



1232 National Road
Wheeling, WV 26003
304-242-2455
christumcwheeling@gmail.com
November 2025, Issue 340

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

A Reflection for the Season's Sorrows

Sitting down to write this note for The Spire, I am mindful that this season which we enter, for all of its scheduled festivities, can be difficult for many, myself included. We enter the deep fall season and on into winter. The All Saints Celebration opened the month of November. There, we marked sacred time to remember loved ones who have not died, but rather who have been promoted. The holidays to follow also summon remembrance of the faces and voices of those whom, as loved ones gather, are no longer here physically. In a season of high celebrations, for many, sorrow and heartache also rise closer to the surface. I offer this month's reflection with such persons and such sorrows in mind.

Love, in all of its forms, is a wonderful gift. In the experience of love of any kind between one person and another, the heart easily forgets or refuses to remember that in this world, neither person is here forever. Rather both are passing through. In every life, there comes a time when that "passing through" is completed. How hard it is for the heart to be reminded of a thing it would prefer to never ever ponder.

When I consider any of the loved ones who have completed their "passing through" in my life, and say to myself "they were not meant to stay here forever"....is that true? It doesn't feel quite true, not entirely...and I ponder what it is in me that pauses at the phrase "not meant to stay here forever". Somehow it feels a lie and the truth all at once.

"Not here"....True, I no longer have sight of them. My ears are deprived of their voice and their laughter...yet my mind recalls them, my heart feels them often. In my memories, in the story that is my life, do they not remain and very often reappear? In my character, in my mannerisms, in my habit, in my speech, they indeed reappear quite often. I may say they have passed through, but I cannot say they are gone. I may say they have finished passing through, but never that they have passed away.

I cannot and would not deny the sadness or ache that love for the "passed through" may at times now be. At the same time, I dare not deny the wonder, the joy, that God ever decorated the landscape of my life, ever shaped this life of mine, ever highlighted the story of "me" with such a person and such a love.

So if in this season, sorrow of longing in my heart should arise, I know that longing to be testimony that I was loved by them, and also testimony that I was given the chance, the wondrous chance, to love them in turn. Even more, even more, I know love does not cease anymore than the soul could ever cease to be. So it is that I am loved by them still...and love them still. Indeed, for this, I give thanks. Even in this often difficult season, perhaps in defiance of this often difficult season, I give thanks. I give thanks for the love I have known and the love that has known me. And in every day whether my heart be sorrowful, grateful, or both, I will carry on loving.

The Blessed Connection: Living Out Our Faith Together

One of the greatest gifts of being a United Methodist is our connectional nature—the way our ministries, missions, and relationships intertwine to form something stronger together than we could ever be apart. It’s a defining feature of who we are as a faith community, and one that I’ve come to deeply appreciate in my own ministry journey.

When I served as Campus Ministry Director, I had the privilege of connecting with a wide variety of groups within the college community. Now, in my shared role at West Liberty University and Christ United Methodist Church, those opportunities for connection have multiplied in ways I never imagined. The lines between campus and church often blur—in the best possible way—and I’m truly grateful for each moment I get to serve as a “**Blessed Connection.**”

Through this shared ministry, I’ve witnessed how God’s love flows across boundaries and brings people together:

- **House of the Carpenter** – Supporting families and children by donating needed items, joining their Trunk or Treat event, and giving to Christmas Kids.
- **Campus Ministry Students** – Living out their faith by helping with Trick or Treat on the Quad, babysitting for children of the WVUMC Justice and Advocacy Team, tie-dying shirts with Girl Scout Troop #10467, and helping with food security by providing weekly backpacks for West Liberty Elementary School and assisting with Thanksgiving food boxes for Warwood UMC.
- **West Liberty University Community** – Partnering with the Women’s Soccer Team to teach Girl Scouts about health and teamwork, offering pet blessings for students and staff, being invited to join the Veteran’s Luncheon and Recognition program, and joining student groups to pack food for the local backpack program.
- **Messy Church** - After a wonderful and joy-filled Vacation Bible School this summer, the four participating churches decided to keep the spirit going by offering a monthly alternative worship experience — Messy Church! Messy Church is a welcoming, Christ-centered gathering for people of all ages and faith backgrounds. Each month, we come together to share a meal, hear a message from Jesus, and enjoy hands-on activities and music that bring faith to life in creative and meaningful ways. This collaborative ministry includes **Christ United Methodist Church, First Christian Church, St. Mark Lutheran, and Vance Presbyterian Church**, with gatherings rotating among the four locations from 6:00 – 7:30 PM on the first Monday of each month. We’d love for you to join us for this joyful time of connection, creativity, and community. Come as you are — there’s a place for everyone at Messy Church!
- **United Women in Faith** – Studying together through *Response Magazine*, engaging in mission work that uplifts women and children, making a new friend and receiving an invitation to attend Sight & Sound’s Joshua performance in 2026, receiving Calvary UWF local unit donation, and serving on the House of the Carpenter Board of Directors as District President.
- **Girl Scouts** – Teaming up with Laurie Ruberg and Christie Hill to lead programs for more than a dozen girls at Laughlin Chapel, opening doors for them to explore new experiences through both the Church and West Liberty University.

Each of these moments—big or small—reminds me that connection is at the heart of discipleship. As Christians, we are called to offer ourselves in service to our neighbors, to be the hands and feet of Christ in every setting we find ourselves.

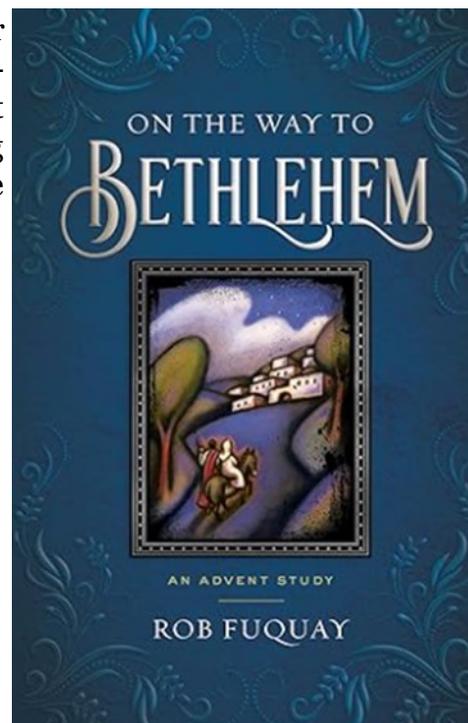
Our connections matter. They create opportunities to share the Good News, to lift others up, and to simply be present with those who need to see and feel God’s love in action. So, I encourage you to look closely at where your own lines cross and overlap. You may be surprised at how God is already using your connections to make a difference.

I give thanks to each of you who helps make these ministries possible. Together, we are the Blessed Connection—living, loving, and serving as one community in Christ.

Diann Nickerson
Family Life Coordinator & Director of Campus Ministry



Advent Study: We will be reading *On the Way to Bethlehem* for our study this year. Our study follows the long journey to Christmas. The story begins in Rome with a decree issued from the seat of worldly power for a census, setting into motion events leading to the birth of the Savior of the world in a town that represents the very opposite of worldly power, Bethlehem.



- Two different options:
 - Sundays: November 30, December 7, 14, 21 at 9:45 AM in Room 108
 - Mondays: December 1, 8, 15, 22 at 10 AM in the Conference Room
- Please let Diann Nickerson know by Sunday, November 16th if you are interested in participating in the study. Books will be ordered and available the week before the study begins.



Experience *Joshua* Live on Stage!

Get ready for an unforgettable journey of faith and courage! Spruce Street UMC (Morgantown) has invited us to join them for a spring trip to the Sight & Sound Theatre in Lancaster, PA, April 10–11, 2026. We'll witness the incredible live production of *Joshua*, explore the charming sights of Lancaster, and take in the rich history of Gettysburg — all in one memorable getaway! Flyers with trip details and pricing are available in the Narthex and on our bulletin boards.

To reserve your seat on the bus, please see Diann Nickerson.



Word Search

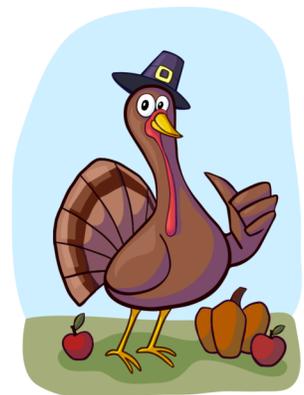


The First Thanksgiving

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

Word list:

COLONY	FEAST	MAIZE	SQUASH
CORN	FISH	MAYFLOWER	STUFFING
CORNUCOPIA	FOOD	NATIVE	SWEETPOTATOES
CRANBERRIES	GRATITUDE	PILGRIMS	THANKSGIVING
DRESSING	GRAVY	PLENTY	TRIBE
DRUMSTICK	HAPPY	PLYMOUTH	TURKEY
EAT	HARVEST	PUMPKINPIE	YAMS



November Birthdays & Anniversaries

Karen Bruhn - 1
Erin* Mudge - 1
Shawn* Bryant - 2
Shane Bryant - 2
Heather Clawson - 3
Betty Johnson - 3
Jacob Nickell - 3
Wendy Barbeau - 4
Jennifer* Hatton - 5
Meghen* Jones - 6
Bill Metzner, Jr. - 6
Mitchell* McCreary - 7
Russell Bond, Jr. - 9
Susan Large - 9
Cathy* Muhleman - 9
Tyler Thorngate - 9
Jesse* Channel - 11
Bob Strasser - 11
David Gersting - 12
Kohlby Jebbia - 12
Maxwell* Morgan - 12
Timothy Large - 14
Mark Lindsay - 14
Marilyn Williams - 14
Lisa Sims - 15
Lucy Harman - 16
Donita Rush - 17
Heath* Woodburn - 19
Sheldon* Clawson - 20
Jagger* Jones - 20
David Wharton - 20
Chris Woodburn - 20
Nicole* Hibbs - 21
Zachary* Knight - 21
Robert Foster - 23
Tiffany Lee - 23
McKenna Dunbar - 24
Beth Knight - 24
Shaun Murphy - 24
Lauren Smaltz - 25
Lyndsee* Wharton - 25
John McFadden - 26
David B. Ellwood - 27
Michael Godown - 27
Kim Hall - 27
Bruce Bandi - 28

Darlene Beale - 29
Justin* Hornyak - 30
Kristin Nolte - 30
Allyson Wilson - 30

Dean & Judy Wright
November 1

Larry & Micki Travis
November 6

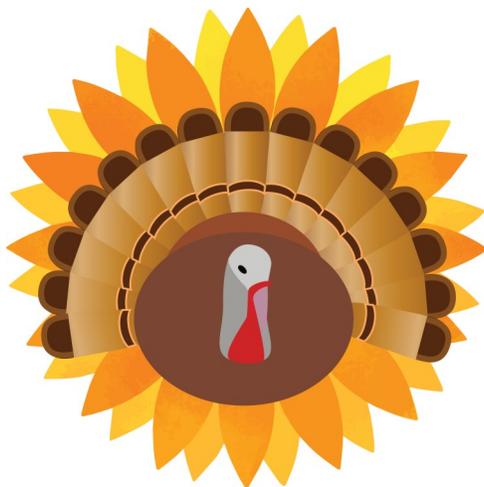
Tom & Erikka Storch
November 18

Tim & Jill Bandi
November 20

Jack & Linda Kerr
November 27

CARE FACILITIES

- Good Shepherd**
Denny Hon - 235
Jack Kerr - 320
CeCe Kiedaisch - 256
- Liza's Place**
Dottie Richardson
- Wheeling Hospital
Continuous Care**
Lowell Collins - 114



PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Tony Vasilou; Ken & Bob Holt; Karen Fish; Kevin Long; Christine Collins; James; Roxie Derheimer; Bruce & Mary Bandi; Lois Pace; John Applegate; Marshall Family; Greg Smith; Evan Clatterbuck; Shirley Conaway; Sally Marple; Ed Fitzgerald; David King; Lee Browning; Sarah; 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; 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; 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; Jenn; Sara Staley; Cody McAvoy; Kristen Smith; Jonathan Chance; Elizabeth Carson; Connie Macek; Bill Harr.

HOC Food Pantry Donations

We will be collecting the following for the House of the Carpenter for the month of November: **spaghetti sauce; crackers; pudding cups; sugar; flour; oil & pumpkin puree; pancake mix (add water only).**

Christian Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are with the following:

- The friends and acquaintances of José Cintron.

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 Narthex. Last year our generous congregation filled 82 boxes.

A list of suggested items to look for: **Disposable razors; calendar; shaving cream; bar soap; shampoo; toothbrush/toothpaste; deodorant; washcloth; purse-size Kleenex; comb or brush; Q-tips; cotton balls; notepads/pencils/pens.**

Optional items: **Stamps/envelopes; Chapstick/Vaseline; first aid cream; magnifying glass; knee highs; hand lotion; hand sanitizer; nail clippers/tweezer; Jar grips/pot scratcher; small puzzle book; Denture cleaner.**

All shoeboxes should be returned to the church no later than **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16**. Please include a signed Christmas card inside the shoebox to add to the recipients holiday cheer.

Label the boxes with an "L" for ladies; "M" for men; "E" for either. **Please DO NOT add a ribbon or bow to your box.**

Christmas Eve Worship

Our annual Christmas Eve service will be held on December 24th at 7:00 PM. The service will include scripture readings marking the events leading to our Savior's birth along with carols, anthems, and musical solos. If you would like to participate as a reader or musician, please contact Bill Stephens at



wstephens07@comcast.net or 304-914-5300.

Births

Congratulations to the Morris family on the birth of their daughter, Josephine Adele Morris on Thursday, October 2, 2025. She is the daughter of Zack & Heather and sister to Gia, Zander and Shia. Proud grandparents are Scott & Amy Morris and great-grandmother is Carolyn Smith. Congratulations to them all.

Poinsettia Order

Due to a new supplier, all poinsettia orders must be received by Sunday, November 9. The price for each poinsettia is \$16.00 and your payment must accompany your order.

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

Quantity: Red _____ White _____

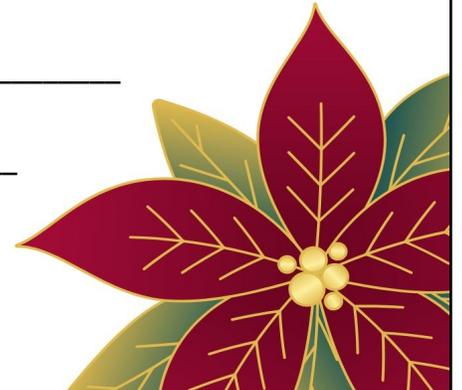
In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Total: _____





Christ United Methodist Church
 1232 National Road
 Wheeling, WV 26003

NON PROFIT
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 WHEELING, WV
 PERMIT NO. 481

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



MISSION TEAM

Soup SALE

Sunday, November 16 following both worship services

Potato; Vegetable Beef; Chicken Noodle; Chicken Tortilla; Chicken Corn Chowder; Sausage Kale & Chili

\$10.00 per quart