## 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)

### POTLUCK LUNCH AFTER WORSHIP AT NORTH CAMPUS

Join the fun and fellowship of a potluck lunch in Wesley Hall immediately after 11:00 North Campus worship on September 17th. Bring a side dish to share if possible; if not, that's okay come anyway- there will be plenty. The main dish, table settings, and everything else is provided. And, use it as a tool to invite someone to worship.

**First Night Fall Kick-Off**
**Wednesday, September 13th**
**Dinner and worship at 5:00 p.m., then immediately following join us for Children's Ministries, fuse* (Youth Ministries), First Friends (Special Needs Group) & Adult Small Groups.**

*Welcome to*

# First Church

United Methodist

Week of September 3, 2017

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

### A DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY—STEP 1

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).

### HELP FOR FLOOD VICTIMS IN TEXAS

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has been providing aid to people impacted by Hurricane Harvey almost since the disaster hit. UMCOR is known for being among the first to respond and the last to leave. If you would like to help provide disaster relief materials for survivors of Harvey, you can give to First Church and indicate that you would like the funds to be directed to UMCOR. 100% of your donation will go to the disaster victims.

**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 @ 570-916-8731.

**FIRST PLACE FOR HEALTH**

First Place for Health starting New Bible Study, "Training for Success" about learning to ask God to help you with Spiritual, Emotional and Physical problems. Starting Tuesday, September 12th at 7:00 p.m. Interested??? call Sandy Murray 570-447-5068.

**SMALL GROUP FALL KICKOFF**

Fall is here and what a better way to kick it off than by joining a small group! Most small groups kick off the week of September 10th, so stop by the information center and check out a detailed list of all of the Fall small groups. We have something for everyone! Don't forgot Children & Youth Ministries also meet on Wednesday night as part of our First Night program – they grow in discipleship while you grow. How awesome is that?

**FIRST FRIENDS LEADERS NEEDED**

Additional leaders are always welcome to join our group*. Our ministry involves lots of fun as we learn & teach more about God and His Word. Any questions, please contact Dawn @ 570-323-1204.
*Must be safe sanctuary compliant.

.

fuse* fALL kick off is Sunday September 10th from 6-8 pm in the Christian Life Center. This event is for all students in grades 6-12 and will feature food, inflatable obstacle courses, giant soccer darts, fuse* bucks grab, artistic elements, GaGa and more. All students are encouraged to invite their friends as we kick off another awesome ministry year.
Invitations to hand out to friends have been included in fuse* fall packets.

Fuse* fall packets have been sent to all 6-12th grade students on our current mailing list! If you are in grades 6-12 and have not received one in the mail, please e-mail Josh Tobias, Director of Student Ministries with your name and address. Extra packets are also available at information centers and in the fuse*box student ministry center. ***fuse*** fall packets do not look like ketchup packets ☺

d-fuse* Sunday School will welcome incoming 6th grade students on Sunday, August 27th at 9:30 am in the fuse*box student ministry center. d-fuse* SS [6-8] is the discipleship option for 6-8th grade students and we are introducing d-fuse* SS [9-12] for students in grades 9-12. These two opportunities follow a typical Christian Educational model, and are focused on discipleship and Bible learning for middle and high students.

**TEACH** **YOUTH**

## SECOND MONTHLY COMMUNION OFFERED

Beginning in September, a second monthly communion will be offered in the First Evangelical Center Sanctuary on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 12:00 p.m. until 12:30 p.m. Be sure to join us on Tuesday, September 12th!

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (OCC)

School bells have rung and the fall weather has set in, its hard to Imagine that Christmas will be here before we know it. We'll again be filling Christmas shoeboxes to be distributed to children around the globe through OCC & Samaritan's Purse. Our kick off date is Sunday, September 10th and we'll have shoeboxes ready at all services. Information about the suggestions of what items to consider to pack in the boxes will be available at the table. Shop while back -to- school sales abound and you'll soon be picturing the joy each shoebox brings to a child. First Church is thrilled to be part of this program. Won't you join us?

## STAY CONNECTED AND GET INVOLVED!

First Church is a busy place. We want to make sure you aren't missing out on anything. Besides reading the Weekly Newsletter, you can go to www.firstchurch.cc to learn all about First Church. The First Glance email newsletter, sent every Saturday, briefly highlights some important upcoming events every week. You can also like the First Church Williamsport Facebook page. Stay connected and get involved!

## SHOP AT AMAZON – SUPPORT FIRST CHURCH

**What is AmazonSmile?**

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.

## 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.

## STAFF OPENING: CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP LEADER

First Church is seeking qualified candidates to serve as a full-time Contemporary Worship Leader with primary responsibility for most elements of the Christian Life Center Worship Service. A ministry description and job application are available in the church office and at www.firstchurch.cc/jobopenings. Deadline for application is September 18 or until a successful candidate can be found.

## FIRST CHURCH KIDS TUTORING MINISTRY

Did you know that First Church has partnered with Cochran Primary School to provide tutoring twice a week in the form of homework help and encouragement for students in 2nd & 3rd grade who are recommended by the school's guidance office? It is a special ministry and volunteers are essential in providing this ministry! The commitment to volunteer is **once** a week from 3:30-4:30 p.m. If you are interested in more information, please contact Angie Tobias (Children's Ministry Director) at atobias@firstchurch.cc or sign-up on the communication card in the newsletter. First Church is a Safe Sanctuary Congregation and all volunteers would need to comply with the expectations of Safe Sanctuaries.

SEND

# Sermon Outline

Grace It Does A Body Good (5)—Godly Tolerance

1 Corinthians 8:4-11 and Romans 15:1-7

I. Paul is raising the issue of Godly _____.

II. How do we go beyond tolerance? We practice _____

_____

III. The strong must enter _____ into the weaknesses of the weak

IV. The strong must _____ enter into the weakness of the weak

V. 4 Ways to enter into a relationship with someone very different from you

A. Make _____ for that person who is different

B. Be willing to _____ and _____

C. Expect to be _____

D. Be willing to honor the _____of God in the lives of others

Life Reflection:

*Who is it in my life that I need to make space for? Am I willing to make space for them? How can I extend a godly tolerance and compassion in every area of my life? On Facebook? In worship? In my relationships? Am I willing to intentionally connect with folks different than myself? Do I feel threatened if I am not perceived as "right?" What would help me to receive others as Christ has received me?*

Scripture Reflection: Romans 15:1 and 7

(1) We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves… (7) Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

# Pastor's Page

**7 Things That Get Harder As Your Church Grows: #6 Adding Systems**

First Church,

As you might remember from a few weeks ago, we have been exploring challenges that happen in churches as they grow. The tempting thought when experiencing growth 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 look at challenge #6— "Adding Systems."

Often times this can sound more business-oriented rather than church-centered to our ears. The church is meant to be focused on people, rather than systems or programs we say. Or we articulate that we need to leave room for God's spirit to move rather than putting restrictive (i.e. "cold") systems in place. We believe there must be a sense of freedom and even spontaneity when it comes to God's Holy Spirit. And let me say, I will be the first to agree with these sentiments! However, as Nieuwhof comments:

*But for your church to ever sustainably pass 500 in attendance, let alone 1000, you have to have systems.*

*Many entrepreneurial leaders are afraid of systems and structure because they think it means the creation of a bureaucracy.*

*But: Bureaucracy stifles mission. Great systems fuel it. This is a key distinction to grasp!*

*Like an office tower designed to house thousands of people, great systems and structure support the goals of the organization with lean but solid processes around finances, management, discipleship and even the weekend services a church offers.*

*Without structure, freedom collapses into chaos and disorganization.*

*The novice leader values freedom from structure. The mature leader values freedom in structure.*

*Without great systems that foster care for people, you won't care for people.*

Of all the points that Nieuwhof makes in this article this may be the one for me personally that seems most counter-intuitive but also the most poignant in terms of how we operate.

I love people. I want to care for people. This article helps me remember and realize that to care for as many people as possible—and to see as much Transformation in Christ as possible—Holy Spirit led systems are a must!

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

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 3—9:**
June Dahlgren; Kin & Beth Dahlgren; Jim Daly; Joyce Davis; Mike & Rose Marie Day; John & Doreen Decker; Joey, Lara, Cameron, Dominic, Rachel & Rebecca Denune; Ellen Derr; Paul & Molly Derr; Dana Devito; Adam, Deanna, Emerson & Lincoln Dincher; Dan & Shelly Dincher; Ivan & Ann Dinges; Matt, Ali, Katelyn, Kelly & Kristen Dinges; Pat & Michelle Dixon; Brian, Deanna & Abigail Dockey; Shirley Doebler; Brian, Jessica, Aidan, Colin & Liam Donnelly; Bob & Kathy Douglass; Mike & Stacey Drawbaugh; Don & Alma Duffield; Sue Duffield; Joe, Lindsay, Garrett, Jackson & Makayla Dunn; Mary Durkee; Eric Durrwachter; George & Shirley Durrwachter; Ken & Janet Durrwachter; Robert & Kristen Durrwachter; Scott Durrwachter; Ray & June Eck; Steve, Crystal, MaKenzy & Michaela Eiswerth; Brett, Nina, Jackson & Parker Emery,; Joe, Mary, Gabe & Luke Engle; Chelsey Erb.

Weekly Worship Attendance
for week ending August 27, 2017
TOTAL 784