

1232 National Road
Wheeling, WV 26003
304-242-2455
christumcwheeling@gmail.com
April 2026, Issue 345

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 Gift from a Friend

While I was working on an entirely different article for this newsletter, I received the gift of a labyrinth from a dear friend. The labyrinth alone would have been gift enough, but it brought with it a certain inspiration.

When experiencing a labyrinth, one typically expects to have a time of quiet reflection. As one walks a labyrinth, or traces it with the finger, one moves along a smooth and winding path towards its center. In the Christian use of the labyrinth the journey to the center is usually thought to represent a journeying toward a deeper sense of God's presence within oneself. The path has its twists and turns, but it is no maze. There is no being misled into dead ends. The course to the destination is always assured. There are times when the winding circuit seems to carry one further from the center. However, one can proceed with a calm assurance that, steadily moving forward, the path leads one to the center of the labyrinth. All one needs to do is trust the path and move forward, peacefully and uninterrupted, along to the center.



Regarding this particular labyrinth gifted to me, atypical golden strands branch across the ceramic. Sometimes the strands run across the path, even through the center. In other spaces the strands run along the course of the path. The strands don't interrupt your travel, but they interrupt the eye's otherwise steady view of the path. Perhaps I can convince the artist to write an article one day about the technique that created these strands. For now, it is enough to know that the golden strands mark fractures in the labyrinth which the artist had to repair. While it seems to interrupt the journey, the strands are spaces of healing. Without the golden strands, the fragments of the labyrinth could not have been reconciled back to wholeness.

So, the original artist's inspired vision, fractured and healed, has inspired my own. I see in this labyrinth places in my own life where the journey was disrupted by hurts that crossed my path. I recall times in my life where brokenness seemed to interrupt the journey. I see places where brokenness traveled with me along parts of the journey. Most importantly, I see a journey that, without healing, could not be completed. I find it especially fitting that an atypical, golden, healing strand runs through the center of the labyrinth. From where else would these healing, golden strands come? This particular labyrinth reminds me that the God who heals does not wait at the center to be found but instead spills out across the journey, bringing healing and wholeness all along the way.

My deepest thanks to the friend who crafted and healed this inspired and inspiring gift!

-Pastor Joe

Family Life News



Summer Camp at Spring Heights

Who loves being outside in nature? Who loves growing in faith? Spring Heights has just the thing for our young people—**Summer Camp 2026!** Each program is centered on faith, friendship, and fun. We encourage families to explore the options and see what might be a good fit for your children.

www.springheights.org

Scholarships are available—please see Diann Nickerson for more information.

Easter Celebration in Children’s Church

On **April 5**, our children will celebrate Easter during Children’s Church with a joyful morning that includes an egg hunt, games, and treats.

We look forward to welcoming lots of children as we celebrate the good news of Easter together!



Girl Scout Updates

Our Girl Scouts have been busy these past few months working on the *Plant the Moon Challenge* and, of course, cookie season!

Laurie Ruberg, leader of Troop #10467, extends her heartfelt thanks to Christ UMC for the many ways you support the children of Laughlin Chapel. Your encouragement truly makes a difference.





Messy Church – April 6

Join us on **Monday, April 6 at 6:00 PM** at First Christian Church (the “round window church” on National Road).

Together we’ll explore the Easter story by creating story boxes to take home and share. Dinner will be provided—rigatoni and our fun “Roll the Stone Away” meatballs!

All ages are welcome—come as you are and bring a friend.

Serving Together

Acts of service continue to be an important part of our faith journey, and we are grateful for all who have stepped forward recently.

- Through our partnership with **Rise Against Hunger**, members of our congregation helped assemble 30,000 meals for people around the world—an incredible witness of compassion in action.
- We also participated in a **Flood Bucket Assembly** at Fourth Street UMC. Thanks to generous donations from the Mission Team and New Covenant Unit, we provided needed supplies. Students from 4-H and West Liberty University Campus Ministry joined in assembling the buckets, making it a wonderful intergenerational effort.



Another Opportunity to Serve!

We’re excited to invite you into a meaningful and creative way to make a difference!

Each year, the Conference Justice and Advocacy Team highlights important issues impacting our communities. This year, we are focusing on **literacy and hunger** through our theme:



Rooted in Love: Breaking Bread, Opening Books. As part of this effort, we’ll be creating strings of hearts and bookmarks to help decorate the sanctuary at West Virginia Wesleyan—visual reminders of love in action and the needs around us.

Thursday, April 23 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM in the **Conference Room**

We’ll spend the morning crafting together using paper, ribbon, and simple materials (all supplies provided). No special skills are needed—just willing hands and a loving heart! Come enjoy fellowship, creativity, and the joy of serving together. Whether you stay for a few minutes or the whole time, your presence will help share God’s love in a beautiful and tangible way. We’d love to see you there!

Campus Ministry at West Liberty University



Campus Ministry continues to meet each Monday for Bible study. Recent conversations have included the women of the Bible, friendship, cooperation, and ways of handling anxiety. These gatherings are filled with meaningful discussion, shared stories, and encouragement along each student's faith journey.

Supporting the local elementary school feeding program remains a highlight. We are grateful for student organizations who help with the weekly sorting and packing, including the football team, women's volleyball team, and dance team. It's inspiring to see students living out their faith through service.



Thank you, Christ UMC, for the many ways you nurture faith, build community, and serve others. Together, we are making a difference—right here and beyond.

HOC Food Pantry Donations

We will be collecting the following for the House of the Carpenter for the month of April: **jelly (grape & strawberry); pudding cups; any type of crackers; beef stew; chili; grape & apple juice, and Hawaiian Punch.**

Christian Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are with the following:

- Collins Family on the death of their loved one, Lowell.
- Colette & John McFadden on the death of her brother, Bob.

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 April 26 and May 3 & 10.

Graduation Recognition

On Sunday, May 17, 2024 the church will be recognizing those who are graduating from High School, College, or University. Please send in a photograph of the graduate accompanied by their full name (first, middle, and last) and the name of the school from which they are graduating. If applicable, provide their plans for the future concerning where they may be attending a college or university, and if they have decided on a major. **This information can be sent to the church office christumcwheeling@gmail.com by April 30, 2026.**

Birthday Luncheon & Choir Recognition

On Sunday, April 26, 2026, there will be a combined birthday luncheon and choir recognition following a combined 10:00 a.m. worship service.

A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex for sponsorship of one of the 12 birthday tables. You will be responsible for decorating the table and providing a cake.

A sign-up sheet will also be posted for parishioners to provide a covered dish to share.

If you have any questions, please see Donita Rush or contact her at 304-280-2285.

Liturgists Needed

Liturgists are needed at the 8:30 worship service for April 19 & 26.

Please sign on the Chapel bulletin board if you are interested in volunteering.

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

Linda Kerr April 01
 Lou Costanzo April 02
 Barbara Piko April 02
 Stewart A. Ebeling April 03
 Nancy Deibert April 05
 Dottie Richardson April 05
 Dixie Ellwood April 06
 Amber Garlitz April 06
 Kelly Ann Allen April 08
 Alex* Cunningham April 08
 Dominick Jebbia April 08
 Susan Dodd April 11
 William Wagner April 11
 DueWayne Crow April 12
 Mariah* Hatton April 12
 Charles Boggess April 13
 Elizabeth Hofmann April 13
 Jennifer Hornyak April 13
 Larry Murphy April 13
 Lucy* Morris April 14
 Marlee Smith April 15
 Betty Lazear April 16
 Natasha Warnick April 16
 Rebecca Broadwater April 17
 Samuel* Muhleman April 17
 Mary Bandi April 18
 Jason LaRue April 18
 Tiffany* Williams April 18
 Carole Adams April 19
 Paula Reven April 19
 Kimberly* Heyman April 20
 Roger* Matz April 21
 Christy Sambuco April 21
 Robert Reid April 22
 Robin* Bitzer April 23
 Tyler Bryant April 24
 Elijah Bryant April 24
 Elaine Sambuco April 24
 Bradley* Wright April 24
 Jaclyn Hornyak April 25
 John W. Kepner April 25
 Ann Marie Koish April 25
 Brian Muhleman April 26
 Max Warnick April 26
 Stephen Knight April 27
 Cathy Strasser April 28

Denise & Wayne Soard
 April 10

Cathy* & Brian Muhleman
 April 11

Cindy & Harry* Baltz
 April 13

Leslie & Edward* Kosanovic
 April 20

Patricia & Jason Cunningham
 April 24

Stacey & Kevin Collins
 April 25

Lisa* & Lance Griffin
 April 25

Cindy* & Gerry Griffith
 April 29

Steve & Jackie Johnston
 April 29

Laura & Shawn Roberts
 April 30

CARE FACILITIES

•**Good Shepherd**
 Jack Kerr - 320
 CeCe Kiedaisch - 256



Christ the Lord
 is Risen Today

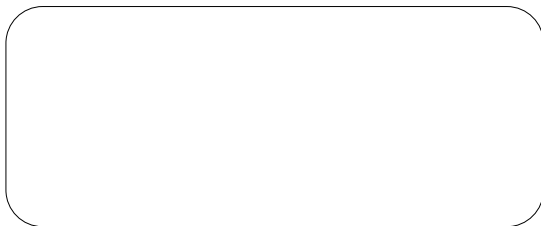
PRAYER REQUESTS

Angela Bailey
 Baby Everett
 Gary Kenamond
 Rick Veon
 Peter Lyasko
 Eric
 Ken & Bob Holt
 Kevin Long
 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
 Breanne
 Sandy Thames
 Jack & Linda Kerr
 Michael Selick
 Scott Morris



Christ United Methodist Church
1232 National Road
Wheeling, WV 26003

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