

SEPTEMBER

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!

I know it shouldn't surprise me, but, honestly, I am still amazed sometimes by how the words of Scripture, written so long ago, still speak so poignantly to our unique circumstances today.

The world keeps changing and God's Word still has the answers.

Today I am thinking about what Jesus says to the Samaritan woman at the well in John chapter 4.

Concerned about the theological and practical differences between the way the Jews and the Samaritans worship God, she says "*Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.*" [John 4:20] Not exactly a question. But in the statement is a concern: *What is the right way to worship? Am I doing it wrong?*

Today, we might say it in different ways, but many are still expressing the same concern. Presbyterian, Methodist, Catholic, Non-denominational. One church sings to music played on an organ, another a guitar. Communion is served with grape juice here, wine there. Scripture is read from KJV, NIV, NRSV, the Message, or some other translation. In one church the congregations sits in permanently installed pews, in another the congregation sits in stackable chairs that have to be set up and removed each week. A single service, two services, multiple services. Small room, big room, multi-site.

And now we are even adding more questions with in-person versus online, live versus on-demand. *What is the right way to worship? Am I doing it wrong?*

The world keeps changing and God's Word still has the answers.

At an event recently, the speaker addressed a group of pastors and said, "Your people are no longer all in the building." This one sentence, more than anything else he said, keeps echoing in my head.

We could get judgmental about this. *That is not the right way to worship. They are doing it wrong.*

But I think that is exactly what Jesus is telling us NOT to do as he responds to the Samaritan woman at the well.

"Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks." [John 4:23]

The world keeps changing and God's Word still has the answers.

In the Spirit and in Truth. That's all that really matters.

"Your people are no longer in the building."

They/You may no longer be in the building for one reason or another, but they/you are still a part of the congregation, the family, the mission.

How can we love and support everyone? I don't have all the answers yet. But I know where they can be found. Let's keep looking together.

Blessings, Rev. Andrew Wirt



SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 4 - 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Communion Sunday

SEPTEMBER 11 - 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Sunday school kick-off 9:45am

SEPTEMBER 18 - 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Sunday school 9:45am

SEPTEMBER 25 - 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Sunday school 9:45am



*You can listen to the 11:00am service LIVE over the phone
(for instructions, please call the church office)*

COMMUNION



Pastor Andrew is trying to make the rounds to reconnect with our homebound members and take home communion to those who want it, but have been unable to join with us in worship for one reason or another.

If you would like to be included in that list, please contact the church office.

WORSHIP FLOWERS

There are still a lot of dates open for the remainder of 2022 that no one has signed up on the flower list. 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 this.



SUNDAY SCHOOL KICKOFF

It's time for Sunday School! Our Sunday School teachers are excited to welcome students back to church this fall! If you are interested in being a fill-in or substitute for Sunday School Class, Contact Mary Esther DeTesta, Heather Ressler or Robin Gambino.

Kickoff on September 11 at 9:45am: Students will enjoy pre-packaged snacks, a craft, a story, and the chance to decorate his year's Glory Gold folders.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

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 this fall and winter, please contact the church office to officially sign up, even if you have expressed interested in the past.

Adults—You can be involved too! We are looking for adults who are mature in their faith and interested in serving as mentor for a confirmation student. Please contact the church office or Pastor Andrew for more information.

Informational meeting will be held at noon on Sunday, September 18, 2022. This will be a short meeting where we talk mainly about finding a schedule that might work for everyone.

Confirmation

AUGUST SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



The Session of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church met on August 23, 2021

The Session of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church met on Tuesday, August 23, 2022

A few elders were unavailable, but a quorum was present as we gathered in the lobby 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 using the daily entry from Our Daily Bread devotional (copies available in the church lobby at no cost to you)
- Approved Session minutes from June and July 2022
- Reviewed reports from the clerk, pastor, treasurer, deacons, and WHPC committees
- Reviewed and reaffirmed church Sexual Misconduct and Child Safety Policies
- Discussed the church financial position, sanctuary air conditioners, and "Sanctuary Refresh" ideas
- Set the date of the next Haiti spaghetti dinner for October 22, 2022
- Approved a rental request for a birthday party on November 26
- WHPC filed the paperwork to help Adamsburg Fire Department receive a grant for their Project Breathe Clean. The church will not be making a direct donation (beyond our annual budgeted gift), but by endorsing them in this paperwork, we can help them receive a \$5000 grant.
- Discussed possible usages of RightNow Media and possibility of subscribing in the future.
- The September meeting would regularly be on September 27, however this conflicts with Pastor Andrew's scheduled vacation. So the September Session meeting will be held on October 4

Closed with prayer

STEWARDSHIP

We will be sending 3rd quarter statements in early October. If you would like a mid-year statement before then, please call the church office and Lisa will get you one. Thank you for your continued financial support of WHPC.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Are you interested in making a difference in someone's life?

Do you enjoy spending time with the elderly population? Do you want to be a greeter? A receptionist assistant? Do you like to play games? Are you crafty? Do you like to reminisce?

Come and volunteer for Redstone Highlands and/or Redstone@Home as there are plenty of opportunities available in the region. Our campuses are located in Murrysville, Greensburg and North Huntington, and we also serve the surrounding areas of Westmoreland County. Call or email Volunteer Coordinator, Kylie Dolak and we will find a place that will benefit you as well as our residents! The number is (724) 832-8401 ext. 2387 or email kdolak@redstone.org.

WEST HEMPFIELD PRESCHOOL

2022 - 2023 SCHOOL YEAR begins on Monday, September 12.

We look forward to lots of fun!

We still have openings in the PM classes.

Thank you to Linda Simpson and Andrea Tuttoilmondo for their continued service to the children of our community and their families.

We will be hosting our Open House this year on Wednesday, September 7. The AM group will meet at 9:00am and the PM group will meet at 10:15am. You can always visit the preschool website for more information at westhempfieldpreschool.org



MISSION - HAITI

Mark Your Calendars! Saturday, October 22, 2022

from 4:00-6:30 PM



COST: Adults..... \$9 Children \$5

MENU: Spaghetti, meatballs, salad, bread, and a beverage

PROCEEDS: We have been able to send \$100 each month to support a school in Haiti thanks to the fundraising and your on-going generous support.

If you are able to help with any part of the event, please contact Arleen Sekely or Jen Mikluscak. Thank you!

MEATBALL MAKING PARTY: Join us on **Friday, October 21 at 6:00pm** to help prepare for the Spaghetti Dinner. Please come and enjoy some fun and fellowship while helping make this dinner a success.

MISSION - FOOD2GO

Throughout the month of September we are collecting microwavable single-serve mac'n'cheese cups for the Food2Go bags. The Food2Go4Kids Program will begin again in October to provide food for the weekends to children who qualify. The program was initiated years ago in response to the high percentage of students in our community who are eligible for the free school breakfast and lunch program during the week and may also need help finding breakfast and lunch on the weekends. If you would like to help support this effort, please put your donations of microwavable single-serve mac'n'cheese cups in the wood box outside the sanctuary. Thank you!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Diana Irwin	Sept. 1	Laurie Bookheimer	Sept. 24
Paula Stewart	Sept. 14	Connie Primus	Sept. 28
Jim Toms	Sept. 15	Pat Neill	Sept. 29

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



Dear WHPC, Thank you so much for the scholarship! It's going to help a ton with furthering my education. I am so grateful for everything you have done to help me get to this point in my life.

Thanks again!
Thomas Mihalko

THANK YOU! to everyone who gathered for the Back to School Prayer Service held August 20th to pray over our schools, children, and adults.

Blessings to all on a new school year!

Thank you for joining our outdoor worship services this summer.

Thank you to Madison Club for providing free passes that we were able to give as door prizes at our Annual Golf Outing.

A BIG thank you to Larry DeTesta For helping to get the church signs updated. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated!

Thank you!
Donation to help Ukrainian Refugees
“By your generous gift to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, you have spoken the language of love in a tangible, impactful way, offering a gift that helps to bring renewed hope and joy to those individuals and communities suffering from disaster and its aftermath. On behalf of them, we thank you.
Please know that your gift blesses those who walk the hard road toward recovery, letting them know they are not alone, helping them to find hope in the midst of chaos.”
– quote from a letter from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. The full letter can be read outside the sanctuary on the bulletin board next to the Prayer Board.

If you have a thank you or praise you'd like to share with the WHPC family, please call the church office to share in the next newsletter.



September 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 8:30 & 11:00am Worship Communion	5 Labor Day— Office Closed	6 Office Open 9:00am - 2:00pm	7 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm	8	9	10
11 8:30 & 11:00am Worship 9:45am Sunday School Kick-off	12 1st Day of Preschool H.E.L.P Group 5:00pm Girl Scouts 6- 7pm Dart Ball 7:00pm	13 Deacons Meeting, 6:30pm NAMI 7:00pm	14 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm	15	16	17
18 8:30 & 11:00am Worship 9:45am Sunday School	19 H.E.L.P Group 5:00pm Dart Ball 7:00pm	20 Stewardship Meeting, 6:30pm	21 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm	22 Session Reports Due	23 Newsletter Deadline	24
25 8:30 & 11:00am Worship 9:45am Sunday School	26 H.E.L.P Group 5:00pm Girl Scouts 6-7 pm Dart Ball 7:00pm	27	28 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm	29	30	