



1232 National Road
Wheeling, WV 26003
304-242-2455
christumcwheeling@gmail.com
April 2025, Issue 333

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

"Now on that same day, two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him." (Luke 24: 13-16)

More than once I've preached about the Lord's penchant for blessing His people *in-between*. As much as we're comforted in the conviction that God is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, it's just as transformational to find that Jesus is the Lord of the transition too...and thank God for that since the *in-between* is where we spend most our time. It's where *I am*; it's where *you are* (whether you know it or not); it's where *they were*. Did you see? They were no longer in Jerusalem, but they weren't yet home...*They were somewhere in the middle*.

They were *sure* the Jesus experiment had gone kaput and yet they couldn't be less confident about what came next. *They were somewhere in between*.

Indeed, the in-between is a burdensome place to be and yet God has a history of using the middle as a setup for the miraculous.

That said, this Emmaus passage is pregnant with possibility. The seeds of transformation within the text are easy to spot. However, when you're the one on the road, the tension of transition and the turbulence therein always seems to toy with our capacity to trust and can work like cataracts on the lenses of clarity. Such was the case for Cleopas and his traveling companion and so it is for us. The Emmaus road must serve as a GPS route for us, lest we become beleaguered by our own in-betweens and thereby discard the divine that is often mixed in with the dishwater of disruption.

To that end, take a moment and mine this treasure from the text:

"Now on that same day, two of them were going...Jesus came near and went with..."

If you simply flip-flop the phrases and change the tense, what we unearth is more than a statement, it's an assurance: **"Jesus comes near and goes with those who are going."**

Anybody enroute needs to take that diamond, dust off the debris and stick it in their suitcase. When the *going is tough*, the risen Christ *going with* is really good news.

It's been a little more than a month's time since I announced our (the Steele Family's) reassignment to serve Forrest Burdette Memorial UMC in Hurricane in July. For those who have been disconnected from our worshipping community since late February, this may come as a surprise and I lament that you're finding out this way. But alas, in between A and B, I'm aware that sometimes private ruminations can seep into public conversations and what started as an assumption can suddenly sprout legs and whisk us to places that are miles away from the truth. Subsequently, to set the record straight, *yes*, we are moving in June; and *no*, I nor the church requested a reassignment. *Yes*, I accepted the reassignment and *no*, the Bishop is not forcing us to relocate despite the pain associated with saying goodbye and the excitement of saying hello. *Yes*, we did release the findings of the church-wide survey a week prior to my announcement and emphatically—*no*, my relocation has *nothing* to do with the survey no matter how causal the two may appear. *No*, it's not easy for us to uproot; it downright hurts and *yes*, there is joy for what is to come collectively for Forrest Burdette and the Christ Church families. Both are true simultaneously.

You might be reticent. *Certainly*. You might be ready. *Good*. You might be somewhere...*in between*. That's ok too. Cleopas could confirm the goodness of a God who *goes with* those who *are going*. He'd also say something about sticking around. You won't want to miss what happens next.

-See You Sunday



Connect with the Christ Church Community



christwheeling.org

Get information about our ministries, access sermon audios and find out about how you can be a connected part of the Christ UMC family in the Ohio Valley and beyond!



Live Stream

Join us every Sunday morning at 11 am for our live streamed messages and music. Simply go to the church website listed above, the "Watch the Weekly Live Sunday Stream" banner in the middle of the main page. Make sure volume is turned up.



[Facebook.com/cumcwheeling](https://www.facebook.com/cumcwheeling) OR [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/cumcwheeling)

If you missed Sunday's Live Stream, access our most recent worship/sermons, posts and latest news.

Holy Week Worship Opportunities:

Maundy Thursday Service @ Christ UMC; April 17th; 7:00pm

This worship experience will blend themes of Maundy Thursday alongside the weight we experience with Good Friday. Understand the cup that was taken on your behalf. Receive the bread broken at the table for you. See the part we all play in the body. Don't miss it. We look forward to seeing you there.

Easter Sunday Worship (Main Sanctuary) April 20th 8:30, 11am

Family Life Coordinator News

We had a wonderful time celebrating the beginning of Lent with our Shrove Tuesday Mardi Gras dinner. The food was delicious, the music uplifting, and the conversation and company was top-notch! Thanks to everyone who helped with the event. Profits from the dinner were split between The House of the Carpenter and Community Made Serenade.



Join us
to learn more!

APRIL
22
7 PM



**1232 NATIONAL ROAD
WHEELING, WV
MORE INFO: 304-242-2455**

WATER CRISIS



Rev. Caitlin Ware, co-founder of *From Below: Rising Together for Coalfield Justice*, will be in the Northern District to educate and activate people regarding the water crisis that many of our neighbors in the Southern Coalfields are experiencing. Plan to attend an evening of information on how we can commit to helping our neighbors and God's creation.

Water is a precious gift from God, essential for sustaining all life, and a vital resource that must be carefully stewarded. As part of our responsibility to care for God's creation, we are called to protect and preserve clean water sources, ensuring that everyone has access to safe drinking water. In West Virginia, where rivers and streams are abundant, it is crucial to engage in responsible environmental practices, including advocating for policies that protect water quality. Ensuring clean drinking water is not only an environmental concern but also a moral and spiritual duty, reflecting our commitment to love and serve both our neighbors and God's creation.

Please join us on April 22nd, Earth Day, to learn more about the water crisis in Southern WV.



Mark your calendars for an afternoon of fun! Let's make some memories for Christ UMC and the Steele Family by planning a few games of bowling! If you'd like to participate, sign-up sheets are available on the bulletin boards by the Chapel and in the Narthex.

FAMILY FUN DAY BOWLING

Christ United Methodist Church

**Sunday, May 4th
1:00 - 3:00 pm
Dirty Dog Bowling Lanes**

Share in some old-fashioned competition before the Pastor leaves!
Everyone is welcome - young and seasoned alike.
Light lunch will be provided.

RSVP to Diann by May 1st
so we can reserve enough lanes.
nickerson246@gmail.com



All United Methodist Churches are required to participate in Safe Sanctuary trainings so that we can ensure the safety of children and vulnerable adults. Those who should attend our May training include Sunday School teachers, Vacation Bible School workers, and any volunteers that help with children's ministries.

Training is scheduled for Saturday, May 3rd beginning at 10 am and a light lunch will be provided. If you have questions or want to RSVP contact Diann Nickerson.

Building relationships – providing a community – engaging in the world around us --- These are the things Jesus asks us to do and what we strive to achieve in Campus Ministry. A trip over spring break allowed us to do all these things and more! We had ten students go to Washington, DC earlier in the month where we visited museums and Capitol landmarks, participated in a workshop with The UMC General Board of Church and Society on climate justice and advocacy, toured the Capitol Building, and attended worship services at The Washington National Cathedral. We learned about the history of our country, how we can advocate for causes important to us as Christians, and most importantly we grew closer as a community of believers. These are the kinds of experiences that shape us in our Christian journey.

You'd think, yes, it was a wonderful opportunity to go sight-seeing and learn about our nation's history, but it was so much deeper than that. I'd like to share an email that a mother of one of the students sent following our trip that demonstrates how vital Campus Ministry is in the lives of young adults.



The trip to D.C. may have been the most important event in Oscar's adult life. He's returned calmer, with more cheer and confidence than I've seen since he was small. I cannot ever repay you for your courage, love, and innovation that made the trip possible. Thank you, in thunder!

And thank you for the contacts with Matt that let us know Oscar was enjoying himself—and hadn't been arrested for sedition or some other politically motivated disruption. I think the opportunity to respond to difficulty in ways different from social media prescribed behaviors was central to the alteration in self-esteem. When you sent the picture of Oscar on the Metro, ropes of adrenaline unknotted in our chests, and we breathed a lot easier for the remainder.

I hope the rest of your break is actually a break. My heart is bursting with gratitude for you and Andrew and the sweet kids on the trip who have made Oscar feel for the first time like he belongs somewhere.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth



Campus Ministry continues to be involved in service projects both on campus and in the larger community. We continue coordinating the backpack ministry for West Liberty Elementary School along with serving alongside folks from Hope UMC at their monthly food pantry. Each week a different group helps to sort and pack the food for the students served. Veronica Huggins, our senior, drives students each week to the pantry where they assist clients looking for assistance. Several students also helped serve at Christ UMC's Shrove Tuesday Mardi Gras dinner.

West Liberty University lost two treasured professors within a month and Campus Ministry helped with the coordination of memorial services for Drs. Michael Blackwell and Corey Riegel. Those in attendance appreciated the opportunity to gather to mourn the loss of their friends. We also met with students to provide resources and support for them as they grieve the loss of their teachers.

Campus Ministry touches so many lives – our students, staff, our neighborhood, and the wider community. This kind of ministry is vital to college campuses, and I ask that you continue to support our students in prayer as they wrap up the end of the spring semester.

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

Linda Kerr April 1
 Louis Costanzo April 2
 Barbara Piko April 2
 Stewart A. Ebeling April 3
 Nancy Deibert April 5
 Dottie Richardson April 5
 Dixie Ellwood April 6
 Amber Garlitz April 6
 Randall Straub April 6
 Kelly Ann Allen April 8
 Alex* Cunningham April 8
 Dominick Jebbia April 8
 Susan Dodd April 11
 William Wagner April 11
 DueWayne Crow April 12
 Mariah* Hatton April 12
 Elizabeth Hofmann April 13
 Jennifer Hornyak April 13
 Larry Murphy April 13
 Marlee Smith April 15
 Betty Lazear April 16
 Natasha Warnick April 16
 Rebecca Broadwater April 17
 Samuel* Muhleman April 17
 Mary Bandi April 18
 Jean E. Howley April 18
 Jason LaRue April 18
 Tiffany* Williams April 18
 Carole Adams April 19
 Paula Reven April 19
 Kimberly* Heyman April 20
 Roger* Matz April 21
 Christy Sambuco April 21
 Robert Reid April 22
 Robin* Bitzer April 23
 Elijah Bryant April 24
 Tyler Bryant April 24
 Elaine Sambuco April 24
 Bradley* Wright April 24
 John W. Kepner April 25
 Ann Marie Koish April 25
 Brian Muhleman April 26
 Maxwell Warnick April 26
 Stephen Knight April 27
 Catherine Strasser April 28

Wayne & Denise Soard
 April 10

Brian & Cathy* Muhleman
 April 11

Cindy & Harry* Baltz
 April 13

Kara & Matt* Barkley
 April 17

Leslie & Edward* Kosanovic
 April 20

Jason & Pat Cunningham
 April 24

Kevin & Stacey Collins
 April 25

Lance R. & Lisa* Griffin
 April 25

Gerry & Cindy* Griffith
 April 29

Jackie & Steve Johnston
 April 29

Shawn & Laura Roberts
 April 30

CARE FACILITIES

•**Good Shepherd**
 Denny Hon - 235
 Jack Kerr - 320



True North
Trusting Jesus in a Wild World

Sunday, July 20 - Thursday, July 24
 6-8 p.m.

Volunteer sign-up sheets will appear
 in the Narthex in May.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Kathryn Andenoro; Doris Campanelli; Roxie Derheimer; Christine Collins; James; Bruce & Mary Bandi; Lois Pace; John Applegate; Susan Norris; Marshall Family; Jim Pickett; Greg Smith; Evan Clatterbuck; Candice O'Connor; Sally Marple; Ed Fitzgerald; David King; Lee Browning; Andy Cunningham; Sarah; Family of Robert Blount, Jr.; Shirley Conaway; Gary Galbreath; Craig; Justin; Randy Jones; Kim & Buddy Bowman; Charlie Palmer; Parker Fox; Kevin Barton; Frank Gilbert & Family; Richard Gilliam; Logan; Barbara Buchwach; 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; Sandy Thames; Leslie Heldreth; Glenn Balla; John Witzberger; Freda Blake, Barb Wotojwicz; Family of Anya Robertson; Joanne Taylor; Randy Austin & Family; Miller Family; Jason Broadwater; Betty Dent; 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; Jim Jones; Jenn; Gail; Jeff; Sara Staley; Cody McAvoy; Kristen Smith; Jonathan Chance; Elizabeth Carson; Connie Macek; Bill Harr.

Children's Church Volunteers

"Hands Up, Hands On, Hands Out"
- A volunteer sheet is now posted in the Narthex for volunteers to sign up for leadership opportunities in working with the children during Children's Church. This is an excellent way for one to get to know the children of the church on a different level. The Education Committee looks forward to seeing servants who are interested in taking on one or two Sundays of the church calendar to participate. Questions can be addressed to Diann Nickerson. **P.S. Sometimes it helps to ask a friend to help you with this endeavor. Available Sundays are posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.**

Coffee Hour Sign-Up

The April coffee hour sign-up sheet is posted. If you would like to host, please sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

HOC Donations

For the month of April, we will be collecting peanut butter, jelly and crackers for the HOC food pantry.

Thanks to everyone that donated in March.



Christian Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are with the following:

- Faye Jaquay & family on the death of her sister, Alice McKay of Des Moines, Iowa.
- Rev. Margie Carr & family on the death of her mother, Sarah.

Graduation Recognition

On Sunday, May 04, 2025, Christ United Methodist Church will recognize those members of the church who have graduated from High School, College, University, or Graduate School. If someone in your family is graduating this year, please send an email to: (christumcwheeling@gmail.com) to Carla Barris, our office manager.

If you wish to add additional information as to where he/she will be attending college or university following High School graduation, etc., please feel free to do so and let us know if he/she will be able to attend either the 8:30 or 11:00 a.m. service.

Words of Welcome To Pastor Joe

Transitions can be tricky, both for congregations and clergy. You're invited to show our new, incoming pastor, Joe Hill, your support by sending him a note via email or his physical address. Joe is coming from a district position, so it's likely he won't have the aid of a sending congregation. CUMC has the opportunity to buoy him with introductions and well wishes.



Take the time to write him at jhill@wvumc.org or send a card to his current address: **Rev Joe, Christie and Majesty Hill, 1019**

Wethersfield Crossing, Hurricane, WV 25526.

Donations for Flooding Victims

The Appalachian Christmas Project is collecting the following for the flood victims in West Virginia: **air mattresses; laundry detergent; non-perishable food items; dish soap; hygiene products; bedding; any feminine supplies; towels & washcloths; first aid items; kitchen towels; pet food & supplies; trash cans & totes; silverware; garbage/contractor bags; kitchen utensils; rubber gloves; work gloves; pots & pans; dishes; rubber boots; baby supplies; any size winter shoes & boots; cups & glasses.**

Please drop your donations off at the church office.

Birthday Luncheon & Choir Recognition

On Sunday, April 27, 2025, there will be a combined birthday luncheon and choir recognition following a combined 10:00 a.m. worship service.

A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex for sponsorship of one of the 12 birthday tables. You will be responsible for decorating the table and providing a cake.

A sign-up sheet will also be posted for parishioners to provide a covered dish to share.

If you have any questions, please see Donita Rush.

Easter Cards for Shut-ins

Easter cards are located in the Narthex for our shut-ins. Please sign each one so they know they are in our thoughts and prayers this Easter season.



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