

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 29– May 5:

Jason Guerrisky; Lillian Hein; Ashley Helmrich; Bob & Joan Helmrich; Bob, Traci, Marissa & Brianna Helmrich; Chris, Tiffani, Kailee, Caiden, Jaelynn & Kyler Helmrich; Becky Hendershot; Scott & Mandy Herald; David, Aimee, Cloey, Ella, Noah & Tyler Hertwig; Buddy & Janet Hessert; Tyler Hessert; JoAnn Hester; Harry, Cori & Anthony Hill; David, Amy, Joshua & Alexander Hines; Ben & Carole Hoffman; Erik, Melanie, Samuel & Charlie Hofstrom; Jenny Hoover; Dwayne, Valerie, Gracie & Mariah Hostrander; Kyrie & Derek Hostrander; Mabel Huggins; Jeff, Jamie (Blackson), Olivia & Antonio Hughes; Matt, Becky, David, Margaret & Charlie Hutchinson; John & Nancy Ingraham; Larry & Sherrill Ingram; Steve & Diane Jackson; Randy, Ginny, Rhiannon, Rhiallie & Rhandie Jessell; Brett, Sue, Jett, Parker & Miley Johnson; Chuck & Donna Johnson; Greg & Debbie Johnson; Phil & Christine Johnson; Steve & Mary Ann Johnson.

ABIDING MEMORIAL

Given in memory of Inez Stanton by Mike and Carol Cassidy.

Given in memory of Robert Durrwachter by Mike and Carol Cassidy.

EASTER OFFERING

Given in memory of Robert Durrwachter by Hurley and Beth Kane.

PRAY

Welcome to



First Church

United Methodist

Week of April 29, 2018

MEET THE PASTORS

New to First Church? Take a few minutes on May 6 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

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.

NEW MEMBER

First Church would like to congratulate Bobbie Sue Cashner who joined the First Church family at First Night on Wednesday, April 18.

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.

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

INVITE

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry is a lay caring ministry. Stephen Ministers are not counselors or therapists; rather, they are caring Christian friends who can offer a listening ear to help others through the tough times in life. Stephen Ministers are trained and supervised in their ministry. Stephen Ministry is currently training new ministers and is accepting referrals for those who would benefit from care. To find out more about Stephen Ministry or to receive a Stephen Minister's care, contact Allison Keppler at 484-574-3349 or alkeppler@gmail.com. (Please do not report a friend's need without first asking his or her permission to do so.)

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.

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.”

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.

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.

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.

FOOD BACKPACKS FOR COCHRAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Partnering with the Central PA Foodbank, First Church has an opportunity starting in mid-May to pack and supply nutritious child-friendly food backpacks to kids for the weekends when school meals are not available. Are you interested in helping in some way (unloading the truck, packing the backpacks, etc.)? Could this be a calling/passion for you? Let us know of your interest on the Communication Card, and we will be in touch about ways to help.

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

READY FOR FIREWORKS? POP 'N POPCORN?

We are beginning to plan for our annual July 4th Pop 'n Popcorn Outreach and we need your help! Our team has lost a few helpers, and we need others to help us gather supplies, setup, and teardown on July 4th. We have provided free soda "pop," popcorn, face painting, and Aaron's Italian Ice in the past during the city's fireworks. If we don't have enough help we may need to cancel the event this year. Hundreds of people typically gather on Lycoming College's field to watch, and it's a great way to reach out during a relaxing evening. We will plan to have a meeting in June to finalize our plan, but if you are interested in helping, **please contact Ken Durrwachter at kendurrw@gmail.com or 570-560-3213. Please do so by June 1**, when we will make the decision whether to have it this year.

TEACH

SEND

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 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.



Children Petty Trained 3 yrs-4th grade
JUNE 18-22
9 am - Noon

Register*: www.firstchurch.cc

WANT TO HELP WITH VBS?
Teens and adults are welcome to sign up online
or talk with Angie Tobias (atobias@firstchurch.cc)
*all volunteers must comply with Safe Sanctuaries

VBS CDs now available...\$5 donation
see Angie Tobias (Director of Children's Ministries) for details

CHILDREN/YOUTH

SEAN WALKER'S BASKETBALL CAMPS

Is your child entering Kindergarten through 5th grade? If so, plan on joining us for an amazing week of basketball camp!

June 11th to 15th (Registration and payment due Wednesday, June 6th)

July 9th to 13th (Registration and payment due Tuesday, July 3rd.)

Kindergarten through 2nd grade will meet from 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. each day.

3rd through 5th grade will meet from 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. each day.

The cost is \$20.00 per child per week.

Activities will include free shooting, Bible teaching, warm-ups, skills, and scrimmages. Any questions, please feel free to call Kathy Choate at 570 322 3993 or email kchoate@firstchurch.cc.

Register online NOW at <http://www.firstchurch.cc/childrens-ministries/>.



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.

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.

Kids Choir Sings AGAIN!

Kids Choir will sing again on Sunday, May 6 at North Campus at 11am. They will be singing Luke 10:27 "Love the Lord!!" Kids will help lead worship for a teacher appreciation and kids' celebration service!

CHILDREN/YOUTH

Sermon Outline

Quiet Power—Resting Power
Mark 2:23-3:6

- I. Why is Jesus still so angry over how the Pharisees treat the _____? The trigger is their _____ towards the Sabbath.
- II. What was the original purpose of the Sabbath? _____
- III. The _____ of rest is to restore, replenish, and repair.
- IV. The Law of God is a _____, not a _____.
- V. We must understand that everything God tells us is to help us _____.
- VI. In Sabbath we learn our identity is not from _____ that never ends, but in Christ's _____ that never ends.
- VII. In authentic Sabbath, you are _____.
- VIII. We encounter a whole new _____ when we can _____ in Christ.

Life Reflection:

Have I ever thought about the importance of Sabbath? Do I view Sabbath more as a gift or a chain in my life? Is it easy or hard for me to rest? Why? What step can I take to embrace the gift of Sabbath in my life? What will help me to stop and rest? To celebrate and breathe? To know that in Jesus, "I am enough?"

Scripture Reflections: Mark 2:27

Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath."

Pastor's Page

Primary Ministry Spotlight: Vacation Bible School

First Church,

It is hard to believe that before too long summer will be upon us. (I realize the students may not think this is the case—but it is true nonetheless!) Of course, summer means special fun memories like trips to the pools and trips to new locations... but it also means Vacation Bible School!

As you know, VBS is one of our church's primary ministries and has become a very significant part of our Children's Ministry here at First Church because it is a powerful outreach into our community. Every year we see hundreds of children connected with First Church and our community share together in this powerful week of spiritual formation and opportunity to hear the wonderful news of life in Jesus Christ.

We have witnessed some significant moments of transformation among our children at VBS in the past and due to God's power, we expect nothing less this year. As you can imagine, VBS takes a tremendous amount of time and people to pull off. Our theme for VBS 2018 is Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus!

Throughout the week, children will hear stories of how Jesus is always with them. It will be a life-changing week through Jesus as kids and volunteers listen and learn through games, crafts, stories, songs, and so much more. Each day is a new and exciting day! How might God be nudging you to help this year with VBS 2018? Would you consider serving during this amazing week? If you have questions, Angie Tobias is our Director of Children's Ministry (atobias@firstchurch.cc) and is excited to talk about how God is already moving through the preparation for VBS 2018 Shipwrecked. All servant volunteers must comply with Safe Sanctuaries.

Please keep Angie, the children, and all of our children's ministry servants in your prayers as we gear up for this year's transformative VBS opportunity! Thanks, First Church, for caring about and loving the children of our church and community!

In Christ,
Pastor Matt