be operating under a new organizational chart which directly reflects those ministries that contribute primarily to the inherited church model as well as those ministries which contribute primarily to fresh expressions of church (such as the Acts Network). In saying this, I would remind us again here to remember there will also be overlap as the strengths of each of these forms of ministry benefit one another! Under all of these changes will be the fostering of a more missional and incarnational DNA, designed to help us focus on becoming multiplying disciples.

We believe these changes give us the greatest chance to remove barriers to growth and do what no other church in the Susquehanna United Methodist Conference has been able to do by consistently growing past 800 folks in regular worship.

These are significant endeavors and steps of faith. I would ask for your deep, regular, and heart-felt prayers... and that our heartbeat would grow ever stronger around our vision of "Transformation In Christ, Changing Lives Inside and Out."

I remain so very grateful to take these steps of faith with a people like you, First Church.

In Christ,  
Pastor Matt



Children <sup>Potty Trained</sup> 3 yrs-4th grade

**JUNE 18-22**

**9 am - Noon**

Register\*: [www.firstchurch.cc](http://www.firstchurch.cc)

**WANT TO HELP WITH VBS?**

Teens and adults are welcome to sign up online or talk with Angie Tobias ([atobias@firstchurch.cc](mailto:atobias@firstchurch.cc))

\*all volunteers must comply with Safe Sanctuaries

VBS CDs now available...\$5 donation

see Angie Tobias (Director of Children's Ministries) for details

## CHILDREN/YOUTH

## Sermon Outline

Becoming X Disciples—Disciple-Making  
Matthew 28:18-20 and 1 Thessalonians 1:6-10

- I. Paul says, “You became \_\_\_\_\_ ... of the Lord.”
- II. Imitating our master—Jesus—is the essence of \_\_\_\_\_.
- III. Imitate more literally means to \_\_\_\_\_.
- IV. Two primary \_\_\_\_\_ to discipleship:
  - A. Problem #1: \_\_\_\_\_ has become more central to our identity as Christians than embodying what we believe.
- V. When discipleship becomes too much about thinking and the discipleship practices become optional... \_\_\_\_\_ ceases.
- VI. Two primary \_\_\_\_\_ to discipleship:
  - A. Problem #2: Practicing \_\_\_\_\_ over \_\_\_\_\_
- VII. The \_\_\_\_\_ of mature discipleship is multiplication.
- VIII. What is my next \_\_\_\_\_ ?

### Life Application:

*Do I spend more time thinking about discipleship or practicing it? What will help me embody discipleship and not just think about it? What next step of discipleship do I need to take? Will I commit to praying about what step of a Disciple’s Journey I need to take? Will I commit to taking that step?*

### Scripture Reflection – 1 Thessalonians 1:6-7a

“You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. And so you became a model to all the believers.”

## Pastor’s Page

### The Church At Its Best (Part 3) - Living as Both “Inherited” and “New”

First Church,

In the last few Pastor Pages I have laid out some of the theology and philosophy behind this model of church.

Today I want to focus on some of the practical implications of living into this model. Specifically, I want to help us understand the role that our staff will be playing as we live into this model of ministry. Recently we have begun to implement very significant staff transitions to help us as a church grow into this model of embracing “inherited” and “new.” The consultant we have worked with, Wade Burnett from Multi-Site Solutions, believes First Church can grow someday to 1200 weekly worshippers just in our Sunday morning gatherings and then at that time have the ability to launch new sites in other locations. However, “Counting Worshippers” is not as straight forward as one might think. For example, we have folks who worship online, at times other than Sunday morning, and in connection with our Acts Network (which currently has around 380 people connected, but are not all worshipping yet). So, one of our first tasks in reaching 1200 in worship will be to determine how we are going to count! Such is the age in which we live!

What we DO already know is that to get to 1200 and beyond in regular worship attendance, there are many ways that we will have to grow and adapt. Thankfully we have a staff team willing to make the necessary changes and adaptations to do whatever we can to see maximum Kingdom impact. (For us that means the most amount of lives transformed inside and out in Jesus Christ possible!).

Therefore, many of our staff will be taking on new or adjusted roles as of July 1 of this year. Those with significant changes include:

\***Jake Bair** will continue to give time and energy to worship in the CLC, but he will also focus on better communication for First Church.

\***Aaron Russell** will continue to work with college ministry, but he will also work at helping us develop a more vibrant culture of discipleship at the CLC.

\***Rick Waters** will oversee our pastoral care, but also oversee our community outreach.

\*Two new part-time roles will be created in relation to the FEC worship. One will be entitled the Director of FEC Worship and one will be a designated worship leader. In this set-up Desire Bower will continue to work in the worship area and will focus her attention on supporting the work of the Director of FEC Worship.

\***Pastor Janet** will be moving into a role with expanded responsibility as our Executive Pastor designed to focus on increased ministry alignment and discipleship. In this role, Pastor Janet will no longer be directly leading our worship ministry.

\***Pastor Matt** will be giving more time to strategic planning, communication, vision casting, and the shaping of healthy ministry culture at First Church.

*Continued...*