



1232 National Road
Wheeling, WV 26003
304-242-2455
christumcwheeling@gmail.com
August 2026, Issue 349

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

This month we take a break from my reflections on our church statement to reflect on something different...well, someone different. I'll start with an account from the life of Jesus of Nazareth:

"⁶ And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, ⁷ a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured it on His head as He sat at the table. ⁸ But when His disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, 'Why this waste? ⁹ For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor.' ¹⁰ But when Jesus was aware of it, He said to them, 'Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me. ¹¹ For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always.'"

Matthew 26:6-11

For now, I want only to lift up one aspect of this story. In his words, Jesus acknowledges that there are times when love, to be most authentically expressed, can and perhaps needs to be expressed extravagantly.

We could say that love, at its truest, is about steady devotion. It expresses itself most sincerely in the quiet rhythm of day to day means: the reliable and faithful presence, the tender touch or embrace, simple acts of affection and appreciation, and so on.

Yet with all of that, there are times when a person wants to express the full magnitude of their love for another in one grand sweep. Indeed, the heart at times feels it must do so. It is as if the heart simply doesn't have the patience to wait for the march of hours and days to make the cumulative expressions. Sometimes a person's heart needs the person they love to know, immediately, if at all possible, the full extent of that love. Thus, the imagination and the heart conspire to make some grand effort; something more expensive or expansive either in scope or in detail than the usual expressions. Some effort, some expressions must sometimes be made that bring the steady work of love in the ordinary moments of life over into the extraordinary.

Some people have a gift for very naturally infusing the "extra" into the ordinary. Whatever task they take on, they recognize what the task requires and then go a step, or ten steps, beyond whatever "enough" would look like. Thoughtful details accent their work in such a way that their work always conveys the love and affection for whomever they have labored. Such people are "extra" in the best ways.

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We have been blessed to journey in fellowship and ministry with someone for whom the description applies. Diann Nickerson came to this congregation as the Family Life Coordinator in early 2024. While I have only been with you for the past year, I have always enjoyed watching Diann tend to her work here and at West Liberty. Just outside Diann's office door is a sign that says "elevator". More than once I have commented that I don't know if that sign is for the actual church elevator or is a part of Diann's job title. In everything she does there is a generosity of heart and spirit that elevates the life of the congregation in some way. That also goes for the collective of area churches involved Messy Church and Vacation Bible School.



This month Diann transitions away from her role as our Family Life Coordinator. Diann's grandson has recruited her for full-time employment as "Nana" and we simply cannot develop a compensation package to outmatch her grandson's perpetual love and adoration. This is not quite a good-bye to Diann as a part of our church family. However, it is a farewell to Diann as our Family Life Coordinator and as a part of our daily and weekly rhythms. She will be dearly missed as she is dearly loved and appreciated by all of us.

Diann, our love and prayers go with you and your family. We celebrate with you and Wesley as you and he begin many full-time "Extra" Nana adventures. Family Life Coordinator, Elevator, "Administrator of 'Extra' Details" (AED), We send you with God's blessings!



**Continue to support
Messy Church – our next
gathering is on Monday,
August 3rd at Wheeling
Park pool from 7-9 PM.**

Our Paths Have Crossed

Well... this is the part I knew was coming, but somehow, I convinced myself would take a little longer. As I pack boxes and prepare for retirement, I've found myself doing a lot of remembering. Five years. It doesn't seem possible. When I began serving as Director of Protestant Campus Ministry, I thought ministry was about planning events, organizing calendars, and checking off to-do lists. God, as usual, had different lessons in mind and I ended up here at Christ United Methodist Church!

If these past five years have taught me anything, it's this: People matter. Relationships matter. Love matters. Everything else is just details.

Some of my favorite moments never appeared on a calendar. They happened over pizza after Bible study, during long rides home from mission trips, while sharing meals, Sunday School classes, VBS, Messy Church, and in conversations that reminded me God often works best in ordinary moments.

Mission work has always been my love language. Together we packed meals for Rise Against Hunger, assembled flood buckets, and learned from communities throughout southern West Virginia about the water crisis. I've treasured my time on the Mission Team and all the good work they do to help our neighbors.

As I begin this next chapter, my heart is incredibly full. Thank you for trusting me, laughing with me, serving beside me, and reminding me that ministry has never been about one person. It's about all of us showing up, sharing meals, serving our neighbors, and joining God where God is already at work.

Our paths have crossed, and they can't be uncrossed. I don't believe God wastes relationships. Every conversation, every worship service, every mission trip and service project, every shared meal, and every prayer becomes part of who we are.

So this isn't goodbye. It's simply...see you soon. May God continue to surprise you, stretch you, and remind you each day that love is still the greatest ministry of all.

With a grateful heart,

Diann Nickerson

Be sure to bring your backpacks to church at the 11 AM service on **Sunday, August 23rd** for a blessing as we start the year praying for children, teachers and support staff as they embark on a new school year.





Solo Diners' Club – June 30, 2026

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.

Christian Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are with Cindy Baltz and family on the death of her husband, Harry.

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 (304) 281-8292 jo1nugent@aol.com

HOC Food Pantry Donations

We will be collecting the following for the food pantry at the House of the Carpenter for the month of August: **any variety of crackers; pudding cups; ramen noodles and generic Spaghettios & ravioli.**

They will gladly accept any food items that you would like to donate.

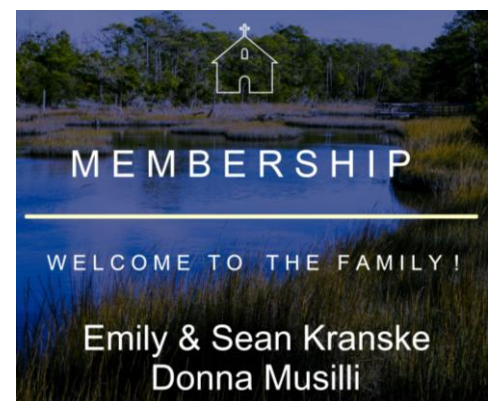
Please drop your items in the Narthex or at the Chapel entrance into the wooden boxes labeled for the HOC.

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

Free Books

Please stop by the **free** book table near the front entrance. You'll find books on topics like comfort, hope, prayer, and God's love, along with a women's devotional Bible and a CD set of Handel's Messiah.

Help yourself to a book or take one for a family member or friend.



August Birthdays & Anniversaries

Charlene Frazier	August 01
Laurie Ruberg	August 02
Jeffrey* Joseph	August 03
Beverly Straub	August 04
Jennifer Heyman	August 05
Rick Mallett	August 05
Stacey Collins	August 06
Erick* Schmalz	August 06
Willow* Conner	August 07
Brenda Duvall	August 07
Gary Kiedaisch	August 07
Justin* Willson	August 07
Elizabeth* Godown	August 09
Linda Cornell	August 10
Matthew Straub	August 10
Chad Bryant	August 11
David Croft	August 11
Benjamin Depew	August 11
David Jackson	August 11
Gina* Behrens	August 13
Dorothy Harman	August 13
Donnie Kidd	August 13
Aiko Onishi	August 13
Carly* Arensberg	August 14
Belinda Austen	August 14
Jonathon* Hornyak	August 15
Lily* Morris	August 19
Hanna Frazier	August 20
Laeken Beale	August 22
Judy Wright	August 22
Michael* Soard	August 23
Katie Wheeler	August 23
Tracy Stobbs	August 24
Kaleigh Bryant	August 26
Dave Goodwin	August 26
Patty Rose	August 26
Caroline* Voegelin	August 26
Benjamin* Wilson	August 27
Bob McClelland	August 28
Kortney Bryant	August 29
Taylor Broadwater	August 30
Eric Brice Brown	August 30
Katherine Kiger	August 30
Bobbi Nally	August 30
Emerson* Young	August 31

Ben & Danielle Ellwood
August 6

Lou & Jane Costanzo
August 8

Tim & Joyce* Mudge
August 11

Denis* & Erin Markan
August 12

Roger* & Marilyn Smith
August 12

Timothy & Susan Large
August 13

David & Lisa Sims
August 15

Vincent & Betty Lazear
August 18

Tom & Kathy* Posey
August 19

Robert & Julie Cunningham
August 21

John & Bobbi Nally
August 21

John & Donita Rush
August 28

Craig & Kathleen Knight
August 31

Care Facilities

Good Shepherd
Jack Kerr - 320



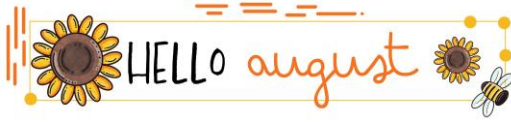
PRAYER REQUESTS

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
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



Christ United Methodist Church
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