Whiz Kids
with Leigh Ann Luttrell

This fall, First Church will embark on a new adventure – helping children in our community learn to read! Reading is something most of us take for granted yet, as a state, the reality is that only 54.7% of 3rd, 4th and 5th graders are proficient in reading. Students who cannot read are at risk for having day-to-day struggles such as poor grades, negative school experiences, lower self-esteem than their peers, and a dramatically different trajectory when it comes to graduation, college, and career. Some even suggest that literacy is one of the most critical social justice issues of our time.

The goal this year is to adopt 30 first and second grade students from Burlington Elementary and to launch a second site at the Union Campus in Fall 2016. The school will identify which students need us most, obtain parent consent, and bus them to our Burlington Campus each Monday. When students arrive they will be greeted by caring adults and teens who are prepared to work with them one-on-one to improve their reading. During this time, a major focus will also be building relationships, teaching God’s word, and having fun. The program we are using is one City Gospel Mission has championed in this community for 10 years. We are pleased to partner with them to implement best practices and build on their foundation of success.

In grades kindergarten through third, children learn to read. But, after that, they must READ to LEARN, with every subject hinging on their ability to read and comprehend. Classroom teachers tell me that an opportunity like this, for a child to have a focused adult to read with regularly, is a game changer. Research shows that this sort of early intervention in reading is critical. Recently, Governor Steve Beshear shared that only 49% of children entering kindergarten came ready to learn and succeed. Work is being done on every level; formal educators and parents are doing all they can, and I think it shows the love of Christ in such a practical way for our church to join the effort.

A big thank you to all who have committed to be part of the team to launch our first ever Whiz Kids tutoring program! Would you commit, maybe each time you pick up a book, to praying for the tutors, activity leaders, students, and their families this year? It’s a pleasure to serve with you, First Church!

Director of Serve Ministries
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 | September 20**
**Union 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 session is built on core values and beliefs to help us live by faith. Registration is required.

**LIFE Shift**

**Sundays | September 27 & October 4**
**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 will look at the cross-section of your spiritual gifts and your personal strengths to explore how God may want to use you. Registration is required.

**Outreach Ministries**

**Men’s 35 & Over Basketball Registration**

August 15 - September 18 | Burlington Campus
Cost: $55 / with a jersey $40
Contact: Vick | vturner@american-micro.com


**Baptism Event**

October 7 | Burlington Campus
Contact: Brian | bheckber@firstchurch.me

Have you been thinking about getting baptized? We would love to talk with you. During our NIGHT OF WORSHIP, October 7, we will have a church-wide baptism service where you can profess your faith and be baptized. If you have any questions, please contact Brian. You can register on-line under “Events.”

**Youth Basketball Coaches Needed**

Contact: Eric | etripp@firstchurch.me

Our Youth Basketball league is a partnership with the RC Durr YMCA and runs from January 5 - March 5. This outreach is focused on children ages 4 - 14. We need two coaches per team and can use both new and experienced coaches. Registration will open in October for the children. If you are interested in coaching or being an assistant, contact Eric by September 30.

**Spiritual Growth Ministries**

**FC University**

**Fall 2015**
**9:30-10:30am**
**All Venues**
**Contact: Karen | kfisher@firstchurch.me**

Build a deep, self-sustaining faith in God and be equipped to serve others. FCU courses are offered free of charge. Registration is not required, but is helpful as we plan for room size and printed materials. To register or for more information regarding any of the FC University classes contact Karen by email; call 980-0259 or visit: http://ministries.firstchurch.me/#/fc-university.

**Courses Include:**

- **Book of Revelation Overview | Burlington Campus**
  Taught by Rick Lowry | September 13 & 20 | 9:30am | Room FC105

- **What the Bible Says about Baptism | Burlington Campus**
  Taught by Rick Lowry | September 27 & October 4 | 9:30am | FC105

- **New Testament Overview | Union Campus**
  Taught by Rick Lowry | October 18 & 25 | 9:30am | Background & Overview of each book of the New Testament

- **Book of Revelation Overview | Union Campus**
  Taught by Rick Lowry | November 1 & 8 | 9:30am

- **A Brief History of Our Movement of Churches | Union Campus**
  Taught by Rick Lowry | November 15 | 9:30am

What are First Church’s roots? Are we part of a particular denomination? What Bible teachings are emphasized here? Join Rick for a one hour introduction into the history and background behind what are usually called the “Christian Churches/Churches of Christ.”

**Coach Ed Reeves Memorial Golf Outing**

Saturday, September, 19, 2015
**Cost: $100 | 7:30am | Registration begins 6:30am**
**Kenton County Golf Course | Pioneer**
**Contact: Mike | mikec.lig2@gmail.com**

Join us for the Coach Ed Reeves Memorial Golf Outing. Proceeds help children & students physically and spiritually by supporting Santa's Workshop, Camp/Retreat Scholarships and Children’s Ministry needs. Registration begins at 6:30am along with FREE coffee & donuts! 8:30am Shotgun start with lunch at 12:15pm and awards at 1:45pm. Cost: Individual entry $100 which includes 18 holes of golf with cart, lunch & registration gifts. Special drawings: 2 UK Men's Basketball tickets & more! To make a donation or more information contact Mike.
GriefShare
September 17 - December 17 | 6:30-8:30pm
Burlington Campus | FC104 | Cost: $15
Contact: Karen | kfisher@firstchurch.me

No matter how long it has been since a friend or loved one has died, the pain can make life unbearable. GriefShare will meet on Thursday evenings beginning September 17 and continue through December 17, from 6:30-8:30pm. For more information or to register contact Karen.

Christian Survivors of Suicide (CSOS)
September 9 | 6:30-8:30pm
Burlington Campus | FC103
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
September 8 | 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, September 8 at 11:30am. Our special musical guest will be Charlie Dole. Join us for food, fellowship and fun!

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

Trying to find that perfect reading selection? Check out the First Church library located in FC110 of the Burlington Campus before and after services.

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.

THE EDGE!
Wednesday, September 30 | 7:00pm
Burlington Campus | Student Bldg | Warehouse
Contact: Jennifer | jshofner@firstchurch.me

THE EDGE! This rally point for our IRON MEN men’s ministry is designed for the men of First Church and their friends. Proverbs 27:17 says, “As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.” THE EDGE is a power-packed hour of inspiration specifically designed to give men an edge in faith, family, and life. It’s a large group gathering hosted by Pastor Greg that will take place on Wednesday, September 30 at 7:00pm at the Burlington Campus in the Warehouse.

Women’s Ministry Fall 2015 Studies
Registration begins August 22/23 | All Venues
Contact: Karen | kfisher@firstchurch.me

Women’s Ministry welcomes you to join any Bible study this fall and complete the new 7 session study by Priscilla Shirer called:

The Armor of God, By Priscilla Shirer
Priscilla takes readers through the often-cited passage about the Armor of God in Ephesians 6:10-18, giving practical applications on how to fight the invisible war raging around us. This 7 session study will give you a useful action plan for how to put on and properly use armor, “so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.”

In the course of the study you will be further equipped to:

• Get serious, specific, and strategic in the discipline of prayer
• Grow spiritually as you dig deeper in Scripture and expand your understanding of prayer
• Develop and implement practical purposeful prayer strategies
• Turn challenges and discouragement into opportunities for prayer

Come join us as we apply the truth of God’s word to our everyday lives. Draw strength from His Word and from being in the company of women of faith! Whether you are experienced or brand new to Bible study we welcome you! There’s no preparation required to attend the first meeting.

Women’s Thursday AM Bible Study | September 17-November 5
9:00-11:30am | Burlington Campus
Cost: $20 includes all materials | Childcare available

Women’s Thursday PM Bible Study | September 17-October 29
6:30 - 8:15pm | Burlington Campus
Cost: $20 includes all materials | No childcare

Women’s Sunday AM Bible Study | September 20-December 13
9:30 - 10:30am | Burlington Campus
Cost: $20 includes all materials | Childcare available

Women’s Wednesday PM Bible Study | Union Campus
September 23-November 11
6:30 - 8:00pm | Union Campus
Cost: $20 includes all materials | Childcare available

Women’s ESL: Japanese Bible Study
September 17-November 5
9:00-10:30am | Burlington Campus
Cost: $10 includes all materials
Contact: Sallie | sallie.sparks@fmr.com

Young Adult College Age
September 13 - October 25
9:00-10:30am | Burlington Campus | Student Center
Cost: $10 includes all materials
Contact: Sallie | sallie.sparks@fmr.com

Women’s ESL: Japanese Bible Study
September 17-November 5
9:00-11:30am | Burlington Campus
Cost: $20 includes all materials | Childcare available

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September 17-November 5
9:00-10:30am | Burlington Campus
Cost: $10 includes all materials
Contact: Sallie | sallie.sparks@fmr.com

The Thursday morning ESL, (English as a Second Language), group will meet the same time as the Thursday AM study. They will be completing their own study - Highlights in the Life of Jesus. Pick up a Japanese flyer at the registration table to invite your Japanese friend or neighbor.
Focus in September
Contact: Julie | jflanagan@firstchurch.me

Our elementary focus for September is Initiative, seeing what needs to be done and doing it. Initiative isn't just some practical principle; it's really a spiritual principle that starts with God. Initiative is part of God's character. God took initiative on our behalf. When God saw our broken relationship with Him, He sent Jesus to make it right. When we show initiative, we are reflecting God's image that is hardwired in us.

Colossians 3:23a (NIrV) is our memory verse for the month.
"Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord."

Early Childhood Focus
Contact: Eli | emarksberry@firstchurch.me

God will take care of them when they are in a new place just like He took care of Esther when she went to a new city to become queen. God will give them people to protect them just like He used Rahab to protect the spies and the spies to protect Rahab. God will put people in their lives to help them just like He introduced Elijah to the widow and her son, and God helped them never run out of oil and flour. Finally, God will provide for them just as He showed a well to Hagar when she and her son were so very thirsty.

Marriage Getaway
October 17 & 18 | $195 per couple
Carter Caves State Resort Park | Olive Hill, KY
Contact: MarriedLife | marriedlife@firstchurch.me

A little getaway from time to time can do a lot for your marriage. Our getaway theme this year is Love & Respect and our mentoring couples include Rodney Valandra and his wife Shirley. Rodney is an NKU professor and licensed counselor who partners with First Church. Join us for a weekend with comfortable accommodations, secluded surroundings, and a relaxed schedule to give your marriage a boost. Registration begins in September.

Marriage Oneness
October 4 - November 15
$20 per couple
Burlington Campus | 11:00am | FC106
Contact: Kim & Cheri | cherispiritexcel@gmail.com

The best marriages don't just happen, couples work at making it happen! Marriage Oneness is a core course that helps couples identify and work on seven key areas to a strong marriage. Whether you are preparing for marriage or celebrating twenty or more years as a married couple this class will help you experience what God intends for every married couple.

FREE Date Night at the MOVIES ~ The Song
Saturday, September 19 | 6:10-8:10pm | Burlington Campus
Sunday, September 20 | 5:00-7:00pm | Union Campus
Contact: MarriedLife | marriedlife@firstchurch.me

Invite your friends! Refreshments provided. MUST RSVP at campus phone number for childcare. Burlington Campus 859-586-4673 ext. 111 or Union Campus 859-212-0542 ext. 201.

To watch movie trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vAe2cwfmgfA.
MS Wednesday Night
Began August 26 | 6:00-8:00pm
Student Building | Burlington Campus
Contact: Nate Verst | nverst@firstchurch.me

MS Wednesday night meets every week during the school year from 6:00-8:00pm in the Student Building. It’s designed just for 5th-8th grade students to provide high energy worship, relevant, topical teaching, as well as, involvement in peer small groups.

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!

Free Firewood
Contact: Ralph | rwilmhoff@firstchurch.me

FREE FIREWOOD! We want to clear out several trees between FCC and the new Patrick Drive. If you would like to cut some trees for your use, contact Ralph at 859-586-4373 or email.

Union Leaders
You Guys Are Awesome! Thank you for such a wonderful Promotion Sunday. Thank you for being so well prepared, patient, positive and flexible!! The kids did a great job adjusting to their new surrounding. We want each of you to know how grateful and thankful we are to be serving on the same Team! Thank you for saying YES to the next generation!!

Whiz Kids
Starts October 1
Contact: Leigh Ann | lluttrell@firstchurch.me

Take action in our community. Volunteer to tutor an at-risk youth one hour a week. Starting this October, 1 & 2 grade student from Burlington Elementary will come to First Church on Monday afternoons for help with reading. Contact Leigh Ann for more information or sign-up at the Serve table in the lobby.

Royal Prom
Friday, September 25 | Crossroads Church, Florence, KY
www.theroyalprom.com

The Royal Prom is an opportunity to lavish youth and adults with special needs with a fun and memorable evening. We are working with many other churches and groups to make this event a reality on Friday, September 25 that will require 350 volunteers! If you’re interested in volunteering as an individual or a group, contact Leigh Ann for further instructions.

Union Campus

First Church

Serve Ministries

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 and friendship to our neighbors 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.

Royal Prom

First Church

Whiz Kids

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

Parents, check out the Parent Cue app for videos, songs, and other interactive fun that ties in with what your kids are learning at First Church. Visit the app store for your device and get in on the fun!

Union Campus

Burlington Campus
6080 Camp Ernst Rd | Burlington, KY 41005 | 859.586.4673

Union Campus
12993 Frogtown Connector Rd | Walton, KY 41094 | 859.212.0542
www.firstchurch.me | JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

Parent Cue App!