



1232 National Road
Wheeling, WV 26003
304-242-2455
christumcwheeling@gmail.com
June 2026, Issue 347

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

Growing Richer in Spirit

Last month, I shared some of the discussion behind revisions to our church statement:

***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 want to share my understanding of what each part of this statement means to me, beginning this month with "Together we grow richer in spirit". As I type the phrase, I remember something Jesus said: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of God". In the case of the church, it is exactly the richness of the Kingdom of God in which we mean to grow. I want to bring together a few passages of scripture for our consideration. In the Apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians, he shares this prayer for the church in Ephesus:

*¹⁶ I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, God may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit ¹⁷ and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.
(Ephesians 3:16-17)*

As to what one might expect to be the fulfillment of such a prayer, one description of it is found in Paul's letter to the Galatians:

*"the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control
(Galatians 5:22-23)*

To have these qualities increasingly become our regular everyday way of being, this is one way to understand what it means to grow richer in spirit. By extension, living our lives with the qualities on display and in action makes us to be the experience of the Kingdom of God for others. How then do we go about becoming more mature, or richer, in this way? The second part of Paul's prayer point us back to something Jesus says:

"Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing...."

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¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.”
(John 15:4,5,10)

In Jesus' words, we recognize what we call a feedback loop or a cyclical reinforcement. Relationship empowers action, action in turn enriches relationship, and so on. Abiding in Jesus is meant to be the regular way and rhythm of our days, whereby we grow more fruitful (richer) in spirit.

The time we spend together in worship is devoted to the practice of abiding in God's love and presence. Together we rejoice in God. We remember and reaffirm our trust in and reliance upon God. In our times of worship with God and one another, we recover from the strains and noise of the week gone by. It resets our spirits for the week to come. We can move out of our times of worship into the waiting world with clean hearts, clear minds, and rightly directed spirit.

Our worship together helps us to be **more richly aware** of the God who abides in us and in whom we abide. That in turn helps us to **grow richer** in fruitfulness and faithfulness in all that Jesus teaches us to be and do.

I am grateful for the many people who invest so much time, energy, and creativity to nurture a genuine atmosphere of worship in our times together. Any given Sunday morning at Christ UMC is itself the fruit of many faithful lives: ushers, acolytes, liturgists, communion stewards, chancel and bell choirs, children's church team, and the a/v team. Even before we get to a Sunday morning, the building has been maintained and cleaned, bulletins created, utilities paid, etc. For all of that, the richness of it all is only realized when the worshipping congregation gathers. When I am with you, it always feels to me that I am among people who have come into the space with the sincere desire and intention to worship the God we love together and who loves us together. I am so grateful for that. I include our online congregation in that statement as well and our sisters and brothers at Buena chapel. Your presence reminds us just how broad and far this worshipping community reaches. All of this reaffirms the idea that growing richer in spirit is best done and best experienced together. Together may we grow richer, more fruitful, and more faithful in spirit in witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Joe



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!

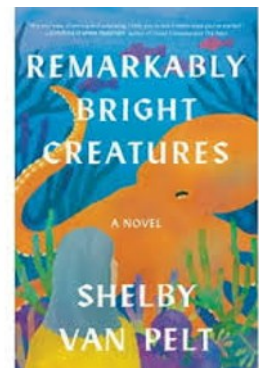
We would love to welcome even more friends to our next gathering on Monday, June 1st, when Christ UMC will serve as host church. Our theme for the evening will be The Trinity. The evening begins with dinner at 6:00 PM, followed by our story time, crafts, activities, music, and fellowship. Messy Church 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

Solo Diners' Club

Are you tired of eating alone every night? If so, come join our NEW group: Solo Diners' Club. It's BYO everything (food, beverage, utensils, etc.). At this time, we're only meeting once per month (at church) but that may increase during fall/winter.

Come try this new way to have a little company at dinnertime.

Watch the weekly church bulletin for information regarding the July event.

Feel free to call/text Sharon Wiesner with any questions. 304-281-6081.

HOC Food Pantry Donations

We will be collecting the following for the House of the Carpenter for the month of June: hygiene items (toilet paper, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, feminine products, etc.) and cleaning supplies.

Thank you to everyone that donated items for May.

NCU Luncheon

The New Covenant Unit will meet for lunch on Saturday, June 20, 12:00 p.m., at Generations Restaurant & Pub, 338 National Road.

The group will be dining inside, so Generations will need to know how many will be attending. Please be sure to include your name on the sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Coffee Hour

A coffee hour sign-up sheet for June, July & August is now posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Sign up today to host coffee hour on the 2nd or 4th Sunday of each month this summer.

If you have a special occasion, take the initiative to host coffee

hour on another Sunday. Please see Shelby Straub or contact the church office to arrange it.

Christian Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are with Gary & Linda and family on the death of her mother, Kathryn Koerner.

Details coming soon!!!
Invite a friend & join the fun!

RAINFOREST FALLS

Exploring the Nature of God

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

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

Kitt Bandi June 01
 CeCe Kiedaisch June 02
 Bree* Wiley June 02
 Deborah Hatton June 03
 Danell Morris June 03
 Gretchen McCardle June 04
 Krysta Frye June 06
 Jakob Bedway June 07
 Martha Hon June 07
 Ricky* Onishi June 07
 Howard Oliver June 08
 Mila Smith June 08
 Nicholas* Barbeau June 09
 Crystal Clatterbuck June 09
 Bruce Grover June 09
 Cheryl Stephens June 09
 Addilyn* Ellwood June 10
 Daniel Knight June 10
 Sarah Allen June 11
 Jill Bandi June 11
 Bob Matzke June 11
 Brandon Bandi June 12
 Cole Lindsay June 12
 Tracey Eberling June 14
 Lilyana* Fullerton June 14
 Joy Dyer June 15
 Adalen* Jefferson June 16
 Cameron Broadwater June 17
 Richard Brown June 17
 Stephen* Mills June 18
 Jonathan* Willson June 18
 Robert Gregg Barker June 20
 Kevin Collins June 20
 Barbara J. LaRue June 20
 Judith McNabb June 20
 Cheryl Arensberg June 21
 Linda Bryant June 21
 Charlene Goodwin June 21
 Deborah Hofmann June 21
 Benjamin Roberts June 21
 Gary V. Bryant June 25
 Ashley Clatterbuck June 25
 Allie* Ellwood June 25
 Paul Thompson June 25
 Wesley McConnell June 26
 Olivia Simons June 26

Emily* Steele June 26
 Seth Storch June 26
 Ken Dunbar June 27
 Doug* Liston June 28
 Giavonna* Loccisano June 29
 Clark Sambuco June 29
 Fred E. Groux, Jr. June 30
 Walter F. LaRue June 30
 Kathleen Palmer June 30

Mike* & Jean Bailey
June 6

Gary & Linda Bryant
June 6

Doug* & Judy* Liston
June 7

Don & DeAnna Taylor
June 8

Michael & Charlene Frazier
June 9

George & Laurie Ruberg
June 13

Michael* & Belinda Austen
June 19

Ken & Robin Dunbar
June 19

Walter & Barbara LaRue
June 21

Jason & Amber Smith
June 26

Dave & MiMi Weis
June 30

CARE FACILITIES

- Good Shepherd**
Jack Kerr - 320
CeCe Kiedaisch - 256
- Ruby Memorial**
Jean Hicks

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
 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
 Autumn VanCamp
 Terry Depew

BIBLE READING PLAN:

Choose YOUR OWN JOURNEY



Head out on a month-long exploration through God's Word. Each day's quest comes with some options. Choose from a prayer, a parable, a gospel reading or an epistle reading. If you have more time or use this Bible Reading Plan more than once a day, read the rest of the passages too.

May God bless you as you journey through Scripture & grow closer to him!

1. GRATITUDE

- Prayer: 1 Samuel 2:1-10
- Gospel: Luke 17:11-19
- Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

2. TRUST

- Prayer: Psalm 28:6-9
- Gospel: Mark 5:21-43

3. PRAISE

- Prayer: Exodus 15:1-18
- Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:54-57

4. LOVE

- Prayer: Philippians 1:9-11
- Gospel: Mark 12:28-33
- Epistle: 1 John 4:7-21

5. PRAYER

- Prayer: Matthew 6:9-13
- Parable: Luke 18:10-14
- Epistle: Ephesians 6:17-20

6. OBEDIENCE

- Parable: Matthew 21:28-32
- Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

7. PATIENCE

- Parable: James 5:7-11
- Epistle: Romans 8:22-25

8. WISDOM

- Prayer: 1 Kings 3:3-9
- Parable: Matthew 7:24-27
- Epistle: James 3:13-18

9. CALLING

- Prayer: Isaiah 6:1-8
- Epistle: 1 Peter 2:9-10

10. FORGIVENESS

- Prayer: 1 Kings 8:46-53
- Parable: Matthew 18:21-35
- Gospel: Luke 23:32-34

11. JOY

- Prayer: Psalm 16
- Parable: Luke 15:1-10
- Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9

12. RESTORATION

- Prayer: Psalm 51:10-19
- Gospel: John 2:19-22

13. STEWARDSHIP

- Parable: Luke 12:16-21
- Gospel: Luke 21:1-4
- Epistle: 1 Timothy 6:17-19

14. HUMILITY

- Parable: Luke 14:7-14
- Epistle: Philippians 2:1-11

15. REFUGE

- Prayer: Psalm 121
- Gospel: John 17:11-19

16. MIRACLES

- Prayer: Matthew 14:13-21
- Gospel: Mark 9:14-24

17. FRUITFULNESS

- Parable: Matthew 25:14-30
- Gospel: John 15:1-8
- Epistle: James 2:14-24

18. UNITY

- Prayer: John 17:20-23
- Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

19. PROVISION

- Prayer: Deuteronomy 28:1-14
- Parable: John 10:1-18
- Gospel: Matthew 6:25-34

20. PEACE

- Prayer: Isaiah 26:1-13
- Epistle: 2 Corinthians 13:11-14

21. JUSTICE

- Prayer: 1 Kings 8:56-61
- Parable: Matthew 20:1-16

22. PERSISTENCE

- Prayer: James 5:13-18
- Parable: Luke 18:1-8

23. EVANGELISM

- Prayer: Acts 4:23-31
- Epistle: Romans 10:9-15

24. FAITHFULNESS

- Prayer: Nehemiah 8:1-13
- Parable: Matthew 21:18-22

25. SUFFERING

- Prayer: Job 19:21-27
- Epistle: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

26. GROWTH

- Prayer: Colossians 1:9-14
- Parable: Mark 4:26-29

27. MERCY

- Parable: Luke 10:30-37
- Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-16

28. SALVATION

- Prayer: Acts 2:22-36
- Parable: Luke 16:19-31
- Gospel: John 3:16-17

29. READINESS

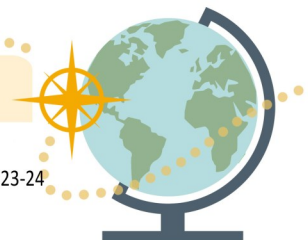
- Prayer: Luke 1:46-55
- Parable: Matthew 25:1-13

30. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

- Parable: Matthew 13:31-33
- Gospel: John 14:1-4

31. BLESSING

- Prayer: Numbers 6:24-27
- Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24





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