



West Hempfield Presbyterian Church
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724-863-1260
www.westhempfieldpc.org

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

This month, as we celebrate love, we remember that love is more than hearts and candy and flowers.

This month, as we celebrate love, we remember that "God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

This month, as we celebrate love, we remember that "We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19

This month, as we celebrate love, we remember that there are many brothers and sisters, made in the image of God, who are lonely, scared, hungry, cold, and/or hurting right now. For them, and all God's children, we pray.

This month, as we celebrate love, we remember that God commanded us "Love your neighbor as yourself." Mark 12:31

This month, as we celebrate love, we remember that even though the ways of this world encourage us to see our differences and to seek division, God's Way reminds us that we have far more in common than our differences.

This month, as we celebrate love, we remember that "Love is patient; love is kind." 1 Corinthians 13:4

This month, as we celebrate love, we remember that "God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them." 1 John 4:16

Blessings,
Rev. Andrew Wirt

Pastor Andrew Recommends

With Lent approaching, I want to recommend something to help us prepare for Easter.



The Lent Experience

by Eric Ferris
available in RightNow Media

Description: *What happens when you take 2,000 years of a Christian tradition, capture the heart of it, and reimagine it? Whether you're a veteran of observing Lent or a rookie who is jumping in for the first time, you can join thousands of people for an experience that just may surprise you.*

It's simple. You watch a short video on Ash Wednesday that kicks the whole thing off. Then, each Sunday until Easter you will watch a short video that will give you your Lent Experience challenge for the week. The challenges are based on things that have been a part of Lent for centuries. Your participant journal is loaded with everything you need to learn more about Lent and to successfully complete each week's challenge.

To help us with this study, I have bought a few of the "Participant Journals" that go along with the video. You can buy your own on Amazon for about \$8, or talk to me at church and I can give you one. If you are able to make a \$5 gift, that will help us buy more if there is lots of interest.

WORSHIP



SCOUT SUNDAY

Scout Sunday is February 8, 2026.

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 1, 2026, at 10:45 AM and we would love for you to join us!

All are welcome at the Lord's Table!

MISSION MEETING

We will have a Mission Committee meeting on Tuesday, February 10, at 6:30 PM in the lobby, followed by the Deacons Meeting. Anyone interested is invited to join us.

WINTER WEATHER UPDATES

Decisions about winter weather cancellation of worship will normally be made the day of the service.

If we need to cancel because of bad roads or ice at the church, a message will be sent out at least one hour before the start of worship using the text message service and Constant Contact email service lists "All News" and "Special Events". (*This only refers to worship. Sunday School is a small enough group that Mary Esther will communicate with involved families directly, and the Sunday School may or may not decide to do the same thing as the worship service.*)

If there is no cancellation, there will be no message. Everyone should assume that if they do not receive an emergency message, service will continue as usual.

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. Service livestreams through the church YouTube channel, and the link can always be found on the church website.

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 text message or email, give them a call. I am sure they will appreciate the check in.



ASH WEDNESDAY



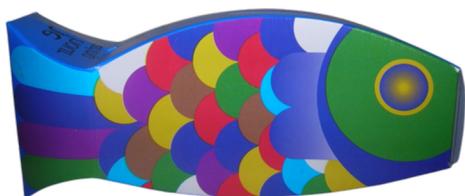
This year the date for Ash Wednesday is February 18, 2026.

We will have worship on the evening of February 18 for Ash Wednesday. Join us in the sanctuary at 7 PM.

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 29, 2026
Holy Thursday, April 2, 2026
Good Friday, April 3, 2026
Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026



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 29, and Easter Sunday, April 5.

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.

Students will get their fish banks at the start of Lent. Giving envelopes and more information will be available in the bulletin inserts on March 22 and 29.

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.

LENT DEVOTIONALS

The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18

If you want to take on a devotional practice (such as reading Scripture) this season of Lent, there are many options available for free. Pastor Andrew recommends a few:

- See "Pastor Andrew Recommends" on page 1 **The Lent Experience**
- Lots of other videos available in the RightNow Media program provided by WHPC, check out WHPC recommendations after logging in
- This year, WHPC is providing a printed Lent devotional from Presbyterian Outlook Magazine. Look for **Discipleship in a Divided Age: A Lenten Journey through Matthew's Gospel** in the lobby as we near Ash Wednesday
- Pittsburgh Theological Seminary has a new online daily devotional every Lent, written by members of the PTS community.
www.pts.edu/devotional_1
- *Journey to the Cross*, the devotional series for Lent, returns to the free devotional website and app d365.org
- Presbyterian Hunger Program provides a Lent calendar each year
<https://pcusa.org/resource/tread-lightly-lent-lent-calendar>

JANUARY SESSION SUMMARY

The Session of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church met on Tuesday, January 27, 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 - Psalm 15
- Approved minutes from November Session meeting (Session did not meet in December)
- Reviewed reports from WHPC staff and committees
- Confirmed dates for upcoming events including:
 - Ash Wednesday, February 18
 - CE Movie Night, February 28
 - Spaghetti Dinner, March 14
 - Easter Egg Hunt, March 28
- Designated the proceeds from the spring spaghetti dinner to Missions
- Note: due to weather the congregational meeting was delayed from Jan. 25 to Feb. 1
- Discussion of a possible Fellowship "Soup Sale" in February or March
- Reviewed calendar of upcoming events and rentals
- Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Next Scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, February 24, 2026.

CE PJ PARTY & MOVIE NIGHT

Saturday, February 28

5:30-8:00 PM

Everyone is invited to join us for a great, family fun night.

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

Movie title will be announced later.

We will provide hot dogs, drinks, and snacks.

Come and have a great night!

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Planning Ahead ...

**Fellowship Committee is planning a
Spaghetti Dinner
Saturday, March 14**

Everyone is welcome to help!

The donation board is outside the sanctuary. We are also looking for Chinese Auction Baskets. Please return items and shamrocks before, March 8. Every donation keeps the costs down and the money raised for missions up!

From set up to selling tickets to keeping the salad station stocked to clean up at the end of the night ... lots of hands have made this a huge success in the past. Can you help this year? Contact the church office or sign up in the lobby.

More info in March Newsletter

2025 GIVING STATEMENTS

2025 Giving Statements have been emailed and/or are being mailed.

If you should have received one, but have not, or if you did receive one, but upon reviewing it, believe that we made a mistake, please contact the church office or Stewardship Elder Helen Toms. Thank you for your financial support of the ministry & mission of WHPC.

2026 PER CAPITA / FIRST FRUITS OFFERING = ABOUT \$55 PER PERSON

What used to be known as the "per capita" has been replaced by the "First Fruits" campaign in 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, the Presbyterian Historical Society, supporting staff, helping to connect churches with ministers, providing a Presbyterian presence at ecumenical groups and other gatherings in this country and worldwide, and more.

THANK YOU NOTES

The Worship Committee would like to thank **everyone** who helped with taking down the Christmas decorations!

Dear WHPC Sunday School,
Thank you all so much for the coloring pages for the soldiers!
We made 669 stockings this year! We sent out 21 boxes to 5 troops!
We were also able to donate stockings to local veterans!
We appreciate your help!
Thank you!
Sincerely,
Stockings for Soldiers Volunteers

Thank you to our members and congregation for your patience, understanding, and support as we work through winter weather cancellations this January.

Thank you to our Winter Weather Response Team, John Bankosh, and others who have helped with caring for our building and our people through this winter storm.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

February 3	Keeley Mackenzie
February 3	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!

NEW HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Fat Tuesday Pancake and Sausage Supper

Tuesday, February 17
from 5:00 - 7:00pm
\$10 / person
children 6 and under free
includes pancakes, sausage, strawberries, donut, and a beverage
Benefits Central Westmoreland Habitat for Humanity
New Hope Presbyterian Church
12727 Lincoln Way
North Huntingdon, PA 15642



FEBRUARY 2026



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship with communion Congregational Mtg Fellowship Lunch	2 FH - Dartball (A)	3 FH - Rental	4 11 am Senior Cards FH - Rental	5	6 FH - Rental	7 FH - Rental
8 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship FH - Rental	9 Upstairs Rental FH - Dartball (H)	10 6:30pm Deacons FH - Rental	11 11 am Senior Cards FH - Rental	12	13 FH - Rental	14 FH - Rental
15 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship	16 FH - Dartball (H)	17 6:30pm Stewardship (Zoom) FH - Rental	18 7PM Ash Wed Service 11 am Senior Cards FH - Rental	19	20 FH - Rental	21 FH - Rental
22 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship	23 Upstairs Rental FH - Dartball (A)	24 6:30pm Session FH - Rental	25 11 am Senior Cards FH - Rental	26	27 FH - Rental	28 FH - Rental CE PJ Party and Family Movie Night
<p><u>Church Office Hours</u> Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10am — 2pm</p>						