



**CONNECTING with
God,
Each Other,
and the World.**

ccumwv.org

2024 Lenten Courier

Information

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Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

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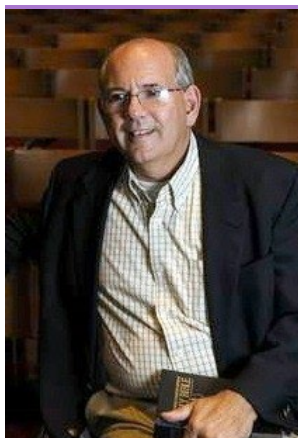
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Pastor's Corner



"Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart ... rend your hearts and not your clothing" - Joel 2:12-13

This year the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday falling on Valentine's Day, February 14th.

The juxtaposition of these two significant holy days seems at first to be rather confusing if not ironic. They seem so different. One is celebrated with beautiful flowers, fancy dinners and chocolates. The other with burned palm branches, fasting and giving up chocolate for forty days. They appear to be opposed to one another. Yet the truth is they are both about love.

They are both celebrations of the heart, because love is always a heart thing. Valentine's Day is about professing our love to one another and giving our hearts to our loved ones. On Ash Wednesday, we remember our failure to love as we ought and give our hearts anew to the Lord through acts of penance and contrition. The Hebrew people believed the heart was the seat of the soul or the core one's being. Giving one's heart to another is giving our full selves to the beloved. Our Lord invites us to give our hearts to him. He loves us as no other and invites us to share our lives with Him just as we share our love with our loved ones.

As we enter Lent, we recognize our need for rekindling our love for God. It begins by recognizing our utter dependence on God for our very being. We are "but dust and to dust we shall return" (Genesis 3:19). So, we start our journey to Easter by remembering our limitedness and rending our hearts to God. We know we often fail in our attempts at loving the Lord with all our hearts, so Lent is a time to turn anew to Him and open our hearts through prayer, fasting, almsgiving and worship. This season is a time renewing our faith and reconnecting our hearts to God.

My prayer is that we all will seek to rend our hearts to God this Lent by opening ourselves anew to his love through prayer and fasting. We can still celebrate our love with our loved ones through cards and flowers along with ashes of remembrance and fasting this year, even if we give up chocolate. Remember Sundays are feast days even in Lent, so we can always enjoy our candy together then, but only in moderation of course.

May you have a Blessed Lent,

Pastor Jay



Sermon Series

“It’s a Heart Thing”

First Sunday in Lent

Text: Psalm 25:1-10

Mark 1:9-15

Title: *“Change Your Hearts and Lives”*

Second Sunday in Lent

Texts: Psalm 22:22-31

Mark 8:31-38

Title: *“Crossed Hearts”*

Third Sunday in Lent

Text: Psalm 19

Exodus 20:1-17

Title: *“Meditations of Our Hearts”*

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Text: Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

Title: *“Hearts Made Alive”*

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Text: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Hebrews 5:5-10

Title: *“Engraved Hearts”*

Opportunities for Lenten Worship



Ash Wednesday, February 14

Our 2024 Lenten journey begins on Wednesday, February 14 when we will mark the beginning of the Lenten season with the imposition of ashes and worship. The imposition of ashes will take place both at noon in the Quarrier Street lot and at 7:00 pm during the evening worship offering, which will be in-person and live-streamed through the Christ Church Facebook page.



Palm Sunday, March 24

8:45 am & 11:00 am in the Centrum
12:30 pm Easter Egg Hunt



Maundy Thursday, March 28

6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall
"Upper Room Communion Service"



Good Friday, March 29

Noon in the Chapel

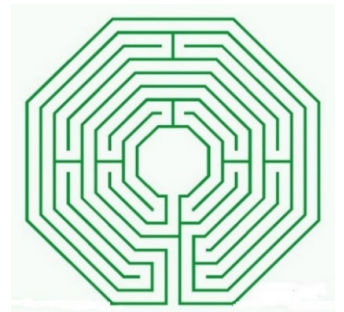


Easter Sunday, March 31

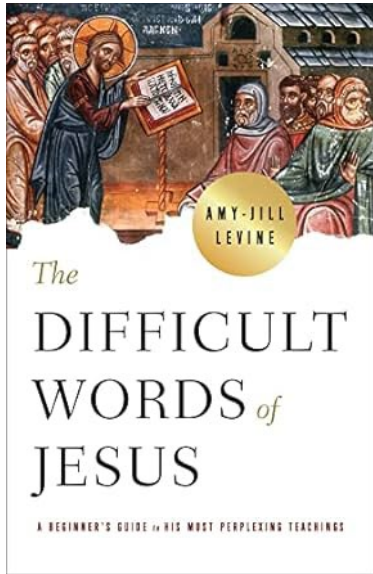
8:45 am & 11:00 am in the Centrum

Walking the Prayer Labyrinth

When our Lenten journey begins on Ash Wednesday, you are invited to continue that "journey" by walking our Memorial Prayer labyrinth in the Centrum, which will be available for personal meditation. A printed meditation will be available each week if needed. Lent is a season of reflection and penitence, and a 30-minute walk on the labyrinth can be a time that leads the pilgrim to a greater understanding of the presence of God in their life. The labyrinth will be available from Monday-Thursday from 9am to 5pm, and on Friday from 9am to noon.



Lenten Study Opportunities

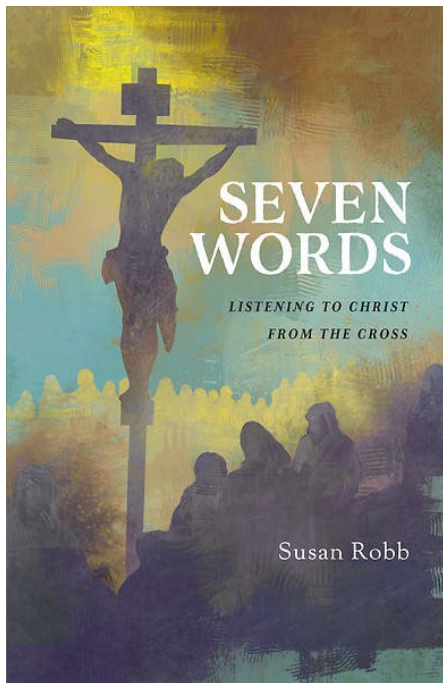


The Difficult Words of Jesus

By [Amy Jill-Levine](#)

Fife Street Fellowship is a gathering of friends on the Christian journey who meet on Mondays at 5:30 pm at Fife Street Brewing Company in downtown Charleston. Some folks have a drink, snack, or dinner of soup or burger, but the center of our gathering is sharing life and our Christian faith. They have chosen “The Difficult Words of Jesus”, by Amy Jill-Levine.

Jesus provided his disciples teachings for how to follow the Torah, God’s word; he told them parables to help them discern questions of ethics and of human nature; he offered them beatitudes for comfort and encouragement. But sometimes Jesus spoke words that followers then and now have found difficult. He instructs disciples to hate members of their own families (Luke 14:26), to act as if they were slaves (Matthew 20:27), and to sell their belongings and give to the poor (Luke 18:22). He restricts his mission (Matthew 10:6); he speaks of damnation (Matthew 8:12); he calls Jews the devil’s children (John 8:44). In *The Difficult Words of Jesus*, Amy-Jill Levine shows how these difficult teachings would have sounded to the people who first heard them, how have they been understood over time, and how we might interpret them in the context of the Gospel of love and reconciliation. This book is also available through Cokesbury, Amazon, and other booksellers. The church will have copies available in the church office before the beginning of Lent in mid-February. All are invited to join us on Monday evenings as we journey in faith together!

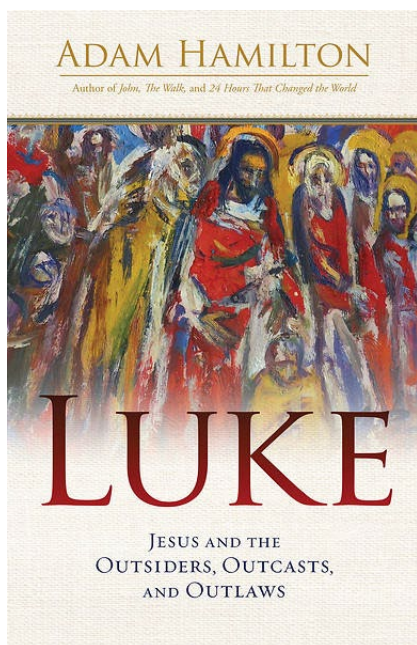


Seven Words

Listening to Christ from the Cross

By [Susan Robb](#)

The most difficult part of Lent is, of course, contemplating our Savior on the cross: the physical pain, the humiliation, and the undeniable injustice. Our hearts break. It’s natural to try and avoid the reality of how Jesus died, but it is from the cross that Jesus shows his deepest love for us. As Jesus draws his final breath and utters his last words, it is then that his deep trust in the Father and his divine glory are revealed. In *Seven Words*, Susan Robb looks at Christ’s final words from a biblical and historical perspective, showing how we can find life and hope in them. Books are available in the church office or from your favorite online retailer. This group meets on Thursdays, at 11:30 am in the Potter Room, and study is available through Zoom.



Luke, Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws

By [Amy Jill-Levine](#)

Jesus came to lift up the lowly. Throughout his ministry to his final days on the road to the cross, we find stories of his relationships with ordinary, flawed, and unexpected people. He met, dined, and traveled with people who were not perfect. Many of them were struggling, some were outsiders or even outlaws. Whoever they were, from those he healed to the outlaws with him at his crucifixion, Jesus brought the good news of God's kingdom to those who most needed to hear it. In *Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws*, pastor and bestselling author Adam Hamilton explores the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus as told in the Gospel of Luke. Through Luke's stories we find

Jesus' care and compassion for all as he welcomes sinners and outcasts. As we study Luke and see Jesus' concern for those who were considered unimportant, we hear a hopeful and inspiring word for our lives today. This group meets on Thursdays, at 11:00 am

Youth Activities

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 24, 12:30pm

On Sunday, March 24th at 12:30pm, Christ Church will be holding an Easter Egg Hunt for our children. The eggs will be filled with toys, objects, and candy, reminding us of the Easter story and God's love.

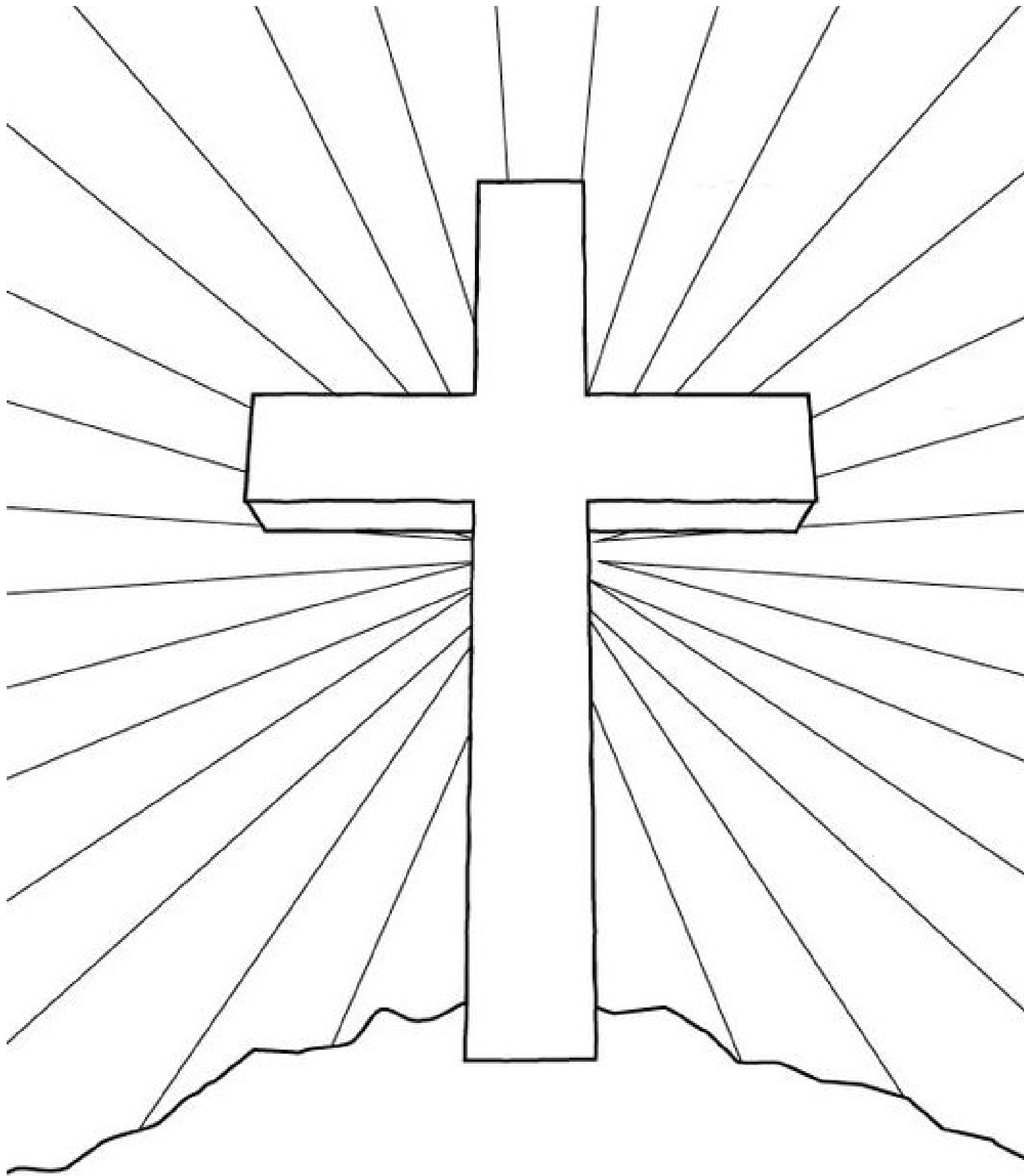
Ages 2-5 will have their egg hunt on the playground while ages 6+ will have their egg hunt on the green space under the trees. Come out and join us for an outdoor Easter celebration!



2024 Youth Confirmation Class

There will be a Confirmation Class beginning on April 7, 2024, running every Sunday through May 19, 2024. This group is open to 6th, 7th & 8th graders and will meet in the Omega during the Sunday morning Connections Hour. Please sign-up by emailing Ashley@ccumwv.org.





Jesus is Alive!

Trustee Update

The CCUM Trustees have been busy initiating, participating in and completing several building-related projects. These projects are funded through earnings on investments obtained through members' legacy gifts and bequests. The generosity of our forebears continues to bear fruit in helping us support and improve our facility. We thank them and encourage you to consider remembering the church with a legacy gift.

The Fellowship Hall has undergone improvements largely funded by a generous donor. The hall has been painted, and equipped with new lighting and new audio-visual equipment. A new handrail was also installed on the steps leading to the Fellowship Hall.

New water fountains have been installed throughout our facilities to accommodate water bottles.

The building heating and cooling system required the purchase of new software to ensure continued operations, which has been completed.

The Centrum electrical system was significantly modified to accommodate management of lighting and dimming funded in part by a generous donor who noted a fire hazard that required remedy. All light bulbs in the Centrum have been replaced with energy-efficient LED bulbs, reducing electricity consumption, and improving lighting.

As you may have noticed, the Centrum audio, visual projection, and hearing assist systems are failing. These will be replaced in the coming weeks with new equipment to ensure the successful delivery of Sunday Services both online and in person. The target for these upgrades is Easter Sunday.

It should be noted the Memorials Committee has led the way in securing funds and donations dedicated to new upholstery and foam for existing chairs in the Centrum. This project is ongoing and chairs will be replaced incrementally. Our place of worship will be in full bloom by this summer. Hallelujah!

The Trustees have received a \$200,000 grant from the WV Office of Homeland Security and FEMA to improve safety/security infrastructure for the main church building. This project will be ongoing throughout 2024 and further details will be forthcoming.

Other properties have also undergone refurbishment under the guidance of the Trustees.

The Virginia Street building has undergone considerable renovations to accommodate a new tenant on the first floor. Tabitha Justice operates non-profit services through Bringing Back the Village, LLC, and Savvy Social Security Strategies. The second-floor single office is leased by Rebuilding Together. The second-floor bunk room is held to accommodate visiting missions and other CCUM activities. The third floor has two residential tenants. Routine repairs to the roof, fire alarm system, paint, cleaning, and other tasks have been completed. Rental proceeds from this building largely serve to assist with the operations and maintenance of this structure.

The parking lot has been sealed, repaired, and routinely cleaned and cleared of snow. Revenue from parking space rental has added to proceeds to the church.

C.R.O.S.S. Ministries

Mission Teams 2024



The Cross Ministry is a mission destination for groups who want to make a difference in the lives of others. The goal of our ministry is to make homes safe, dry, and accessible. We also offer opportunities to work with other non-profit agencies in our community that serve the elderly and those in need. We offer week-long and weekend experiences.

For over 20 years, Christ Church United Methodist (CCUM) has worked with churches and ministries across our nation when traveling on our annual mission trips. In response to the many acts of grace and hospitality extended to us by others, we decided to pay it forward in the Kanawha Valley.

As a result, the Cross Ministry was formed to make CCUM a destination for youth and adult mission teams. Our community also benefits as we seek to meet the needs of our neighbors and our non-profit agencies in need.

CROSS Ministry continues to thrive, and 2024 promises to be a great year for us. We have 6 teams already lined up for the spring and summer. If you would like to help, the following dates reflect when groups are scheduled.

April 21 st -27 th	Centenary UMC - Winston Salem, NC.
April 28-May 4	Discovery Service Projects Group 1, Pipersville, PA
May 5-11	Discovery Service Projects Group 2, Pipersville, PA
June 23-29	CHRISTO Mission Team - Jefferson UMC, Jefferson, OH
July 21-27	Myers Memorial UMC, Gastonia, NC
July 28-August 3	St. Matt's UMC, Annandale, VA

HOW CAN YOU HELP? Each group could use a hospitality representative to meet the team when they arrive, and liaison with the church office about schedules and needs; provide a devotional one evening; be a “gopher” and pick up supplies needed; help on project sites with supervision of projects. Together we can be Christ’s presence to those in need and those in service. Contact Ronda in the church office at (304)342-0192 if you would like to say yes to any of the above.

Birthdays

February

1st Bev Mullins
2nd Jan Narciso-Morris, Sammy Stump, Ashley Wood
3rd Denise Harper, Robin Rector
4th Emma Carpenter, Hannah Shreve
5th Christy Shaw
7th Dee Rumbaugh
8th Vicki Harper
9th Taylor Johnson, Steve Rodberg
10th Margaret Thorsteinson
11th John Burdette, Jane Ann Hammett
12th Alexander Rodberg, Melissa Wandling
14th Katie Kelsh
15th Linda Meszaros, Dan Tate, Cabot Williams
16th Cindy Nelson, Phyllis Osenton
17th Jim Douglas
19th John Baird, Diane Strong-Treister
20th David Hill, Margaret Shaffer
21st Jim Matheney, Bill Milam
24th Joyce Mash, DF Mock, Dorris Moses, Hampton Rose, IV, Daniel Smithson, Jr.
25th John Baird, Sue Price
26th Katie Clark
27th William Bartley, Chris Gunnoe, Sarah Henley, Matthew Lord, Chad Robinson,
28th Jonah Wandling

April

1st David Bungard, James Holsclaw
2nd Jennifer Clark, Kristi Silkwood
4th Carolyn Turner
6th Thomas Flannery
7th Beth Strickland
8th Annie Fisher, Ella Gillis, Kevin Nelson
9th Chris Kirksey
11th Ryan Frankenberry, Diame Gillis, Elisabetta Mastracci
13th Jenny Parsons Ross
14th Steven Holsclaw, Parke Wolfe
19th Alexander Johnson, Alex Martin, Emily Strickland, Meredith Thomas
21st Harvey Creasy, Sharon Iskra, Jessica Lane, Ed Wheatley
23rd Kristy Fidler, Carlos Neccuzi
24th Alexandra Flannery, Gretchen Frankenberry, Erick Silbernagel
26th Cohen Burgess, Mary Palmer Carmichael, Nick Harmon, Will Stewart, Jonathan Vickers
28th Elayna Ross, Beau Vickers
29th Larry Bissett, Becky Hodges, Sally Johnson
30th Conrad Haskell

March

1st Diana Green
4th Jim Kelsh, Frank Mash
5th Ellen Thomas
6th Sheila Luechauer, Brian Resler, Jack Wilkinson
7th Meredith Jenks, David Jenks, Becky Mahan, Erick Silkwood
9th J.B. Browning, Jr., Jennifer Weaver
10th Amy Burdette, Judy Hanlen, Bob Shupienis
12th Cora Clark
14th Brittany Behm, Benjamin Young
16th Dave Haden, Ross Johnson
18th Jordan Gunnoe, Cristian Sirbu
19th Paul Gunnoe, Bonnie Stark
21st Laurence Hancock, Susan Stewart
24th John Adams, Gavin Burdette, Solomen Kent, Brennan Malone, Mark Rollins
25th Jane Ray, Juliana Serefin, Joe Wong
26th Mike Sauvageot
27th Gary Good, David Mullins
28th Anna Kate Silkwood
29th Tom Burger, Sherry Clarke
30th Dedra Johnson
31st David Donathan, Ot Elmore II



Happy Birthday!

Anniversaries

February

Years Married as of 2024

Smithson, Daniel & Ruthann
Tompkins, Nick & Betty
Ray, Jimmy & Lori
Turner, Wendel & Jane
Wood, Brent & Meredith
Kirby, David & Sandy
Stump, Sammy & Emma

February 4, 1961	63
February 13, 1973	51
February 14, 2004	20
February 15, 2000	24
February 17, 2011	13
February 20, 2005	19
February 28, 1958	66

March

Johnson, Chris & Trish
McGivern, Pat & Donna

March 21, 1992	32
March 31, 1979	45

April

Friend, Rod & Nanya
Smith, Russ & Carolyn
Harrah, Linda & Bill Johnson
Iskra, Eric & Sharon
Bungard, David & Allison
Bissett, Larry & Marlyn
Tate, Dan & Liz
Farrell, Mark & Ingrid

April 3, 1977	47
April 5, 1987	37
April 12, 1979	45
April 12, 1997	27
April 14, 2007	17
April 15, 1962	62
April 26, 1986	38
April 29, 1989	35

Happy Anniversary!

If you or a family member is missing from our list, please call the church office at (304)342-0192.



Upcoming Lenten Events & More

February 14, Noon – Drive-Thru Ash Imposition
February 14, 7:00 pm – Ash Wed. Service
February 17, 7:00 pm – Opus Chorale Concert
March 24, 12:30 pm – Easter Egg Hunt
March 28, 6:00 pm – Maundy Thursday Service, Fellowship Hall
March 29, Noon – Good Friday Service, Chapel
March 31, 8:45 & 11:00 – Easter Morning Services
April 6, 7:00 pm – Opus Chorale Concert
April 7, 9:45 am – Confirmation Class Begins



Christ Church
United Methodist

A Community of Faith, Hope, and Love Serving as the Hands of Christ

1221 Quarrier Street
Charleston, WV 25301
304-342-0192
Office@ccumwv.org
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Sunday Morning Contemporary Worship:
8:45 a.m. In the Centrum
Connections Hour Sunday School:
9:45 a.m. Various Rooms
Sunday Morning Traditional Service
11:00 a.m. in the Centrum

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