

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 8 —14:

Kory, Carnie, Rhett & Hagen
Datres; Joyce Davis; Mike & Ree
Day; John & Doreen Decker; Ellen
Derr; Paul & Molly Derr; Dana
Devito; Adam, Deanna, Emerson &
Lincoln Dincher; Dan & Shelly
Dincher; Ivan & Ann Dinges; Matt,
Ali, Kristen, Katelyn & Kelly
Dinges; Pat & Michelle Dixon;
Brian, Deanna & Abigail Dockey;
Shirley Doeblor; Janet Doherty;
Brian, Jessica, Aidan, Colin & Liam
Donnelly; Bob & Kathy Douglass;
Mike & Stacey Drawbaugh; Don &
Alma Duffield; Sue Duffield; Joe,
Lindsay, Garrett, Makayla &
Jackson Dunn; Mary Durkee; Eric
Durrwachter; George & Shirley
Durrwachter; Ken & Janet
Durrwachter; Scott Durrwachter;
June Eck; Steve, Crystal, MaKenzy
& Michaela Eiswerth; Brett, Nina,
Jackson & Parket Emery; Joe,
Mary, Gabe & Luke Engle; Chelsey
Erb.

ABIDING MEMORIAL

In memory of Mary Bowersox by
G. Richard Wible.

PRAY

Welcome to



First Church

United Methodist

Week of April 8, 2018

MEET THE PASTORS

New to First Church? Take a few minutes today 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

COMMUNION OFFERED —2ND TUESDAY

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, April 8th.

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!

BAPTISM

The First Church family would like to congratulate Jennifer Houseknecht and her daughters Lyla Kinney and Lydia Kinney on their baptisms on Sunday, April 1, 2018.

NEW MEMBERS

First Church would like to congratulate the following people who joined the First Church family on Sunday, April 1, 2018: Melody Williamson, Michael O'Lone, Tracey Myers, and Tia Rodriguez.

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 today, 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 9 seats left! Contact Yvonne Shenuski at 570-546-7786 for more information or to reserve a ticket.

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

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.

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.

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.

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

SCHOLARSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE

Louise Stryker Music Scholarship

Several years ago the Louise Stryker Music Scholarship Fund was established in honor of Louise to aid and assist young people who have expressed an interest in an aptitude for music. The scholarship amount will vary from year to year depending on the availability of investment income and the number of qualified applicants. Young people through age 21 years may apply. The scholarship may be used for lessons, classes, or training in vocal or instrumental music (does not include the purchase or rental of instruments). Preference will be given to members and/or regular attendees of First United Methodist Church.

Cindy Lou Sweeting Memorial Scholarship

The purpose of this scholarship is to aid students in the greater Williamsport community who are continuing their self-development through higher education. Up to two students may receive the award. The amount will be determined by the Scholarship Committee. Eligibility: student must be active in student ministries of First United Methodist Church, student must be admitted to an institution of higher learning for the upcoming academic year, and student must have maintained at least a "C" average during most recent academic year.

Fund for Church Leadership

In 2006 the Church Council voted to set aside unrestricted funds within the Endowment Fund to create a scholarship to aid First Church members who are attending a seminary or college in preparation for a church related vocation. In addition, the scholarship could aid those who are involved in campus ministries, those who are eligible for matching funds or those who have been approved for a First Church internship as outlined by the SPRC. The scholarship is open to those who have been active members of First Church for at least one year.

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 322-3572.



Children ^{Potty Trained} 3 yrs-4th grade

JUNE 18-22

9 am - Noon

Register*: www.firstchurch.cc

*registration will start April 16

KIDS ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

We will meet on 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.

CHILDREN/YOUTH

Sermon Outline

Quiet Power — The Power of Identity

Genesis 1:26-30 and Revelation 21:1-4, Revelation 22:1-5

- I. We tend to _____ more to the powers of this world, rather than operating from a place of power to _____ the world.
- II. The message of the Bible is both _____ and _____.
- III. _____ form vs. _____ form - Jussives invite while imperatives command.
- IV. “Let there be” does not have to _____ power, it _____ it.
- V. Our identity as children of God is that we are _____.
- VI. God’s first word to humans was _____ before it was _____.
- VII. It is our identity that gives us the _____ to proclaim “Yes” to create, and “No” to the distraction of lesser things.

Life Reflection:

What most helps me to remember and realize my true identity in Christ? Do I realize the power God has given me to live into? Am I willing to more intentionally live in the quiet power God offers by reclaiming my identity? What steps am I willing to take to experience this identity? What will it take for me to say, “I know I am an Image Bearer of God...” and then live into that identity?

Scripture Reflection: Genesis 1:26 and Revelation 21:3

Gen. 1:26: Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, [a] and over all the creatures that move along the ground.

Rev. 21:3: And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and He will dwell with them. They will be His people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.”

Pastor’s Page

North Campus Update

First Church,

As you know, we have been in a time of discernment regarding our next best and most faithful steps related to our North Campus. You may recall that back in January we worked with a consultant who helped us process the next steps we need to take with our North Campus.

Since that time, we have already taken two significant steps. First, as was shared a number of weeks ago, we have decided to stop the North Campus Sunday morning worship experience. This decision was reached after multiple town hall gatherings and in conjunction with the consultant's recommendation. Second, we have had a gathering to brainstorm possible future uses of the North Campus facility.

Today I want to let you know of our two next steps as we understand them.

One: Our next step will be to have a final worship experience at the North Campus on Sunday, May 20. We have chosen this date for a couple of reasons. First, this date is Pentecost Sunday. Pentecost was the day that the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit and sent out into the world. Our North Campus folks will also be going forth to share the love of Christ in a variety of ways. In addition, this date will allow the North Campus worship experience to end strongly by living into its missional identity in that part of our community through most of the rest of this school year.

Two: The other step to let you know about is we expect that sometime in late May or June we will be able to give more information on the future direction and possible uses of the North Campus facility itself. There are many factors and possibilities to consider including evaluating the cost of facility repairs, exploring possible partnerships with other community organizations, and assessing current ministry needs along with the space they need to operate. When a prayerful direction has been discerned, more information will be given. Until then, we would request your continued prayers and support.

I cannot thank our North Campus folks enough for their humble, mature, and faithful spirit in this process. God has used our North Campus in significant ways in the Cochran school community and surrounding area as well as helped us as an entire congregation continue to grow in our faith. We are people of the Resurrection. Because of this, I am quite confident that God will use this entire process to bring forth more life and opportunity for the glory of God than we would ever expect!

I ask for your continued prayers as we seek God’s will over our own... for the glory of God... and for Transformation In Christ, Changing Lives Inside and Out.
In Christ,
Pastor Matt