

# December



WEST HEMPFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8 West Hempfield Drive

Irwin, PA 15642

724-863-1260

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

Advent is here!

Thank you to everyone who has helped with planning and decorating to help make this season a success.

A big “Thank you!” to our Sunday School students who have been working on coloring our Advent posters like last year.

This year the posters are themed around Isaiah 9:6

*And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Those names will be our guide through the four Sundays of Advent as we prepare for the coming of the Messiah.

These are not popular names if you are searching through baby books. I am sure there are not a lot of new parents signing birth certificates for Wonderful Counselor. I would be very surprised to hear about a new child in the preschool named Everlasting Father.

Especially in the culture in which the Bible was written, however, a name meant more than just what we call you. A name was meant to express the most true nature of a person.

For example, as God promised the childless Abram that he would be the father of many, God changes his name to Abraham (which means *father of many*) and he is referred to as such for the rest of the book.

What comes to your mind when you hear the names of Isaiah 9:6? What do they reveal to us about God? About Jesus? Join us Sunday mornings in December as we explore these names together.

Blessings, Rev. Andrew Wirt

**Pastor Andrew Recommends:**

## Daily Devotions

December can be a busy month. Believe me, I know! But if you can find the time to slow down a little, 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 options at no cost to our congregation.

- Our Daily Bread
- These Days
- Our Daily Bread Christmas Special
- Presbytery of Redstone Advent Devotions

And there are many more available free online

- Pittsburgh Theological Seminary Advent Devotional
- D365.org

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.

I want to encourage you to do something extra or different this Advent season to welcome and meet the Messiah anew.

**What does the Deacons do?**

The Deacons function is to minister to others in our congregation and community.

- Deacons baskets with food
- Help with gingerbread tree
- In home Communion
- Shut in and ill card ministry
- Church picnic
- Serve on Committees in church
- Coordinate Ushers
- Set up communion (prep work)
- Helping Hands bulletin board—information to help those in the community
- NEW THIS YEAR... we plan to participate with the Blackburn Center



**How could I support the Deacons?**

- PRAY for the Deacons
- Volunteer to be a Deacon
- Volunteer to help with any of our events
- Donate to the Deacons to help fund our amazing outreaches



**What are your favorite things about working with the Deacons?**

- Deacons baskets, seeing the impact it can bring to a family.
- Picnic gathering together for fellowship
- Serving in the community and seeing a difference



## DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**December 1** – Communion Sunday, 8:30 & 11am, Sunday school 9:45

**December 8**– Regular Services 8:30 & 11am, Sunday school 9:45,  
Christmas Glory Gold, Coffee Hour provided by PWA

**December 15** – Regular Services 8:30 & 11am, Sunday school 9:45,  
Christmas party in Fellowship Hall,

**December 22** – Regular Services 8:30 & 11am, Sunday school 9:45

**December 24** – Kid friendly, family focused service at 4pm

Traditional Christmas Eve candlelight service at 7pm

**December 29** – Regular Services 8:30 & 11am, Sunday school 9:45



## NOVEMBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

### ***The Session of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church met on November 26, 2019***

Together we covered our church and congregation with prayer, studied the Bible, discussed upcoming events, and reviewed the submitted reports.

For our Bible study we read Deuteronomy 26:1-11. *Deut. 26:11 Then you ... shall rejoice in all the good things the Lord your God has given to you and your household.* We went around the table and everyone shared what they are thankful for.

We received and reviewed staff and committee reports.

The big job this month was the presentation and first official read of the 2020 budget. The elders were walked through the budget from start to finish and will have a few weeks to review it and ask any questions they may have before voting on it and sending it to the congregational meeting.

The congregational meeting will be held on January 26 after our one service at 11am. All information for the annual report will be due to the church office by January 5, 2020.

The Session reviewed and approved a few rental opportunities for the Fellowship Hall and discussed the progress on the sign on Arona Road, as well as the possibility of setting up a place for a banner closer to the church building.

Building Committee noted some repairs that have been completed around the building and encourage everyone to NOT use tape on any exterior doors. Magnets are available in the office if needed.

The Session will meet briefly in December to approve the 2020 budget. Due to Christmas Eve, the next full agenda session meeting is scheduled for January 28 at 6:30pm.

***Please have your annual/ GROUP OR COMMITTEE REPORTS emailed to the office  
NO LATER THAN JANUARY 5, 2020***

*There was no room for Mary and Joseph at the inn, but there is always room and a friendly welcome at WHPC!*

~ Advent Invitation 2019 ~

Between 75 and 90 percent of people asked, "Why did you come to this church?" will respond "I began attending because someone invited me." Only 2% will respond "I saw an advertisement/flier/mailler/etc."

With the church decorated and everyone already talking about Christmas anyway, **RIGHT NOW** is the perfect time to invite someone to come check out WHPC and learn what Christmas is all about.

Invite friends, relatives, co-workers, and neighbors to come and find out what God is doing here at West Hempfield Presbyterian Church, and in the world, and what it means for their lives too!

## DEACONS BASKETS

### The deadline for donations will be December 15

Deacons are collecting non perishable items of all kinds.

If you can help, packaging will be on *Thursday, December 19 at 6:30PM* in the Fellowship Hall and distribution will be on *Sunday, December 22* 9am-12noon.

Please contact Larry DeTesta for more information.



## GINGERBREAD TREE



Check the tree in the lobby for gingerbread men. Each one represents a family that you can adopt for Christmas. Each Gingerbread has a number which represents which family they belong to, along with the Sex, Age and Child's Interests. When you take a gingerbread, please write your name and phone number on the index card provided and place in the envelope next to the bulletin board. Once you have finished shopping and packaged your gift, please attach the gingerbread man to the gift and return it in front of the tree.

Something new this year... we are also seeking gift cards to make a small gift to the faculty and staff at WHE to say Merry Christmas and Thank you for their love and support of the students.

The gifts are due back at the church by *Wednesday, December 18* – 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



There are order forms in the office and on the table in the lobby of the church. Please complete a form and turn in your payment by **Sunday, December 1**. This year we will be decorating the *sanctuary with white poinsettias and the lobby with red poinsettias*.

## MISSION

### RINGING FOR A CAUSE

WE HAVE A FEW SPOTS OPEN! If you are interested in participating and ringing the bell this year for the Salvation Army, please sign up in the lobby. We are scheduled for *Saturday, December 7 from 10am-8pm* (1 hour increments) at the Giant Eagle in North Huntingdon (both sides).



**GIFTS WITH A PURPOSE**—The NightLight jewelry is back again this year if you are looking for a unique gift this holiday season. A larger variety of gifts will be available during coffee hour on December 8, courtesy of the Silk Road Shop.

## FAIR TRADE

It is the time of year for shopping. Black Friday, Cyber Monday, Christmas presents, and more.

Giving Tuesday (the Tuesday after Thanksgiving) also gives us a reminder to make charitable giving a part of our Christmas planning routines.

We can make a positive impact on the world not just with our donations, but also with our purchases.

We can shop local small businesses on more than just Small Business Saturday (the Saturday after Thanksgiving) and provide blessings to our neighbors just by supporting their work and businesses.

We can also support companies that are doing good things, like the NightLight jewelry that our Mission Committee has been making available at the church. [www.nightlightinternational.com](http://www.nightlightinternational.com)

We can also look for **Fair Trade** goods as we shop. Fair Trade Certification means that someone has made certain that at every step in the production fair prices were paid and workers received a living wage, particularly helping producers in developing nations. <https://www.fairtradecertified.org/>

WHPC Mission Committee has arranged for The Silk Road Market (a small business in New Wilmington, PA specializing in international fair trade gifts) to visit with us on December 8 for an opportunity to buy some unique Christmas gifts that will also support others.

Some of my (Pastor Andrew) favorite fair trade companies are:

- **Equal Exchange** for coffee, tea, hot cocoa, and chocolate <https://equalexchange.coop/>
- **Divine Chocolate**
- **Pact** for clothing <https://wearpact.com/>
- **Aldi** and **Target** carry some fair trade coffee and chocolate

## BUILDING

**Doors:** Just a friendly reminder with the freshly painted door, please do not use tape on any of the exterior doors. Larry DeTesta has donated magnets for the church to use. Please contact the office if you need to use the magnets on any of the exterior doors.

## CAROLING



### CHRISTMAS CAROLING: *Saturday, December 7 at 6:00pm*

We will gather at 6:00pm in the lobby on December 7. Sign-up in the lobby to carol the streets and return to a warm fire, hot cocoa and cookies. You may stay around the fire if you do not wish to carol. Bring a friend!! We have music booklets and lighted candles

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Please join us *Sunday, December 15 at 9:45am* in the Fellowship Hall for our Annual Sunday school party. We will celebrate by making Christmas ornaments for our Deacon baskets and enjoying some cookies.

## CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE

On *December 15 from 1pm - 3pm* in the Fellowship Hall  
Bake 6 dozen cookies of one kind, please sign up or call the church office.  
We will decorate a dozen sugar cookies as well so you will leave with 7 dozen cookies!!



## PWA

### PWA CHRISTMAS PARTY

Please join us Monday *December 9 at 6pm*. Bring a covered dish and a grab bag gift no more than \$10. Looking forward to great fellowship with the ladies of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church.

## 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 Birthday Bulletin Board into a display for Christmas cards from our church family.

*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!*





**Thank You to Our Decorators...** Thanks to the Worship Committee and the many volunteers who prepared our facilities for Advent and Christmas.  
It's beautiful!

### THANK YOU!

A heart-felt thanks to all who helped in **any way** to help make our mission trip spaghetti dinner a success! With your help we raised nearly \$1800 to help get to Haiti in 2021.



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

Food 2 Go 4 Kids – donations and packers  
(December 4 & 18 are next)

From the PWA to those who supported us by purchasing candy

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

A hundred and thirty West Hempfield Presbyterian Pilgrims enjoyed a lavish Thanksgiving feast on November 24. Fellowship committee members, Melissa, Larry and Nancy as well as set-up and clean-up volunteers did a wonderful job in seeing that everyone went home looking for a nap!

### THANK YOU! THANK YOU CHRISTIAN ED FOR HOSTING COFFEE HOUR IN NOVEMBER!

*December Coffee Hour will be hosted by the PWA*



**Thank you to John Bankosh for taking the time to paint the exterior doors of the church.**

**~ The Building Committee**



**Monetary  
donations will  
be collected  
for the Food 2  
Go program**

**We invite you to come enjoy the  
sounds of the season**

**December 15<sup>th</sup> at 4pm**

**Music provided by students taught by  
Tony Greendonner**

**West Hempfield Presbyterian church ~ [www.westhempfieldpc.org](http://www.westhempfieldpc.org)**



# December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Sunday 8:30 & 11:00 Worship Sunday School 9:45am	2 H.E.L.P 5:00pm Dart Ball, 7:00pm Bible Study, 6:00pm	3 PWA Board Meeting 10:00am Girl Scouts, 5:00pm	4 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm Food2Go4Kids, 6:30pm Men's Group, 7:00pm	5 Choir, 6:00pm	6	7 Salvation Army Bell Ringing 10:00am-8:00am Caroling, 6pm—lobby
8 8:30 & 11:00 Worship Sunday School Glory Gold Session, 10:00am Coffee Hour hosted by PWA	9 H.E.L.P 5:00pm PWA Party, 6:00pm Dart Ball, 7:00pm Bible Study, 6:00pm	10 Deacons Meeting, 6:30pm Winter Wonderland Yoga 5:30-8:30pm Fellowship Hall	11 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm Men's Group, 7:00pm	12 Choir, 6:00pm Scouts, 6:30-8:00pm	13	14 Cookie Exchange, 1:00pm Fellowship Hall
15 8:30 & 11:00 Worship Sunday School Party 9:45am Christmas Concert 4pm	16 H.E.L.P 5:00pm Dart Ball, 7:00pm Bible Study, 6:00pm	17 Stewardship & Finance 6:30pm	18 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm Food2Go4Kids, 6:30pm Men's Group, 7:00pm	19 Choir, 6:00pm Deacons packing, 6:30pm Fellowship Hall	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21
22 8:30 & 11:00 Worship Deacons basket distribution 9-12 noon Sunday School 9:45am	23 H.E.L.P 5:00pm Dart Ball, 7:00pm Bible Study, 6:00pm	24 Family Service, 4:00pm Candlelight Service, 7:00pm	25 Merry Christmas!!	26 Office Closed Choir, 6:00pm	27	28
29 8:30 & 11:00 Worship Sunday School 9:45am	30 H.E.L.P 5:00pm Dart Ball, 7:00pm Bible Study, 6:00pm	31				