



# January

**WEST HEMPFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

Planning ahead for the year 2023 it looks like we will be spending a lot of time with the gospel of Matthew.

Matthew is the first book of the New Testament, but it was not the first written. The leading understanding of the gospel of Matthew is that it was written around 80-90 AD, which puts it after Paul's letters and the gospel of Mark. In fact, Matthew and Luke (we think written about the same time) both seem to use Mark as a reference.

Matthew, Mark, and Luke are called the synoptic gospels and have a lot in common, but each has its own personality.

Matthew seems to be written by a Jewish author to a Jewish audience. We will find lots of references to the Old Testament and Jewish traditions.

The book emphasizes that Jesus was Jewish and does not seek to convert its audience from Judaism to Christianity, but rather to convince the audience that they can and should be both.

However, Matthew does not suggest that Christians need to be Jewish. From the very beginning with Jesus, Mary, and Joseph still in Bethlehem, Matthew is the one to tell us of magi from the east who follow a star to meet and worship the newborn Messiah.

### **Come as you are and meet the Lord.**

I've heard a couple of very smart people say something like "The Bible may not have been written to us, but it was written for us."

Matthew was written a very long time ago to an

audience of first century Jews, but that does not mean it has nothing to say to us today.

I think this is a great time to be reading Matthew.

Just thinking about what we have said already: Matthew is written to people who believe in God and want to faithfully serve the Lord of the Old Testament. But the world has brought them many challenges. The temple was destroyed in 70 AD and the way they worshipped had to change. The faithful were dividing into many different groups (denominations, if you will) debating over what was most important and how best to move forward into a scary and unpredictable future.

The church today is very similar. We want to follow God, but wonder how best to move forward into a scary and unpredictable future.

Matthew invites us to hold onto who we are, but also to be welcoming to those who are different — a new family/community united by and with God. Together we will learn from Jesus and follow God.

### **Come as you are and meet the Lord.**

Blessings, Rev. Andrew Wirt



## JANUARY 2023 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**January 1** - Worship Service 11am with Communion,  
Sunday School 9:45am

**January 8** - Worship Service 11am, Sunday School 9:45am

**January 15** - Worship Service 11am, Sunday School 9:45am

**January 22** - Worship Service 11am, Sunday School 9:45am

**January 29** - Worship Service 11am, Sunday School 9:45am



## AT HOME WORSHIP SCHEDULE

*There are several ways to worship with WHPC if you cannot be with us in-person...*

- You can listen to the service over the phone at 11:00am. Contact the church office for instructions.
- For those who have Zoom on your computers or smartphone, another option would be to join us at 11:00am on Zoom. Contact the church office for Meeting ID.
- You can watch the sermon online later in the week.  
Sermons post to YouTube – [youtube.com/@westhempfieldpc](https://www.youtube.com/@westhempfieldpc)  
The same video will be available on the church website [westhempfieldpc.org](https://www.westhempfieldpc.org) and [Facebook](#)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Attention all families: Christian Ed. is planning a fun movie night at the church for February 10, 2023!

Keep an eye out for more information as the date gets closer.

## 2023 GIVING ENVELOPES

The Stewardship and Finance Committee no longer distributes personal, numbered, and dated giving envelopes. To avoid waste and decrease costs, we stopped this practice several years ago.

Boxes of envelopes are still available for those who make cash donations. **However, you will need to write your name on the envelope if you do not wish for your gift to be anonymous.** These envelopes are also not dated, so if you still have some in your box from last year, there is no need to throw them away.

If you give by check, you are certainly welcome to use the provided envelopes, but you do not need to use one, simply put your check in the offering plate or mail it to the church.

You can also **donate directly through your bank** or **online offering** continues to be available on the church website or by texting WHPC to 73256 (you will not receive any marketing as a result of using this service). **You can set up a one time gift or automatic recurring donations through the online offering.**

We will continue to provide you with periodic giving statements. The deacons, coat drive, and other special envelopes will still be available in the pews throughout the year.

Thank you for your continued support of WHPC!

## DECEMBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

### *The Session of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church met on December 27, 2022*

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 (Genesis 1:1,27-31) using Our Daily Bread — copies available for free at the church
- Approved Session minutes from November 22, 2022
- Reviewed reports from the pastor, treasurer, deacons, and WHPC committees
- Voted to approve the date for the Annual Congregational Meeting in early 2023. The meeting will be January 22, 2023 at noon (after the worship service) with a back-up date of the next Sunday, January 29, 2023
- Discussed plans for Sanctuary Refresh and 60th Anniversary. A meeting will be schedule in early 2023 for anyone interested in helping.
- Christian Ed will hold a meeting January 15 and is planning their annual Movie Night for February 10, 2023.
- Stewardship presented the financial figures (so far) for 2022 and discussed the reality of the situation, challenges, and hopes for the future.
- Discussed and approved rental requests
- Closed with prayer

Next meeting will be January 24, 2022

**Reminder: As we start the new year, it's time to get annual reports to the office.**

***Please have your annual GROUP OR COMMITTEE REPORTS emailed to the office NO LATER THAN JANUARY 9, 2023***

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 22, 2023 at noon (after 11AM worship service) with a snow date of January 29.**

We will present the 2023 budget as approved by the Session at their November meeting and the 2022 Annual Report. Those present will vote reaffirm the pastor's contract, set the pastor's 2023 compensation, and elect the new class of church leadership.

When the Annual Report is ready (about one week before the meeting) we will send it out as a PDF through the Constant Contact email lists "All WHPC News" and "Special Event News". If you are not currently signed up, you can do so on the church website [westhempfieldpc.org/subscribe](http://westhempfieldpc.org/subscribe)

Print copies will also be available in the lobby of the church Sunday, January 15. If you pick up a physical copy at the church to take home, please bring it back for the meeting to help reduce the number of copies we need to print.

It will be possible to attend the congregational meeting over the phone or computer. To be counted as present, you must be with us in such a way that you can hear and be heard live. To make this possible, we will use the phone-in that we use for the 11am service. Follow the same instructions as for the worship call-in. Contact the church office with any questions. Another option for those comfortable with using Zoom would be to request a Zoom link from the office. (To conserve bandwidth, video may be disabled.)



On behalf of the Deacons and Mission committee....a great big thank you to everyone who donated food and gifts to this year's Deacon's Baskets and Angel Tree. It is heartwarming to see the outpouring of food items and gifts for needy families in our community.

An additional thank you to those who came and helped sort food, pack the boxes, and help with the distribution. This year we helped 21 families, which included 43 children. Thank you WHPC family and friends!

Thank you to everyone who joined us in-person and over the phone for Christmas Eve services!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Thank you to all who bought poinsettias to help decorate the church for Christmas. You made everything look so beautiful.

Thank you to our Christian Ed. Committee for the awesome Sunday School Christmas party for our students.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to read and light Advent candles. This made our Advent and Christmas Eve services so special!

## ★ HAPPY ★ BIRTHDAY!

<b>Cheryl Bookheimer</b>	<b>January 2</b>	<b>Leah Iwinski</b>	<b>January 14</b>
<b>Marcus Dawson</b>	<b>January 2</b>	<b>Keith Pritts</b>	<b>January 16</b>
<b>Richard Hazlett</b>	<b>January 4</b>	<b>Donald Stewart</b>	<b>January 18</b>
<b>Jon Grinder</b>	<b>January 6</b>	<b>Joseph Smith</b>	<b>January 20</b>
<b>Rachel Weaver</b>	<b>January 8</b>	<b>Randy Greenawalt</b>	<b>January 20</b>
<b>Melissa Hladek</b>	<b>January 9</b>	<b>Marge Jackson</b>	<b>January 21</b>
<b>Neil Graham</b>	<b>January 10</b>	<b>Bob MacIntosh</b>	<b>January 22</b>

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



# January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <b>11am Worship</b> w/ Communion No Sunday School	2 H.E.L.P. Group 4:30pm Dart Ball 7pm	3	4 Senior Cards 11am- 2:30 pm	5	6	7
8 <b>11am Worship</b> 9:45am Sunday School	9 H.E.L.P. Group 4:30pm Dart Ball 7pm <b>Annual Reports Due</b>	10 Deacon Mtg 6:30pm Soccer Shots 5-7:30pm	11 Senior Cards 11am- 2:30pm	12	13	14
15 <b>11am Worship</b> 9:45am Sunday School CE meeting 12pm	16 H.E.L.P. Group 4:30pm Dart Ball 7pm	17 Stewardship Meeting 6:30 pm Soccer Shots 5-7:30pm	18 Senior Cards 11am- 2:30pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm	19	20 <b>Session Reports Due</b>	21
22 <b>11am Worship</b> 9:45am Sunday School 12 pm Congregational Meeting	23 H.E.L.P. Group 4:30pm Dart Ball 7pm <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	24 Session Mtg 6:30pm Soccer Shots 5-7:30pm	25 Senior Cards 11am- 2:30pm	26	27	28
29 <b>11am Worship</b> 9:45am Sunday School	30 H.E.L.P. Group 4:30pm Dart Ball 7pm	31 Soccer Shots 5-7:30pm				