

# December



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!

*Luke 2:7 [Mary] gave birth to her firstborn, a son.  
She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a  
manger, because there was no guest room available  
for them.*

Mary risked losing everything and embraced a  
calling that changed her life forever because of her  
faith in the promises of God.

God gave up all the glories of heaven to be born in  
that manger in Bethlehem.

Jesus gave up his earthly life to offer forgiveness of  
sin and show us the Way.

First century Christians became martyrs throughout  
Rome because they were willing to follow the Way  
of Christ with their everything. They gave their  
lives to Christ. Everything. It was no longer theirs  
to defend and they gave freely.

Hospitals exist in our world today, because  
Christians were willing to risk everything to be like  
Christ—to heal the sick, to comfort the suffering.

Jesus told the “Rich, Young, Ruler” to sell  
*everything* and give to the poor. (Matthew 19,  
Mark 10, Luke 18).

Following Jesus requires our everything.

And God knows how hard that is.

That’s why the story doesn’t start at the cross, but  
at the manger.

Start small.

One act of kindness.

Sit down and read one Bible story. (Advent  
devotion suggestions on the next page!)

Take one minute to talk to God in prayer.

One step at a time, and God will help us grow.

Blessings, Rev. Andrew Wirt

## What is Pastor Andrew Reading:

### *Visioneering: God's Blueprint for Developing and Maintaining Vision*

by Andy Stanley

From the Amazon listing

...

Vision is a preferred  
future. A destination.

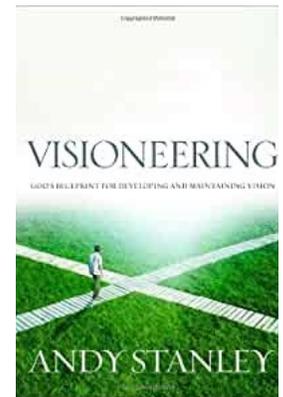
Vision always stands in  
contrast to the world as it  
is. Visioneering,

according to bestselling  
author Andy Stanley, is

"a clear mental picture of what could be,  
fueled by the conviction that it should be."

With warm, down-to-earth practicality,  
Andy Stanley explores the ordinary life of  
Nehemiah and his God-given vision for  
accomplishing the extraordinary. He  
shows how the life of this great ancient  
visionary, determined to rebuild the ruined  
walls of Jerusalem, reveals principles that  
can prepare us to find and follow God’s  
multifaceted vision for our own lives.

In the best-selling *Visioneering*, Stanley  
builds a compelling case for the necessity  
of a clear, God-ordained vision for each of  
the roles of your life. Whether you’re a  
parent with a vision for your children or a  
CEO pursuing a corporate vision,  
*Visioneering* is the perfect tool to help you  
develop and maintain God’s unique  
purpose for your life.



## DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**December 5** – Communion Sunday, worship 8:30 & 11am,  
Sunday School 9:45am

**December 12** – worship 8:30 & 11am, Sunday School 9:45am

**December 19** – worship 8:30 & 11am,

Sunday School Christmas Party 9:45am in Fellowship Hall

**December 24** – Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5:00pm & 7:00pm

**December 26** – Family Friendly Casual Christmas Service 8:30 & 11am, Sunday School 9:45



\*at-home worship sermon videos continue to be available by Sunday evenings on the church website, Facebook, and YouTube

\*Call-in to listen live to the 11:00am service every Sunday  
(please call the church office for instructions)

\*Call-in will be available for both Christmas Eve service times

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Please join us ***Sunday, December 19 at 9:45am*** in the big Sunday School classroom for our Annual Sunday School Christmas Party.

## ADVENT DEVOTION OPTIONS

I don't want to add extra stress. This season and this year already have enough of that. Adding one more thing or changing your regular routine can be a challenge. But if you can find the time to focus on the arrival of Jesus this month, I am confident in the promise of Isaiah 55:10-11 [“... My Word,” declares the Lord,] “will not return to Me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”

WHPC provides several daily devotional booklet options at no cost to you.

- Our Daily Bread
- These Days

And there are many more available free online

- [Presbyterians Today and Presbyterian Mission Agency](#)
- [Pittsburgh Theological Seminary Advent](#)
- [D365.org](#)

(Those last two are available as an app for smart phones as well)

Read alone; read together as a family; commit with a friend to read the same thing each day and discuss it later. Do what works for you.

I once heard someone say ... Which devotional is the best? Whichever one you will actually read.

Do what works for you.



## NOVEMBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

### *The Session of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church met on November 30, 2020*

This was an abbreviated meeting because of the holiday season change in schedule from the usual 4th Tuesday of the month.

- Opened with prayer.
- Approved the hire of Lisa Granata as our new office administrator.
- Approved budget for 2022.
- Approved Christmas Eve services at 5:00pm & 7:00pm.
- Discussed Rev. Wirt's plans for a week off in December. Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelley will be filling the pulpit on December 12.
- Discussed plans for year end materials such as audit, annual reports, and congregational meeting in early 2022. Final details will be set in December.
- Discussed ideas regarding recommending formally reducing the minimum number of elders and the requirements for quorum at Session meetings. Would need to be discussed at congregational meeting.
- Next Session meeting will be December 28.
- Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**Reminder: As we approach the end of the year, it's time to get annual reports ready.**

***Please have your annual GROUP OR COMMITTEE REPORTS emailed to the office  
NO LATER THAN JANUARY 9, 2021***

## OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

The Session is excited to introduce the newest addition to our church staff family!

**Lisa Granata** is a former administrative assistant of Monroeville Assembly of God church. She grew up in the Wilkinsburg area and now lives in Penn Trafford where she has been doing a lot of baking lately.



We had over 30 applications. Rick Forsyth contacted everyone by email and had lots of first round phone conversations. We had 6 in person interviews. Rick and Pastor Andrew each brought forward their top picks and agreed on Lisa. Lisa visited with the Session on the evening of Tuesday, November 30, before the start of our official meeting and, once the official meeting started, was easily approved unanimously to be our new office administrator. We are excited for you to meet her.

Lisa's first day will be December 6.

# CHRISTMAS CARDS

As you are working on your Christmas cards this year, be sure to keep WHPC in mind! In December we will be converting the Bulletin Board into a display for Christmas cards from our church family.



# DEACONS BASKETS

**The deadline for donations will be December 12**

Deacons are collecting non perishable items of all kinds.

If you can help, packaging will be on **Thursday, December 16 from 10am-1pm or from 6pm to 8pm** in the Fellowship Hall and distribution will be on **Sunday, December 19 9am-12noon.**

Please contact Larry DeTesta for more information at 724-516-7744.

# GINGERBREAD TREE



Thank you to everyone who has participated!  
All the gingerbread people have already been claimed.  
The gifts are due back at the church by **Monday, December 13** – gift-wrapped, with the recipient’s information attached. Thank you to everyone for caring for local children who receive so little at Christmas time.

# POINSETTIA ORDERS

Each year we decorate the sanctuary with poinsettias as part of our Christmas Eve celebration of the birth of Jesus. WHPC would like to invite you to purchase a poinsettia to help bring beauty and color to our Christmas Eve celebrations.

Poinsettias can be picked up after the Christmas Eve services. Any poinsettias not collected on Christmas Eve will be used to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas Sunday, December 26 as well. If you cannot pick up your flowers by Sunday, December 26, you should contact the church office to make other arrangements.

<b>Flower pot size</b>	<b>How many?</b>	<b>Cost</b>
6 ½” Red	_____	\$ 10.00 each
6 ½” White	_____	\$ 10.00 each
<b>TOTALS</b>	_____	\$ _____



Please print legibly:

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

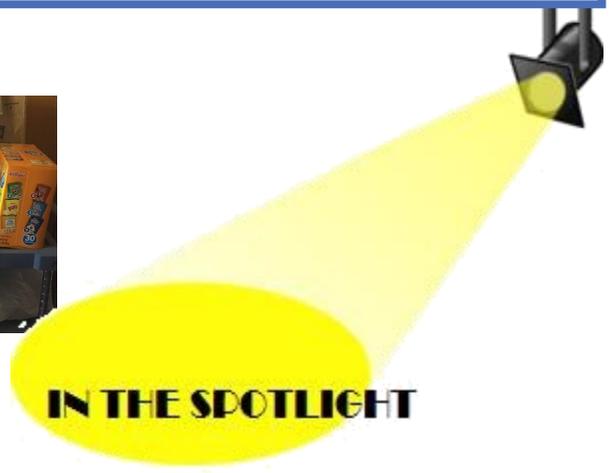
***You may place your order form in the offering plate, mail it to the office, or call the office with all the appropriate information by Sunday, December 5.***

# GENEROSITY SPOTLIGHT

Deacon Baskets



Food2Go



Gingerbread Tree



Coat Drive



A Great Big **"Thank You!"** to everyone who has donated and continues to donate time, talents, and gifts this season and throughout the year!

Church Decorating



# DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Jenny Cameron  
 Anita Toth  
 Gil Sekely  
 Raymond Lutz  
 Bruce Bookheimer  
 Bert Bartko  
 Jen Mikluscak

December 4  
 December 5  
 December 8  
 December 10  
 December 10  
 December 12  
 December 14

McKenna Graham  
 Pam Siegel  
 Irene Simler  
 Ken Vandermer  
 Carol Horvat  
 Karen Kifer  
 Lenole Gross

December 18  
 December 19  
 December 19  
 December 24  
 December 24  
 December 28  
 December 29



**Thank You to Our Decorators...** The Worship Committee would like to thank the many volunteers who prepared our facilities for Advent and Christmas. It is beautiful!

**Thank you for all of the cards and kind, positive words regarding the passing of Carole Hinkelman.**  
— Nancy Barringer

**We are happy to report that once again, this past spaghetti dinner was a success!**

The profit was real close to \$1,600! We could not have done this without a LOT of help from our family here at WHPC.

We appreciate all you do more than you know! We are sure that if Pastor Jacque were here, he would personally thank you as well!

**MANY, MANY THANKS FOR ALL OF THE WAYS YOU SERVE, SPREAD JOY, AND OFFER HOPE!**

Food 2 Go 4 Kids – donations and packers  
Deacons Baskets & Gifts  
Coats for WHE children

Thank you, as always, for your financial support of the mission and ministry of WHPC.

***There is no church HERE without you, your time, talent and love of God!***

### **Thankful for WHPC**

The Thanksgiving feast on November 21 was once again a success! Thank you Fellowship committee members, Gourmet Affairs Catering, as well as set-up and clean-up volunteers. You did a wonderful job ensuring that everyone went home full!



***The Staff of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church wish you and your families a most blessed Christmas. It is a privilege to worship, fellowship, and serve alongside you. Merry Christmas!***

# December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 Comunion Sunday 8:30 & 11:00 Worship Sunday School 9:45 am	6	7	8 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm Soccer Shots	9	10	11
12 8:30 & 11:00 Worship Sunday School 9:45 am	13	14 Deacons, 6:30pm Food2Go Packing, 6:30pm	15 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm	16 Deacons packing, 6:30pm	17	18
19 8:30 & 11 Worship SS Christmas Party Deacons basket distribution, 9-12 noon	20	21 Stewardship & Finance, 6:30pm	22 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm	23 <b>Session Reports Due</b>	24 Christmas Eve Services, 5:00pm & 7:00pm	25 
26 8:30 & 11:00 Worship Sunday School 9:45 am	27 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	28 Session Meeting, 6:30pm	29 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm	30	31 New Year's Eve	