



1232 National Road
Wheeling, WV 26003
304-242-2455
christumcwheeling@gmail.com
July 2025, Issue 336

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. Joe Hill

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

Jaime Lafferty

Nursery Attendant

Ron Miller

Custodian

The Spire

As I write this, most of us have yet to meet. By the time you read this, It's likely that we will have shared at least our first Sunday together. So in a sense, I guess I'm writing to you from yesterday. What could I possibly write about the future, even if it is just a week or two away?

Since I cannot confidently guess much about the future, I'll come back to the present. I know, that's a few yesterdays ago for you, but stay with me. So a few yesterdays ago, Christina and I were already feeling at home even in a house full of boxes. That is to your credit as a congregation. Your many expressions of welcome before we ever arrived and the members who have visited since have encouraged both of our hearts a great deal and added so much to our excitement about staying in Wheeling.

I say "staying" because we have visited Wheeling almost every year of our thirty years together; either for reunions or work conferences, or to visit my aunt and uncle. As I type this, it occurs to me that since my parents moved us to Huntington in 1985, I have rarely gone more than a year without returning to Wheeling for one reason or another. Nevertheless, it is not lost on Christie or I that we have been visitors. To be a visitor, no matter how frequently, is not very different from being a stranger to the real and deep life of a place. Yet it is hard to really feel that way about that piece of Wheeling that is Christ UMC. Christie and I feel already that we are home. Now that stems in part from the perspective on life out of which we live. It was best said by an Indian mystic, Rabindranath Tagore. To paraphrase: "The man who is at home in his own soul can be at home anywhere." More than that, we and you have known and loved more than a few of the same people. Most defining of the feeling Christie and I have of feeling at home is that we and you love and take seriously the life and teaching of the same Jesus, devotion to the same Father, and the sustaining power of the Holy Spirit. Both of us have felt this in your cards, your emails, the wonderful conversations we have already had with members and church leaders, and in all we have read and seen of the work Christ UMC does in caring for one another and for the community. Indeed Christie and I are very glad to be in a congregation where our hearts feel so much common ground.

So today we are happy to be here. We are happy to be staying instead of visiting. Most of all we are happy and eager to share in and contribute to the life of Christ UMC and the life of this city; together with you. I am certain, by the time you read this, that feeling will have only grown stronger.

Yours in Christ,
Joe Hill

Family Life Ministry: Summer Opportunities and Connections

Summer is here, and that means children and families are enjoying time outdoors, traveling, and taking a well-earned break. Even in these busy months, we are finding meaningful ways to connect with kids and our community!

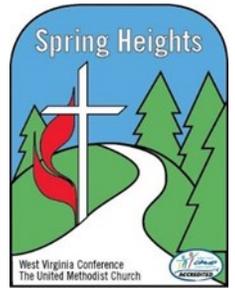
Open Gym at the House of the Carpenter

Every Wednesday from noon to 2 p.m., Jennifer Vickers and Diann Nickerson have been hosting *Open Gym* at the House of the Carpenter on Wheeling Island. This is a wonderful time to get to know the neighborhood kids, share a light lunch, and build relationships. Jennifer's children, Silas and Zoe, come along to play basketball and volleyball with everyone. Young people are invited to join us—come make new friends and have some summer fun!

Spring Heights Camp and Retreat Center

Spring Heights is the outdoor camping ministry of the West Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church. This ministry offers creative experiences and a safe, loving environment where kids can grow in their faith, care for God's creation, and build friendships that can last a lifetime.

Summer camps will begin soon, and there are many options to choose from—whether your child loves adventure, arts, or simply wants to make new friends in a caring Christian community. Brochures with camp details, FAQs, cost information, and scholarship resources are available. If you have children in your life who would benefit from this experience, please see Diann for more information.



Vacation Bible School: Truth North – Finding Jesus in a Wild World
Planning is underway for this year's Vacation Bible School, *Truth North – Finding Jesus in a Wild World*. We are excited to partner with First Christian Church, St. Mark's Lutheran, and Vance Presbyterian to host VBS together! There are many ways you can help—from decorating to serving snacks to leading activities.

Please take a look at the bulletin board in the Narthex or call Tammy Tomazoli or Diann Nickerson to learn more. And don't forget to invite the children in your life to come explore, learn, and discover the love of Jesus!



Staying Connected This Summer

Although most students are away during the summer months, Campus Ministry remains active on campus. Each week, we provide dinner for the Summer Resident Assistants who work hard to support camps and conferences. These meals are a big hit—no cafeteria food required! — and offer a chance for fellowship and encouragement.

Looking ahead, plans are underway for fall semester programming. We are collaborating with the Campus Life staff on a service opportunity that will launch in the coming months—keep an eye out for details soon! Also in the works is our annual Ice Cream Social to kick off the new school year in August.

Thank you for supporting these ministries that help children, youth, and young adults feel welcomed, loved, and inspired in their faith journeys.

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

Craig S.,II* Arensberg July 1
 Cassandra Collins July 2
 Dennis T. Lee July 3
 Susan Mallett July 3
 Tammy Tomazoli July 3
 Linda Wagenheim July 3
 Patricia Cunningham July 4
 Shannon Gessler July 4
 Sam Milton July 5
 John Rush July 5
 Richard McCardle July 6
 D. Scott Jones July 7
 Kathleen Knight July 7
 Jason* Smaltz July 10
 Miranda Sykes July 10
 Julianne Rose Collins July 11
 Jennifer Taylor July 11
 Spencer* Coleman July 12
 Jada Taylor July 13
 Joseph P.* Howley July 14
 Adam* Koonce July 14
 Daniel Young July 14
 Derek* Channel July 17
 Stephen Wharton July 17
 David Bitzer July 18
 Lance R. Griffin July 18
 Olivia Kiger-Camilo July 18
 Benjamin, II Statler July 18
 John* Waris July 18
 Pam Milton July 20
 Nicole Reid July 20
 Wesley* Wright July 20
 Camden* Crosten July 22
 Teagan* Crosten July 22
 Benjamin Ellwood July 22
 Jenny L. McCardle July 22
 Jaclyn Sprague-Glynn July 22
 Dylan Elias* Griffin July 23
 Carter* Kidd July 23
 Angie* Behrens July 24
 Lisa Kepner July 24
 Sara* Wright July 24
 Brittney Bragg July 25
 Richard* Roberts July 25
 Jacob Straub July 26
 Lisa M. Conner July 27

Isaac* Bedway July 28
 Colette McFadden July 28
 Jamie Crow July 30
 Sally Schmalz July 30
 Jarred Smith July 30
 David Croft July 31
 Christopher Kiedaisch July 31
 Leslie Kosanovic July 31
 Ryan* Mudge July 31

Mark & Julie Lindsay
July 4

Bill & Nancy Deibert
July 7

Bill & Joy* Stephens
July 7

Rick & Susan Mallett
July 8

Roger* & Debbie Micker
July 11

Randy & Brenda Straub
July 11

Buddy* & Kim* Bowman
July 12

Jake* & Emily* Steele
July 14

Charles & Beth* Heyman
July 16

Errol & Christy Sambuco
July 18

Russell & Mary Lu Hutchins
July 27

Donald* & Pam Smith
July 29

John & Sandy Warnick
July 31



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 .

Robert Park; Kevin Long; Jose Cintron; Kathryn Andenoro; Roxie Derheimer; Christine Collins; James; Bruce & Mary Bandi; Lois Pace; John Applegate; 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.; 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; 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.

CARE FACILITIES

- **Good Shepherd**
Denny Hon - 235
Jack Kerr - 320
CeCe Kiedaisch - 256
- **Brightwood Center Follansbee**
José Cintron

Christian Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are with the following:

- Dick Brown on the passing of his wife, Mary.

Mary sadly passed away on April 30 after a long battle with dementia and related health problems. A celebration of her life was held with family and friends on June 14th in Berea, KY. She cherished her time in Wheeling and the wonderful people at CUMC.

- Bill Metzner, Jr. & Family on the death of his father, William Metzner, Sr.

HOC Donations

For the month of July, we are collecting the following for the House of the Carpenter: **any variety of cracker; vegetable oil; sugar; salt & pepper; dried fruit/peanuts (trail mix); ketchup and lemonade mix.**

Baptism

Lucy Rebecca Morris was baptized on Sunday, May 18, 2025. She is the daughter of Devin & Niki Morris; granddaughter of Amy & Scott Morris and great-granddaughter of Carolyn Smith.

Congratulations to all.

Change of Address

Pastor Jake & Emily's new address: 110 Mulberry Drive, Hurricane, WV 25526

Flood Relief

If you would like to donate for flood relief in Wheeling, please make your check payable to the church and note "Flood Relief" in the memo line.

If you have any questions, contact the church office at christumcwheeling@gmail.com or 304-242-2455.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to serve as liturgists for the 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. worship services for the month of August. Please sign up and help where you can.

Adult Sunday School

The 9:45 study in the Wayne Smith room will continue through the summer. We will be

doing an interactive Bible study based on the Chosen Series (Season 1). The title of the series is "What Does It Mean to Be Chosen".

My Name Is...

Learning names and faces takes time - so let's help out! Each Sunday in July, we're inviting everyone to wear a name tag to help Pastor Joe and Christie get to know us better.

Be sure to arrive a few minutes early, grab a marker, and proudly write your name. Let's make it easy for our new pastor to feel right at home!

Small Group Gatherings

We'll be hosting small group gatherings throughout the next few months so Pastor Joe and Christie can get to know your gifts, passions, and stories. Keep an eye out for upcoming invitations.



RUNNING the RACE

SUMMER Reading Plan

Life – and exercise – move at different paces for different people.

Some enjoy leisurely walks, strolls or rolls, while others speed-walk, jog or even sprint. Some people have a 26.2 sticker on their vehicle, indicating they've run a marathon, while others boast of running a half-marathon (13.1) or no marathon (0.0)!

Thankfully, you don't have to be an athlete of any kind to run the Christian "race." The Bible uses running metaphors, however, to encourage followers of Jesus to train, focus, persevere and attain the heavenly prize. Use this Summer Reading Plan to strengthen your faith and your relationship with Jesus. Complete one square each day or every other day, and you'll journey through significant chunks of the New Testament this summer. Feel free to invite a friend or family member to join you as a "running partner"!



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Mile 1 Read Philippians 1

Re-read verse 6 and consider how your faith journey is a work in progress.

Mile 3 Read Philippians 3

Look back at verses 13 and 14, and brainstorm a list of ways to keep your eyes on the heavenly "prize."

Mile 5 Read Colossians 1

Re-read verse 11. Name three specific ways God gives you strength and endurance.

Mile 7 Read Colossians 3

Look back at verses 23 and 24. What keeps you running for God, not for other people or for personal accolades?

Mile 9 Read 1 Timothy 1

Doodle about how God's law keeps you from wandering away from him.

Mile 11 Read 1 Timothy 3

What aspects of staying "above reproach" are most challenging for you as a follower of Jesus?

Mile 13 Read 1 Timothy 5

Anonymously perform a kind deed for someone in your family or community.

Mile 15 Read 2 Timothy 1

Describe specific ways your life reveals a spirit of power, a spirit of love and a spirit of self-discipline.

Mile 17 Read 2 Timothy 3

Add a daily Bible-reading time to your spiritual training regimen.

Mile 19 Read James 1

Look back at verse 12. Reflect on how God has kept his promises to you. How does that help you during times of trial?

Mile 21 Read James 3

Re-read verses 17 and 18. Pray for godly wisdom as you continue your faith journey.

Mile 23 Read James 5

After re-reading verse 19, think of ways to reach out to people who have wandered away from God.

Mile 25 Read John 20:1-18

Consider how the good news of Jesus' resurrection gives you reasons to run and share the Gospel message.

Mile 26.2 Read Revelation 2:10 Praise God aloud: "Come, Lord Jesus!"

➔ Mile 2 Read Philippians 2

Re-read verse 5 and pray to have the same attitude as Jesus.

Mile 4 Read Philippians 4

Write verse 13 on a sticky note and place it where you'll see it daily.

Mile 6 Read Colossians 2

Review verses 6 and 7, make a gratitude list and say a prayer of thanks to God.

Mile 8 Read Colossians 4

Write a note or letter to someone who needs spiritual encouragement.

Mile 10 Read 1 Timothy 2

Re-read verses 5 and 6. Offer praise to Jesus for being our mediator and ransom — and for running the race perfectly for us.

Mile 12 Read 1 Timothy 4

As you exercise, ponder verse 8 and brainstorm ways to build your spiritual muscles.

Mile 14 Read 1 Timothy 6

Review verses 11 and 12. In what ways might faith be viewed as a fight? To whom have you made bold profession of your faith?

Mile 16 Read 2 Timothy 2

Re-read verse 5. The next time you participate in or watch a sporting event, compare the value of God's "victor's crown" to earthly achievements.

Mile 18 Read 2 Timothy 4

Memorize verse 7. Think about people you know who have already "finished the race." How can their example strengthen you?

Mile 20 Read James 2

Put your faith into action today by meeting someone's needs.

Mile 22 Read James 4

Review verse 8. Confess your sins to God and ask him to come near you.

Mile 24 Read Luke 15:11-32

When have you run away from God? What brought you back? When have you seen proof of God running toward you (see verse 20, as well as James 4:8)?

➔ Mile 26 Read 1 John 1

Re-read verse 7. Write "Walk in the Light" on a sticky note, and place it by a lamp or light switch.



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