



1232 National Road
Wheeling, WV 26003
304-242-2455
christumcwheeling@gmail.com
December 2025, Issue 34I

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 Lesson of Lights

Watching the contagion of the Christmas lights spread throughout a neighborhood is a favorite pastime for Christie and me. In every neighborhood there is that first house that lays out their holiday display. Typically, those first lights reflect the heart of a person for whom last year's lights were never truly put away. The lights have been shining in their heart and mind, likely all year. At some point, as the nights draw a little longer and the temperature drops just enough, the enthusiasm can no longer be restrained - and the lights come out! There will always be disagreement about whether the first lights have appeared prematurely. Nevertheless, the second decorated house appears within days. Then appears the third, the fourth, and so on. To watch the spread of lights is to watch the mood of the Christmas season spreading. It is as if the appearance of those first lights gives a signal to others, a kind of permission, to allow the mood of the season to overtake them. Soon the mood is taking hold from house to house and heart to heart. Thus, the first lights of Christmas do their contagious work.

Just what signal do the lights of Christmas give? Certainly, they signal more than mere decoration. Especially in the season when nights grow longer, the lights remind us that darkness can be defied; and that it is within our power to do so. They signal a time when wonder and beauty are allowed un-tempered expression. The lights of Christmas signal an invitation to our hearts: To allow a broader sphere of concern for the needs of others and to relax the demands of practicality in favor of generosity. The lights remind us that it is within our power to be kindness, hope, and comfort to those otherwise deprived of it. The lights remind that it is within our power to protect, nurture, and celebrate the joy of the innocent. We remember that we need not, and should not, wait for light to happen. Light is something we can give to the world when we choose to devote the time and the effort to doing so. There are people who would, but do not. There are many who would simply rather not. Such hearts await invitation, perhaps inspiration, from the light that decides to shine first. I am grateful that God has fashioned your heart to be a "first light" that invites and inspires the hearts of others to share their light as well.

May the Light of Christ in You Be Sustained in Every Season,

Pastor Joe

Walking in the Light Together

Diann Nickerson, Family Life Coordinator and Director of Campus Ministries

As we move deeper into the Advent season, the symbol of light becomes even more meaningful for our church family. Scripture reminds us that “the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” In a world that often feels heavy or uncertain, we are called—both individually and as a community—to shine the light of Christ in all we do.

At Messy Church, our families and children heard the beautiful message that Jesus is the Light of the World. Through hands-on activities, storytelling, and shared meals, our Messy Church participants learned that God’s light is not only something to admire—it’s something to follow, to share, and to live out in everyday life.



Our Blue Christmas Service on December 21 at 7 PM will also center around this same promise of light. For many, the holidays bring complicated emotions—grief, loneliness, stress, or memories that are difficult to carry. This sacred service will make space for those feelings while gently reminding us that even in our darkest moments, Christ’s light surrounds us, comforts us, and leads us forward. No one walks through the shadows alone and we hope you will join us.

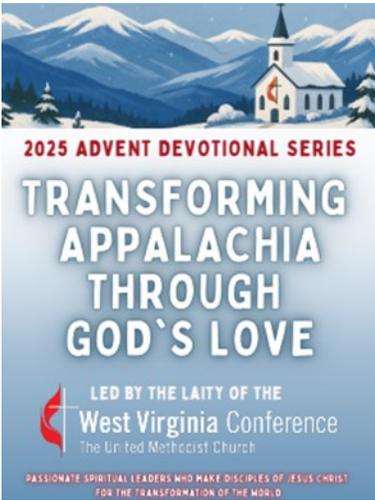
Our Campus Ministry students at West Liberty University have also been shining their lights in extraordinary ways. Recently, they served at the Hope UMC Food Pantry, offering compassion, energy, and genuine care to



local families. Our own Debbie Galbreath and her granddaughter, Ava, also joined us to help! Their willingness to serve—especially in the busiest weeks of the semester—is a powerful reminder that Christ’s light is not limited by age, schedule, or circumstance. Love always makes room.



I also had the privilege of celebrating and honoring our veterans at a luncheon on the WLU campus. Veterans model a unique kind of light—one shaped by courage, sacrifice, service, and deep commitment to others. Their light strengthens our communities, and we give thanks for every veteran who has offered part of their life so others may live in peace and hope.



As we continue preparing our hearts for Christmas, I encourage you to spend time with the West Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church's Laity Advent Devotionals. Each day provides a moment to pause, reflect, and let the Light of Christ illuminate your path as we await the birth of Jesus. You can receive them by email, watch and listen on Facebook, or visit the Conference website.

<https://www.wvumc.org/devotions>

May we continue to shine brightly—together—as we follow the One who came to bring light to all people.

Come, Lord Jesus, Light of the World.

advent CALENDAR

Perform a random act of kindness 	two Donate food to a local food bank	Have a coloring contest 	four Buy socks for a homeless shelter 	5 Watch a favorite holiday movie
Make or buy a new Christmas ornament 	Let someone go in front of you in line seven	8 Clean out and donate outgrown toys 	Build a snowman out of cotton balls 9 	Take cupcakes to your local fire department 10 
Decorate a gingerbread house eleven 	Help wrap a Christmas present 	thirteen Leave a happy note for someone to find 	Have a game night in your PJs 14	Make paper snowflakes 15 
Drink hot cocoa 	17 Make Christmas cards	 18 Bake Christmas cookies	Sing Christmas carols 19 	Take a family photo in front of the Christmas tree twenty 
Read your favorite Christmas story 21	Take a car tour of your local light displays 22	Deliver Christmas cards to your neighbors 	Watch or attend a Christmas Eve service twenty-four	Read the Nativity story 25 

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December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Andy Jackson	Dec. 01
Joyce Murphy	Dec. 01
Cecil* Heyman, IV	Dec. 03
Joseph* Blalock	Dec. 04
Gloria Jean Taylor	Dec. 04
Diane Gibbons	Dec. 05
Stephanie Taggart	Dec. 06
John Weeks	Dec. 07
Delaney* Coffield	Dec. 08
Madison Jebbia	Dec. 09
Julie Lindsay	Dec. 09
Deborah Micker	Dec. 09
J. Kevin McConnell	Dec. 10
DeAnna Taylor	Dec. 10
Jennifer Croft	Dec. 11
Danielle* Soard	Dec. 11
Roxie Derheimer	Dec. 12
Corey Kidd	Dec. 12
Kevin* Joseph	Dec. 14
Stefanie* Shoemaker	Dec. 14
Steve Kerr	Dec. 15
Timothy Knight	Dec. 15
Colleen Lee	Dec. 15
Wes Nickell	Dec. 15
Adam* Reid	Dec. 16
Lisa Vannoy	Dec. 16
Bill Huggins	Dec. 17
Patricia Oliver	Dec. 17
Sarah Schneider	Dec. 20
Tom Wharton	Dec. 20
Erikka Storch	Dec. 21
Aaliyah* Bass	Dec. 22
Donald* Robinson	Dec. 23
Parker* Griffin	Dec. 24
Frances Smaltz	Dec. 24
Lisa Gill-McClements	Dec. 26
Craig Collins	Dec. 27
Madeline* Brown	Dec. 28
Benjamin* Coffield	Dec. 28
Jonathan* Queen	Dec. 29
Kristen Walton	Dec. 30
Alexandra* Knight	Dec. 31

Larry & Joyce Murphy
December 1

Diane & Daniel* Gibbons
December 4

Bob & Joan McClelland
December 12

Clint & Kara Amie
December 16

Robert & Lisa Conner
December 28

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; 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 December: **spaghetti sauce; crackers; pudding cups; sugar; flour; oil & pumpkin puree; pancake mix (add water only); potatoes (instant, mashed, scalloped).**

Christian Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are with the following:

- Gary Sprague and family on the death of his loving wife, Cheryl.
- Dave & Paula Gilbert on the death of his father, Donald Eugene Gilbert, Sr.
- Friends and acquaintances of Judy Paesani on her recent passing.

Appalachian Christmas Project

Thank you to everyone that put together boxes to the Appalachian Christmas Project. A total of 99 shoeboxes were donated.

Please remember that the Appalachian Christmas Project collects items not only for Christmas, but the entire year. They are always in need of the following:

- Christmas wrapping paper**
- New or used Christmas cards**
- School supplies**
- Toys for kids (0-21 yrs.)**
- Children's clothes**
- Children's shoes**
- Children's boots**
- Children's winter coats**

Children's hats, etc.
Motel/hotel personal care items

Yarn
Lap robes or blankets
Baby blankets
Any knitted or crocheted items

If you have any questions, please contact the church office or Diane Reineke Stout at 304-280-4820.

New Covenant Unit

The New Covenant Unit will meet on Monday, December 8, for their Annual Christmas Auction & Potluck.

The group will gather in the Family Room at 5:00 p.m. and enjoy dinner at 5:30.

If you have any questions, please see Shelby Straub.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone that donated games, art supplies, gift cards, sports balls, etc. for the HOC Christmas Kids.

Your gifts will bring smiles to a lot of little faces on Christmas morning.

**December 28
Coffee Hour**

If you have leftover Christmas cookies and would like to share, please bring them to coffee hour on Sunday, December 28 for all to enjoy. If you have questions, please see Shelby Straub.

2026 Flower Chart

The flower chart for 2026 is now posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please sign up if you would like to donate flowers to adorn the altar on Sunday morning. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who donated gifts for the Crittenton Angel Tree. Your generosity made someone's Christmas a little brighter.





Christ United Methodist Church
1232 National Road
Wheeling, WV 26003

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