



WEST HEMPFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

In sermons right now we are starting with passages of Scripture that use the image of “shepherd” for God.

One of the most obvious examples being Psalm 23, where David says *The Lord is my shepherd*. Another example that might come to mind easily is John 10, where Jesus says *I am the Good Shepherd*. And there are many more.

But, why a shepherd? In describing our God, our Messiah, shouldn't we use more powerful or impressive terms?

King! Warrior! Mighty Fortress!

Nobility, strength, power ... not a poor, rough, smelly shepherd.

Yet, don't we see all of those traits in the shepherd?

- King, the leader. Psalm 23 says the shepherd leads me beside still waters.
- Warrior, the defender of the sheep, fighting off the thieves and wild animals. Psalm 23 references the shepherd's rod, like a mace, armed and ready.
- Mighty Fortress, the place of safety, even when fear and dangers are right outside the door. “Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil.” Psalm 23 imagines the comfort to sit at table and eat, even if enemies are present.

God chooses to present all of that nobility, strength, and power with humility. The Creator of the universe, King, Warrior, Mighty Fortress greets us as the unassuming shepherd.

In the shepherd we find another statement about God's character. God is not a king who is distant, removed, off in some tall tower. God is not a warrior seeking glory in violence on a battlefield. God is not a mighty fortress, impenetrable and unreachable. God is a Shepherd, who loves to be with the sheep.

Blessings, Rev. Andrew Wirt

What is Pastor Andrew Reading?

The Good Shepherd:

*A Thousand-Year Journey from Psalm 23 to the
New Testament*

By Kenneth E. Bailey

From the book's Amazon listing:

"The Lord is my shepherd." Thus begins the most beloved of all Psalms—and thus begins a thousand-year journey through the Bible. Prophets, apostles and Jesus himself took up this image from David, reshaping it, developing it and applying it to their own situations and needs. Kenneth Bailey uses his celebrated insights into Middle Eastern culture and especially his familiarity with Middle Eastern shepherding customs to bring new light and life to our understanding of this central image of the Christian faith. With each of nine major Old and New Testament passages, Bailey reveals the literary artistry of the Biblical writers and summarizes their key theological features. His work is also enriched by his unique access to very early Middle Eastern commentaries on these passages, bringing fresh understanding from within the mindset of these ancient worlds. *The Good Shepherd* invites us to experience a rich, biblical feast of ethical, theological and artistic delights.

JULY IN PERSON WORSHIP SCHEDULE

JULY 4 - 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Communion Sunday

JULY 11 - 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

JULY 18 - 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

JULY 25 - 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Church Picnic following
11:00AM Outdoor Worship (weather permitted)



*You can listen to the service LIVE over the phone at 11:00am
(for instructions, please call the church office)*



Church Picnic Sunday, July 25 after the 11:00AM Outdoor Worship

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Thank you to those who joined us for Outdoor Worship in June.

Join us for Outdoor Worship on the last Sunday of

July & August at 11:00am.

Bring your own chair and join us!

The 8:30 service will be indoors as usual.



PINE SPRINGS



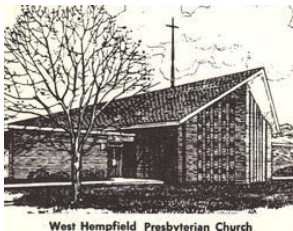
Pastor Andrew was asked last fall to serve on the board of Pine Springs Camp and this June was honored to be invited to offer the sermon for their summer staff commissioning service. Campers began arriving June 13 and programs will continue through August 11. Please keep the camp, its leaders, and campers in your prayers this summer.

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

- 1. Teaching about the the unconditional love of Christ.*
- 2. Emphasizing that each camper has unique and creative gifts that God has given them. They 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. They believe that camp should be fun!*

Experiencing the importance of being involved in Christian community.

JUNE SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



The Session of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church met on June 22, 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.
- Approved minutes from May 2021
- Church picnic will be the last Sunday in July after the outdoor 11:00am worship
- Communion servers selected
- Approved Pastor Andrew vacation July 13-19 & August 17-23
- Approved Heather's vacation August 6-13 (if you can volunteer to answer phones 9am-12 noon anytime during that week, please call the church office)
- Approved Tony vacation for July 4
- Baptism scheduled for July 11 at 8:30 service
- First Sunday outdoor worship will be in June at 11:00am
- In search of a Nursery Attendant 8:15am—12:15pm; posting on Indeed
- Reviewed committee reports
- Sunday morning coffee to remain in the lobby

EMAIL COMMUNITY PRAYER LIST

Our email prayer list will continue. Please let the church office know of any prayers you wish to share with the congregation. We will continue emailing your prayer requests each Monday. Anyone can submit a prayer request by contacting the church office.

However, please respect privacy and do not submit requests for others without their permission. In some circumstances, requests may be given to the pastor/elders/deacons but not placed on the email to everyone. ALL requests will be prayed for, even if they are not placed on the public list.



CHURCH PICNIC



JULY 25 FOLLOWING 11:00 AM OUTDOOR WORSHIP (8:30 AM service indoors)
The annual church picnic will be held at the church. Our facilities are more accessible to all members; being on-site is easier for set-up and clean-up; and we are not at the mercy of the weather.

Mark your calendars – it's always great fun to be together.

EVERYONE IS INVITED!

- ◇ If you can volunteer to help - see Larry DeTesta
- ◇ Bring a folding chair for outdoor seating

MUSIC NEWS

Stay tuned! There will be survey's available soon about bringing our "blended" service back to the last Sunday of each month at 11:00am.

For those not familiar with what our blended service was, we typically kept the same format of worship and just replaced the hymns with more modern/contemporary songs. Your input is greatly appreciated on this survey.

If you have any ideas regarding the "blended" service, or what you might like to be a part of service that go beyond what is in the survey, please email Tony. The goal will be to start our blended service following the start of Sunday school in September.

Also, if you know of anyone who would be willing to help share their talents, such as a guitarist, vocalist, drummer etc, please let me know via email gre0151@gmail.com

Thank you!





JULY BIRTHDAYS

Kelly Smith	July 3	Jim St. Antoine	July 19
Tony Greendonner	July 5	Tom Toth	July 20
Hudson Pritz	July 7	Ruth Lutz	July 19
Madison Cameron	July 13	Barbara St. Antoine	July 24
Sarah Mikluscak	July 14	Johnny Bankosh	July 25
Becky Collier	July 18	Caleb Mikluscak	July 26
		Pat Jones	July 31

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

WEST HEMPFIELD PRESCHOOL

WHPC Preschool is currently accepting registration for the school year 2021-2022. This program is designed for 3 & 4-year-old children. The child must be 3 and potty trained by August 31. The registration fee is \$30. If you would like more information, visit the preschool website at www.westhempfieldpreschool.org or call the church office. Thank you.



NURSERY ATTENDANT

Now hiring!

If you or someone you know is interested in caring for our church families children during the 8:30 & 11:00am worship services, please call the church office or apply on indeed. The hours for the nursery attendant are 8:15-12:15.





Thank you to everyone who helped to make this year's VBS program a success. And an extra special "Thank You" to the less visible helpers, behind the scenes, there before we start and after the crowd leaves. Wylie Irwin, set design and build. Larry DeTesta, set up. John Bankosh, cleaning up after all our messes. Jim and Helen Toms, going the extra mile to help solve technology issues Sunday morning for our VBS worship service.

VBS MISSION PROJECT: This year for VBS we collected for Church World Services (CWS).

The VBS parents, children & WHPC congregation donated nearly \$500 to make hygiene kits. These kits are sent all over the world where communities experience disasters and need.

Congratulations!

Sarah Immel married Mark Dillon on Saturday June 26, 2021 at the Harbison Chapel, Grove City College. Wishing them many blessings in their new life together!



Thank you for maintaining the garden and pond area.

Flowers have been planted, weeds taken away. It looks beautiful!

Lots of people in the nearby neighborhoods enjoy visiting our pond area.

THANK YOU HELEN TOMS FOR PROVIDING COOKIES & FRUIT CUPS DURING COFFEE HOUR IN JUNE!



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.

July 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 8:30 & 11:00am Worship Communion	5 Office Closed (4th of July observed)	6	7 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm	8	9	10
11 8:30 & 11:00am Worship	12 H.E.L.P Group 5:00pm	13 Deacons Meeting, 6:30pm NAMI 7:00pm	14 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm	15	16	17
18 8:30 & 11:00am Worship	19 H.E.L.P Group 5:00pm	20	21 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm S & F Meeting, 6:30pm	22 Session Reports Due	23	24
25 8:30am Indoor Worship 11:00am Outdoor Worship Church picnic to follow	26 H.E.L.P Group 5:00pm Newsletter Deadline	27 Session Meeting 6:30pm	28 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm	29	30	31