

The Christ Church Courier

Lent, Holy Week & Easter, 2025

“The Prayer Life of Jesus”



Sermon Series

Lenten Study
Opportunities

C.R.O.S.S. Ministries

In Loving
Remembrance

Birthdays,
Anniversaries,
Events & More



Pastor's Corner

Welcome to the 2025 Lenten edition of the Christ Church Courier. Through the pages of this newsletter, you will get a general idea of what to expect during the Lenten season as we seek to connect you with Christ and the community.

Peter Drucker, in his book, *"Management Challenges for the 21st Century,"* writes:

"In a few hundred years, when the history of our time is written from a long-term perspective, it is likely that the most important event those historians will see is not technology, not the Internet, not e-commerce. It is an unprecedented change in the human condition. For the first time—literally—substantial and rapidly growing numbers of people have choices. For the first time, they have to manage themselves. And society is totally unprepared for it."

The world, into which we are called to share the good news, is a world of choices. These choices are shaped and directed by what we hold to be important. Our views and perceptions shape our understanding of the world and our understanding of the people of the world.

This Lenten Season, we want to take seriously our responsibility of shaping the values of our culture through worship, study, and our interaction together as a baptized community of Jesus followers.

In these pages you will read of the opportunities you have to participate in the life and ministry of Christ Church. Here are some of your choices:

LENTEN WORSHIP: Our Lenten Sermon Series is titled, *"The Prayer Life of Jesus."* It is my hope that we can worship together every Sunday, whether in person, online, or radio. Take note of the special worship opportunities on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, as well as Palm Sunday and Easter. Please know there is a place for you in worship at Christ Church. I look forward to seeing you on Sunday mornings.

LENTEN STUDIES: Our Lenten book study is, *"The Promise and Power of Easter,"* by Christine Caine and Lisa Howard. Whether you are participating in a small group, Sunday School class, or reading on your own, you will find this book an impactful resource in your faith development. You will find a description of the book in this newsletter.

The United Women in Faith book study is, *"Witness of the Cross,"* by Amy-Jill Levine. This is an important introduction to the events of Good Friday. You will find a more detailed description and ways to participate in this edition.

9:50 CHAPEL BIBLE STUDY: Our Chapel Bible Study will continue with the *"Prayer Life of Jesus: From Baptism to Benediction."* Each session will focus upon Luke's understanding of why Jesus prayed at particular times and places. You will find a detailed outline of scriptures and subjects in this newsletter. This study is not to take the place of your Sunday School class. It is another offering to shape who we are as followers of Jesus.

PALM SUNDAY: Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett will be our guest preacher. You can read about her in this newsletter. After our 11:00am worship, our children and families will participate in an Easter Egg hunt.

EASTER SUNDAY: The celebration of Easter is the highlight of our Christian faith. You know how special Easter worship is at Christ Church. You will want to make a special effort to participate this Easter Sunday at 8:45am or 11:00am.

Let me, once again, invite you and challenge you to participate in the ministries that can and will transform Charleston, the Kanawha Valley, West Virginia, and the world. Let us continue to pray for Charleston. As the prophet Jeremiah reminded the Hebrew people, as the city goes, we go. Let us also pray asking God to "send us the people no one else wants" and "to receive the people God sends to us."

Jesus says, *"Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence."* This is the most important, the first on any list. But there is a second to set alongside it: "Love others as well as you love yourself." These two commands are pegs; everything in God's Law and the prophets hangs from them." (Matthew 22:36-40 The Message).

By choosing to love God and to love your neighbor, you are making the difference needed to transform our community and world. Again, Welcome to the 2025 Lenten Edition of the Christ Church Courier.

Pastor Tim

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INFORMATION:

Church Office Hours:

Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Church Staff:

Rev. Dr. Tim Bias, Lead Pastor

tbias@ccumwv.org

Office: 304-342-0192 x206

Deacon, Rev. David Donathan,

Director of Music/Organist

ddonathan@ccumwv.org

Office: 304-342-0192 x210

Ashley Wood

Certified Lay Minister

Ashley@ccumwv.org

Office: 304-342-0192 x205

Toni Hartman

Business Administrator

toni@ccumwv.org

Office: 304-342-0192 x203

Krissa Frontz

Administrative Assistant

Office@ccumwv.org

Office: 304-342-0192

The Growing Place:

Rev. Dr. Janet Flanagan

304-342-0192 x220



2025 Lenten Sermon Series

“The Prayer Life of Jesus: From Baptism to Benediction”

March 5 – Ash Wednesday

Text: Matthew 6:1-6

“Playing to the Crowd”

Sunday, March 9 – 1st Sunday in Lent

Text: Luke 5:15-16

“Jesus Prayed When Tempted to Do Good”

Sunday, March 16 – 2nd Sunday in Lent

Text: Luke 6:12-16

“Jesus Prays When Choosing Leaders”

Sunday, March 23 – 3rd Sunday in Lent

Text: Luke 9:12-17

“Jesus Prays When Feeding the Hungry”

Sunday, March 30 – 4th Sunday in Lent

Text: Luke 22:31-34

“Jesus Prays When Facing Misunderstanding”

Sunday, April 6 – 5th Sunday in Lent

Text: Luke 23:34

“Jesus Prays When Offering Forgiveness”

Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday

Bishop Wallace Padgett preaching

Thursday, April 17 – Maundy Thursday Service, 6:30pm

Text: Luke 22:14-22

“Jesus Prays When Facing Death”

Friday, April 18 – Good Friday Service at 12:05pm

Text: Luke 23:44-47

“Jesus Prays Commending Himself to God”

Sunday, April 20 – Easter, Services at 8:45am and 11:00am

Text: Luke 21:1-12

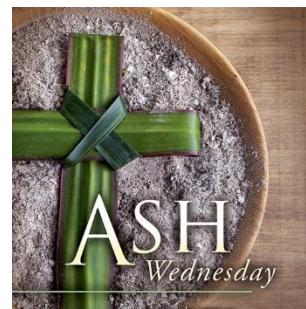
Sunday, April 27 – 2nd Sunday of Easter

Text: Luke 24:13-35

Opportunities for Lenten Worship

Ash Wednesday Worship, Wednesday, March 5, 6:30pm

We will mark the beginning of the Lenten season with a worship service at 6:30pm that will include the Imposition of Ashes. The service will take place in the Centrum and will be led by Rev. Dr. Timothy Bias, and the Chancel Choir with Kim Graham, guest cellist. There will also be prayer stations set-up throughout the church. Because of the nature of these prayer stations scattered throughout the church, we will not be able to livestream this service. Therefore, we encourage you to attend this service in person.



Palm Sunday, April 13, 8:45am & 11:00am

Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett will be our guest preacher on Palm Sunday, April 13. She was elected bishop in 2012 and has served as bishop in two conferences in the Southeastern Jurisdiction, the North Alabama Conference and the Holston Conference.

She presently serves across jurisdictional lines, leading both the Holston Conference in the Southeast and West Virginia conference in the Northeast. Before her election as bishop, she served in the Kentucky Conference as Lead Pastor at St. Luke United Methodist Church in Lexington, as District Superintendent in the Prestonsburg District, as pastor of the Paris United Methodist Church, and as a pastor at First United Methodist Church in Lexington. She is a graduate of Berea College where she received a Bachelor Arts in Physical Education, Scarritt College where she received a Master of Arts in Christian Education, Lexington Theological Seminary, a Master of Divinity, and Asbury Theological Seminary, a Doctor of Ministry. Bishop Wallace-Padgett is married to the Reverend Lee Padgett, a retired Deacon in The United Methodist Church. They are parents of two adult children and grandparents of two granddaughters. Come and celebrate in worship on Palm Sunday as we welcome Bishop Wallace-Padgett to Christ Church.



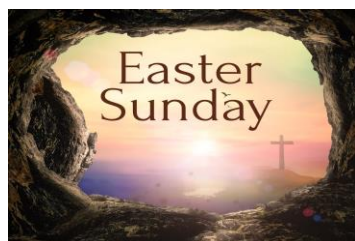
Maundy Thursday, April 17

On Thursday evening, April 17th, we will gather at 6:30pm in the Centrum for a service Holy Communion as we remember the events of Jesus in the Upper Room with the 12 Disciples. The service will be led by Rev. Dr. Timothy Bias and the Chancel Choir.



Good Friday, April 18

During the lunch hour, we will gather in the Chapel on Friday, April 18 at 12:05pm as we remember the events surrounding the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.



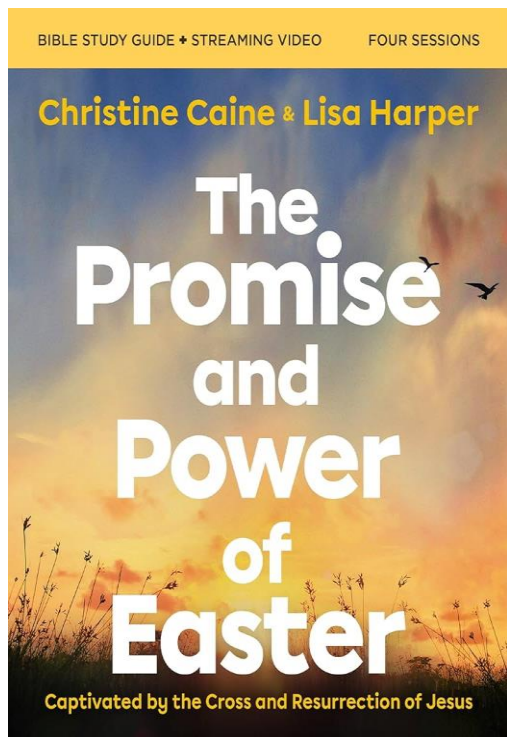
Easter Sunday, April 20, 8:45am & 11:00am

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 Promise and Power of Easter

By: [Christine Caine & Lisa Harper](#)

Easter is so much more than a holiday.

Easter isn't just a date on the calendar; it's the most significant event in human history. It's the celebration of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, and His victory over everything that holds us back in our earthly lives. It's the day we focus on the promise and power of Jesus and draw closer to Him.

Join Christine Caine and Lisa Harper in a transformative study that goes beyond tradition. Walk with them through four weeks of the Lenten season taking in the details of Jesus' life, the agony of His death, and the overwhelming joy of His resurrection.

Relive His steps with a heart full of hope. See it all with eyes of faith. You'll be ready to celebrate Easter in more ways than you ever have and be inspired to share the joy only Jesus could make possible. Books are available through the church office, and can be picked up on Sunday mornings.

Witness at the Cross

By: [Amy-Jill Levine](#)

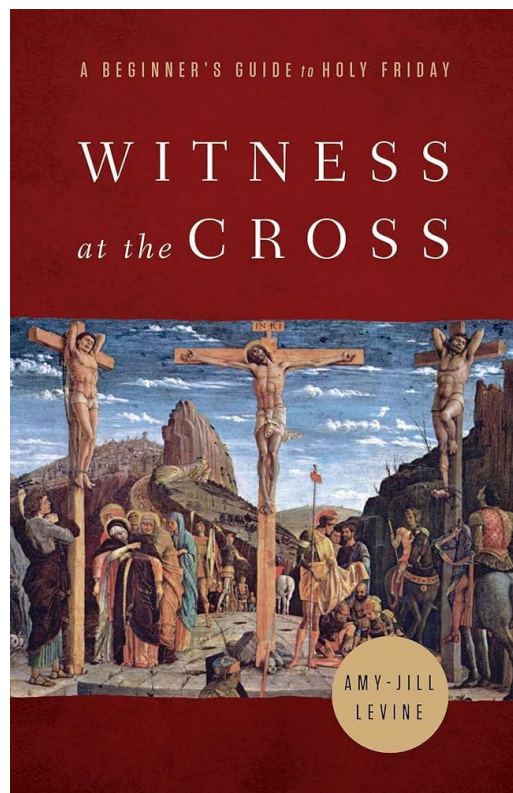
Place yourself as a witness of the cross and determine what your own testimony will be!

Experience Holy Friday from the perspective of those who watched Jesus die: Mary his mother; the Beloved Disciple from the Gospel of John; Mary Magdalene and the other women from Galilee; the two men, usually identified as thieves, crucified with Jesus; the centurion and the soldiers; Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. Jews and Romans, friends and strangers, the powerful and the powerless, the hopeful and the despairing.

The story of Jesus's death is not something we just read: we think about it, and we experience it; we hear the taunts of the soldiers, the priests, and the passersby even as we hear the famous "seven last words" from the cross.

In *Witness at the Cross*, Amy-Jill Levine shows how the people at the cross each have distinct roles to play. Each Evangelist presents a distinct picture of the death of Jesus. Each portrays different individuals and groups of people at the cross, each offers different images and dialogues, and so from each, we learn how those meanings and messages cross the centuries to any who would come to the cross today.

This study is being led by the United Women in Faith. For more information, contact Barbara Carpenter.



In Loving Remembrance

Join the In Loving Remembrance Support Group for grieving families who have lost a baby during pregnancy, at birth, or shortly thereafter.

The meeting will be held at:
Christ Church United Methodist
1221 Quarrier Street,
Charleston, WV 25301

Thursday:

March 27, 2025

April 24, 2025

May 22, 2025

6pm—7pm

Potter Room

Contact: Linda Meszaros

Phone: 304-342-0192

A Wesley Fasting Plan for Lent, 2025

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, regularly participated in a ritual fast. As part of your Lenten Discipline for 2022, you might consider a fasting routine. John Wesley advocated fasting not only for himself, but for anyone he was going to ordain. For Wesley, a fasting from food began at sundown on Thursday, which was in continuity with the Jewish and Christian tradition, and ended at 3:00 on Friday, a normal “tea time” in England.

If you would like to consider trying this, please keep these few things in mind:

1. Be flexible and listen to the Holy Spirit. Don't get so caught up with the act of fasting itself that you forget why you're doing it in the first place.
2. Decide whether you're going to do a complete fast (water only), a no-solid-food fast that allows milk, juice, coffee and tea, a no-meat fast, or some other kind of fast. There are no fixed rules here but it's always good to try to keep the fast you set out to do. Some fasts are more difficult than others, and there will be times you may feel led to switch things up.
3. Plan on Friday as your regular fasting day. There's nothing "magic" about Friday. It's simply a historical day for fasting in many Christian traditions, largely because Jesus was crucified on a Friday. If for some reason another day of the week makes more sense for you, then fast on that day.
4. Only fast for more than one consecutive day after you've consulted with your doctor and only if you're sure you're physically able to handle it.
5. Make sure you drink plenty of water while fasting, no matter what kind of fast you choose.
6. Remember, there will be times when it makes sense to skip your Friday fast or move it to another day of the week. For example, if you have an opportunity to have lunch on a Friday with someone you've been wanting to connect with for a while, don't feel compelled to create an awkward situation by sticking to your fast. Just change your fast day that week. Guideline #1 applies here.

In return, since you are fasting from food, consider donating food to our Wesley “Fast Food Drive,” which will take place throughout Lent. Simply bring you non-perishable food items to the church on Sunday morning, or whenever it is convenient.



Youth Activities

Winter Jam 2025

Friday, March 7th

Join Ashley Wood for Winter Jam at the Charleston Civic Center. Winter Jam is an annual American music tour featuring contemporary Christian music artists of all genres. Admission is at 6pm and the show starts at 7pm. Deadline to sign up is Monday, March 3rd.



Youth Field Trip

Sunday, March 16th, 12pm

CCUM Youth Group will be going on a field trip to Point Pleasant, WV to watch some fellow youth members perform in The Black Knight Revue at Point Pleasant High School. While on the trip they will also visit the Moth Man Statue and eat at the Famous Village Pizza.



Youth Fundraiser

Christ Church Youth Group will be conducting a fundraiser. We will be taking orders throughout Lent for Christ Church United Methodist t-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, and polos. All items will have the new Christ Church logo on the left pocket. Proceeds will go toward the 2025 Youth Mission Trip. Order forms are available in the church office.

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 13th, 12:30pm

On Sunday, April 13th 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.

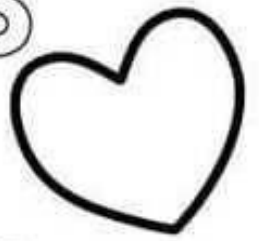
Ages 2-5 will have their egg hunt on the playground while ages 6+ will have their egg hunt on the green space under the trees. Come out and join us for an outdoor Easter celebration!



Beloved, let us

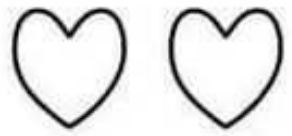
LOVE

one



another,

for



love

is from

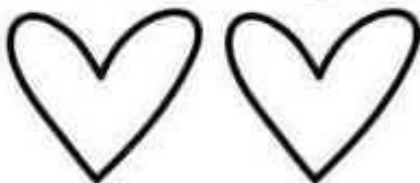
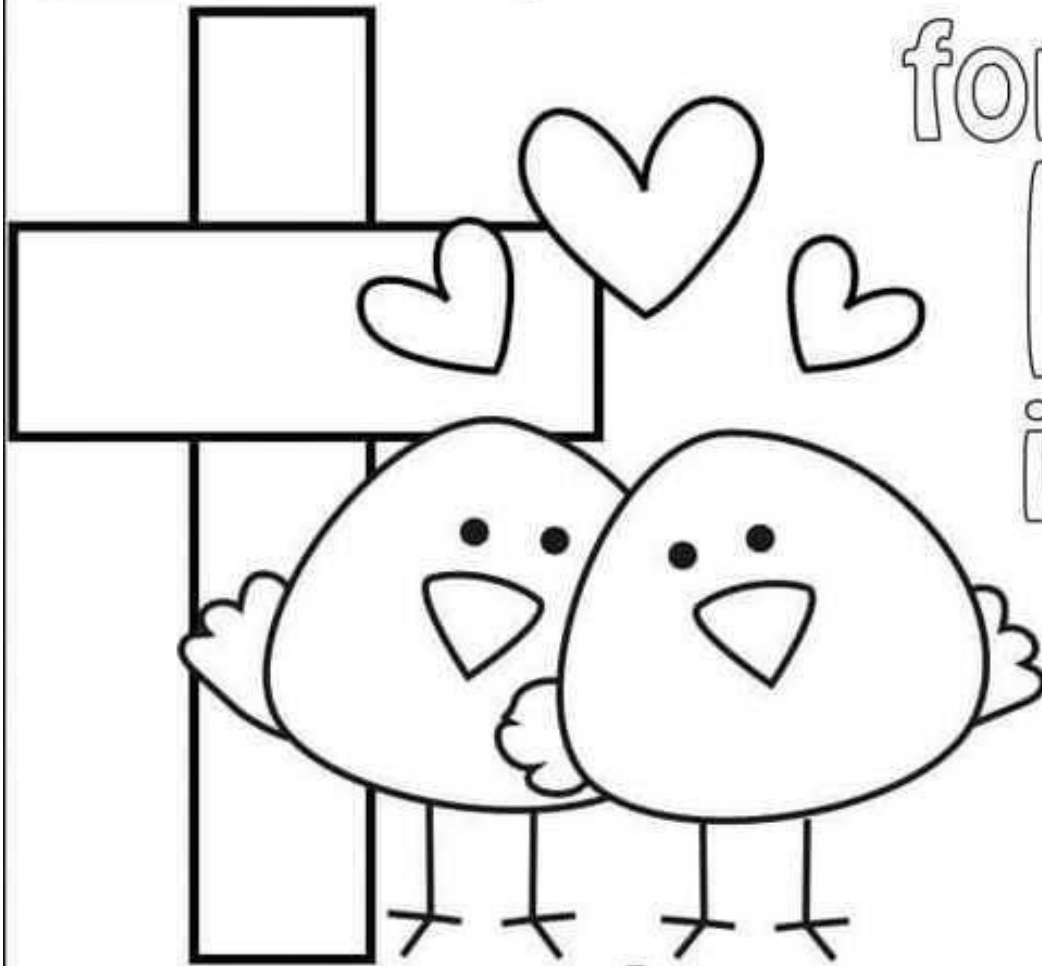
God,

and

whoever loves

is born of God, and

knows God.



The Growing Place Announcements



YOU ARE INVITED.....

PRESCHOOL AND PRE-K OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, March 20 5:00-6:00 PM

Meet the teachers, visit the classrooms.

ENROLL FOR 2025-26.



SHOW OUR PRESCHOOL SOME LOVE

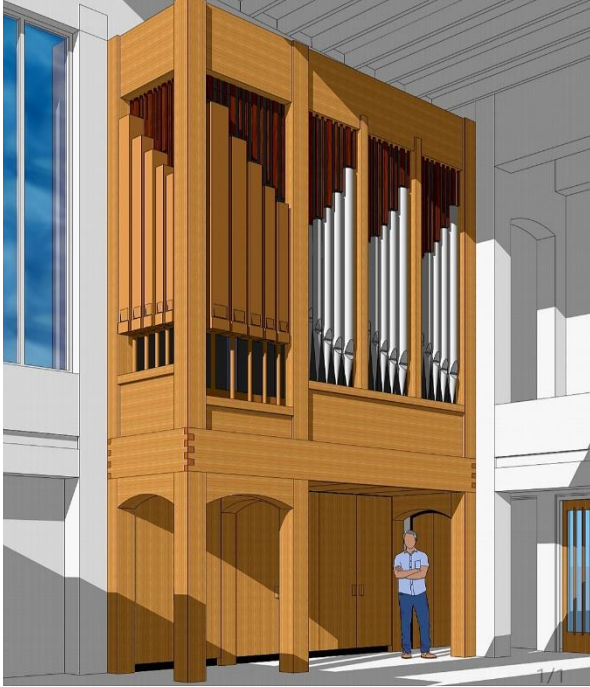
Your donation of these items will help keep our costs down:

- * Paper towels
- * Paper napkins
- * Cans of fruit or fruit cups
- * Pretzels
- * Animal crackers
- * Goldfish crackers
- * Cheez-its
- * Triscuits
- * Kleenex
- * Baby Wipes
- * Watercolor Paints
- * Glue Sticks
- * Washable markers
- * Dry erase markers

Thank you from

The Growing Place

Antiphonal Organ Project Update



The Worship & Arts Team, along with the Board of Trustees, announced last summer that our antiphonal organ project is finally underway. After decades of dreaming, planning, and honoring loved ones through memorial and honorary contributions, the project will become a reality in the last summer of 2025.

As a reminder, the pipes used in the antiphonal organ (updated graphic seen here) were originally purchased in 1904 by our congregational ancestors of the State Street Methodist Episcopal Church with funds contributed by philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie. When this organ was installed in the State Street Church, it started a music ministry that continues to this day. The Holtkamp Organ Company of Cleveland, Ohio, who built and installed the Centrum Organ in 1975, created a design for the antiphonal organ that compliments the Centrum Organ. This antiphonal organ project will bring a part of our history back into the worship life of the congregation. It is a wonderful way to honor our past while looking to the future!

The Worship & Arts Team, along with Rev. David Donathan, our Minister of Worship Arts/Organist, have been in dialogue with Chris Holtkamp, President of the Holtkamp Organ Company, for the past several months working out the details of the project. The team is now to the point of choosing stain colors and finishes as well as making plans for the needed electrical work. Construction of the antiphonal organ has begun in the Holtkamp Organ Company manufacturing facility. It is anticipated that the antiphonal organ will be installed sometime in August, 2025 with the dedication taking place in the early fall. A series of organ recitals is being planned for the fall of 2025 and the spring of 2026.

In order to facilitate that the Centrum organ and the new antiphonal organ work in conjunction with each other from one main organ console, at the end of April, 2025, parts of the Centrum organ console will be removed and taken to Cleveland. **This means we will not have use of the Centrum pipe organ for almost 4 months this summer!** Rev. Donathan and the Worship & Arts Team will be working together to provide music for the summer, which will include guest instrumentalists and piano.

This is an exciting time in the life of the congregation. As our 2004 bicentennial slogan stated, "Our Future Acclaims our Past." Soli deo gloria.



C.R.O.S.S. Ministries

Ready to Launch the 2025 Season



Beginning at the end of March and running through July, C.R.O.S.S. Ministries will again welcome mission work teams to our church. We will house them at the Virginia Street Property (VSP) and feed them in Fellowship Hall. We will give them work to do for those in need through our partnership with Rebuilding Together Charleston. Each group comes for a week and volunteers are needed to welcome groups, offer devotions in the evenings, fix meals for the team, as well as help them on the job sites. If you would like to try your hand at any of these, please let Kathy Chaney know. You can reach her at 304-546-8513 or via email at mchaine@aol.com. We will make sure that you are equipped with whatever knowledge you need to be the hands of Christ to those in our community.

Meet Toni Hartman, Business Administrator



Please join us in welcoming our new Business Administrator, Toni Hartman. Toni was born and raised in Northwest Ohio. She is a devoted wife to her high school sweetheart, Joshua, a proud mother to their four grown children, and grandmother to their latest addition: a precious baby granddaughter. Toni has over 20 years of experience in finance and administration. She settled in Charleston after working for a variety of banking institutions, faith-based nonprofits, and churches in Ohio and Colorado. She is grateful for the opportunity to work alongside the wonderful office staff at Christ Church with the common goal of supporting the mission of the United Methodist Church: *to make disciples of Jesus Christ to transform the world*. Toni has a special affinity for nature and the great outdoors. In her free time, she enjoys taking in the wonders of God's magnificent creation. When she isn't at work or taking care of her family, Toni can be found running or hiking

in the woods where she finds peace and freedom from the cares of the world.

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

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

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



Happy Birthday!

Anniversaries

February

Years Married as of 2025

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|----|
| Smithson, Daniel & Ruthann | February 4, 1961 | 64 |
| Tompkins, Nick & Betty | February 13, 1973 | 52 |
| Ray, Jimmy & Lori | February 14, 2004 | 21 |
| Turner, Wendel & Jane | February 15, 2000 | 25 |
| Wood, Brent & Meredith | February 17, 2011 | 14 |
| Kirby, David & Sandy | February 20, 2005 | 20 |
| Stump, Sammy & Emma | February 28, 1958 | 67 |

March

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------|----|
| Johnson, Chris & Trish | March 21, 1992 | 33 |
| McGivern, Pat & Donna | March 31, 1979 | 46 |

April

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|----|
| Friend, Rod & Nanya | April 3, 1977 | 48 |
| Smith, Russ & Carolyn | April 5, 1987 | 38 |
| Harrah, Linda & Bill Johnson | April 12, 1979 | 46 |
| Iskra, Eric & Sharon | April 12, 1997 | 28 |
| Bungard, David & Allison | April 14, 2007 | 18 |
| Bissett, Larry & Marlyn | April 15, 1962 | 63 |
| Tate, Dan & Liz | April 26, 1986 | 39 |
| Farrell, Mark & Ingrid | 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.



1221 Quarrier Street

Charleston, WV 25301

304-342-0192

Office@ccumwv.org

www.ccumwv.org

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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