

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:

March 25—31:

Robert Bickel; Jean Binderup;
Peggy & Constance Bird; Alfredo,
Mary Ann, Micaella, Mia, Maria &
Marco Blas; Kevin Bloom; Jourdan
Boehmer; Mel & Pat Bole; Mi-
chael, Natalie, Emily, Joshua,
Zachary & Henry Bonislowski; Rob,
Lori, Austin & Grace Boos; Chad,
Nikki, Elijah, Adalyn & Abram
Bower; Dale Bower; Don, Heather,
Madysen & Jackson Bower; Jeff &
Deborah Bower; Jim, Isaac &
Natalie Bower; Paul & Judy Bower;
Ryan, Paula, Addison & Sadie
Bower; Scot, Desiree' & Austen
Bower; Chris Boyce; Paul & Patty
Braunegg; Susan Breen; Eric, Amy
& Madison Briggs; Sean Brink;
Robert & Helen Brown; Glenn
Burgess; Levi, Chelsea, Noah &
Emma Burkholder; John & Jean
Burks; Stephen Burnham; Dick &
Diane Burns; Andrew & Allison
Burns; Valerie Burns; Sebastian
Bush.

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Church would like to express
their sympathy to the family and
friends of Robert Durrwachter
who passed away on Tuesday,
March 20, 2018.

ABIDING MEMORIAL

Stryker Fund in memory of Inez
Stanton

By George and Shirley
Durrwachter

PRAY

Welcome to



First Church

United Methodist

Week of March 25, 2018

HOLY WEEK SERVICES AT FIRST CHURCH

- **Palm Sunday services-** March 25th
normal Sunday morning & afternoon service times
- **Holy Thursday service**—March 29th, 7:00 p.m.
Sanctuary FEC 604 Market Street
- **Good Friday service**— March 30th, 7:00 p.m.
Sanctuary FEC 604 Market Street
- **Prayer Vigil**— 9:00 p.m. March 30th — noon on March 31st
Sanctuary FEC 604 Market Street or at home
- **Easter Sunday services-** April 1st
normal Sunday morning & afternoon service times

EASTER PRAYER VIGIL

Along with the morning prayer time at the North Campus, the Easter Prayer Vigil to be held March 30-31 presents each one of us with a timely opportunity to come and talk with our Lord in a quiet, uninterrupted 30-minute time. There is no better preparation for the Easter message of experiencing the risen Christ. Please check your calendar, and sign up on the church website under (www.firstchurch.cc/prayer) or on a communication card. The vigil will be held in the sanctuary of the FEC beginning at 9:00 p.m. following the evening Good Friday service, and it will conclude at 12:00 p.m. on Holy Saturday. There will be a greeter stationed at the Ross Street door. Prayer guides will be available.

WELCOME TED SCAIFE, FACILITIES MANAGER

We welcome Ted Scaife as the new First Church facilities manager. Ted and his wife, Melanie, live in Williamsport and are members of First Church. They worship primarily at the 9:30 A.M. service. Ted is excited to begin his ministry with us as he oversees and cares for our facilities. Please welcome Ted when you see him and please pray for him as he undertakes this new position.

INVITE

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

NEED A HELPING HAND?

If you are in need of some assistance with a project around your home this year, the Men of God might be your answer. Our Wednesday evening men's group has been a group focused on service projects for people inside and outside our church family and around our church buildings. We "specialize" in outdoor projects like mulching, shrub trimming, raking, and small maintenance projects. If you have a need, let us know if we can evaluate it to see if we can serve you...at no cost! We also invite others to join us in our efforts, especially other small groups (men or women), limited to 18 yrs or older. Please contact Steve Tallman (215-327-8255) or Ken Durrwachter (570-560-3213).

WELCOME GRAND FRIENDS (60+)!

Grand Friends will have a "Get-together with our Christian Friends" on Tuesday, March 27 in the FEC Fellowship Hall. We will start at 12:00 noon. The menu will include barbecue, macaroni and cheese, coleslaw, dessert, and drinks. The cost is \$7.00. John and Sue Best will be there to speak about their mission trips. **RSVP to Carol Cassidy at 570-323-5596 no later than March 23rd.**

MONTHLY CHRISTIAN BOOK GROUP

Join us on Tuesday, April 10 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Donna Johnson (1701 Clarion Dr.) for the April book – Part 2 of The Book That Made Your World: How the Bible Created the Soul of Western Civilization by Vishal Mangalwadi. No reservation needed. Come once, come every time!!!! Great discussion, good fellowship. "COME AND SEE."

NEW BIBLE CLASS

A new Sunday morning Bible class is being offered beginning April 8 from 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. in the College Lounge area of the FEC. Children's ministry is offered during this same time if you would like childcare. The group will be studying 1 Peter for approximately 8 weeks. George Stauffer will be leading this new study. We look forward to seeing you there!

SIGHT & SOUND BUS TRIP

Come join us on Wednesday, May 9th for a bus trip to Sight & Sound Theatre in Lancaster to see "Jesus." The cost is \$125 for adults; \$90 for children under 12. All proceeds benefit United Churches. Seats are sold on a first-come, first-served basis. There are only 24 seats left! Contact Yvonne Shenuski at 570-546-7786 for more information or to reserve a ticket.

MISSION ITEMS NEEDED

Local Food Pantry — tea bags (regular flavor), spaghetti sauce, and pasta (any shape).

Shepherd of the Streets — Gel shaving cream (both men and women), disposable razors (both men and women), and 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.

PLEASE DO NOT PLACE OPENED OR EXPIRED ITEMS IN THE BASKETS.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Please join Celebrate Recovery on April 1st at 4:30 p.m. for an Easter Celebration dinner. All are welcome. We will have a worship service followed by dinner.

SECOND MILE GIVING

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

TRANSFORM 2018

Transform is our local mission experience where we seek to meet some of the practical needs in our community as the hands and feet of Jesus. We want to bless our community with home repair projects, landscaping, and painting, as well as things like cleaning, volunteering and serving. Instead of just one week of serving, Transform 2018 will occur multiple times throughout the year:

April 26th-28th

August 2nd-4th

October/November TBD

Register online by April 25 at www.firstchurch.cc/transform.

TEACH

SEND

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and righteous God... What just happened? A short time ago we heard "blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna!" and now we are talking about the suffering and death of Jesus. It was only a few days from the time when the people welcomed Jesus with a parade to the time that they were shouting for Him to be crucified. Didn't they know that this was Jesus - the Son of God? How could they do what they did? Didn't they understand? But are we all that different? We ask God to be "in charge" in our lives - and when He asks something of us - loving that difficult person or putting Him first in our finances or getting out of our comfort zones.... we simply don't - or won't. We are fickle and our hearts are divided. We get distracted by the ways of the world - rather than follow the way of the cross. We look on in horror as we see how Jesus suffered - insults, humiliation and pain. It makes us uncomfortable. All sin separates us from God - but how could *my* sin possibly "deserve" that kind of death? Jesus died for our sins - the righteous for the unrighteous - so that He could bring us to God. Father - forgive us. Forgive us when we join the angry crowds. Forgive us for our hard and selfish hearts. Forgive us when we act like ungrateful children. Our sins nailed Jesus to the cross - but His love kept Him there. Help us to truly understand the depth of Your incredible love for us. Help us to turn to You and to be healed. Without You, we are lost - save us. Burn away the things that keep us from You. Set us free to live for You in righteousness and holiness. Set out hearts on fire by the power of Your Holy Spirit. We are Yours.

SEAN WALKER'S BASKETBALL CAMPS

June 11 to 15

9:00 to 10:30 Those going into Kindergarten through 2nd Grade \$20.00

10:45 to 12:15 Those going into Third Grade through 5th Grade \$20.00

July 9 to 13

9:00 to 10:30 Those going into Kindergarten through 2nd Grade \$20.00

10:45 to 12:15 Those going into Third Grade through 5th Grade \$20.00

A glimpse of our camp looks like:

Free Shooting, Bible Teaching, Warm Ups, Skills, Scrimmages

Any Questions, please feel free to call Kathy Choate at 570-322-3993 or email kchoate@firstchurch.cc.

CAMP 2018

Registration forms are out! Check any of the welcome desks for summer catalogs and registration forms. First Church provides a 50% scholarship for families – register by May 1st for early bird discounts. Camp Penn (staffed by First Church) is the week of Sunday, June 24th.

VBS 2018 NEEDS YOU!

June 18-22 will be an amazing time spent with God as we are Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus. There are many ways to get involved: Pray for the week, volunteer, or donate. We have a few random items needed for VBS this year. Keep an eye on the bulletin and FaceBook for those requests. FIRST REQUEST. Broken or older umbrellas (we will not be able to return them once we are done). Needed by Easter (April 1st).

KIDS PALM SUNDAY

PROCESSIONAL – March 25

All kids are invited at the start of the 9:30 a.m. worship service to meet in the lobby of the FEC to celebrate and wave palm branches as we walk together through the sanctuary praising God. Sunday School for kids 3 years-5th grade will be dismissed following the choir's song ("Hosanna") and a message for kids. Nursery for kids under 3 years old will be on regular schedule. At 11:00 a.m. (Both CLC and NC) scarves will be used as part of Palm Sunday worship.

HOLY WEEK

Children are invited to be in worship on Holy Thursday and Good Friday. There will be worship bags for kids 3 years and older at the entrances to the sanctuary. Nursery will be available for kids under 3 years old. KIDS will be singing ("12 Disciples") in worship on Holy Thursday.

CHILDREN/YOUTH

Sermon Outline

Fire—The Death of Jesus

1 Peter 2:23-25 and 1 Peter 3:17-18

- I. Holy means to be _____.
- II. Who would have thought that to be _____ would mean God is a man on a cross, loving people who don't know how to love Him?
- III. We can _____ to God because God has _____ to us.
- IV. The cross for Jesus is _____.
- V. Jesus is the only one who ever died not as a _____ but in a supreme act of _____.
- VI. God is willing to _____ in order that humanity, through God, might _____.

Life Reflection:

What in my life sets me apart from others because I follow Jesus? Anything? What needs to be burned away in my life to make me more holy (Greed? Impurity? Sexual Immorality? Selfishness?)? What needs to be increased (Grace? Kindness? Generosity? Integrity?)? Has the reality that Jesus died for me ever fully penetrated my heart? What realization would cause my heart to burn for Jesus? What about Jesus makes Him holy? Will I commit to making the journey with Christ all the way to the cross during this Holy Week? And beyond? Will you pray on a daily basis for God's Holy Spirit fire to fill you personally as well as all of First Church?

Scripture Reflection: 1 Peter 2:24

“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”

Pastor's Page

Will You Offer Life?

First Church,

Today we enter into Holy Week. This is the week in which we remember and walk through the final events in the last week of the life of Jesus.

We celebrate Palm Sunday today as Jesus entered into Jerusalem riding on a donkey, knowing that He was riding to His eventual death.

On Thursday of this week we celebrate the final meal that Jesus had with His disciples. During that meal He both washed their feet and celebrated communion with them.

On Friday we remember again the gruesome death that Jesus went through on our behalf as He was executed on the cross.

From Friday evening until Saturday we share together in a prayer vigil as we recall the magnitude of Jesus going into the tomb for us.

And then.... THEN... next Sunday we have the opportunity to celebrate the greatest joy, celebration, victory, surprise, and experience of life the universe has ever known—the RESURRECTION of Jesus Christ.

So... my question to us today is who will we invite to experience this new life? WILL we invite others to experience this new life?

We now live in a world in which:

—25% of folks have no God or Church connection and never did

—38% of folks had a Church connection at one time but no longer do

And yet, folks are still open to being invited to connect with God in church IF invited by a friend or someone they know. In fact, up to 20% of folks say they WOULD come to church IF a friend invited them. At no time of the year are folks more open to coming to Church than at Christmas and Easter.

If Jesus is who we live for... if our faith is the most important element of our lives... then why would we not seek to offer and share this good news with everyone that we can?

I pray this Holy Week that God will give us boldness... courage... excitement... and a willingness to invite friends and loved ones to share in the Resurrection experience only found at Easter.

This Easter, will you invite someone you know who may not already be connected in a faith community? Will you offer the invitation to life found in the Resurrection? So that ultimately we can celebrate Transformation In Christ, Changing Lives Inside and Out?

In Christ,
Pastor Matt

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.

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