
Campus Ministry & Family Life Update

Diann Nickerson

As we move through this beautiful season of Easter—a time of renewal, growth, and new beginnings—we are reminded of the many ways God is at work in our church, on campus, and throughout our community. It has been a season filled with connection, service, learning, and joyful celebration, and I am grateful to share some highlights with you.

Campus Ministry: Growing in Faith and Community

This semester has been rich with opportunities for our students to deepen their faith while also putting that faith into action.

Our **weekly Bible study** continues to be a meaningful touchpoint, offering students a consistent space to pause, reflect, and engage in honest conversation about their faith journeys. During busy academic schedules, this time together has become a grounding and life-giving rhythm.

Service has also been at the heart of our work. In partnership with the Northern District Office and three other campus groups, students helped assemble **UMCOR flood buckets**, providing essential supplies for families affected by natural disasters. It was a powerful reminder that even small acts, when done together, can make a significant impact.

We also remain committed to addressing food insecurity through the **Nourish to Flourish Backpack Program** at West Liberty Elementary School. Working alongside campus organizations, we continue to help provide weekend meals for children in our community—living out Christ’s call to care for our neighbors in tangible ways.

As the academic year comes to a close, we are entering a season of celebration. We look forward to our **Lavender Graduation Ceremony**, which offers a space of affirmation and recognition for students, as well as our **end-of-year dinner**, where we gather in gratitude for the relationships and experiences we’ve shared.

We recently held a **Graduating Seniors Ceremony**, a meaningful time of blessing and sending forth, honoring students as they step into new chapters of life. And on **May 9th**, we will celebrate graduation day, holding all of our students in prayer as they carry what they have learned—both academically and spiritually—into the world.

Family Life: Gathering, Serving, and Celebrating Together

Our Family Life ministries have also been vibrant and full of joy this season, offering opportunities for all ages to connect and grow.

We welcomed **28 participants to Messy Church**, where we explored the Easter story by creating *Easter Story Boxes*. This hands-on, intergenerational experience brought scripture to life in creative and meaningful ways. We are excited for our next gathering on May 4, when we will celebrate **Pentecost** together—another opportunity to explore faith through storytelling, creativity, and community.

Our **Easter Party** was filled with laughter and excitement, with 12 children from our church family joining in the celebration. These moments of joy remind us how important it is to create spaces where children feel welcomed, loved, and connected.

During Spring Break, we had the privilege of serving at the **House of the Carpenter Sports Camp**, providing a meal for 21 children. A heartfelt thank you to **Tammy Tomazoli** and **Winnie Hurd** for their help in preparing and serving hot dogs and macaroni and cheese. This simple act of service became a meaningful expression of care and hospitality.

Throughout Lent, we gathered for our **Lenten Luncheon Series**, where 16 participants came together each Sunday for study, reflection, and shared meals. It was a beautiful time of spiritual growth and fellowship as we journeyed toward Easter together.

We also participated in a **Rise Against Hunger meal-packing event**, extending our reach beyond our local community to support those facing hunger around the world. Additionally, we supported the Justice & Advocacy initiative, *Rooted in Love: Breaking Bread, Opening Books*, by participating in a **heart-making session** for Annual Conference—helping to raise awareness around food insecurity and literacy in West Virginia.

A Season of Gratitude

As I reflect on all that has taken place, I am filled with gratitude—for our students, our volunteers, our church family, and our community partners. Each moment of service, each gathering, each shared meal, and each act of kindness is a reflection of God’s love in action.

Thank you for your continued prayers, encouragement, and support. Together, we are nurturing faith, building relationships, and making a difference—one life at a time.

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

The People’s Call to Respond

Part Three - The 7 principles of Catholic Social Teaching plus examples

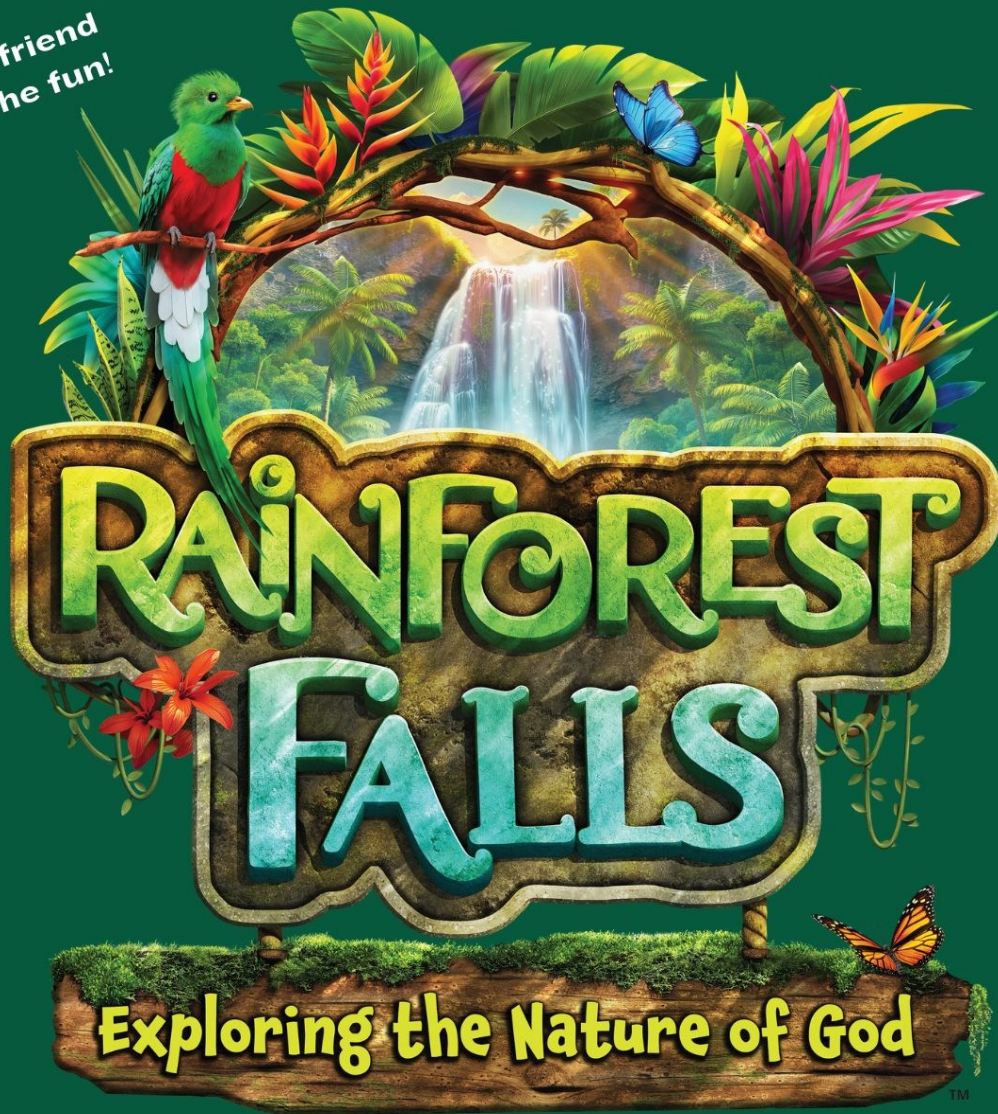
May 18, 2026 / 6:30 to 8 P.M.
St. Michael Parish Angelus Center

All people of religious denomination or human inclination are invited to St. Michael Parish as we listen to each other, pray together and discern where and how we are called to respond to the immigrants, migrants and refugees in the state of West Virginia, the United States, and around the world.

For more information, call the parish office at 304-242-1560 or Lou Volpe 304-277-5211.

Details
coming soon!!!

Invite a friend
& join the fun!



Out the Pike VBS

July 20-24

5:30 - 8:00 PM

Ages 4-12

Sponsored by:

Christ United Methodist Church

First Christian Church

St. Mark Lutheran Church

Vance Presbyterian Church