

## First Church

604 Market St.  
Williamsport, PA 17701  
570-322-3572  
fumc2@comcast.net  
Check us out at  
www.firstchurch.cc

Donate



### SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00am—Traditional  
604 Market St.  
9:30am—Blended  
604 Market St.  
11:00am—Contemporary  
601 Market St.  
11:00am—Contemporary  
1157 Market St.  
(live streamed message)  
5:00pm—Celebrate Recovery  
604 Market St.

### WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

5:00pm—601 Market St.  
Night meal, fellowship, music, brief  
message, small groups (adults)

### EVANGELICAL CENTER ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers are presented to the glory of God and in honor of American Workers (Labor Day) by Ed & Linda Alberts.

### NURSERY UPDATE

Due to future construction in the FEC there will be changes to the Nursery schedule effective September 6<sup>th</sup>. There will be no childcare at 8:00 a.m., childcare (for kids under 3) for 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. will be held in the CLC, room 124 (1st floor).

### PARKING ON MAIN CAMPUS

On Sunday morning, parking can be difficult to find. This is what we call a “good problem.” If you are able to walk without difficulty and are willing to be a servant leader, please consider parking in the lots near Lycoming College. Lycoming College graciously allows First Church to use their lots of Sundays. There is a small lot on the corner of Bennett and Mulberry and a large lot accessible via Mulberry.

## SAVE THE DATE

Combined worship  
service - September 20th  
at 11:00 a.m. at the  
Community Arts Center  
Spread the Word!!

*Welcome to*



# First Church

United Methodist

Week of August 30, 2015

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED AT FIRST CHURCH

### ORIENTATION WITH THE PASTORS

New? Come meet the pastors, ask questions, and hear the vision of First Church as we help you take the next step connecting into ministry at First Church. Join us Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. in room 102 of the Evangelical Center, 604 Market St. Lunch (pizza) is provided. Bring the kids. Register by calling the church office or writing it on the communication card.

### A DISCIPLE'S PATH

Whether you're ready to get more involved or you're new at First Church, this six week group will put you on a path of discipleship leading to growth and connection. The group is also the path for membership if you decide to join. Led by Pastor Rick Waters, the next group will meet 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Wednesdays beginning September 9<sup>th</sup> in room 202 of the Evangelical Center, 604 Market Street. Register by calling the church office or writing it on the communication card.

### FRIDAY MORNING PRAYER

For anyone who wishes to come, we will be gathering at the North Campus sanctuary every Friday morning from 6AM-6:30AM. This prayer time will serve as a reminder, and a joy, that we come into the presence of the RISEN Savior! I hope you all will come as you are able!

### DEDICATION

The First Church family would like to congratulate Austin & Liesel McCardle on the dedication of their daughter, Selah Ruth McCardle at the 11:00 a.m. CLC service on Sunday, August 30th.

Transformation in Christ | Changing lives inside and out

# INVITE

## WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP

**Daniel, Discovering the Courage to Stand for your Faith** by Sue Edwards. This study looks at the life and lessons of Daniel and his companions, who, like so many believers today, faced increasingly challenging choices between their love and commitment to God and the often aggressive hostility of the godless culture in which they had been placed. The author's intelligent and insightful exposition of the book of Daniel and its historical and cultural setting, combined with her practical and timely instruction in the daily application of the message and the lessons of Daniel, make this an indispensable guide to women of faith in our rapidly changing cultural environment. The Women's Bible Study will begin Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at North Campus. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Beth Dahlgren at 570-651-5908 or [dahlgren50@comcast.net](mailto:dahlgren50@comcast.net). You can also contact DG Giordano at the church office: 570-322-3572, ext. 114.

## ROOTS OF JUSTICE (UPDATE)

How are Christ-followers to bring 'shalom' into our troubled world? What kind of fasting does God choose for His people as recorded in Isaiah 58:6-7? Join others that are asking these same questions, and more, as we study the newly published 12-week God of Justice investigative study. Connect what God says in His Word to what He may be "calling" you to do! Two times: Wednesdays 5:45-7:00 pm (childcare available), beginning September 16 or Sundays 6:00-7:30 pm (during Youth Group; younger children may attend under the watch of their parents in the rooms we will be using ), beginning September 13. To reserve your study guide, contact Christine Johnson at 570-419-7695 or [christinejohnson81@gmail.com](mailto:christinejohnson81@gmail.com).

## MEN'S MANIA

"TRANSFORMATION IN CHRIST" GET FIRED UP! BE TRANSFORMED! For men and boys of **ALL** ages. Games! Fun! Steak! Chicken! Worship! Communion! Be there. SATURDAY, SEPT 12. 10 AM - 4 PM. Central Oak Heights, West Milton. Transportation available. \$15 per adult; \$10 per child (10 yrs old and under). Scholarships available. Sign up on church website ([www.firstchurch.cc](http://www.firstchurch.cc)) or at the Information Center.

## CHOIR MEMBERS NEEDED

Lift your voice unto the Lord! You're invited to join the Chancel Choir at First Church. Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30PM in the choir room at FEC. For more information call Tom Shellenberger, Director at 570-447-9197.

## MOPS VOLUNTEERS

MOPS continues to grow and to reach moms, moms of newborns or toddlers, moms new to the area and looking to connect, moms looking to catch their breath in the midst of parenting! Have you considered helping a few times a year in this growing ministry? MOPS meets the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 9:30-11:30 and would love to have your help! Each classroom contains a staff lead for the classroom-- all you have to do is follow their lead and enjoy the kiddie hugs that follow! For more information and to start volunteering call Katie Ritter at 570-326-4930.

## MISSION ITEMS NEEDED

**Local Food Pantry**— canned fruits, kool-aid, oodles of noodles.  
**Shepherd of the Streets**— diapers, wipes, bar soap. Donations for these missions may be left in the baskets at the following locations: Christian Life Center - the Market Street entrance; Evangelical Center - the Ross Street entrance; North Campus - Lounge.

## SECOND MILE GIVING

The Second Mile Giving for September and October is Helping Hand. This fund is to provide emergency assistance to those experiencing economic crisis or difficulty. Please make checks payable to "First Church" with "Helping Hand" in the memo line.

## PRAYER INITIATIVE FOR OUR SCHOOLS – TONIGHT

First Church is participating in a "Prayer Initiative", to pray for the schools before they begin. Pastor Matt will be leading a group in prayer at the flag pole at Curtin Intermediate School **TONIGHT**, August 30, 2015. He would love for you to join him! Pastors from different churches will be leading prayers at all the Williamsport area schools at the same time. Everyone is invited to first meet at the District Service Center at 6 p.m. Here we will pray for the leaders of our district. Then we will travel to Curtin to pray there at 6:45. Or, you can simply meet at the flag pole at Curtin at 6:45 p.m. Let's go to our great God and ask God for great things for our schools!

**TEACH**

**SEND**

## GET F.I.T. (FAITH INSPIRED TRANSFORMATION)

God's Word instructs us to care for our bodies: physically, emotionally, spiritually. "Therefore, offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to Him." Rom 12:1 Ladies, join us as we delve deeper into what it means to honor our Creator by caring for our bodies through exercise, nutrition and faith— transformation from the inside out! All ages and ability levels welcome! Wednesday evenings 5:45-7:00 Wear comfortable exercise clothing and shoes. Bring water bottle, exercise mat (optional) and a friend!

## DIVORCECARE SEMINAR/ SUPPORT GROUP BEGINS SEPTEMBER 20, 2015

DivorceCare is a special weekly seminar and support group for people who are separated or divorced. It's a place where you can be around people who understand what you are feeling. DivorceCare is a 13 week video seminar series featuring some of the nation's foremost Christian experts on divorce and recovery topics as seen from a biblical perspective. The video seminar are combined with support group discussion of the materials presented during the video. Each session is "self-contained," and you may join at any time. If you know someone going through a divorce, make sure he or she knows about DivorceCare. It might just be the best thing you could do to help. Brochures are available at

## DIVORCECARE (Continued)

the information desk. Or go to [www.divorcecare.org](http://www.divorcecare.org) for more information. DivorceCare meets every Sunday night from 6:30-8:30 p.m (location to be determined). Call Lou Anne Barnhart 323-5146 to register.

## NEW STUDY GROUP!--Relational Wisdom by Ken Sande

Why is it that some people seem to have it all together – good relationships, enduring marriages, success at work, happy families, easy-going conflict resolution, an appealing Christian witness? It is not because they are simply brighter than the rest of us. There is another kind of smart, which correlates strongly with success in all aspects of life. The Bible calls it "wisdom," and God promises great blessings to those who pursue it earnestly. "Relational wisdom" is the ability to daily live out Jesus' two Great Commandments, namely, *to love God with all your heart and to love your neighbor as yourself.* Together, this group will explore the foundational principles of Relational Wisdom in a 7 week daily ON-LINE training program, and will meet weekly to view DVDs, discuss our findings, and grow together in how we relate to God, to ourselves, and to others. (Learn more at [www.rw360.org](http://www.rw360.org)) Leaders are Ruth (Eck) Vierra and Lorrie Netzley. Meeting Wednesdays, starting Sept 23, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.



fuse\* student ministries is excited to be gearing up for another great ministry year utilizing our fuse\* Sunday evenings, d-fuse\* Wednesday evening and Sunday morning opportunities, and fuse\* open gym ministries. Students in grades 6-12 are welcome and encouraged to connect with us during one or more of those times. Fuse\* meets Sunday evenings at the First Church North Campus from 6-8pm. d-fuse\* student discipleship opportunities meet for study on Wednesday evenings at the First Church CLC from 6-7 pm. Open gym will be meeting Monday and Friday from 5- 7pm at the First Church CLC.

## THANK YOU ZAVON BRAGGS

For almost a year, Zavon has served as the leader of the CLC Praise Band. We have been blessed by his sensitivity to the movement of the Spirit, his humble, servant's heart, his care for the people he leads, and his hearty laugh. Zavon will be stepping down as the CLC Band leader on Aug 31. Beginning in September, Mitch Marcello, Director of Acts Network, and Josh Tobias, Director of Student Ministries, will share leadership for the CLC Band. We are grateful that Zavon and his wife Sylvia plan to continue to participate in the ministries of First Church as they are able. They have been a blessing. Please make an effort to connect with Zavon to express your appreciation for his leadership as he finishes this season of ministry among us.

## DC4K GROUP

We are offering DivorceCare for Kids, a hands-on, kid-friendly, non-denominational, student support system for any children in the community who have experienced family fracturing with limited seating of 12 students per season. DC4K is for children in grades 1-6. DC4K meets on Sundays from 6:30-8 pm, at First United Methodist Church in the Christian Life Center, Room 132/133. DC4K meets for 13 weeks, beginning September 13, 2015. For more information or to register for DC4K contact the church office (570-322-3572) or Jess Marzo ([jessdurn@yahoo.com](mailto:jessdurn@yahoo.com)). Additional information can be found at [www.dc4k.org](http://www.dc4k.org). To see a DC4K group in action: <http://www.dc4k.org/about>

# Sermon Outline

Called - Ruth

Ruth 1:1-18

- I. God uses and calls \_\_\_\_\_ people for \_\_\_\_\_ purposes.
- II. Cycle of DISOBEDIENCE... DISASTER... \_\_\_\_\_.
- III. Ruth 1:14: .... but Ruth \_\_\_\_\_ to her.
- IV. "Where you \_\_\_\_\_... I will \_\_\_\_\_. And where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." Ruth 1:16
- V. Two Important Components of God's Call on Our Lives:
  - A. God's call involves a gritty, intense, \_\_\_\_\_.
- VI. We realize that \_\_\_\_\_ is loyal to us in the calling, but are \_\_\_\_\_ loyal to God in the calling?
- VII. Our callings are often only as \_\_\_\_\_ as our sense of loyalty is to the Lord who issued the call.
- VIII. Two Important Components of God's Call on Our Lives:
  - B. God's call is always motivated by \_\_\_\_\_.
- IX. God calls us in loyalty and love to \_\_\_\_\_ the bitterness, emptiness, and hopelessness of others by offering God's love and presence as found in Jesus.

## Life Reflection:

*Where in my life am I loyal to God's calling on my life? Where do I need to be loyal in my calling to God? Where in my calling do I need to be motivated by love? Am I clinging to God no matter what? Why or why not?*

## Scripture Reflection: Ruth 1:16, 17

<sup>16</sup> But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. <sup>17</sup> Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me."

# Pastor's Page

First Church,

Last week I asked you to please take some time to fill out the Readiness 360 degree survey. ***If you have not done this, PLEASE take the survey as quickly as possible.*** If you are online, please [click here](#) (if you are looking at this in print, you will need to go to: <http://app.readiness360.org/survey/login>) to log in and type in our congregation's passcode: 2623521950. Please set aside 20 minutes to take the survey between now and September 13, 2015 at midnight. If you need help, please contact: Sherry Golembeski at [570-322-3572](tel:570-322-3572) or by email at: [fumc2@comcast.net](mailto:fumc2@comcast.net). ***It is imperative that we hear from as many people as possible.***

One of the reasons that we are asking folks to take this survey is to help us better understand the culture at First Church as we prepare for some next steps, one of which we are calling the Acts Network.

As we have shared, the Acts Network will be a network of micro communities of deep discipleship who offer fresh expressions of faith.

But what does this really mean?

I have heard a number of great questions around the Acts Network, so let me offer a few responses here. We can hit some questions in this Pastor's Page and some in future weeks.

**\*\*What could a micro community look like?** Variety is the key. A micro community could be a group of musicians who gather each week to "jam out" and build relationships together, then spend time listening to a recorded version of the sermon, and then serve in the community by offering their musical gifts. Or a micro community might be a group of college students who meet weekly for a hike, and while on the hike share in scripture reflection or listen to the sermon and discuss it on the top of the mountain. Or a micro community might include a group of folks living in close proximity who gather each week for a meal, then study together, then seek to serve the very neighbors they live beside.

**\*\*Who is the "target" audience of the Acts Network?** Those who either do not have faith or are on the fringes of faith.

**\*\*How are micro-communities different than small groups?** Whereas small groups typically meet once a week for about an hour to study, micro-communities will engage in times of worship, study, life practices, and concrete acts of service on a regular basis. Worship will occur in micro-communities in related (same message or theme) but distinct ways (off-site or at different times) from the rest of First Church.

In a constantly changing world, one of the things that I am most "proud" of with First Church is its relentless pursuit to do whatever it takes to share Jesus Christ with the world. I ask for your continual prayers as we seek to be obedient to God's leading in this next step.

In Christ,  
Pastor Matt

## FIRST CHURCH

604 Market St.  
Williamsport, PA 17701  
Phone: 570-322-3572

*We're on the Web!*  
www.firstchurch.cc and



### Sunday, August 30

8:00 a.m.-Worship (MC, FEC-Sanctuary)  
9:30 a.m.-Worship (MC, FEC-Sanctuary)  
10:00 a.m.-Breakfast (NC-Wesley Hall)  
11:00 a.m.-Contemporary Worship (MC, CLC-Stryker Hall)  
11:00 a.m.-Contemporary Worship (NC)  
5:00 p.m.-Celebrate Recovery (MC, FEC-Sanctuary)

### Monday, August 31

1:15 p.m.-The Joyful Hearts (NC-Fellowship Room)  
5:00 p.m.-Men of Integrity (1508 Elmira St.)  
7:00 p.m.-Women of Faith (1508 Elmira St.)

### Tuesday, September 1

2:30 p.m.-Worship Design Meeting (MC, FEC-102)  
7:00p.m.-Volleyball/Bible Study (MC, CLC-Stryker Hall)  
7:00 p.m.-Small Group (Murray) (MC, FEC-201)

### Wednesday, September 2

6:00 a.m.-Men's Small Group (Konieczny) (MC, FEC-102)

#### FIRST NIGHT SCHEDULE

5:00 p.m.-Dinner (MC, CLC-Stryker Hall)  
5:15 p.m.-Wed. Night Worship Experience  
(MC, CLC-Stryker Hall)

#### 6:00 p.m.

Celebrate Recovery Step-Study (Women) (MC, FEC-202)  
Celebrate Recovery Step-Study (Men) (MC, FEC-102)  
Sister's in Christ (MC, FEC-201)

### Thursday, September 3

9:15a.m.-MOPS Steering Meeting (MC, FEC-102)  
7:00 p.m.-CLC Praise Band Practice (MC, CLC-Stryker Hall)  
7:00 p.m.-NC Praise Band (NC-Sanctuary)  
7:00 p.m.-FNS Parent Orientation (MC, FEC-Sanctuary)

### Friday, September 4

6:00 a.m.-Prayer Time (NC-Sanctuary)

### Saturday, September 5

7:00 a.m.-Men's Group (Wegman's)

NC = NORTH CAMPUS (1157 Market St.)

MAIN CAMPUS

CLC = Life Center (601 Market St.)

FEC = Evangelical Center (604 Market St.)

#### CYCLE OF PRAYER –

#### August 30-September 5

Rob Bergman; Erik, Shari, Abigail & Elise Berthold; Howard & Brenda Berthold; John & Sue Best; Michael, Jenn (Wright) & Keller Best; Robert Bickel; Ben & Marlana Bigelow; Jean Binderup; Peggy & Constance Bird; Alfredo, Mary Ann, Micaella, Mia, Maria & Marco Blas; Ricky Boatman; Betsy & Jarett Bobenmoyer; Jourdan Boehmer; Mel & Pat Bole; Rob, Lori, Austin & Grace Boos; Pamela, Jay (Osborne) & Brooke (Osborne) Bossert; Chad, Nikki, Elijah, Adalyn & Abram Bower; Dale Bower; Don, Heather, Madyson & Jackson Bower; Jeff & Deb Bower; Paul & Judy Bower; Scot, Desiree', Cayce & Austen Bower; Mary Bowersox; Chris Boyce; Barb Boyd; Zvon & Sylvia Braggs; Paul, Patty, Emily, Beth & Alison (Malee) Braunegg.

**INVITE**  
**TEACH**  
**SEND**

Weekly Worship Attendance

From August 23, 2015

TOTAL — 682