Christ United Methodist Church

1232 National Road
Wheeling, WV 26003
304-242-2455
christumcwheeling@gmail.com
November 2026, Issue 352

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
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

Living the Season in Which I am (I AM?)

In summer, I have never found myself missing the bare tree branches of winter. I wouldn't say I am especially eager to see the green leaves turn to browns, oranges,and reds, but I do love this season when it comes. I'm glad to see this season come; glad to behold the palette of colors adorn the hills and mountains. Beautiful as it is, I behold it all with a slight melancholy, knowing that the beauty will be brief. I know that a good rainstorm or strong winds can end the beauty in a day. In this season, I have never found myself eager for the leaves to fall away. I have never been excited to see the branches empty, the hillsides and mountains bare.

So I tend to love the green leaf of summer for what it is. I tend to love the multicolored leaves of autumn for what they are, wishing them to always stay longer than they do. I have to be mindful to let myself appreciate the branches as full of color rather than soon to be empty. As for the bare branches of winter, I tend to think less about the bare branches as they are and more about the full green branches they will once again be. I suppose that isn't such a bad way to go about the winter season. However, it occurs to me that there is beauty enough in the barren branches themselves that it need not be ignored in favor of beauty yet to be or past beauty remembered.

It is not uncommon for people to occupy their minds with looking ahead and looking back, sometimes forgetting to appreciate and value things as they are. Human beings tend to do this easily. Indeed, it is not difficult at all for the mind to do this. We hold the images of yesterday tightly and our brains store them and bring them up quite vividly. We are gifted with imagination, able to envision and dream tomorrows yet to be. These are both divine gifts. They are reflections or fingerprints of the God who breathes our souls into being.

Often God is described in our sacred texts as One who remembers his children. That is a more profound thing than we may realize. It is a remembering of every moment of us, every version of us, day to day and year to year. It is a remembering that arouses God's deep love and compassion toward us.

Time and again through the words of the prophets and Jesus, God declares what shall one day be. He gives visions and foretelling of things yet to come. He speaks of promises of deliverance; safekeeping through life's storms, and ultimately humanity and creation unmarred by trespass and error.

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So, we might say it is divine to look back. We might say it is divine to look ahead. We must not forget that it is also divine to remain grounded in, and appreciative of, the moment or season in which we find ourselves at any time. The God that remembers, the God that looks ahead to the future and calls the future into being is the same God, when asked for a name, says "I AM who I AM". The Hebrew uses what we could call a "perpetually present tense" for the verb, describing God as eternally present in the NOW.

It is not unusual to not only prefer the past or to long after the future but prefer them above the present moment. We wish we could be what we once were. We sometimes long to be more than we are and are sometimes impatient to get on with. Neither is necessarily bad, unless it causes one to be so displeased with oneself or one's circumstances in the current moment or season of life that this moment passes by unlived. For you, the current moment may be one of new buds springing to life, full green leaves, leaves growing colorful and dry, or branches bare. It is the moment in which you are. It is the moment where God IS, the moment in which we are loved. So, cherish what has been, hope brightly for what will be, and as for the in- between where you currently are…. love yourself as you are now loved; cherish yourself as you are now cherished. Just as the God who looks back and looks forward loves you here and now, so love yourself. Also, equally important, don't forget to love your neighbor as yourself.

Enjoy the Season,

Joe Hill

Pastor Joe

December 6th – Youth and Children's Worship Service

On December 6th in the 11AM worship service, our Children and Teenagers will be designing and leading much of the morning's worship. Please plan to be with us to support and celebrate our younger members as they share their gifts and talents.

Commitment Sunday – November 22nd

During the month of November, we will focus on financial stewardship and our financial pledge campaign for 2027. Securing pledges of financial participation from our members helps to anticipate the financial means we will have at hand to do the work of ministry throughout the year. In early November, our Finance Committee will be sending out pledge cards to our members. We hope to have those cards, as many as possible, completed and collected by November 22nd. During the November 22nd service, we will have a time in the worship service for pledge cards to be brought forward. Pledge cards may be submitted after this date, but doing so may delay our ability to budget and plan for the coming calendar year. So please make every effort to submit your card on or before Nov. 22nd. If you plan to make a financial commitment after November 22nd, please let the church office know.

A Reflection for the Season's Sorrows

I include in this November newsletter the reflection I shared a year ago at this time. I thought someone might need the reminder…

Love, in all of its forms, is a wonderful gift. In the experience of love of any kind between one person and another, the heart easily forgets or refuses to remember that in this world, neither person is here forever. Rather both are passing through. In every life, there comes a time when that "passing through" is completed. How hard it is for the heart to be reminded of a thing it would prefer to never ever ponder.

When I consider any of the loved ones who have completed their "passing through' in my life, and say to myself "they were not mean to stay here forever"…..is that true? It doesn't feel quite true, not entirely…and I ponder what it is in me that pauses at the phrase "not meant to stay here forever". Somehow, it feels a lie and the truth all at once.

"Not here"….True, I no longer have sight of them. My ears are deprived of their voice and their laughter…yet my mind recalls them, my heart feels them often. In my memories, in the story that is my life, do they not remain and very often reappear? In my character, in my mannerisms, in my habit, in my speech, they indeed reappear quite often. I may say they have passed through, but I cannot say they are gone. I may say they have finished passing through, but never that they have passed away.

I cannot and would not deny the sadness or ache that love for the "passed through" may at times now be. At the same time, I dare not deny the wonder, the joy, that God ever decorated the landscape of my life, ever shaped this life of mine, ever highlighted the story of "me" with such a person and such a love.

So if in this season, sorrow of longing in my heart should arise, I know that longing to be testimony that I was loved by them, and also testimony that I was given the chance, the wondrous chance, to love them in turn. Even more, even more, I know love does not cease anymore than the soul could ever cease to be. So it is that I am loved by them still…and love them still. Indeed, for this, I give thanks. Even in this often difficult season, perhaps in defiance of this often difficult season, I give thanks. I give thanks for the love I have known and the love that has known me. And in every day whether my heart be sorrowful, grateful, or both, I will be carrying on loving. My the grace of God inspire and empower you to do likewise.

Growing in Awareness of our Denominational Mission and Ministry

The following two pages are another excerpt from our UMC Handbook. They describe the various agencies of our denomination that guide and support our ministries across the world. Christ UMC financially supports the work of these agencies through our connectional giving to our Annual Conference. As you read the descriptions of these agencies and their ministries, recognize all of this as your work and ministry as well.

What are the General Agencies and The Connectional Table and How Do They Support The UMC Mission?

General agencies are created by and accountable to the General Conference to serve the entire United Methodist Church. The United Methodist Book of Discipline states that agencies are a part of our connection, the web of interactive relationships throughout the denomination. The purpose of the general agencies is to provide resources and services that will equip local congregations and provide a connection for ministries throughout the world. Through the work of these agencies, The United Methodist Church can maintain a common vision, mission, and ministry across our worldwide connectional system.

The Connectional Table

While not a general agency, The Connectional Table serves as the primary coordinating body for the general agencies and ministries of the church. It provides oversight and strategic direction to ensure alignment with the denomination's mission and priorities.

ResourceUMC.org/Connectional-Table

General Board of Discipleship (Discipleship Ministries)

Connects laity and clergy around the world with contextually appropriate resourcing and materials, training, consulting and networking to support spiritual formation, new church development and revitalization of local churches.

UMCDiscipleship.org

General Board of Church and Society (GBCS)

Leads, equips, and challenges United Methodists in ministries of social advocacy based on The Social Principles and The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church.

UMCJustice.org

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General Board of Global Ministries and UMCOR (GBGM)

Connects the church in mission through sending and supporting short- and long-term missionaries, engaging volunteers, planting churches, addressing poverty and global health, and responding to natural and civil disasters.

UMCMission.org

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM)

Coordinates and supports the work of United Methodist institutions in higher education and annual conferences in the formation of clergy leaders.

GBHEM.org

General Commission on Archives and History (GCAH)

Gathers, preserves, and disseminates materials on the history of The United Methodist Church and its antecedents.

GCAH.org

General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR)

Advocates for the full and equal participation of racial and ethnic constituencies in the church and monitors United Methodist Church practices; committed to leading The United Methodist Church in becoming intentionally diverse.

GCORR.org

General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW)

Advocates for the full participation of women at every level of church life, researches and monitors United Methodist practices, and operates UMSexualEthics to support survivors of clergy misconduct through the complaint process.

GCSRW.org

General Commission on United Methodist Men (GCUMM)

Assists men in growing their relationships to Jesus Christ and his church by providing resources and support for evangelism and stewardship programs, and by leading United Methodist Church scouting ministries.

General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA)

Manages with fiscal integrity the finances, the financial plans and administrative needs of The United Methodist Church, and serves as the general treasurer of the denomination.

GCFA.org

The United Methodist Publishing House (UMPH)

Serves as the official publisher of The United Methodist Church, by developing, producing and distributing print, digital, and multimedia resources and supplies for Christian clergy and laity.

UMPH.org and Cokesbury.com

United Methodist Communications (UMCom)

As the communications, branding, and marketing agency for The United Methodist Church, United Methodist Communications works to increase the denomination's visibility and awareness worldwide through three primary channels: UMCom.org, UMNews.org, and ResourceUMC.org. It also provides services and resources to support communications ministry.

United Women in Faith (Formerly United Methodist Women)

Nurtures and connects women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education to inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.

UWFaith.org

Wespath Benefits and Investments

Supervises and administers the pension and benefits programs, plans, and funds of The United Methodist Church, and administers and disburses the retirement and benefit funds of the various annual conferences.

Wespath.org

Appalachian Christmas Shoebox Project

It's never too early to start filling a **SHOEBOX** for the Appalachian Christmas Project. Last year we filled a total of 99 boxes. If you are in need of a shoebox, there are some available at the Creek entrance.

Suggested items to look for: *Disposable razors; calendar; shaving cream; bar soap; cotton balls; shampoo; toothbrush; toothpaste; Kleenex purse-size; washcloth; comb or brush; Q-tips; notepads; pens or pencils and deodorant.*

Optional items: *Denture cleaner; Stamps/envelopes; small puzzle book; Chapstick/ Vaseline; first aid cream; magnifying glass; knee highs; hand lotion; hand sanitizer; nail clippers/tweezer; Jar grips/pot scratcher.*

Please include a card with your wrapped shoebox. Label your box "L" for ladies, "M" for men; "E" for either.

Please return your box to the church no later than November 15th.

Crittenton Angel Tree

We are once again sponsoring tags for the mothers and babies at Crittenton.

3 tags are still available and we ask that you spend at least $40.00 per tag. Please return your item **(unwrapped)** to the church office no later than Sunday, December 6.

If you have any questions, please see Shelby Straub.



HOC Food Pantry Donations

We are collecting the following for the food pantry at the House of the Carpenter for November: **crackers, canned chili, beef stew, egg noodles and baked beans.**

Commitment Sunday Luncheon

On Sunday, November 22, after the combined 10 a.m. worship service, we will be having a Commitment Sunday Luncheon in Fellowship Hall.

A sign-up sheet is posted on the Narthex bulletin board for you to bring your favorite dish to share. Meat will be provided.

If you have any questions, please see Donita Rush or Carol Carroll.

HOC Christmas Kids

Tags for the HOC Christmas Kids will be available soon. Please keep an eye and donate if you are able.

This year we are taking a different approach to the donations being requested. More information to come.



Poinsettia Order

Place your order now for a Christmas Poinsettia. The price for each poinsettia is $12.00 and payment must accompany your order. All orders are due by Sunday, November 30.

Quantity: Red _____ White _____

In memory of: _____

_____

_____

In honor of: _____

_____

_____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Total: _____



November Birthdays & Anniversaries

Karen Bruhn	Nov. 01
Erin* Mudge	Nov. 01
Shawn* Bryant	Nov. 02
Shane Bryant	Nov. 02
Heather Clawson	Nov. 03
Betty Johnson	Nov. 03
Jacob Nickell	Nov. 03
Wendy Barbeau	Nov. 04
Jennifer* Hatton	Nov. 05
Meghen* Jones	Nov. 06
Bill Metzner, Jr.	Nov. 06
Mitchell* McCreary	Nov. 07
Russell Bond, Jr.	Nov. 09
Susan Large	Nov. 09
Cathy* Muhleman	Nov. 09
Tyler Thorngate	Nov. 09
Jesse* Channel	Nov. 11
Bob Strasser	Nov. 11
David Gersting	Nov. 12
Kohlby Jebbia	Nov. 12
Maxwell* Morgan	Nov. 12
Timothy Large	Nov. 14
Mark Lindsay	Nov. 14
Lisa Sims	Nov. 15
Lucy Harman	Nov. 16
Donita Rush	Nov. 17
Heath* Woodburn	Nov. 19
Sheldon* Clawson	Nov. 20
Jagger* Jones	Nov. 20
David Wharton	Nov. 20
Chris Woodburn	Nov. 20
Nicole* Hibbs	Nov. 21
Zachary* Knight	Nov. 21
Robert Foster	Nov. 23
Tiffany Lee	Nov. 23
McKenna Dunbar	Nov. 24
Beth Knight	Nov. 24
Shaun Murphy	Nov. 24
Lauren Smaltz	Nov. 25
Lyndsee* Wharton	Nov. 25
John McFadden	Nov. 26
David B. Ellwood	Nov. 27
Michael Godown	Nov. 27
Darlene Beale	Nov. 29
Justin* Hornyak	Nov. 30
Kristin Nolte	Nov. 30
Allyson Wilson	Nov. 30

Dean & Judy Wright
November 1

Tom & Erikka Storch
November 18

Tim & Jill Bandi
November 20

Jack & Linda Kerr
November 27

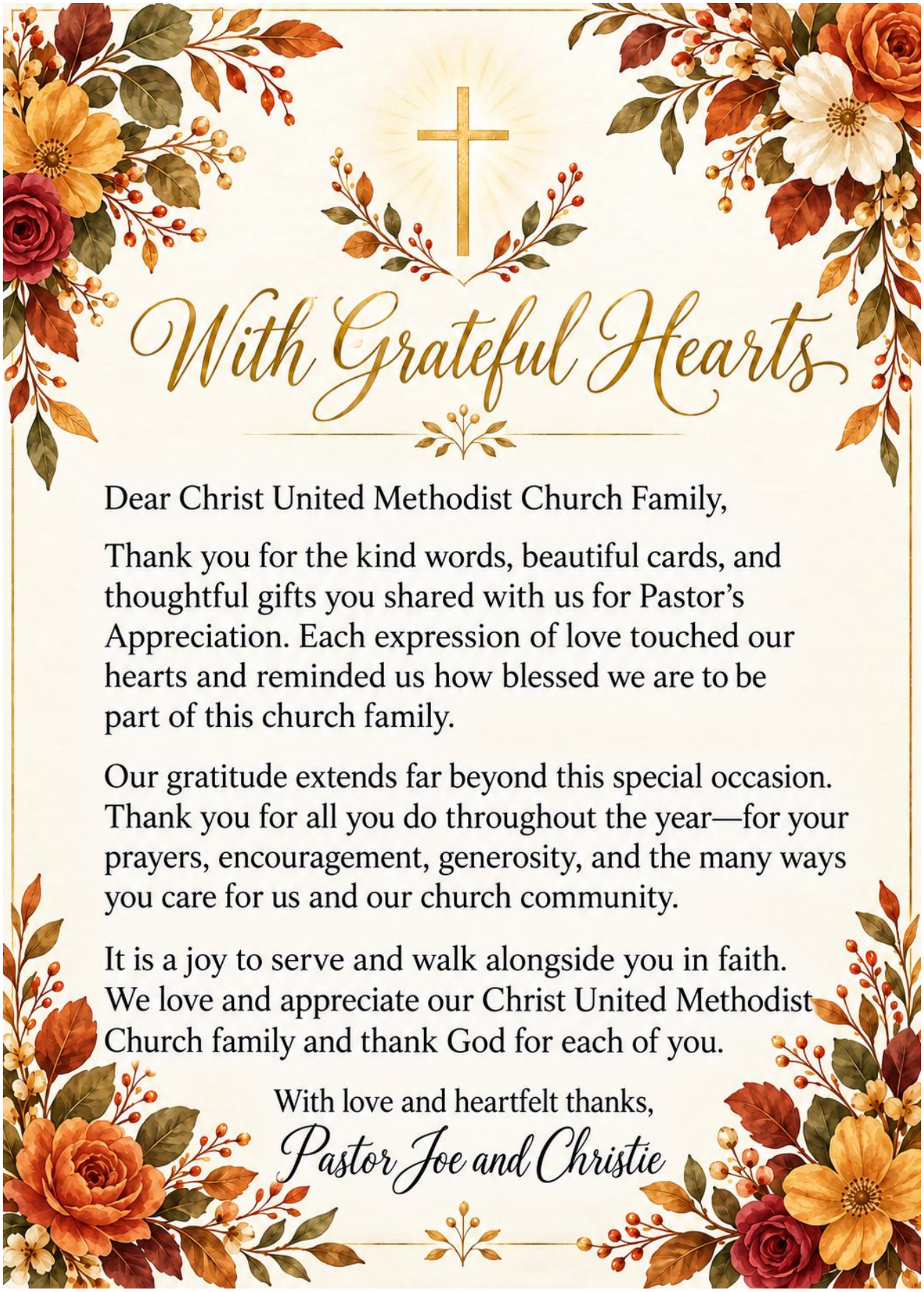
Care Facilities

Good Shepherd
Jack Kerr - 320



PRAYER REQUESTS

Jonathan Chance
Patricia Oliver
Joy Dyer
Fran Broadwater
Terri Otte
Gail Lee
Chuck Williams
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
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


With Grateful Hearts
Dear Christ United Methodist Church Family,
Thank you for the kind words, beautiful cards, and thoughtful gifts you shared with us for Pastor's Appreciation. Each expression of love touched our hearts and reminded us how blessed we are to be part of this church family.
Our gratitude extends far beyond this special occasion. Thank you for all you do throughout the year—for your prayers, encouragement, generosity, and the many ways you care for us and our church community.
It is a joy to serve and walk alongside you in faith. We love and appreciate our Christ United Methodist Church family and thank God for each of you.
With love and heartfelt thanks,
Pastor Joe and Christie

The Season of

Advent

READING PLAN

Hope

- ◊ Day 1: Jeremiah 29:10-14
- ◊ Day 2: Romans 15:8-13
- ◊ Day 3: 1 Peter 1:3-12
- ◊ Day 4: Hebrews 10:19-39
- ◊ Day 5: Psalm 33
- ◊ Day 6: Titus 2:11– 3:8

Peace

- ◊ Day 7: Isaiah 9:1-7
- ◊ Day 8: John 14:1-7, 25-31
- ◊ Day 9: John 16:25-33
- ◊ Day 10: Romans 5:1-11
- ◊ Day 11: Ephesians 2:11-22
- ◊ Day 12: Colossians 3:1-17

Joy

- ◊ Day 13: Philippians 4:4-9
- ◊ Day 14: Psalm 16
- ◊ Day 15: James 1:2-18
- ◊ Day 16: Psalm 30
- ◊ Day 17: Luke 2:8-20
- ◊ Day 18: John 15:1-11

Love

- ◊ Day 19: Micah 7:18-20
- ◊ Day 20: Romans 8:31-39
- ◊ Day 21: John 3:16-21
- ◊ Day 22: 1 John 4:7-21
- ◊ Day 23: Philippians 2:1-11
- ◊ Day 24: 2 Thessalonians 2:13 – 3:5
- ◊ Day 25: Ephesians 2:1-10



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