

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.

Night meal, fellowship,

music, brief message,

small groups (kids, youth & adults)

FELLOWSHIP HALL RENOVATIONS

Beginning on March 6th, the Fellowship Hall in the basement of the First Evangelical Center will begin getting a facelift with some needed updates to the walls and floors. Most groups will not be disrupted by this work other than the unsightliness of the demolition and refurb period. Thanks for your patience with this temporary inconvenience as we look forward to a permanent improvement. These updates are made possible by your gifts to the Vision Initiative, as well as the generous giving of folks committed to helping First Church live out its vision to the fullest degree.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Family Movie Night @ North Campus on Saturday, March 25th @ 6:00 p.m. All are invited.

Watch the Newsletter for more information in a couple of weeks.

Welcome to



First Church

United Methodist

Week of March 5, 2017

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

Step 1) **MEET FIRST CHURCH: Sunday, March 19th** 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, this next membership group will start in the Fall of 2017 – watch for more details.

COMMUNION DURING LENT

During Lent, we offer communion on Tuesdays and Thursdays, rather than on Sundays. As Easter approaches, we invite you to join us on Tuesdays at 6:00-6:30 a.m. (North Campus Sanctuary) and Thursdays at 12:00-12:30 p.m. (First Evangelical Center Sanctuary). On Thursday April 13, communion will be offered during the 7:00 p.m. worship service rather than at noon.

LENTEN EARLY MORNING PRAYER

One of the best ways to draw close to Christ is through prayer. Every weekday morning during Lent, the people of First Church gather at 6:00 a.m. for 30 minutes of silent prayer in the North Campus Sanctuary. It is a beautiful way to start the day in the presence of God with the people of God. We would love for you to join us.

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

INVITE

MONTHLY CHRISTIAN BOOK GROUP

Join us on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Donna Johnson (1701 Clarion Dr.) for the March Book – Bonhoeffer by Eric Metaxas. No reservation needed. Come once, come every time!!!! Great discussion, good fellowship. "COME AND SEE".

TEACH

SECOND MILE GIVING

The Second Mile Giving for March & April is **Expectations**. Formerly the "Pregnancy Care Center," Expectations provides a variety of pregnancy and relationship services to expectant mothers and fathers. These services include pregnancy testing program, ultrasound program, healthy pregnancy classes, labor and birth courses, healthy marriage/relationship program, adoption education, and other programs to assist parents. www.expectationswc.org. Please make checks payable to "First Church" with "Expectations" in the memo line.

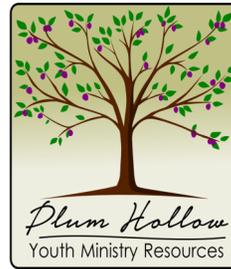
SEND

STEPHEN MINISTRY MOMENT

The most important thing for a good listener to do is to want to be a good listener... True or False? True! Almost anyone can be a better listener if they want to and if they will work at it. When you are listening, whether or not you want to listen really shows. A person who does not want to listen will look at their watch, fail to pay attention, interrupt, and make the person who is talking feel terrible. A good listener will pay attention, will let the other person talk pretty much as long as that person needs to, and will save what they have to say until the other person is finished talking. Listen with the intent to understand rather than with the intent to reply.

MISSION ITEMS NEEDED

Local Food Pantry — tea bags (regular flavor), spaghetti sauce & pasta (any shape). **Shepherd of the Streets** —shaving cream (for both men & women), disposable razors (for both men & women) & feminine hygiene products. 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.



fuse* student ministries is pleased to partner with Plum Hollow Youth Ministry Resources and Messiah College to offer the Williamsport Regional Youth Worker and Student Leader Conference. This conference is designed to equip youth workers, youth pastors, and student leaders in their leadership skills. Centered around this year's theme of **CONNECTED**, presenters from all over the region will gather at First Church on April 1st from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm for Keynote addresses by Stephen Gallaher and Sammy Bradley, authentic worship, and breakout seminars for both adult youth workers and student leaders. Local seminar presenters include Mitch Floyd (Christ Community Worship Center), and Josh Tobias (First Church). First Church/fuse* students receive the added benefit of paying ONLY \$1! Registration cards are available for students and fuse* volunteer staff, as well as others who are interested in the area of leadership among young people. Contact Josh Tobias, jtobias@firstchurch.cc, if you have questions.

Mark Your Calendars!

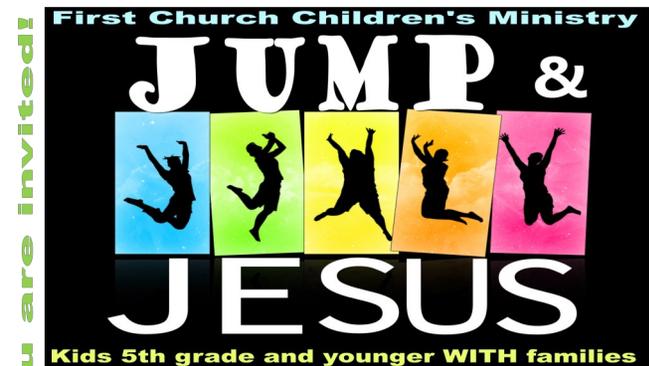


First Church

Children Potty Trained 3 yrs-4th grade
JUNE 12-16
9 am - Noon

Register*: www.firstchurch.cc

*registration will start in early May



March 18 10:30 - 1 pm
FIRST CHURCH (CLC gym): 601 Market Street, Williamsport
Inflatables • Jesus • Pizza • Jesus • Kids Games • Jesus • Pizza • Jesus • Fun • Jesus

CHILDREN/YOUTH

Sermon Outline

What's Wrong? How Sin Sabotages
Judges 17:1-13

- I. God's answer to the question of "What's wrong?" is _____.
- II. In making idols we seek to make God a _____ size.
- III. Judges shows us the _____ of sin.
- IV. Three factors about the nature of sin:
 - A. What sin does to _____
 - B. What sin does to _____
 - C. How we can be _____ of sin
- V. Advanced sin makes us _____
- VI. What does sin do to God? Sin _____ God—or at least our perception of God.
- VII. Colossians 1:15: The Son is the _____ of the invisible God, the firstborn over all of creation.

Life Reflection:

What sin is happening in my life right now? How is sin sabotaging my relationship with God? What idols have I placed in my life that are making God seem much smaller? How would my life be less boring without the influence of sin? Am I able to see the cure for sin in my life in the image of Jesus Christ? What will help me experience Christ in this way?

Ponder this quote by C.S. Lewis: "The real mark of hell is a sleepless, unsmiling concentration upon the self...we must understand hell as a place where everyone is perpetually concerned about his or her own dignity and advancement where everybody always has a grievance. And where everyone lives in the deadly seriousness of envy and self-importance."... "To admire Satan is to give one's vote to a world of lies, propaganda and incessant auto-biography."

Scripture Reflection: Judges 17:6

⁶In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.

Pastor's Page

Invite... Teach... Send... PRAY

First Church,

For many years we have focused on the core practices of Inviting (others to know Christ), Teaching (one another to grow in Christ), and Sending (to serve as the hands and feet of Christ) in order to live out our vision of Transformation in Christ, Changing Lives Inside and Out.

We continue to focus on these practices but we also recognize that we must also consistently be a people of PRAYER. Prayer serves as the life-line between us and God that keeps us continually oriented towards God rather than ourselves. I sincerely believe that to experience the God-sized results that God's church is designed for we must be a people of prayer.

For me personally I am struck and surprised by the words of Jesus in Mark 9:29 which speak to the power of prayer. At that point in the scriptures the disciples have been unable to cast out an impure spirit. Then Jesus IS able to cast it out. When the disciples ask why they could NOT cast out the impure spirit Jesus says, "This kind can come out only by prayer."

What a powerful statement! If we did not know better, we might be led to think that the disciples, for all the good they were doing, were simply not praying enough to be equipped to take such a significant step?

Could this be part of our problem as well? Could it be that we do not experience the full power of God as individuals or as a whole church because we are not praying enough?

I believe that until intentional, disciplined prayer becomes part of our regular lives we will never experience the full extent of the Kingdom of God among us.

So I ask... will you join with me in prayer? Every day? Either in person or in your own personal time with God? Specifically now that Lent has begun we are joining every Monday-Friday at the North Campus from 6AM-6:30AM in silent prayer. I invite you if your work and life schedule allow to come and join together in this time.

Prayer is often the catalyst used by God for revival, renewal, growth, baptisms, professions of faith, and the unleashing of the Holy Spirit! And God gives it to us in abundant fashion. By God's grace may it be so for us.

I look forward to praying with you First Church...

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, March 5

8:00 a.m.-Traditional Worship (MC, FEC-Sanctuary)
9:30 a.m.-Blended Worship (MC, FEC-Sanctuary)
9:30 a.m.-Children's Sunday School (MC, CLC-1st floor)
9:30 a.m.-d-fuse* student ministries (MC, FEC-fuse*box)
9:30 a.m.-Nursery (up to 3 years) (MC, FEC-204, 205)
9:30 a.m.-Sermon Talk (MC, FEC-201)
11:00 a.m.-Contemporary Worship (MC, CLC-Stryker Hall)
11:00 a.m.-Nursery (up to 3 years) (MC, CLC-124)
11:00 a.m.-Contemporary Worship (NC)
11:00 a.m.-Nursery (up to 3 years) (NC-211)
4:00 p.m.-Open Gym (MC, CLC-Stryker Hall)
4:30 p.m.-Celebrate Recovery (MC, FEC-Sanctuary)
6:00 p.m.-Roots of Justice (8 Woodlyn Terrace)
6:30 p.m.-DivorceCare (MC, FEC-104)
6:30 p.m.-Women's Small Group (MC, FEC-201)

Monday, March 6

6:00 a.m.-Weekday Prayer through Lent (NC-Lobby)
7:30 a.m.-First Nursery School (MC, CLC-Entire Bldg.)
1:15 p.m.-Joyful Hearts (535 Wilson St.)
5:00 p.m.-Men of Integrity (1508 Elmira St.)
5:30 p.m.-GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) (NC-Fellowship Room)
6:45 p.m.-Women's Step Study (NC-214)
7:00 p.m.-Women of Faith (1508 Elmira St.)
7:00 p.m.-A Disciple's Path (NC-212/213)
7:00 p.m.-fuse* student ministries volunteer staff meeting
(MC, FEC-fuse*box)

Tuesday, March 7

6:00 a.m.-Weekday Prayer through Lent (NC-Lobby)
7:30 a.m.-First Nursery School (MC, CLC-Entire Bldg.)
10:30 a.m.-Daughter's of Grace (MC, FEC-202)
10:30 a.m.-Truth Seekers (MC, FEC-206)
12:15 p.m.-Jewel's Women's Small Group (MC, FEC-206)
2:30 p.m.-Worship Design Team (MC, FEC-206)
3:15 p.m.-Tutoring (NC-Wesley Hall)
6:30 p.m.-Kingdom Seekers (MC, FEC-206)
7:00 p.m.-First Place for Health (MC, CLC-Kitchen)
7:00 p.m.-Volleyball/Bible Study (MC, CLC-Stryker Hall)

Wednesday, March 8

6:00 a.m.-Weekday Prayer through Lent (NC-Lobby)
6:00 a.m.-Early Morning Men's Group (MC, FEC-102)
7:30 a.m.-Eagle's Group (Julie's Coffee House)
7:30 a.m.-First Nursery School (MC, CLC-Entire Bldg.)
11:00 a.m.-The Flock (MC, FEC-206)

FIRST NIGHT SCHEDULE

5:00 p.m.

Dinner (MC, CLC-Stryker Hall)
Fresh Express (MC, FEC-Fellowship Hall)

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

5:45 p.m.

Children's Small Groups & Choir (MC, CLC-1st Floor)
Get F.I.T. (MC, FEC-Lounge)

6:00 p.m.

Bible Study—Romans (MC, FEC-202)
d-fuse* (MC, FEC-fuse*box)
First Friends Bible Study (MC, FEC-101,Fellowship Hall)
Marriage Matters (MC, FEC-102)
Men of God (NC-212/213)
Moms of Faith Study Group (MC, FEC-105)
Sister's in Christ (MC, FEC-201)
Women's Small Group (Netzley/Vierra) (NC-216)
7:00 p.m.
Chancel Choir (MC, FEC-104)

Thursday, March 9

6:00 a.m.-Men's Bible Study (Marzo) (NC-Fellowship Room)
6:00 a.m.-Weekday Prayer through Lent (NC-Lobby)
7:30 a.m.-First Nursery School (MC, CLC-Entire Bldg.)
9:15 a.m.-MOPS (NC-Entire Bldg.)
12:00 p.m.-Lenten Communion (MC, FEC-Sanctuary)
3:15 p.m.-Tutoring (NC-Wesley Hall)
6:30 p.m.-Bell Choir (MC, FEC-104)
7:00 p.m. CLC Praise Band (MC, CLC-Stage/Stryker Hall)
7:00 p.m.-NC Praise Band (NC-Sanctuary)

Friday, March 10

6:00 a.m.-Weekday Prayer through Lent (NC-Lobby)
7:30 a.m.-First Nursery School (MC, CLC-Entire Bldg.)
6:30 p.m.-Lycoming County Special Needs Dance
(MC, CLC-Stryker Hall)

Saturday, March 11

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

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: March 5-11:

Glen, Hershey & Xavier Marks; Brian, Erin & Kennedy Marsh; Ben, Jess, Noah, Miles & David Marzo; Brandy, Rudolph, Amirykal, Malachi & Rudolph II White; Ellen Maule; Jim & Donna Maule; Bob & Donna Maxwell; Brent & Allisyn Maxwell; Genny Mayer; Tom & Deborah Mazurek; Sean, Marcy, Tyler, Andrew & Allyson McCann; Austin, Liesel, Calvary, Talon & Selah McCardle; Judy & Halle McCormick; Todd & Eleanor McCoy; Carol McMurray; Gerald & Cindie Merrick; John & Suzette Meyer; Mat, Nicole, Kaleb & Kohen Meyer; Matthew, Holley, Kate & Emma Meyer; Jordan Miller; Kathy Miller; Kevin Miller; Rocky, Suzanna, Brynn, Paiton & Anya Miller; Donald & Ellen Montis; Samantha Moon; Jeff, Susanne, Philip & James Moore; Lori Moore; Mike, Lindsey, Julie, Aidan, Annabella & Lily Morgan; Elmer Morrow; Eva Moser.

Weekly Worship Attendance
for week ending February 26, 2017
TOTAL — 862