

## 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, children's ministries,  
fuse\* (youth ministries), First  
Friends (special needs group) &  
adult small groups.

### PASTOR'S PAGE (Continued)

We cannot set free every slave in our world today. But we can begin to help set at least one person free today. And that begins to change the world so that slavery can end. Please check out some of the IJM resources at the display tables today, or be in touch with our Roots of Justice group (specifically Christine Johnson at [christinejohnson81@gmail.com](mailto:christinejohnson81@gmail.com)), or decide as a small group on some actions steps you can take... but most of all begin to pray on what you can do to partner with God to share God's grace through beautiful justice.

In Christ,  
Pastor Matt

### PART TIME CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ASSISTANT POSITION

We are accepting applications for a part time (4hours a week) position for a Children's Ministry Assistant. For more information, contact Angie Tobias (Director of Children's Ministry) or the church office. All applicants must comply with safe sanctuaries and must provide clearances.

Welcome to



# First Church

United Methodist

Week of September 24, 2017

### FREEDOM SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24

Responding to social concern is one of the ways that we seek to live out our vision of Transformation in Christ. Join us Sept 24 for Freedom Sunday, a day when churches around the world will acknowledge and respond to the injustice of slavery. Freedom Sunday is organized by International Justice Mission (IJM). IJM partners with local authorities to rescue victims of violence, bring criminals to justice, restore survivors and strengthen justice systems. Our morning worship services on September 24 will focus on the parable of the Good Samaritan as we ask the question "Who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29)

### BAPTISM

The First Church family would like to congratulate Curtis & Stephanie Fay on the baptism of their son, Benjamin Gregory Fay on Sunday, September 24, 2017.

### CELEBRATE RECOVERY 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Please join CR in celebrating our THIRD Anniversary on October 1st at 4:30 pm. We will begin with worship and three mini testimonies, followed by dinner and fellowship! We will not have small groups. EVERYONE is welcome to attend, including children. We hope that you will join us and experience first hand the healing and peace Celebrate Recovery offers.

### CONTACT INFORMATION NEEDED

If you have any contact information (address, telephone number, or e-mail address) for the following church member, please let the church office know by calling 570-322-3572 or by emailing Pastor D.G. Giordano at [dgiordano@firstchurch.cc](mailto:dgiordano@firstchurch.cc): Alyssa Ficacci.

If you have a phone number for any of the following church members, please also contact us: Matt Flook, Brett Whitehead, Joshua Lisson. Thank you.

# INVITE

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

## DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY: STEP 2 STARTING SOON!

Now is the time to sign up (on the back of the Communication card) for our first-ever Disciple's Journey Step 2 experience! Disciple's Journey Step 2 is an opportunity which begins Tuesday, October 3 and will be held every other week from 7-9 pm until December.

## WELCOME

### GRAND FRIENDS (60+)!

Grand Friends will meet on Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup> @ Hoss's Steak & Sea House. We will start at 12:15 p.m. This meeting will be a social event. If you know someone who would be interested in our group, please invite or bring them along. RSVP to Debbie Grove @ 570-323-7041, no later than September 24<sup>th</sup>.

## MONTHLY CHRISTIAN BOOK GROUP

Join us on Tuesday, October 3, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Donna Johnson (1701 Clarion Dr.) for the October Book – Son of Hamas by Mosab Yousef. No reservation needed. Come once, come every time!!!! Great discussion, good fellowship. "COME AND SEE".

## EVER THOUGHT ABOUT BECOMING A STEPHEN MINISTER?

Stephen Ministers **extend the reach of our pastors** to care and provide emotional and spiritual support to people who may be going through a difficult time. As the church grows it becomes increasingly important to have "... systems in place that foster care for people..." Stephen Ministry is exactly that! And to provide more care, we need more ministers! Training for new Stephen Ministers will begin January, 2018. **If you have gifts for caring, encouragement, and listening, please prayerfully considers whether you feel called to this exciting ministry.** For information, contact a Stephen Leader:

Allison Keppler: 484/574-3349;

[alkeppler@gmail.com](mailto:alkeppler@gmail.com)

Ellen Montis: 570/419-3655;

[Ellenwalks@yahoo.com](mailto:Ellenwalks@yahoo.com)

Jill Robbins: 570/971-8833;

[Jprobbins@comcast.net](mailto:Jprobbins@comcast.net)

Michelle Dixon: 570/772-1430;

[mkd4760@yahoo.com](mailto:mkd4760@yahoo.com)

## SECOND MILE GIVING

The Second Mile Giving for September & October is **Helping Hands at First Church**. 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.

## 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; First Evangelical Center - the Ross Street entrance; North Campus - Lounge.

## WINTER JACKETS & COATS NEEDED

Once again we will be collecting winter jackets and coats to share with our friends who attend First Night. If you have any used winter jackets or coats that you no longer wear or need, please bring them to the church office (during church office hours). We have a particular need for boys' and men's jackets but we will gratefully accept any that are donated. Any questions, please call Aaron Russell at 570-506-1356 or Nancy Somers at 570-419-3039.

## HURRICANE RESPONSE

Our church and district conference are responding to aid the victims of the recent hurricanes by assembling Cleaning and Hygiene kits, and collecting monetary support. A list of kit items will be on display at the table in each building Sunday. Donations can be brought to the church office or back here next Sunday. Please make checks payable to "First UMC" with UMCOR in the memo. Volunteers are also urgently needed to help our committee and to obtain business, workplace and organization donations as well. Please contact Steve Tallman if you can help 215-327-8255 or [stevet100@verizon.net](mailto:stevet100@verizon.net). Our district works with UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) who will coordinate the overall collective effort.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (OCC)

Your response to OCC has been positive and we ask that you continue that energy and giving spirit as you fill and return the boxes. We will gladly accept any you have filled before the deadline on November 5th. **Please remember to include \$9.00 in cash or a check made payable to First Church for postage.** Thank you again for your generous and giving spirit.

# TEACH

# SEND

## Sermon Outline

Grace It Does A Body Good—Freedom Sunday  
Luke 10:25-37

- I. The true challenge of the story of the Good Samaritan is not so much related to our \_\_\_\_\_ as to our \_\_\_\_\_
- II. Often we would rather \_\_\_\_\_ knowledge than put it into practice
- III. Will we go out of our way to share love and mercy and grace with our \_\_\_\_\_?
- IV. To receive \_\_\_\_\_ almost always means someone else was willing to get messy on our behalf
- V. In order to be a neighbor to those that we encounter who are victims of violence, we must be willing to:
- A. \_\_\_\_\_ engage the situation
  - B. \_\_\_\_\_ care for their needs
  - C. Extend the care to the point of \_\_\_\_\_
- VI. Jesus in grace gets into our \_\_\_\_\_ to set us free. We are called to extend that same grace to our neighbors—no matter how messy

### **Life Reflection:**

*Realizing that everyone deserves the life, love, and beauty that God designed humans to behold, and that it breaks Christ's heart when humans experience injustice, what steps will I take to promote justice in this world? Partner with IJM? As a small group take some action? Contact the Roots of Justice group at First Church? Pray for those experiencing injustice? Advocate for key legislation that ends slavery and other forms of injustice? Adopt even one to help? Other?*

### **Scripture Reflection: Luke 10:36-37**

<sup>36</sup>“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” <sup>37</sup>The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

## Pastor's Page Freedom Sunday

First Church,

Today is a special day for us. As we are ending our sermon series on “Grace Doing A Body Good” we are doing so in a very specific way. As you may remember, throughout this sermon series we have been focusing on how to embody God’s grace in tangible ways with supernaturally changed hearts. Today we have a chance to do that very thing!

Today we are celebrating something called “Freedom Sunday.” Freedom Sunday is a designated Sunday in conjunction with the International Justice Mission (IJM). IJM is an international organization that seeks to share God’s justice throughout the world with those most in need of the healing of God’s restorative justice. Their mission is: *To protect the poor from violence by rescuing victims, bringing the criminals to justice, restoring survivors to safety and strength, and helping local law enforcement build a safe future that lasts.*

While brokenness comes in all forms, one of the areas of injustice that IJM works with very intently is the area of slavery. Believe it or not, there are more forms of slavery (economic, sexual, child, etc) and a higher number of slaves in our world now than at any time in history.

Church—IF WE LOVE JESUS, WE CANNOT BE OKAY WITH THIS— WITH INJUSTICE—in our world! In any form!

One of my favorite aspects of God's church is that it is meant to partner with God to bring about God’s beauty and restoration in creation where that beauty and restoration does not already exist.

Today is a Sunday to do that very thing.

A natural outgrowth of Transformation in Christ, Changing Lives Inside and Out—our vision, our passion, our heartbeat—is to join with God’s Holy Spirit destroying injustice in our world and to in turn offer beauty through God’s justice.

Children in slavery... women exploited... the poor abused... these things should make our hearts break. Why? Because they break the heart of Jesus.

But the opposite is also true. Children set free... women celebrated... the poor empowered... fill the heart of Christ with joy. And therefore, they should fill our heart with joy.

*Continued on the last page*

## 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:**

#### **September 24—30:**

Ashley Helmrich; Bob & Joan Helmrich; Bob, Traci, Brianna & Marissa Helmrich; Chris, Tiffani, Caiden, Jaelynn, Kailee & Kyler Helmrich; Becky Hendershot; Scott & Mandy Herald; David, Aimee, Cloey, Ella, Noah & Tyler Hertwig; Buddy & Janet Hessert; Tyler Hessert; JoAnn Hester; Harry, Cori & Anthony Hill; David, Amy, Alexander & Joshua Hines; Ben & Carole Hoffman; Erik, Melanie, Charlie & Samuel Hofstrom; Jenny Hoover; Richard, Ann (House) & Emily Hoschar; Dwayne, Valerie, Gracie & Mariah Hostrander; Kyrie & Derek Hostrander; Caleb, Victoria, Makenna & Mason Houser; Mabel Huggins; Jeff, Jamie (Blackson), Antonio & Olivia Hughes; Matt, Becky, David, Maggie & Charlie Hutchinson; John & Nancy Ingraham; Larry & Sherril Ingram; Steve & Diane Jackson; Randy, Ginny, Rhandie, Rhiannie & Rhiannon Jessell; Brett, Sue, Jett, Miley & Parker Johnson; Chuck & Donna Johnson; Greg & Debbie Johnson; Phil & Christine Johnson.

Weekly Worship Attendance  
for week ending September 17, 2017  
TOTAL 813