

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:

April 1 —7:

Dean & Sandy Bussler; Ben, Emily,
Levi, Judah, Eden & Simeon Butler;
Joe, Shannon, Jake, Isabel & Lila
Butters; Norma
Buttorff; Donna Callahan; Karen
Campbell; Jamie Caputo; Kate,
Claire & Charlotte Carpenter; Mike
& Carol Cassidy; Harold &
Margaret Chapman; Karen, Justin
& Caitlin Chappell; Curt, Julie,
Alexandria & Ethan Chilson; Alex
& Kristin Choate; Kevin, Kathy,
Abigail & Benjamin Choate; Fred &
Charlene Chubb; Bill, Becky, Le-
nora, Olivia & William Ciabattari;
Jack, Sharlene & Sherry Clapper;
John, Connie, Elizabeth & Kathryn
Clapper; Ray & Sharon Clemens;
Alisa & Alena Cohick; Eric, Sharon,
Morgan & Christina Comini; Rob,
Jennifer, Jonathan & Christopher
Cooley; Lisa, Ella & Gabrielle
Cosentine; Joseph & Barbara
Coup; Matthew, Lisa, Jonathan,
Benjamin & Matison Cramer;
David & Gina Cuddeback; June
Dahlgren; Kim & Beth Dahlgren;
Jim Daly.

PRAY

Welcome to



First Church

United Methodist

Week of April 1, 2018

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed Monday, April 2, in observance of Easter.

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!

CELEBRATE RECOVERY

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

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR 2018

Would you like to honor or remember a loved one or someone special? Then why not place flowers on the altar at the Evangelical Center. The cost is \$35, and checks can be made payable to First Church. Please write "Altar Flowers" in the memo line. To sign-up for flowers at the Evangelical Center, see the bulletin board located in the Coffee Area. Please be sure to indicate if it is in memory of or in honor of. *Sponsorship of altar flowers will be acknowledged on the rolling slides prior to worship in the First Evangelical Center Sanctuary.*

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

INVITE

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 8 seats left! Contact Yvonne Shenuski at 570-546-7786 for more information or to reserve a ticket.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Training Update

Here’s what our Stephen Ministers are learning this week:

Session Fifteen—Helping Suicidal Persons Get the Help They Need

Stephen Ministers are never knowingly assigned to someone who is or might be suicidal, but they may nonetheless find themselves in a caring relationship with someone who is suicidal. If so, they need to know what to do. In this session, our Stephen Ministers explore how to determine the level of risk and how to refer the care receiver to a qualified professional. *Please continue to pray for our Stephen Minister Trainees as they continue to enhance their caregiving skills.*

MISSION OPPORTUNITY

WHEN: Sunday, May 6 through Saturday, May 12, 2018

WHERE: Tarboro, North Carolina

WHY: To share the love and hope offered by Jesus Christ with those whose homes and lives were destroyed by flooding.....and who still have not returned to their homes.

COST: \$175

MAXIMUM TEAM SIZE: 25
TO REQUEST AN APPLICATION PACKET, PLEASE CONTACT JOHN BEST at: jmbest2@gmail.com

MISSION ITEMS NEEDED

Local Food Pantry —cake mixes, frosting, juice/juice boxes, mac and cheese.

Shepherd of the Streets — bar soap, deodorant, combs.

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.

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.

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

TEACH

SEND

JESUS HAS COME TO SET ME FREE

One year ago, April 2017, International Justice Mission and Ghanaian police conducted together the largest rescue operation to date—finally rescuing 30 children and one young adult and arresting 11 suspects who had been profiting from forcing children to work long hours in dangerous conditions on Lake Volta. (The first case is now in the court system.)

On one of the largest man-made lakes in the world, more than half of the thousands of children working on Lake Volta are believed to be trafficked [modern day slavery]. We cannot imagine the suffering seen in the lives of children who have been forced to leave their childhoods for long days of hard labor on fishing boats. The majority are 10 years old or younger. Some of them can barely swim. Children injured while doing this dangerous work often go untreated. They can expect no compassion from their owners. In some cases, boat masters maintain their control through violent beatings and withholding food.

After their rescue, on their way to the aftercare shelter where they are cared for until they are able to safely return to their families, one sweet 10-year-old voice burst out with song: *“I’ve got joy, joy down in my heart; I’ve got joy, joy down in my heart.”*

He was soon joined by the rest of the children, singing their new truth, *“Look what the Lord has done for me; Jesus has come to set me free; I’ve got joy, joy down in my heart.”*

Our joy is that after prayerful consideration, First Church made a 2018 financial pledge to help rescue boys from slavery in the fishing industry on Lake Volta in Ghana, Africa. If you would like to partner with IJM to bring justice and end slavery on Lake Volta, you may use the envelope that was in your March Giving Envelopes, or mark your check IJM, or go to firstchurch.cc and click on “donate” and choose International Justice Mission. Please prayerfully consider your part as Jesus’ hands to set children free.

SCHOLARSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE

First Church is currently offering three different scholarships:

The **Louise Stryker Music Scholarship** (to aid and assist young people who have expressed an interest in an aptitude for music), the **Cindy Lou Sweeting Memorial Scholarship** (to aid students in the FUSE youth ministry who are continuing their self-development through higher education), and the **Fund for Church Leadership** (to aid First Church members who are attending a seminary or college in preparation for a church related vocation).

Details and applications for the above scholarships are available at the information centers and the church office. **Deadline for the return of applications is Monday, April 30.** Please return completed applications to the church office. If there are any questions regarding any of these scholarships, please call the church office at 570-322-3572.

KIDS ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

We will meet on April 4 and April 18 from 5:45-7:00 p.m. ONLY. Kids will be combined preschool-5th grade. We will have choir and then do VBS prep projects. NEEDED: used and even broken umbrellas for VBS decoration (we only need a few).

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.

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.

CHILDREN/YOUTH

Sermon Outline

Fired Up!

Luke 24:1-8 and Luke 24:28-32

- I. Because the Resurrection is _____, there is no place beyond the reach of God's redeeming grace.
 - II. It is not the _____ of Jesus that fire people up, but the _____ of Jesus.
 - III. Only Christianity presents _____ as a person.
 - IV. The God they tried to _____ ... may instead _____ among us... leaving behind an empty tomb.
- I. Jesus still walks beside us... makes our hearts _____... fires us up.

Life Reflection:

When it comes to Jesus, would you describe yourself as feeling more "fired" or "fired up" about Jesus? Why? Am I more familiar with the principles or the person of Jesus? What would it take for the Resurrected Christ to burn within my heart? Where might Jesus be walking beside me and I simply have not seen Him there? What would help open my eyes to the personal, Risen Lord? Would you pray: "*Lord... through your Holy Spirit... fire me up to the reality of you.*"

Scripture Reflection: Luke 24:32

32 They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

Pastor's Page

Welcome to New Life

First Church,

HAPPY EASTER!!!! CHRIST IS RISEN!!!!

And WELCOME to First Church this morning as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ!! We pray that today is a day filled with joy, celebration, and excitement as we participate together in the abundant life of the Risen Christ!

We are so very glad you are here! Especially if you are newer to First Church we thank you for joining us in today's celebration. Please know we would love to continue experiencing life in Christ with you as we seek to live out our vision of **Transformation in Christ: Changing Lives Inside and Out**. We believe that lives are transformed as we build relationships first with Christ the risen One and with each other!

If you would like to find out more about First Church, please check out the newsletter today as well as our website at www.firstchurch.cc. In particular, please notice some of the next steps you can take by clicking on the "Welcome" tab and then clicking on the "Getting Started" sections of the website. Please also join and follow us on Facebook!

First Church celebrates in a number of weekly worship experiences throughout the week that we invite you to share in. Please see the newsletter today (or our website) for a full listing of the worship experiences that we have on Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings, and Wednesday nights. Beyond worship, there are many small groups and community groups (that we call our Acts Network) to get plugged into for every age group... from young children and our youth to our families and senior citizens.

We seek to be a church that is *beautifully diverse, filled with rugged disciples, humbly powerful, and here for those not yet here in the love of Jesus Christ*.

We believe the more we see these elements lived out, the more our lives will be transformed and the more we can impact our wonderful city!

We hope we can get to know you better in the days ahead.

Thank you again for sharing in this special, holy, wonderful, life-filled day with us! It is my great joy to serve the Risen Christ with you... Let us experience the Resurrection together!

In Christ,
Pastor Matt