



1232 National Road  
Wheeling, WV 26003  
304-242-2455  
christumcwheeling@gmail.com  
August 2025, Issue 337

#### 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

As I predicted in the last Spire article, Christie and I are even happier to be here! Most of the unpacking at the parsonage has been completed. Meanwhile, here at the church, we have unpacked a lot of information and questions and possibilities during our Onboarding session with members of the Christ UMC family on July 12<sup>th</sup>. Christie and I enjoyed letting the participants get to know us a little better and we enjoyed learning about the congregation. The session helped me to get a feel for your expectations of your pastor and some areas of growth and ministry on which we might focus together going forward.

As with moving into a house, unpacking the smaller boxes in the life of the church takes a little longer. We have mentioned now several times in worship my intent to have small group gatherings with all of the members of the congregation. I don't expect those to be as structured as the Onboarding session. These will be times of conversation for members to get to know Christie and me. These will also be times for Christie and me to know all of you better. I intentionally use the word conversation, not interrogation. I don't intend to pelt people with questions. We'll talk (maybe we'll eat???) and we'll pray. What will we talk about? Honestly, whatever. I have a great deal of confidence in God's active presence during conversations. Even a conversation about everyday life can lead to wonderful ideas and deeper relationships.

I will be working with church leadership to start organizing the small group conversations in early August. Hopefully we will have small group conversations happening before the end of August. In the meantime, I want you to know that you are always welcome to stop by my office for a visit during the week. Bring a friend or four if you like. We've got room and we've got coffee. If coffee isn't your thing, we'll happily provide an alternative with a little advance notice. If you would rather meet out in the community or at your home, that's fine too. Just email or call me or call the church office and we will set up a date and time. Lastly, if you already have a small group you want to put together, go for it! Let me know where and when to be there and we'll make it happen. Whether it's a small group or a personal visit, I look forward to our conversations.

Talk to You Soon...A Lot, Hopefully,  
Pastor Joe

*The Spire*

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# CONNECTING WITH OUR NEIGHBORS

We've had several opportunities to be in partnership with folks in our community and around the state.

In April 2025, Caitlin Ware, Co-Director of *From Below: Rising Together for Coalfield Justice*, presented a compelling report to our congregation on the ongoing water crisis in West Virginia—specifically in the southern counties including McDowell and Wyoming Counties. Citizens of McDowell County have established a water buffalo process that allows the residence to get clean water twice a month.

The Mission Team was deeply moved by the severity of the crisis and the impact it continues to have on families in the region who lack reliable access to clean, safe drinking water. As a faith community committed to justice, compassion, and service, we believe we are called to respond in a tangible and impactful way.

## WV Water Project Overview

To address the immediate need for clean drinking water in Wyoming County, we proposed supporting a two-pronged initiative:

1. **Water Trailer for Clean Water Distribution:** This initiative would provide weekly water distributions for local families in Wyoming County. Each participating household would receive three refillable, reusable one-gallon jugs, which they can fill weekly at a local water refilling station. This project will be facilitated by the West Virginia United Methodist Church (WVUMC) Disaster Team.

**UMCOR WASH Grant Matching Funds:** In addition to the water trailer, we propose providing matching funds for a Phase 2 grant through the UMCOR WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) Grant Program. This grant would further expand access to water infrastructure and sanitation efforts across the region.

We requested a total of **\$16,000** be allocated from the **Green Bequest Fund** to support the **Water Crisis Project of WV**, as outlined below:

- **\$13,000** to the **WVUMC Disaster Team** To fund the purchase of a water trailer, necessary supplies, permits, and equipment to ensure regular clean water distribution to families in Wyoming County.
- **\$3,000** to the **UMCOR WASH Grant Program** This donation would serve as matching funds for a Phase 2 WASH grant totaling an additional \$20,000.

Wednesday, July 9th — we were surprised last evening when the Wylie Water Trailer (#2) was delivered at the Depot — only one day after its manufacture was completed. This trailer is destined for clean water deliveries in Wyoming County.

#waterforwv #wvumc  
<https://wyliesprayers.com/.../express-potable-water-trailer/>



The water buffalo has been purchased and is now on its way to the residents of Wyoming County! A big thank you to the Mission Team for finding a way for Christ UMC to help our southern neighbors.



## Continued Summer Ministry: House of the Carpenter Open Gym

Our outreach doesn't end with VBS! Every Wednesday this summer, we've been spending time with kids at the House of the Carpenter Open Gym on Wheeling Island. From 12:00 to 2:00 PM, we offer a light lunch, games, and much-needed connection. This simple act of presence is a blessing to the community—and to us.

Would you like to help out? We'll be there August 6, and August 13, and we'd love to have you join us. Contact Diann Nickerson at [nickerson246@gmail.com](mailto:nickerson246@gmail.com) or **304-312-0347** to volunteer.

A big shout-out to Jennifer Vickers, Jane Wallace, and Jenny Wetzel for showing up and making a difference this summer!

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## Flood Bucket Assistance Project

During Annual Conference, Bishop Wallace - Padgett challenged us to replenish the supply of **flood buckets**, which were in critically short supply. Since then, several areas in our state have experienced severe flooding, and we want to respond with love and action.

In partnership with **WLU Campus Ministry and the Housing Office**, we will be assembling flood buckets in August to support relief efforts.

### How You Can Help:



- **Donate items or cash** toward the project. A complete list of needed supplies is posted on the Narthex bulletin board or you find a list of items below.
- **Collection boxes** for donations will be available beginning **July 27th** and continuing through **August 17th**.

The Housing Office will assemble the flood buckets the week of **August 18th**.

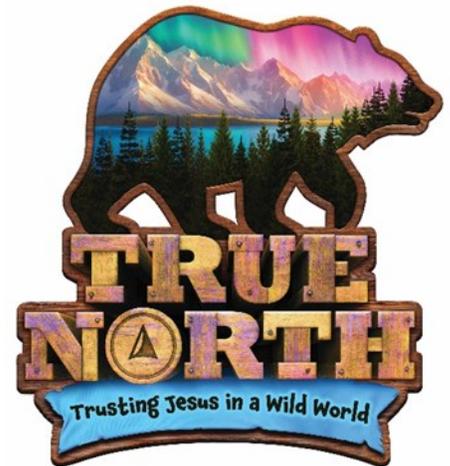
### Jesus in the Wild: A Joyful VBS and Ongoing Outreach

This summer, Vacation Bible School brought a powerful reminder of what happens when churches come together for a greater purpose. In partnership with First Christian Church, St. Mark Lutheran, and Vance Memorial Presbyterian, we welcomed over 40 children through our doors for *Trusting Jesus in a Wild World*—a week-long journey exploring how to trust Jesus in all circumstances: when we're full of questions, feeling alone, needing help, or searching for hope.

One of the most touching moments came when a child went home and asked his mom to read more about Jesus. That night, little Wyatt told his mom he wanted to ask Jesus into his heart. What a beautiful example of how seeds planted during VBS can grow into deep, lasting faith.

### This is why we do what we do.

Each song sung, craft made, snack served, and Bible story shared opens a door to God's love—and none of it would be possible without our volunteers. You are the heart and hands of this ministry, and your generosity made a lasting impact. THANK YOU for being part of this mission. (And until you're better paid... know that you are deeply appreciated!)



### Annual Congregational Picnic

Get ready for one of our favorite church traditions — our Annual Church Picnic! Join us on Sunday, August 17 at 10:00 AM at Oglebay Park's Levenson Shelter for a joyful morning filled with worship, food, fellowship, and fun for all ages!



We'll kick things off with a meaningful outdoor message, followed by a mouth-watering picnic lunch — bring your appetite! The church will provide the meat and drinks, and we are asking the congregation to bring side dishes. After we eat, stick around for a lineup of games and activities designed for both the young *and* the young at heart.

Whether you're looking to relax and reconnect or jump into some friendly competition, there's truly something for everyone. Bring your lawn chair, your smile, and your pew mate — we can't wait to see our whole church family together, celebrating summer and God's goodness! Let's make memories together — don't miss it!



# UMCOR

• **Global Ministries | The United Methodist Church**

## Cleaning Kit

Value: \$75.00 per kit

### Cleaning Kit Materials

- **One five-gallon round bucket with lid (14.35" h x 12.19" w x 12.19" d)**
  - No screw lids.
  - May be used, but must be free from all residual product.
  - Advertisement on the outside acceptable.
- **One 32–64 oz. bottle liquid laundry detergent**
- **One 16–40 oz. bottle liquid concentrate household cleaner**
  - No spray cleaners
- **One 16–34 oz. bottle liquid dish soap**
- **One 4–8 oz. pump spray air freshener**
- **One 6–14 oz. pump spray insect repellent (pack of 10–20 wipes also acceptable)**
  - Pump spray bottles must have protective covers.
- **One scrub brush**
  - With or without handle
- **18 re-usable cleaning wipes**
  - No terrycloth, microfiber, or paper towels
  - Remove from packaging.
- **Five scouring pads**
  - No stainless steel or pads with soap in them
  - Remove from packaging.
- **36–50 clothespins**
- **One 50–100 ft. clothesline (cotton or plastic line)**
- **24 roll of heavy-duty trash bags (33–45-gallon sizes)**
  - Remove from packaging.
- **Five N95 particulate respirator dust masks (1–3 mm thickness)**
  - No surgical masks
- **Two pairs kitchen gloves**
  - Durable for multiple uses
  - Remove from packaging.
- **One pair work gloves**
  - Cotton with leather palm or all leather

Last updated September 2024

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### **AssemblyDirections**

- Place all liquid items on the bottom of the bucket.
- Place remaining items in the bucket fitting them around and between the liquid items.
- Scouring pads and trash bags can be separated to fit all items in the bucket.
- Clothespins may also be placed in a small re-sealable bag.
- Secure the lid on the filled bucket.

### **ImportantNotes**

- All items must be new except for the bucket and lid.
- All cleaning agents must be in liquid form. No powders are accepted.
- If items have been omitted, label bucket. Please indicate which items are missing.
- Sponges have been removed from the list of supplies due to the challenge of locating the non-cellulose sponges that prevent mildew. Non-cellulose sponges will be added to each bucket upon arrival at the affiliate warehouse.
- Do not include any personal notes, money, or additional materials in the kits.
- Contents of kits or the containers of kits should not be imprinted with cartoon characters, advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols.

### **InstructionsforPackingandShippingKits**

- Packed buckets cannot exceed 70 pounds.
- Please send a single check to the Sager Brown Depot or the affiliate warehouse that will receive your donation of cleaning kits.
- The check amount should cover the total number of kits times \$3.00 for the cost of sponges and shipping.
- Do not place check inside the box of cleaning kits. Please mail under a separate cover. On the memo line, indicate that the funds are a donation to cover costs associated with relief supply kits.

**For the most up to date and accurate Relief Supply Kit List, go to**

**<https://umcmmission.org/umcor-relief-supplies/>.**

**Scan theQR Code:**



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# August Birthdays & Anniversaries

Laurie Ruberg	Aug. 2
Jeffrey* Joseph	Aug. 3
Beverly Straub	Aug. 4
Jennifer Heyman, III	Aug. 5
Richard Mallett	Aug. 5
Stacey Collins	Aug. 6
Erick* Schmalz	Aug. 6
Willow* Conner	Aug. 7
Brenda Duvall	Aug. 7
Gary Kiedaisch	Aug. 7
Justin* Willson	Aug. 7
Anne* Wilmoth	Aug. 8
Elizabeth* Godown	Aug. 9
Linda Cornell	Aug. 10
Matthew Straub	Aug. 10
Chad Bryant	Aug. 11
David Croft	Aug. 11
Benjamin Depew	Aug. 11
David Jackson	Aug. 11
Gina* Behrens	Aug. 13
Dorothy Harman	Aug. 13
Donald Kidd	Aug. 13
Aiko Onishi	Aug. 13
Carly* Arensberg	Aug. 14
Belinda Austen	Aug. 14
Jonathon* Hornyak	Aug. 15
Barbara Valentine	Aug. 16
Lily* Morris	Aug. 19
Hanna Frazier	Aug. 20
Laeken Beale	Aug. 22
Judith Wright	Aug. 22
Michael* Soard	Aug. 23
Katie Wheeler	Aug. 23
Tracy Stobbs	Aug. 24
Kaleigh Bryant	Aug. 26
Dave Goodwin	Aug. 26
Caroline* Voegelin	Aug. 26
Benjamin* Wilson	Aug. 27
Robert McClelland	Aug. 28
Kortney Bryant	Aug. 29
Taylor Broadwater	Aug. 30
Eric Brown	Aug. 30
Katherine Kiger	Aug. 30
Bobbi Nally	Aug. 30
Emerson* Young	Aug. 31

**Ben & Danielle Ellwood**  
August 6

**Lou & Jane Costanzo**  
August 8

**Tim & Joyce\* Mudge**  
August 11

**Denis\* & Erin Markan**  
August 12

**Roger\* & Marilyn Smith**  
August 12

**Timothy & Susan Large**  
August 13

**David & Lisa Sims**  
August 15

**Vincent & Betty Lazear**  
August 18

**Tom & Kathy\* Posey**  
August 19

**John & Donita Rush**  
August 28

**Craig & Kathleen Knight**  
August 31

## CARE FACILITIES

### •Good Shepherd

Denny Hon - 235  
Jack Kerr - 320  
CeCe Kiedaisch - 256

### •UPMC Shadyside

José Cintron, Rm 625 Main  
UPMC Shadyside  
5230 Centre Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15232

## HOC Food Pantry Donations

We will be collecting the following for the House of the Carpenter for the month of August: any variety of crackers; stuffing mix; beef broth; chicken broth and egg noodles.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Please take a minute to review the list, and let the church office know if there are any names to be removed.**

Matthew; Straub; Robert Park; Kevin Long; Jose Cintron; 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.

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# Sunday School Kickoff

**September 07, 2025**  
**9:45 - 10:45**

## Children

**4 years - 1st Grade - Tammy Tomazoli**  
**2nd Grade - 5th Grade - Marci Marshall and Cheryl Sprague**

**Location - 1st Floor Education Wing**

(Please note that this arrangement depends upon the number of students signed up for the Sunday School Sessions.) Registration Forms can be obtained in the Narthex and should be turned in to the instructor upon their first day of attendance.

The curriculum will be Cokesbury Kids *Big Faith this Fall, focusing in September on "Lifeline" - God Rescues Us, in October, "Shelter", God Protects Us, and in November, "Road Map", God Shows Us the Way.* A Scope and Sequence will be available for the 2025 - 2026 year once a participant has registered.

## Youth

**Middle School - by Committee**

**Location - 3rd Floor Youth Room**

Registration Forms for this class can be obtained in the Narthex and through the website. The instructor will collect the form on the first day of one's attendance.

Mr. Sprague will facilitate but welcomes volunteers to help with this endeavor. All Youth should arrive at the first session with a Registration Form.

With the Bible as the centerpiece, the Middle Schoolers will learn about the life and lessons of Jesus' teachings. A variety of topics will emerge including the Parables, the Trinity, Christian Symbols, and stories of the Bible, all of which are pertinent to one's life.

## Adults

**Inquirers' Class**

**Winnie Hurd - Facilitator**

**Location: 1st Floor Education Wing**

The Inquirers Class is reading Richard Rohr's book, *The Tears of Things, this Summer and will discuss it in the Fall when we resume meeting. The Tears here are those in weeping (not tearing), and signify a vulnerability before God and growing awareness of*

*God's love. Concurrently they represent an inherent sadness in many life events. In Rohr's words, "All things have tears and all things deserve tears...grief and sadness are doorways to understanding life in a non-egocentric way...coming from both awe and empathy."*

Rohr proposes that the prophets would not allow their people to be disloyal to their God who loves them. He interprets the message of Biblical prophets to some 20th Century people, for instance Isaiah and Martin Luther King, Jr; Jeremiah and Greta Thunberg; Micah and Desmond Tutu.

The book is available in standard outlets. A 15-page study guide is available as well. Winnie Hurd (304-242-5597, [winhurd@gmail.com](mailto:winhurd@gmail.com)) has it in digital and print format. If you would like to engage in our reading and discussion, join us in Room 108 at 9:45 AM Sunday mornings. Inquirers is a facilitated discussion class (not teaching) and voices are welcome!

**Seekers for Christ Class**

**Colette McFadden and Carole Adams**

**Facilitators**

**Location - Wayne Smith Conference Room**

**Begins: August 24, 2025**

The Seekers for Christ adult Sunday School class will begin a new study titled "Bible Stories for Grown-ups: reading scripture with new eyes" by Josh Scott. We will begin with the introduction on August 24, 2025, then spend the next several weeks looking at very familiar stories like Noah and the Great Flood through renewed perspectives. Whether you are a faithful reader of the Bible or sometimes feel confused by it, the goal of the study is to encourage you to ask questions, spur your curiosity and reimagine what the stories of the Bible might be saying to you. Class meets at 9:45 a.m. Sunday morning in the Wayne Smith Conference Room, just off the soft lounge near the Narthex. We hope to see you there.

Keep in mind that additional adult classes may become available as the year progresses. The congregation will be informed via Constant Contact, the Spire, and the Bulletin.





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August

