



1232 National Road
Wheeling, WV 26003
304-242-2455
christumcwheeling@gmail.com
February 2026, Issue 343

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

Dear Christ UMC Family,

As we step into a new year together, our hearts are full of gratitude for each of you and for the ways God has already been so clearly at work among us.

Although we have only been with you since July, it feels as though so much life has already been shared. In a relatively short time, we have witnessed faith lived out in powerful ways through your generosity, your service, your prayers, your flexibility, and your willingness to lean into what God is doing in and through this church. We are deeply thankful for how you welcomed us, walked alongside us, and trusted us as we began this journey together.

Ministry is never about one person or one family. It is about the body of Christ living into who God has called us to be together. We have seen that lived out at Christ UMC. You show up. You serve faithfully, often quietly. You care for one another. You step forward when God calls, even when the path isn't always clear or easy. That kind of faithfulness is a gift, and we do not take it lightly.

This past season has brought change, growth, challenge, and joy. And through it all, God has been present. As we look ahead, we are filled with hope and excitement for what lies before us. We believe God is continuing to shape this church for meaningful ministry, deeper connection, and bold love in this community and beyond.

Thank you for all you do. Thank you for your prayers, your encouragement, your patience, and your commitment to living out the gospel. Thank you for being the church; not just within these walls, but wherever God sends you.

We are honored to serve alongside you and grateful to call Christ UMC our church home. May this new year be one of renewed faith, deeper trust, and continued openness to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

With gratitude and hope,

Pastor Joe and Christie

Family Life Update

February is starting with a *bang* and will stay busy all month long—there's lots to look forward to!

We kick things off on Sunday, February 15, by hosting **Scout Sunday**. Laughlin Chapel Girl Scout Troop #10467 will join us for the 11:00 AM worship service, and they'll be selling Girl Scout Cookies afterward. Cookies are \$6 per box with payment due at the time of ordering. You can also order online at <https://DigitalCookie.GirlScouts.org/scout/troop10467c289>



That same afternoon, we'll be hosting a **Community Ice Skating Party** at the Wheeling Park Ice Skating Rink. Scouts from Troop #10467, our Messy Church families, and our Christ Church family are all invited for an afternoon of fun. Please RSVP to Diann or Carla by February 12 if you plan to attend.



Messy Church continues to bring families together from across our ecumenical partner churches—First Christian Church, St. Mark Lutheran, and Vance Presbyterian—on the first Monday of each month. We'll gather again on February 2 at our church, where we'll explore The Lord's Prayer. Our church is responsible for the meal this month, so if you'd like to help, please talk with Tammy Tomazoli or Diann Nickerson.

Mark your calendar for our **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner** on February 17 from 5:00–7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Volunteers are needed – a sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

We also invite everyone to participate in our **Lenten Luncheon Series**, beginning Sunday, February 22, and continuing weekly through Palm Sunday, March 29. Following the 11:00 AM worship service, we'll gather in the Fellowship Hall for a soup and salad lunch and discussion centered on the book *An Unlikely Lent* by Rachel Billups.



About the study:

The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus are at the heart of Easter—but they unfolded in the presence of a crowd. This study invites us to look at the Easter story through the eyes of those often overlooked: the side characters, the quiet moments, and the unanswered questions.

Together, we'll reflect on themes of:

- Devotion
- Opposition
- Freedom
- Courage
- Companionship
- Alliances

A sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex if you would like to bring anyone of the following for the luncheon: soup, salad, bread or dessert.

Please contact Diann by February 10 if you plan to participate and would like a book ordered. This will also help us plan how much food to prepare. We hope you'll participate!



Looking ahead, Pastor Joe and Diann recently met with Ohio Valley Christian Home Educators (OVCHE) to discuss potential opportunities within our church and community. The group will be meeting here on Pi Day (**March 14**) for fun, math-themed activities celebrating the number 3.14.

We also have another chance to serve with the Moundsville Rotary Club's Rise Against Hunger event on **March 14** from 9:00 AM–12:00 PM in Glen Dale, WV. Volunteers will help prepare meal packets for those in need. To participate or learn more, please contact Larry Blalock or register online at

<http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/Moundsville2026>

See the poster on the Narthex bulletin board for more information.



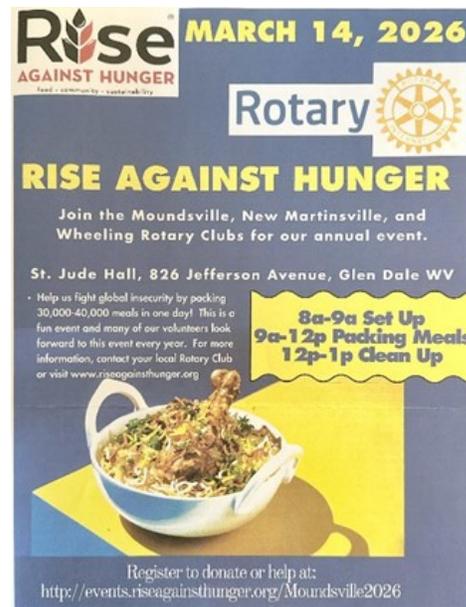
The spring semester began with an Organizational Fair at West Liberty University, where Diann and several students connected with new and returning students and shared information about Campus Ministry programs, service opportunities, and Bible studies.

Campus Ministry Bible Study meets on Mondays at 4:00 PM with students selecting the topics for the spring semester.

There are also two ongoing mission opportunities this semester:

- Volunteering at Hope UMC's Food Pantry on the third Wednesday of each month from 3:30–5:30 PM at 99 Valley Boulevard in Wheeling
- Weekly work with student organizations to sort and fill backpacks for West Liberty Elementary School students

Both projects welcome participation from congregation members and we encourage everyone to join us as we serve alongside our students.



February Birthdays & Anniversaries

Collin* Robinson - Feb. 1
 Emily Croft - Feb. 3
 Cherie Fullerton - Feb. 4
 Chris Goodwin - Feb. 6
 Margie* Carr - Feb. 8
 Pam Smith - Feb. 8
 Cindy Baltz - Feb. 9
 Nicole Frazier - Feb. 10
 J.J. Murphy - Feb. 10
 Emerson* Robinette - Feb.10
 Jason* Posey - Feb. 12
 Shawn Roberts - Feb. 12
 Don Taylor - Feb. 13
 Larry Travis - Feb. 13
 Erin Markin - Feb. 15
 Mary Lew - Feb. 16
 Allyson* Schmalz - Feb. 16
 Carey Greco - Feb. 17
 Gia* Morris - Feb. 17
 Shannon Robinson - Feb. 17
 Wayne Wells - Feb. 17
 Cathy Depew - Feb. 19
 Rosie* Stewart - Feb. 19
 Jordan Smith - Feb. 20
 Leah Jones - Feb. 21
 Patti Watson - Feb. 21
 Zachary Allen - Feb. 23
 Eleanor Phillip - Feb. 23
 Shelby Straub - Feb. 23
 Shia* Conway - Feb. 24
 Will Godown - Feb. 24
 Patrick Milton - Feb. 24
 Denise Soard - Feb. 24
 Abbagail McCarthy - Feb. 25
 Greg Smith - Feb. 25
 Mitchell Coleman - Feb. 26
 Vicki Gersting - Feb. 26
 Janet Joseph - Feb. 26
 Patrick Wright - Feb. 27
 Lucas* Cunningham - Feb. 28
 Beth Heyman - Feb. 28

Tina & Chris* Shoemaker
 February 18

Annette & David Godown
 February 22

Sally & George* Schmalz
 February 26

CARE FACILITIES

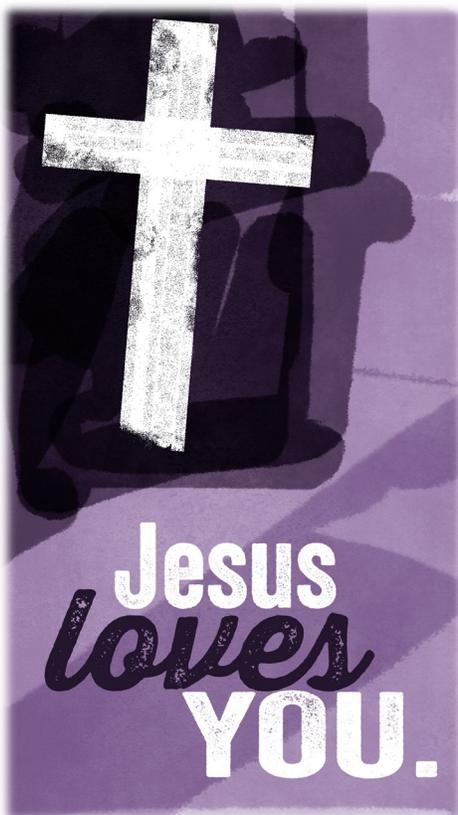
- Good Shepherd**
 Jack Kerr - 320
 CeCe Kiedaisch - 256
- Liza's Place**
 Dottie Richardson
- Wheeling Hospital
 Continuous Care**
 Lowell Collins - 114

PRAYER REQUESTS

Rick Veon; Tony Vasilou; Ken & Bob Holt; Karen Fish; Kevin Long; Christine Collins; James; Roxie Derheimer; Bruce & Mary Bandi; Lois Pace; Greg Smith; 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; 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

NAMES BELOW THIS LINE WILL ROTATE OFF THE PRAYER LIST. IF A NAME NEEDS TO REMAIN, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE.

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.

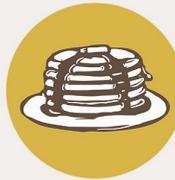


LENT 2026

Shrove Tuesday

Pancake Dinner

- Tuesday, Feb 17th, 5-7PM



Ash Wednesday

Worship Service

Wednesday, Feb 18th @ 7PM



Sundays of Lent

Book Study

- Lenten Book Study after 11AM worship with light lunch provided.
- Beginning Sunday, Feb 22nd through Palm Sunday, March 29th



Palm Sunday

Worship Services

- Sunday, March 29th @ 8:30AM and 11AM



Good Friday

Worship Service

- Friday, April 3rd @ 7PM



Easter Sunday

Worship Service

- Sunday April 5th @ 8:30AM and 11AM – both services in Sanctuary





Lenten

READING PLAN



Lenten Reading Plan: A Countdown of Hope

Get ready for Easter with this family Bible Reading Plan. From Ash Wednesday to Resurrection Sunday, read a promise from God each day. May God bless you as you discover his love and faithfulness through Scripture.

- The **Promise** of a Savior, *Genesis 3:15*
- The **Promise** to Never Again Flood the Earth, *Genesis 9:13-15*
- The **Promise** to Bless Abraham, *Genesis 12:1-3*
- The **Promise** to Multiply Abraham's Offspring, *Genesis 22:17-18*
- The **Promise** of Deliverance, *Exodus 3:7-8*
- The **Promise** of God's Presence, *Exodus 33:14*
- The **Promise** of Blessing for Obedience, *Leviticus 26:3-12*
- The **Promise** to Raise Up a Prophet, *Deuteronomy 18:15*
- The **Promise** of Strength Through God, *Joshua 1:6-9*
- The **Promise** of an Everlasting Covenant, *2 Samuel 7:12-16*
- The **Promise** of a Shepherd, *Psalms 23*
- The **Promise** of Wisdom, *Proverbs 2:1-6*
- The **Promise** of a Messiah, *Isaiah 9:1-7*
- The **Promise** to Strengthen and Help, *Isaiah 41:9-10*
- The **Promise** of a Suffering Servant, *Isaiah 53*
- The **Promise** of Restoration, *Jeremiah 29:10-14*
- The **Promise** of a New Covenant, *Jeremiah 31:31-34*
- The **Promise** of Renewal, *Ezekiel 37:1-14*
- The **Promise** of the Spirit, *Joel 2:28-29*
- The **Promise** of Jesus, *Luke 2:1-20*
- The **Promise** of Provision, *Matthew 6:25-34*
- The **Promise** of Rest, *Matthew 11:28-29*
- The **Promise** of Eternal Life, *John 3:16-17*
- The **Promise** of Christ's Return, *John 14:1-3*
- The **Promise** of Peace, *John 14:27*
- The **Promise** of Answered Prayer, *John 15:7*
- The **Promise** of Guidance, *John 16:13*
- The **Promise** of Power from on High, *Acts 1:8*
- The **Promise** of Grace, *Romans 6:14*
- The **Promise** of Freedom from Condemnation, *Romans 8:1-4*
- The **Promise** of Adoption, *Romans 8:15-17*
- The **Promise** of Purpose, *Romans 8:28*
- The **Promise** of Victory Over Death, *1 Corinthians 15:54-57*
- The **Promise** of Comfort, *2 Corinthians 1:3-4*
- The **Promise** of New Life, *2 Corinthians 5:17*
- The **Promise** of God's Faithfulness, *2 Thessalonians 3:3-5*
- The **Promise** of Eternal Glory, *2 Timothy 2:11-13*
- The **Promise** of Perseverance, *James 1:2-4*
- The **Promise** of a New Heaven and a New Earth, *Revelation 21:1-4*

Try the bonus activities to make Lent more meaningful

Family Lenten Activities

Make promise stones. Paint and display small stones that remind you how God keeps his promises.

Fill a jar with blessings. During Lent, jot down ways that God is faithful to you. On Easter, read aloud the slips of paper as a family.



©CRI ChurchArt.com

HOC Food

Pantry Donations

We will be collecting the following for the House of the Carpenter for the month of February: **Hygiene items; fruit cocktail; beef stew; chili and instant mashed potatoes.**

Thanks to everyone that donated items in January.

Christian Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are with the following:

- Martha Hon & family on the death of their loved one, Dennis.
- Becky & Martha Applegate on the death of their brother, John.

Altar Flower Donations

The flower chart for 2026 is now posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex if you would like to donate flowers in honor of (birthday, anniversary, etc.) or in remembrance of a loved one.

Flower donations are needed for February 8 & 22.

Phone Scams

Be careful of scams. Pastor Joe's only cell phone number is 304-840-1923. You are always welcome to contact him this way by call or text. Also, please keep in mind that Pastor Joe will not text you from any other phone number.

Children's Church

Volunteers

Do you enjoy spending time with children and sharing God's love? We are looking for caring volunteers to help with Children's Church at the 11 AM service. You don't need special training - just a willing heart and a desire to nurture the faith of our youngest members. Together, we can help our children know that they are seen, valued, and deeply loved - by God and by this church family. Please prayerfully consider using your gifts and graces in this meaningful ministry.

The sign up sheet is available on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Thanks for considering sharing your gifts!

Questions - See Diann Nickerson



Kroger Rewards

If you would like to participate in the **KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS** program to benefit CUMC follow the instructions below:

- Create a digital account if you do not already have one.
- Sign into your account to link your Kroger Rewards Card.
- Use number AQ310 or search for Christ United Methodist Church and click on save.

Each time you shop and swipe your card a percentage of your order total will be donated to CUMC at no cost to you.

Coffee Hour

The coffee hour sign-up sheet for February is posted. If you are interested in hosting, February 8 is still open for someone to serve.

If you are new to CUMC and have questions on how coffee hour works, contact the church office at 304-242-2455 or christumcwheeling@gmail.com.





Christ United Methodist Church
 1232 National Road
 Wheeling, WV 26003

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

