



SEPTEMBER

WEST HEMPFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

I was reading an article recently when something the author said made me roll my eyes, but the more I thought about it, I came to see that he actually had a really good point.

The author was pastor, speaker, podcaster, best-selling author Carey Nieuwhof. I don't always agree with his take on things. But as a Canadian, he has a perspective that can be a little different and he has experience with doing church in a more secular culture (as Canada is further down the road that American seems to be travelling).

It was an older article that he had recently updated and was talking about reasons why people are walking away from the church. Not necessarily walking away from God, but leaving churches.

Two of the reasons he gives for why people are leaving the church seem to contradict one another.

“Overfocusing on content at the expense of connection” — all sermon and Bible study, rather than fellowship and outreach. Attendance and consumption, but without developing friendships and doing things for the community.

“An obsession with attracting, not equipping” — all fellowship and outreach, rather than sermon and Bible study. Helping and inviting friends and neighbors, but without commitments to attend worship or engage in deep theological study.

As I've already said, my first response was to roll my eyes. Well, which is it? Do we spend too much time studying our Bibles, or not enough? Do we need to spend more time developing relationships with other people, or less?

They are complete opposites of one another!

It's like saying at lunch “You eat too much pizza. There's not enough variety in your meals.” But then at supper saying, “You are trying too hard to come up with something new. Go with what you know, make a pizza.”

BUT, the more I thought about it, I came to see that he actually had a really good point.

If we are talking about church, it can't be an either-or situation. We can't choose between loving God and loving our neighbors. We have to do both.

Matthew 22:34-40 *The first and greatest commandment, and the second is like it.*

The problem isn't that it's wrong to focus on content and equipping or to focus on connecting and attracting. The problem comes when we only do one of those things. We have to find a way to balance, and remember the importance of both.

We must study God's Word and equip ourselves and one another. AND we must love and support one another, reaching out and building connections with those outside the church and our usual circles.

For the church to succeed, it must be both.

But, if we are talking about pizza, the answer is clear. There's no such thing as too much pizza!

Blessings, Rev. Andrew Wirt



SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

After a brief summer break, the 11:00AM service returns on September 3!

SEPTEMBER 3 - 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM,
Communion Sunday

SEPTEMBER 10 - 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM,
Sunday school kick-off 9:45am

SEPTEMBER 17- 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM,
Sunday school 9:45am

SEPTEMBER 24 - 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM,
Sunday school 9:45am

*You can listen to the 11am service LIVE over the phone
(for instructions, please contact the church office)*



9/3 - 8:30AM and 11AM Worship
w/ Communion

9/10 - 8:30AM and 11AM Worship
9:45AM Sunday School Kick-Off

9/17 - 8:30AM and 11AM Worship
9:45AM Sunday School

9/24 - 8:30AM and 11AM Worship
9:45AM Sunday School

WORSHIP FLOWERS

There are still a lot of dates open for the remainder of 2023 that no one has signed up on the flower list. If you would like to provide flowers for a Sunday service, please call the office and let us know the date you are able to do this.



COMMUNION



Pastor Andrew is trying to make the rounds to reconnect with our homebound members and take home communion to those who want it, but have been unable to join with us in worship for one reason or another.

If you would like to be included in that list, please contact the church office.

PASTORAL VISITATION

While mentioning Home Communion, this feels like a good time to remind everyone that Pastor Andrew is available for visits without the communion elements as well.

Health concerns, prayer requests, questions about the church or your faith, looking for someone to talk to, or just want to say “hi” ... whatever your reason, if you would like a visit at home or to meet for coffee, please reach out.

Our world is so connected today that it can seem like everyone should know everything all the time, but social media posts are not always seen by everyone. And there are also many rules protecting privacy. For example, hospital chaplains used to contact churches when a member was admitted, but that almost never happens anymore.

It is best to assume that if you didn't tell us directly, we don't know.

Pastor Andrew enjoys making visits, but he rarely does so uninvited and unannounced. This may be different than it has been in the past, but Pastor Andrew continues to work hard and care for the church and is committed to this congregation.

AUGUST SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church met on August 22, 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 - Isaiah 51:1-6
- Approved Session minutes from June and July meetings
- Reviewed reports from WHPC committees
- Reviewed 60th Anniversary plans, celebrated the hard work and success of the Car Cruise, designated the proceeds of the Car Cruise to Food2Go and Sanctuary Funds, and discussed a fall Anniversary Worship Service
- Began planning for a Fall Spaghetti Dinner to support the Sanctuary Fund, date TBD
- Approved the plan to shift the Preschool to a Single Teacher model as a response to decreased enrollment, this includes small an increase in compensation for the solo teacher in recognition of increased time commitments
- Church office hours will be shifting to match the class time of the Preschool, ensuring a safe and secure building while students are present
- Approved the list of counters (unchanged from last year)
- Discussed possible rental of Fellowship Hall
- Approved and scheduled the Thanksgiving Luncheon for Sunday, November 19
- And had a long conversation about what the 2024 budget might look like and setting priorities
- Reviewed calendar of upcoming events
- Closed with the Lord's Prayer



Next Scheduled meeting will be September 26, 2023

STEWARDSHIP

The 3rd financial giving quarter will come to a close at the end of September.

WHPC will be sending out 3rd quarter giving statements in early October.

If you would like a mid-year statement before then, please call the church office and Lisa will get you one. Thank you for your continued financial support of WHPC.

OFFICE HOURS

Starting the week after Labor Day the church office hours will be changing to better support our Preschool.

The office will be open Mondays and Tuesdays from 9:00am - 3:00pm and Wednesdays from 9:00am - Noon. The office will be closed on Thursdays and Fridays.

NOTE: This does mean that bulletins will be printed on Wednesday mornings. Please be aware, if you ever have anything to be printed in a bulletin, it will need to be submitted to the office by Tuesday evening to be included.

SUNDAY SCHOOL KICKOFF

It's time for Sunday School! Our Sunday School teachers are excited to welcome students back to church this fall! If you are interested in being a fill-in or substitute for Sunday School Class, Contact Mary Esther DeTesta, Heather Ressler or Robin Gambino.

Kickoff on September 10 at 9:45am: Students will enjoy pre-packaged snacks, a craft, a story, and the chance to decorate this year's Glory Gold folders.

FELLOWSHIP



GOLF OUTING October 1, 2023 @ 1:30PM MADISON CLUB

Please sign up at the Welcome Center in the lobby or call the church office. Deadline to sign up will be September 4. The cost will be approximately \$\$\$ per person, and includes lunch and a 9 hole scrambler.

Any questions, call Dave Collier 724-864-0129

SHHH, IT'S A SURPRISE!!!

FROM SHARON ELLIOT

Mike Elliott was ordained in 1998 at West Hempfield Church.

September 13th, 2023 is the 25th anniversary of Mike's Ordination.

We have many friends from our time at West Hempfield. On Sunday, September 10th, Kathleen and I will be hosting a reception for Mike in our church's (First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue, Nebraska) fellowship hall. I would love to create a book of memories for Mike. How can you be a part of the celebration? Perhaps you attended Mike's Ordination. What I would love is for you to share a memory that you have related to Mike's ministry in your life. I will be collecting these memories and then we will make a book for Mike.

If you would like to do this, there are 2 ways to get your note to me:
(please don't mail them to our home address or the church address.)

1. Email it to me at elliottmks87@gmail.com
 2. Send it to Kathleen Elliott, 5713 Brewer House Circle, Apt. 302, Rockville, MD 20852
- Please just put "for Mike" on the envelope so that Kathleen knows it is for her dad. Kathleen and Cyrus will be leaving to come to Nebraska on Sept. 7 so try to make sure that it arrives to her before that.

I appreciate your willingness to make this day special for Mike.

Sincerely, Sharon

PS If you can share with others who may want to write a note to Mike, I would greatly appreciate it.

PPS Remember, we would like this to be a surprise for Mike!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Diana Irwin	Sept. 1	Laurie Bookheimer	Sept. 24
Paula Stewart	Sept. 14	Connie Primus	Sept. 28
Jim Toms	Sept. 15	Pat Neill	Sept. 29

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



THANK YOU! to everyone who gathered for the Back to School Prayer Service held August 19 to pray over our schools, children, and adults.

Blessings to all on a new school year!

Thank you for joining our outdoor worship services this summer.

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

WEST HEMPFIELD PRESCHOOL

2023 - 2024 SCHOOL YEAR begins on Monday, September 11.

We look forward to lots of fun!

We still have openings in both classes.

Thank you to Andrea Tuttoilmondo for her continued service to the children of our community and their families.

We will be hosting our Open House this year on Wednesday, September 6. The AM group will meet at 9:00am and the PM group will meet at 10:15am. You can always visit the preschool website for more information at westhempfieldpreschool.org





September 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 8:30 & 11:00am Worship Communion	4 Labor Day— Office Closed	5 Tuesday Office Hours 9:00am - 3:00pm	6 Wednesday Office Hours 9:00am - noon	7 Preschool Open House Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm	8	9 FH Rental: Westmoreland County Craft & Vendor Show 10-3pm
10 8:30 & 11:00am Worship 9:45am Sunday School Kick-off	11 1st Day of Preschool H.E.L.P Group 4:30pm Girl Scouts 6- 7pm Dart Ball 7:00pm	12 Deacons Meeting, 6:30pm	13 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm	14 Harriett's Group 1:00pm	15	16
17 8:30 & 11:00am Worship 9:45am Sunday School	18 H.E.L.P Group 4:30pm Dart Ball 7:00pm	19 Stewardship Meeting, 6:30pm	20 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm	21 Session Reports Due	22 Newsletter Deadline	23
24 8:30 & 11:00am Worship 9:45am Sunday School	25 H.E.L.P Group 4:30pm Girl Scouts 6-7 pm Dart Ball 7:00pm	26 Session Mtg. 6:30pm	27 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm	28	29	30