



There is something beautiful happening in the life of our churches and campus community — hearts are being connected, stories are being shared, and lives are being touched through fellowship, service, learning, and love.

Rooted in Love: Heart Strings & Bookmarks

Several people from our congregation recently gathered together for a creative and meaningful time of preparation for the upcoming West Virginia Annual Conference. This year's Justice and Advocacy theme, "Rooted in Love: Breaking Bread, Opening Books," focuses on two critical realities facing many West Virginians: food insecurity and underachieving literacy rates.

As part of this conference-wide effort, congregations across the state were invited to create:

- Strings of hearts representing love, connection, and communion with one another
- Bookmarks highlighting the importance of literacy and access to reading

Our group enjoyed a morning filled with creativity, conversation, laughter, and purpose as we prepared these visual reminders of God's call to love and serve our neighbors. The hearts and bookmarks will become part of a larger display at Annual Conference, reminding attendees that small acts of compassion can help address big needs in our communities.

Messy Church Continues to Grow



The most recent **Messy Church** gathering was filled with joy, energy, creativity, and meaningful connections! Families shared a meal, learned about the Holy Spirit, and participated in hands-on activities that were indeed very messy!

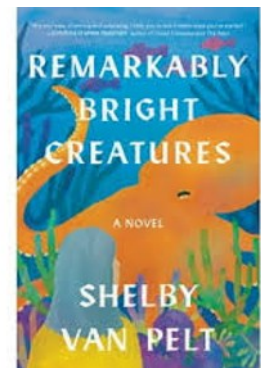
We would love to welcome even more friends to our next gathering on Monday, June 1st, when Christ UMC will serve as host church. Our theme for the evening will be The Trinity. The evening begins with dinner at 6:00 PM, followed by our story time, crafts, activities, music, and fellowship. Messy Church continues to be a wonderful opportunity for people of all ages to grow in faith together in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

Dinner and a Movie

Mark your calendars for a fun evening of food, fellowship, and film!

Sunday, June 14 at 6:00 PM

We will gather for Dinner and a Movie featuring the heartwarming 2026 comedy-drama *Remarkably Bright Creatures*, adapted from Shelby Van Pelt's bestselling novel. The film stars Sally Field as Tova, an elderly widow whose nightly work at a local aquarium leads to an unexpected and life-changing friendship with a giant Pacific octopus. Filled with humor, healing, and hope, the story reminds us of the surprising ways connection can transform our lives.



Please call the church office at 304-242-2455 if you plan to attend so we can prepare enough food for everyone.

Vacation Bible School 2026

Excitement is already building for this year's **Vacation Bible School**, scheduled for **Monday, July 20 – Friday, July 24**. This year we are planning something extra special to close out the week – a community carnival celebration featuring: food, games, activities, and lots of fun for families and neighbors. In addition, our children will share music with our friends at Elmhurst and provide residents with a handmade VBS craft as a reminder of how much we value and appreciate our partnership with them. There will be many opportunities for congregation members to share their gifts and graces through volunteering, decorating, teaching, hospitality, music, and outreach. More information will be shared soon!



Celebrating Our Graduates



Graduation season always brings a mixture of joy and bittersweet reflection. This year, we celebrate four graduating students who have been deeply involved in Campus Ministry throughout their college years. These remarkable young women have participated in: Bible studies, worship leadership, service projects, volunteer outreach, and countless moments of fellowship and encouragement. Congratulations Abigail, Emily, Stephanie and Tiffany! While they will certainly be missed, we are grateful for the ways they have shaped our ministry and are excited to begin dreaming and planning for the 2026–2027 academic year.

Supporting Summer Staff

One of our favorite summer traditions continue as Campus Ministry once again prepares to provide a meal, desserts, and drinks for the housing staff working on the hilltop this summer. This small gesture of appreciation allows us to build relationships and remind staff members that they are valued and supported.

Orientation & Graduation Participation

Campus Ministry has once again been invited to participate in university orientation activities for incoming students – an important opportunity to welcome new Hilltoppers and help them find community and support from the very beginning of their college experience. In addition, I will have the honor of providing both the invocation and benediction for this year's Physician Assistant graduation ceremony.

Peace and Grace,

Diann Nickerson
Family Life Coordinator and Director of Campus Ministry