



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

The Second Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia, voted for the independence of the United Colonies by passing the Lee Resolution on July 2, 1776. The Declaration of Independence, drafted primarily by Thomas Jefferson, was adopted on July 4, the date on which the anniversary of American independence is observed.

The 250th anniversary of the United States, known as the Semiquincentennial, also called the Sestercentennial (two and a half centuries), falls on July 4, 2026, marking 250 years since the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

Though the founders, placing great value on the separation of church and state, did not establish a national religion, many will still refer to America as a Christian nation, correctly or incorrectly can be debated. A nation cannot die, receive salvation, and rise again in the Heavenly Kingdom, so I am not sure in what way a nation can fully be Christian. Yet between 62% and 68% of American adults claim to be Christian, depending on the polling organization and methodology.

Whether we call America a Christian nation or not, what really matters is whether we follow the way of Christ. While no one, nation or individual, does this perfectly, it is worth honoring whenever we do.

From the beginning, the Christian faith has reached beyond national borders and ethnic identity. The mission of Christ was never confined to one nation but was always intended for the whole world.

Christianity is not just one family (descendants of Abraham). Though Jesus was Jewish, he was open to all the nations (the Gentiles). Christianity is not confined to one land (Jesus told his disciples, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth").

Jesus came not for the righteous, but for sinners, and throughout history the Church has sought to welcome the lost, heal the sick, and feed the hungry.

As we celebrate our nation's 250th anniversary, we can give thanks for the blessings we enjoy while remembering that our highest citizenship is in God's kingdom. The strength of the Church has never rested in the power of any nation but in the faithfulness of God's people. May we honor our country with gratitude, but even more, may we honor Christ by loving our neighbors, pursuing justice, extending mercy, and walking humbly with our God. In doing so, we bear witness not only to the ideals of a nation, but to the hope of the gospel.

Blessings,
Rev. Andrew Wirt



WORSHIP

7/5 - 10:45 AM Worship
w/ Communion

7/12 - 10:45 AM Worship

7/19 - Christmas in July
10:45 AM Worship

7/26 - 10:45 AM Worship - Outside!
Church Picnic

COMMUNION

We will be celebrating
communion together
as a part of our
worship service on
Sunday, July 5, 2026!



All are welcome at the Lord's Table!

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Sunday, July 19, 2026 WHPC will
celebrate "Christmas in July" at our
10:45am service! This has become a fun
and meaningful event and we are
looking forward to doing it again!



MAY SESSION SUMMARY

***The Session of West Hempfield
Presbyterian Church met for our end of
May meeting on Tuesday, June 2, 2026***

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 Scripture from Psalm 33 using d365.org
- Approved minutes from April Session meeting (held on May 5)
- Reviewed reports from WHPC staff and committees - including the 6 month review of the shared ministry partnership with 1st UCC Irwin
- Confirmed dates for upcoming events including: Christmas in July - 7/19 and Golf Outing - 9/20
- Approved a plan for sanctuary roof repair and AC unit repairs
- Designated proceeds from the August Car Cruise to the Building Repair Fund
- Discussed budget concerns and some additional possible cost saving measures
- Received news of Thomas Lalor's possible employment changes due to the Navy
- Cancelled the June Session meeting - next meeting will be 7/28
- Reviewed calendar of upcoming events and rentals

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Next Scheduled meeting will be Tuesday,
July 28, 2026.

*(Many regular Session dates had to be
rescheduled/delayed this year due to
Pastor Andrew's Presbytery commitments)*

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Bring your own chair
and join us for worship!
Worship in the beauty of
God's creation
between the church
and the elementary school at 10:45AM
on the last Sunday of July and August.
(weather permitting)



Dates:
July 26 and August 30

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

**JULY 26 FOLLOWING 10:45 AM
OUTDOOR WORSHIP**

Mark your calendars – it's always great
fun to be together. Sign-up in the lobby.

EVERYONE IS INVITED!

- If you can volunteer to help - see Pastor Andrew
- Bring a folding chair for outdoor seating



CAR CRUISE



WHPC Car Cruise has a new date this
year. Mark your calendar!

Car Cruise

Saturday, August 15, 2026

11am-4pm

**West Hempfield Elementary
Parking Lot**

**Food — Chinese Auction —
Music — Dash Plaques**

Supporting West Hempfield
Presbyterian Church and the kids at
West Hempfield Elementary School
**Indoor and Outdoor Vendor Spaces
Available!**

CAR CRUISE PLANNING MEETING

There will be a planning meeting for the
Annual Car Cruise in August. Keep an
eye out for more information.

If anyone wants to start working on
baskets for the Chinese Auction, talk
with Mary Esther.

BIG VBS THANK YOU!

Snowball Mountain Challenge VBS was held on June 15 thru June 19. We had 18 children and 24 helpers. We all had a great time on the mountain exploring all the challenges and earning challenge medals. Singing in the Celebration Village with Ollie the Seal.

Our mission this year was to support the Children's Aid Home of Somerset. A private nonprofit social services to children and families, providing quality services which promote the emotional, behavioral, educational and physical development of children, adolescents and their families.

Our VBS participants throughout our Snow Mountain Challenge raised \$266.16 along with \$157.00 donated by the congregation for a total of \$423.16 to be donated to the children's home. Also, we collected 148 pairs of socks and 118 toothbrushes to be donated to the children who are residents of the home.

Thank you to the congregation for all the donated items we needed to make this year's VBS a success. Special thanks to the Immels for all the Snow Equipment which was used for decorations.

Thank You!

A.D. Mary Esther and Ollie the Sea



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

Damian Collier

Graduate of Plum Sr. High School

Austin Scratcher

Son of Alan and Jennifer Scratcher,
grandson of Carol Scratcher Ailes
Graduate of Myrtle Beach High School,
South Carolina

Enrolled at Horry Community College
and then onto Horry Georgetown
Technical College in Cybersecurity

Sarah Immel Dillon

Master's Degree in Mechanical
Engineering from Purdue

Mark Dillon

Sarah Immel Dillon's husband
Master's Degree in Business
Administration from Dusquesne

Kevin Crust

PhD in Physics from Stanford
University
Plans to get a job doing research in
Tech Industry

RISING 5TH GRADERS

Bryson Mains
Dylan Ritson

NORWIN COMMUNITY PICNIC AUGUST 5, 2026

The **Annual Norwin Community Picnic** will take place on **Wednesday, August 5, 2026**, from 1:00 PM to 9:00 PM at **Irwin Park** in Irwin, PA. Hosted by the Norwin Chamber of Commerce, the event features craft vendors, food trucks, games, and family-friendly activities.

For the last couple of years, Norwin area churches have been setting up **stations with games and prizes for kids in the afternoon from 3:30-5:30PM** - as a way to serve the community, make the event more enjoyable for kids and families, and promote the churches. This year WHPC wants to get in on the fun!

There is a signup sheet in the lobby. We are looking for volunteers to setup, run the games, hand out prizes, and clean up afterward.

We are also looking for donations of 8oz bottles of water, ideas for games, and prizes or snacks we can hand out (that won't melt).

For more information, talk with Pastor Andrew



THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you Worship Committee for the wonderful refreshments after worship on July 5.

The Christian Ed. Committee would like to thank all the volunteers that helped make VBS a wonderful success!

Thank you to our church Counters – counting, recording, and depositing the church offerings each week. Your WHPC family appreciates all that you do for us.



Message from Pine Springs Camp

Dear West Hempfield Pres,
There aren't enough words to even remotely begin to thank you for your endless support of PSC's Traveling Day Camp! We are blessed to partner with you and are grateful for everything you do! We hope to have many more wonderful years!
~ Pine Springs Camp Staff



Kelly Smith	July 3
Hudson Pritz	July 7
Madison Cameron	July 13
Sarah Mikluscak	July 14
Becky Collier	July 18
Tom Toth	July 20
Ruth Lutz	July 19
Johnny Bankosh	July 25
Caleb Mikluscak	July 26
Pat Jones	July 31

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





JULY 2026



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Church Office Hours Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10am — 2pm			1 11 am Senior Cards	2	3 FH - Rental	4
5 10:45am Worship	6	7	8 11 am Senior Cards	9	10 FH - Rental	11
12 10:45am Worship	13 Upstairs Rental	14	15 11 am Senior Cards	16	17 FH - Rental	18 FH - Rental
19 10:45am Worship Christmas in July	20	21 6:30pm Stewardship (Zoom)	22 11 am Senior Cards	23	24 FH - Rental	25
26 10:45am Outdoor Worship & Church Picnic	27 Upstairs Rental	28 6:30pm Session	29 11 am Senior Cards	30	31 FH - Rental	