

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:

May 6— May 12:

Wayne Johnston; Louise Jones;
Shirley Jones; Ron & Sandi Jury;
Ralph & Patty Kaiser; Hurley &
Beth Kane; Tim, Mindy (Tedesco),
Mario, & Alana Karschner; Greg &
Kris Keefer; Ray Kehrer, Jr.; Seth &
Susan Keller; Sue, Todd, Jordan,
Kendall, Sydney, & Peyton Kelley;
Allison Keppler; Linda Kinkead;
Adam, Shannan, Eva, Madison,
Leo, & Ellie Kinley; Tyree, Averi
(Sweeting), Ava, & Alivia
Kirkpatrick; David, Marcie, & Jack
Klinger; John, Susan, Kaitlyn, &
Hannah Klotz; Victor, Arianna,
Conner, & Ben Koch; Ben & Carrie
Kolmer; Chris, Sharon, Own, &
Emma Konieczny; John & Diane
Konieczny; Jim & Joan Kriner;
Marie Kriner; Bob & Sandy Krise;
Benjamin, Michelle, Alec, Deryk, &
Grayson Kulp; Kyle, Jessica, &
Sophia Kuzio; Richard, Tammy,
Joey, & Anthony LaCerra; Robert
LaCerra; Matt, Jenn, Zach, Alex, &
Josh Lake; and Shirley Lambert.

ABIDING MEMORIAL

Given in memory of Robert
Durrwachter by Doug and Judy
Foster.

PRAY

Welcome to



First Church

United Methodist

Week of May 6, 2018

CHURCH CONFERENCE MAY 17

There will be a Church Conference on May 13th at 6:00 pm in Rm. 202 of the FEC to consider endorsing Sean Gray as a Beginning Candidate for ordained Ministry in the United Methodist Church as an Elder. Sean is a Senior at Lycoming College who will be attending Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington DC this Fall. This Conference will be held to also consider endorsing Summer Love Bair as a Beginning Candidate for ordained Ministry in the United Methodist Church as an elder for chaplaincy. Sean and Summer are being recommended as beginning candidates in the Candidacy process toward ordination. Anyone who is a member of First Church is invited to attend and vote at a Church Conference. The Conference will be brief, so please be prompt.

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.

2ND TUESDAY COMMUNION

The second Tuesday of the month communion has been suspended. Please stay tuned for opportunities to participate at a later date.

BAPTISM

The First Church family would like to congratulate Caleb Robbins and Corey Twaddell on their baptisms on April 29, 2018. The First Church family would also like to congratulate Joseph and Lindsay Dunn in the baptism of their son Garrett as well as Graham and Ashley Schwanbeck on the baptism of their son Michael on April 29, 2018.

INVITE

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

ACTS NETWORK— FRESH EXPRESSIONS

If you are curious about the Acts Network and what it means to start a Fresh Expression, please join us TODAY, 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.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Help! Help! We need help with the Church Community Garden! You don't have to have any gardening experience. Care for our garden includes watering the plants, loading soil, and placing signs. Join us if you want to learn how to grow fresh vegetables for yourself or others. "Many hands make light the work." If you can help, call Sandy Murray at 570-447-5068 or just show up this Wednesday, May 9th (5:50pm-7:00pm) or Saturday, May 12th (9:30am-12:00noon). Give an hour or just a half an hour of your time. Please bring a shovel if you have one. Thanks!

FOOD BACKPACKS FOR COCHRAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Partnering with the Central PA Food-bank, 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.

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.

MISSION ITEMS NEEDED

Local Food Pantry — canned tuna fish, peanut butter, and jelly.

Shepherd of the Streets — diapers, wipes, and baby bath.

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.

GHANA - Child Trafficking

"And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly."

— Luke 18:7-8a

Please pray for the launch of a coalition of NGOs joining together to fight child trafficking in Ghana. IJM (International Justice Mission) has been meeting with 25 different organizations over the past few months, and this week the coalition will officially launch. This will create a forum for organizations engaged in different sectors of anti-trafficking work to share knowledge and find ways to more effectively partner together to end slavery in Ghana. Please pray for strong relationships and collaboration as well as for a united voice among organizations advocating on behalf of children.

SECOND MILE GIVING

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 by blessing our community through home repair, landscaping, painting, cleaning, volunteering, and serving. Instead of just one week of serving, Transform 2018 will occur multiple times throughout the year. Our next event will be August 2nd-4th.

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.)

SIGHT & SOUND BUS TRIP

The bus trip to Sight & Sound Theatre to see "Jesus" will leave from the parking lot on Packer Street on May 9th. The bus will be leaving at 6:45am.

Please be at the parking lot by 6:30am. Any questions, call Yvonne Shenuski at 570-546-7786.

TEACH

SEND



6th-12th grade students are invited to join fuse* student ministries at the 40th anniversary of the nation's largest Christian music festival, Creation! Join thousands of believers for camping, music, speakers, food, and more from June 26th- July 1st. Registration is required by June 10th, with

early bird discounts before May 20th. Register online at firstchurch.cc or using registration cards found in the fuse* box or at campus information centers. Contact Josh Tobias, jtobias@firstchurch.cc, with questions or for scholarship requests.



Children ^{Potty 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

Continued from Pastor Page...

Why do I bring this up? I believe there are some very important clues here for First Church today in a world where folks increasingly do not know the love of Christ. Acts gives us some guidance as to how we as church today can honor BOTH the established form of church AND new expressions of Church-- at the same time. It shows us how forms of church complement each other to build off of one another's strengths rather than be obstacles to each other.

I believe First Church has a unique opportunity to set a model among other churches and at the same time increasingly connect people to know the transforming love of Jesus by learning to simultaneously embrace both forms of church. It takes a very special group of people to be able to do this, and I sincerely believe that YOU—First Church—are just such a people.

In the next part of this series I will provide some answers to these questions from my perspective and what this means for First Church. Would you join me in prayer as we seek to be a church that lives out the love of Christ in a world that increasingly does not know such love? And that we might be a model of church that is helpful for other churches to learn from at the same time? Thank you, First Church, for the privilege of serving with you. These are exciting times God has called us into. May God continue to foster "Transformation In Christ, Changing Lives Inside And Out."

In Christ,
Pastor Matt

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/>.

CHILDREN/YOUTH

Sermon Outline

Quiet Power—More Resting Power
Luke 6:1-11

- I. Observing Sabbath is a _____ deal.
- II. God knows we _____ Sabbath. In the observing of Sabbath, we find true peace, goodness, identity, and _____.
- III. Balance problems with work:
 - a. Some _____ it
 - b. Some need _____ to do it
 - c. Many need _____ from it
- IV. Sabbath is the _____ equivalent to REM sleep for our physical bodies.
- V. Your identity is in _____, not in what you _____.
- VI. Ways to _____ the quiet power of rest in Sabbath: 1) Realize Sabbath is an act of _____, 2) Sabbath is an act of _____, 3) _____ more Sabbath time, 4) _____ your Sabbath time, 5) Be _____ for Sabbath time, and 6) Celebrate Sabbath in _____.

Life Application

If I am deeply honest with myself, how restless is my soul? How tired am I? What will help me understand that Sabbath is about restoration, healing, and life rather than an outdated rule to follow? Which steps from above can I take today to better embrace the resting power of Sabbath?

Scripture Reflection: Luke 6:5

Then Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

Pastor's Page

The Church at Its Best (Part 1) - Living as Both "Established" and "New"

First Church,

In a world that increasingly does not know Jesus or the good news of the Gospel, what should the Church do? This is the question that increasingly faces the Church today. Interestingly, the more we live in a world that is not familiar with Jesus, the more we live in a time similar to the original Church in the book of Acts. Thus, the book of Acts serves as a "Road Map" of sorts when it comes to sharing the news of Christ in a world that has never heard such news before.

Acts tells the story of how the church lived out Jesus' instruction to "...be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). The church started in Jerusalem, the center of the Jewish faith, but quickly spread to places like Antioch, where new Christians included Gentile converts who did not have the rich heritage of being God's chosen people. But in both places, the word of the Lord spread (See Acts 6:7 and 11:1). In Acts, we see that when the church was born there was an intentional effort to proclaim the gospel to BOTH the religious and the non-religious. New converts to Christianity included both the people who knew God as well as the people who were spiritual, but not religious and who worshipped idols.

In Acts, we also see that Christians went to the people and didn't just expect the people to come to them. Peter and Paul both went TO the temple and the synagogue to preach Jesus to the religious folks. However, the apostles ALSO broke bread in people's homes (2:46) and Paul preached in the marketplace (17:17).

At First Church, we want to be a multiplying, vibrant church like we read about in Acts. We want to see "The word of the Lord spread" in our established ministries and we believe that it is essential to preach Christ to as many people as possible on Sunday morning. We know that God has used the established form of church in significant ways from the very beginning so that "the Word of the Lord" would spread. At the same time, Acts reminds us that we have to go to the people because the "Spiritual but non-religious" people won't come to us--and we do this so that "the Word of the Lord" will spread. We believe that new expressions of church are needed in our time to reach as many people as possible with the gospel of Jesus. And so, like the first apostles, we believe we are being sent out to break bread in our homes and share Christ in our modern-day marketplaces along with our Sunday morning gatherings. We dare not forget that it was in Antioch, among Gentiles, that the disciples were first called Christians (11:26). It was not in Jerusalem, the established center of religion! New expressions of church that are different from the established church ARE "real" church. BOTH forms of the established and new expressions of Church have always been used by God.

Continued...