

## 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)  
4:30pm—Celebrate Recovery  
604 Market St.

### WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

5:00pm—601 Market St.  
Night meal, fellowship,  
music, brief message

### CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Celebrate Recovery (CR) at First Church is living proof that God is in the restoration business. Lives are changing!! It doesn't matter who you are, what you have done or what has been done to you...God is willing to take your mess and make it your MESSAGE! Whatever your bondage is - lust, mental illness, gluttony, sexual abuse, pride, depression, anxiety - until you surrender to Jesus Christ and admit your hurts, habits and hangups, you will never experience freedom. But when you are willing to give your mess to Jesus Christ, He turns it into your message. CR meets Sundays at 4:30 pm in the First Evangelical Center. If you have any questions about Celebrate Recovery or wish to order a tshirt, conveying this very message, contact Alisa Cohick at 570-447-0193 or email at [vol-balchick@hotmail.com](mailto:vol-balchick@hotmail.com).

### COVERAGE DURING ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Dave Spearly has graciously offered to cover pastoral care needs while our pastors are at Annual Conference from June 9-11. Dave served as one of our pastors here at First Church for several years before his retirement. If you need care on June 9, 10, or 11, please call Dave at 570-506-1594.

Welcome to



# First Church

United Methodist

Week of May 29, 2016

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

### NEW TO FIRST CHURCH? - Steps to find your way:

Step 1) **MEET FIRST CHURCH SUNDAY, JUNE 12<sup>th</sup>** right after worship

Join one of our pastors for a few minutes getting to know First Church and learning about the ministries most relevant for you. Children are welcome!

After 8:00 a.m. service, First Evangelical Center—Room 206

After 9:30 a.m. service, First Evangelical Center—Room 206

After 11:00 a.m. service, Christian Life Center—back of Stryker Hall

After 11:00 a.m. service, North Campus—in the lounge

Step 2) **A DISCIPLE'S PATH** 6 week group

This group will guide you onto a path of growing discipleship and connection at First Church. It is also the membership group if you would like to join at any time. Led by Pastor D.G. Giordano 6:00-7:00 p.m. Wednesdays beginning September 7<sup>th</sup> in the First Evangelical Center, Room 206. Children's Ministry takes place at the same time as part of First Night so your children can also grow in their discipleship.

### 2016 GRADUATES

Do you have someone graduating this year from High School or College? So we can recognize them, share their name and school with us either on the Communication Card or at [fumc2@comcast.net](mailto:fumc2@comcast.net) by Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup>.

### HYMN SING

Join us in the First Evangelical Center Sanctuary on Saturday, June 4th @ 7:00 p.m. for a wonderful evening of singing hymns and praising God!

### NORTH CAMPUS CELEBRATION SUNDAY 6/5

What's in store: Chicken Quesadillas! Stick around immediately after worship next week as we take time to get to know each other and celebrate life together.

# INVITE

### **CHRISTIAN BOOK GROUP**

The Monthly Christian Book Group will be having a summer gathering for a pot luck dinner at Donna Johnson's house on Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Donna Johnson at 570-322-2347. The summer reading book for the Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> meeting will be "The Agony and the Ecstasy" by Irving Stone.

### **ACTS NETWORK**

#### **GARDENING MEETING**

Join us for the next ACTS network gardening meeting on Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. till Noon. The meeting will be held at the Garden (next to CLC) and will be on Proper Wise Watering as well as Planting Summer vegetables and flowers. Anyone is welcome (under 18 must be accompanied by a parent).

### **WORDS FROM A CARE RECEIVER**

Stephen Ministers cannot change the difficult circumstances that hurting people experience but they can provide a tangible reminder of God's presence in the midst of those difficulties. A care receiver had this to say about experiencing growth in her relationship with God as a result of her relationship with her Stephen Minister: "When we would pray, I could sense God's love...It was and is a huge step in faith to believe that you will ever be happy again after the loss of a loved one...We talked about how God would be with me during this process." If you or someone you know is going through difficult times and would benefit from spending time with a Stephen Minister, please talk with one of the pastors.

### **MISSION ITEMS NEEDED**

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

**Shepherd of the Streets**—diapers, wipes & 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.

### **SECOND MILE GIVING**

The Second Mile Giving for May and June is "Transform PA". This specific week of local mission efforts and community outreach is set for August 1-5, 2016, but efforts continue all year long. During the months of May and June we will collect monetary donations for these efforts. Please make checks payable to "First Church" with "Transform PA" in the memo line.

### **FAMILY PROMISE RUMMAGE SALE**

Family Promise is holding a Rummage Sale on Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at 635 Hepburn St., Williamsport. Drop off your donations at 635 Hepburn St. Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. To volunteer to help with sorting and setting up, please contact Patty Fox at 570-971-2872.

**TEACH**

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**Transform PA—A week of mission in our community**  
**August 1-5, 2016**

**SEND**

# Sermon Outline

## Can You Breathe? In our Finances?

Luke 16:10-15

- I. We need \_\_\_\_\_ between our pace and our limits.
- II. We cannot borrow time. We can borrow \_\_\_\_\_.
- III. There is a direct \_\_\_\_\_ between our ability to follow Christ as Lord of our lives and our willingness to get our financial house in order.
- IV. Standard of living does not \_\_\_\_\_ quality of life.
- V. We raise our standard of living with \_\_\_\_\_. We raise our quality of life with \_\_\_\_\_.
- VI. Financial Truths for all of us:
  - A. We are living on a \_\_\_\_\_ of our income.
  - B. We think if we had just a little bit \_\_\_\_\_, we would be fine.
  - C. We felt the same way when we made a lot \_\_\_\_\_.
- VII. When we are not able to breathe in our financial lives, we become \_\_\_\_\_.
- VIII. Breathing room in our finances is a \_\_\_\_\_ issue.
- IX. How do we create breathing room in our finances?
  - A. \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. \_\_\_\_\_ on your money for 2 months
  - C. \_\_\_\_\_ spending

### **Life Application:**

Which master do I serve? Jesus or finances? Am I willing to do whatever it takes to create more breathing room in my financial life? Am I willing to pursue quality of life over standard of living? Prayer: "Lord, help me to take whatever steps I need to in order to create breathing room in my finances."

### **Scripture Reflection: Luke 16:13**

No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

# Pastor's Page

## GENERAL CONFERENCE REVIEW

First Church,

As many of you know, I had the opportunity to serve as a delegate to our United Methodist General Conference where many significant decisions were made regarding a variety of issues.

I am guessing that you only heard about one primary topic in particular, which was the issue of human sexuality. In truth, this issue was one of many that were examined. Of the 1000 plus resolutions submitted to General Conference, only about 56 of them related to the issue of human sexuality. And yet, this was the one topic that dominated headlines.

Many articles have been written about the decisions made at General Conference in regards to human sexuality (For a variety of viewpoints check out the blogs of Chris Ritter [www.peopleneedjesus.net](http://www.peopleneedjesus.net), Adam Hamilton [www.adamhamilton.org/blog](http://www.adamhamilton.org/blog), and this article from the Washington Post: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/acts-of-faith/wp/2016/05/19/americans-are-more-polarized-than-ever-we-united-methodists-dont-want-to-be/>) --just to name a few---there are many more viewpoints out there.

In short, at this General Conference, the current stance of our church remained that the practice of homosexuality is viewed as incompatible with Christian teaching and doctrine. With this a special commission will be appointed to review this particular topic and bring a specific recommendation to the UM Church within the next two-three years on how the church will move forward in regards to this issue. Extensive prayer and dialogue is requested around this very difficult topic.

Speaking of prayer, I would like to thank ALL of you for your faithful prayers while I attended General Conference. Your prayers were felt and greatly appreciated.

There were many other matters brought before the General Conference, many of them matters of great joy. These elements reminded me yet again of the power of our connectional church and that we really can do more together than alone. Some of these high-lights included:

\*\*Over \$22 million raised for disaster relief over last 4 years!

\*\*29 Missionaries commissioned to 16 lands!

\*\*2 Provisional conferences created due to growth in Mongolia and SE Asia

\*\*5 More Bishops created/approved in Africa due to extreme growth

\*\* Goals to make a million new disciples of Jesus Christ; to engage 3 million new people to make a difference in the world; to transform 400 communities for vital abundant living; to reach a million children with lifesaving health interventions; and to double the number of vital congregations.

May we as a church celebrate the good things God is doing among us, and be in prayer for those elements needing special wisdom, focus, and discernment.

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**



### FAMILY PROMISE WEEK STARTS AT NORTH CAMPUS

#### Sunday, May 29

8:00 a.m.-Worship (MC, FEC-Sanctuary)  
9:30 a.m.-Worship (MC, FEC-Sanctuary)  
9:30 a.m.-Sermon Talk (MC, FEC-201)  
9:30 a.m.-Children's Sunday School (MC, CLC-1st floor)  
9:30 a.m.-fuse\*student ministries (MC, FEC-fuse\*box/105)  
11:00 a.m.-Contemporary Worship (MC, CLC-Stryker Hall)  
11:00 a.m.-Contemporary Worship (NC)  
4:30 p.m.-Celebrate Recovery (MC, FEC-Sanctuary)  
6:00 p.m.-fuse\* student ministries (MC, FEC-fuse\*box)

#### Monday, May 30

Memorial Day—Office Closed

#### Tuesday, May 31

10:30 a.m.-Daughter's of Grace (MC, FEC-101)  
10:30 a.m.-Women's Bible Study (McMurray) (MC, FEC-102)  
12:00 p.m.-Daytime Disciple's Path (MC, FEC-206)  
2:15 p.m.-Worship Design (MC, FEC-Fellowship Hall/102)  
3:30 p.m.-Tutoring (NC-Wesley Hall)  
6:30 p.m.-Tuesday Night Small Group (Lane) (MC, FEC-206)  
7:00 p.m.-Small Group (Murray) (MC, FEC-201)  
7:00 p.m.-Volleyball/Bible Study (MC, CLC-Stryker Hall)

#### Wednesday, June 1

6:00 a.m.-Men's Small Group (Konieczny) (MC, FEC-102)  
12:30 p.m.-Truth Project (MC, FEC-202)

##### 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.

CR Step Study (Men) (NC-212/213)

CR Step Study (Women) (NC-Fellowship Room)

Sister's In Christ (MC, FEC-201)

##### 7:00 p.m.

Chancel Choir (MC, FEC-104)

#### Thursday, June 2

6:00 a.m.-Men's Bible Study (Marzo) (NC-Fellowship Room)  
9:00 a.m.-Sewing in the Spirit (MC, FEC-Fellowship Hall)  
6:30 p.m.-Bell Choir Rehearsal (MC, FEC-104)  
7:00 p.m.-CLC Praise Band (MC, CLC-Stryker Hall/Stage)  
7:00 p.m.-NC Praise Band (NC-Sanctuary)

#### Friday, June 3

6:00 a.m.-Prayer Time (NC-Sanctuary)  
5:00 p.m.-Open Gym (MC, CLC-Stryker Hall)

#### Saturday, June 4

7:00 a.m.-Men's Group (Wegman's)  
7:00 p.m.-Hymn Sing (MC, FEC-Sanctuary)

NC = NORTH CAMPUS (1157 Market St.)

MAIN CAMPUS

CLC = Christian Life Center (601 Market St.)

FEC = First Evangelical Center (604 Market St.)

#### CYCLE OF PRAYER: May 29—June 4

Matthew, Lisa, Jonathan, Benjamin & Matisson Cramer; Shirley Cranmer; David, Gina & Cooper Cuddeback; Fred & June Dahlgren; Kim & Beth Dahlgren; Jim Daly; Greg, Luna, Brock, Logan & Cole Davis; Robert Davis; Mike & Ree Day; John & Doreen Decker; Joseph, Kristen & Emily DeMay; Joey, Lara, Rachel, Dominic, Rebecca & Cameron Denune; Ellen Derr; Paul & Molly Derr; Dana Devito; Ada, Deanna & Lincoln Dincher; Dan & Shelly Dincher; Ivan & Ann Dinges; Matt, Ali, Kristen, Katelyn & Kelly Dinges; Mike, Christina, Joshua & Jacob Dinges; Pat & Michelle Dixon; Brian, Jessica, Aidan, Colin & Liam Donnelly; Bob & Kathy Douglass; Don & Alma Duffield; Sue Duffield; Joe, Lindsay, Makayla & Jackson Dunn; Mary Durkee; Carrie Durrwachter; George & Shirley Durrwachter; Ken, Janet, Eric & Scott Durrwachter.

Weekly Worship Attendance  
for week ending May 22, 2016:  
TOTAL — 831