



July 2025

WEST HEMPFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8 West Hempfield Drive

Irwin, PA 15642

724-863-1260

www.westhempfieldpc.org

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

Our VBS theme last month was Road Trip, and it was fantastic! Thank you to everyone who donated and loaned the church decorations, props, and supplies!

As we are planning for July, I am thinking of the Christmas in July service and the Christmas story.

Mary and Joseph have a few road trips themselves throughout the story. VBS talked about Mary going to visit Elizabeth. Mary and Joseph, of course, travel to Bethlehem. Later, after being warned by the wise men, they travel to Egypt, and eventually back to Nazareth.

Inspired by so many Christmas cards we might imagine those as lonely journeys. However, as Luke 2:41-52



tells the story of Jesus as a young boy being left behind at the temple, verse 44 reminds us that often such travel at that time was more of a caravan of friends and family.

Luke 2:44 Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends.

In sermons over the last year, we've talked a few times about how today's world can be quite isolating, how family dinner tables and dining rooms are disappearing in modern home designs, and how many people feel lonely despite their online connections.

God designed us for community. God calls us to support, encourage, and walk with one another through life's joys and struggles. Praying for one another, supporting each other, and lifting one another up in love.

Our church community reminds us that we are never alone. This month's newsletter is full of opportunities to connect. Conversations over cookies and coffee after church on communion Sundays or sharing a table at the annual church picnic (page 2). Joining our voices in song during worship (page 3). Sharing a ride or checking the prayer list (page 4). Supporting our kids, families, and students (page 5). Celebrating together our joys (page 6).

We grow stronger when we lean on each other.

Ecclesiastes 4:12 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

If you're feeling disconnected, reach out. Talk with the pastor, a deacon, or a person near you in the pews. We're here for you.

In Christ, we find not only a Savior, but a family. Let's journey together.

Blessings, Rev. Andrew Wirt



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COMMUNION

We will be celebrating communion together as a part of our worship service on Sunday, July 6, 2025 at 10:00am

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Sunday, July 20, 2025 WHPC will celebrate "Christmas in July" at our 10:00am service! This has become a fun and meaningful event and we are looking forward to doing it again!



Worship Schedule

- 7/6 - 10 AM Worship w/ Communion
- 7/13 - 10 AM Worship
- 7/20 - 10 AM Worship "Christmas in July"
- 7/27 - 10 AM Worship Outdoor Worship

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Bring your own chair and join us for worship!

Worship under the shade of the trees between the church and the elementary school at 10AM on the last Sunday of July and August (weather permitting)

Dates:

July 27 and August 31



ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

**JULY 27 FOLLOWING 10:00 AM
OUTDOOR WORSHIP**

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 Pastor Andrew
- ◇ Bring a folding chair for outdoor seating





Outdoor Worship

July 27, 2025
10:00 am

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

ANNUAL CAR CRUISE



**Saturday, July 26, 2025
11am-4pm
WHPC Rear Parking Lot***

*due to construction project at WHE

**Music — Food —
Chinese Auction — Dash Plaques**

Supporting West Hempfield Presbyterian Church
and the programs supporting students at
West Hempfield Elementary School

Indoor and Outdoor Vendor Spaces Available!

CAR CRUISE PLANNING MEETING

There will be a planning meeting for the
Annual Car Cruise on Sunday, July 13 at
6pm in the lobby.

In addition to volunteers, we are also
seeking donations of baskets and gift
cards for the Chinese auction.



LOOKING FOR FAVORITE HYMNS

What's your favorite hymn?

We'd love to know which songs of
faith inspire and uplift you.

Preferably from our hymnal, but it
doesn't have to be.

Find the board by the coffee station
in the lobby and add your favorite
title (with number from the hymnal if
you know it).

Help us with music selections for
Sunday mornings. We will try to
incorporate all suggestions this
summer and fall.

WEST HEMPFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHOIR

Our new church musician, Thomas
Lalor, is looking for a few people
who love to sing.

Join our church choir!

We're looking for voices of all kinds
to lead our congregation in joyful
worship. Help lead hymns on Sunday
mornings, and maybe an occasional
anthem / special music.

No prior experience needed—just a
willing heart and a love for music.

Come make a joyful noise unto the
Lord! Contact the office or
talk with Thomas today to
learn more or sign up.



MAY / JUNE SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church met on Tuesday, June 3, 2025

We gathered in the upstairs kitchen 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 April Session meeting
- Approved the Back to School Blessings Service to once again be a part of an August Sunday morning worship
- Reviewed reports from WHPC staff and committees
- Discussed the budget and financial situation of the church
- Discussed repairs needed to the flat roof and shingle over the Fellowship Hall
- Discussed need to evaluate some trees on the property
- At the recommendation of Fellowship Committee, designated church's proceeds from the July Car Cruise to roof repair
- Discussed need for office volunteers while Pastor Andrew is on vacation in late June
- Closed with prayer

Next scheduled Session meeting will be Tuesday, July 22, 2025.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

WHPC Presbyterian Women Association has put their meetings and organization on hiatus, but they have not closed. One of their biggest roles, providing care and compassion, will always continue.

Together PWA, Deacons, 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.

Contact the office for support or with any questions.

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 EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS

The church sends out an email prayer list* each Tuesday, a weekly newsletter email each Friday (*this monthly newsletter chopped up into four parts*), occasion special event news, and committee reminders. Are you on the list?



Click/Scan the QR code or visit westhempfieldpc.org/subscribe to sign up or to make any changes to which emails you receive.

**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.*

BIG VBS THANK YOU



We would like to thank all the members of WHPC and the family and friends of all of the travelers for making our VBS Road Trip an awesome week.

Scout and I had fun sharing God's love and adventures with all the kids.

We had 26 helpers and 28 kids.

Our 2 mission projects were a huge success collecting food for Bountiful Bowl Pet Food Pantry, and the change collected was for Bountiful Bowl Pet Food Pantry and The Fisher's Furry Friends of PA. The kids collected \$353.55 for the week and the congregation donated \$300.50. So the total to be split between the two groups was \$654.05.

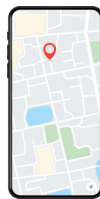


We would like to also thank the members for all their donations. Whether it was monetary or items needed. And a big thank you to the ladies for providing cookies for the Sunday program. We could not have had such a great week without all of your help.


Thanks for making this VBS a trip to remember!



Navigator Mary Esther and Scout



**BACK TO SCHOOL
BLESSINGS SERVICE -
SEEKING DONATIONS**



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 always like to have a small gift for the students who join us for the Back to School Blessings Service.

This year, we are asking for your help. School supplies are on sale in several places right now. If you are interested, we would like you to consider purchasing and 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.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Kelly Smith	July 3
Hudson Pritz	July 7
Madison Cameron	July 13
Sarah Mikluscak	July 14
Becky Collier	July 18
Ruth Lutz	July 19
Tom Toth	July 20
Barbara St. Antoine	July 24
Johnny Bankosh	July 25
Caleb Mikluscak	July 26
Pat Jones	July 31

*If you have a July birthday,
and we've missed you –*

PLEASE, let the office know!



Dear West
Hempfield Pres,

Thank you for everything you do for Traveling Day Camp! All the snacks were great and the week went so well! You are the best!

Pine Springs Camp



Thank you to Christian Ed Committee for refreshments on VBS Sunday, June 15.

And thank you to Worship Committee for refreshments after church on July 6.

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.



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

Sarah Gambino graduated in December 2024 (she did the May ceremony in 2025) from ASU with a degree in Business with a focus on Business Law.

We celebrated our graduates and awarded Bibles to rising 5th grades during worship on Sunday, June 8, 2025.



July 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>Church Office Hours</u> Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10am – 1pm		1	2 Senior Cards 11am <i>FH—Rental</i>	3	4 Independence Day Office Closed <i>Happy Birthday America</i> 	5
6 10am Worship	7	8 Deacons Meeting	9 Senior Cards 11am <i>FH—Rental</i>	10	11 <i>FH—Rental</i>	12
13 10am Worship	14 <i>Upstairs Rental</i>	15 Stewardship (Zoom)	16 Senior Cards 11am <i>FH—Rental</i>	17	18 <i>FH—Rental</i>	19
20 10am Worship Christmas in July 	21	22 Session Meeting	23 Senior Cards 11am <i>FH—Rental</i>	24	25 <i>FH—Rental</i>	26 Car Cruise
27 10am Outdoor Worship Church Picnic	28	29	30 Senior Cards 11am	31		