



1232 National Road
Wheeling, WV 26003
304-242-2455
christumcwheeling@gmail.com
January 2024, Issue 322

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

The Spire

Take Notice

Before starring in scads of Capital One commercials and critically acclaimed films like *A Time to Kill* and *The Avengers* to name a few, Samuel L. Jackson literally lived on lower stages with dimmer spotlights. As illustrious and decorated as Samuel L.'s career has been, one could easily assume that he found fame at an early age and simply surfed the tidal wave of success that shot him to the elite Hollywood heights that he now inhabits.

It wasn't until recently, however, that I read a fascinating New York Times article outlining the long and arduous road of anonymity Jackson traversed throughout half of his adult life. It strains credulity to think that when *Pulp Fiction* (the Tarantino movie that catalyzed Jackson's career) hit the silver screen in 1994, Samuel L. was *forty-five years old*. (Yep. You read it right). To that point, his world was relegated to low-budget theaters and forgettable flicks...*at forty-five*.

Think about that for a second: The age at which most are hitting their professional strides, Jackson was just starting out. If he was in journalism, though, he'd be quick to contend that the *Pulp Fiction* film wasn't the point at which he *took off*—it was the just point at which the world *took notice*. There's a lot to unpack in that line alone. I could pontificate for pages about the profundity of that line, but I won't...at least not for now...perhaps in a later pulpit since it'll preach. Boy, does it!

But turn the pages of scripture for a second. Put your ear to the rails of holy writ, listen to the vibrations of earlier voices and learn from them: Look at the ex-con Moses minding his father-in-law's flock in Midian: Waking, walking, tending, sleeping and starting over until one day he was startled by the light of a burning bush flickering in the desert dust. Look at David sitting in the shadow of his older siblings. It's easy to feel forgotten when you're sequestered to far away fields, shoveling sheep dung and slinging rocks to fend off the fangs of lions and bears. Searching, spinning, slinging, defending—over and over. Target practice gets old when no one notices, not to mention nobody ever made it big hitting bullseyes in Bethlehem. Look at Peter pitching lines ad nauseam—one day to the other—casting nets and mending them. Look at the Samaritan woman at the well: ducking out, looking down, avoiding stares, dipping buckets and walking home...until one day a voice shocked her out of her shame-filled shuffle. It was the same voice that lifted Peter's gaze away from work and onto the One standing the shoreline of Galilee.

And all of a sudden we read accounts of a washed-up murderer who led an entire nation out of Egyptian oppression. Who better to lead a people to a promise than one who knew his way through the desert? We read of a shepherd kid-turned-king killing a giant with a one square inch weakness no one else could reach. We learn of a lady who led an entire town to the One who told her he was the Messiah. Who better? She was good at garnering the attention of others. When Peter was given his big break, he'd have no idea that the painstaking patterns of the day were merely points of preparation that would allow him to fish for people.

Innocently and ignorantly we roll out the red carpet and shine the spotlight on these scriptural celebrities, admiring them for their arrival. But all of them, including Samuel L. would say, "The recognition is nice and everybody wants it. But the road to *recognition* is built by *repetition* that nobody ever sees except One and that One taking notice is the only one that matters."

"Don't despise the day of small beginnings" (Zech 4:10) It may seem mundane and mindless, but enter the New Year doing the little things with great love. It could be a set-up for something more significant.

See You Sunday,
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.

January Collections for the HOC

For the month of January, we will be collecting personal care items, shampoo, soap & sugar for the House of the Carpenter.

We would like to thank everyone who donated items in 2023.

Thank you

We would like to thank everyone who purchased Christmas gifts for the Florence Crittenton Angel Tree and the HOC Christmas Kids. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

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.

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.

Christian Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are with the following:

- Lou Ann Terrill and Sherry Curry and their families on the death of their mother, Leona Todd.
- Ken and Robin Dunbar and family on the death of his mother, Edith.
- Family and friends of Quay Mull on his recent passing.
- Family and friends of Margaret Strome on her recent passing
- Carole Adams on the death of her brother, Bill.

CUMC "Candy for Charity"

We would like to thank the Church congregation for supporting the "Charity for Candy" project this

year. Our total sales were \$1,460.00/ Through the generosity of many, we were able to disperse funds to the following charitable entities:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Wheeling Health Right | \$200 |
| Wheeling Soup Kitchen | \$200 |
| Appalachian Christmas Project | \$300 |
| Harmony House | \$200 |
| Life Hub (Homeless Shelter) | \$300 |
| YWCA | \$260 |

Again, we thank you for your support and hope you enjoyed the candy.

Lee McConnell & Carolyn Smith

Winter Coats

The Winter Freeze Shelter is looking for donations of winter coats for adult men & women. Please drop your donations at the church office.

Volunteers (Youth and Adults) are Needed **CUMC Shrove Pancake Supper** **Tuesday, February 13, 2024 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.** **Fellowship Hall**

On Sunday, January 07, 2024 a sign-up sheet will be posted in the Narthex for members of the church to sign up for a volunteer position that will support the CUMC Shrove Pancake Supper. The opportunities are: Greeters, Cashier, Setup, Coffee and Drink Preparation, Food Preparation, Kitchen Workers, Servers, and Cleanup. There will be a place for you to sign your name, indicate the area you would like to volunteer in, and a text number or e-mail address so that you can be contacted.

This information is needed no later than January 21, 2024, so that preparations and contacts can be made.

Not only will those in attendance find good food and fellowship, but they will also be able to enjoy Mardi-Gras Jazz orchestrated by The Community Made Serenade.

Proceeds from this event will benefit: The House of the Carpenter, which serves the needs of those in the Wheeling area, as well as The Community Made Serenade, which volunteers their musical services throughout the community.

Questions can be addressed to Cheryl Sprague at 304-281-5359 (text) or cherylsprague012@gmail.com.

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

| | |
|------------------------|---------|
| Alexis Storch | Jan. 1 |
| Gloria Jeanne Matthews | Jan. 2 |
| Stephanie* Barbeau | Jan. 3 |
| Robert Fitzsimmons | Jan. 3 |
| David Sims | Jan. 3 |
| Marlene Ingram | Jan. 4 |
| Mark McNabb | Jan. 4 |
| Joy Brown | Jan. 6 |
| Taylor* Croft | Jan. 6 |
| Charles Cornell | Jan. 7 |
| Linda Murphy | Jan. 7 |
| John H. Nally | Jan. 7 |
| Jacqueline Johnston | Jan. 8 |
| Alexander* Markan | Jan. 8 |
| Ron Miller | Jan. 10 |
| Britney Winesburg | Jan. 10 |
| Wesley* Palmer | Jan. 11 |
| Owen Amie | Jan. 12 |
| Scott* Morris | Jan. 12 |
| Deborah M. Smith | Jan. 13 |
| Bill Deibert | Jan. 14 |
| James Straub | Jan. 14 |
| Fox* Conner | Jan. 17 |
| Jordan* Lew | Jan. 18 |
| John Ruberg | Jan. 19 |
| Helen Wells | Jan. 19 |
| Charles D. Heyman | Jan. 20 |
| Brenda Matzke | Jan. 20 |
| Mary Jones | Jan. 21 |
| Sherry Curry | Jan. 22 |
| Thomas E. Posey | Jan. 22 |
| Chelsea Frazier | Jan. 23 |
| Faye Jaquay | Jan. 23 |
| Andrea Miller | Jan. 23 |
| Don Sprague | Jan. 23 |
| Tina Shoemaker | Jan. 24 |
| Robin Dunbar | Jan. 25 |
| Robert Ingram | Jan. 25 |
| Kathleen A. Jackson | Jan. 25 |
| Cora* Koegler | Jan. 25 |
| Ali Morris | Jan. 27 |
| Aubrey Taylor | Jan. 27 |
| Wray V. Voegelin | Jan. 27 |
| Ralph Weis | Jan. 28 |
| Stacy Peters | Jan. 29 |

Wayne & Carolyn Smith
January 1

James & Donna Woodburn
January 1

Gerald* & Kristen Walton, Jr.
January 5

John & Marimar* Weeks
January 7

Bob & Brenda Matzke
January 17

Bobby* & Linda Murphy
January 18

Dick & Mary Brown
January 31

CARE FACILITIES

•**Good Shepherd**

Jack Kerr 320
Mildred Posey

•**Peterson**

Jane Friebertshauser 520

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

Donald Bowman



Address Change

Roxie Derheimer
56 Hurst Avenue,
Wheeling, WV 26003
304-281-5606

PRAYER REQUESTS

Roxie Derheimer; Xavier; 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; 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.

2024 Leadership

BACKPACK MINISTRY

Christ United Methodist Church

Discipleship Council:

Council Chair

Andy Jackson

Council Secretary

Carole Adams

Church Lay Leader

Carol Carroll

Chair of Finance

David Ellwood

Chair of SPRC

Laurie Ruberg

Chair of Trustees

Jason Smith

WIF (Women in Faith) President

Shelby Straub/Colette McFadden

District Conference Delegates

Gary Bryant

Linda Bryant

Lay Member of Annual

Conference

Winnie Hurd

Alternate Lay Member:

Jane Costanzo

Church Treasurer

Jane Costanzo

Asst. Treasurer/Office Manager

*Carla Barris

Financial Secretary

Belinda Austen

Counting Team

Becky Applegate, Bonnie Ellis,

Gary Sprague, Winnie Hurd,

Alternates - Mary Bandi, Carole

Adams, Linda Bryant, Barb Piko,

Wayne Smith, Shelby Straub,

John Nally

Director of Music

*Bill Stephens

Organist/Pianist

*Judy Allison

Pastor

*Jacob Steele

Coordinator of Communications

Chelsea Young

Spirit Team

Connie Myer

Christian Formation Team

Cheryl Sprague

Fellowship Team

Mary & Bruce Bandi

Mission Team

Gary & Linda Bryant

Head Usher

Lou Costanzo

Child Protection Coordinator

Cheryl Sprague

Christ UMC coordinates a weekly food ministry, delivering weekend “backpacks” to over 171 children in Middle Creek and Elm Grove Elementary schools.

The current cost is \$180.00 per child for the school year.

If you can sponsor a child, or make a donation in any amount, please complete the information below and return it to the church office.

The backpack program coordinated by our congregation has already impacted families during nine school years.

Bags of food are prepared at our church and delivered to the schools for teachers to distribute to children as they leave on Friday afternoons. The food is nutritious and easy to prepare and provides at least two meals a day for the child during the weekend. With the permission of their parents, we are now serving 171 children at Middle Creek and Elm Grove elementary Schools.

Currently the cost of providing for one student is approximately \$180 per school year, so the entire program requires about \$31,000.00 per year. With generous support from members of our congregation and some friends and extended family, and with financial backing from some community-minded local businesses, the program has been successful since the fall of 2014. At this time, we are asking for new and renewed financial commitments for upcoming semesters.

Please prayerfully consider how you can help with this ministry. Share this invitation with others – coworkers, friends, extended family, and neighbors. Pledges and contributions should be returned to the church office or placed in an offering plate during worship. Thank you for making a significant difference in the lives of local children in the name of Jesus Christ!!

Pledge for the 2024-25 School Year

Name: _____

E-mail address: _____

I/We will sponsor _____ child/children in the amount of \$180.00 each.

I/We wish to donate \$ _____ in support of the program.

AT-LARGE MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE (DISCIPLESHIP) COUNCIL:

Class of 2024

Bob Galbreath
Frances Smaltz

Class of 2025

John McFadden

Class of 2026

Kim McCluskey
Betsy Taggart

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES:

Class of 2024

LAY LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE-*Pastor is Chairperson; Lay Leader has a position as well.*

Shelby Straub
Wayne Smith
John Nally

Class of 2025

Linda Kerr
Gary Bryant
Nancy Deibert

Class of 2026

Barb Piko
Lou Costanzo
Shelly Rouse

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Lay Leader and Conference Delegate are members with the following classes:

Chuck Williams
Debi Smith
Debbie Galbreath

Winnie Foose
Amber Smith
Lisa Vannoy

Dave Goodwin
John McFadden
Robin Dunbar
Annie Kopay

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Mike Thomas
Joyce Berdine
Dave Weis

Ken Vannoy
Yonnie Voegelin
Jason Smith

Ken Dunbar
Doug Terrill

FINANCE COMMITTEE: *In addition to the at-large members listed, below, this committee includes the pastor, lay member of Annual Conference, chairperson of Church Council, the chair or representative of the Trustees, the SPRC Chair, Lay Leader, Financial Secretary, and Church Treasurer. Rev. Jake Steele, Winnie Hurd, Andy Jackson, Jason Smith, Carol Carroll, Belinda Austen, Jane Costanzo*

Kara Amie
Bob Strasser
Karen Shaw

Becky Applegate
Frances Smaltz
Larry Blalock

George Ruberg
Carole Adams
Bill Deibert

CUMC TEAMS:

CHRISTIAN FORMATION: Chair: Cheryl Sprague

Robin Dunbar, Marci Marshall, Laurie Ruberg, Emily Steele, Danielle Ellwood, Amber Smith, Stephanie Gates, Yonnie Voegelin.

MISSION TEAM: Chairs: Linda and Gary Bryant

Winnie Hurd, Shelby Straub, Barb

Piko, Bonnie Ellis, Chelsea Young, Wendy Barbeau, Colette McFadden

SPIRIT TEAM: Chair: *Connie Myer*

Judy Allison, Lou Costanzo, Bonnie Ellis, Martha Hon, Bob Matzke, Gary Sprague, Jeanne Hicks, Donita Rush, Cindy Baltz, Connie Myer, Carole Adams, Mark Kenamond, Chelsea Young, Bob Strasser, Ben Ellwood, John and Colette McFadden

FELLOWSHIP TEAM: Chairs: Mary & Bruce Bandi

Cindy Baltz, Carol Carroll, Bobbi Nally, Donita Rush, Frances Smaltz, Belinda Austen, Roxie Derheimer, Joy Brown, Mimi Weis, Jenny Matz, Betty Johnson, Kim Bowman



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 Wheeling, WV 26003

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