



WEST HEMPFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
8 West Hempfield Drive
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www.westhempfieldpc.org

July

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

There's certainly a lot of news happening right now. War in Ukraine continues. "Historic Heat Wave". Flooding in one region, drought in another. Rising fuel costs. "Pride Month" coming to a close. Me too. Church too. Stories of abuse in churches by trusted leaders and the exposed plans to quiet and cover it all up. Mass shootings in grocery stores, churches, and schools. President, legislators, and Supreme Court all talking about 2nd Amendment rights in different contexts with different outcomes. Investigations and hearings on January 6, 2021. Roe v Wade. Immigration. Corona virus—testing, medications, and vaccines.

It's hard to keep up!

Am I supposed to be happy about the latest headline ... or angry?

Is it time for celebration or outrage?

Why do family members, friends, and neighbors have different responses?

Are those on the other side of an issue my enemy? Are they evil? Are they destroying the church? The country? The world?

How can we still be friends if we disagree?

Whoa! Let's slow down a minute.

For just a moment, imagine that I (Pastor Andrew) am the one who supports an idea opposing yours, whatever that may be.

You know me. I've been with you at WHPC for 4 years now. I'm not evil, and I'm not your enemy.

Maybe I don't know as much as you do about the topic. Maybe I know everything you know, even agree with you, but I prioritize some part differently than you do which leads me to a different conclusion.

Maybe I'm misinformed. Or maybe there is actually some grey area to the topic that neither of us want to acknowledge. Should that make us enemies?

At the 8:30am service on June 19 (you might have missed it because the 11am service was our VBS Celebration, but the sermon is available on the church YouTube channel) we talked about Naaman, who was an actual enemy to God's people—in the literal sense; he was a military commander of an opposing nation.

God's prophet Elisha wouldn't even meet the man. But God did. When Naaman followed the instructions from God, God healed him.

In Luke chapter 4 Jesus references this story about Naaman when talking about God's love for everyone, not any singular group. Being "right" does not grant any special privileges.

The Bible does not hide Naaman's villain status. It does not attempt to present him as a heart of gold in a bad situation, nor offer any other justifications.

He was on the wrong side, an enemy, likely directly or indirectly caused the death of God's people; AND, he was deserving of compassion, kindness, and healing.

When the news—and debates about the news—gets crazy, remember that we are called by the God who identifies as Love (I John 4:8 *God is Love*) to resist demonizing those we disagree with and are commanded to love our enemies.

"Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." — Martin Luther King, Jr.

Blessings, Rev. Andrew Wirt

Office Hours

The church office is open
Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
9:00AM—2:00PM
*except for holidays

JULY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

July 3 - Worship 8:30AM & 11:00AM, Communion

July 10 - Worship 8:30AM & 11:00AM

July 17 - Worship 8:30AM & 11:00AM

July 24 - Worship 8:30AM & 11:00AM

July 31 - Worship 8:30 AM 11:00AM Outdoor Worship & Church Picnic



AT-HOME WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

There are several ways to worship with WHPC ...

- You can listen to the service LIVE over the phone at 11:00AM (for instructions, please call the church office)
- You can watch the sermon video on YouTube, the church website & Facebook – www.facebook.com/westhempfieldpresbyterian
- If you would like to see the full service video, call the church office.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP



Bring your own chair and join us for worship!

We are planning to have outdoor worship services again this summer after the success we had last year. Worship under the shade of the trees between the church and the elementary school at 11AM on the last Sunday of each summer month (weather permitting)

June 26, July 31, and August 28

CHURCH PICNIC

JULY 31 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. Sign-up in the lobby.

EVERYONE IS INVITED!

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



MAY & JUNE SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church met on Tuesday, May 31, 2022

Everyone was present as we gathered in the lobby to cover our church, congregation, and community with prayer and review all that has been going on with the church and the world.

- Approved Session minutes from April 2022
- Reviewed reports from the clerk, pastor, treasurer, deacons, presbytery, and WHPC committees
- Discussed possible plans for emergency absence of the pastor on a Sunday morning (such as positive COVID test, family emergency, or hospitalization) - purely precautionary, but good to be prepared
- Building Committee - discussed Arona Road sign property, frustrations over difficulty replacing church vacuum, and options for sanctuary AC units
- Worship - discussed health of sanctuary projectors; approved outdoor 11am services on June 26, July 31, and August 28 weather permitting (8:30 service on those dates will continue as usual in sanctuary); approved Back to School Blessings and Prayer service to begin planning and advertise with VBS families
- Gift of Girl Scout cookies will be used for coffee hour on Sunday, June 19
- Meeting closed with prayer

The Session of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church met on Tuesday, June 28, 2022

A few elders were out of town, but a quorum was present as we gathered in the lobby 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 using the daily entry from *These Days* devotional (copies available in the church lobby at no cost to you)
- Approved Session minutes from May 2022
- Reviewed reports from the clerk, pastor, treasurer, deacons, and WHPC committees
- Reviewed church Sexual Misconduct and Child Safety Policies
- Building Committee - new commercial vacuum finally arrived! Sanctuary AC units need to be replaced—bids have been received and final decision will be made next month, but we will have to make do with the heat and possibly the sound of extra fans for this summer
- Approved scholarship application of Thomas Mihalko, headed to Penn State University in the fall
- Meeting closed with prayer

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

It has been almost five years since the last church directory was printed. Some families have moved and we also have had new families join us. Photos will be taken this fall. When the dates for pictures have been set, it will be printed in the announcements for everyone to set up a time for their family.



CHRISTMAS IN JULY



Sunday, July 24, 2022 WHPC will celebrate Christmas in July at both worship services! This was a fun and meaningful event last year and we are looking forward to doing it again!

We are looking for people who are willing to help read. If would like to help, please contact Richard Forsyth.

DEACONS

If anyone would like to come to church, but is in need of a ride, please contact the church office to let us know. There are several deacons who are willing to help.



CHURCH COMMUNICATION



Praise God in the Beauty of God's Creation

Worship under the shade of the trees
between the church and the elemen-
tary school at 11AM this Sunday
(weather permitting)

Did you receive a "Special Event" email reminder like this one before June's outdoor worship service?

Do you want to receive them in the future?

Visit westhempfieldpc.org/subscribe
to get on the list!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------|---------------------|---------|
| Kelly Smith | July 3 | 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!*

WEEKLY PRAYER AND PRAISE EMAIL



We have an email prayer list that the church has been sending out each Tuesday through our new Constant Contact program.

Visit westhempfieldpc.org/subscribe to get on the list!

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.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

WHPC Presbyterian Women Association has put their meetings and organization on hiatus, but they have not closed.

Together PWA and the Fellowship Committee wanted to let everyone know that they are still here to support members of the church community in times of need, especially around the time of death of a loved one. The Fellowship Committee has committed to helping the PWA in hosting funeral luncheons, if one is requested.

NURSERY ATTENDANT

Now hiring! If you or someone you know is interested in caring for our church family's children during the 8:30 & 11:00am worship services, please call the church office.

The hours for the nursery attendant are 8:15-12:15.



Another BIG THANK YOU
to the Christian Ed.
Committee. The flowers I
found on my desk were
beautiful!

And the Target gift card was
another surprise! It is so
awesome the way you all
show your appreciation.

Blessings again to you all for
your generosity and
kindness!

Sincerely, Lisa



Very good to hear from
you!

Hope you and all of our
church family are well.

The south is nice, but it's
not home.

We went from Yinz to
y'all!

Hello to everyone!

~Tom and Anita Toth

The Christian Ed. Committee

Would like to thank all the
volunteers that helped make
VBS a wonderful success!



Thank you to our
church Counters –
counting, recording,
and depositing the
church offerings each
week. Your WHPC
family appreciates all
that you do for us.



Office closed Monday,
July 4th,
Will be open Tuesday,
July 5th

WEST HEMPFIELD PRESCHOOL

The 2022/2023 Preschool Year will begin on Monday, September 12.
There will be an Open House on Wednesday, September 7. There are still
openings for the afternoon class.

Find out more about registration on our website
www.westhempfieldpreschool.org



July 2022

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|-------------------------------|--|-----|-----|
| | | | Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 8:30 & 11:00am Worship Communion |  Office Closed | 5 Office open today 9:00 am-2pm | 6 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 8:30 & 11:00am Worship | 11 H.E.L.P. Group 5:00pm | 12 Deacons Mtg. 6:30 NAMI 7:00pm | 13 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 8:30am 11:00 Worship | 18 H.E.L.P. Group 5:00pm | 19 Stewardship & Finance Meeting 6:30pm | 20 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm | 21 Newsletter Deadline Session Reports Due | 22 | 23 |
| 24 8:30 & 11:00am worship 31 Outdoor worship & church picnic | 25 H.E.L.P. Group 5:00pm | 26 Session Meeting 6:30pm | 27 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm | 28 | 29 | 30 |