



WEST HEMPFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CELEBRATING
60 Years
AS A PART OF
THIS COMMUNITY

8 West Hempfield Drive

Irwin, PA 15642

724-863-1260

www.westhempfieldpc.org

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

April 9, 2023 will be Easter Sunday!

All around the world followers of Jesus will be celebrating His Resurrection!

All around the world people will be reading the Easter story in their Bibles. Different sermons, different reflections, different languages, different translations, different gospels, ONE GOOD NEWS!

Speaking of different gospels ... if you read the story in Luke chapter 24, Luke includes an interesting detail that is not shared by the other gospels.

Two men/angels in clothes that gleamed like lightning greet the women early in the morning at the tomb where Jesus was laid. (That part is not unique to Luke, but keep reading.) In Luke 24:5 they ask, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?"

That question sticks with me.

Why do you look for the living among the dead?

Of course, they are speaking of Jesus, who is not dead. "He has risen!" (verse 6)

But I think Luke included this detail because he understood this question can mean so much more.

Why do you look for the living among the dead?

How often, and in how many ways, do we seek life in ways that lead only to death?

We put our faith in people, power, influence, politics, laws (American and/or Biblical), money, etc. *Something or someone else, they will fix everything. It will make life perfect.*

We find our joy in earthly pleasures, food, drink, etc. *This will bring joy and happiness to life.*

We put our hope in wealth, jobs, security, people, etc. *If I can just get enough or do enough, then life will be good.*

We look inward. Short sighted. We think of ourselves. As Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness after His baptism, we also are tempted. We want bread to fill our hungry stomachs. We want painless shortcuts to authority, power, and comfort. We want protection and safety, even from the consequences of our own poor decisions.

But these other things (idols) all leave us feeling empty.

Why do you look for the living among the dead?

Jesus shows us that he alone is the way of life. All others are idols. Dead themselves, lacking life, and leading to death.

God's way of love and sacrifice is hard, an unattractive alternative at times, but one worth striving for. One full of life and resurrection. One worth celebrating. Happy Easter!

Blessings, Rev. Andrew Wirt



APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 2 - Palm Sunday Worship 8:30AM & 11:00AM, Communion,
Sunday School 9:45 AM

April 6 - Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00PM, Communion

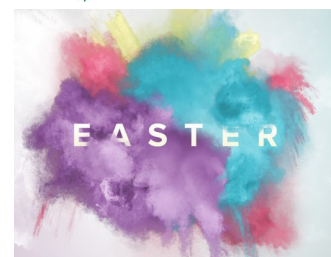
April 7 - Good Friday Service, 7:00PM, Communion

April 9 - Easter Sunday Worship 8:30AM & 11:00AM,
Sunday School 9:45AM

April 16 - Worship 8:30AM & 11:00AM, Sunday School 9:45 AM

April 23 - Worship 8:30AM & 11:00AM, Sunday School 9:45AM

April 30 - Worship 8:30AM & 11:00AM, Sunday School 9:45AM



Call in available Sunday mornings at 11AM and for all special services.

Sermon videos available on the church YouTube channel [youtube.com/@westhempfieldpc](https://www.youtube.com/@westhempfieldpc)

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, April 2, and Easter Sunday, April 9.

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.

Giving envelopes, and more information, will be available in the bulletin inserts on April 2.

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.

CE ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on April 1 at 10:00AM.

Bring your BASKET and a friend! No sign-up or registration necessary!

All children up to 5th grade are welcome. FREE!

We will gather in the sanctuary and then the hunt will be outside, rain/snow or sunshine!



FEBRUARY SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church met on Tuesday, February 28, 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 PTS Lent Devotional - Psalm 121.
- Approved Session minutes from January 24, 2023.
- Reviewed reports from the pastor, clerk, deacons, presbytery, and WHPC committees.
- Approved dates for some upcoming church events and rentals.
- Voted to approve the start of fundraising efforts for the sanctuary air conditioner replacement, also sometimes called Sanctuary Refresh Project in conjunction with the 60th anniversary
- Air conditioner repair will begin after Easter - down payment is needed and will come from a combination of funds already donated to the project and funds from the WHPC Memorial Fund.
- Approved a transfer from New Covenant Funds to cover projected financial shortfalls
- Officially approved David and Mary Shupe as our newest members by letter of transfer.
- Approved Preschool Teacher job description and will begin search for a new teacher for the fall
- Closed with prayer

Next meeting will be March 23, 2023

EASTER FLOWERS

Thank you to everyone who has ordered Easter flowers to help make the church beautiful for this very special Sunday.

After Easter services please take them home with you, or call the church office to make other arrangements, 724-863-1260.

Office hours are M, W, F 9AM-2PM

PRESCHOOL TEACHER POSITION AVAILABLE

As you know, beloved and long time Preschool Teacher Linda Simpson will be retiring at the end of this school year. WHPC has begun the search for a new teacher to work alongside Andrea Tuttoilmondo (Mrs. T) to maintain a nurturing atmosphere and provide experiences in learning and playing together, as well as experiences which promote cognitive and physical education. The position would be for both morning and afternoon classes on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from the Monday after Labor Day to mid May.

Anyone interested in applying for the position can learn more and apply through [indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com)

[Click Here](#) or search for “West Hempfield Preschool” in Irwin, PA at [indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com)

MARCH SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church met on Thursday, March 23, 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 - Romans 8:12-27.
- Approved Session minutes from February 28, 2023.
- Reviewed reports from the pastor, clerk, and WHPC committees.
- Discussed plans for Sanctuary Refresh and 60th Anniversary. A meeting was held on March 19, 2023 following the 11AM Service.
- Discussed plans for the Presbytery Meeting, hosted at WHPC on March 28.
- Discussion on church financial situation. Church savings are continuing to boost donations to cover regular budget expenses, and could carry the church for another 2 years, but a more long term solution(s) will need to be decided on.
- Discussion of Arona Road sign property, regarding maintenance and upkeep
- Christian Ed is planning their annual Easter Egg Hunt for April 1, 2023 and VBS for June 12-16.
- Discussed possibility of supporting Pine Springs Camp Traveling Day Camp at New Hope Presbyterian Church, week of June 19
- Personnel presented appreciation gifts from the Session and Congregation to Preschool Teachers Linda and Andrea for National Preschool Teachers Appreciation Day, March 17
- Started conversation about summer worship plans
- Reviewed calendar of upcoming events
- Closed with prayer

Next meeting will be April 25, 2023

MARCH DEACONS HIGHLIGHTS

Support Us As We Walk a Mile in Her Shoes on April 15 at 10 AM

The Deacons of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church are participating in this event to raise money for a great cause. Please support us and help make a difference. Together, we can reach our fundraising goal of \$500.

If you'd like to be part of "West Hempfield PC Walkers" in the neighborhoods of either Rolling Hills or Greenridge on ***April 15 at 10:00AM***. Please contact the church office to register or send an email to: office@westhempfieldpc.org

We encourage you to consider making a donation towards our goal to help end domestic abuse whether you can walk or not.

Follow the link below, text WHPC Blackburn to 73256, or write a check to the church by Sunday, April 16 (be sure to include Blackburn in memo)

<https://onrealm.org/WestHempfieldPC/-/give/blackburn>



60TH ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISER



Help us celebrate our 60th Anniversary and support our Sanctuary Refresh Campaign by purchasing and wearing one of these awesome new shirts!



<https://www.customink.com/fundraising/whpc-sanctuary-refresh>



HERO HOTLINE VBS



This year's VBS will be *June 12-16 from 6 to 8PM* and our theme will be *Superheroes!*

The Christian Education Committee is also in search of volunteers who would like to participate in Vacation Bible School. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, please contact Mary Esther DeTesta or the church office.



SUMMER CAMP

As you are making your plans for this summer, don't forget about Pine Springs Camp!

The Pine Springs Camp summer program desires that each camper vitally encounters Christ. PSC does this by...

1. Teaching about the unconditional love of Christ.
2. Emphasizing that each camper has unique and creative gifts that God has given them. We offer a variety of camps so that each participant can explore and develop their gifts and grow in their relationship to God.
3. Modeling a proper way to celebrate and play in God's creation. We believe that camp should be fun!
4. Experiencing the importance of being involved in Christian community.

Pine Springs Camp brochures are available at the church, or check out their website www.pinesprings.org





Dear Session & Congregation,
Thank you very much for the generous gift cards to Starbucks and Panera for
Preschool Teacher Appreciation Day! We are very appreciative of your kindness
and support throughout the school year!!

Gratefully,
Andrea and Linda

A big THANK YOU to everyone who
helped to make the Haiti Spaghetti Dinner a
success!
The Mission Committee

Thank you to everyone who
donated candy for the Easter
Egg Hunt!
The CE Committee

Thank you to everyone who
helped with the Presbytery
Meeting!

Thank you for all
the donations of
bottled water for our
upcoming events.

Thank you to everyone
who ordered flowers to
help decorate our
sanctuary this Easter.

★ HAPPY ★
BIRTHDAY!

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Everett Wirt	April 1	Vivian Wirt	April 8
Rachael Hazlett	April 4	Barb Hazlett	April 20
Carol Ailes	April 5	John Hilewick	April 27
Ted Mertz	April 7		

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

April 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 AM 
2 Palm Sunday 8:30 & 11:00am Worship Communion	3 H.E.L.P. 4:30PM Dart Ball 7:00pm	4	5 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm	6 Maundy Thursday Service 7:00pm Communion	7 Good Friday Service 7:00pm Communion	8 Deacon's Walk 10:00am
9 Easter Sunday 8:30 & 11:00am Worship Sunday School 9:45am	10 H.E.L.P. 4:30PM Dart Ball 7:00pm	11	12 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm	13 Harriett's Group 1:00pm	14	15
16 8:30 & 11:00am Worship Sunday School 9:45am	17 H.E.L.P. 4:30PM Dart Ball 7:00pm	18 Stewardship & Finance 6:30pm	19 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm Session Reports Due	20	21 Newsletter Deadline	22
23 8:30 & 11:00am Worship Sunday School 9:45am	24 H.E.L.P. 4:30PM Dart Ball 7:00pm	25 Session Meeting 6:30pm	26 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm	27	28	29
30 8:30 & 11:00am Worship Sunday School						