



WEST HEMPFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8 West Hempfield Drive

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www.westhempfieldpc.org

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

On Sunday, April 25 we started our sermon series to promote Vacation Bible School. The Armor of God will tie our sermons together as it sets the stage for **Knights of North Castle** and the Search for the King's Armor.

As I am preparing these messages and reading the VBS Bible stories, it strikes me that an alternate theme for VBS could have been *Immanuel—God with us!*

Daniel 3 — God was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the Blazing Furnace

I Samuel 17 — God was with David as he stood up against Goliath

Luke 2:1-20 — God was with Mary as she traveled to Bethlehem and she gave birth to Jesus, the one who will be called Immanuel, God with us

Matthew 14:22-33 — God was with Peter as he walked on water, and when he became afraid and started to sink, Jesus reached out his hand and caught him.

Acts 16:16-40 — God was with Paul and Silas, even when they were imprisoned, giving them the confidence to pray and sing hymns to God in a situation that could otherwise be terrifying

In whatever situation you find yourself today, know that God is with you! The promise of Immanuel is written through all of Scripture.

Matthew 28:20 NLT

[Jesus said] "And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Blessings, Rev. Andrew Wirt

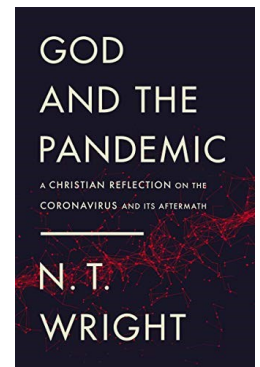
What is Pastor Andrew Reading?

God and the Pandemic:

*A Christian Reflection on
the Coronavirus and Its*

[From the Amazon listing]

Discover a different way of seeing and responding to the Coronavirus pandemic, an approach drawing on Scripture, Christian history, and the way of living, thinking, and praying revealed to us by Jesus.



What are we supposed to think about the Coronavirus crisis?

Some people think they know: "This is a sign of the End," they say. "It's all predicted in the book of Revelation."

Others disagree but are equally clear: "This is a call to repent. God is judging the world and through this disease he's telling us to change."

Some join in the chorus of blame and condemnation: "It's the fault of the Chinese, the government, the World Health Organization..."

N. T. Wright examines these reactions to the virus and finds them wanting. Instead, he shows that a careful reading of the Bible and Christian history offers simple though profound answers to our many questions, including:

- What should be the Christian response?
- How should we think about God?
- How do we live in the present?
- Why should we lament?
- What should we learn about ourselves?
- How do we recover?

Written by one of the world's foremost New Testament scholars, *God and the Pandemic* will serve as a guide to read the events of today through the light of Jesus' death and resurrection.

MAY IN PERSON WORSHIP SCHEDULE

May 2 – Worship 8:30AM & 11:00AM, Communion,
Sunday School 9:45am, Worship Meeting after 11:00am
Service

May 9 – Worship 8:30AM & 11:00AM,
Sunday School 9:45am

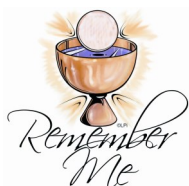
May 16 – Worship 8:30AM & 11:00AM,
Last day for Sunday School 9:45am, Glory Gold

May 23 - Worship 8:30AM & 11:00AM

May 30 - Worship 8:30AM & 11:00AM



MAY COMMUNION



Beginning in May, we will have an usher distributing individually packaged bread and juice to you in your pew seat.

AT HOME WORSHIP SCHEDULE

There are several ways to worship at home with WHPC ...

- You can listen to the service LIVE over the phone at 11:00am (for instructions, please call the church office)
- We mail DVD recordings of full Sunday morning services to anyone who requests one. If you would like one please call the church office
- You can watch a shortened service on Facebook
www.facebook.com/westhempfieldpresbyterian

The same video will be also be available on the church website www.westhempfieldpc.org
(After the video on Facebook has finished, it will continue to be available on Facebook as well to watch any time, at your convenience).

Reminder: Anyone can join us for **at-home communion** by calling in at 11am on the first Sunday of the month or by requesting a DVD.

THINKING OF YOU...

We have several elderly congregational members, they would love to hear from their WHPC family.

If you'd like to send a card and need an address, please call the church office for assistance.



APRIL SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



The Session of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church met on April 27, 2021

- Together we covered our church and congregation with prayer, read Scripture, and reviewed all that has been going on with the church and the world.
- For the first time in over a year, everyone was at the church; no one attended on Zoom
- Read and reflected on John 10:1-10
- Responsibilities of the clerk continue to be shared. If you have something for the clerk, please contact the church office or Pastor Andrew.
- The Session declined to make any official statements or rules regarding COVID as circumstances and guidance still seem to change frequently enough that any statement would likely be outdated as soon as it was made. We are, however, doing our best to follow the news and guidance.
- As such, there are currently no churchwide rules regarding masks, distancing, singing, etc beyond public guidelines. The Session encourages everyone to follow current guidelines as you are able and as they apply to your situation. Individuals and groups will need to make choices for themselves based on their own circumstances and risk assessments. Respect should be shown to one another in every case understanding that different circumstances may lead to different choices and practices.
- The upstairs kitchen will be set up, starting Mother's Day May 9, as a space for fellowship on Sunday mornings for those who are comfortable. Coffee, tea, and water will be available. Respecting those who may not be comfortable with this step yet, we ask that the fellowship and refreshments stay in the kitchen for now. As comfort and participation grows, we expect it will return to the lobby, but not before proper announcements to make everyone aware.
- Communion starting now (May 2) will be distributed by an elder after the sermon as part of the worship service. We will continue using single-serve, pre-packaged communion cups for now.
- Sunday School program will take a summer break. Last Sunday School class will be May 16 and will be a party for the students and opportunity to spend their Glory Gold.
- Vacation Bible School will be Knights of North Castle, June 14-18. Registration is open. Volunteers needed. VBS Sunday will be June 20, 2021
- Approval was given for Tony to use the sanctuary for a recital for his students.

CHRISTIAN ED

THANK YOU! We would like to thank all the members of WHPC for all the eggs and help with setting up and tearing down for our Easter egg hunt last Saturday. It was a huge success, we had 70 kids in attendance. Everyone had a wonderful time. We can always depend on all our members to come through.

~The members of the Christian Education Committee

GLORY GOLD: The last day for Sunday school will be *May 16* and we will celebrate by letting the children turn in their Glory Gold.



BIBLES FOR CHILDREN: If your child will be moving up from 4th to 5th grade, they will be gifted a Bible from the church. Please let the office know or any Christian Ed Committee member. Pass the word!

CONFIRMATION CLASS: Pastor Andrew will be leading a confirmation class in the Fall. If you have a child interested, please contact the church office or email office@westhempfieldpc.org

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 14-18 (6:00PM-8:00PM)



VBS REGISTRATION: It's almost time! To register a child to attend VBS *June 14-18, 6-8pm* please visit the church website www.westhempfieldpc.org and click on the VBS logo to complete the registration form.

VOLUNTEER FOR FUN: We can't do great Vacation Bible School without our great volunteers. Consider how you can help – the kids will learn, play, snack, craft, and be loved. No prior experience necessary. Please visit the church website www.westhempfieldpc.org to sign-up. Thank you!

Please note: Clearances now need to be updated every five years/60 months to bring us into compliance with the State's regulations. Contact the church office if you need to update clearances.

MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee is excited to announce that we will be doing a month long campaign to put together hygiene kits through the organization, Church World Services (CWS). These kits are sent all over the world where communities experience disasters and need. Look for more details coming soon!!



FELLOWSHIP



COFFEE HOUR: The upstairs kitchen will be set up, starting Mother's Day May 9, as a space for fellowship on Sunday mornings for those who are comfortable. Coffee, tea, and water will be available. Respecting those who may not be comfortable with this step yet, we ask that the fellowship and refreshments stay in the kitchen for now. As comfort and participation grows, we expect it will return to the lobby, but not before proper announcements to make everyone aware.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Ann Randolph	May 4	Bob Mihalko	May 23
Ainsley Pritz	May 5	Sarah Immel	May 23
Rachael Pritz	May 6	Noah Mackenzie	May 24
Katie Wirt	May 6	Gavin Hladek	May 27
Bob Lore	May 8	Connie Mertz	May 27
John Bankosh	May 12	Gillian Mihalko	May 29
Amy Graham	May 13	Judy Sturdevant	May 30
Nikki Mackenzie	May 19	Clara Kovacs	May 31

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

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATES

HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE GRADUATES

Please supply the church office with information if you/your child is graduating from high school, college, vocational school, graduate school or any other continued education program. The congregation would like to recognize and celebrate your accomplishment during worship. **Submit your name, from where you are graduating, & your immediate future plans to the office.**

WATSON SCHOLARSHIP

West Hempfield Presbyterian is pleased to announce the availability of scholarships offered on behalf of the Bill and Delphine Watson trust Fund.

- Each high school graduate who will be furthering their education is eligible for a one-time scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.00. Student or parent(s) of student should be a member of the church.
- Applications are available at the welcome center or in the church office.
- Please return the application along with the student's acceptance letter for their school to the office.
- Once the application is approved, a check will be mailed directly to the school address you provided on the application form.
- You will receive a letter of confirmation.



WEST HEMPFIELD PRESCHOOL

The Preschool will be celebrating their 2020-2021 graduates on Wednesday, May 19 with an end of year party for the children only. ***Both am and pm classes will be performing a virtual graduation ceremony on Monday, May 17. Check the preschool website for the graduation ceremony.***

For registration in the fall, the morning and afternoon still have openings. If you would like more information, visit their website or call the church office between 9am – 1pm.

Thank you!



Thank you for all the donations throughout the school year.

We appreciate you!

Linda & Andrea

www.westhempfieldpreschool.org



PRESCHOOL SNACKS: We want to take this time to thank you for all of the snacks that you generously provided for the 2020/2021 school year. Due to the Covid situation it was unsafe for snacks to be provided by the preschool families, and you so kindly stepped up to the plate! Your generosity and support were greatly appreciated. ~ Linda and Andrea

FOOD2GO4KIDS: Thank you for all the donations of food, plastic bags, and helping with distribution for the Food 2 Go 4 Kids Program. We are no longer collecting food donations for the school year. We only have 4 distributions left, if you would like to schedule a Thursday to volunteer, please call the church office or send us an email at office@westhempfieldpc.org. We greatly appreciate your help!

DEACONS:
Thank you to everyone who supported the Deacons with the Blackburn walk. We were able to donate over \$2,000 with the Deacons matching contribution to support those effected by domestic violence.

**SUNDAY
SCHOOL
TEACHERS!!**

Thank you
Sunday School
Teachers for
helping us grow
in our faith.

Thank you
Linda Simpson &
Andrea Tuttoilmondo
for your dedication to
the children of West
Hempfield Preschool.



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.

May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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2 8:30 & 11:00am Worship Communion Sunday School 9:45am	3	4 Girl Scouts, 5:00pm	5 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm Men's Group, 7:00pm	6 Food2Go4kids Distribution 3-5pm	7	8 Memorial Service & funeral luncheon— Moore family
9 Mother's Day! 8:30 & 11:00am Worship Sunday School 9:45am	10	11 Deacons Meeting, 6:30pm NAMI 7:00pm	12 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm Men's Group, 7:00pm	13 Food2Go4kids Distribution 3-5pm	14	15
16 8:30 & 11:00am Worship Glory Gold Sunday School 9:45am	17 Preschool Graduation 10:45am—Sanctuary	18 Stewardship & Finance 6:30pm	19 Senior Cards, 11-2:30p Preschool last day of school Men's Group, 7:00pm	20 Food2Go4kids Distribution 3-5pm Session Reports Due	21	22
23 8:30 & 11:00am Worship	24 Newsletter Deadline	25 Session Meeting 6:30pm	26 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm Men's Group, 7:00pm	27 Food2Go4kids Distribution 3-5pm	28	29
30 8:30 & 11:00am Worship	31 Memorial Day *Office Closed*					