SUMMER SERVICE

by Greg Marksberry

I hope you are enjoying your summer so far! One of my favorite things about summer is the extra daylight. This month the summer sun will rise about 6:25am and set at 9:05pm. Just think of all you can get done with that much daylight!

There are plenty of needs within our own homes and also a lot of meaningful ways to engage within our own church family during these bonus hours of summer. But sometimes an opportunity comes along to help a neighbor, a friend, or a partner, and you know the right thing to do is to roll up your sleeves and dive in.

We have an opportunity to do just that this summer with one of our mission partners, Team Expansion. There are two key areas in which Team Expansion needs our help.

1. The first is for volunteers who have a heart for missions and children, to come to Team Expansion’s base of operations at Emerald Hills in Louisville to work with missionary kids during training sessions for the missionaries. The needs range from caring for babies, helping with crafts, reading stories, to playing games with children from birth through early teens. You can volunteer for a day or a week (8:30am-5:00pm). Housing is even provided for those who would like to stay on site. If you, your family, your Life Group, or serving group would like to help out, please contact Penny Lucas at plucas@teamexpansion.org or call (502) 767-7377 for more information. A background check is required. The days and weeks needing to be covered are July 6-10, 13-17, October 5-9, 12-16, and November 3-6.

2. The second need is more of a crisis. Thanks to an invasive insect called the Emerald Ash Borer, Team Expansion’s beautiful campus at Emerald Hills in Louisville has lost over 400 Ash trees! Many of these trees need to be cleared from the woods, cut up, and burned. If you and a group of friends or a men’s group would like a great way to spend some time in nature and provide a huge service for a missions partner this summer or fall, they could really use your help. Just call (502) 767-7377 for more information.

These are a couple great ways to spend some of those bonus hours of sunlight this summer, and to bless a long-time mission partner with some very tangible needs. However you may be investing your summer this year, please know that you are in our prayers at First Church!

Thanking God for You,
STARTING Point | FAITH Shift | LIFE Shift

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 9
Burlington Campus | 12:30-1:30pm
Contact: Yolanda | ynierman@firstchurch.me

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. Registration is required. Childcare is provided, upon request.

FAITH Shift

Sundays | September 20, 27, October 4 & 11
Burlington Campus FC101 | 9:30am
Contact: Karen | kfisher@firstchurch.me

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. Registration is required.

LIFE Shift

Sundays | Fall 2015
Union Campus | 9:30-10:45am
Contact: Winnie | wwalston@firstchurch.me

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. Registration is required.

Outreach Ministries

First Church Day at the Reds

August 2 | 1:10pm | Cost: $12 each
Great American Ball Park | Cincinnati, Ohio
Contact: Yolanda | ynierman@firstchurch.me

Gather your friends, family and small groups to see the Cincinnati Reds take on the Pittsburgh Pirates on Sunday, August 2. Game time is 1:10pm and a concert featuring Third Day will follow the game. Tickets are $12 each and are available for purchase at all services. They are also available at the Welcome Center, church office, and at www.firstchurch.me until we have sold out.

 GENEROSITY CAN

Mountain Mission School
“Back to School Clothes Collection”
August 1-31 | www.mmskids.org
Contact: Joanne | generositycan3@gmail.com

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 assists MMS by purchasing new school clothes based on their dress code. Select 1 of over 200 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 begin online August 1. Staffed onsite computers for sign-ups before/after will begin August 8. Stop by the table (August 8-31) 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 4/5.

Boone County Fair

August 3-8 | Boone County Fairgrounds
Contact: Brian | bheckber@firstchurch.me

First Church and Boone County Schools will be partnering together to fight illiteracy. All proceeds from the dunk tank will go to fund literacy/tutoring Program (Whiz Kids) at Burlington Elementary.

Spiritual Growth Ministries

New Life Group: Career Building with Christ

Thursdays | 7:00pm | Union Campus
Contact: Karen | kfisher@firstchurch.me

Union Campus, Thursday evenings at 7:00pm. Led by Rick Saling. Focusing on all areas of career life, including early stages, unemployment and career advancement. Topics include: career plans, job market research, building a resume, career resources, employment partners and social networking. All are welcome! Those who are no longer in a career cycle may wish to offer their experience to help others.
**Life Group Registration**  
**August 15/16 & 22/23**  
**Before & After Services | All Venues**  
**Contact: Karen | kfisher@firstchurch.me**

Join a Life Group at the special registration coming in August. Have questions now? Stop at the Life Group table in the lobby.

**Wake Up**  
**Every Thursday | 6:00-7:00am**  
**Burlington Campus | Student Building**  
**Contact: Karen | 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.

**Christian Survivors of Suicide (CSOS)**  
**July 8 | 6:30-8:30pm | FC103**  
**Burlington Campus**  
**Contact: Karen | 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 the second Wednesday of each month.

**JOYClub Potluck Luncheon**  
**July 14 | 11:30am-1:30pm**  
**Burlington Campus | FC101-102**  
**Contact: Karen | kfisher@firstchurch.me**

Adults 50 and up, join us for our Potluck luncheon on Tuesday.

**First Church Library**  
**Before & After Services**  
**Burlington Campus | FC 110**  
**Contact: Karen | kfisher@firstchurch.me**

Trying to find that perfect reading selection? Check out the First Church library located in FC 110 of the Burlington Campus before and after each service.

**Waterpalooza**  
**July 19 | 6:30-8:30pm**  
**RC Durr YMCA | Burlington, KY**  
**Contact: Julie | jflanagan@firstchurch.me**

Early Childhood & Elementary families and friends are invited to the RC Durr YMCA for a FUNtastic time Sunday, July 19. This is a great opportunity to INVITE your friends for FREE Fun! Please bring along Spaghetti O’s (boys) and Fruit cups (girls) to benefit under resourced families in our area.

**Family Ministries**

**July Preschool Fun**  
**Contact: Emily | eschwarberg@firstchurch.me**

This summer, we are continuing to learn how God’s way is perfect! We will be focusing on Moses and Naaman. These men trusted God and did what God said to do. When we teach our kids at a young age to do what God says and that His way is perfect it gives them a foundation for following Him as they get older. Our Bible verse for July is “God’s way is perfect.” 2 Samuel 22:31 NiRv.

**Promotion Weekend**  
**August 22 & 23**  
**Weekend Services | Burlington & Union Campuses**  
**Contact: Julie | jflanagan@firstchurch.me**  
**Emily | eschwarberg@firstchurch.me**  
**Jenny | jleach@firstchurch.me**  
**Leigh-Garrett | lglance@firstchurch.me**  
**Nate | nverst@firstchurch.me**

Kids from preschool (2 years old and up) through high school will be promoted the same weekend. This provides consistency throughout the age groups and allows our small groups to remain unchanged throughout the summer. We will have special visits to the new areas for raising Kindergarteners (current preschoolers) and rising 5th graders (current 4th graders) the weekend of August 15 & 16.

**Get Your Summer Serve On**  
**Contact: Emily | eschwarberg@firstchurch.me**

There are SO many opportunities to serve in Children’s Ministry this summer! We need people willing to teach, love on kids, and help behind the scenes. You can even bring the whole family; what a great way to teach kids to serve by being their #1 example. Please contact “Miss” Emily for details.

**fc|kids Summer Camp**  
**Check websites for dates**  
**Woodland Lakes | Amelia, OH www.woodlandlakes.com**  
**Happy Hills Camp | Carrollton, KY | www.happyhills.org**  
**Contact: Julie | jflanagan@firstchurch.me**

Check out these Summer Camp options! Happy Hills & Woodland Lakes are both great options for Christ-centered summer camps for kids. Both camps have online registration and many options are available. You can find the links you need on our website, www.firstchurch.me.

**Parent Cue App!**  
**Cost: $1.99 | http://theparentcue.org/app/**  
**Contact: Julie | jflanagan@firstchurch.me**

A great way to stay connected when your family's summer schedule is hectic is the Parent Cue App! It includes videos of weekly bible stories, a meal-time question and much more. Don't worry, your kids can teach you how to use the app!
Focus in July
Contact: Julie | jflanagan@firstchurch.me
During July, elementary kids will discover what it means to stand up and get in the story. We’ll learn about conviction, standing up for what’s right, even when others don’t. Following the example of Jesus, we will see that it’s not always popular to do the right thing. Jesus was able to live with conviction because He knew the will of His Father, and that gave Him strength and courage. In the same way, God has given us the ability to know what is right and the ability to do it. You see, when we are fueled by God’s character, we will stand up for the things that matter to God. We will engage elementary kids through an awesome superhero/comic book theme. Bring your neighbors and friends!

MS & HS Kings Island Day
August 4 | 10:00am | Kings Island, Mason, OH
Contact: Leigh Garrett | lglance@firstchurch.me
Nate Verst | nverst@firstchurch.me
Middle and High school students say good-bye to summer with a trip to Kings Island! Tickets are $38. You must turn in your money by August 2 to get the group price. Transportation is NOT provided; meet at Kings Island at 10:00am.

Tent Day Outreach
Tuesdays & Thursday | 6:00-8:00pm
Contact: Leigh Ann | lluttrell@firstchurch.me
A weekly party with a purpose! Join us as we distribute food, fun & friendship to our neighborhoods in two communities. The summer schedule is Tuesdays & Thursdays from 6:00-8:00pm at two different locations. We are looking for volunteers to commit to serving food, playing games & building friendships once a month.

Suicide Awareness Event
July 12 | 9:30-10:45am
Burlington Campus | GCFL
Contact: Leigh Ann | lluttrell@firstchurch.me
We will host experts and those affected to learn what the bible says about suicide, our role in preventing it and how to better support families. For more information contact Leigh Ann.

Move Event
Contact: Jenny | jleach@firstchurch.me
In the midst of fun, food, games, worship and a ginormous water slide we spent 3 days looking at people in the Bible whose lives changed directions once they encountered Jesus! Thank you to all the folks who MOVED and Got in the Game to serve during this event. You gave your time, your hands, but most of all your Heart.

Online Giving
Contact: Kristen | kflick@firstchurch.me
Have you tried giving online (once or a recurring gift) from your checking account or credit card? Visit www.firstchurch.me, click a campus, then the “$ ON-LINE GIVING” button at the bottom left of the page to sign-in. Contributions can be changed anytime!