



## WEST HEMPFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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### **Hello to all the newsletter readers of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church!**

Lent begins this month.

Lent is the season, 40 days (not counting Sundays), before Easter Sunday. A season of preparation, reflection, sometimes fasting, hopefully spiritual growth and deeper connection with God.

I think it is interesting how Lent 2024 starts. Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, is Valentine's Day this year!

I find myself still thinking about that unusual combination. The celebration, thrill, and excitement of romantic love mixed with the humility of the ash meant to remind us of our mortality.

But, then again, that seems like a great example of the tension of Lent. Every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection, a mini-Easter. In Lent that is mixed with the themes of humility, repentance, and preparation for the Easter that is to come.

The Psalms, as they so often do, help us to express these difficult, conflicting emotions. Many of the psalms help us with our praises:

"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?" (Psalm 27:1)

"Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!" (Psalm 147:14)

"The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced." (Psalm 126:3)

Many of the psalms help us express our frustrations, worries, sorrow, and laments:

"My heart is stricken and withered like grass; I am too wasted to eat my bread." (Psalm 102:4)

Whatever emotions we may be feeling this Lent, the psalms remind us that we are not alone. Others have walked this path before us. Their poetic words give voice to the feelings we struggle to name. And we can be reassured that in the celebration, the thrill, the excitement; and in the humility, the repentance, the preparation; and even in the frustrations, worries, sorrow, and laments, the Lord is there with us as well.

". . . that he looked down from his holy height, from heaven the LORD looked at the earth." (Psalm 102:19)

### PRAYER

Lord, look down from your holy height, and see us here on the earth. Walk with us this Lent. Rejoice with us. Cry with us. Guide us and prepare us for the Easter that is to come. Amen.

Blessings,

Rev. Andrew Wirt

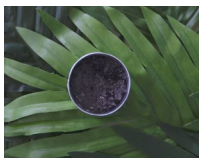


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## **ASH WEDNESDAY**

**This year the date for Ash Wednesday is February 14, 2024.**



We will have worship on the evening of February 14 for Ash Wednesday. Join us in the sanctuary at 7PM.

Pastor Andrew will lead us in a service of repentance and reflection.

All are welcome.

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, a season of preparation for Holy Week and Easter.

**Palm Sunday, March 24, 2023**

**Holy Thursday, March 28, 2023**

**Good Friday, March 29, 2023**

**Easter Sunday, March 31, 2023**

## *February* **Worship Schedule**

2/4 - 10AM Worship  
w/ Communion  
(9:00AM Sunday School)

2/18 - First Sunday of Lent  
10AM Worship  
(9:00AM Sunday School)

2/11 - 10AM Worship  
(9:00AM Sunday School)

2/25 - 10AM Worship  
(9:00AM Sunday School)

2/14 - 7pm Ash Wednesday  
Service

## **SANCTUARY FLOWERS**

The 2024 flower chart is in the lobby at the welcome center.

If you would like to provide flowers on a Sunday morning in 2024, please contact the church office to sign up.



On the week that you are signed up, the church office will contact you to remind you and to ask if you would like the flowers to be in recognition of anyone or anything to be printed in the Sunday bulletin.

If you have any questions, talk with Pastor Andrew or contact the church office.

## **SCOUT SUNDAY**

Scout Sunday is February 4, 2024. We invite any current or former scouts to come in uniform.

## **COMMUNION**



We will be celebrating communion together as a part of our worship service on Sunday, February 4, 2024 at 10:00am and we would love for you to join us!

All are welcome at the Lord's Table!

## WINTER WEATHER RESPONSE TEAM

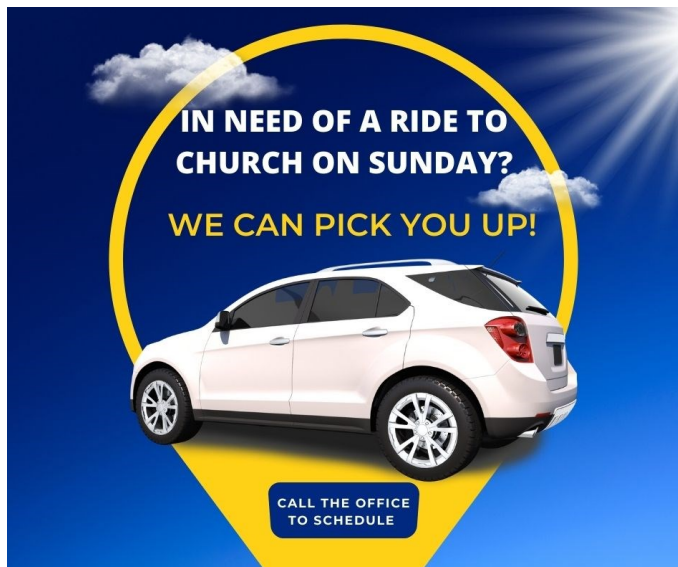
WHPC is putting together a team of volunteers to help clear the church sidewalks of snow and ice on Sunday mornings in the event of winter weather.

A sign up sheet is on the Welcome Center table in the lobby if you would like to be put on the call list of possible volunteers.

If you have any questions, talk with Elder Rick Forsyth.

## DEACONS OFFER A RIDE

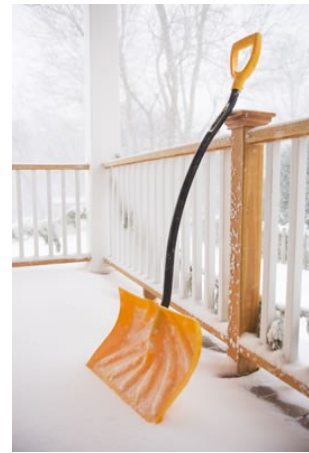
If anyone would like to come to church, but is in need of a ride, please contact the church office to let us know. There are several deacons who are willing to help.



## HOMEBOUND AND NURSING HOME FRIENDS

We encourage you to remember those who can't be with us physically with a card or phone call.

The winters are long, especially for them.



## WINTER WEATHER UPDATES

Decisions about winter weather cancellation of worship will be made the day of the service (so as not to be premature, weather and conditions can change quickly).

No matter what, everyone please be careful! Even if you don't hear that the service is cancelled, if it looks messy where you are, stay home and stay safe.

If we need to cancel because of bad roads or ice at the church, a message will be sent out one hour before the start of worship using the new text message service and Constant Contact email service.

*The system that we used to use to make automated mass phone calls is no longer in use by the church. (It was too expensive for its limited usage.)*

If you know someone who might not be reached by those services, give them a call. I am sure they will appreciate the check in.

## WEST HEMPFIELD CHURCH PRESCHOOL



### **Preschool Enrollment is open for the 2024/2025 school year.**

Class is Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday from 9:00am to 11:30am for the morning class or 12:30pm to 3:00pm for the afternoon class.

The program is designed for 3- & 4-year old children. (The child must be 3 by August 31 and potty-trained.)

Tuition for the 2024/2025 school year will be \$120 per month.

If you would like more information, please visit their website at [westhempfieldpreschool.org](http://westhempfieldpreschool.org) or call the church office.

There is a one-time non-refundable registration fee of \$50. (We use the money brought in through this registration fee to purchase supplies.)



## 2023 GIVING STATEMENTS

2023 Giving Statements have been emailed and/or mailed. If you should have received one, but have not, please contact the church office. If you did receive one, but upon reviewing it, believe that we made a mistake, please contact the church office. Giving envelopes are on the table at the Welcome Center in the lobby for anyone who wants a box.

Thank you for your financial support of the ministry & mission of WHPC.

### **2024 PER CAPITA/FIRST FRUITS OFFERING = \$44.00**

What used to be known as the "per capita" has been replaced by the "First Fruits" campaign of Redstone Presbytery. Regardless of what we call it, this is our denominational support. Each of us has the opportunity to support the work of the Presbytery, Synod, and National levels of our church, the PCUSA, in the work they do. Your gift supports the expenses of the governance meetings, supporting staff, helping to connect churches with ministers, the Presbyterian Historical Society, providing a Presbyterian presence at ecumenical groups and gatherings in this country and worldwide, and more.

### **PCUSA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Did you know ... one of the things your per capita/first fruits offering does is it allows Presbyterians from all over the United States to gather every two years to discuss important issues, make decisions, worship, and fellowship with one another.

This year, Pastor Andrew was selected by Redstone Presbytery to represent us all at the General Assembly gathering of the PCUSA this summer in Salt Lake City, Utah!

## C.E. PJ PARTY AND MOVIE NIGHT

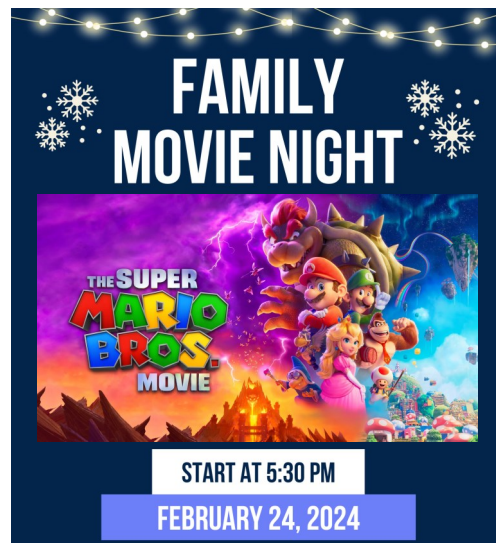
**Saturday, February 24 5:30-8PM**

Everyone is invited to join us for a great, family fun night. We will be watching *The Super Mario Bros. Movie* in the lobby.

Everyone should wear their favorite pajamas and bring a blanket to relax on while watching the movie.

We will provide hot dogs, drinks, and snacks.

Come and have a great night!



## LENT DEVOTIONALS

***The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday,  
February 14, 2024***

A variety of options are available for anyone seeking to deepen their walk with Jesus this season of Lent.

As always "These Days" and "Our Daily Bread" devotionals are available at the church for free. Stop in and pick one up, or contact the church office and we can put one in the mail for you.

The Lending Library bookshelf in the lobby is a resource for everyone. Feel free to take a book and/or leave a book for someone else.

As many of you know, Pastor Andrew is a graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. PTS has an online daily devotional every Lent, written by members of the PTS community. This year, the devotional for the second day of Lent (February 15) was written by WHPC's own Pastor Andrew. If you go to [www.pts.edu/devotional\\_1](http://www.pts.edu/devotional_1) you will find links to download the entire devotional as a PDF or open just one day at a time. You can sign up to have the daily devotionals delivered to your email. There are even links to listen as the Scripture and devotional are read to you!



The Presbyterian Hunger Program has also created a resource for Lent. Their hope is that this Lenten calendar will be the beginning of actions intended to create more mindful behaviors throughout the year.

[www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/tread-lightly-for-lent/](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/tread-lightly-for-lent/)

## JANUARY SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

***The Session of West Hempfield  
Presbyterian Church met on  
January 23, 2024***

We gathered to cover our church, congregation, and community with prayer and review all that has been going on with the church and the world.

- Reflected on Galatians 6:9 *Let us not grow weary*
- Approved Session minutes from December meeting
- Reviewed reports from WHPC staff and committees
- Approved the annual statistical report
- Approved the schedule of communion dates
- Set date for the CE PJ Party Movie Night for Sat., February 24
- Approved Ash Wednesday service, February 14 at 7PM
- Discussed winter weather plans, policies, and communication
- Preschool tuition will stay the same next school year, and registration fee will go up from \$40 to \$50.
- Reviewed calendar of upcoming events
- Closed with prayer

Next scheduled in-person meeting will be February 25 or 27, 2024 depending on availability of Elders



The Worship Committee would like to thank John Bankosh for taking down the Christmas decorations. We appreciate all the hard work you do!

Thank you to everyone who attended the congregational meeting on January 28.

And to all church leadership who worked hard on those year end reports.

Thank you new church officers!

#### DEACONS

Brad Collier

Birdie Grinder

Jan Ober

Mary Shupe

#### ELDERS

Richard Forsyth

Jen MacIntosh

Helen Toms

Dear Rev. Andrew, congregation, Deacons,  
and all the kind hearts of WHPC,

I want to thank everyone for the honor of working with you all for the last two years. It was an honor and blessing. I will truly miss working with everyone! Thank you to everyone for the beautiful flower arrangement and your kindness. Happy New Year and may the Lord bless you all!

Sincerely,

Lisa, your WHPC friend :-)

# ★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 3 – Keeley Mackenzie

Karen Reed

February 8 – Bob Edmonds

February 12 – Birdie Grinder

February 21 - Virgie Smith

February 24 – Janet Errett

February 26 – Betty Greenawalt

February 27 – Jen MacIntosh

February 28 – Meredith MacIntosh

*If you have a February birthday, and  
we've missed you –*

*PLEASE, let the office know!*

# Happy Valentines Day



# February 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>Church Office Hours</u> Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays 9am — 3pm				1 <i>Rental 6pm</i>	2 <i>Rental 6pm</i>	3
4 9am Sunday School 10am Worship w/Communion	5 Dart Ball 7:00pm	6 <i>Rental 5pm</i>	7 Senior Cards 11am <i>Rental 5pm</i>	8 <i>Rental 6pm</i>	9 <i>Rental 6pm</i>	10 <i>Craft Show Rental</i>
11 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	12 Dart Ball 7:00pm <i>Rental 6pm</i>	13 Deacons Mtg. 6:30pm <i>Rental 5pm</i>	14 Senior Cards 11am Ash Wed. Service 7pm <i>Rental 5pm</i>	15 <i>Rental 6pm</i>	16 <i>Rental 6pm</i>	17
18 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	19 Presidents' Day  Dart Ball 7:00pm	20 Stewardship Mtg. 6:30pm on Zoom <i>Rental 5pm</i>	21 Senior Cards 11am <b>Session Reports Due</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> <i>Rental 5pm</i>	22 <i>Rental 6pm</i>	23 <i>Rental 6pm</i>	24 CE Movie Night
25 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	26 Dart Ball 7:00pm <i>Rental 6pm</i>	27 Session Mtg. 6:30pm <i>Rental 5pm</i>	28 Senior Cards 11am <i>Rental 5pm</i>	29 <i>Rental 6pm</i>		