



WEST HEMPFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

It is tradition at WHPC that the cross in the front of the sanctuary is replaced with a crucifix during Lent.

We aren't making the switch for the full season of Lent anymore, but it still happens. Keep an eye out. This year the crucifix will be up from March 17 through Good Friday.

You don't often see a crucifix in Protestant churches like ours. Protestant theology tends to put the emphasis on the resurrection, rather than on the crucifixion. The empty cross, like the empty tomb, speaks more to Christ's victory over death, rather than his suffering on the cross.

Neither is wrong though. Both are necessary and important. We have a choice regarding where we place the emphasis, but we can't ignore the rest.

It's not just two options either. As with much of Scripture there is a lot of rich meaning in every word and image.

The crucifixion, as an example, causes many to reflect on the suffering of Christ.

Indeed, crucifixion was an extreme amount of suffering. It is hard not to think about how Christ suffered while nailed upon the cross.

But let's not forget, the cross was also humiliating.

Much of the suffering took place in public. Crowds would gather to watch. And they mocked and insulted Jesus (Luke 22:63).

Rome wanted it this way. A public humiliation that said, "This person thought he was special, but he was nothing compared to the might and power of Rome."

In fact, Rome thought might and power were the only things that mattered. There was nothing, in their view, worse than looking weak.

Honestly, this way of thinking still exists. Many today, like ancient Romans, are afraid of looking weak.

Many choose to put their faith in whoever seems strongest. How many ads basically boil down to just "I'm strong, the other guy is weak"?

This was how Rome squashed rebellions. Not just by killing the leader, but by humiliating them so that no one would follow them anymore.

But Jesus taught a different way.

Jesus had all the power and might. He could have commanded an army of 12 legions of angels (Matthew 26:53).

Instead, Jesus chose the way of compassion, the way of peace, the way of humility.

And Jesus calls us to take *up our cross and follow him* (Mark 8:34). To humble ourselves. Because, after all, *the student is not above the master* (Luke 6:40).

The crucifix reminds us to reject the seductive call of power and might, and instead to embrace humility.

Blessings, Rev. Andrew Wirt



Reminder: Spring Forward!

Daylight Savings Time begins

Sunday, March 10, 2024 @ 2:00 AM

In This Month's Newsletter:

Page 1	Monthly Minute Daylight Savings Time
Page 2	Holy Week Worship Schedule Communion Kitchen Clean Up
Page 3	Haiti Spaghetti Dinner Session Highlights Easter Egg Hunt
Page 4	Building Committee Meeting Birthdays "Thank you"s
Page 5	One Great Hour of Sharing Easter Flower Orders
Page 6	Lent Devotionals WHPC Event Fliers
Page 7	March Calendar



Palm Sunday

March 24

Worship 10:00AM

Sunday School 9:00AM

Holy Thursday

March 28

Worship w/ Communion 7:00PM

Good Friday

March 29

Worship 7:00PM

Easter Sunday

March 31

Worship 10:00AM

Sunday School 9:00AM

A graphic titled "March Worship Schedule" with a green background and leaf patterns. The text is arranged in two columns. The first column lists: 3/3 - 10AM Worship w/ Communion (9:00AM Sunday School), 3/10 - 10AM Worship (9:00AM Sunday School), and 3/17 - 10AM Worship (9:00AM Sunday School). The second column lists: 3/24 - Palm Sunday 10AM Worship (9:00AM Sunday School), 3/28 - 7pm Holy Thursday Service, 3/29 - 7pm Good Friday Service, and 3/31 - Easter Sunday 10AM Worship (9:00AM Sunday School).

March
Worship Schedule

3/3 - 10AM Worship
w/ Communion
(9:00AM Sunday School)

3/10 - 10AM Worship
(9:00AM Sunday School)

3/17 - 10AM Worship
(9:00AM Sunday School)

3/24 - Palm Sunday
10AM Worship
(9:00AM Sunday School)

3/28 - 7pm Holy Thursday
Service

3/29 - 7pm Good Friday
Service

3/31 - Easter Sunday
10AM Worship
(9:00AM Sunday School)

COMMUNION



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

Sunday, March 3, 2024 at 10:00am
and Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 7:00pm

We would love for you to join us!

All are welcome at the Lord's Table!

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

KITCHEN CLEAN UP

Saturday, March 16 at 9:30am, the Fellowship Committee is planning a "Spring Cleaning" for the Fellowship Hall kitchen.

If you are interested in helping, there is a sign up sheet in the lobby. If you have any questions, talk with Mary Esther DeTesta.

MISSIONS



Haiti Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, March 9, 2024
4:00pm - 6:30pm
in the Fellowship Hall

Cost is \$10 \$5 for children age 5 and under

No advanced tickets. Pay at the door.

The meal includes: spaghetti, meatballs,
salad bar, bread, drink and dessert.

Carry-out will be available.

WHPC gives monthly support to a children's school in Haiti. The annual spaghetti dinner is an important fundraiser so that we can continue our giving.

Everyone is welcome to help. Meatball making will be Friday, March 8 at 6:00pm.

Table and chair setup will be Saturday, March 9 at 9:30am.

Lots of helping hands have made this a huge success in the past. Can you help this year? Contact the church office or sign-up on the volunteer & donation board in the lobby.

FEBRUARY SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church met on Sunday, February 25, 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.

- Approved minutes from January Session meeting and January congregational meeting
- Reviewed reports from WHPC staff and committees
- Approved the schedule for Holy Week
- Set date for the CE Easter Egg Hunt and Vacation Bible School
- Approved a motion for all committees to commit to publicly announced quarterly meetings (where appropriate)
- Approved a plan for updating the sign in the front yard of the church with LED lighting
- Received a letter of transfer
- Closed with prayer

Next scheduled Session meeting will be Tuesday, March 26, 2024.

CE EASTER EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024

Can you help us prepare?

Candy is being collected for the Easter Eggs. A bin is located in the lobby, near the sanctuary. All candy should be prepackaged, individually wrapped, and able to fit inside a plastic Easter egg.

We are also requesting donations of prepackaged Rice Krispie Treats and Hostess CupCakes for the student take home bags.

We will need all donations by Sunday, March 10.



Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be March 23 at 10:00AM.

Bring your BASKET and a friend!

All children up to 5th grade are welcome.

We will gather in the sanctuary and then the hunt will be outside, rain/snow or sunshine!



BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING

Anyone interested in helping out with the Building Committee:

We are planning on gathering after worship on Palm Sunday, March 24 to walk the building and property, taking note of possible jobs that can be done over the next year.

See Pastor Andrew for more info.

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 3	Jake Gilmartin
March 5	Paul Jackson
March 9	Debbie Miller
March 11	Janet Vandermer
March 14	Matt Porterfield
March 19	Cameron Mackenzie
March 21	Mary Porterfield
March 24	Ruth Uhlig Barbara Davis
March 25	Nancy Stepinsky Jeff Siegel
March 27	Joyce Edmonds
March 28	Wylie Irwin Pat Smith
March 29	Karissa Hrico

*If you have a March birthday,
and we've missed you –
PLEASE, let the office know!*



Thank you for all of the support and cooperation with our move to a single 10am worship service this year. It has been so nice to have everyone together! We know that it created an inconvenience for some, but we hope everyone is getting used to this new schedule as it is consistent rather than changing every few months like we did last year.

Thank you Virgie Smith for Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day decorations on the glass table in the center of the lobby.

CE Movie Night was a huge success! The movie was *The Super Mario Bros. Movie*. We had 16 kids and over 30 people counting adults. Everybody enjoyed the hot dogs — Thank you to Chef Larry DeTesta and Chef Jeff Siegel for grilling the hot dogs with all the fixin's. And a thank you to Eric and Heather Ressler for providing the screen and projector for the movie. And also a thank you to the CE Committee members, Helen Toms, and Kitty Toms for providing cookies, snacks, and drinks. Everybody had a great time!

— The CE Committee —

Thank you to John Bankosh for the replacing the faucet in the Preschool bathroom. The new faucet looks and works great!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is an annual offering of the PCUSA. Nearly every PCUSA church takes part in this mission effort.

We, like so many others, will be collecting the OGHS offering on Palm Sunday, March 24, and Easter Sunday, March 31.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Giving envelopes and more information will be available in the bulletin inserts on March 17 and 24.

You can also find "One Great Hour" in the drop down menu of the online offering available from the church website until after Easter Sunday.



EASTER FLOWERS

ORDERS DUE WITH PAYMENT BY MARCH 10

Each year we decorate our church sanctuary with colorful spring flowers as part of our Easter celebration.

If you would like to order a flower in honor of or in memory of someone special, complete the form provided below or call the church office.

Paper form, along with payment, can be placed in the offering plate or sent to the office.

We will decorate the sanctuary with the flowers for Easter. After Easter service, please take your flowers home with you.

Flower choices are Lily, Tulip or Hyacinth. All flowers are \$11 each. Thank you!

Your Name:

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

<u>Flower</u>	<u>How many?</u>	<u>Cost:</u>
Tulips	_____	\$ 11
Hyacinth	_____	\$ 11
Lilies	_____	\$ 11
Total	_____	\$ _____

Please print legibly. Thank you!

LENT DEVOTIONALS

*The Season of Lent began 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 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/



**WEST HEMPFIELD
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
Spaghetti Dinner



SAT. MARCH 9, 2024 4-6:30PM

THE MEAL INCLUDES:
SPAGHETTI AND MEATBALLS, A SALAD BAR, BREAD,
DRINK, AND DESSERT
COST IS \$10 PER PERSON
\$5 FOR CHILDREN (AGE 5 AND UNDER)

West Hempfield Presbyterian Church Presents
ANNUAL
Easter
Egg
Hunt
Saturday
March 23rd
10 am
Join us for crafts, refreshments
and prizes!



All children up to 5th grade welcome!

8 West Hempfield Drive
Irwin, PA 15642
724-863-1260

Plan to meet in the sanctuary
Don't forget to bring your Easter Baskets!
The BIG HUNT will be outside, rain, snow, or shine so dress appropriately.



March 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Church Office Hours Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays 9am – 3pm					1 <i>Rental 6pm</i>	2 <i>Craft Show Rental</i>
3 9am Sunday School 10am Worship w/Communion	4 Dart Ball 7:00pm	5 <i>Rental 5pm</i>	6 Senior Cards 11am <i>Rental 5pm</i>	7 <i>Rental 6pm</i>	8 Meatball Making 6pm	9  Haiti Dinner 4-6:30pm
10 Daylight Savings Time 9am Sunday School 10am Worship Easter Flower Orders Due	11 <i>Rental 5pm & 6pm</i> Dart Ball 7:00pm	12 Deacons Mtg. 6:30pm <i>Rental 5pm</i>	13 Senior Cards 11am	14 <i>Rental 6pm</i>	15 <i>Rental 6pm</i>	16 Fellowship Kitchen Clean Up 9:30am
17 9am Sun School 10am Worship 	18 <i>Rental 5pm</i> Dart Ball 7:00pm	19 1st Day of Spring Stewardship Mtg. 6:30pm on Zoom	20 Senior Cards 11am Session Reports Due	21 <i>Rental 6pm</i>	22 <i>Rental 6pm</i> Newsletter Deadline	23 Easter Egg Hunt 10am 
24 Palm Sunday 9am Sunday School 10am Worship 11 am Building Com Mtg	25 <i>Rental 5pm & 6pm</i> Dart Ball 7:00pm	26 Session Mtg. 6:30pm	27 Senior Cards 11am	28 Holy Thursday Worship 7pm <i>Rental 6pm?</i>	29 Good Friday Worship 7pm <i>Rental 6pm</i>	30
31 Easter Sunday 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	 					