

## 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.

11:00 am—Contemporary

1157 Market St.

(live streamed message)

4:30 pm—Celebrate Recovery

604 Market St.

### WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

5:00 pm—601 Market St.

First Night meal, fellowship,  
music, brief message,  
small groups (adults)

### CALLING ALL STRING PLAYERS

First Church is filled with many musicians, especially young string players! On August 6th at the 8:00 & 9:30 Services, we would like to have a big group of these students (and even string playing adults) to help lead worship! If you have 2 years of playing experience, can read music and would like to participate, please email Anna Radspinner at [aradspin@gmail.com](mailto:aradspin@gmail.com) or call/text at 570-447-7633. We will have 1 or 2 rehearsals to prepare for worship. There are at least 25 STUDENTS who play violin, viola, cello or bass at First Church in addition to the adults who still play. I'm sure there are even some out there who could dust off their instruments and join us! Please consider joining us in this low pressure ensemble with music that will be accessible for all levels of playing.

### MEMORIAL – NORTH CAMPUS

In memory of

Forrest (Forey) Breitenbach by:

David & Joan Rifkin

Carol McMurray

Vivian Siegel & Son, David

Bernie & Kathy Kiessling & family

Ed Kiessling & family

Deb (Kiessling) & Steve Carastia  
& family

Brenda (Kiessling) & Kevin Scott  
& family

Al & the late Norma (Kiessling)  
Brown

Marian & John Stuempfle

Welcome to



# First Church

United Methodist

Week of July 23, 2017

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

#### MEET THE PASTORS - Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup> right after worship

Join one or more 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

#### A DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY—STEP 1

This 4 week group will guide you as you begin or continue a journey of discipleship! A Disciple's Journey—Step 1 is also the membership group if you would like to join First Church at any time. Pastor D.G. Giordano leads Step 1 on Wednesdays beginning *September 6* from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the First Evangelical Center. Children's Ministry takes place at the same time, beginning *September 13<sup>th</sup>*, as part of First Night so your children can also grow in their discipleship. On *September 6*, children are encouraged to attend the first session with their parents.

#### BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Church would like to congratulate Curtis & Stephanie Fay on the birth of their son, Benjamin Gregory Fay on May 25, 2017.

First Church would like to congratulate Adam & Shannan Kinley on the birth of their daughter, Eva Renee Kinley on June 27, 2017.

#### POSITION OPENING: BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR

We are seeking applicants interested in serving as the Bell Choir Director beginning in September. This position is less than 10 hours per week. A job description and application is available in the Church office or on <http://www.firstchurch.cc/job-openings/>. Application deadline is July 31.

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



**JULY 2017**

# Families worship together

## No Kids Sunday School or Kidzone

\*kids refers to kids just completed 5th grade and younger

### Nursery (0-3 years) is available

**August kids Sunday School  
(preschool - completed 5th grade)  
will be combined in room 132/133**

## Move Up Sunday August 27 for all kids birth-12th grade

### MONTHLY CHRISTIAN BOOK GROUP

Join us on Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. (**NOTE THE NEW DATE & TIME**) at the home of Linda Schon for a Potluck Dinner. The group's summer read will be discussed on Tuesday, September 5, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Donna Johnson (1701 Clarion Dr.). The summer book is – So What's the Difference? by Fritz Ridenour. The book is a look at 20 world views, faiths & religions and how they compare to Christianity. No reservation needed. Come once, come every time!!!! Great discussion, good fellowship. "COME AND SEE".

### Average Monthly Attendance

Service	June Average for 2017
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>844</b>

### Financial Stewardship

June Year-to-Date Current Fund Income	\$695,017
June Year-to-Date Needed Income	\$610,327

### SECOND MILE GIVING

The Second Mile Giving for July & August is **Bishop's Partners in Mission**. The Bishop's Partners in Mission is a campaign to raise \$1 million for the United Methodist Church's *Imagine No Malaria* campaign. And to raise \$1 million to eliminate the remaining mortgage at Mission Central in Mechanicsburg. Please make checks payable to "First Church" with "Bishop's Partners in Mission" in the memo line.

### STEPHEN MINISTRY INFORMATION

The Leadership of Stephen Ministry is now made up of Ellen Montis, Allison Keppler, Michelle Dixon, and Jill Robbins. Keep your eyes open for exciting Stephen Ministry news in the near future: we plan to start recruiting in the Fall for a new class of Stephen Ministers. In the meantime if you have any questions about the ministry please feel free to contact any of the leaders: Ellen Montis 570/419-2655; Allison Keppler 484/574-3349; Michelle Dixon 570/772-1430; Jill Robbins 570/971-8832.

### MISSION ITEMS NEEDED

**Local Food Pantry** — hamburger helper, canned vegetables, salad dressing. **Shepherd of the Streets** — Q-tips, combs, deodorant. 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.

### SHOP AT AMAZON – SUPPORT FIRST CHURCH

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers. If you would like to support First Church through AmazonSmile, here is our unique link:

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/24-0829840>.

**Transform mission week:**

**July 31st—August 4th!**

<http://www.firstchurch.cc/transform/>

## Sermon Outline

Grace-Full Giving—Discovering Grace  
Luke 18:18-30

- I. \_\_\_\_\_ is receiving what we do not deserve. AND not receiving what we DO deserve.
- II. \_\_\_\_\_ is both a reflection of the grace already IN our lives as well as a means TO grace in our lives.
- III. Every salvation is a grace-filled \_\_\_\_\_ made possible by God.
- IV. Jesus has the ability to zero in on the issue in our \_\_\_\_\_ that most keeps us from experiencing God's grace.
- V. We cannot debate that our \_\_\_\_\_ must be in the grace of Jesus.
- VI. How we can experience grace so powerfully that we can give abundantly and with joy? Look to the rich young ruler.... \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Life Reflection:**

*How do we know if Christ is our true treasure over money? Ask: 1) Do I give out of obligation or joy? 2) Do I currently tithe as a minimum or am I moving towards tithing? 3) Does my level of giving to the kingdom of God impact how I live? 4) Does giving reveal an abundance or lack of grace in my life?*

### **Scripture Reflection: Luke 18:24-27**

<sup>24</sup>Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup>Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

<sup>26</sup>Those who heard this asked, "Who then can be saved?"

<sup>27</sup>Jesus replied, "What is impossible with humans is possible with God."

## Pastor's Page

### 7 Things That Get Harder As Your Church Grows::

#### #3. The Senior Leader Being Less Available

First Church,

Over the last few weeks we have been celebrating many of the ways that God is moving among us and growing us. It can be tempting to think that when things are going well that all "problems" suddenly disappear. In reality with growth comes new forms of challenges. These are welcome challenges to be sure, but challenges nonetheless.

You might recall that we have been referencing author Carey Nieuwhof's article "7 Things That Get Harder as Your Church Grows" to explore these challenges (you can find the whole article at: <https://careynieuwhof.com/7-things-that-get-harder-as-your-church-grows/>).

Of all the items that Nieuwhof raises, the one that I think for me is the most challenging is the one I am lifting up today: The Senior Leader Being Less Available.

As a pastor my heart longs to be with people... with everyone... as much as possible. And as one who likes to see more and more growth and transformation in as many people as possible the thinking in my mind translates to "be with more and more people... not less."

However, one of the things I learned awhile back in ministry is that if the senior leader is the one who is available all the time to everyone, then eventually the senior leader or the church (or both) will implode!

The sheer reality (due to the laws of physics) is that, as Nieuwhof shares:

*You can be generally available to 20 people.*

*You will wear yourself out trying to be consistently available for 200 people.*

*You'll die trying to be available to 2000 people. Frankly, you'll never even serve that many people because it's humanly impossible, even if you worked 7 days a week, 20 hours a day. People will just walk away, their calls unanswered and their needs unmet.*

*As my friend Reggie Joiner says, the problem with needs-based ministry is there's no end to human need.*

*Your church will struggle with the pastor being less available as it grows. But it will struggle even more if you don't restructure to grow bigger.*

*To reach more people, you need to be available to fewer people.*

One of the things that God has helped me to understand is that the true goal of the church is for everyone to know JESUS, not Matt Lake (in my case). As much as I love people and wish I could be with you all, it is even more important that I do whatever will allow everyone in the church and beyond to thrive in the Jesus life. After all, Jesus IS available to everyone—all the time—in unlimited fashion! Praise God for that!

In Christ,

Pastor Matt

## FIRST CHURCH

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Williamsport, PA 17701

Phone: 570-322-3572

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



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: July 23—29:**

George & Judy Stauffer; Sam, Vicki, Samuel & Kathryn Stea; Matt, Melissa, Lance & Jade Steslow; Bob & Josephine Stiber; Cathy Stonerook; Carl Strand; John & Marian Stuempfle; Rocky Stugart; Nellie & Nancy Stutzman; Kathleen Suffling; Jim & Charlene Surfield; Ken & Edee Swartwood; Patricia Sydock; Steve, Kristin, Thomas & Alex Takach; Steve & Candrus Tallman; Deb Taylor; Michelle, Lauren, Julia & Joseph Taylor; Scott, Denise & Lindsey Taylor; Adam, Katie, Madison, Samantha, Gracie, Ty & Allie Thomas; Bud Thomas; Diane Thomas; Hope Thomas; Ben, Jennifer, Issabella, Michaela & Penelope Thomke; Raymond & Ginny Thompson; Brian, Amy, Samuel & Matthew Tilburg; Tracey Tillet; Josh, Angie, Micah & Jocelyn Tobias; Shirley Tompkins; Mark, Betsy, Brianna & Andrew Trueman; James, Patti Jo, Mia & Kyle Turner; Pat & Roger Turner.

Weekly Worship Attendance  
for week ending July 16, 2017  
TOTAL — 850