

# December



WEST HEMPFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

This year the season of Advent (4 Sundays before Christmas) began on November 30.

“Advent” means “coming,” “arrival,” or “appearance.” In Advent we count down the days and we prepare for the coming of the Messiah on Christmas Day.

In many ways Advent is the beginning of something new. The beginning of a new church calendar year. The beginning of the New Testament stories. The beginning of the Christian church’s story with the arrival of the baby Jesus in Bethlehem.

In many ways, though, Advent is also a continuation. A new chapter, perhaps, but the same story. God of the New Testament is the same God of the Old Testament. Old Testament stories point ahead to the coming of Jesus the Messiah as well. The Gospel of John even tells us that Jesus, the living Word of God who is made flesh at Christmas, (John 1:2-3a) *He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made.*

This Advent at WHPC we also have a new beginning, that is also just a continuation. A new chapter, perhaps, but the same story.

My job responsibilities are shifting. Our worship start time is shifting. A few more volunteers are needed in the office. But, now alongside the First UCC of Irwin whose financial support allows us to keep doing what we’re doing, I am still preaching the good news of Jesus Christ (twice each Sunday, like the good old days) and we are still worshipping the Creator of Heaven and Earth every Sunday.

Happy Advent! Merry Christmas!

Blessings, Rev. Andrew Wirt

## Pastor Andrew Recommends:

This time of year there is so much “Christmas” around us. I want to take the opportunity here to remind us all about the reason for the season.

The church’s new RightNow Media subscription is a great way to keep the focus of Christmas on Jesus, where it should be.

I recommend opening the RightNow Media website or app and selecting “Browse” and then “Holidays (Christmas).” Anything that you find there this month (for kids or adults, 5 minutes or 35, 2 sessions or 25) should be a blessing as we prepare for Christmas in our hearts as well as in our homes.

If you find a video or series that is particularly meaningful to you this year, let me know so I can check it out too!

Sign up for FREE:

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/westhempfieldpc>

## Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2025 @ 7pm



### In This Month's Newsletter:

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### **SCHEDULE CHANGE**

Reminder: Starting November 30, 2025, the Sunday morning schedule has changed!

Sunday School starts at 9:30am  
Worship Service starts at 10:45am

### **COMMUNION**

We will be celebrating communion together as a part of our worship service on Sunday, December 7, 2025, at 10:45am

### **DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**



### **CHRISTMAS INVITATION**

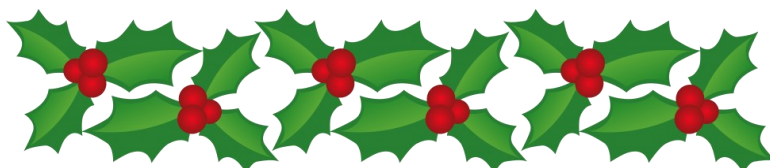
There was no room for Mary and Joseph at the inn, but there is always room and a friendly welcome at WHPC!

#### **~ Christmas Invitation 2025 ~**

Between 75 and 90 percent of people asked, "Why did you come to this church?" will respond "I began attending because someone invited me." Only 2% will respond "I saw an advertisement/flier/mailer/etc."

With the church beautifully decorated and everyone already talking about Christmas anyway, **RIGHT NOW** is the perfect time to invite someone to come check out WHPC.

Invite friends, relatives, co-workers, and neighbors to come and find out what God is doing here at West Hempfield Presbyterian Church, and in the world, and what it means for our lives, too!





## HOLIDAY SERVICE PARTICIPATION

During the holidays we all love to hear Christmas music. If you are musically talented and would like to share your gift by singing or playing an instrument as special music for a worship service this Advent and/or Christmas season, please contact the office and let us know. It would be a blessing to hear you.

## TEXT MESSAGE COMMUNICATION

If you have not already, you can text "Hello" to (833) 390 - 9010 to sign up for WHPC text message announcements. (Be sure to give your name when prompted so we know it's you.)

Gloo, a free program for smaller churches like our own, allows the church to send "broadcast style text messages" to everyone who signs up.

We will not be filling your phone with hundreds of messages, and you can always text STOP at any time to be removed. The plan is to use this for reminders (like Poinsettia orders are due Wednesday December 3) and surprise changes (like winter weather cancellations).

It is not just one-way communication! You can also send a text to the same number with questions or prayer requests.

All messages are visible to Pastor Andrew, and we can text you back right through the program. So be sure to add WHPC's unique number (833) 390 - 9010 to your contacts as West Hempfield Presbyterian Church for text messages.

## INDOOR CHRISTMAS CAROLING

**Sunday, December 14 at 6PM**  
come and enjoy the music of the season with our church musician, Thomas Lalor. We are trying something new this year. Rather than traditional Christmas caroling, walking around outside in the cold for one song per house, we are inviting everyone into our warm sanctuary for an hour of Christmas music, followed by a time of fellowship and refreshments in the lobby.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Please join us ***Sunday, December 21, at 9:00am*** in the big Sunday School classroom for our Annual Sunday School Christmas Party. There will be no Sunday School on Dec. 28.

## FAMILY/YOUTH FRIENDLY "CHRISTMAS EVE" SERVICE

Not all of the little ones can stay up late on Christmas Eve for our 7pm service.

Please join us for worship on ***Sunday, December 21, at 10:45am*** for a very special "Christmas Eve" service that is geared toward the youth, but will still have plenty of fun for the adults!



## ADVENT DEVOTIONAL OPTIONS

**Isaiah 55:10-11** [“... My Word,” declares the Lord,] “will not return to Me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”

- [Pittsburgh Theological Seminary Advent Devotional](https://www.pts.edu/devotional_1)  
[https://www.pts.edu/devotional\\_1](https://www.pts.edu/devotional_1)
- [d365—Devotions](https://d365.org/)  
<https://d365.org/>
- For something new, we will be printing a devotional from Presbyterian Outlook Magazine, available in the lobby.

Read alone; read together as a family; commit with a friend to read each day and discuss it later. Do what works for you.

## SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The 2026 Sanctuary Flower sign-up sheet is in the lobby at our “Welcome Center” table.

If you would like to provide the flowers on the Lord’s Table for Sunday morning worship in honor or in memory of a friend or loved one or for a special event or anniversary in 2026, we invite you to sign up or contact the church office. Your gifts are greatly appreciated and add so much to our worship together.

## NOVEMBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

*The Session of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church met on November 25, 2025*

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 using Advent Devotional
- Approved Session minutes from October
- Approved 2026 budget
- Reviewed reports from WHPC staff and committees
- Scheduled Annual Congregational Meeting for January 25, 2026 (back up date February 1, 2026)
- Accepted Thomas Lalor as new member by profession of faith
- Discussed and approved rentals
- Reviewed calendar of upcoming events
- Closed with prayer

The next scheduled meeting of the WHPC Session will be January 27, 2026

## ANNUAL REPORTS

**Reminder: As we approach the end of the year, it’s time to get annual reports ready.**

***Please have your annual GROUP OR COMMITTEE REPORTS emailed to the office NO LATER THAN JANUARY 12, 2026***



## DEACON CHRISTMAS BASKETS

**The deadline for all donations will be  
December 14**

Deacons are collecting non perishable items of all kinds.

If you can help with packaging, we will be gathering on **Thursday, December 18 at 6:30pm** in the Fellowship Hall.

Distribution will be on **Sunday, December 21, from 9 am—12 (noon).**

Please contact Pastor Andrew for more information.

## GINGERBREAD TREE

We are once again organizing the Gingerbread Tree program as a way of blessing families and children in need in our community.

If you would like to provide a gift for our tree, please take one of the Gingerbread Boys or Girls from our tree in the lobby (elementary school side) and be sure to sign the page on the table nearby with the number on your card.

Shop for your child and return the wrapped gift to the tree.

The gifts are due back at the church by **Sunday, December 14** – with the recipient's information attached to the outside of the gift wrapped package.

Thank you to everyone for caring for local children who receive so little at Christmas time.



## POINSETTIA ORDERS

Each year we decorate the sanctuary with poinsettias as part of our Christmas Eve celebration of the birth of Jesus. WHPC would like to invite you to purchase a poinsettia to help bring beauty and color to our Christmas Eve celebrations.



If you would like to order a flower (or flowers), orders must be given to the office no later than Wed., Dec. 3. Order forms have been in bulletins. You can also call or email the church office to give your name, how many Poinsettias you would like, and information if the plant is in Honor or Memory of a loved one.

**Flower pot size**      6 ½" Red

**How many?**      \_\_\_\_\_

**Cost**      \$ 12.00 each

**Total**      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Poinsettias can be picked up after the Christmas Eve services. If you cannot pick up your flowers on Christmas Eve, contact the church office to make other arrangements.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jenny Cameron	December 4
Anita Toth	December 5
Gil Sekely	December 8
Raymond Lutz	December 10
Bruce Bookheimer	December 10
Jen Mikluscak	December 14
McKenna Graham	December 18
Pam Siegel	December 19
Irene Simler	December 19
Ken Vandermer	December 24
Carol Horvat	December 24
Karen Kifer	December 28

*If you have an December birthday,  
and we've missed you –*

**PLEASE, let the office know!**

## CHRISTMAS EVE

Wednesday, December 24, we will be celebrating the birth of Jesus with worship starting at 7pm, closing with the tradition of singing *Silent Night* together by candlelight as we bring down the lights in the sanctuary.



**EVERYONE IS  
WELCOME!**



The Worship Committee would like to thank everyone who helped decorate our Church for the Holiday season. It is beautiful!

Thank you to everyone involved with the presentation of announcements and images portrayed on the screens and to the operators of the screens.

*If you have a thank you or praise you'd like to share with your WHPC family, please call the church office to put in the next newsletter.*

## Thankful for WHPC

The Thanksgiving feast on November 23 was a success! Once again this year so many members volunteered to help make this event happen! Offering their ovens to roast turkeys, bringing desserts, volunteering Saturday for setup, cooking at the church on Sunday, and staying to clean up.

Thank you all!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to our new friends at 1st UCC Irwin!

And thank you for your support of Pastor Andrew and WHPC!

*The Staff and Leadership  
of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church  
would like to wish you and your families  
a most blessed Christmas.  
It is a privilege to worship,  
fellowship, and serve  
alongside you.  
Merry Christmas!*





# December 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 <i>FH—Rental</i>	3 <i>Senior Cards 11am</i> <i>FH—Rental</i>	4	5 <i>FH—Rental</i>	6
7 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun of Advent) 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship w/ Communion	8 <i>Upstairs—Rental</i> <i>Upstairs—Rental</i>	9 <i>Deacons Mtg. 6:30pm</i> <i>FH—Rental</i>	10 <i>Senior Cards 11am</i> <i>FH—Rental</i>	11	12 <i>FH—Rental</i>	13
14 (3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun of Advent) 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship 6pm Indoor Caroling	15 <i>Upstairs—Rental</i>	16 <i>FH—Rental</i>	17 <i>Senior Cards 11am</i> <i>FH—Rental</i>	18 <i>Deacons Basket Packing Day</i>	19	20
21 (4 <sup>th</sup> Sun of Advent) <i>Deacon Baskets</i> 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship	22 <i>Upstairs—Rental</i>	23	24 <i>Senior Cards 11am</i> <i>Christmas Eve Service 7PM</i>	25 	26 <b>Office Closed</b> <i>FH—Rental</i>	27
28 10:45am Worship	29	30	31 <i>Senior Cards 11am</i>		<b><u>Church Office Hours</u></b> Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10am – 2pm	