



1232 National Road
Wheeling, WV 26003
304-242-2455
christumcwheeling@gmail.com
March 2024, Issue 324

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

Prepare a Way... The Way

A procession of palms; a parade of 'hosannas'-turned- chorus of 'crucify him.' In between, there's a solemn but significant meal in an upper room, followed by a moonlit prayer in the ominous shadows of an olive grove. And then the unthinkable on Friday—that bloody cross and a flagellated Christ weaving their way through the Via Dolorosa to the Place of the Skull (Golgotha) and then, two days later, the early morning darkness on Sunday.

At first blush, the events of Holy Week seem so heavy and other-worldly. If we're not careful, we can pigeonhole ourselves into a role akin to mere spectators, staring from cozy balcony seats, gawking at some far away scene for which we play no real part in the story. It's an appealing posture to assume, for sure. It's sanitary and safe, but it isn't realistic. No, it's much riskier than that. Rewind and look a little closer:

"[Jesus] sent two of the disciples saying, 'Go into the village ahead of you...untie the colt...and bring it here. (Lk. 19:29)

"Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.' So the disciples did...and they prepared the Passover meal." (Matt. 26:17)

Later in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus said to them, "Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial." (Matt. 26:41)

"As they led Jesus away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene...and they laid the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus." (Lk. 23:26).

"Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb." (Jn 20:1)

Could you track a trend? Indeed, it's a minor detail we conveniently crop out of the Easter picture:

The preparations of people always seem to preempt the power of God.

Don't miss this: The divine trappings of Holy Week are curiously, yet splendidly woven into human movements that are hopelessly habitual:

"Go ahead of me—untie and bring. Go, prepare, stay awake, and pray. Pick up a cross and follow.

Get up, commit to walk while it's still dark. Despite the grit, go ahead and go anyways."

We're not called as ones who stand on the sidelines and spectate. We're called to pick up a cross and follow, to walk while it's still dark. Why? Because Easter isn't a day, it's our *identity*...and we know Who *shows up* when we *go ahead* in faith. Disciples of Jesus are never sent alone. Won't you go ahead and join us?

Lets go. Prepare away. Prepare a way for The Way.

The Spire

In Christ,
Pastor Jake



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:

Good Friday Service @ Christ UMC; March 29th; 7:00pm

This worship experience will blend themes of Maundy Thursday alongside the weight we experience with Good Friday. Feel the cool of the water in the servant’s basin. Take 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 9th, 8:30 & 11am

Christ UMC Family,

As of March 1st, it is with great excitement that I share Diann Nickerson's joining Christ UMC as the full time Family Life Coordinator and Director of Campus Ministries! If you can recall, shortly after 2020, with the extravagant generosity of the late Allen Green, a vision team was assembled and we diligently interviewed, brainstormed, and planned with various groups and teams within the church. After about a 12 month span, one consistent theme that kept surfacing relative to a need to sustain and drive generative ministries in the future was this very position.



As you might imagine, it was challenging to develop much traction and traffic with the position, especially in the throes of a pandemic. Despite the enthusiasm and energy that accompanied the notion of adding a staff position like this one, we didn't rush into anything hastily; we explored numerous digital employment platforms and after almost 3 years, our patience paid off, when in January we began conversations with Diann. I fully believe God's fingerprints are all over this, and while I'm sure she'll add more details regarding the circumstances surrounding her hire, I want to take this time to share why I'm absolutely thrilled (as you should be) about what this means for Christ UMC and the wider Ohio Valley:

It means a number of vital ministries that have been established at West Liberty University (WLU) can not only continue, but it also provides us a wide open window to create a deliberate bridge from the local church to campus life enroute to new, fresh and intergenerational expressions of church that are largely absent in the communal life of congregations in general. Further, it also means that Christ Church could potentially become a connectional hub, cross-pollinating students of Wheeling University, WLU and members of this congregation in missionally vital ways that weren't realized before. The possibilities in this area are endless.

It also means that Diann and I will consistently collaborate in brainstorming, planning and creating a robust teaching/education program that will effectively overlap sermonic themes with children's lessons. We want families within this church equipped to read the scriptures and grow together with the ability to go home on Sunday mornings talking about the same things. To that end, we will work together to cultivate spaces for families within the church (especially those with little ones) to study, dialogue, fellowship, do life and serve together. Oftentimes parents of younger children hunger for such spaces, but concerns related to childcare unfortunately serve as stumbling blocks. But imagine a space where two adults can join others for spiritual growth and discipleship while your kids do the same thing? That's exciting!

The human heart longs to be in community. We long for a space to live, serve and grow together. I look forward to fostering a space where families can not only receive the word of God, but to take advantage of planned opportunities to en flesh it in mission together—kids, families and college students at once!

Join me in celebrating and welcoming Diann. She will be an asset to this congregation, collegiate life and the wider community. I look with joy and eager anticipation as each us pursues a deeper path of discipleship that results in us loving and looking like Jesus more than we did the day before!

In Christ,
Pastor Jake

God Always Makes a Way

Hello! I'm the new Family Life Coordinator and Director of Campus Ministries at Christ United Methodist Church and I'm delighted to be here and would like to share a little bit of my story.

I come to you from West Liberty University where I began working in Campus Ministry in August of 2021. I work with students across campus helping them to connect with their faith by providing learning and service opportunities. We make these connections by having a weekly bible study, worship services, along with volunteer opportunities and experiential learning weekends.

In November 2023 Campus Ministers across the WV Annual Conference were informed the Annual Conference would no longer provide funding for the campus pastors. We were told the work of campus ministry didn't have to stop but that the Annual Conference would no longer be able to support it financially as it had in the past. I began praying God would help us find a way forward, pointing us to a new path.

So, I had to start looking for a job! A few weeks before Christmas I was listening to the rebroadcast of your online worship service, and I noticed during the announcement portion of the service the church was looking for a Christian Education/Family Life Coordinator. See the importance of reading your bulletin and watching the announcements **before** the service begins?!! Pastor Jake and I met to discuss the position and how it might be able to include an aspect of Campus Ministry at West Liberty University. The meeting was spirit led and we both left feeling uplifted and encouraged about the possibilities of sharing some campus ministry functions within this new Family Life position. After several meetings with various groups within the church, we landed on a revised job description that would include working with youth and families along with college-aged students!

God made a path for kingdom work to continue on The Hilltop as well making room to develop new ministries within the church for children and families. This new position is an amalgamation of possibilities: new opportunities for the church to be in partnership with college students; growing ministries within the greater Wheeling area that might include children and young families; and strengthening our desire to be in mission with our community. God planted the seeds long before any of us knew what would happen. Now we need to continue praying and listening to folks around us. What are their hopes and dreams? How can we introduce the community to our live-giving Savior in ways that are filled with love and kindness? How can we develop a greater sense of discipleship?

Stop by my office, Room 106, and introduce yourself! My email address is nickerson246@gmail.com and my cell phone is 304-312-0347 if you'd like to set up a meeting. I'd love to hear your story and share ways we can be in ministry together.

Peace and grace – Diann Nickerson

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.

Altar Flower Donations

Altar flower donations are needed for 15 Sundays throughout the remainder of the year. If you are interested in donating, please sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please contact the church office if you have any questions at 242-2455 or christumcwheeling@gmail.com.

SMART Recovery

Recovery for Friends and Family is the newest program at the HOC. It will take place the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month from 6 to 7 PM. This group is to support any family or friend of an addict. It is facilitated by Valery Staskey, MSW. All are welcome to attend.

CUMC Birthday Bash

April 14, 2024 CUMC will once again hold its popular covered dish Birthday Luncheon. In March, a sign-up sheet will be placed in the Narthex for individuals to sign who wish to sponsor a calendar month. These volunteers will dress their table with tablecloth, plastic utensils, paper plates, cups, etc. that capture the theme chosen for their month. Along with decorating the

table, they will provide a cake which acts as a centerpiece. Those attending the Birthday Party will bring a covered dish (vegetable, meat, salad, or starch) to Fellowship hall prior to church. A joint service that Sunday of both the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship services will meet at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. There will be no Sunday School held that Sunday. After the church service, members will proceed to Fellowship Hall and sit at the table that represents the month of one's birthday, enjoying the company of kindred spirits.

Out the Pike VBS

Plans are being made for VBS, which will be held Sunday, July 14-Thursday, July 18, 2024. A volunteer sign-up sheet will be placed in the Narthex in May. We welcome all who wish to help with this Christian Outreach.

Graduation Recognition

On Sunday, May 12, 2024 the church will be recognizing those who are graduating from High School, College, or University. Please send in a photograph of the

graduate accompanied by their full name (first, middle, and last) and the name of the school from which they are graduating. If applicable, provide their plans for the future concerning where they may be attending a college or university, and if they have decided on a major. **This information can be sent to Carla, the church office manager at christumcwheeling@gmail by April 29, 2024.**

Faith in Action Fundraiser

FIA are now holding their annual hoagie, pierogi & haluski sale. Order forms can be picked up at the Chapel and Narthex entrances. **All orders must be placed by Friday, March 29 and delivery will be Wednesday, April 10.**

March Collections for the HOC

For the month of March, the HOC is requesting donations of peanut butter, jelly, pancake mix (add water only mix) and pancake syrup.



The graphic features a row of ten colorful Easter eggs with various patterns like stripes, polka dots, and zig-zags. Below the eggs, the text "Easter Egg Hunt" is written in a large, purple, cursive font. Underneath that, the date "Sunday, March 17" is printed in a black, sans-serif font. Below the date, the text "At the church immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service." is centered. At the bottom, the text "Birth through 6th grade are invited to participate" is centered. The entire graphic is framed by a green border with a grass-like pattern at the top and bottom.

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 17

At the church immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

Birth through 6th grade are invited to participate

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

Bill Gersting	March 1	Jillian* Blalock	March 24
Judith Allison	March 2	Douglas W. Clatterbuck	March 24
Roger Thorngate	March 2	Winifred Foose	March 24
Jason Cunningham	March 3	Krystal Kepner	March 24
Danielle Spano	March 3	Scott Miller	March 24
Zachary Allen Taylor	March 3	Alivia West	March 24
James Woodburn	March 3	Hannah Sims	March 25
Matthew Collins	March 4	Cecil Heyman, III	March 30
Andrew Cunningham	March 5	Alex Kepner	March 30
Bonnie Ellis	March 5	Andrew* Schwind	March 30
Timothy A. Mudge	March 5	Gregory Taggart	March 31
Katie Coffield	March 6		
Kaylee* Davis	March 7		
Amy Lee Morris	March 7		
Joyce Berdine	March 8		
Eric Crow	March 8		
Jacob* Steele	March 8		
Aaron Hutchins	March 9		
Sandra Warnick	March 9		
Richard S. Hogan	March 11		
Cristal Star* Shoemaker	March 12		
Rachael Valentine-Benda	March 12		
Larry Blalock	March 13		
Julie Cunningham	March 13		
Zachary* Channel	March 14		
Gary Sprague	March 14		
Jessica* Bailey	March 15		
SandraAnne Wright	March 16		
Daniel Palmer	March 17		
Patrick Voegelin	March 17		
Emily Marshall	March 18		
Anabelle* Voegelin	March 18		
Ross Wells	March 18		
Nathan* Posey	March 19		
Kristen* Posey	March 19		
Brody* Steele	March 19		
Joanne Taylor	March 19		
Anna Amie	March 20		
Savannah Austen	March 20		
David Godown	March 20		
Devin Morris	March 20		
John M. Bitzer	March 21		
Ashley Kepner	March 23		
John Kerr	March 23		
George Ruberg	March 23		
Alexander Sims	March 23		

Alan* & Deborah Hofmann
March 2

Kimberly A. & Jon* Loccisano
March 7

Bob & Marlene Ingram
March 21

CARE FACILITIES

•**Good Shepherd**
Jack Kerr 320
Mildred Posey

•**Peterson**
Jane Friebertshauser 520

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



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please take a minute to review the list, and let the church office know if there is a name that needs to be removed. Thank you.

Clem & Nancy Schutler; Kim & Buddy Bowman; Roxie Derheimer; Charlie Palmer; Susan Sampson; Parker Fox; Katie Histing; Kevin Barton; Cynthia Hileman; Frank Gilbert & Family; Richard Gilliam; Logan; Amanda Sampson; Barbara Buckwack; Anna Marie Kloss; Harry; James Gyer; Brittany Yoho; Bob & Debbie Becker; Lee; Suzanne; Ruth Wade; Ronald Sampson; 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; 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.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Lenten Word Search

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|-----------------|----------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Serving Others | Abstinence | Ash Wednesday | Cross | Crucifixion |
| Donate Money | Easter | Entry Into Jerusalem | Fasting | Fat Tuesday |
| Forty Days | Fourth Century | Give Up Something | Good Friday | |
| Holy Season | Holy Week | Last Supper | Lent | Mardi Gras |
| Maundy Thursday | Meditation | Palm Sunday | Prayer | Reflection |
| Repentance | Resurrection | Reverence | Scripture | Sins |
| | Volunteering | | | |

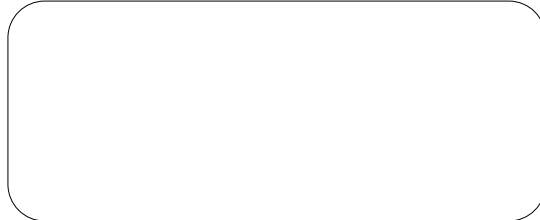
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1232 National Road
Wheeling, WV 26003

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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For Christ also suffered once for sins,
the righteous for the unrighteous,
to bring you to God.
He was put to death in the body
but made alive in the Spirit.

1 PETER 3:18, NIV

