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

In the July article we talked about Naaman — a villain, an enemy, who did not follow God, who held at least one Israelite as a slave.

Naaman had leprosy. Our expectations might lead us to say something like: “Rightly so! That’s what happens to sinners who reject God. They are punished. Blessings are for those who follow God.”

Against all our expectations, however, God had compassion for Naaman and healed him of his leprosy.

Now, you might say, “Sure, sure, that’s God. God can do whatever God wants. But we have to be obedient. We have to stand up for what is right and true. We can love our enemies and still punish evil, not reward it. Tough love, right?”

God showed compassion to Naaman, but Elisha didn’t go out to meet him.

When others are wrong, is it our responsibility to correct them? To ignore them? To punish them?

Doesn’t Jesus say “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault” (Matthew 18:15)?

But, of course, Jesus also famously said “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone.”

Let’s look at another couple of Old Testament stories and see if we can find an example of how we, as God’s people, are to treat others.

Genesis 18:16-33 & Jonah 4

God tells Abraham, basically, “In the next chapter I am going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah.”

There’s a lot going on in these cities, but Scripture tells us “Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy.” (Ezekiel 16:49)

Yes, they deserved punishment. Abraham knew this. So what did he do?

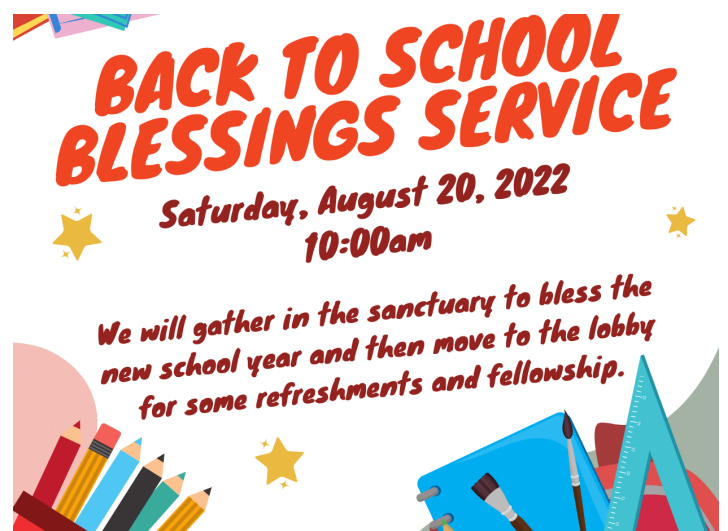
In our other story, when Jonah thinks God is going to destroy Ninevah, he gets himself a seat with a view and makes some popcorn. (Jonah 4:5)

Abraham, however, begged God to spare them!

And God reprimands Jonah for his behavior.

A little humility in any disagreement will remind us that there is always the possibility that we are the one who is wrong and maybe we can learn something from the other person. But even when we are confident in our own position, like Abraham, we can pray for mercy and salvation for others. We may find that it is harder to hate and easier to love, even our enemies, when we are praying for their well being.

Blessings, Rev. Andrew Wirt



AUGUST IN-PERSON WORSHIP SCHEDULE

AUGUST 7 - 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Communion Sunday

AUGUST 14- 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

AUGUST 21 - 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

AUGUST 28 - 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Outdoor Worship
(weather permitting)



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

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

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

*Join us for our last summer Outdoor Worship on Sunday
August 28 at 11:00am.*



Bring your own chair and join us!
The 8:30 service will be indoors as usual.

SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF

Summer break has been fun, but we miss Sunday School!

Our Sunday School teachers are excited to welcome students back this fall. Mark your calendars. Sunday School kick-off will be September 11, 2022 with fun, games and snacks. Regular Sunday School classes will begin September 18th!

WEST HEMPFIELD PRESCHOOL



WHPC Preschool is currently accepting registration for the school year 2022-2023. 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. *School starts Monday, September 12th!*

CONFIRMATION CLASS



CONFIRMATION!!

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, please contact the church office. We were not able to make this happen last year, but we are hoping this is the year! Format has not yet been determined, so we can be flexible. Let us know your availability, and any questions you may have, and your hopes for the program.

Adults of the church—if you are interested in serving as a mentor for one of our confirmation students, praying for them, and attending class with them, please contact the church office. Thank you!

JULY SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church met on July 26, 2022

Elders gathered in the lobby, but with busy summers and some illnesses, we only had half our regular group. We still had our meeting to cover the church, congregation, and community in prayer and review all that has been going on with the church and the world, but we did not have enough people to make any official decisions.

- Opened with prayer at 6:30pm
- The largest part of our conversation was about church finances.
We have reached the point where it will be necessary to withdraw from church savings to meet the general budget. This was predicted when we wrote the 2022 budget as we have not fully recovered from COVID losses and there will be no more Payroll Protection Loans/Grants to help offset those losses.
An email vote will formally approve this transfer of funds.
The church has the funds; this is not an emergency, but it is a situation that should be taken seriously.
Sanctuary air conditioners are still non-functioning and will require members to support the project if we are to replace them.
Pastor Andrew believes he sees God's Hand at work in this and spoke of the "Opportunity in this Challenge." He will talk some more with church leadership and then share more details with the congregation soon.
- WHPC Golf Outing is scheduled for August 28 in the afternoon.
- Mission Committee will be organizing a spaghetti dinner for Haiti in September, details not yet finalized.
- WHPC will help Adamsburg Fire Department with filing some paperwork to receive a grant for their Project Breathe Clean. The church will not be making a direct donation (beyond our annual budgeted gift), but by endorsing them in this paperwork, we can help them receive a \$5000 grant.
- Next Session meeting is scheduled for August 23.
- The September meeting would regularly be on September 27, however this conflicts with

MISSION

Mission Committee is working on scheduling a Spaghetti Dinner in September to support our Haiti mission. Keep an eye out for more information coming soon. Thank you for all of your support over the years!

SCHOLARSHIP

Best wishes to Thomas Mihalko on his continued education. The church is honored to support him with the Watson scholarship. *Congratulations!!*



OUTREACH

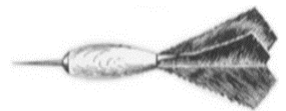
BACK-TO-SCHOOL BLESSING & BREAKFAST



Whether your child or grandchild is going to preschool or off to college, we want to lift them up and ask for their protection, your wisdom, and patience for all. Join us on *Saturday, August 20 at 10:00AM* in the Sanctuary with Scripture and prayer.

DART BALL

Join your church friends for a fun night out! Dart Ball will begin around the end of August. They play every Monday at 7:00pm. If you have an interest in playing, please call Gil Sekely at 724-446-7321



FELLOWSHIP



GOLF OUTING August 28, 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 August 21. The cost will be approximately \$35 per person, includes lunch and a 9 hole scrambler. Any questions, call Dave Collier 724-864-0129.

New Church Directory

It is time to update our church directory!

Outreach will be meeting with Church Consultant from Universal Church Directories on August 30th to gather and finalize details.

The church will be sending out marketing materials in early August.

We have booked October 17, 2022 from 2-8:30pm for our photographs.

Keep an eye out for a sign-up sheet to claim your window for pictures!

Our goal is 25 families signed up for photographs. (If we do not have the 25 households there is still no charge for the setup, but there will be no free books made available.)

We will also be looking for volunteers to staff the day as greeters.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Anthony Hladek	Aug 2	Ruth Moore	Aug 25
Arleen Sekely	Aug 8	Carol Williamson	Aug 28
Jacob Iwinski	Aug 14	Robert Mihalko	Aug 30
Bob Randolph	Aug 17	Mia Randolph	Aug 30
Laurie Bartko	Aug 24	Linda Simpson	Aug 31

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



A BIG thank you to Rich Forsyth for leading the service on July 17th. Pastor Andrew was away and our scheduled guest speaker couldn't make it. Great job Rich!

Thank you to the readers and screen operators for helping to make another successful Christmas in July service.

Church Picnic... The Deacons thank all who attended, helped with set-up, clean-up and we hope you enjoyed some Fellowship time with your WHPC family.

Looking forward to more fun fellowship time!

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.



August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 H.E.L.P Group 5:00pm	2	3 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm	4	5	6
7 8:30 & 11:00am Worship	8 H.E.L.P Group 5:00pm	9 Deacons Meeting, 6:30pm NAMI 7:00pm	10 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm	11	12	13
14 8:30 & 11:00am Worship	15 H.E.L.P Group 5:00pm	16 S & F Meeting, 6:30pm	17 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm	18 Session Reports Due	19	20 Back-to-school Blessings Service 10:00am
21 8:30 & 11:00am Worship	22 H.E.L.P Group 5:00pm	23 Session Meeting, 6:30pm	24 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm Newsletter Deadline	25	26	27
28 8:30am Indoor Worship 11:00am Outdoor Worship Golf Outing 1:30	329 H.E.L.P Group 5:00pm	30	31 Senior Cards 11-2:30pm			