



1232 National Road
Wheeling, WV 26003
304-242-2455
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July 2026, Issue 348

IN-PERSON WORSHIP

8:30 am 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

Together We Grow Deeper in Discipleship

I thought the best place to start this article was to consider the question “What do we intend for our lives when we talk about growing deeper in discipleship”. That is an incorrect point from which to begin. The starting place is this: “What does God intend for our lives?” A disciple of Jesus is one who trusts that his answer to that question is the only reliable answer. It stands to reason that if I can trust this Jesus for the life that comes after dying, I should also trust him for the living of these mortal days. Living as Jesus teaches and demonstrates, we trust that we will find ourselves living life as God intends.

Growing in discipleship obviously begins by gaining knowledge of what the teacher intends. We might think of it as enrolling in a course. What objectives does Jesus give in the syllabus for this course? In the 5th chapter of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus puts the objective before us in metaphor:

To be the salt of the earth,

To be the light of the world,

To be a lamp giving light to the room,

To be a city on a hill in plain view.

All of that to say we are to stand out in the world as something different from the ways of life men contrive for themselves. Something different and therefore inviting. That difference, as Jesus teaches, is most definitively recognized in the attitude and behavior displayed by self-giving love.

³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

Loving one another certainly would require us to grow together. Aside from that, it does seem simple enough that it should not be that “deep” of a thing to grow into. Then again, the directions in which Jesus extends himself in love surprise us sometimes. I look at the extent to which his expressions of love extend and to whom those expressions are extended. Sometimes it feels a little beyond what I want to do, where or to whom I want to go. Thing is, if I am going to insist on calling myself a disciple of Jesus Christ, I'm going to have to keep trying.

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What a blessing it is to have sisters, and brothers in Christ trying at the same thing; shooting to hit the same mark. Together we find support, encouragement, and accountability. Together we journey with one question: What does the Lord ask of us?

May we, together, grow in depth of understanding of who and what Jesus teaches us to be. And may we, together, also grow in depth of desire to love as far and as wide as the Teacher has demonstrated.

“⁴⁶ “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I tell you? ⁴⁷ I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them. ⁴⁸ That one is like a man building a house who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock; when a flood arose, the river burst against that house but could not shake it because it had been well built”

Luke 6:46-49

May we always build well, together.

Pastor Joe

Breaking Bread and Sharing Stories



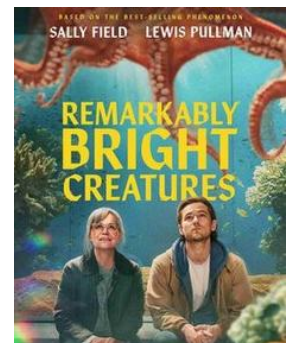
There is something sacred about gathering around a table. Throughout Scripture, some of the most meaningful moments of faith, friendship, and community happened while people shared meals together. Jesus often taught, encouraged, and built relationships while breaking bread with others. Those simple acts of eating together continue to strengthen the bonds of Christian community today.

Recently, members and friends gathered for an evening of fellowship at our Dinner and a Movie event featuring *Remarkably Bright Creatures*, based on the beloved novel by Shelby Van Pelt. Before settling in for the movie, we enjoyed a delicious meal of chicken alfredo, salad, and bread, followed by traditional movie favorites of popcorn and chocolate. A special thank you goes to Shelby Straub, whose generous donation of the snacks helped make the evening even sweeter.

As we laughed, reflected, and shared the story together, we were reminded that community is built not only in worship services, but also in ordinary moments spent with one another. Gathering around the table allows us to slow down, listen to one another's stories, and cultivate friendships that encourage and sustain us in our faith journeys.

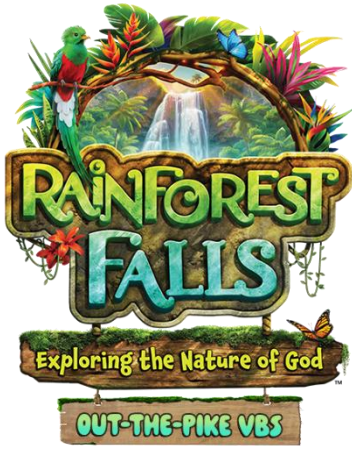
In a world where schedules are busy and people often feel isolated, taking time to sit together over a meal and enjoy an evening of conversation and entertainment becomes an important ministry. These moments remind us that church is more than a place we attend—it is a family with whom we share life.

Acts 2:46 tells us, *"They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts."* We are grateful for opportunities like Dinner and a Movie that allow us to continue this beautiful tradition of fellowship, hospitality, and joy.



Thank you to everyone who joined us and to those who helped make the evening possible!

Vacation Bible School is almost here!



Summer is a wonderful time for children to discover God’s love, make new friends, and create memories that can last a lifetime. That is why we are excited to invite children and families to **Out the Pike Vacation Bible School**, taking place **July 20–24**, as we join with our partner churches—Vance Presbyterian Church, First Christian Church, and St. Mark Lutheran Church—for **Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God**.

Vacation Bible School is much more than crafts and games. It is an opportunity for children to grow in faith, learn Bible stories, sing songs, and experience the love of Christ in a joyful and welcoming environment. Through hands-on activities, music, stories, and fellowship, children will discover how God's creativity, beauty, and care are reflected throughout the world around us.

VBS also provides a wonderful opportunity for churches to work together, modeling the unity and love that Jesus prayed for among his followers. By sharing our gifts and resources, we create a vibrant ministry that reaches children and families throughout our community.

Just as important as the children who attend are the many volunteers who make this ministry possible. Whether you enjoy playing games, preparing snacks, helping with crafts, welcoming families, or simply offering a smile and encouragement, there is a place for everyone to serve. No special experience is required—only a willingness to share God's love with the next generation.

Jesus said, *"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these"* (Matthew 19:14). Vacation Bible School is one way we answer that call by creating a space where children are welcomed, valued, and invited to know the love of God.

We hope your family will join us for this exciting week of adventure and discovery. We also encourage members and friends to prayerfully consider volunteering. Together, we can help children explore the wonders of God's creation and grow in faith.

For more information or to register, scan the QR code below or contact the church office. We look forward to sharing this exciting week with you!



Solo Diner's 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 the fall/winter.

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

Watch the weekly church bulletin for information regarding our next 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 food pantry at the House of the Carpenter for the month of July:

Kluski noodles, egg noodles, chicken & beef broth, Lipton or generic noodles, onion soup or dip mix, pudding, juice & crackers.

Please drop your items in the Narthex or at the Chapel entrance into the wooden boxes labeled for the HOC.

Thank you to everyone who donated items during the month of June. Your contributions are greatly appreciated!

Christian Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to Charles Williams and family on the death of his daughter, Kristen.

The Chosen Watch Party

If you can't get enough of "The Chosen" or have never watched it or have tried it and couldn't get into it, join us in the Family Room on Monday evenings beginning August 3, 2026, for a new weekly event: The Chosen Watch Party. Doors open at 6:15, each episode will begin at 6:30 followed by the Bible Roundtable, as a Messianic Jewish rabbi, A Roman Catholic priest, and an evangelical professor of theology discuss whether what we watched is scriptural or

interpretation, adding cultural and historical context.

If questions, text or email Christie Hill at chillsing76@gmail.com (304) 840-1923 or Jo Lynne Nugent at jolnugent@aol.com (304) 292-8291.

District Superintendent Installation



Rev. Greg Markins' Installation Service as our D.S. will be on Sunday,

July 19, at 3PM, Mt. Olivet UMC.

Further information will be available soon.

JOIN US
CHURCH PICNIC
Sunday, July 26
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
11:00 a.m. Lunch
Levenson Shelter, Oglebay Park

Sign up sheet is posted to bring your favorite dish to share: salad, potatoes, vegetable or dessert.

Hot dogs, chicken, drinks and all paper products will be provided.

A flyer for a church picnic. The background is green with leaf patterns. At the top, it says "JOIN US" in white. Below that, "CHURCH PICNIC" is written in large, bold, white letters. The date "Sunday, July 26" is in white. The times "10:00 a.m. Worship Service" and "11:00 a.m. Lunch" are listed in white. The location "Levenson Shelter, Oglebay Park" is at the bottom in white. There is a small illustration of a drink with a straw and fruit on the left, and a picnic basket with a red and white checkered cloth on the right.

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

Craig S.,II* Arensberg July 01
 Cassandra Schultz July 02
 Dennis T. Lee July 03
 Susan Mallett July 03
 Tammy Tomazoli July 03
 Linda Wagenheim July 03
 Patricia Cunningham July 04
 Shannon Gessler July 04
 Sam Milton July 05
 John Rush July 05
 Richard McCardle July 06
 D. Scott Jones July 07
 Kathleen Knight July 07
 Jason* Smaltz July 10
 Miranda Sykes July 10
 Julianne Rose Collins July 11
 Jennifer Taylor July 11
 Spencer* Coleman July 12
 Kathy* Posey July 12
 Jada Taylor July 13
 Adam* Koonce July 14
 Daniel Young July 14
 Derek* Channel July 17
 Stephen Wharton July 17
 Lance R. Griffin July 18
 Olivia Kiger-Camilo July 18
 Benjamin, II Statler July 18
 Pam Milton July 20
 Nicole Reid July 20
 Wesley* Wright July 20
 Camden* Crosten July 22
 Teagan* Crosten July 22
 Ben Ellwood July 22
 Jenny L. McCardle July 22
 Marilyn Smith July 22
 Jaclyn Sprague-Glynn July 22
 Dylan Elias* Griffin July 23
 Carter* Kidd July 23
 Angie* Behrens July 24
 Leesa Boyd July 24
 Lisa Kepner July 24
 Sara* Wright July 24
 Brittney Bragg July 25
 Andy* Roberts July 25
 Jacob Straub July 26
 Lisa M. Conner July 27
 Isaac* Bedway July 28

Colette McFadden July 28
 Jamie Crow July 30
 Sally Schmalz July 30
 Jarred Smith July 30
 David Croft July 31
 Chris Kiedaisch July 31
 Leslie Kosanovic July 31
 Ryan* Mudge July 31

Mark & Julie Lindsay
 July 4

Bill & Nancy Deibert
 July 7

Bill & Joy* Stephens
 July 7

Rick & Susan Mallett
 July 8

Roger* & Debbie Micker
 July 11

Buddy* & Kim* Bowman
 July 12

Jake* & Emily* Steele
 July 14

Charles & Beth* Heyman
 July 16

Errol & Christy Sambuco
 July 18

**Russell & Mary Lu
 Hutchins**
 July 27

Cecil & Jennifer Heyman
 July 28

Donald* & Pam Milton
 July 29

John & Sandy Warnick
 July 31

PRAYER REQUESTS

Patricia Oliver
 Anna Morris
 Family of Eric Gordon
 Tom Hemsley
 Barbara Romo
 Angela Bailey
 Baby Everett
 Rick Veon
 Peter Lyasko
 Eric
 Kevin Long
 James
 Roxie Derheimer
 Bruce & Mary Bandi
 Greg Smith
 Shirley Conaway
 Ed Fitzgerald
 David King
 Lee Browning
 Sarah
 Justin
 Gary Galbreath
 Craig
 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
 Jack & Linda Kerr
 Michael Selick
 Scott Morris
 Autumn VanCamp
 Terry Depew
 Brian Brownlee



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