



WEST HEMPFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Irwin, PA 15642

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www.westhempfieldpc.org

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

At the end of September I had an opportunity to attend an event for church leaders. The event, which was hosted by Beaver Butler Presbytery, featured author Susan Beaumont presenting information from her book *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going* (more information in the righthand column).

She uses the word *liminal* (derived from an ancient word meaning “the threshold,” the step at the bottom of the doorway that is between the indoors and the outdoors, but is itself neither indoors nor outdoors) to describe a time of change where the present seems unstable and the future is a mystery. It is disorienting, but it holds the potential for many new opportunities. She wrote the book for things like pastoral transitions and building projects, but she believes that the chaotic time that we, our nation, and our world are in right now might be described as a liminal season, too.

In a chaotic time, we naturally want stability and clear answers. Good leadership, however, in a time like this needs to be flexible and open to trust in the Lord.

She talks of surrender, but not in the sense of giving up. In this case surrendering to the situation means humbly acknowledging the difficulty of the moment, acknowledging our own weakness, and trusting that the God who led His people through the wilderness will lead us today as well.

As a metaphor, she told us a story about a boy afraid to walk through the backyard at night with only a flashlight. “This little flashlight cannot illuminate the whole backyard,” the boy told his mother. “It doesn't need to,” she replied, “it only needs to illuminate the next step, ... and then the next, and then the next. One step at a time.”

II Corinthians 5:7 says “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

I also thought of Proverbs 16:9 “In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.”

As we make our plans, never knowing what the future might hold, may we also allow the Lord to establish our steps.

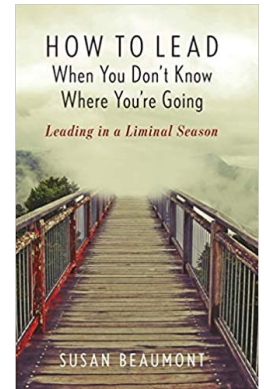
Blessings, Rev. Andrew Wirt

What is Pastor Andrew Reading:

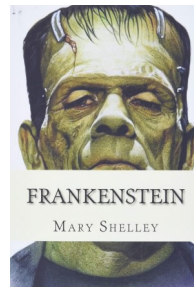
How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going: Leading in a Liminal Season

From the Amazon listing:

In a liminal season —threshold times when the continuity of tradition disintegrates and uncertainty about the future fuels doubt and chaos — it simply is not helpful to pretend we understand what needs to happen next. But leaders can still lead.



How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going is a practical book of hope for tired and weary leaders who risk defining this era of ministry in terms of failure or loss. It helps leaders stand firm in a disoriented state, learning from their mistakes and leading despite the confusion. Packed with rich stories and real-world examples, Beaumont guides the reader through practices that connect the soul of the leader with the soul of the institution.



**For fun, in the month of Halloween,
I'm also reading a classic:**

***Frankenstein*
by Mary Shelley**

The idea was famously conceived by an 18 year old Mary Shelley on holiday with her future husband Percy Byshe Shelley and Lord Byron near Lake Geneva, Switzerland. The three were tasked with writing a ghost story, which resulted in one of the most famous novels to come from the 19th century.

Published anonymously in a three volume series, *Frankenstein* instantly set the standard for a true literary horror and its themes led many to believe it was the first true science fiction novel.

OCTOBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 3 - 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Communion Sunday, Sunday school
OCTOBER 10 - 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Sunday school
OCTOBER 17 - 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Sunday school
OCTOBER 24 - 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Sunday school
OCTOBER 31 - 8:30 AM & 11:00AM, Costume Party between services



*You can listen to the 11:00am service LIVE over the phone
(for instructions, please call the church office)
You can view sermons on YouTube (scan the code on the left)
or visit the church website www.westhempfieldpc.org*

SAVE THESE DATES:

- Costume Party on Sunday, October 31
- Haiti Spaghetti Dinner Drive-Thru November 6
- Thanksgiving Sunday on November 21
- First Sunday of Advent on November 28
- Christmas Eve on Friday, December 24

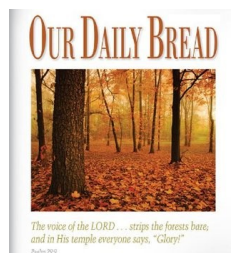


PASTOR ANDREW BIBLE STUDY

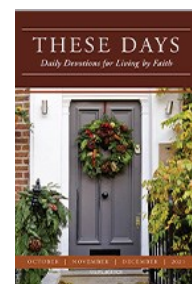


BIBLE STUDY: Pastor Andrew has started a *Bible Study group on Monday evenings at 7:00pm*. (No meeting on Monday, October 11 which is Columbus Day) The plan is to study the Gospel of Luke and then move on into Acts, while exploring a new study technique called verse mapping. You can still join us! Talk with Pastor Andrew or call the office to let us know you are coming!

DEVOTIONALS



WHPC is able to provide anyone with devotionals. Our Daily Bread and These Days. If you are unable to attend church in person and would like a devotional mailed, please email office@westhempfieldpc.org or call the church office at 724-863-1260 and we'd be happy to mail you one or both.



SEPTEMBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church met on September 28, 2021

September Session Highlights

The Session of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church met on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 in the upstairs kitchen at the church.

- Together we covered our church and congregation with prayer, studied the Bible, reviewed all that has been going on, and discussed upcoming events.
- We reflected together on Mark 5:1-20.
- We approved the August minutes and reviewed staff and committee reports.
- Elder Richard Forsyth had attended the Presbytery Meeting on September 21 at Pine Springs Camp and shared his observations.
- The search for a nursery attendant continues, but we have not received any serious applicants.
- The Session reaffirmed the commitment to not rush into filling the position of the church music director. We believe it is important to find the right person, not just the first available person. However, we also hear the congregation's disappointment in continuing recorded music and expressed our own frustrations with it. This discussion led to a few outcomes we are considering:
 - ◇ Changing the job description (responsibilities and salary) from a Music Director and instead beginning a search for a Musician.
 - ◇ In the in-between time, seeking musicians who might be willing to play on individual Sunday and scheduling them to bring live music to our worship even while the staff position remains open.
 - ◇ Requesting again for members of the congregation to consider providing special music for our services, such as an offertory.
- It was shared with the Session that the Cub Scout pack which we sponsor, Pack #261 has officially closed. They were struggling with recruitment, of students and leadership, before COVID and this felt like the appropriate time to disband this pack and support other local packs with their presence. Several things belonging to Pack #261 have been entrusted to the church for safe keeping. There is always a chance that the pack may be restart. In time, we will be talking with members of the church who have Scout experience in sorting through everything.
- Pastor Andrew shared some of what he learned by attending a special event/lecture/workshop with other pastors and presbytery leaders: author Susan Beaumont spoke about her book *How to Lead when You Don't Know Where You're Going: Leading in a Liminal Time*
- Fellowship Hall rentals were discussed.
- Giving Statements will be emailed or mailed early October.



*Plant
Blessings
Harvest
Blessings*



To my WHPC Family,

I have enjoyed meeting so many wonderful people I call family here at WHPC. I have accepted a full-time position and my last day serving the church will be Friday, October 15. I will miss each of you tremendously, this wasn't an easy decision for me. I am grateful for getting to know so many of you and working with all of the staff and committee members. I only wish the best for WHPC and will be praying for you all. Love always, Heather Manhart

SUNDAY SCHOOL TRICK-OR-TREAT



SUNDAY SCHOOL TRICK-OR-TREAT: Join your Sunday school friends on Sunday, **October 31 between services**. Come dressed in your *not-so-scary*, church appropriate Halloween costume and enjoy trick-or-treating in the Fellowship Hall. Each church committee will have a table with treats for the kids! If your child(ren) plan to attend, please let your Sunday school teacher know or call the church office. Bring a friend! Treats, prizes and a craft!

MISSION—FOOD2GO4KIDS

The Food2Go4Kids program will begin packing on **October 6 at 6:30pm and again on October 20 at 6:30pm**. We will be in the Food2Go room off of the Fellowship Hall. The program will return to every other week packing and the elementary school will be distributing the bags on October 8 to the students.

HAITI SPAGHETTI DINNER

DRIVE-THRU ONLY

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, November 6, 2021 from 4:00-6:30 PM

TICKETS: Coming soon! Tickets will be available in the lobby following worship.

COST: Adults..... \$9 Children \$5

MENU: Spaghetti, meatballs, salad, bread, and a beverage

*****DRIVE-THRU ONLY*****DRIVE-THRU ONLY*****



PROCEEDS: We have been able to send \$100 each month to support a school in Haiti, thanks to the fundraising and your on-going generous support. If you are able to help with any event, please contact Arleen Sekely or Jen Mikluscak. Thank you!

MEATBALL MAKING PARTY:

Join us on **Friday, November 5 at 6:00pm** to help prepare for the Spaghetti Dinner. Please come and enjoy some fun and fellowship while helping make this dinner a success.

HAITI MISSION

SHOEBOXES

We will again be sending Christmas shoe boxes to Haiti. During these unprecedented times, we know that it is difficult to commit to anything. However, we ask that you please remember there are other people that may have even greater needs than ours.

If you do not feel comfortable going shopping for items, please feel free to contact the office, Jen or Arleen with a monetary cash donation and let us know what gender and age that you would like to provide a box for.

We are willing to shop for you.

Please visit the table in the lobby for more info.

Deadline is November 14.





OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Joseph Iwinski	October 1	Marge Jessen	October 16
Thomas Mihalko	October 4	Helen Toms	October 17
Wesley MacIntosh	October 5	Elsie Barton	October 20
Rev. Andrew Wirt	October 7	Doug Jessen	October 20
MaryEsther DeTesta	October 10	Cindy Bankosh	October 21
James Crust	October 11	Jan Ober	October 28
Lee Ober	October 13	Brian Pritz	October 29

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



Thank you to those who joined for the Sunday school kick-off.
It was great to welcome everyone back to church.

The Mission Committee thanks you for supporting their back to school kits project. We received 46 kits and \$85 in donations. Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you to our WHPC golfers! The Fellowship Golf Outing was a success. Congrats to Judy & Helen on your winnings!

During a time like this we realize how much our friends and relatives really mean to us.... Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered.

Albert Balister
Family

Thanks to all who came out to help with the building committees clean up day.
The outside looks beautiful!

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.

October 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 8:30 & 11:00am Worship Sunday School Communion	4 H.E.L.P Group 5:00pm Dart Ball 7:00pm Bible Study, 7:00pm	5	6 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm Food2Go Packing 6:30pm	7	8	9
10 8:30 & 11:00am Worship Sunday School	11 H.E.L.P Group 5:00pm Dart Ball 7:00pm No Bible Study	12 Deacons Meeting, 6:30pm NAMI 7:00pm	13 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm	14	15	16
17 8:30 & 11:00am Worship Sunday School	18 H.E.L.P Group 5:00pm Dart Ball 7:00pm Bible Study, 7:00pm	19 S & F Meeting, 6:30pm	20 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm Food2Go Packing 6:30pm	21 Session Reports Due	22 Newsletter Deadline	23
24 8:30 & 11am Worship	25 H.E.L.P Group 5:00pm Dart Ball 7:00pm Bible Study, 7:00pm	26 Session Meeting, 6:30pm	27 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm	28	29	30
31 8:30 & 11am Worship Costume Party						