



1232 National Road  
Wheeling, WV 26003  
304-242-2455  
christumcwheeling@gmail.com  
April 2024, Issue 325

#### 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

## What? Where? How? Who...

On the day Jesus conquered death, it was still dark when the women walked. On the day Jesus conquered death, the disciples locked the door. On the day that Jesus conquered death, Emmaus travelers packed their bags. Nothing was settled, nothing was clear. There wasn't a ton of movement in those early hours, but undoubtedly their minds were racing:

*"What will come of us? Where do we go from here? How do we move forward and when will my world feel right again?"*

They wouldn't be the last to languish in that liminal space—in the tension of transition. All of us know the burden of being in between, don't we? We canvassed this very notion a few Sundays ago. It's in these spaces, however, that we must remember the Lord not only breaks barriers to meet us there, but also blesses us *in between*. Indeed, Jesus is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, but our God is also the Lord of the in-between...and thank heavens because that's where we are!

As such, since we're *enroute now* we're often *uncertain about next*. What's true of the individual applies to the communal. Communally, as a connected body (a United Methodist body that spans the globe with some 12 million members), we're coming to a crossroads as it pertains to how we navigate and address notions of human sexuality—namely same sex marriage and the ordination of openly gay clergy. It's a tense issue within our denomination and it has been for some 50 years. There are theological persuasions across the spectrum and it seems with each passing year, the conversation comes with increasing vitriol.

Maybe you're one who hasn't had a mind about it. It's not on your radar. Some of us may be completely unaware. Conversely, others may be deeply entrenched and interested in what will come of the looming General Conference, our top legislative gathering comprised of elected delegates, both lay and clergy from every annual conference, every jurisdiction and region across the globe. On April 23-May 3<sup>rd</sup>, some 832 delegates will gather in Charlotte, North Carolina to discuss a host of issues leftover from the 2016 session (General Conference takes place every four years with 2020 being postponed due to travel difficulties associated with the pandemic). One hot-button topic will revolve around proposed resolutions/legislation pertaining to human sexuality.

Perhaps you've read columns in secular news articles. Your heartrate may quicken when words like, "split," "schism," "fracture" or "struggle" surface as prominent headlines flashing across our screens or the pages of certain publications. To be sure, as United Methodists, we're not strangers to historic struggle and the thorny theological tug-of-war that accompanies it. Subsequently, certain age-old questions could resurface. Heck, they may be plaguing your heart and mind now:

*"What will come of us? Where do we go from here? How do we move forward and when will our world feel right again?"*

*continued on page 2*

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continued from page 1

Those musings sound familiar, don't they? We're not the only ones who've spent time swimming in that specific sea of questions. I'll say it again: historic struggle isn't foreign to us. However, in a world of verbal histrionics and one-upping, the experience of civil, Christ-like conversation unfortunately is becoming more and more alien. That's why we're going to talk about it. We not only *need to talk about it*, we also need to learn what it means to model the mind of Christ amidst controversial issues of our day. Check this out: I've heard groups from both progressive and traditional sides of the spectrum say in so many words, "*Look. I've read the scriptures and given what I read, I don't know why this is even an issue.*" The fact that two people on opposite ends of the issue can say such a thing is a direct indication that we have something to learn.

That said, as General Conference approaches, we're going to create spaces—both before and after—to unpack, inform and converse without being unfairly coercive or combative. **On Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> from 5-7:00 pm in the Family Room, I am going to lead a preliminary gathering that will outline the "what" and the "how" before we jump into the theological "whys" behind the issues.**

Here's the reason: Many of us have some outside understanding of how other faith traditions or denominations have handled similar matters and thus mistakenly assume that United Methodists are simply carbon copies of the other. Oftentimes, what occurs to me is that folks can worship in church circles for 50 years and astonishingly have no idea what that church believes, how they operate and why.

Possessing this understanding is and will be crucial as we attempt to address the issues that will invariably come out of General Conference. For some seasoned saints, this is old hat. However, you may be wondering, "*What the heck is General Conference? How did we get here and why does it matter? Aren't there leaders from on high who will simply decide our denominational stance and then send it down to the masses? Other protestant faith communities have split over this. Why have we wrestled with this for as long as we have? Hasn't the UMC already split? What is Christ Church going to do?*"

Those are all great questions and worthy of our attention. If you've asked similar questions, then this initial session on the 28<sup>th</sup> is for you. Of the multiplicity of churches in the world, there are very good reasons why I am United Methodist. I am going to share some of those reasons with the hopes that you embrace the same passions. Following the initial informational gathering, (particularly as we eyeball any entailments from the closing session of General Conference on May 3<sup>rd</sup>) look for subsequent details on small group opportunities that'll allow us to think critically and dialogue respectively about human sexuality as tough and uncomfortable as it may be for many of us. Indeed, the questions still beg: *What will come? Where do we go? How will we move? When will it be over?*

Amidst all of those musings, don't forget to ask about one more: "Who?" *Who is with us? Who is in control? Who is still seated on the throne? Who is the One full of grace and truth? Who binds us together and who bids us to be one bread and one body. That question, friends, is mission critical.* There is only one answer to that most important question: Christ. Christ alone. What good is it if Christ be plastered on our marquee if Christ isn't primary on our minds?

Take it from Wesley himself: Have a pure intention of heart, a steadfast regard to His glory in all your actions. For then, and not till then, is that mind in us which was also in Christ Jesus, when in every motion of our heart, in every word of our tongue, in every work of our hands, we pursue nothing but in relation to Him, and in subordination to His pleasure; when we, too, neither think, nor speak, nor act, to fulfil our own will, but the will of Him that, sent us; when "whether we eat or drink, or whatever we do, we do it all to the glory of God" ' (*from The Doctrine of Christian Perfection*).

May it be so, friends. May it be so.

-Pastor Jake



Even after the tomb, there is a table.  
The disciples had reservations. We do too...  
...and A risen Jesus saves us a spot anyways.  
**Have a seat. There's always room for one more.**

## **Series Schedule**

April 7<sup>th</sup>, Week 1: "For Tomorrow", Luke 24: 13-35  
April 14<sup>th</sup>, Week 2: "Since Yesterday" John 21: 1-19  
April 21<sup>st</sup>, Week 3: "For Now" Matthew 28: 16-20



## 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.

## 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 is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. 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 christ umcwheeling@gmail by April 29, 2024.**

## Faith in Action

Faith in Action Caregivers is in need of volunteers. If you would like to share any of your spare time, please contact FIA at (304) 243-5420.

## April Collections for the HOC

We will be collecting toilet paper, paper towels, pancake mix (add water only mix) and pancake syrup for the pantry at the House of the Carpenter for the month of April.

Thanks to everyone that donated items in March.

## Christian Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to:

- Mary Gumbita on the death of her husband, Andy.
- Tammy Tomazoli on the death of her brother, Joe.
- Greg Smith and Bob & Joan McClelland on the death of their loved one, Debi.
- Gary & Linda Bryant and family on the death of his brother, Don.
- Bill & Joy Stephens and family on the death of his father, William Stephens, Sr.

## Diaper Project for the Gabriel Project

The Mission Team is sponsoring a diaper drive for the month of April to support the Gabriel Project. The Gabriel Project supports mothers of young children, supplying diapers,

clothing, cribs, car seats and other necessities that the mothers can't afford.

Diaper sizes needed are: 4, 5 and 6: 2T-3T and 3T-4T. They have plenty of size 1. They also have need of pull-ups, size 4-5. The Gabriel Project is one that our church supports through the Mission Team.

Thank you in advance for your support.

## Appalachian Christmas Project

The following is a list of needed items for the Appalachian Christmas Project. These items are collected throughout the year in preparation for delivery in November/December.

- Christmas wrapping paper
- New or used Christmas cards
- New or used school supplies
- New or used toys for kids (0-21)
- Childrens clothing, shoes, coats
- Motel/hotel personal care items
- Yarn
- Lap robes or blankets
- Baby blankets or miscellaneous
- Any knitted/crocheted items

If would like to donate any of the above, please drop items off at the church office.



## **Fold for Peace:** **Origami Cranes**

As a visual prayer for peace in Gaza and Israel, the West Virginia Conference Justice and Advocacy Team is asking for assistance in creating as many origami peace cranes as possible to hang during Annual Conference in June.

I hope you'll join us for this meaningful project. No experience necessary - we will practice and watch videos and help one another.

April 19, 26  
10:00 am until Noon  
Conference Room 101

## Big Day Out!



WLU Protestant Campus Ministry had a big weekend in March! We got to help package 30,000 meals for the Rise Against Hunger project hosted by three local Rotary Clubs, shared a meal together, and then went to the Fat Apple in Bridgeport, OH for some treats to take to the movies where we saw the film, Cabrini. The movie depicted Mother Cabrini's struggles to help the poor, orphaned, and marginalized Italian immigrants. The patron saint of immigrants faced resistance to her work from all sides – the church, local governments, and the community she worked in but her faith and persistence in leading people to Jesus drove her to overcome so many obstacles. She was resilient and bold in her work shining light on social justice issues, much like the work we are called to do as disciples of Jesus.

## Easter Fun

We had one of our campus ministry students join us for worship and the children's egg hunt, which was held in the fellowship hall. The children enjoyed finding all the eggs filled with candy, the golden eggs that contained Lego pieces to create some Easter toys, and took a craft to make at home.



## News from the New Covenant Unit

The women of the New Covenant Unit elected to distribute \$2,500 of their 2023 fundraising at their February meeting. The donations were made as follows:

### House of the Carpenter

\$500

### Wheeling Health Right

\$500

### Wheeling Soup Kitchen

\$500

### Wheeling YWCA

\$500

### Laughlin Chapel

\$250

### Street MOMs (HoH Share)

\$250

The New Covenant Unit (NCU) was formerly part of United Methodist Women (UMW). When the UMW rebranded in 2023 to become United Women In Faith, the NCU chose to not continue the affiliation. By doing so, NCU is unencumbered of the conference, national, and worldwide administrative support and practice of making a mission pledge. We will continue the mission of supporting women and children in particular and are free to choose the recipients. Though the 2023 giving reflects a local emphasis, we are not limited to this.

NCU meets the second Monday of most months, though January and July are often skipped. In May mothers and daughters (i.e. ALL

women) are celebrated, in August there is a picnic which includes spouses, and in December we have much fun with a White Elephant Auction. As volunteer help is available, we will have fundraisers such as the evergreen wreath sale. NCU welcomes ALL women of the church for fellowship, mutual support, informative programs, and cooperative ministries.

- Shelby Straub & Colette McFadden are co-presidents.
- Carol Carroll & Cheryl Sprague are co-secretaries.
- Winnie Hurd is treasurer.

# 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  
 Wayne Smith 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 & Ed\* Kosanovic**  
 April 20

**Jason & Patricia  
 Cunningham**  
 April 24

**Kevin & Stacey Collins**  
 April 25

**Lance & Lisa\* Griffin**  
 April 25

**Gerry & Cindy\* Griffith**  
 April 29

**Jackie & Steve Johnston**  
 April 29

## 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 re-view the list, and let the church office know if there is a name that could be removed. Thank you.**

Randy Jones; 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; 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 Hought; 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 Word Search

### Books of the Old Testament

R	H	A	G	G	A	I	G	J	O	N	A	H	E	I	S	A	I	A	H
E	C	C	L	E	S	I	A	S	T	E	S	A	U	H	S	O	J	F	H
S	E	G	D	U	J	E	W	E	S	T	H	E	R	S	G	N	I	K	O
T	B	N	O	M	O	L	O	S	F	O	G	N	O	S	M	B	Y	C	S
A	M	O	S	L	O	Z	Y	M	O	N	O	R	E	T	U	E	D	O	E
W	K	K	K	E	K	R	V	O	Y	H	T	U	R	H	A	Q	B	R	A
K	U	B	Y	U	P	F	K	I	B	L	Q	V	D	A	N	I	E	L	A
L	K	O	C	M	S	S	K	H	I	A	E	V	E	W	I	F	O	M	Z
A	K	J	L	A	E	A	H	J	K	K	D	V	P	X	W	I	K	Y	N
M	A	K	S	S	L	M	A	P	U	C	D	I	I	F	O	C	I	M	Q
E	B	I	B	C	C	U	I	P	D	H	V	L	A	T	Z	D	F	C	S
N	A	N	R	J	I	E	R	H	H	G	A	O	U	H	I	C	U	I	Z
T	H	J	E	E	N	L	A	A	A	J	X	M	N	F	H	C	S	S	N
A	M	S	V	R	O	I	H	I	C	O	K	N	A	T	V	E	U	K	A
T	L	M	O	E	R	S	C	M	I	E	A	U	T	L	N	C	C	S	H
I	T	L	R	M	H	W	E	E	M	L	R	M	Q	E	A	J	M	C	U
O	K	A	P	I	C	E	Z	H	I	X	Z	B	G	F	I	C	E	I	M
N	E	S	H	A	F	E	I	E	B	N	E	E	Z	V	L	X	H	E	M
S	M	P	S	H	G	Y	H	N	H	V	V	R	Q	U	A	G	H	I	Y
W	N	H	A	I	N	A	H	P	E	Z	S	S	E	Z	E	K	I	E	L

AMOS  
CHRONICLES  
DANIEL  
DEUTERONOMY  
ECCLESIASTES  
ESTHER  
EXODUS  
EZEKIEL  
EZRA  
GENESIS  
HABAKKUK  
HAGGAI  
HOSEA

ISAIAH  
JEREMIAH  
JOB  
JOEL  
JONAH  
JOSHUA  
JUDGES  
KINGS  
LAMENTATIONS  
LEVITICUS  
MALACHI  
MICAH  
NAHUM

NEHEMIAH  
NUMBERS  
OBADIAH  
PROVERBS  
PSALMS  
RUTH  
SAMUEL  
SAMUEL  
SONG OF SOLOMON  
ZECHARIAH  
ZEPHANIAH





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