

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:

February 18—24:

Shirley Remsnyder; Christopher,
Tarah (Ransom), Nala, Orion,
Landen & Miles Rennicks; Andrea
(Tyson) & Gene Ricci; Mo & Cathy
Richards; Todd, Carolyn, Ryan,
Joshua & Kaitlyn Ritter; Caleb
Robbins; Ed, Jill & Benjamin
Robbins; Mike, Jenn, Connor,
Ethan & Mae Rodgers; Stacey
Roman; Deanna Roth; Alice &
Adin Rothgeb; Aaron & Kristen
Russell; Bob & Beth Russell;
Wayne & Paula Sager; Elizabeth &
Maggie Sauers; Lance, Rachel,
Madison, Kaitlyn & Molly Savidge;
Marc, Jody, Lauren & Katie
Schefsky; Vivian Schodt; John &
Linda Schon; Jack & Cindy
Schrader; Tom, Jane, Connor &
Grace Schramm; Graham, Ashley,
Michael & Patrick Schwanbeck;
Dan, Carol, Madelyn, Eleanor,
Miriam & Beatrice Schwanger;
Vernon, Tiffany, Grace, Rixon &
Henry Schwanger; Beverly
Schweikle; Matt Scott; Eric, Megan
& Calvin Sechrist; Kim Sechrist;
Scott & Melinda Sechrist.

ABIDING MEMORIAL

Abiding Memorials in memory of
Ray Eck:

Arlene Laughman

Kelly and Anthony D'Eramo

Donna and Jim Morris

Doug and Judy Foster

Jim and Corinne Guddal

PRAY

Welcome to



First Church

United Methodist

Week of February 18, 2018

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed Monday, February 19 in observance of Presidents Day.

MEET THE PASTORS

New to First Church? Take a few minutes on February 25th to meet one or more of the pastors and let us help you get connected with First Church.

After 8:00 and 9:30 service, First Evangelical Center - Room 206

After 11:00 service, Christian Life Center - in the back of Stryker Hall

After 11:00 service, North Campus - in the lobby

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.

BAPTISM

The First Church family would like to congratulate Mark and Anna Thompson on the baptism of their son, Cole Sullivan Thompson on Sunday, February 11, 2018.

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

INVITE

MONTHLY CHRISTIAN BOOK GROUP

Join us on Tuesday, March 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Donna Johnson (1701 Clarion Dr.) for the March book – The Book That Made Your World: How the Bible Created the Soul of Western Civilization by Vishal Mangalwadi (Part 1 of the book only). No reservation needed. Come once, come every time!!!! Great discussion, good fellowship. “COME AND SEE.”

TECH MINISTRY SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

We are seeking volunteers to serve in a variety of ways at First Church. Specifically, volunteers are needed to run media slides at the 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. services held at the First Evangelical Center. There are several other areas that tech help is needed such as capturing images of special happenings, creating slides for Sunday morning worship, and creating videos for ministries! *No prior technology experience is needed.* If you are interested, have questions, or desire further information, please contact Katie Stepnowski at kstepnowski@firstchurch.cc.

GROUP LEADER TRAINING

Save the Date

Saturday, March 24th
9:00 am - 10:30 am
Fuse Box

We look forward to continuing to grow together as leaders and dive into what it means to be a more effective group leader.

WELCOME GRAND FRIENDS (60+)

Grand Friends will meet on Tuesday, February 27th at Hoss's Steak & Sea House. We will start at 12:00 p.m. This will be a social event. If you know someone who would be interested in our group, please invite or bring them along. RSVP to Carol Cassidy at 570-323-5596 no later than February 26th.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

There will be a United Methodist Women meeting on Wednesday, February 21st at North Campus at 1:30 p.m. All are welcome!

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. We also ask that you prayerfully consider becoming a co-coordinator to assist during host weeks. Thank you.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR NEIGHBORS

Wonderful opportunity to get to meet this Christ-centered, Bible-preaching, and oldest Afro-American congregation in Williamsport. On Saturday, February 24 at 4 pm, Interim Pastor Dion Murphy and the Ebenezer Baptist Church (EBC) family are opening their doors for their annual Black History Program! Grab a friend and enjoy entertainment by Anointed Adults and the Jesus Turn Up Youth Crew! Great people and great spirit! (527 Park Avenue, between Locust & Cherry St.

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

MISSION ITEMS NEEDED

Local Food Pantry — saltine crackers, chunky soups, chicken noodle soup, and fruit snacks.

Shepherd of the Streets — shampoo and deodorant.

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.

TEACH

SEND

Continued from Pastor's Page...

One of the marks of a church with an effective leadership development culture is that the church is able to raise up staff from within. This past year, that happened in some significant ways. In 2015 when we conducted a national search for a Director of Technical Ministries, we discovered how difficult it is to find someone with the skill set that we need to lead a ministry that involves audio, video, lighting, and livestream. To say that competent all around technical directors are "scarce as hen's teeth" is pretty accurate. In 2017, we were blessed to hire a Lycoming College graduate who had developed her technical skills as a volunteer and intern with our technical ministries. Katie Stepnowski is an example of "home grown" leadership through our College Ministries. She not only brings technical expertise to our staff team, but she also has the DNA of First Church. This was evidenced by the exceptionally smooth transition into her role and the extremely positive way that the tech team and the church has responded to Katie's leadership.

Please keep Pastor Janet in prayer as we continue to make leadership development a key focus at First Church.

In Christ,

Pastor Matt

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Children ^{Petty Swain} 3 yrs-4th grade
JUNE 18-22
9 am - Noon
Register*: www.firstchurch.cc
*registration will start this spring

CHILDREN/YOUTH

FIRST CHURCH READING PLAN FOR LENT

In Lent we will be reading and studying 1 Peter. We are committing to read through 1 chapter for each Sunday in Lent leading up to Palm Sunday and Holy Week.

Week One: Ash Wednesday February 14th- Saturday, February 24th — Read 1 Peter, Chapter 1.

Week Two: Sunday February 25th— Saturday, March 3rd — Read 1 Peter, Chapter 2.

Week Three: Sunday, March 4th—Saturday, March 10th— Read 1 Peter, Chapter 3.

Week Four: Sunday, March 11th— Saturday, March 17th— Read 1 Peter, Chapter 4.

Week Five: Sunday March 18th—Saturday, March 24th— Read 1 Peter, Chapter 5.

We will focus on reading through each chapter using a method, much like the *Lectio Divina*, which is a method of reading scripture which helps us to internalize the living Word of God, and then to put it into practice in our lives. To do that, we will read through each chapter 4 times, as follows:

First Reading: Enter

As you read this passage of scripture for the first time you are simply "entering in" or familiarizing yourself with what God is saying here. Notice the circumstances, people, places, etc.

Second Reading: Impress

As you read the same passage of scripture for the second time, notice what word, phrase, sentence or verse makes an "impression" upon you.

Third Reading: Pray

As you read this passage of scripture for the third time through, begin by spending a few moments in prayer thanking and praising God for His Holy Word. As you read, be prayerfully interacting with God about the text.

Fourth Reading: Live

In this final reading of the passage ask God to show you how He wants you to live based on this scripture. Is there something He would have you start doing, stop doing or continue doing?

Optional Readings for Week Six-Holy Week:

Sunday, March 25th, Palm Sunday— Read through the gospel accounts of the last week of Jesus's life beginning with His Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem—Matthew 21; Mark 11; Luke 19; John 12.

Holy Thursday/Good Friday/ Sunday, April 1st, EASTER/Resurrection Sunday— Read through the gospel accounts of the rest of Jesus's last week, death, and resurrection— Matthew 26-28 (for further reading Matthew 22-25); Mark 15-16 (for further reading Mark 12-14); Luke 22-24 (for further reading Luke 20-21); John 13-20.

Sermon Outline

Fire!!: Be Holy
12 Peter1: 13-16

What does it mean to be _____?

What will I _____ to be holy this Lent?

To be holy, you must be _____, but holiness is more than _____.

To be holy, you must be _____, but holiness is more than _____.

Holy means _____.

Holiness is about _____, not just _____.

Before God calls us to be _____, God calls us to be _____.

To be holy, prepare your _____ for action. (1 Peter 1:13)

To be holy, _____ yourself. (1 Peter 1:13)

To be holy, set your _____ on the grace of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:13)

To be holy is to be _____.

Life Application: What will you do to be holy this Lent? How can you “observe a holy Lent by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s Holy Word.” (United Methodist Book of Worship).

Fast from food

Fast from social media

Read a chapter of 1 Peter every week in Lent

Pray at the NC weekday mornings at 6:00 am

Scripture Application: “Be holy, as I am holy.” 1 Peter 1:16

Prayer of Confession—Lent Week One:

Merciful and gracious God, You are HOLY. It is hard for us to wrap our minds around what being holy truly means. We are lost in our sinful natures. Even when we turn to you and welcome you into our lives - we still struggle with the things of this world. Help us. We seek to be more like You - but we don't know how. Lead us, gentle Father. Guide us in the ways that will draw us closer to You. Teach us what it means to live a life that is ever more pleasing to You. We can't do any of this in our strength - so we come to You, trembling and expectant... trusting in Your grace...asking that you fill us with the fire of Your Holy Spirit. We place ourselves into Your hands. Father, there is work to do in each of us - things that need to be changed....removed.... purified... refined through the fire of your Spirit. Take away anything - and everything - that comes between us. Show us what it means to be holy as we seek to be more like Jesus.

Pastor's Page

Primary Ministry Spot-Light: Leadership Development

First Church,

We know that it is impossible for us as a church to be all things to all people. In fact, as we have shared, when we try to be everything to everyone we end up not doing anything very well. Therefore we try to focus on ministry opportunities that we believe God has most uniquely equipped us to live into with the resources and people of First Church along with the needs of our community. It is our hope that by focusing on a limited number of primary ministries we can have the most impact to see Transformation In Christ, Changing Lives Inside and Out.

Throughout this year we will share spot-lights on the primary ministries going on at First Church. The hope is that we will be encouraged on how a transformational difference is being made and that these spot-lights will be reminders to be in prayer for these ministries.

This week's primary ministry spot-light focuses on some of the work that Pastor Janet has worked on with Leadership Development in the past year.

Interns –Daniel Havrilla became our 3rd Summer Pastoral Intern. Daniel Wilt and Zach Woods, previous pastoral interns are both now serving as Licensed Local Pastors in the Susquehanna Conference. Our internship program has been effective in helping young adults discover and sharpen their call to ministry. Moving into 2018, the Leadership Development ministry will be working with the College Ministries to increase and expand our internship offerings.

Mentoring – We launched the OneOnOne Mentoring ministry in 2017 with 24 adults beginning a mentoring relationship in April. The goal of OneOnOne is to have mentoring become a part of the DNA of First Church so that mentoring is viewed as a normal part of being a rugged disciple. Mentoring seeks to help adults experience deep fellowship and inspired teaching with one another.

Equipping for Transformation (EFT) – EFT was a 9-month leadership development course that sought to raise up a new generation of leadership in order to energize, mobilize, and empower the laity of First Church to live out a culture of vibrancy by owning the vision of “Transformation in Christ, Changing Lives Inside and Out.” EFT was launched in 2014 and the last class of 16 people finished in May, 2017. Over 3 years, 107 people completed EFT and identified “next steps” in their discipleship process.

Disciple's Journey – In the Fall of 2017, we launched the Disciple's Journey process of leadership development. We offered the first class of Disciple's Journey—Step 2 in the Fall which 25 people completed. Of those, 15 elected to continue their discipleship process by taking Disciple's Journey—Step 3 in January, 2018 with 28 total sharing in Disciple's Journey—Step 3.

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