



WEST HEMPFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Lent will begin at the end of February this year. (Information about our Ash Wednesday service can be found on the next page.)

Every season can be a busy season. We don't need a fancy name like *Lent* to feel busy, but some do choose to do a little extra as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter in those 40 days of Lent.

Whether you will be busy in Lent, or you are already feeling overwhelmed before even thinking about Lent, Scripture reminds us of the importance of taking time for rest.

"Rest?!" you might be thinking, "I don't have time for rest!"

Believe me when I say, "I understand!" But God wants us to think differently about rest.

Rest is not one more thing we need to get done each day. Rest is a necessity, something we need to be able to get the other things done.

Rest is so important that God listed it in the Ten Commandments!

Right up there with "Do not murder." *Deuteronomy 5:17* you will find "Do not forget to sit down, breathe, and put your feet up for a minute or two" *Deuteronomy 5:14* (that is my own personal paraphrase of the verse).

In the next verse *Deuteronomy 5:15* God explains why. The people of Israel had been slaves in Egypt, worked beyond exhaustion.

God rescued the Israelites from slavery. That is not to be their life any more.

God has rescued us as well. God alone is to be our Master. And God shows what kind of Master we serve by commanding us to take a break.

For our sermons right now I am looking for Bible stories that involve rocks or stones. In Daniel chapter 2 King Nebuchadnezzar has a dream where a beautiful, giant statue representing multiple human kingdoms is destroyed by a single stone.

Work, work, work. But for what?

God invites us to work for His Kingdom. Work hard. Give it your all. Also, find rest. "Take my yoke upon you, ... and you will find rest for your souls." *Matthew 11:29*

Without a time for rest, everything else we are trying to do could come crashing down, like King Nebuchadnezzar's statue.

Blessings, Rev. Andrew Wirt



FEBRUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

REMINDER - 2 WORSHIP SERVICE STARTS ON FEBRUARY 26TH

February 5 – 11:00AM Scout Sunday, Communion, Sunday School 9:45 AM

February 12 – 11:00AM, Sunday School 9:45AM

February 19 – 11:00AM, Sunday School 9:45 AM

February 22 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00PM

February 26 – **8:30 AM & 11:00AM**, Sunday School 9:45 AM



ASH WEDNESDAY

This year the date for Ash Wednesday is February 22, 2023.

We will have worship on the evening of February 22 for Ash Wednesday. Join us in the sanctuary at 7PM.

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, April 2, 2023

Holy Thursday, April 6, 2023

Good Friday, April 7, 2023

Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023

SCOUT SUNDAY

Scout Sunday is February 5, 2023. We invite any current or former scouts to come in uniform.

60TH ANNIVERSARY PLANNING TEAM

In 2023 we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of our church building and sanctuary!

A meeting will be held at about noon (after the worship service) on Sunday, February 5, 2023 in the upstairs kitchen for anyone who is interested in talking about and helping to plan a summer celebration.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS



The 2023 flower chart is in the lobby at the welcome center.

If you would like to provide flowers on a Sunday morning in 2023, please contact the church office to sign up.

On the week that you are signed up, the church office will contact you to remind you and to ask if you would like the flowers to be in recognition of anyone or anything to be printed in the Sunday bulletin.

If you have any questions, talk with Pastor Andrew or contact the church office.

JANUARY SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church met on January 24, 2023

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 These Days Devotional (copies available for free at the church) - Micah 6:4-8.
- Approved Session minutes from December 27, 2022 and Congregational Meeting minutes from January 22, 2023.
- Reviewed reports from the pastor, clerk, and WHPC committees.
- Voted to approve the sanctuary air conditioner replacement with a bid from Donahue's Heating and Air, based on recommendations from building committee and other individuals.
- Discussed plans for Sanctuary Refresh and 60th Anniversary. A meeting has been scheduled for February 5, 2023 following the 11AM Service.
- Approved Annual Statistical report to be submitted to the PCUSA.
- Officially approved Virgie Smith as our newest member by letter of transfer.
- Dead trees were removed from our property along West Hempfield Drive.
- Christian Ed is planning their annual Movie Night for February 10, 2023 and VBS for June 12 -16, 2023.
- Approved Haiti Spaghetti Dinner for March 18
- New church directories are held up with the company; news will be shared when we have some.
- Session approved an increase in tuition and registration fees for the Preschool. The tuition for the 2023/2024 school year will be \$120 per month and the one-time non-refundable registration fee will be \$40
- Stewardship presented a motion to give the treasurer permission to transfer from savings into the general fund this year, if needed to cover expenses.
- Ash Wednesday service was approved for February 22, 2023
- Closed with prayer

Next meeting will be February 28, 2023

C.E. PJ PARTY AND MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, February 10 6-8PM

Everyone is invited to join us for a great, family fun night. We will be watching the Disney movie, *Raya and The Last Dragon* in the lobby. Everyone should wear their favorite pajamas and bring a blanket to relax on while watching the movie. We will provide hot dogs, drinks and snacks. Come and have a great night!



STEWARDSHIP

2022 Giving Statements have been emailed and/or mailed. If you should have received one, but have not, please contact the church office. Giving envelopes and calendars are on the table at the Welcome Center in the lobby for anyone who wants one.

Thank you for your financial support of the ministry & mission of WHPC.

2023 PER CAPITA/FIRST FRUITS OFFERING = \$43.50

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

MARCH PRESBYTERY MEETING

WHPC has been granted the privilege of hosting the Presbytery meeting on the evening of March 28, 2023. We will be looking for volunteers to help welcome and direct people at the start of the meeting. Please mark this date on your calendar and watch for more information.

WEST HEMPFIELD CHURCH PRESCHOOL

Preschool Enrollment is open for the 2023/2024 school year.

Class is Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday from 9:00am to 11:30am for the morning class or 12:30pm to 3:00pm for the afternoon class.

The program is designed for 3- & 4-year old children. (The child must be 3 by August 31 and potty-trained.)

Tuition for the 2023/2024 school year will be \$120 per month.

If you would like more information, please visit their website at westhempfieldpreschool.org or call the church office.

There is a one-time non-refundable registration fee of \$40.



HAPPY RETIREMENT!

WHPC Preschool Teacher Linda Simpson has announced that she will be retiring at the end of this school year.

Thank you, Linda, for your years of service taking care of God's children, and ours.



The Worship Committee would like to thank John Bankosh for taking down the Christmas decorations. We appreciate all the hard work you do!

Thank you to everyone who attended the congregational meeting on January 22. And to all church leadership who worked hard on those year end reports.

Thank you new church officers!

Jim Crust
Jeff Siegel
Deb Miller

★ HAPPY ★ BIRTHDAY!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 3 – Keeley Mackenzie

Karen Reed

February 8 – Bob Edmonds

February 12 – Birdie Grinder

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!



HOMEBOUND & NURSING HOME FRIENDS



Remember those who can't be with us physically with a card or phone call. The winters are long, especially for them.



February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm	2	3	4
5 Communion Sunday 11:00 Worship Sunday School 9:45am	6 H.E.L.P. Group 4:30pm Dart Ball 7pm	7 Soccer Shots 5-7:30pm	8 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm	9 Harriett's Group 1:00pm	10 C.E. Movie Night 6PM 	11
12 11:00 Worship Sunday School 9:45am	13 H.E.L.P. Group 4:30pm Dart Ball 7pm Girl Scouts 6-7pm	14 Deacon Meeting 6:30pm Soccer Shots 5-7:30pm 	15 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm	16	17	18
19 11:00 Worship Sunday School 9:45am	20 H.E.L.P. Group 4:30pm Dart Ball 7pm	21 Stewardship & Finance 6:30pm Soccer Shots 5-7:30pm	22 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm	23 SESSION REPORTS DUE	24 Newsletter Deadline	25
26 8:30 & 11:00 Worship Sunday School 9:45am	27 H.E.L.P. Group 4:30pm Dart Ball 7pm Girl Scouts 6-7pm	28 Session Meeting, 6:30pm Soccer Shots 5-7:30pm				