



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!

On Sunday, May 3, we will be starting our sermon series to prepare for and promote Vacation Bible School.

At **Snowball Mountain Challenge VBS** our student “challengers” are invited to an exciting winter sports event where they will gear up for frosty games, snowy surprises, and hands-on lessons about resilience and faith.

Snowball Mountain Challenge VBS is based around the “Mountain Motto” from Philippians 4:13 – *I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*

The kids will be guided daily by the energetic Activities Director and the lovable Ollie the Arctic Seal puppet, who is reporting on the events. Challengers aren’t just playing games. Using their “Challenge Companion” (the Bible), they will learn to draw strength from their faith through powerful stories, while connecting the learnings to Bible Stories.

Each daily “Lift Lesson” will tie our May sermons together as we prepare for Snowball Mountain Challenge.

Mile Markers

Genesis 40:1-41:45

Joseph Interprets Dreams
I can share my gifts!

Esther 3:7-8:8

Esther Shows Courage
I can be brave!



Mark 12:41-44

The Widow's Offering
I can give my all!

Matthew 26:36-46

Jesus Prays in the Garden
I can pray!

**FIND
 YOUR
 STRENGTH
 IN GOD**

Acts 3:1-10

Peter and John at the Temple
I can hope!

Register for VBS:



westhempfieldpc.org/vbs-2026

WORSHIP

5/3 - 10:45 AM Worship
w/ Communion
(9:30AM Sunday School)

5/10 - Mother's Day
10:45 AM Worship
(9:30AM Sunday School)

5/17 - 10:45 AM Worship
(9:30AM Sunday School)

5/24 - 10:45 AM Worship

5/31 - 10:45 AM Worship

COMMUNION

We will be celebrating communion together as a part of our worship service on Sunday, May 3, 2026! All are welcome at the Lord's Table!

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

We will have a special gift for all mothers, grandmothers, and motherly women of the church on Sunday, May 10.



MARCH SESSION SUMMARY

The Session of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church met on Tuesday, March 31, 2026

We gathered 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 - These Days - I Peter 1:3
- "Elder Training" in the form of conversation about national trends in church statistics & recognizing and honoring signs of growth and success in more than just Sunday attendance numbers
- Approved minutes from February Session meeting
- Reviewed reports from WHPC staff and committees
- Confirmed dates for upcoming events including: Church Picnic, July 26 & Car Cruise, August 15 (changed from July because of conflict with another big car cruise in the area)
- Discussed a special gift to be used for advertising WHPC event(s)
- Approved rental requests
- Reviewed calendar of upcoming events and rentals
- Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Next Scheduled meeting (the April Session meeting) will be Tuesday, May 5, 2026.

(Many regular Session dates this year had to be rescheduled/delayed this year due to Presbytery events)

CHRISTIAN ED

THANK YOU! We held our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sat. March 28. The rain stopped just in time for our hunt! The students who braved the chance of rain had a wonderful time collecting eggs and received a treat bag with a craft, snacks, and a coloring book.

GLORY GOLD: The last Sunday School before Summer Break will be May 17. The students will have a little party and purchase prizes with their Glory Gold from throughout the school year.

BIBLES FOR CHILDREN: If your child will be moving up from 4th to 5th grade, We would like to gift them a Bible from the church. Please let the office know or any Christian Ed Committee member. Pass the word!

CE/VBS PLANNING MEETING

The CE committee will be having a VBS planning meeting soon. Mary Esther DeTesta is working on finding antime that will work best for our volunteers. Anyone interested in helping with VBS this June is invited and should talk with her, if you have not already.

Reminder: Any adults working with kids need to have up-to-date clearances.

VBS

**WHPC VBS will be
June 15-19
from 6 to 8PM**

and our theme will be
Snowball Mountain Challenge
A winter sports theme!



Registration is open and available on the church website
westhempfieldpc.org/vbs-2026

The CE Committee is in search of volunteers who would like to participate in Vacation Bible School.

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, please contact Mary Esther DeTesta or the church office.



MISSION COMMITTEE

We will have a Mission Committee meeting on Tuesday, May 19, at 6:30PM in the lobby, followed by the Deacons Meeting. Anyone interested is invited to join us.

Please note that this is a schedule change to the 3rd Tuesday of the month, rather than our usual 2nd Tuesday.

BUILDING COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER WORK DAY

The Building Committee is organizing a volunteer work day on Saturday, May 23, from 9am to 12 noon. We invite you to roll up your sleeves and join us for a day filled with pulling weeds and planting flowers. Together we will make sure our building reflects the warmth and welcome of our congregation.

Whether you have a green thumb or simply a willingness to lend a hand, there's a place for you at our Volunteer Work Day.

Don't forget your gloves, and feel free to bring along any gardening tools you may have.



PINE SPINGS TRAVELING DAY CAMP - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you (or someone you know) are planning activities for kids this summer, this year will be the fourth year for Pine Springs Traveling Day Camp at New Hope Presbyterian Church (sponsored by West Hempfield Presbyterian Church, First Presbyterian Church of Irwin, and New Hope Presbyterian Church)

June 15-19, 9am to 3pm

Brochures and fliers in the lobby

www.pinesprings.org/travelingdaycamps

We are also seeking adult volunteers to help. Sign up to volunteer:

<https://bit.ly/2026PSCvolunteers>

WEDNESDAY OPPORTUNITIES AT WHPC

Not technically church events, friends of WHPC would like to invite you to join them in the upstairs kitchen on Wednesdays for some fun and friendly opportunities.

The West Hempfield Senior Citizens are always looking for some new card players!

They meet at the church on Wednesdays from 11am-2:30pm. Everyone brings their own lunch, and then they play 500 Bidding. For more information, please call Virgie Smith at 724-713-4372.

Rolling Hills Bible Study led by Heather Manhart is seeking new, committed members who are hungry to study the Gospel!

Don't know where to start?
Join the group as they study Romans.
Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:30pm

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

WATSON SCHOLARSHIP

West Hempfield Presbyterian Church is pleased to announce the availability of scholarships offered in memory of Bill and Delphine Watson.

- Each high school graduate who will be furthering their education is eligible for a one-time scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. Student or parent(s) of the student should be a member of the church.
- Applications are available at the Welcome Center in the lobby or in the church office.
- Please return the application along with the student's acceptance letter for their school to the office.
- Once the application is approved by Session, a check will be mailed directly to the school address you provided on the application form.
- You will receive a letter of confirmation.

PC(USA) SCHOLARSHIP for Undergraduates 2026 — Applications for the 2026-27 scholarships will be open soon. The need-based aid scholarships are for PC(USA) church members seeking a first associate or bachelor's degree, attending an accredited college or university in the United States full-time in 2026-2027. <https://pcusa.org/resource/scholarships-undergraduates>

HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE GRADUATES

Please supply the church office with information if you/your child is graduating from high school, college, vocational school, graduate school or any other continued education program. The congregation would like to recognize and celebrate your accomplishment during worship. Please submit your name, from where you are graduating, & your immediate future plans to the office.

OUR FRIENDS AT 1ST UCC IRWIN 400 MAIN STREET, IRWIN

1st UCC Irwin Spring Flea Market fundraiser is on May 1 from 9am to 3pm & May 2 from 9am to noon - everything half off on Saturday!

Come browse a wide variety of items—household goods, clothing, books, and hidden treasures.

It's a wonderful opportunity to find something special while supporting our new friends at 1st UCC Irwin.



THANK YOU NOTES



Thank you Building Committee for the wonderful refreshments after worship on May 3.

Thank you all for your continued support of the One Great Hour of Sharing offering around Palm Sunday and Easter. Especially thank you to the youth for their Fish Bank contributions!
– from the Deacons

Thank you for all of the donations for the Blackburn Center that were collected in April!
– from the Deacons

FOOD2GO4KIDS THANK YOU!!

As we prepare for the end of the school year, the Mission Committee wants to thank everyone who supported the Food2Go program this year, especially those who have volunteered organizing and packaging the food and/or making donations of plastic bags.

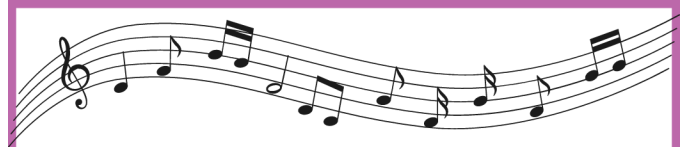
We appreciate you!

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS!!

Thank you Sunday School Teachers, helpers, and substitutes for helping us grow in our faith!

Ann Randolph	May 4
Ainsley Pritz	May 5
Rachael Pritz	May 6
Katie Wirt	May 6
Bob Lore	May 8
John Bankosh	May 12
Amy Graham	May 13
Nikki Mackenzie	May 19
Bob Mihalko	May 23
Sarah Immel	May 23
Noah Mackenzie	May 24
Connie Mertz	May 27
Gillian Mihalko	May 29

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



Music Ministry Appreciation Day was Sunday, April 26


Thank you Thomas for your gift of music, both on the piano and the organ.

You are such a wonderful blessing each Sunday that you can be with us.

Thanks for all you do!



MAY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 FH - Rental	2
3 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship	4	5 6:30pm Session	6 11 am Senior Cards Upstairs Rental	7	8 FH - Rental	9
10 <i>HAPPY Mother's Day</i> 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship	11 Upstairs Rental	12	13 11 am Senior Cards Upstairs Rental	14	15 FH - Rental	16
17 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship	18	19 PA Primary Election 6:30pm Deacons 6:30pm Stewardship	20 11 am Senior Cards Upstairs Rental	21	22 FH - Rental	23 Building Committee Work Day
24 10:45am Worship	25 Office Closed MEMORIAL DAY  REMEMBER AND HONOR	26	27 11 am Senior Cards Upstairs Rental	28	29 FH - Rental	30
31 10:45am Worship	Church Office Hours Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10am — 2pm					