

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)

MOPPETS VOLUNTEER MEETING

There will be an informational meeting August 31st at 9:30 am at North Campus for new and returning volunteers/workers of the Moppets ministry. Moppets are infants through preschool-age children whose moms are attending MOPS. Meetings are the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at the North Campus between September to May. If you are unable to attend, but still are interested in volunteering please call Kelby Hodge at 717-825-8089. Safe Sanctuary clearances must be completed before volunteering.

UNITED METHODIST NEWS: COMMISSION ON THE WAY FORWARD

Earlier this year a 32-member commission was named by the Council of Bishops following a mandate from General Conference 2016. The purpose of this group is to find a way forward in finding unity in the United Methodist Church on issues related to human sexuality. The Commission will present their final report to a special session of General Conference in 2019 for action. A preliminary report was recently released and can be found on the United Methodist Church website. Here is the link <http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/commission-on-a-way-forward-issues-status-report>. Please be in prayer for the work of this group, which includes Rev. Dr. Tom Salsgiver, from our own Susquehanna Annual Conference.

Welcome to



First Church

United Methodist

Week of August 13, 2017

A DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY

We invite you to connect with God and others here at First Church through

A Disciple's Journey—Step 1.

If you are not yet connected as a member in full discipleship at First Church, this 4 week group will guide

you as you begin your next step in your journey of discipleship. *A Disciple's Journey—Step 1* is for you if you wonder what connecting in faith in Jesus Christ is about or if you wish to connect in full discipleship at First Church as a new disciple/member. Pastor D.G. Giordano leads Step 1. Your next opportunity to take this step will be on Wednesdays beginning *September 6* from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the First Evangelical Center. The group meets in FuseBox B on September 6th (please bring your children along to class tonight). Then starting September 13th Children's Ministry takes place at the same time as part of First Night so your children can also grow in their discipleship (Christian Life Center, First Floor).



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS — AUGUST 27th

A blessing invokes God's benefits; which fill life with joy. To get them off to the best possible start in the school year, kids 5th grade and younger are invited for a special time of blessing during 11:00 a.m. worship on August 27th at the **North Campus** as we pray over the children (and backpacks if they bring them). There will also be a short children's message, VBS songs, kidzone, and other fun; followed by pizza in the lobby immediately after worship. All are warmly invited to this especially kid-friendly service.

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

INVITE

WOMEN'S STEP STUDY – THE JOURNEY BEGINS

The Journey Begins will allow you to begin to experience the true peace and serenity you have been seeking, restore and develop stronger relationships with others and with God, and find freedom from life's hurts, hang-ups, and habits. Every other Monday starting September 11th from 6:00-7:00 pm at The North Campus. Contact Sandy Hartle Krise at 570-916-8731.

DIVORCECARE SEMINAR/ SUPPORT GROUP

DivorceCare is a special 13 week biblical perspective video seminar and support group for people who are separated or divorced. Each session is "self-contained," and you may join at any time. It's a place where you can be around people who understand what you are feeling. If you know someone going through a divorce, make sure they know about DivorceCare - it might just be the best thing you could do to help. Information is available at the information desk or at www.divorcecare.org. DivorceCare meets every Sunday night from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in room 104 of the First Evangelical Center starting Sunday, August 27th. Call Lou Anne Barnhart at 570-323-5146 to register.

SECOND MILE GIVING

The Second Mile Giving for 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.

MISSION ITEMS NEEDED

Local Food Pantry — ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, microwave popcorn. **Shepherd of the Streets** — shampoo, conditioner, towels & wash clothes. 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.

PRAYER WARRIORS

I am excited to have an opportunity for First Church Prayer Warriors praying for the kids at First Nursery School. What praying in this way would mean is that each group of kids would have one, two, or many people praying for them. We would love to have individuals, couples, or families, praying for one of the groups each day during the school year. It is my hope to have all 13 groups be undergirded in prayer each day.

I am excited for First Church members to become involved in praying for our kids who enter the doors each day. This is a way for you to play a part in preparing our kids for Kindergarten "and share directly in our core practices of inviting, teaching, sending, and PRAYING." If you are interested in being a Prayer Warrior for First Nursery School, please sign up on the back of the Communication Card. If you have questions, please email them to me, Kathy Choate, at kchoate@firstchurch.cc or call 570 322 3993.

TEACH

SEND

Sermon Outline

It Does a Body Good: Practical Grace
1 Corinthians 13:1-8

Love _____ patience. Love _____ with kindness.

Weapons of the Spirit:

* _____

* _____

*The _____

*Form habits of _____

Can we too _____ to love?

“Any community anywhere can do _____ things if given the opportunity”.

--*The Christians of Le Chambon*

Life reflection

Referring to the Christians of Le Chambon: “*They don't look upon effort as being something depleting. They look upon effort as something through which you live fully and you derive strength.*” Pierre Sauvage, child who survived the Holocaust because of the Christians of Le Chambon

What effort does practical love and grace ask of me? What habits of love do I need to form?

Scripture reflection I Corinthians 14:1a

Pursue love and strive for the spiritual gifts...

Pastor's Page

7 Things That Get Harder As Your Church Grows: #5 Dealing with Critics

First Church,

Over the last many weeks we have been celebrating all that God has been doing among us and the growth God has been stirring in a variety of ways. The tempting thought is to think “we are healthy, we are stable, we are growing... everything is ok.” But as we have been sharing, we also recognize that growth brings its own set of challenges. We have been using Carey Nieuwhof's article “7 Things That Get Harder As Your Church Grows (check out <https://careynieuwhof.com/7-things-that-get-harder-as-your-church-grows/> if you want to see the entire article) as a guide to examining these growth challenges.

This week we are looking at an issue that simply “comes with the territory.” It really does not matter if your church (or any organization for that matter) is small, medium, or large—doing well or doing poorly—this issue is somehow always present. And that is the issue of those with a critical spirit. Criticism is going to come simply because we are human. If the church is small people complain it needs more people and needs to be larger. If the church is large people complain it is not intimate enough to know everyone. Criticism comes because the church is made up of human beings, no matter what size church you have!

As Nieuwhof comments:

Growth attracts critics. It just always does.

So how do you process the criticism?

The best way to process what critics have to say is to understand why they say it. First, take whatever good there might in what they said and reflect on it. You're not perfect (none of us are!). You can learn and develop from it.

But then process why the critics are often so mean-spirited.

What usually fuels a critics' animosity toward success and growth? Three things:

1) Jealousy 2) A need to justify their own lack of progress 3) Sin

Once you understand that a critic's arguments are often less about you than they are about them, you're free to show compassion and even concern for them.

Criticism is not unique to church growth. We all face it... every day. But as people of God and believers in Jesus Christ, may we learn to deal with it in a healthy way. This is one more way we can live a counter-cultural, transformed life... by learning to offer compassion and concern rather than criticism.

First Church I have appreciated your incredibly gracious spirit as we grow together. Thank you for seeking to love Jesus even more than your own personal preferences! What a joy to serve with you.

In Christ,

Pastor Matt

#buildup429

FIRST CHURCH

604 Market St.

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: August 13—19:

Michael, Jennifer, Myla & Keller Best; Robert Bickel; Jean Binderup; Peggy & Constance Bird; Jamie & Jeff (Hughes), Olivia, Ashley & Antonio Blackson; Alfredo, Mary Ann, Micaella, Mia, Maria & Marco Blas; Jourdan Boehmer; Mel & Pat Bole; Michael, Natalie, Emily, Joshua, Zachary & Henry Bonislowski; Rob, Lori, Austin & Grace Boos; Chad, Nikki, Elijah, Adalyn & Abram Bower; Dale Bower; Don, Heather, Madyson & Jackson Bower; Jeff & Deborah Bower; Paul & Judy Bower; Ryan, Paula, Addison & Sadie Bower; Scot, Desiree', Cayce & Austen Bower; Mary Bowersox; Chris Boyce; Paul & Patty Braunegg; Bill, Kellie, Tripp, Molly & Mia Breen; Susan Breen; Eric, Amy & Madison Briggs; Sean Brink; Rob & Patty Britton; Robert & Helen Brown; Glenn Burgess; John & Jean Burks; Stephen Burnham.

Weekly Worship Attendance
for week ending August 6, 2017
TOTAL — 880