

## 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.

### CYCLE OF PRAYER:

#### January 28-February 3:

Ben Landon; Doug & Bessie Lane;  
Brian, Erin, & Amy Langer; Don,  
Deb, & Krista Leathers; Jeff  
LeCrone; Liz Lehman; Pam Lewis;  
Courtney, Alexander, Jackson, &  
Evelyn Linn; Nathan Litz; Marsha  
Lloyd; Sharon Long; Joe & Flicka  
Losch; Pete, Missy, Abby, & Jake  
Loudenslager; Peg Lowmiller; Ray  
& Susanne Lukas; Mike, Melissa,  
Elizabeth, Nathan, & Madelyn Lun-  
dy; Christopher, Anne, Nelson, &  
Eleanor Macdonald; Ken & Lynn  
Maietta; Howard & Loraine Man-  
ley; Steve, April, & Andrew Man-  
ley; Dave & Kathy Marcello; Mi-  
chael, Bethany, Genevieve, & Juli-  
et Marcello; Mitch & Elizabeth  
Marcello; Glen, Hershey, & Xavier  
Marks; Brian, Erin, & Kennedy  
Marsh; Ben, Jess, Noah, Miles, &  
David Marzo; Ellen Maule; Jim &  
Donna Maule; Bob & Donna Max-  
well; Brent & Allisyn Maxwell;  
Genny Mayer; and Tom & Debo-  
rah Mazurek.

#### Abiding Memorial Fund

In memory of Mary Bowersox by  
Marie Kriner

#### Helping Hand Fund

In honor of Jon Klotz by Patricia  
Morone

In honor of Jon Klotz by Renee  
Carey

# PRAY

Welcome to



# First Church

United Methodist

Week of January 28, 2018

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

### 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](http://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!

### 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 *February 21* from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in room 206 of the First Evangelical Center. 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). Please contact the church office to register or for more information, or sign up on the communication card.

# INVITE

## MONTHLY CHRISTIAN BOOK GROUP

Join us on Tuesday, February 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Donna Johnson (1701 Clarion Dr.) for the February Book – Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis. No reservation needed. Come once, come every time!!!! Great discussion, good fellowship. “COME AND SEE”.

## VISION DAY



**Sat. Feb 24**

**8:30-1:30 at CLC**

It's time to sign up! Sign up now on the Communication Card or at

[www.firstchurch.cc](http://www.firstchurch.cc). Please join us for Vision Day. At Vision Day this year, we are going to focus on the ONE THING that Jesus told every one of us that we *must* do to be a faithful follower. Come find out what it is! We are excited to welcome JR Briggs, a coach, consultant, teacher, and writer who has invested in kingdom leaders in over 23 states. J.R.'s passion is two-fold: to grow fruit on other people's trees and to collaborate with others to create good kingdom mischief. There is no cost for this event. Register now.

## STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING

Training of our 9 new Stephen Ministry trainees began on Thursday, January 4th. We're so excited about what God is doing in this ministry! This is our largest training class ever!!!

They have completed five training sessions including "Distinctively Christian Caregiving" completed in a retreat yesterday. This week in "Process vs Results In Caregiving" they will learn that they don't have to worry about being able to fix whatever their Care Receiver is facing; indeed - they can't. They will learn that their role is to 'walk alongside,' knowing **God is the Caregiver**. Please keep them in prayer as they learn this very important lesson about being Christian Caregivers.

## First Church is hosting an IF Local Site -IF: Lycoming County on February 9-10.

Join us for a Two Day Gathering to Retreat, Refresh and Renew with women worldwide. It promises to be an uplifting, powerful, and influential event that will empower you for years to come. IF is worth it! Register at <https://register.ifgathering.com/event/iflycoming-county>  
Contact Melissa Lundy @ [lundy515@comcast.net](mailto:lundy515@comcast.net) for more information. See you at the gathering.  
#IFgathering2018 #IFLycomingCounty #Imgoingareyou

*Continued from SEND:*

## INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION (IJM)

*"This is what the Lord says: 'Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed.' "* Isaiah 56:1

## First Church is Praying for Justice for Child Slaves on Lake Volta, Ghana (Africa)

**Pray today for prosecutors in Ghana as they prepare for the trial of suspected traffickers arrested during a January 2017 rescue operation.** Pray for diligence and a passion for justice. Pray also that these trials would send the message that trafficking is a serious crime that the Ghanaian government will not tolerate, and that as a result, thousands of children will be protected from ever being trafficked into slavery in Lake Volta's fishing industry.

## January is Human Trafficking Month – Just the Facts:

- \* 800,000 Children go missing every year in the USA. (US DoJ)
- \* Every 30 seconds another person becomes a victim of human trafficking.
- \* 50% of human trafficking victims are children. 80% are female.
- \* The average life span of a human trafficking victim once they are enslaved is 7 years.
- \* Human trafficking is happening in towns and cities in all 50 states, including Lycoming County.
- \* It is believed that the upcoming Super Bowl will be the largest single human trafficking event in the USA.
- \* Human trafficking is the 2nd largest global criminal industry generating \$32 billion in profits every year.

# TEACH



Still excited from celebrating the confirmation of 8 students on January 7<sup>th</sup>, fuse\* student ministries will offer another Confirming Your Faith opportunity this spring! This will be starting February 4<sup>th</sup> for students in grades 7-12. CYF is an intentional time to explore faith in Jesus, discover the non-negotiables of Christian teaching, and profess faith in God, through Jesus, in a commitment to His Church. Pre-registration is required

and must be received by January 28<sup>th</sup>. Registration cards are available in the fuse\*box student ministry center and at the welcome center of each First Church building. Questions can be directed to Josh Tobias, Director of Student Ministries; [jtobias@firstchurch.cc](mailto:jtobias@firstchurch.cc) or 570.322.3572.

### CHILDREN'S VOLUNTEER MEETING

Monday, January 29 at 6:30 p.m. in CLC room 109 will be a children's ministry volunteer meeting. We will be looking at children's ministry in 2018.

### HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

United Methodist Church high school seniors and those enrolled in college who are also active in their church and/or in the conference may apply for a fall 2018 scholarship offered through the United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Students apply online between **January 3 - March 7, 2018**. Student loans are also available at interest rates as low as 3.75 percent (with a credit-worthy co-signer.)

Funds for these scholarships come from offerings taken on United Methodist Student Day, World Communion Sunday, and Native American Sunday.

### 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 January & February is Shepherd of the Streets. The Shepherd of the Streets Ministry is often the first responder for persons in financial need. The Shepherd provides financial assistance for prescription and other medical needs. In addition to financial assistance, the Shepherd provides pastoral care and other support services. [www.uclc.org/content/shepherd-streets](http://www.uclc.org/content/shepherd-streets)

### MISSION ITEMS NEEDED

**Local Food Pantry** — flavored oatmeal packets, cold cereal, and hot chocolate. **Shepherd of the Streets** — diapers (all sizes), wipes, baby shampoo. 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. **PLEASE DO NOT PLACE OPENED OR EXPIRED ITEMS IN THE BASKETS.**

### FACILITIES MANAGER POSITION AVAILABLE

First Church is currently seeking a part-time Facilities Manager. A general knowledge of building maintenance, general carpentry, plumbing and electrical is preferred. A job description is available in the church office. Those interested should apply at the church office between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The position will remain open until a suitable candidate is identified. For more information, contact Shelly Dincher at [sdincher@firstchurch.cc](mailto:sdincher@firstchurch.cc) or 570-322-3572.

### FAMILY PROMISE

Family Promise host week at North Campus is February 25 - March 4. Please contact Patty Fox at 570-971-2872 if you can help with meals, overnight stays, or can spend a few hours in the evening with the families. I also ask that you prayerfully consider becoming a co-coordinator to assist during host weeks. Thank you.

# CHILDREN/YOUTH

# SEND

## Sermon Outline

The Darkness Has Not Overcome (4)—Wait For It

Habakkuk 3

- I. How do you maintain \_\_\_\_\_ in God's justice in spite of an unjust world?
- II. How can God involve \_\_\_\_\_ people in God's \_\_\_\_\_ plan?
- III. God's \_\_\_\_\_ will is good and holy.
- IV. \_\_\_\_\_ will can be evil, violent and destructive.
- V. God's \_\_\_\_\_ will shapes human will.

### Life Reflection:

*What can I do to strengthen my relationship with God so that I am able to "wait for it" when I feel like God is silent, hidden, or inactive? Can I remember God's faithfulness by journaling? Can I impress the truths of Scripture in my mind by more faithfully reading the Bible? Can I ask someone to pray for me?*

### Scripture Reflection: Habakkuk 2:4

"...yet I will wait patiently..." Habakkuk 3:16

## Pastor's Page

### A Day To Remember

First Church,

As I have shared with you in the past, I realize that time is a precious commodity. In light of this, we want to use it as powerfully and relevantly as we can. It is in this spirit that I want to invite you to mark the morning of **SATURDAY, FEB. 24** off on your calendar for our annual First Church Vision Day. If you are not familiar with this day it is the ONE day each year that we gather as an entire church to better foster a culture that seeks transformation in Jesus Christ. If you are passionate about the vision of First Church, you will want to be there. In years past we have used this day for training or to hear from various ministry/staff leaders. This year I am incredibly excited to share with you that we have a very special surprise in store.

Here is a brief description of our day together:

*Do you know the ONE THING that Jesus told every one of us that we must do to be a faithful follower? Could you name the ONE THING that every thriving church does really well? At Vision Day this year, we are going to focus on this ONE THING. Come find out what it is! Don't miss Vision Day on Feb 24. We are excited to welcome JR Briggs, a coach, consultant, teacher, and writer who has invested in kingdom leaders in over 23 states. J.R.'s passion is two-fold: to grow fruit on other people's trees and to collaborate with others to create good kingdom mischief.*

This day is open to EVERYONE connected with First Church. I believe you will be inspired, challenged, and encouraged in your own walk with Christ as well as what God is doing at First Church as a whole. I am personally asking you all to make this morning a priority because I believe it will be "that good."

Our day will start off at 8:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast and end at 1:30 p.m. after lunch. Both are free for those who register. We need folks to sign up by February 18.

I am letting you know about this day this far in advance because I am hoping you can make arrangements to attend. (Child-care will not be provided so that our children's leaders can take part in the day.) Days like this have an exponential effect on our culture and discipleship as followers of Jesus. Would you plan on joining us this day? I hope to see you there.

In Christ,

Pastor Matt