



1232 National Road  
Wheeling, WV 26003  
304-242-2455  
christumcwheeling@gmail.com  
October 2025, Issue 339

#### 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

### An Invitation to Spiritual Practices with Pastor Joe

In our worship together, we have touched several times on the two-sided nature of growing in faith. We have talked about the mysterious working of God in our lives. Sometimes certain qualities or characteristics begin to surface and grow in our lives in ways we can't quite explain. We have also talked about the idea that along with the mysterious work of God, we must bring intention, a willingness, to the work. As best we can, we allow God to shape our lives and we share that life with the world in which we live. If I think of God as a sculptor, I don't want God finding me to be a stubborn lump of clay resisting God's vision for what God intends me to be. How can I intentionally keep the clay of my heart, my mind, even my life, in a good condition for the Divine Artist to use?

I would like to offer an opportunity for us to consider and practice some of the ways we can be intentional in keeping our lives, our hearts, and our minds available and open to God. These practices are not at all mysterious. They are not just for "special" Disciples or experts. They are practices any and all of us can and should make use of to better be intentional participants in God's mysterious work in our lives.

I will be offering sessions at Christ UMC for us to learn about and try various spiritual practices. These sessions will not primarily be book studies. The majority of our time will be spent learning and trying different spiritual disciplines, supporting one another, and learning from one another as we share our experiences with one another. Among other practices, we will try different ways of engaging with scripture, approaches to prayer, variations on fasting, and methods of self-examination.

The first session will be held on Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Wayne Smith Conference Room. We will meet monthly on every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday. I look forward to traveling this journey with you.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Joe

*The Spire*

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## Helping Others in Need



Using our Gifts for God's Purposes Christ UMC has partnered again with our sisters and brothers in McDowell County, this time to sustain their weekend Backpack Ministry. The ministry has historically provided weekend meals for school-age children in need. Unlike the Backpack Ministry in Ohio County, the funding for the McDowell County program relied entirely on federal grants that have recently been cut.

Christ UMC has contributed \$10,000.00 to First UMC in Welch, WV to help keep this ministry alive in McDowell County. First UMC in Welch

will be working with The Five Loaves and Two Fishes Food Bank in Kimball, WV to provide weekend meals for 250 children in their part of the county.

Pastor Joe was happy to make the drive to Welch in order to deliver the check on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Rev. Brad Davis, Pastor at First UMC in Welch, took Pastor Joe to visit to the food bank where he met Bob and Linda McKinney, operators of Five Loaves and Two Fishes. The McKinney's have extended the Christ UMC family an open-door invitation to visit anytime.

## A Visit with Dottie Richardson

Our friends over at Elmhurst had an outing to visit Dottie Richardson and had a luncheon in her honor. Pastor Joe was invited to join the fun and offer a brief worship service. Dottie, who was expected to remain in a wheelchair indefinitely, showed off her regained walking ability and took a lap around the room. In his reflections during worship, Pastor Joe offered that the vision of having life more abundantly is in part fulfilled by the friends we gather in this life. There may be an abundance of burdens shared and struggles endured, but always an abundance of love and joy. We are thankful for the abundant life that Dottie is blessed to enjoy even now.



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## Family Life

### Church Kids

The start of the school year can bring both excitement and anxiety. Our back-to-school prayer was offered in recognition of the challenges and opportunities that come with new beginnings.

This year brought big changes for our own Christ Kids, Zoe and Silas Vickers—and they are thriving! After being homeschooled, Zoe (7th grade) and Silas (9th grade) began attending East Richland Christian School. We're delighted to share that both are excelling academically.

Their very first mid-term grades are in, and despite never having taken classroom tests before, Zoe and Silas have risen to the challenge. Zoe, now a student-athlete, has A+ across the board, while Silas is also holding strong with straight A's—including in Honors Geometry, AP Chinese, and Coding! Zoe is taking Chinese and Art lessons as well.



As a church family, we celebrate their hard work and resilience. They are thriving and we couldn't be prouder. Recently, Diann even got to cheer Zoe on at a volleyball game—what a joy to watch them shine!

### Undie Sunday



On one memorable Sunday, a pastor once donned an oversized pair of underwear over his suit—not to preach about Fruit of the Loom or even the armor of God, but to remind his congregation of a very practical ministry need: underwear!

Undie Sunday returns on **October 19**, and we invite you to help meet an often-overlooked need. We will be collecting new underwear in all sizes—boxers, briefs, T-shirts, thermal underwear, socks, and training pants—for our local mission partner, **The House of the Carpenter**.

Collection boxes will be available in the Chapel and Narthex throughout October. Thank you for supporting this simple yet vital ministry.

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## All Saints Day

All Saints Day is a sacred moment to remember and honor those who have gone before us. Though no longer with us physically, their lives continue to shape and inspire us.

We will celebrate All Saints Day on **Sunday, November 2** and the service will include Holy Communion, special music, and the lighting of our remembrance tree. Cardinals will be placed on the tree to represent our saints.



Look for inserts in the October bulletins to share the names of your loved ones so we may include them in our remembrance. Together, we will celebrate lives, honor memories, and support one another in Christ's love.

## Fall Workshop



Mark your calendars for 2025 Fall Workshop - November 14-16 at Camp Cowen in Cowen, WV! Fall Workshop is an annual gathering of youth ages 12-18 (grades 6th through 12th) throughout the West Virginia Conference. Young people can gather with other students to worship, grow in faith, and have a lot of fun! Cost is \$125 per person (this includes all meals and lodging).

Fall Workshop is a fantastic opportunity to get to know new people and experience new things! Join us for games with Spring Heights Staff, exciting workshops, and a Saturday night party!

Please see Diann if you are interested in learning more or want to register!

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## Advent Study

This Advent, we invite you to join us for a study using **On the Way to Bethlehem** by Rob Fuquay. The study traces the journey to Christmas, beginning in Rome with Caesar's decree and moving through Jerusalem, Nazareth, and Bethlehem. Each location—and each character we meet along the way—offers deep spiritual truths to prepare our hearts for the awe and wonder of Christ's birth.

### Two opportunities to participate:

- **Sundays** – Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 14, Dec. 21 at 9:45 a.m. in Room 108
- **Mondays** – Dec. 1, Dec. 8, Dec. 15, Dec. 22 at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room



## Bible Study

Each week, 8–10 students are gathering for Bible study. We're blessed with a mix of returning and new students, each bringing unique perspectives that deepen our faith and fellowship.

## Backpacks

In partnership with WLU student organizations and the West Liberty Federated Church, our campus ministry helps deliver backpacks filled with food to local elementary students. This year, one student needs gluten-free and dairy-free items. If you have suggestions for products we can include, please share them—we want to ensure every child receives nutritious and thoughtful support.



## Big Day Out – Underground Railroad Museum

Our fall learning trip will be to the **Underground Railroad Museum in Flushing, OH** on **Saturday, September 27**. Founded in 1993 by Dr. John and Rosalind Mattox, the museum preserves and shares the history of slavery and the Underground Railroad in Ohio.

The exhibits invite visitors to reflect, ask questions, and seek wisdom for today's world. As Christians, we are called to learn from the past and live faithfully into the future.

And of course, no Campus Ministry trip is complete without sharing a meal together—after the tour, we'll enjoy dinner before heading back.

# October Birthdays & Anniversaries

William Hofmann	October 1	MiMi Weis	October 24
Joan McClelland	October 1	Annette Godown	October 25
Dan* Petri	October 1	Toyoko Onishi	October 25
Michael Frazier	October 2	Amber Smith	October 26
Gray* McCreary	October 2	Saundra Huggins	October 27
Lauren Hutchins	October 3	Jordan* Heyman, III	October 29
Carolyn Smith	October 3	Jennifer Jones	October 29
Clint Amie	October 4	Jeanine Hibbs	October 31
Eli Kinser	October 5	Courtney P. Micker	October 31
Payton Storch	October 5		
Kara Amie	October 6		
So Onishi	October 6		
Christina Myer	October 7		
Judith Paesani	October 8		
Charles* Wilmoth	October 9		
Kimberly* Bowman	October 10		
Yuko Onishi	October 10		
Jane Costanzo	October 11		
Jessica Myer	October 11		
Rebecca Kiger	October 12		
Terry Depew	October 13		
Shirlee Bray	October 14		
Jean Bailey	October 15		
Chad Broadwater	October 17		
Emily Crosten	October 17		
Jeanne Hicks	October 17		
Darlene Petri	October 17		
Jana* Wright	October 17		
Gerry Griffith	October 18		
Kimberly Loccisano	October 18		
Nika Wright	October 18		
Judith* Collins	October 19		
Andrea Hornyak	October 20		
Suzanne Jebbia	October 20		
Robert Cunningham	October 21		
Brent Fullerton	October 21		
William Gersting	October 21		
Christian J.* Howley	October 21		
Zachary* Koish	October 21		
Elizabeth Nickell	October 21		
Doug Sprague	October 22		
Anne Harman	October 23		
Elizabeth A. Joseph	October 23		
George* Schmalz	October 23		
Brenda Straub	October 24		

**Jamie & DueWayne Crow**  
October 1

**Sue & Bill Huggins**  
October 3

**CeCe & Gary Kiedaisch**  
October 3

**Chris & Dave Goodwin**  
October 6

**Jessica & Carl Kondrach**  
October 8

**Jennifer & David Croft**  
October 9

**Meghen\* & Brock\* Jones**  
October 13

**Cathy & Bob Strasser**  
October 17

## CARE FACILITIES

•**Good Shepherd**  
Denny Hon - 235  
Jack Kerr - 320  
CeCe Kiedaisch - 256

•**Liza's Place**  
Dottie Richardson

•**Wheeling Hospital**  
José Cintron - 309

•**Wheeling Hospital  
Continuous Care**  
Lowell Collins  
Judy Allison



## 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.**

Ken & Bob Holt; Karen Fish; Kevin Long; José Cintron; Christine Collins; James; Roixie Derheimer; Bruce & Mary Bandi; Lois Pace; John Applegate; Marshall Family; Greg Smith; Evan Clatterbuck; Sally Marple; Ed Fitzgerald; David King; Lee Browning; Sarah; Family of Robert Blount, Jr.; Justin; Gary Galbreath; Craig; Randy Jones; Kim & Buddy Bowman; Charlie Palmer; Parker Fox; Kevin Barton; Frank Gilbert & Family; Logan; Barbara Buchwach; Harry; James Gyer; Brittany Yoho; Bob & Debbie Becker; Lee; Suzanne; Ruth Wade; Jeff Winslow; Addison Stephans; John Lendon; Travis Ellis; Bill; 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; Randy Straub; Scott Morris; Michael Selick; Sara Madison; Sherwood Dobbs; Lauren Robinson; Harriett McCardle; Ted Allen; Gary Haught; Betty Hissom; Jim Jones; Jenn; Sara Staley; Cody McAvoy; Kristen Smith; Jonathan Chance; Elizabeth Carson; Connie Macek; Bill Harr.

# New Covenant Unit Fundraiser

The New Covenant Unit is sponsoring a fundraiser to benefit women's and children's services in the area.

We will be selling:

## GOURMET CLASSICS COOKIE DOUGH

### **Scoop & Bake (Makes 36 cookies) - \$20.00 per tub**

Chunky Chocolate Chip  
Salted Carmel  
Snickerdoodle

### **Place & Bake (36 cookie dough portions) - \$22.00 per box**

Oatmeal Raisin  
Rainbow  
White Chocolate Macadamia  
Chunky Chocolate Chip

These cookies are shelf-stable for 21 days at 66-77° degrees; can be refrigerated for up to 6 months or frozen for up to a year. Note: orders ship frozen and can be refrozen.

**Selling dates: September 20 to October 20, 2025**

**Orders will ship 12-14 days after receipt of order.**

- **Delivery before the holidays**
- **Money due with the order**  
**Checks made to: NCU**

Turn orders and money into Becky Applegate 304-280-4027 or Tammy Tomazoli 740-317-2348 or any NCU member. Orders and money may be left in the church office.

**Thank you in advance for making this a successful fundraiser.**



*Cookies Make  
Life Better!*

## HOC Food Pantry Donations

We will be collecting the following for the House of the Carpenter for the month of October: **Spaghetti sauce; crackers (Ritz, saltines, oyster, etc.); pumpkin puree; sugar; flour and vegetable oil.**

## Bridge Closure

The Washington Avenue bridge will be closed beginning in October 2025 for replacement and will remain closed for approximately one year. If you travel the bridge to attend CUMC, you will need to find a different route to take.

## Christian Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are with the following:

- The friends and acquaintances of Bob & Marlene Ingram on their sudden passing.
- Tom Hogan on the death of his wife, Valerie.

## Items for Sale

Roxie Derheimer has many items she is looking to sell. If you are interested in what she has, please contact her at 304-281-5606.

## Church Conference

This year's Church Conference will be held on Sunday, November 2, at 3:00 p.m.

## Christmas Shoeboxes

It's that time of year again to start thinking about filling your shoeboxes for the Appalachian Christmas Project. Shoeboxes are available in the hallway near the creek entrance.

## Ushers Needed

If you are looking for a way to serve at CUMC, Lou Costanzo, our head usher, is looking for volunteers to help usher on Sunday morning. If you are interested and have questions about ushering, please contact Lou at 304-280-5313.



Christ United Methodist Church  
1232 National Road  
Wheeling, WV 26003

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT  
US POSTAGE  
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WHEELING, WV  
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God  
gave  
us the

*courage to declare*  
his *Good News*  
to you boldly.

**1 THESSALONIANS 2:2, NLT**