



## WEST HEMPFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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[www.westhempfieldpc.org](http://www.westhempfieldpc.org)

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

March 31, 2024 was Easter Sunday!

And the season of Easter continues until Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024.

All around the world followers of Jesus celebrate His Resurrection!

In last month's article we talked about the crucifixion, the suffering, and the humiliation. This month we get to talk about the resurrection, the joy, and the Good News.

When you read the story in Luke chapter 24, Luke includes an interesting detail that is not shared by the other gospels.

Two men/angels in clothes that gleamed like lightning greet the women early in the morning at the tomb where Jesus was laid. (That part is not unique to Luke, but keep reading.) In Luke 24:5 they ask, "*Why do you look for the living among the dead?*"

As we make this shift from crucifixion/death to resurrection/life, that question sticks with me.

*Why do you look for the living among the dead?*

Of course, they are speaking of Jesus, who is not dead. "He has risen!" (verse 6) But I think Luke included this detail because he understood this question can mean so much more.

*Why do you look for the living among the dead?*

How often, and in how many ways, do we place our attention and our focus on death instead of on the things that lead to life?

Rather than focusing on what is good and what brings life, we talk about all that is wrong with the world, all of the bad, the things that scare us or make us angry. We focus on the negatives. Death.

As Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness after His baptism, we also are tempted. (Luke 4:2-3) We want bread to fill our hungry stomachs. Sometimes we can focus so much of our attention on the growling coming from inside, that we fail to see the feast is already prepared in front of us.

*Why do you look for the living among the dead?*

Jesus is the Bread of Life (John 6:35). Jesus offers the Cup of the New Covenant (Luke 22:20). "*whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.*" (John 4:14).

Jesus has already prepared the way of life!

*Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.* (Philippians 4:8)

God's way of love and mercy, kindness and joy, praise and thanksgiving in all circumstances, does not always come naturally or easily to us, but it is the way that God calls us to follow. One full of life and resurrection. One worthy of celebration.

Happy Easter!

Blessings, Rev. Andrew Wirt



WHPC Deacons will be walking to support  
**Blackburn Center**  
Walk a Mile in Her Shoes  
April 13, 2024 at 10am

To Donate  
Scan QR Code  
or Text  
WHPC Blackburn  
to 73256



## In This Month's Newsletter:

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## **COMMUNION**

We will be celebrating communion together as a part of our worship services on

Sunday, April 7, 2024 at 10:00am

We would love for you to join us!

All are welcome at the Lord's Table!

# April

## Worship Schedule

4/7 - 10AM Worship  
w/ Communion  
(9:00AM Sunday School)

4/21 - 10AM Worship  
(9:00AM Sunday School)

4/14 - 10AM Worship  
(9:00AM Sunday School)

4/28 - 10AM Worship  
(9:00AM Sunday School)



## **PARTIAL ECLIPSE—APRIL 8, 2024**

Solar eclipses occur when the moon passes directly between the sun and Earth's orbits, creating an eclipse of Earth's view of the sun.

**Did you know there are some Bible stories that might be referencing an eclipse?**

Job 9:7 says that God can “speak to the sun and it does not shine.”... that sounds like an eclipse!

As part of the Holy Week story, in Luke 23:44-45 when Jesus died on the cross “darkness came over the whole land” and “the sun stopped shining.”

Joshua 10:12 is usually translated Joshua told the sun to “stand still” and that “the sun stopped” ... but the first phrase is better translated to say that Joshua told the sun to “be silent” and the second phrase could then mean that “the sun stopped shining” like an eclipse. To make sense of the rest of that story, if the eclipse was at sunset and prevented them from seeing the sunset, then they might have accurately said that on that day, the sun never set!

## DEACONS BLACKBURN CENTER WALK

***Support Us As We Walk a Mile in Her Shoes on  
Saturday, April 13 at 10 AM***

The Deacons of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church are participating in this event to raise awareness and money for a great cause. Please support us and help make a difference. Together, we can reach our fundraising goal of \$500.

If you'd like to be part of “West Hempfield PC Walkers” right here in our own neighborhoods on ***April 13 at 10:00AM***. Please contact the church office to register. Call (724)863-1260 or send an email to [office@westhempfieldpc.org](mailto:office@westhempfieldpc.org)

Whether you can walk or not, we encourage you to consider making a donation towards our goal to support the Blackburn Center, support survivors of abuse, and help end domestic abuse.

Follow the link below, text WHPC Blackburn to 73256, or write a check to the church by Sunday, April 14 (be sure to include Blackburn in memo)

<https://onrealm.org/WestHempfieldPC/-/give/blackburn>

From the Blackburn Center Website:  
[blackburncenter.org](http://blackburncenter.org)

Each April, Blackburn Center hosts our signature event, Walk a Mile in Her Shoes®. The goal of the Walk is to raise awareness about gender-based violence in our community. The Walk is a call to action to our community, and a way to raise much-needed funds to support our mission.



## MARCH SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

***The Session of West Hempfield  
Presbyterian Church met on  
Tuesday, March 26, 2024***

We gathered after worship 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 Holy Week with a Scripture reading from Philippians 2:5-11
- Set the 2024 summer outdoor worship services for July 28 and August 25
- Set the Annual Church Picnic for July 28
- Set the date for WHPC Car Cruise July 27 so that planning can begin
- Thank you to multiple anonymous donors for directed donations that will allow us to do some fun things that were not originally in our 2024 budget!
- Discussed Watson Fund
- Discussed fees for online payment of preschool tuition
- Reviewed calendar of upcoming events
- Closed with prayer

Next scheduled Session meeting will be Tuesday, April 23, 2024.

## CE / VBS PLANNING MEETING

A CE / VBS planning meeting will be held after worship on April 7 in the upstairs kitchen. Anyone interested in helping with VBS this June is invited!



## CAMP FIRELIGHT VBS



This year's VBS will be **June 10-14 from 6 to 8PM** and our theme will be **Campfire!**

The Christian Education Committee is also in search of volunteers who would like to participate in Vacation Bible School. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, please contact Mary Esther DeTesta or the church office.

Trust God  
to Go  
with Us!

Trust God  
to Lead  
the Way!

Trust God  
to Share  
Wisdom!

Trust God  
to Give  
Us Peace!

Trust God  
to Spark  
Joy!

## PINE SPRINGS CAMP

As you are making your plans for this summer, don't forget about Pine Springs Camp!

The Pine Springs Camp summer program seeks to help each camper have **vital encounters with Christ**. PSC does this by...

1. Teaching about the unconditional love of Christ.
2. Emphasizing that each camper has unique and creative gifts that God has given them. We offer a variety of camps so that each participant can explore and develop their gifts and grow in their relationship to God.
3. Modeling a proper way to celebrate and play in God's creation. We believe that camp should be fun!
4. Experiencing the importance of being involved in Christian community.



Pine Springs Camp

Pine Springs Camp brochures are available at the church, or check out their website [www.pinesprings.org](http://www.pinesprings.org)

And this year will be the second year for **Pine Springs Travelling Day Camp** at New Hope Presbyterian Church (sponsored by West Hempfield Presbyterian Church, First Presbyterian Church of Irwin, and New Hope Presbyterian Church) June 17-21, brochures in the lobby.



## EASTER FLOWERS

Thank you to everyone who ordered Easter flowers to help make the church beautiful for this very special Sunday!



## PRAYER LIST

The church prayer list can be found on a white board in the hallway outside of the sanctuary. Dry erase markers can be found on the table under the board for making additions. You can also add a praise or request by emailing the office secretary@westhempfieldpc.org

We email the prayer list every Tuesday to everyone who has signed up for “All WHPC News” or “Prayer List” emails at westhempfieldpc.org/subscribe

## OFFERING

We recognize and celebrate the offering in worship each Sunday even though we no longer “pass the plate.” The offering plate can be found at the main entrance of the sanctuary before and after worship. It is also possible to give online from the church website (westhempfieldpc.org) or by texting WHPC to 73256. With online giving it is possible to make a one-time gift or set up automatic, recurring donations.

## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Thank you to everyone who supported the OGHS offering Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday!

Each gift supports efforts to assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People.

- **\$3.1 million** granted by PDA in the United States and 35 countries
- **Over 55,000** pounds of seeds and seedlings were distributed for farming
- **90 grants** impacting 22 countries given by PHP
- **228,318 Gift of the Heart Kits** and Blankets distributed
- **875 chickens** were distributed in Guatemala and Columbia
- **105 women** became self-employed in Malawi
- **152 people** won their land back in Sri Lanka

Learn more about how your gifts bless God’s people around the world:

[specialofferings.pcusa.org/  
offering/oghs/](https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/)





Dear Session Members & WHPC family,

I just want to say thank you so very much for the beautiful flowers for teacher appreciation week! Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated along with all the support you have given me over the years here! I'm proud to be part of the WHPC family! Thanks again for everything!

Sincerely,

Andrea (Mrs. T)

A huge thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make the spaghetti dinner a success! We could not have done it without you!

Jen & Arleen

Thank you to everyone who donated candy for the Easter Egg Hunt and helped with the event!

The CE Committee

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

Everett Wirt	April 1
Rachael Hazlett	April 4
Carol Ailes	April 5
Ted Mertz	April 7
Vivian Wirt	April 8
Barb Hazlett	April 20
John Hilewick	April 27

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

***PLEASE, let the office know!***

Thank you to everyone who ordered flowers to help decorate our sanctuary this Easter.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered and helped with the Kitchen Clean Up on March 16.

Thank you all for your prayers and support when I was on the prayer list.

~Birdie Grinder~

Thank you Deacons for the wonderful refreshments after worship on March 3!



# April 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 OFFICE CLOSED <i>Upstairs—Rental</i> Dart Ball 7:00pm	2	3 Senior Cards 11am	4	5 <i>FH—Rental 6pm</i>	6
7 9am Sunday School 10am Worship w/Communion CE / VBS Meeting	8 <i>Upstairs—Rental</i> Dart Ball 7:00pm	9 Deacons Mtg. 6:30pm	10 Senior Cards 11am	11	12 <i>FH—Rental 6pm</i>	13 <i>Blackburn Center Walk</i>
14 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	15 <i>Upstairs—Rental</i> Dart Ball 7:00pm	16 Stewardship Mtg. 6:30pm on Zoom	17 Senior Cards 11am	18	19 <i>FH—Rental 6pm</i>	20
21 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	22 <i>Upstairs—Rental</i> Dart Ball 7:00pm	23 <i>PA Primary Elections</i> Session Mtg. 6:30pm	24 Senior Cards 11am	25	26 <i>FH—Rental 6pm</i>	27 <i>FH—Craft Show Rental</i>
28 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	29 <i>Upstairs—Rental</i> Dart Ball 7:00pm	30	<b><u>Church Office Hours</u></b> Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays 9am – 3pm			