

SEPTEMBER

WEST HEMPFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8 West Hempfield Drive

Irwin, PA 15642

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

Our garden at home did pretty well this year. Zucchini, cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, lettuce, and more. But I am particularly excited about the pumpkins. Mainly, because we didn't intentionally plant any pumpkins! You might call them a "happy accident."

The story starts last fall when we had two pumpkins we were going to carve. But life got busy and the season for that kind of thing passed. Forgotten in the garage, one began to grow some mold, so I tossed them both into the back yard, thinking I would deal with them later. Again, they were forgotten. In the spring we dug up a spot in the yard to plant some raspberry bushes and these two pumpkins had gotten all mushy over there. "Just mix them in with the dirt. It will be good fertilizer," I thought, forgetting that they never became Jack-o-Lanterns. These pumpkins were still full of seeds. A little bit later, up sprouted at least 30 little pumpkin plants! We pulled out most of them but left about a half dozen, curious to see how they would do. They overtook the raspberries and that whole corner of the yard, and then a sidewalk and some more yard. Now, several bright orange pumpkins, some big and some small, greet me each time I walk into the back yard—the results of a string of "happy accidents."

These pumpkins remind me that God can work this way in our lives sometimes too.

A forgotten blessing (pumpkin) turns into a missed opportunity (too late for Jack-o-Lanterns) followed by disaster (mold). We can give up (toss the mess out back and forget about it), but God is still at work! Two forgotten and decaying pumpkins from last year have turned into eight beautiful gifts.

God can take our mistakes, tragedies, and foolishness and create an abundance of blessings!

Blessings, Rev. Andrew Wirt

What is Pastor Andrew Reading:

Ordinary People Change the World

Book Series By Brad Meltzer and Christopher Eliopoulos

These little illustrated and informative biographies have been a fun way to share and learn together with our kids.

I love the subtle message that the series title suggests. "Ordinary People Change the World." Yes, these people became famous, but they are/were just ordinary people like you and me. It can be easy to think things like — "*Special people*" do big things, sure, but what difference can I really make? This little phrase helps remind us there is no distinction. There aren't "special people" verses "ordinary people." We are all ordinary people, and we can all make a difference.

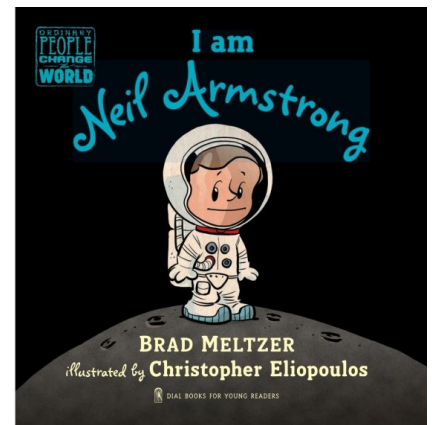
From their website:

Our core belief is that ordinary people change the world. And we're not alone. You believe, as we do, that kids today need better heroes to look up to.

Every day, our culture focuses more on fame rather than character. These books are our way of fighting back, to help kids build character, kindness and compassion, one real hero at a time.

Watch a video from the creators here:

<https://youtu.be/KFeyPtBA1Vg>



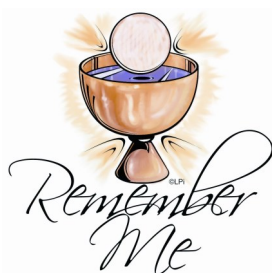
SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 5 - 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Communion Sunday
SEPTEMBER 12 - 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Sunday school kick-off
SEPTEMBER 19 - 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Sunday school
SEPTEMBER 26 - 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Sunday school



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

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.

Of course, you can also still share in communion with us by joining our call-in line at 11am on the first Sunday of each month and providing your own bread and juice to take with us during the service.

SUNDAY SCHOOL KICKOFF

It's time for Sunday School!

Our Sunday School teachers are excited to welcome students back to church this fall!

Kickoff on September 12 at 9:45am: Students will enjoy pre-packaged snacks, a craft, a story, and the chance to decorate this year's Glory Gold folders.



WELCOME BACK SUNDAY

Why should the Sunday School have all the fun?

This last year has felt long and the summer has been a busy one. **September 12** is the start of our Sunday school year and a chance for us all to gather together after being away from each other over the summer. Join us for worship at 8:30am or 11:00am.

Following worship we hope you will join us in the lobby for coffee, treats, and fellowship!

AUGUST SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



*The Session of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church
met on August 24, 2021*

- Together we covered our church and congregation with prayer, read Scripture; the story of Lazarus, and reviewed all that has been going on with the church and the world.
- Approved minutes from July 2021 and received staff and committee reports
- In search of a Nursery Attendant 8:15am—12:15pm; Currently, there have been no additional applicants for Nursery Attendant on the Indeed site.
- Sunday School to kick-off September 12
- Installed a new hot water tank on 8/16/21
- Back to School Kits thru CWS will be August 29-Sept 19
- Nominating committee met on 8/18/21 to discuss the openings that need to be filled for the Class of 2022 (Session) and Class of 2024 (Session and Deacons).
- Communion servers requested for September 5th services.
- Soccer Shots to resume using the Fellowship Hall beginning in November

STEWARDSHIP

We will be sending 3rd quarter statements in early October. If you would like a mid-year statement before then, please call the church office and Heather will get you one. Thank you for your continued financial support of WHPC.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

If you have a child in middle school or high school who is interested in joining the church, exploring their faith, and participating in a WHPC confirmation class this fall and winter, please contact the church office to officially sign up, even if you have expressed interested in the past. After we know who is interested we will be asking about availability to schedule our first meeting.

Adults—You can be involved too! We are looking for adults who are mature in their faith and interested in serving as mentor for a confirmation student. Please contact the church office or Pastor Andrew for more information.

Confirmation

PASTOR ANDREW BIBLE STUDY



Pastor Andrew would like to start a Bible Study group this fall (late September/early October).

The plan is to study the Gospel of Luke and then move on into Acts, while exploring a new study technique called verse mapping.

If you are interested, talk with Pastor Andrew and/or keep an eye out for updates. We are still trying to figure out a good date and time.

WEST HEMPFIELD PRESCHOOL

2021/2022 SCHOOL YEAR begins on Monday, September 13

The morning and afternoon sessions will continue on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays until May 19, 2022. We still have openings in both AM & PM classes. We look forward to lots of fun!

Thanks to Linda Simpson and Andrea Tuttoilmondo for their continued service to the children of our community and their families.



We will be hosting our Open House this year on Wednesday, September 8 and you can always visit the preschool website for more information at westhempfieldpreschool.org

FELLOWSHIP



GOLF OUTING SEPTEMBER 19 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 12. \$25 per person, includes lunch and a 9 hole scrambler. Any questions, call Dave Collier 724-864-0129.

MISSION

Following the success of the hygiene kit project, the Mission Committee will be putting together back-to-school kits now through September 19.

You can get a canvas bag and the list of items to put in that bag from the church lobby.

Check out Church World Services at the link below.

<https://cwskits.org/assemble-kits/school-kits/>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Carole Hinkelman	Sept. 1	Shawn Weaver	Sept. 20
Diana Irwin	Sept. 1	Laurie Bookhemier	Sept. 24
Megan Weaver	Sept. 11	Heather Thomas	Sept. 26
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!



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

Blessings to all on a new school year!

Thank you to those who assist
with Sunday worship!
We appreciate your helping hands

Thank you for joining our summer
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.

September 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm	2	3	4
			Mission Meeting, 6:30pm			
5 8:30 & 11:00am Worship Communion	6 Labor Day— Office Closed H.E.L.P Group 5:00pm Dart Ball 7:00pm	7	8 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm	9	10	11
12 8:30 & 11:00am Worship Sunday School kick-off	13 H.E.L.P Group 5:00pm Dart Ball 7:00pm	14 Deacons Meeting, 6:30pm NAMI 7:00pm	15 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm	16	17	18
19 8:30 & 11:00am Worship Sunday School Golf Outing, 1:30pm Madison Club	20 H.E.L.P Group 5:00pm Dart Ball 7:00pm	21 S & F Meeting, 6:30pm	22 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm	23 Session Reports Due	24 Newsletter Deadline	25
26 8:30 & 11:00am Worship Sunday School	27 H.E.L.P Group 5:00pm Dart Ball 7:00pm	28 Session Meeting, 6:30pm	29 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm	30		