



1232 National Road
Wheeling, WV 26003
304-242-2455
christumcwheeling@gmail.com
December 2023, Issue 32I

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

Bill Stephens

Choir Director

Stephanie Gates

Children's Choir Director

Judith Allison

Organist

Carla Barris

Office Manager

Chelsea Young

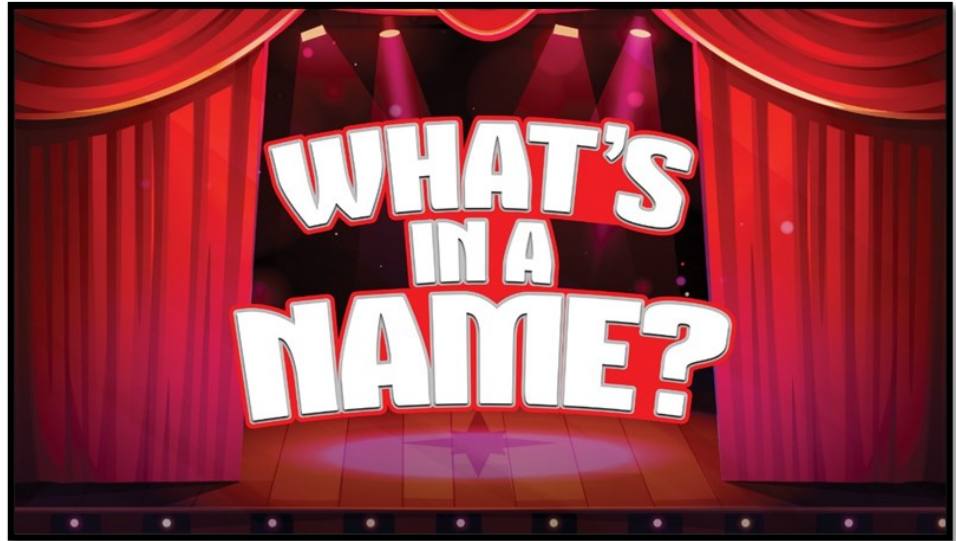
Communications

Jamie Lafferty

Nursery Attendant

Ron Miller

Custodian



Coming Soon on Christmas Eve!

Get ready, folks, and step onto the set! The greatest game show in Wheeling is coming to Christ Church on Christmas Eve. "What's in a Name?" is a zany and fun-filled piece written by Sheree Mann, which features dynamic stage personality and gameshow host, Randy Dandy. Join him along with his co-host Hannah Light as they welcome three eccentric contestants who will compete in a gut-busting quest for first place and the top prize.

In this particular episode, the gameshow is featuring a special Christmas-themed twist where our contestants will be challenged to correctly define biblical words related to the birth narrative of Jesus. Things fall apart quickly for our host and it doesn't seem like much of a competition when Cathy Chatsalot, Laura Lively and Samuel A. Smarty go head-to-head. However, an accidental win in the end will definitely give the audience a new way to define the word, "Emmanuel".

You don't want to miss this one! Gather your friends, your extended family members, invite your neighbors and join us either at 4pm or 7pm for these Christmas Eve services that will feature carols, candlelight, laughter, fun and a meaningful worship experience for all ages. Also, please note an adjustment to our regular morning worship schedule for that day: In lieu of our 8:30 am chapel service or 11:00 am worship in the main sanctuary, we will have one combined worship service at 10:00 am in the sanctuary.

We readily anticipate celebrating the birth of our Savior with you and many others as we discover and rejoice over the power packed within the word, "Emmanuel" – God with us! Worship with us at 10:00 am for our regular combined service and then come back at 4pm or 7pm. See you there!

-Pastor Jake

The Spire



The entire narrative arc of Advent – from the beginning all the way Bethlehem and the birth therein – is as if God is saying to a sleepy, stressed-out world, “Get ready! I’ve got something in store. Something is coming that I want you to experience and I *guarantee* you it’ll make you go, ‘O.M.G...’
‘Oh. My. God.’

In so many words, everybody attached to the birth narrative of Jesus said it at some juncture. Fact is, we want to say it as well. All of us want to arrive at a space spiritually that makes us go,
‘Oh. My. God.’

But to get there, God says,
“Open. My. Gift.”

And therein lies the challenge:
If ‘open’ was easy, everybody would do it.
But it’s not...and so we don’t. When we don’t remain open (or at least obedient), here’s what happens: We
Often. Miss. God.
Bethlehem almost did. What about you?
This Advent season, which O.M.G. will you be?

If we want to be *awed*, we’ve got to be *open*!

Tune in! Join us! **O.M.G Series Schedule:**

Week 1: Dec. 3rd Luke 1: 5-25
Week 2: Dec. 10th Luke 1: 26-38
Week 3: Dec. 17th Luke 1: 39-56
Week 4: Dec. 24th Matt. 1:18-25
Week 5: Dec. 31st Luke 2: 1-20

Zechariah and Elizabeth; Mary and Joseph; the shepherds and the angels; the holy conversations and encounters that changed the landscape of life forever... they seem so out of reach and other-worldly – too distant for us to digest in our day.

Right?

But, “*pssst!*” *Let me let you in on a little secret:*

Believe it or not, those accounts eerily parallel the “everydayness” of our experiences and they beg to be unpacked. How about opening them with us?

Contrary to what some may contend: The sermon can’t say it all!

The precipitating events that literally gave way to the birth of the gospel are deeply rich and relevant. The word becomes even more enriching when it’s engaged within community.

When’s the last time you were awed by the Word because you were open to dialogue?

It’s time for a fresh take...and there’s no better start than in a new year!

That’s right! We’re carrying the Christmas story into the new year and we’re creating a space not only for conversation, but for fresh expressions of faith in our modern context.

Starting on Jan 7th-28th from 5-6:30pm we’ll gather in the family room for a small group study that’ll revolve around the O.M.G. Sermon Series and corresponding gospel texts. It’ll be a perfect place to extend dialogue, ask questions, glean additional information and see life from new frames.

**Attend in-person or join us on zoom!
More information will come soon!**

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.

December Collections for the HOC

For the month of December, we will be collecting paper towels, toilet paper and canned fruit for the HOC food pantry.

Because of the increase in new families they serve, they are also in need of the following: **cooking oil, sugar, canned fruit, box meals, and flour.**

We would like to thank everyone who donated items for the month of November.

HOC Christmas Kids

Donations for the HOC Christmas Kids are due at the church office **unwrapped** by Sunday, December 10. If you like, you can include a gift bag, wrapping paper, tissue paper, etc. Please remember to include the tag you chose along with your gift.

2024 Pledge Card

The finance committee kindly asks that you return your 2024 pledge card to the church office as soon as possible.

Thank you

We would like to thank everyone who purchased and/or made a donation to the t-shirt fundraiser. A total of \$911.00 was collected.

We would also like to thank everyone who donated a shoebox/shoeboxes for the Appalachian Christmas Shoebox Project. A total of 78 boxes were donated.

State Tax Credits Available Through the Gabriel Project

State income tax credits are now available through the Gabriel Project of WV. Donate \$500 or more and receive 50% of your donated amount in tax credits. Individuals as well as businesses may donate for these credits offered through the WV Neighborhood Investment Program (NIP).

Send your donation to: **Gabriel Project of West Virginia, PO Box 4663, Charleston, West Virginia 25364.** Or donate online through our secure website: gabrielwv.org. For more information call the Gabriel Project at 304-205-5865 or email: info@gabrielwv.org.

Help us give babies in low-income families a healthy, safe start in life. And make your donation work for

you with state tax credits from the Gabriel Project. Credits are subject to availability on a first-come, first-served basis. Donate today!

2024 Flower Calendar

The 2024 calendar for altar flower donations is now posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. If you would like to donate, please sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Coffee Hour

For December 31, we are asking everyone to bring in their leftover Christmas cookies to share at Coffee Hour.

UWIF Meeting

The UWIF (formerly UMW) will meet on Monday, December 11 in the Family Room. **All women of the church are invited to attend.** They will gather at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a covered dish to share and an item for the auction.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are always needed to serve as liturgists, acolytes and ushers. Please check the bulletin boards and see where you can help.

If you would like to be an usher, please see Lou Costanzo.

Children and Youth of the Church **Help Us Prepare for Christmas**

Ms. Stephanie is preparing for the children and youth of the Church to present a short program Sunday morning, December 24, 2023 at the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service. She will be working with the children during Children's Church on Sunday, December 3rd, the 10th, and the 17th to prepare for their presentation.

Please come and join Ms. Stephanie during Children's Church in preparing for the coming of Christmas.



December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Andy Jackson	Dec. 1
Joyce Murphy	Dec. 1
Cecil* Heyman, IV	Dec. 3
Joseph* Blalock	Dec. 4
Gloria Jean Taylor	Dec. 4
Diane Gibbons	Dec. 5
Philip Knierim	Dec. 6
Stephanie Taggart	Dec. 6
John Weeks	Dec. 7
Delaney* Coffield	Dec. 8
Madison Jebbia	Dec. 9
Julie Lindsay	Dec. 9
Deborah Micker	Dec. 9
J. Kevin McConnell	Dec. 10
DeAnna Taylor	Dec. 10
Jennifer Croft	Dec. 11
Danielle* Soard	Dec. 11
Roxie Derheimer	Dec. 12
Corey Kidd	Dec. 12
Mary DeMoss	Dec. 14
Kevin* Joseph	Dec. 14
Stefanie* Shoemaker	Dec. 14
Steve Kerr	Dec. 15
Timothy Knight	Dec. 15
Colleen Lee	Dec. 15
Wesley Nickell	Dec. 15
Adam* Reid	Dec. 16
Lisa Vannoy	Dec. 16
Sarah Schneider	Dec. 20
Bud* Hall	Dec. 21
Erikka Storch	Dec. 21
Aaliyah* Bass	Dec. 22
Taylor* Straub	Dec. 22
Donald* Robinson	Dec. 23
Frances Smaltz	Dec. 24
Lisa Gill-McClements	Dec. 26
Craig Collins	Dec. 27
Madeline* Brown	Dec. 28
Benjamin* Coffield	Dec. 28
Jonathan* Queen	Dec. 29
Kristen Walton	Dec. 30
Alexandra* Knight	Dec. 31

Larry & Joyce Murphy
December 1

Daniel* & Diane Gibbons
December 4

Bob & Joan McClelland
December 12

Clint & Kara Amie
December 16

Robert & Lisa Conner
December 28

CARE FACILITIES

•**Good Shepherd**

Jack Kerr 320
Mildred Posey

•**Peterson**

Jane Friebertshauser 520

•**Sienna Skilled Nursing & Rehab (Wintersville)**

Donald Bowman

•**Wheeling Hospital Cont. Care**

Margaret Strome 166



PRAYER REQUESTS

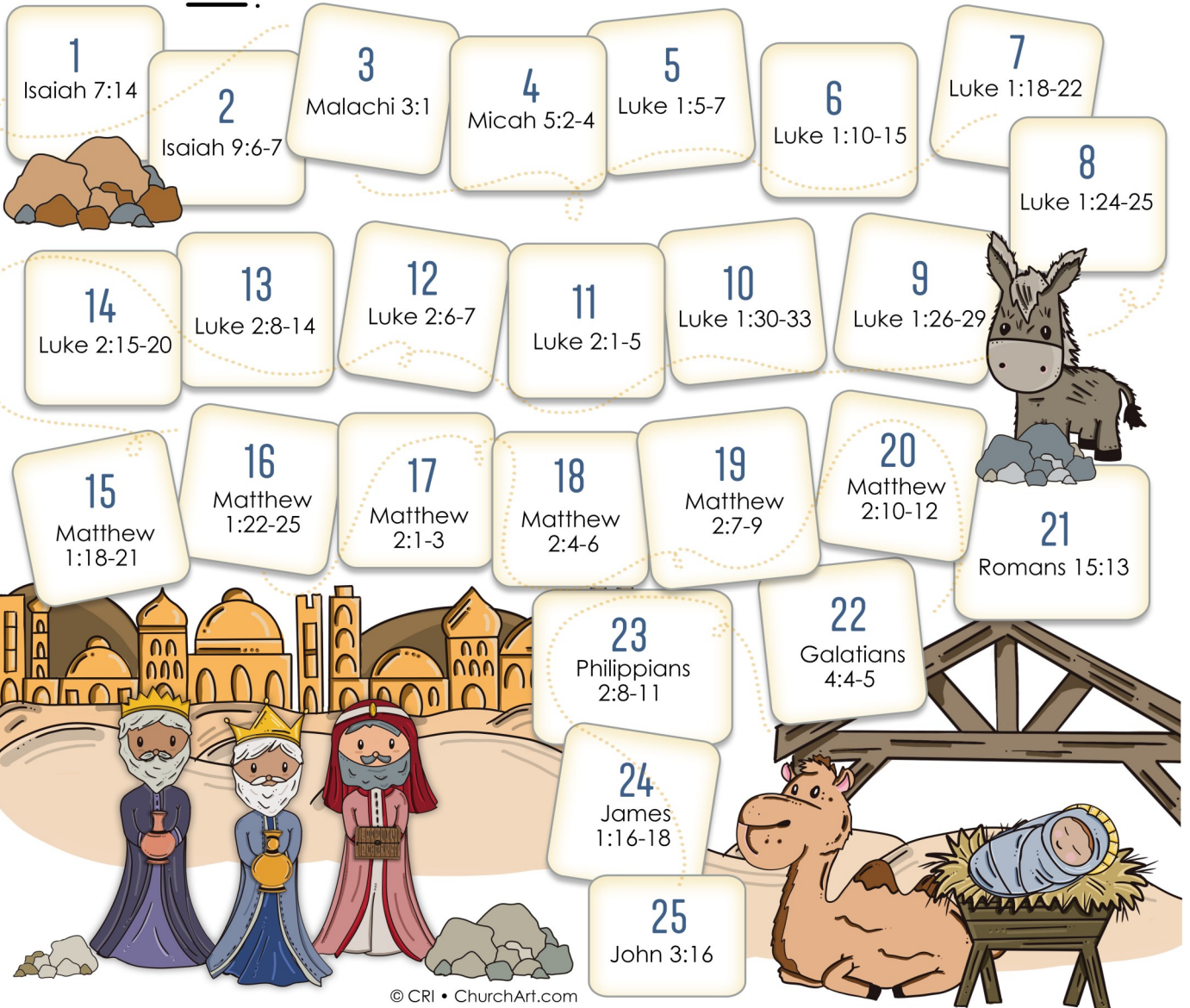
Charlie Palmer; Brett Clough; Susan Sampson; Parker Fox; Katie Histing; Kevin Barton; Becky & George Newton; Cynthia Hileman; Frank Gilbert & Family; Richard Gilliam; Logan; Amanda Sampson; Barbara Buckwack; Anna Marie Kloss; Harry; James Gyer; Brittany Yoho; Kim Bowman; Bob & Debbie Becker; Lee; Suzanne; Ruth Wade; Ronald Sampson; Jeff Winslow; Addison Stephans; John Defibaugh; Randy Jones; Bill Stephens; Justin; 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; Buddy Bowman; Family of Anya Robertson; Joan McClelland; Joanne Taylor; Debi Smith; Roxie Derheimer; Randy Austin & Family; Miller Family; Jason Broadwater; Betty Dent; Bob McDonald; Paul & Kim Weber; Carol Pattim; Pat Staton; Jim Bowman; Donald 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.

Please contact the church office with any names that need to be removed from this list.



A CHRIST-CENTERED CHRISTMAS ADVENT READING PLAN

Explore the true meaning of Christmas as you travel through God's Word. Discover God's promises he fulfilled through the birth of His only Son, the **KING OF KINGS.**



1
Isaiah 7:14

2
Isaiah 9:6-7

3
Malachi 3:1

4
Micah 5:2-4

5
Luke 1:5-7

6
Luke 1:10-15

7
Luke 1:18-22

8
Luke 1:24-25

9
Luke 1:26-29

10
Luke 1:30-33

11
Luke 2:1-5

12
Luke 2:6-7

13
Luke 2:8-14

14
Luke 2:15-20

15
Matthew 1:18-21

16
Matthew 1:22-25

17
Matthew 2:1-3

18
Matthew 2:4-6

19
Matthew 2:7-9

20
Matthew 2:10-12

21
Romans 15:13

22
Galatians 4:4-5

23
Philippians 2:8-11

24
James 1:16-18

25
John 3:16

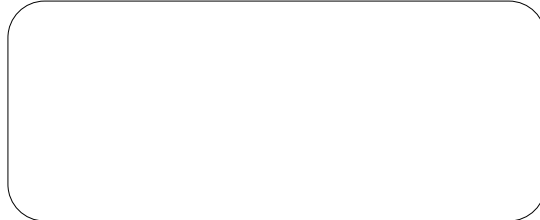
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Christ United Methodist Church
1232 National Road
Wheeling, WV 26003

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT
US POSTAGE
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WHEELING, WV
PERMIT NO. 481



Worship with us
THIS CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 24
Christmas Eve
10 AM (combined), 4PM, 7PM

There will be no Sunday School on the 24th.