



August

WEST HEMPFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

I was recently talking with some folks at church about inviting new people to worship and we agreed it feels harder than it used to.

Still, one thing hasn't changed: when asked why they attend a church, the most common answer is that someone invited them. And when they came, they felt welcomed.

We hear similar stories at WHPC. Members who joined in the '60s and '70s often say, "Rev. Ibach knocked on our door and invited us."

In the '80s and '90s: "We lived nearby, stopped in one Sunday, and saw someone we knew," or "Someone sat with us and was so kind and they became a friend."

In more recent years: "We brought our kids, or grandkids, to an event. Everyone was so warm, we decided to try a Sunday morning."

The details change over time. These days, you can't knock on a stranger's door without risking being reported to the police as a trespasser (or worse), and people don't just wander into a nearby church like they once did. Many no longer feel tied to "local;" they are willing to travel further and prioritize other things. Also, especially post-COVID, Sunday habits have shifted. Some watch online. Others are simply out of the habit of worship on Sunday mornings. And after years of declining church attendance, many didn't grow up going to church and just aren't sure where to begin.

That's why digital tools have become so important. Livestreams and videos allow people to join from wherever they are. Social media, an up-to-date website, emails, and texts help people stay

connected beyond Sunday mornings. For many, online has become the new "front door."

But even in our ever increasingly online world, nothing replaces a personal touch. A kind word. A friendly face. A simple invitation.

So invite someone. Invite a friend. Make a new one and invite them too. Volunteer at an event. Smile and say hello. Be the connection someone else is looking for. Be the friendly person someone else will tell stories about years from now.

Events are still one of the best ways to welcome new people: VBS, the Car Cruise, Spaghetti Dinners, Back-to-School Blessings.

If you know someone heading back to school this fall, why not invite them to worship with us on Sunday, August 17!

Blessings, Rev. Andrew Wirt

West Hempfield
Presbyterian Church
Prays for Students,
Teachers,
School Employees,
and Families

**BACK TO SCHOOL
BLESSINGS SERVICE**

**Sunday, August 17, 2025
10:00am**

*We will gather in the sanctuary to bless the
new school year as part of our regular
Sunday worship.*

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COMMUNION



We will be celebrating communion together as a part of our worship service on Sunday, August 3, 2025, at 10:00am



OUTDOOR WORSHIP

The weather did not cooperate for our Outdoor Worship in July.

We are trying again!

*Join us for our
Outdoor Worship on
Sunday August 31 at
10:00am.*

Bring your own chair
and join us!



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 7, 2025, with fun, games, and snacks.

Regular Sunday School classes will begin September 14th!



BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSINGS SERVICE

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.

We will celebrate the start of a new school year and offer blessings and encouragement to our students and local schools **during worship on August 17, 2025**. We will also have a small gift for each student present.

This year, we are inviting your help. We would like you to consider donating some school supplies. There is a collection bin by the entrance to the sanctuary. We will take whatever is donated and sort them into gift bags for the students. (So it will be a surprise for everyone!) Leftovers will be used in Sunday School or donated to WHE.

Join us on **Sunday, August 17 at 10:00AM**. We will gather in the sanctuary to bless the new school year as part of our regular Sunday worship this year.



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 had an awesome group last time, with 4 students joining the church in 2023.

Let us know your availability, any questions you may have, and your hopes for the program.

WORSHIP FLOWERS

There are still a lot of dates available on the flower calendar for the remainder of 2025.

If you would like to provide flowers for a Sunday service, please call the office and let us know the date you are able to do.

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



PRESBYTERY MEETING

Planning Ahead

West Hempfield Presbyterian Church has agreed to host the **September 23** Meeting of Redstone Presbytery.

We will be looking for volunteers to help welcome and direct people at the start of the meeting, late afternoon and early evening.

If you are willing to help, for now please mark your calendar and watch for a sign-up sheet in the lobby toward the end of August.

More details will be available soon.

JULY SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church met on Tuesday, July 29, 2025

We gathered at the church to cover our church, congregation, and community with prayer and review all that has been going on with the church and the world.

- Approved minutes from June Session meeting
- Reviewed reports from WHPC staff and committees
- Confirmed dates for upcoming events
- Reviewed rentals
- Had a great conversation with church musician Thomas Lalor about the possibility of a evening community hymn sing event
- Discussed RightNow Media as a curriculum option
- Reviewed the plan for some roof repairs to be done by TMR Roofing
- Discussed the unfortunate reality of the heat absorption properties of our red brick structure in a hot summer like this one, as it leads to constantly running AC units while some rooms remain 80 degrees and others drop to 65 degrees. It will balance back out as outside temperatures come back down.

Next scheduled Session meeting will be Tuesday, August 26, 2025.

MISSION COMMITTEE

August 12, 2025 at 6:30pm

This year we have been trying out a plan to bring our Mission Committee and Deacons community support together. We do a lot of things under the umbrella of Missions and partnering that with the Deacons allows us to unite efforts and bring more people/volunteers to our work.

About once per quarter our regularly scheduled Deacons meeting (2nd Tuesday of the month) becomes a Mission Committee meeting.

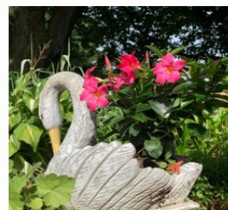
The Meeting will start at 6:30pm with the Mission Committee Meeting, mainly talking about our partnerships with WHE as we prepare for the start of a new school year.

Anyone and everyone who is interested is invited to join.

A brief Deacons Meeting will follow after we finish with the Missions Meeting.



**Outdoor
Worship**
Aug. 31, 2025
10:00 am



**Praise God in
the Beauty of
God's Creation**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

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

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



Thank you to the many people who were involved with making our Car Cruise possible!

Thank you to Richard Forsyth, Jen MacIntosh, Dave Collier, and Helen Toms for helping to make another successful Christmas in July service.
~ Worship Committee

Thank you to everyone who donated baskets for the Car Cruise Chinese Auction. Auction tickets often bring in more funds than any other part of our fundraisers.

Thank you to the worship committee for wonderful treats and a time of fellowship after worship on July 6.

Dear VBS participants and parishioners,

We at the Bountiful Bowl Pet Food Pantry would like to thank you

from the bottom of our hearts for your generous donation of \$255. It has come at such a wonderful time as our food supply for dogs was depleted during our June 7th distribution. The need for assistance with pet food is great and we truly are blessed to be able to continue this ministry. Without your generous donation and others like you, we would not be able to continue.

Many Blessings,
Dawn Wright
Founder



A Great Church Picnic!

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h1>August 2025</h1>					1 <i>FH—Rental</i>	2
3 10am Worship w/ communion	4	5	6 Senior Cards 11am	7	8 <i>FH—Rental</i>	9
10 10am Worship	11 <i>Upstairs Rental</i>	12 Deacons Meeting	13 Senior Cards 11am <i>Upstairs Rental</i>	14	15 <i>FH—Rental</i>	16
17 10am Worship Back to School Blessings	18	19 Stewardship (Zoom)	20 Senior Cards 11am <i>Upstairs Rental</i>	21	22 <i>FH—Rental</i>	23
24 10am Worship	25 <i>Upstairs Rental</i>	26 Session Meeting	27 Senior Cards 11am <i>Upstairs Rental</i>	28	29 <i>FH—Rental</i>	30
31 10am Outdoor Worship					<u>Church Office Hours</u> Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10am — 1pm	