



West Hempfield Presbyterian Church

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

In many churches, October is a time to focus on stewardship.

It makes sense. Third quarter giving statements are being sent out. Also, church leadership is writing the budget for next year.

In some churches that will mean a lot of talk about member giving. How much does the church need to bring in before the end of the year to break even this year?

In some churches that will mean pledge campaigns. How much should the church expect to bring in next year? How much can we plan to spend as we write the budget?

It makes sense. But I have always been frustrated by this sort of talk. Far too quickly and easily it can start to sound like "How much more can you give to help reach that goal?"

I think churches, like people, can get caught in the trap of always wishing for more.

I understand the desire to ask for more, especially when we see financial challenges ahead of us. But I sometimes wonder whether, in our desire for more, we lose sight of the ways God has already provided for us.

I don't really think it is the church's job to ask the congregation for more money. Sometimes, there are special situations, sure. But, in general, I believe it is between each individual member and God their Creator as to how much they give and where they give it.

If we are not careful, asking for more can risk telling the Lord that He has not provided enough.

When the Israelites are grumbling to Moses in the desert in Exodus 16, Moses tells them that

they are not grumbling against him, but rather they are really grumbling against the Lord.

Instead of complaining or asking for more, it is our job to be responsible with what we have been given. Often it is more than we realize.

If we receive more, great! If not, we are still expected to use what we have wisely. In Matthew 25:14-30, Jesus tells the Parable of the Talents, and each servant was expected to use what had been entrusted to them, regardless of the amount.

Honestly, income is down and expenses are up. For many of us, and for the church too. Unfortunately, it means we have had to make hard decisions, and we may have to make more. But it does not mean that God has ceased to be good.

In Exodus 16, the change from Egypt to the desert was hard, but God had not abandoned them.

October is a time to focus on stewardship. May we be thankful for all that God has given us, faithful in how we use it, and confident that God's goodness does not depend on our circumstances. May all that we do be for the glory of God's kingdom.

Blessings,

Rev. Andrew Wirt



WORSHIP

10/4 - World Communion Sunday
9:30AM Sunday School
10:45AM Worship w/ Communion

10/11 - 9:30AM Sunday School
10:45AM Worship

10/18 - 9:30AM Sunday School
10:45AM Worship

10/25 - 9:30AM Sunday School Party
10:45AM Worship

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

We will be celebrating communion together as a part of our worship service on Sunday, October 4, 2026!



All are welcome at the Lord's Table!

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

All Saints' Day is November 1.

Pastor Andrew and the Worship Committee are planning to once again hold an All Saints' Service on Sunday, November 1, to honor those who have died in the last year. We will read the names and light a candle for each. If you would like to add the name of someone who passed since Nov. 1 of last year, please contact the church office.

AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER SESSION MEETINGS

The Session of WHPC met for our August meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2026 and for September meeting on Sept. 22, 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.

- Approved minutes from the previous Session meeting
 - Reviewed reports from WHPC staff and committees - including the start of the 2027 budgeting
 - Confirmed dates for upcoming events including: Sunday School Trick-or-Treat - 10/25, Fall Spaghetti Dinner (proceeds to Building Fund) – 11/7, T-giving Lunch – 11/22
 - Approved rental requests
 - Discussed the low attendance for outdoor services in recent years, may be a change in future plans
 - Discussed partnerships and support of West Hempfield Elementary School
 - Personnel reported Thomas Lalor's resignation as our church musician due to his military service keeping him away and the start of a search for a new musician (noting that when Thomas returns, we will always be happy to have him play, and if he returns long term, we would like to consider re-hiring him, if possible)
 - Granted permission to Girl Scout Troop 22144 to tend to our pond and garden area as a service project for their troop, and thank them for their willingness
 - We are in the process of updating the church membership list
 - Throughout September we were asking people to update their contact information with the church, if needed. This was in the September newsletter, and a link is still available at the top of the church website.
 - Reviewed calendar of upcoming events and rentals
- Closed with the Lord's Prayer
Next Scheduled meeting date will be Monday, October 26. *(Many regular Session dates had to be rescheduled/delayed this year due to Pastor Andrew's Presbytery commitments)*

SUNDAY SCHOOL TRICK OR TREAT

Join your Sunday School friends in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, October 25 during the Sunday School hour.

Come dressed in your not-so-scary, church appropriate Halloween costume and enjoy some fun, games, snacks, and treats. Bring a friend!

Each church committee will have a table with treats for the kids! If your child(ren) plan to attend, please let your Sunday School teacher know or call the church office so we can be prepared.

CANDY FOR CANCER

On Sunday, September 27, our Sunday School learned about Candy for Cancer.

The mission of Candy for Cancer is to bring hope and encouragement to patients undergoing chemotherapy treatments through hand-packaged bags of candy with inspirational messages.

If you want to help the Sunday School support Candy for Cancer, you can bring in a bag of individually wrapped hard candy. The kids will fill small bags with candy and inspirational messages to provide comfort to those undergoing treatment,

For more info, you can go to:

<https://candyforcancer.my.canva.site/>

WHPC FALL SPAGHETTI DINNER

Saturday, November 7, 2026

4:00pm - 6:30pm

in the Fellowship Hall

Cost is \$12

\$6 for children age 8 and under

No advanced tickets. Pay at the door.

The meal includes:
spaghetti, meatballs,
salad bar, bread,
drink, and dessert.



Carry-out will be available.

Everyone is welcome to help. We will be prepping food and setting up tables Saturday throughout the day.

Lots of helping hands have made this a huge success in the past. Can you help this year? Contact the church office, sign up in the lobby, or check the donation board.

HELP US GET THE WORD OUT

If you would like to have a yard sign to advertise our Spaghetti Dinner in your front yard, contact the office or Larry DeTesta.

STEWARDSHIP

October is associated with stewardship season, a time when we review the ministry we have shared this year and prepare faithfully for the year ahead. The Session is grateful for the commitment this congregation has shown—through worship attendance, volunteer service, and financial support.

Your generosity sustains our pastor, maintains our building, supports our missions, and ensures that our congregation remains a place of welcome and care.

In the coming days, we will be sending out the January–September giving statements. We invite you to review your statement and contact the church office with any questions or concerns.

For those who give through charitable distributions from a financial institution, please ensure that your name is included on the check or documentation. This allows the church to accurately record your gift and include it properly in your annual giving statement.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness and for the many ways you support the ministry God has entrusted to us.

NOMINATING

Giving to the church is about more than just finances. Each of us has been blessed with unique gifts—our time, our talents, our hearts for serving. When we share these gifts with our church family, we help build a stronger community of faith and love. Nominating Committee is looking for next year's class of church leadership. This year we are looking for members who can fill 2-3 seats as Elders and 1-2 seats as Deacons. And anyone can help by joining a committee! If you would be willing to share your gifts with the church (and attend a few meetings), please contact Pastor Andrew or Nominating Committee members: Richard Forsyth or Deb Immel



Soup-er Sundays

October 11 and 25 will be SOUP-ER SUNDAYS!

One quart containers of homemade soup will be available for purchase at a price of \$6 each in the lobby after the worship service.

PINE SPRINGS CAMP FRIENDS DINNER

Pine Springs Camp Friends Dinner is a fundraiser event supporting and celebrating Pine Springs Camp.

Sun., Oct. 25, 2026, 4:30pm to 7:30pm
at the Core Event Center in Irwin, PA.

Contact the camp office for more info or
to register today! (814) 629-9834

www.pinesprings.org/annual-friends-dinner

2026 FIRST FRUITS OFFERING (PER CAPITA) = \$55

The First Fruits Offering, or Per Capita, is our denominational support. Each of us has the opportunity to support the work of the Presbytery, Synod, and National levels of our church, the PCUSA, in the work they do in connecting and supporting

Presbyterians across the country. Said another way, it is part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together.

Because we all share in the benefit of the PC(USA), the expenses associated with coordinating and performing the functions of the PCUSA are shared by everyone as well.

If you are a member of WHPC and you haven't made a First Fruits/Per Capita gift yet this year, please consider doing so. Thank you!

WHE COAT DRIVE

Each year our church family collects money to provide new coats to the children of West Hempfield Elementary School who are in need.

Please help support the Mission Committee so that we can continue this loving mission.

There are donation envelopes available by the offering plate.



You can also give online at www.westhempfieldpc.org/mission or by texting WHPC coat to 73256.

FOOD2GO4KIDS

Food2Go is a partnership with West Hempfield Elementary School. We help them provide food for children of families in need to take home with them for the weekend. This assures that no child will go hungry without the safety net of school breakfasts and lunches.

Volunteers at the church organize and count the specific food items bought with the donated funds, packing them into bags that are distributed by the school.

This program usually starts mid October and runs throughout the school year.

THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you to the Personnel Committee for wonderful treats and a time of fellowship after worship on October 4.

October 2 is officially observed as National Custodial Worker's Recognition Day (also known as National Custodian Day). We want to take this opportunity to offer a big THANK YOU to John Bankosh for all that he does to make our church building a clean, safe, welcoming place to gather and worship!

Thank you to those who joined us for the Sunday School Kick-Off! It was great to welcome everyone back to church after summer break.

FELLOWSHIP

Our Annual Thanksgiving Lunch is scheduled for after service on Sunday, November 22.

If you would be willing and are able to make a turkey—no stuffing, no carving, just cook it, and the church will do the rest—please talk with Larry DeTesta. Lunch sign up will be available late October.



Joseph Iwinski	Oct 1
Cole Graham	Oct 4
Thomas Mihalko	Oct 4
Wesley MacIntosh	Oct 5
Debra Lloyd	Oct 7
Rev. Andrew Wirt	Oct 7
MaryEsther DeTesta	Oct 10
James Crust	Oct 11
Lee Ober	Oct 13
Marge Jessen	Oct 16
Helen Toms	Oct 17
Elsie Barton	Oct 20
Doug Jessen	Oct 20
Cindy Bankosh	Oct 21
Jan Ober	Oct 28
Brian Pritz	Oct 29

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





OCTOBER 2026



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	Church Office Hours Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10am — 2pm			1	2 <i>FH - Rental</i>	3
4 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship World Communion Sunday	5 <i>Upstairs Rental</i> <i>FH - Dart Ball (A)</i>	6	7 11 am Senior Cards	8	9 <i>FH - Rental</i>	10
11  9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship	12 <i>Upstairs Rental</i> <i>FH - Dart Ball (H)</i>	13 6:30pm Deacons	14 11 am Senior Cards	15	16 <i>FH - Rental</i>	17
18 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship	19 <i>Upstairs Rental</i> <i>FH - Dart Ball (H)</i>	20 6:30pm Stewardship (Zoom)	21 11 am Senior Cards	22	23 <i>FH - Rental</i>	24
25  9:30am Sunday School Trick-or- Treat Party 10:45am Worship	26 <i>Upstairs Rental</i> <i>FH - Dart Ball (A)</i> 6:30pm Session	27	28 11 am Senior Cards	29	30 <i>FH - Rental</i>	31 HAPPY HALLOWEEN