



1232 National Road  
Wheeling, WV 26003  
304-242-2455  
christumcwheeling@gmail.com  
May 2026, Issue 346

#### 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*

Back in January, the Discipleship Council of Christ United Methodist Church gathered for a planning retreat. As a guide for our planning, I suggested that we reflect on the statement we see every week on our worship bulletins:

*Committed to growing  
Richer in Spirit  
Warmer in Fellowship  
Deeper in Discipleship  
Broader in Mission  
for the sake of Christ Jesus*

The logic was that if these statements express our intentions as a congregation, then those intentions should guide our planning. We started with several questions, addressing each line from the above statement:

- What kind of impact or effect do we intend with each statement?
- Do we feel that the intended impact or effect is being accomplished?
- What might we do new or differently to further accomplish these intentions?
- Does this list of statements fully capture what our intentions, as a church, should be?

Moving in the direction of our bulletin statement becoming a vision statement, it was suggested that we review our bulletin statement in light of the Mission and Vision Statements of the denomination. Reviewing these in the UMC handbook for 2025-2028, we came to the Call to Action. This was the most helpful piece to our work at Christ UMC because it answers the most important question: What intentions does our denominational connection expect churches to act upon? The Call to Action from United Methodist Leadership is as follows:

*Grow and form disciples of Jesus Christ,  
Develop Christ-like leaders  
Stand in solidarity with the poor and the vulnerable  
Seek health and wholeness for all people and creation  
([2025 2028 UMC Handbook 26.pdf](#) , page 4)*

With the Call to Action in mind, we began to suggest some refinements to our current church statement. Though they were minor, we felt they were important to include. I want to thank Kim McCluskey for being a great conversation partner in this effort.

In that same span of time, Christ UMC was approached about placing an ad in the Mustard Seed Mountain Newsletter published by the Mother Jones Center. As a result, Chelsea Young, our Director of Communications & Digital Media got pulled into the work. After talking with Chelsea about the church statement and the refinements we proposed, Chelsea developed a graphic for the Mustard Seed Mountain ad:

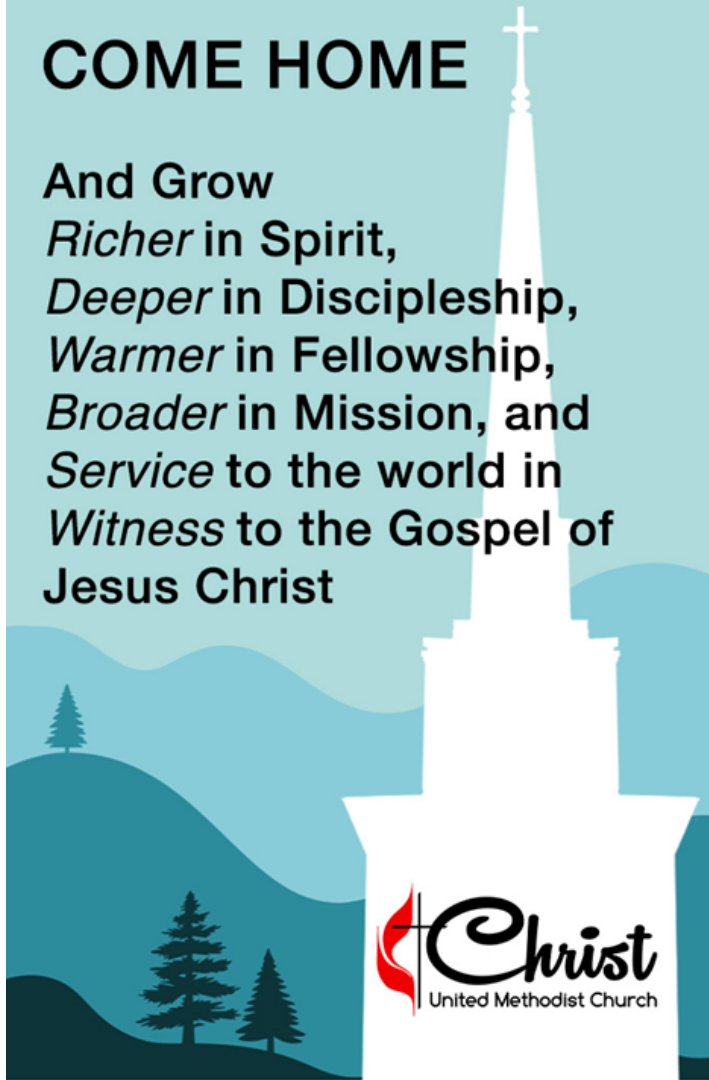
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# COME HOME

## And Grow

*Richer in Spirit,  
Deeper in Discipleship,  
Warmer in Fellowship,  
Broader in Mission, and  
Service to the world in  
Witness to the Gospel of  
Jesus Christ*



**Sunday Worship:**  
**8:30 AM - Chapel**  
**11:00 AM - Sanctuary (Live)**  
**[www.ChristWheeling.org](http://www.ChristWheeling.org)**

In addition to a wonderful graphic presentation, Chelsea's involvement led us to add an invitation-al element to the statement. It also led to an emphasis on the fact that growing in these various ways is most truly done in community, not just as individuals.

The end result is one you will see currently on our exterior sign and on the church announcement screens:

**Come Home!**  
**Together we grow**  
**Richer in Spirit,**  
**Deeper in Discipleship,**  
**Warmer in Fellowship,**  
**Broader in Mission and**  
**Service to the world in**  
**Witness to the Gospel of**  
**Jesus Christ**

I will talk more in the coming months about what each statement means to express. I will also talk about how these statements can serve to guide our life and work as a congregation going forward.

I consider this to be a working document, open to further inspiration and refinement. However, I feel it reflects well who and what Christ Church is and intends to be as an expression of God's Kingdom in the Ohio Valley.

Blessings,  
Pastor Joe

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## ***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.

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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.

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# **WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?**

## **The People’s Call to Respond**

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

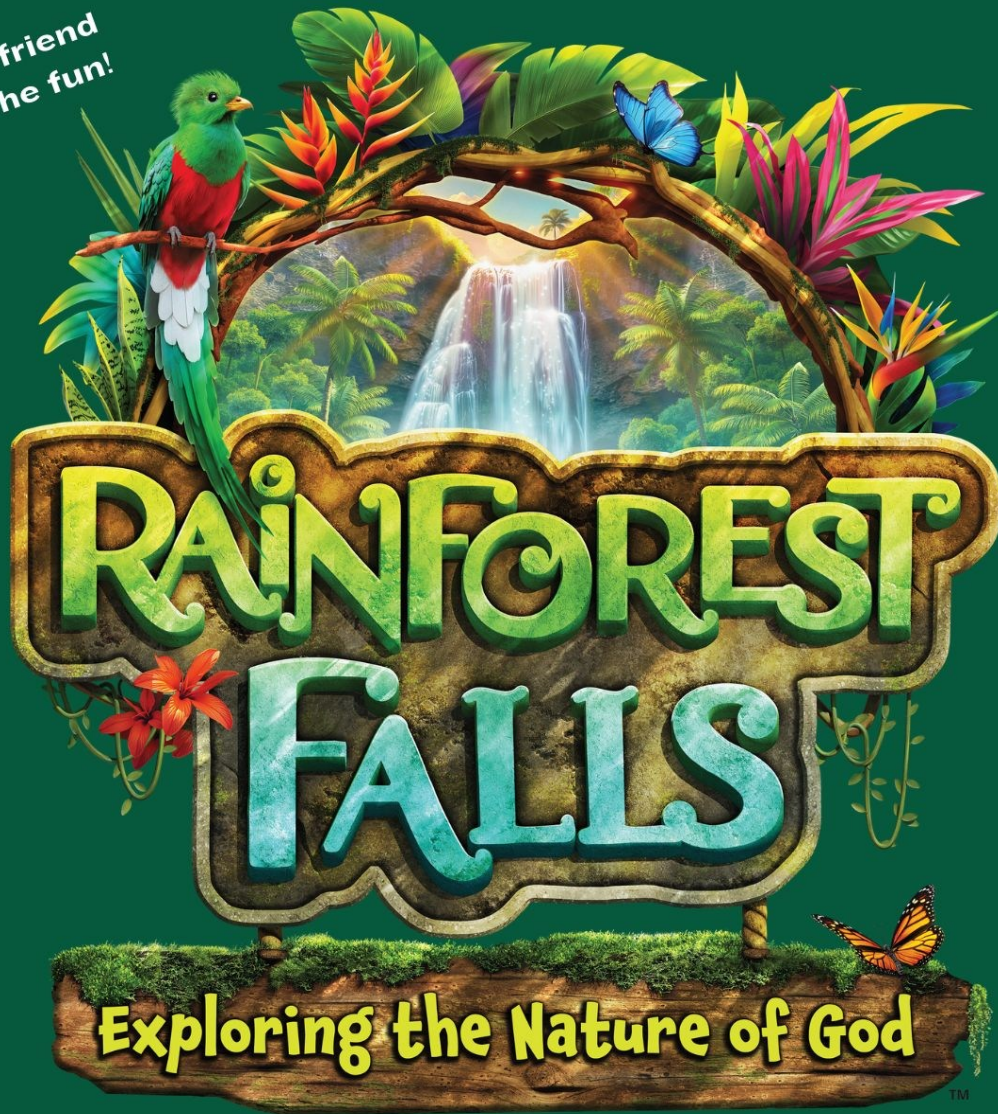
May 18, 2026 / 6:30 to 8 P.M.  
St. Michael Parish Angelus Center

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

## HOC Food Pantry Donations

We will be collecting the following for the House of the Carpenter for the month of May: **any type of juice; any kind of crackers; pudding cups, and instant mashed potatoes.**

Thank you to everyone that donated items in April.

## Women's Potluck

All women of the church are invited to attend a Women's Potluck on Monday, May 11, 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

A sign up sheet is posted to bring your favorite dish to share.

This year there will be no program. We will focus on good food, fellowship and getting to know one another.

If you have any questions, please see Shelby Straub.

## Liturgists Needed

Sign up sheets for liturgists at both worship services for May through August are now posted.

Please sign up and help where you can.

## National Day of Prayer

In celebration of the National Day of Prayer, a prayer and worship service will be held at Independence Hall, 1528 Market Street, 6:30 p.m. This event is free to the public.



## Staff Parish Relations Committee

As our name states, we are charged with monitoring the relationship between our church staff and the congregation. If you have feedback, positive or negative, you would like to make known, you can express it to a member of our committee.

Danielle Ellwood, David Goodwin, Winnie Hurd, Annie

Kopay, John McFadden, Tammy Tomazoli, John Nally, George Ruberg, Andy Jackson

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Roxie Derheimer on the birth of her great-granddaughter, Teddie, on April 10, 2026.



# Congratulations Graduates

- Allyson Grace Carroll will graduate from Pickerington High School, in Pickerington, Ohio. She will attend Ohio University in the Athens, Ohio.

She is the granddaughter of Carol Carroll.

- Cole Lindsay received his bachelor's degree in Human Nutrition and Foods with a minor in Food Science in December. He started his master's degree in January in Nutrition and Food Science.

He is the son of Mark & Julie Lindsay and grandson of Bill and Nancy Deibert.

MEMBERSHIP

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WELCOME TO THE FAMILY !

Ashby/Robbins Family - Tony, Amanda  
Riley, Riyanna & Elyse

Charles & Colleen Polley

Terry & Karen Younkins

# May Birthdays & Anniversaries

Karrie Hutchins May 03  
 Melanie Ogu May 03  
 Monique\* Taylor May 03  
 Rachael Allen May 06  
 Holly McCutcheon May 06  
 Jill Thorngate May 06  
 Briella Taylor May 07  
 Lexie Kosanovic May 08  
 Brenda Queen May 08  
 Crystal Gersting May 09  
 Debra Galbreath May 11  
 Sydni\* Kondrach May 11  
 Leslie Koonce May 11  
 Yolanda Voegelin May 11  
 Buddy\* Bowman May 12  
 Josie Dyer May 12  
 Conor\* Griffith May 12  
 Amanda West May 12  
 Russell Hutchins May 13  
 Laura Roberts May 13  
 Zaira\* Jones May 14  
 Bill Stephens May 14  
 Jillian\* Hornyak May 15  
 Joseph M. Lloyd May 15  
 Lori\* Bitzer May 17  
 Alexander Collins May 17  
 Skip Myers May 17  
 William Voegelin May 17  
 Timothy Bandi, I May 19  
 Cecelia Jebbia May 19  
 Justine LaRue May 19  
 Henry Lew May 19  
 Linda Seiferth May 19  
 Kenneth Vannoy May 19  
 Tricia Palmer May 20  
 Bethany Steele May 21  
 Charles\* Heyman May 22  
 Brock\* Jones May 26  
 Matthew Nally May 26  
 Crystal Collins May 29  
 Amber Collins May 29  
 Drew Griffin May 29  
 Randy Wharton May 31

**Linda & Chuck Cornell**  
May 19

**Jill & Roger Thorngate**  
May 19

**Colleen & Denny Lee**  
May 20

**Shannon & Timothy\* Gessler**  
May 21

**Amy & Scott\* Morris**  
May 21

**Nikki & Bob Reid**  
May 21

**Judy\* & Craig Collins**  
May 22

**Deborah & Joe\* Hatton**  
May 23

**Helen & Wayne Wells**  
May 27

**Jennifer & Aubrey Taylor**  
May 28

**Kathleen & Joseph\* Palmer**  
May 29

**Cassie & Tyler\* Schultz**  
May 31

## CARE FACILITIES

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



## PRAYER REQUESTS

Barbara Romo  
 Angela Bailey  
 Baby Everett  
 Rick Veon  
 Peter Lyasko  
 Eric  
 Kevin Long  
 James  
 Roxie Derheimer  
 Bruce & Mary Bandi  
 Lois Pace  
 Greg Smith  
 Shirley Conaway  
 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



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