I ruined our summer vacation. At the time I was 8-years-old, but a running leap into our hotel's “kiddie pool” seemed like a great idea! The problem was that the sliding glass doors separating the kiddie pool from the grown-up pool were not open like they were the night before. In my enthusiasm to break a hotel record for the longest leap ever into the pool, I didn’t realize my “window of opportunity” had closed…literally! One shattered glass door and 50 stitches later, our vacation was over, but I learned this valuable lesson: Doors/Windows of opportunity don’t remain open forever!

Research shows that 85% of Christians decide to follow Christ between the ages of 4 and 14. It’s called the “4-14 Window.” At this age we’re most receptive to spiritual guidance. Leading people to “Know, Worship, and Serve Christ” becomes an uphill battle after the age of 14. Especially when you consider that our worldview is usually set by the age of 13. Windows of opportunity don’t remain open forever.

That’s why First Church is pulling out the stops to reach kids in the “4-14 Window.” It’s why we started Creation Adventure Camp to teach children the Biblical worldview that they are made in the image of God. It’s why Christian Summer Camp, CIY Move conference, the Haiti Mission Trip for students, and events like the big children’s outreach this month called Waterpalooza are so important. We must reach young people in the “4-14 Window” before the window closes!

Of course, every weekend at First Church offers great ministry to children and students. And I’m thrilled to say that our Middle School ministry is really upping its game under the new leadership of Nate Verst. Nate’s passion to reach and teach students at this critical age is off the charts!

If you are away from church some this summer, remember our mission continues and great ministry is happening. Some ways you can stay connected are: (1) Pray for our children and students, (2) Check out the messages online at www.firstchurch.me, (3) Remember that giving suffers in summer and keep online-giving in mind, (4) Seize the chance to make a difference in a young person’s life wherever you are this summer.

I’m praying that you have a blessed and meaningful summer!
Sometimes it can feel overwhelming trying to figure out your next steps in a new church. We want to help you! Below are three opportunities for you to find out more about us and how you can get connected at First Church. If you have any questions or you would like to register for your NEXT STEPS, click here.

**STARTING Point**

**Sunday | August 24**
**Burlington Campus FC101 | 12:30pm**
New to First Church? Starting Point is a great way to get connected! Join Senior Pastor Greg Marksberry in conversation about First Church and your place here. Contact Kristen to register for the next session and if childcare is needed.

**FAITH Shift**

**Sundays | TBA**
**Burlington Campus FC101 | 9:30am**
With FAITH Shift, it’s a matter of shifting your faith into another gear, a gear where there’s more trust in God. This 4 week course is built on core values and beliefs to help us live by faith. Contact Karen to register.

**LIFE Shift**

**Sundays | TBA**
**Burlington Campus GC19 | 9:30am**
Whether you’re a new Christian or have been at it for years, this 2-session course will look at the cross-section of your spiritual gifts and your personal strengths to explore how God may want to use you here and now. Contact Winnie to register.

**Outreach Ministries**

**Cincinnati Reds Faith Night featuring MercyMe**

**August 10 | 1:10pm**
**Great American Ballpark**
Contact: Kristen Flick | kflick@firstchurch.me

Gather your friends and family to see the Cincinnati Reds take on the Miami Marlins on Sunday, August 10. Game time is 1:10pm and concert featuring MercyMe will follow the game.

**Tickets are $11.25 and are available for purchase in the office.**

**Boone County Fair**

**August 4-9 | Boone County Fairgrounds**
Contact: Kristen Flick | kflick@firstchurch.me

First Church First will be partnering with Boone County Alliance to fight the heroin problem in our community. Come by our dunk tank booth at the Boone County Fair to have some fun and raise money for heroin prevention education.

**Generosity Can - Mountain Mission School Back to School Clothes Collection**

**August 2-31 | Burlington & Union Campuses | All services**
**Led By: Joanne Rigsbee**
Contact: GenerosityCan3@gmail.com
[www.mmskids.org](http://www.mmskids.org)

The Generosity Can initiative will benefit Mountain Mission School in Grundy, VA. The Mountain Mission School provides disadvantage children with a place they can live, attend school, and learn of Jesus’ love for them. Families at First Church assist MMS by purchasing new school clothes based on their dress code. Select 1 of 230 children and shop by yourself or team up with a friend. You may also make a donation for someone to shop for a child on your behalf. Suggested amount is $75-$100 per child. Sign-ups will begin August 2. Stop by the table for more information. Contact GenerosityCan3@gmail.com with any questions or if you would like to be part of the team delivering to the school the weekend of September 5-6.

**Spiritual Growth Ministries**

**Join a LIFEGROUP**

**August 23/24 & 30/31**
**Before & After Services | Burlington & Union Campuses**
Contact: Karen Fisher | kfisher@firstchurch.me

Meet new friends, and study the Bible. Lots of new groups starting for the fall. Before and after services many LifeGroup leaders will be in the gym of the Burlington Campus, as well as designated areas during Trio, Revolution, and at the Union Campus.

**Christian Survivors of Suicide (CSOS)**

**July 9 | 6:30-8:30pm | FC103**
**Before & After Services | Burlington & Union Campuses**
Contact: Karen Fisher | kfisher@firstchurch.me or csos@firstchurch.me

Find comfort, healing, and support with a Christian support group for those that have lost a friend or loved one to suicide. Will meet July 9, August 13 (the 2nd Wednesday of each month).

**JOYClub Potluck Luncheon**

**July 8 | 11:30am-1:30pm**
**Burlington Campus | FC101-102 | FREE**
Contact: Karen Fisher | kfisher@firstchurch.me

July JOYClub potluck luncheon Tuesday, July 8. Join us for food, fellowship, and fun!
Wake UP
Every Thursday | 6:00-7:00am
Burlington Campus | Student Building
Contact: Karen Fisher | kfisher@firstchurch.me

Wake Up: A great opportunity for men to “Fuel Up” on God’s word. Join us each Thursday at 6:00am in the Student Bldg Warehouse for coffee, juice, breakfast as well as a challenging and inspiring message along with great discussion. The message each week is about strengthening Christian men. Challenging us to be stronger men, better fathers, and bold leaders.

Tent Day
Contact: Leigh Ann Luttrell | lluttrell@firstchurch.me

Tent Day is a new ministry that seeks to be a bridge between the church and the people in our community that are unlikely to be exposed to the gospel on a regular basis. Each week, we take a team, to two designated sites (Tuesdays in Florence/Union & Thursdays Burlington 6-8:00pm) to bring food, activities for children and connect with adults. Whether you’re 9 or 90 this is a great way to serve as individual, family or small group. We have a variety of jobs during the activity like set-up, serving food, playing games with kids as well as behind the scenes like planning activities, restocking supplies and securing donations throughout the week. If you are interested in being part of this ministry, contact Leigh Ann.

Promotion Weekend - Early Childhood through High School
August 16/17 | Weekend Services
Burlington & Union Campuses
Contact: Rhonda Hancock | rhancock@firstchurch.me
Jenny Leach | jleach@firstchurch.me (Union Campus)
L.G. Lance | llalance@firstchurch.me (Burlington Campus)
Nate Verst | nverst@firstchurch.me (Burlington Campus)

Promotion Weekend for ALL children, 2-years through high school seniors will be August 16/17, the first weekend after school begins. This will provide consistency throughout the age groups and allow our small groups to remain unchanged throughout the summer. Kids and leaders have crazy schedules during the summer, so this is not the ideal time to form new groups. We will have special visits to the new areas for rising Kindergarteners (current preschoolers) and rising 5th graders (current 4th graders) the first two weeks of August. Near the end of summer, you will receive information about your child’s new room/small group and other important information. Our nurseries will move babies according to their stage of development throughout the year, rather than their age.

A Special Note for Parents of Upcoming Kindergartners
August 2/3 | August 9/10 | Burlington Campus
Contact: Rhonda Hancock | rhancock@firstchurch.me

Our Early Childhood and Children’s Ministry team made the decision to promote upcoming Kindergartners in the fall instead of at the beginning of the summer, as we have done in the past. We believe this will help make the transition to the elementary Children’s Ministry much easier for everyone involved. Upcoming Kindergartners will take a tour of their new environment on the weekend of August 2/3 and August 9/10. If you have a child who will be attending Kindergarten in the fall, please be sure to be here on one of those weekends to give them an opportunity to visit their new large/small group rooms. We will also have a “graduation” ceremony for them on August 9/10 during regular service times. If you have any questions, please contact “Miss” Rhonda.

FC|KIDS
Month of July
Weekend Services | Burlington Campus
Contact: Julie Flanagan | jflanagan@firstchurch.me

Our focus for elementary kids in July is Friendship, treating others the way you want to be treated. Our memory verse is Proverbs 17:17, “A friend loves at all times. He is there to help when trouble comes.”

Waterpalooza!
Sunday, July 20 | 6:30-8:30pm | RC Durr YMCA
Cost: Bring a new unwrapped toy to donate to Jarrett’s Joy Cart
Contact: Julie Flanagan | jflanagan@firstchurch.me

Early Childhood and Elementary families and friends are invited to the RC Durr YMCA for a FUNtastic time Sunday, July 20. Bring a new unwrapped toy to donate to Jarrett’s Joy Cart, a non-profit organization that provides age-appropriate toys to children while in the hospital.

Creation Adventure Camp
Creation Camp Volunteers
Thank you to all the awesome volunteers who made Creation Adventure Camp a wonderful experience for kids!

Rise The Roof
August 8 | 6:30-8:30pm | Burlington Campus | Elementary Area
Contact: Deana Izzo | specialneeds@firstchurch.me

This is for families who have children with special needs ages 3-18. Registration required.
High School Canoe Day
July 1
Morgan’s Canoe | Ft. Ancient, Ohio
Contact: Leigh-Garrett Lance | lg lance@firstchurch.me
www.morganscanoe.com/little-miami-canoe/

High School students, spend a day on the river canoeing and swimming the Little Miami, having fun with other students.

Middle School Canoe Day
July 9
Morgan’s Canoe | Ft. Ancient, Ohio
Contact: Nate Verst | nverst@firstchurch.me
www.morganscanoe.com/little-miami-canoe/

Middle School students, spend a day on the river canoeing and swimming the Little Miami, having fun with other students.

MS / HS Day Kings Island Day
August 11 | 9:00am-5:00pm | Kings Island
$40 / $5 with Season Pass
Contact: Leigh-Garrett Lance | lg lance@firstchurch.me
Email: nverst@firstchurch.me

Middle school & High school students are invited to wrap up the summer with a trip to Kings Island on August 11. Register Online.

Welcome Freshman
August 10 | 9:30am | Student Building Cafe
Contact: Leigh-Garrett Lance | lg lance@firstchurch.me

Incoming freshman and their parents are invited to the Student Building Cafe’ during the 9:30am service for breakfast and information on High School Ministry.

Promotion Weekend Middle & High School
August 16/17 | Weekend Services
Burlington & Union Campuses
L.G. Lance | lg lance@firstchurch.me (Burlington Campus)
Nate Verst | nverst@firstchurch.me (Burlington Campus)

All Middle schoolers (5-8th grades) and High schooler (9-12th grades) will be promoted on the weekend of August 16 & 17 to their current 2014-2015 grade level. This is to provide consistency throughout the age groups and allow our small groups to remain unchanged throughout the summer.

Electronic Giving
This summer if you can’t make it to church due to travel or other commitments, we encourage you to automate your regular donations. The church relies on the consistent financial support of the congregation, and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. We THANK YOU for your continued support.

1829 Ministry
Every Thursday | 6:00-7:00am
Burlington Campus | Student Building
Contact: Karen Fisher | kfisher@firstchurch.me
http://ministries.firstchurch.me/#/singles-young-adults

As the new Community Life Director at First Church of Christ, I am excited to help build a community for young adults who are actively pursuing a relationship with Jesus by living out God’s purpose in their lives.

I want to help you connect to a small group community where you can grow with each other, support one another and share life together.

Look for new things going on with the 1829 Ministry:

• Check out the three new Bible Studies beginning this summer. It’s never too late to join.
• Come to the 1829 Kick-Off Night for Young Adults on July 6th!! Meet and hang-out with other young adults on Sunday evenings from 8-10:00pm in the cafe of the student building. Food provided plus a great night of Bible study teaching and discussion.
• Join a young married couple’s life group beginning this fall. Registration begins August 16/17.
• Attend the incredible Passion Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. January 2-5 2015!
• All information is online at http://ministries.firstchurch.me/#/singles-young-adults

Welcome Freshman!!
Sunday Services Have Begun!!
If you live in or around the Union area, come worship on a Sunday at 9:30am or 11:00am and bring all your friends!

Open House
July 13 | Union Campus
12993 Frogtown Connector Rd | Walton, KY 41094
Sunday from 2-4:00pm you will have the opportunity to tour the new Union Campus! Bring the whole family and check-out the amazing tool God is using to reach more people!