



1232 National Road
Wheeling, WV 26003
304-242-2455
christumcwheeling@gmail.com
July 2024, Issue 328

IN-PERSON WORSHIP

8:30 a.m. in the Chapel
11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

ONLINE SERVICE

christwheeling.org

Watch live Sundays @ 11 a.m.
or watch recorded services
posted after 12 pm on Sundays

Staff

Rev. Jake Steele

Pastor

Diann Nickerson

Family Life Coordinator

Director of Campus Ministries

Bill Stephens

Choir Director

Stephanie Gates

Children's Choir Director

Judith Allison

Organist

Carla Barris

Office Manager

Chelsea Young

Communications

Jamie Lafferty

Nursery Attendant

Ron Miller

Custodian

The Spire

Fireworks

The Fourth and our celebrations often involve fireworks that have our faces fixed to the skies. In Acts 1, the disciples were doing the same, fixed on another spectacle: Jesus being taken up into the clouds at his ascension precipitated the formation of a heavier fog. Did you see it? It was a fog that settled squarely on the disciples' faces. They were flummoxed:

"Whh...whh...well...wait a second, Lord. We thought this would be the time you'd take the lead. We assumed you've returned to roll up your sleeves and start renovating. Uh, in case you didn't realize, Rome still rules and a kingdom still needs constructing. Is now the time? And if it is, how can you perform a new work in the world if you're presumably leaving it?"

But before we bang the gavel in judgement of their shortsightedness, it behooves us to look in the mirror. Aren't we guilty of the same? Turn the pages of the recent or distant past and recount the occurrences that you stared aimlessly into the skies, hedging your hopes that someday soon your state would change as a result of God somehow showing up and changing your situation---almost like an episode of HGTV's Property Brothers.

While it's certainly not beyond God's capacity to change circumstances and therefore change us, I'm just saying it's much less popular to pray that God change us and therefore transform our circumstances.

But here's the thing: When everything else matters, nothing else changes.

At one point in time for the disciples, *everything else mattered*:

The threat of Rome and its politics.

Concern over what others might say or do.

The fear of persecution and its pain.

Confusion of purpose and feelings of inadequacy.

And then there was that dreaded fear of death.

If the above represented *everything else*, then everything else mattered. We have a lot of "everything else's" as well. I won't list them here, but nothing else changes when everything else matters. We don't change and neither does the world around us.

However, with the power of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost there was a major shift in the lives of what now is "the church." It was a shift as unassuming as a change in words, but it was as significant as a change of heart:

When nothing else matters but God, everything else changes.

Rome still ruled. There was still dissension to deal with, believe it or not. Persecution and pain came repeatedly. The disciples were still ordinary...and death was always knocking at the door. But everything changed for those early Christ followers because nothing else mattered but God. *His fire works*. It still does.

-Pastor Jake

Children's Church "Hands up, Hands on, Hands out"

Children ranging from 4 years through the 3rd grade are invited to attend this program which will follow "Children's Moments" during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. On the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, Stephanie Gates, "Ms. Steph", will offer music at this time to those children in Kindergarten through the 5th grade.

We are seeking volunteers to help with this program. A sign-up sheet is located in the Narthex for you to place your name.

July Collections for the HOC

We will be collecting feminine products (tampons & pads) for the HOC's back-to-school event. We will also be collecting canned tuna & chicken for their food pantry.

If you would like to donate but don't have time or can't get out to shop, Shelby can do the shopping for you. Please catch up with her during worship or contact her at 304-242-6127.

Thank you to everyone that donated for the month of June.

Sunday School Update

The start-up date of fall Sunday School has been changed.

Due to the church picnic being held on September 8, 2024, Sunday School will start on Sunday, September 15, 2024.

We look forward to welcoming new and returning participants. Additional information will be available in the September Spire.

UWIF Fall Meeting

Mark your calendars - The UWIF will meet on Saturday, September 14, at Franklin UMC in Wellsburg for their annual fall meeting. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. with fellowship and a light breakfast. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. and end with lunch at noon.

The program will be presented by Diann Nickerson & the students from WLU Protestant Campus Ministry Program.

Nonperishable food items for the pantry at St. John's will be collected.

The cost of registration for the meeting is \$10.00 and is paid at the door. Please send your reservation to Gracie Arbogast at 304-737-2665 or at gracie.arbogast@yahoo.com by September 8, 2024.

Sunday Evening Circle

CUMC Family,

Given the changes coming out of General Conference 2024, perhaps you're wondering how we move forward as a faith community. How do the changes in our doctrine re: human sexuality affect us on the local church level? Do we have a say in how we structure ourselves? Are there matters we need to consider? If so, what are they and how

do we navigate them? Since General Conference, I've corresponded with a number of you who've expressed similar sentiments that correspond to the aforementioned questions. If you're among them and you'd like to know more, then mark your calendar for our next Sunday Evening Circle on August 4th, in the Family Room from 4:30pm-6:00pm. We'll dig less into theology and more into procedure. Plans are tentatively being made for our district superintendent to be present in order to assist in answering any questions. I hope you'll join us for this time together so that we might not only understand, but that we might continue to oversee the movement of the Gospel of Jesus in turbulent times.

-Pastor Jake

Christian Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to the following:

- Family and friends of George Frazier on his recent passing.
- Patricia Stephens and family on the death of her son, Donald Bowman.

CARE FACILITIES

- **Good Shepherd**
Jack Kerr 320
Mildred Posey
- **Peterson**
Jane Friebertshausen 520

Save the Date

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 10 A.M.

BETHLEHEM COMMUNITY PARK

CHURCH

picnic





We had our first Messy Church in June and our next monthly event happens on Wednesday, July 10th at 6 PM. We will share a meal, have activities that lend themselves to the story of Joseph, and then celebrate the message with a lesson and music. Won't you join us? Bring a friend – a grandchild – invite a neighbor because it's an intergenerational experience. It's a wonderful opportunity to let others know God and share in the all the possibilities of the Good News!

Future dates: August 14 Sept 11 Oct 9 Nov 13 Dec 11

We would love to have you volunteer your time and talents with this new program. If you have a Facebook account, please share it and if you'd like to help us, we can always use an extra set of hands. We are also thankful for prayers for our team, the children we want to reach, and our community that we serve.

In the past, summer in Campus Ministry was a time of reflecting on the year and planning for the next steps in ministry. This year my summer is a bit different because so many things have changed over the last four months. But through it all God provides, yes?! God is with us in all our seasons, even when we are unsure of where the roads we travel might lead. One thing I know for sure is that I'm looking forward to continuing meeting members of our church and learning how we can be in partnership with the college students we serve. Which leads me to share what we have planned for the beginning of the fall semester.



- August 11 Blessing of the Back Packs @ CUMC; will invite **all students** and teachers to bring in backpacks to receive a blessing for the upcoming school year (11 AM service).
- August 23 Freshmen Move-In Day; handing out water to families; would like to include a welcome package describing our services, programs, mission, etc.
- August 27 Ice Cream Social; sharing ice cream novelties with the new students.
- October 3 Pet Blessing; bring your pet to campus and receive a blessing; dogs and cats love spending time on the Quad!
- October 4-6 Burlington Family Services Applefest Volunteer Opportunities; intergenerational opportunity to help make and sell apple butter at the annual festival; would like to take college students as well as the young and old alike from CUMC!

More information will be available as we get closer to start of the new school year, but I hope you will consider getting involved in our church family life – whether it's with a Sunday School class, joining a small group, children's programs, or college events – it's important we do this thing called life together! With God at the center of all we do.

Blessings for a wonderful July!

Diann Nickerson

Family Life Coordinator and Director of Campus Ministries

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

Craig S., II* Arensberg July 1
 Cassandra Collins July 2
 Dennis T. Lee July 3
 Susan Mallett July 3
 Tammy Tomazoli July 3
 Linda Wagenheim July 3
 Patricia Cunningham July 4
 Shannon Gessler July 4
 Sam Milton July 5
 John Rush July 5
 Richard McCardle July 6
 D. Scott Jones July 7
 Kathleen Knight July 7
 Jason* Smaltz July 10
 Miranda Sykes July 10
 Julianne Rose Collins July 11
 Jennifer Taylor July 11
 Spencer* Coleman July 12
 Jada Taylor July 13
 Joseph P.* Howley July 14
 Adam* Koonce July 14
 Daniel Young July 14
 Derek* Channel July 17
 Stephen Wharton July 17
 David Bitzer July 18
 Lance R. Griffin July 18
 Olivia Kiger-Camilo July 18
 Benjamin, II Statler July 18
 John* Waris July 18
 Pam Milton July 20
 Nicole Reid July 20
 Wesley* Wright July 20
 Camden* Crosten July 22
 Teagan* Crosten July 22
 Benjamin Ellwood July 22
 Jenny L. McCardle July 22
 Jaclyn Sprague-Glynn July 22
 Dylan Elias* Griffin July 23
 Carter* Kidd July 23
 Angie* Behrens July 24
 Lisa Kepner July 24
 Sara* Wright July 24
 Brittney Bragg July 25
 Richard* Roberts July 25
 Jacob Straub July 26
 Lisa M. Conner July 27

Lisa M. Conner July 27
 Isaac* Bedway July 28
 Colette McFadden July 28
 Jamie Crow July 30
 Sally Schmalz July 30
 Jarred Smith July 30
 David Croft July 31
 Christopher Kiedaisch July 31
 Leslie Kosanovic July 31
 Ryan* Mudge July 31

Mark & Julie Lindsay
 July 4

Bill & Nancy Deibert
 July 7

Bill & Joy* Stephens
 July 7

Rick & Sue Mallett
 July 8

Roger* & Debbie Micker
 July 11

Randy & Brenda Straub
 July 11

Buddy* & Kim* Bowman
 July 12

Jim & Karen Bruhn
 July 12

Jacob* & Emily* Steele
 July 14

Charles & Beth* Heyman
 July 16

Errol & Christy Sambuco
 July 18

Russell & Mary Lu Hutchins
 July 27

Don* & Pam Milton
 July 29

John & Sandy Warnick
 July 31

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please take a minute to review the list, and let the church office know if there are any names to be removed .

Andy Cunningham; Sarah; Family of Robert Blount, Jr.; Shirley Conaway; Bill & Barbara Clough; Gary Galbreath; Craig; Justin; Randy Jones; Clem & Nancy Schutler; Kim & Buddy Bowman; Roxie Derheimer; Charlie Palmer; Parker Fox; Katie Histing; Kevin Barton; Frank Gilbert & Family; Richard Gilliam; Logan; Barbara Buckwack; Harry; James Gyer; Brittany Yoho; Bob & Debbie Becker; Lee; Suzanne; Ruth Wade; Jeff Winslow; Addison Stephans; John Lendon; Travis Ellis; Bill; Sony and Gary; Josh Chaplin; Melissa; Breanne; Karen & Jim Bruhn; Sandy Thames; Leslie Heldreth; Glenn Balla; John Witzberger; Freda Blake, Sherry Curry; Barb Wotojwicz; Family of Anya Robertson; Joan McClelland; Joanne Taylor; Randy Austin & Family; Miller Family; Jason Broadwater; Betty Dent; Bob McDonald; Paul & Kim Weber; Carol Pattim; Pat Staton; Jim Bowman; Rosemary Leicet; Terry; Linda & Jack Kerr; Kenny Nickerson; Dawn Walker Schemp; Jessie; Cathy Pavlock; Zach Henry; Harold Tharp; Randy Straub; Scott Morris; Michael Selick; Sara Madison; Sherwood Dobbs; Lauren Robinson; Harriett McCardle; Ted Allen; Gary Haught; Betty Hissom; Brad King; Jim Jones; Jenn; Gail; Jeff; Sara Staley; Cody McAvoy; Kristen Smith; Betty Love; Jonathan Chance; Elizabeth Carson; Connie Macek; Bill Harr; Mr. P.; Linda Moffit.

Bible Verses About LOVE

- **1 Corinthians 16:14**

Let all that you do be done in love.

- **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

- **Colossians 3:14**

And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

- **1 Corinthians 13:13**

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

- **John 15:13**

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

- **John 3:16**

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

- **1 John 4:7-8**

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

- **1 Peter 4:8**

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

- **Ephesians 5:25**

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

- **Ephesians 4:2**

With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love.

- **John 14:15**

If you love me, you will keep my commandments.





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