

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 22 —28:

Sal & Millie Giampapa; Wayne &
Ann Gibson; Andrew Giordano;
Guy & D.G. Giordano; Maria
Giordano; Terry & Susan Girton;
Michael, Sonja, Tyler & Dylan
Glucksman; Keith Godfrey; Jim
Golembeski; Sherry & Sara
Golembeski; Ashley & Juliana
Gonzalez; James & Johanna
Goodspeed; Jay & Linda Gordner;
Sean Gray; Rich & Barbara Green;
Jan, Lori, Ryan & Andrea Griffin;
John & Debbie Grove; Gary, Dawn
& Aaron Guerrisky; Carol
Gundrum; John Hall; Scott &
Tushanna Hamilton; Donna
Hancock; Chet & Barb Harbach;
Jeff & Barbie Harbaugh; Mike
Harbaugh; Marilyn Harer; Robert
Harris; Cassie Harrison; Sam &
Norma Harrison; Mark & Susie
Hartley; David, Heidi & Carolyn
Hartsock; Gene, Tracy, Cody &
Rachel Haupt; Sara Haupt; Ed,
Diane, Daniel & Joseph Havrilla.

PRAY

Welcome to



First Church

United Methodist

Week of April 22, 2018

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

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.

STAFF POSITION AVAILABLE - Director of FEC Worship

First Church is seeking a spiritually mature, proven leader who loves worship and has both the creative and organizational abilities to design and implement worship for our 8:00 and 9:30 services. This person will also be responsible for directing the chancel choir and supervising the music staff. This is a 25-hour per week position. A job description and application is available in the church office or on the church website at <http://www.firstchurch.cc/job-openings/>. For further information, contact the church office.

BAPTISM

The First Church family would like to congratulate Karen Louise Ebert and Alyssa Clark on their baptisms on Sunday, April 15, 2018.

NEW MEMBERS

First Church would like to congratulate the following people who joined the First Church family on Sunday, April 15, 2018: Tim Pfirmann, Alyssa Clark, Karen Ebert, Rita Kimble, Amy Kimble, Justin Kimble, Lori Love, Ben Conrad, Jacob Bair, Jennifer Houseknecht, and Heather Newhart.

INVITE

GRAND FRIENDS

We will meet on Tuesday, April 24 at noon at the North Campus.

Program: movie about the untold story of the black women mathematicians who helped win the space race.

Menu: Pizza, chips, dessert, drink and of course POPCORN!

Cost: \$6.00

Please RSVP to Carol Cassidy @ 570-323-5596 today.

SIGHT & SOUND BUS TRIP

Come join us on Wednesday, May 9 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 is only 1 seat left! Contact Yvonne Shenuski at 570-546-7786 for more information or to reserve a ticket.

MONTHLY CHRISTIAN BOOK GROUP

Join us on Tuesday, May 1 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Donna Johnson (1701 Clarion Dr.) for the May book – Cross Roads by Wm. Paul Young. No reservation needed. Come once, come every time!!!! Great discussion, good fellowship. "COME AND SEE."

ACTS NETWORK

FRESH EXPRESSIONS

If you are curious about the Acts Network and what it means to start a Fresh Expression, please join us Sunday, May 6th for lunch at 12:30 pm in the FEC Fellowship Hall. We'll talk about church culture in North America and how Fresh Expressions of church are reaching people far away from the church and how you could be part of this movement. Please contact Mitch Marcello at mmarcello@firstchurch.cc or (570)772-9224 if you are joining us or if you have any questions.

TEACHER APPRECIATION/KID FRIENDLY SERVICE AT NORTH CAMPUS

Join us on May 6 for this special day of recognizing the teachers of Cochran Primary School, as well as the tutoring program. It will be an especially kid friendly service with the First Church children's choir, VBS songs, praise band, and the message of the day by Children's Ministry Director Angie Tobias. To top it all off: pizza in the lobby immediately after worship.

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.

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

CONGREGATIONAL CARE CORNER

Do you know someone who needs our care? First Church provides care to each of our homebound members and affiliates by pairing each one with a lay Partner in Care who visits regularly to share the love of Jesus on behalf of our church family. Partners in Care assure their partner of the continuing care and connection of our congregation with our homebound brothers and sisters. We send weekly newsletters as well as each edition of the Upper Room. The children in our Children's Ministry send handmade artwork and cards. Altar flowers are personally delivered by a caring team. Our congregation provides a generous gift bag (decorated by our children) each Christmas of homemade goodies and other items. The Pastor of Care visits each homebound person regularly to share communion. It is important to us that we are not missing anyone who needs to receive our love and care. If you know of anyone in our church family who has become homebound please let the church office know.

SUMMER SPECIAL MUSIC

Do you have musical talent that could be shared? During the summer months there is a need for special music at the 8:00 and 9:30 services. This invitation is for anyone blessed with the gift of music and is especially extended to our musically gifted children and youth. If you or your child/young person is interested in performing, please contact Mary Engle for further details. 570-419-5441.

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 at 3:30 p.m.** 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.

CAMP 2018

Registration forms are out! Early Bird Discounts end May 1 – register before May 1st and save an additional \$25 per child. There will be info tables before and after worship today. Check out more info and ask any questions that you might have! First Church provides a 50% scholarship for families attending the United Methodist Church Camps. Camp Penn (staffed by First Church) is the week of Sunday June 24th.

CHILDREN/YOUTH



Children ^{Petty} ^{Finned} 3 yrs-4th grade

JUNE 18-22

9 am - Noon

Register*: www.firstchurch.cc

*registration will start April 16



Students in grades 6-12 are invited to join fuse* student ministries on

Sunday, April 22nd from 4-8 pm

At the First Church CLC



YOU A QUESTION

FUSE* is excited to invite any students in grades 6-12 to the Mission:ONE laser tag event today from 4-8pm. The purpose of Mission: ONE is for students to INVITE ONE friend to connect with us. Drop off and pick up will be at the First Church CLC, laser tag will happen in the Bennett Street lot. Dinner and other activities will be included at no cost to students. Registration materials can be picked up at information centers or in the fuse*box. Questions can be directed to Josh Tobias: jtobias@firstchurch.cc.

Students in grades 6-12 are always welcome at fuse* on Sunday evenings from 6-8 p.m. This is especially true as we begin a new devotional series "I mustache you a question". YOU get to submit questions about the Christian faith, the Bible, or other faith related topics as we will build the series as we go, based on those questions! fuse* meets in the First Church FEC, fuse*box student ministry center, located at the Ross Street entrance. Contact Josh Tobias, jtobias@firstchurch.cc, with questions.

CHILDREN/YOUTH

Sermon Outline

Quiet Power — Disciplined Power

Mark 5:21-43

- I. Spiritual disciplines that lead to disciplined power also reveal a remarkable ability to _____ and change at a moment's notice.
- I. Jesus' change of plans almost always took him in the _____ direction of His own privilege.
- II. Disciplined Power: _____ the world around us
- III. How can we participate in part of the abundant, image-bearing, interruptible, power-filled life like Jesus? _____.
- IV. Spiritual disciplines redefine our understanding of _____ and are at the same time a path to _____.
- V. Disciplined power exists as _____ and _____ at the very same time.
- VI. The only way we will be able to consistently live as image bearers is through intentional rhythms of _____ power.

Life Reflection:

What is my biggest obstacle to actually practicing spiritual disciplines? Have I considered the power of God that I am missing out on when I do not engage in spiritual disciplines? What spiritual discipline am I willing to commit to practicing this week? Prayer: *Almighty God, help me to experience disciplined power by making the commitment to begin practicing at least one new spiritual practice in my life... for the flourishing of others and your creation... and so that the powerful love of Jesus would flow from me into the world.*

***For more information on spiritual disciplines, particularly solitude and silence, reference Richard Foster's work *Celebration of Discipline*.*

Scripture Reflection: Mark 5:30

At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him.

Pastor's Page

Monday Dinner

First Church,

Over the past few weeks something significant has been happening. For the last few Monday evenings a group of folks from First Church and our community has been gathering at the Pajama Factory here in Williamsport. Their goal: To share life, community, relationships, dinner, and the love of Jesus with each other in an authentic, intentional way by meeting folks on their turf instead of expecting them to come to ours.

While this "Monday Dinner" effort has been supported by Mitch Marcello as the Director of our Acts Network and Ben Marzo as our Director of Food and Hospitality, it is one of our church members—John Best—who is leading the initiative as an Acts Network team leader along with a team of First Church servants who want to share God's love in intentional ways.

The truth is, we live in a world where fewer and fewer folks will walk into church "on their own" on a Sunday morning. However, people are just as hungry for relationships and community as they ever have been. In the life of Jesus, we see Jesus eating with people all the time as a way of connecting with them and sharing God's love. In the book of Acts, we see groups gathering in God's love in very "non-traditional" places. This Monday Dinner experience at the Pajama Factory seeks to operate in a very similar manner.

In regard to the nature and purpose of "Monday Dinner," Mitch comments:

"Monday Dinner at the Pajama Factory is set up intentionally to serve "with" rather than serving "for." We believe that if we are able to serve together, eat together, and have fun together, we can build a meaningful community where love, grace, and belonging are experienced by everyone. As a church, we are learning to open our lives to our neighbors, meet them where they are, and bless this community however we possibly can.

Here's one story from our first Monday Dinner: A gentleman came in but only had a short time for food so we set him up with a couple of dinners to-go. After his hands were full he asked if there was something to drink. A woman helping showed him where the coffee and lemonade was. He didn't know what to do with his hands being full so the woman offered to pour him lemonade to which he said, "everyone is so kind here, I'm not used to people being kind to me".

Would you please keep this "holy experiment" in your prayers? This is a specific way that we can live out the "**and Out**" part of our vision of "Transformation In Christ, Transforming Lives Inside **and Out**." If you want to know more about this opportunity or want to serve at the Pajama Factory or in a similar way through other Acts Network opportunities, please be in touch with Mitch (mmarcello@firstchurch.cc).

Most of all, please keep this endeavor in your prayers as a way of seeing people ultimately connect with Christ.

Thanks First Church for living as a church that moves outside of its own walls to share the love of Christ with all!

In Christ,
Pastor Matt