



# January

**WEST HEMPFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**8 West Hempfield Drive**

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

Planning ahead for the year 2024 it looks like we will be spending a lot of time with the gospel of Mark.

Mark is the second book of the New Testament, but it is believed to be the first of the gospels to have been written. The leading understanding of the gospel of Mark is that it was written around 70-75 AD, which puts it after Paul's letters, but before the other gospels. In fact, Matthew and Luke (we think both written around the same time, though in different locations) both seem to use Mark as a reference.

Matthew, Mark, and Luke are called the synoptic gospels and have a lot in common, but each has its own personality.

In addition to being written first and an apparent influence on the other synoptic gospels, Mark is also the shortest gospel.

At only 16 chapters and about 11,000 words, Mark is small, but mighty. Mark doesn't even include the Christmas story, but gets right into the adult ministry of Jesus.

Everything seems pointed toward the events of Holy Week. That one week (well, 8 days ... Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday) taking up a full 1/3 of the book (chapters 11-16)!

I've heard a couple of very smart people say something like "The Bible may not have been written to us, but it was written for us."

Mark was written a very long time ago to (probably) first century Romans, but that does not mean it has nothing to say to us today.

I think this is a great time to be reading Mark.

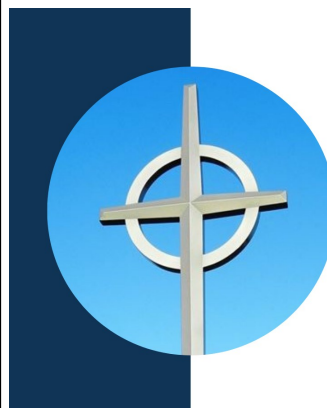
Mark gets right to the point. It stays focused, spends time on what is important, and says a lot with a little.

WHPC has been making some changes lately to carry us into future. Change is often hard, but our goal is to stay healthy, spend time on what is important, and plan for the long term. We are aiming to be like Mark: trimming down, getting focused, and preparing to do a lot with a little.

Blessings, Rev. Andrew Wirt

## **2024 Sunday Worship Schedule**

Starting January 7, 2024, WHPC will be combining our two worship services and moving the start time to 10:00am. Sunday School will move to 9:00am.



**JOIN WHPC  
FOR WORSHIP  
IN 2024.**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9AM  
WORSHIP AT 10AM**

### **Church Office Hours**

The church office is open  
Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays  
9:00AM—3:00PM  
\*except for holidays

### In This Month's Newsletter:

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## WORSHIP



**JANUARY**

Worship Schedule

1/7 - 10AM Worship w/ Communion (9AM Sunday School)	1/21 - 10AM Worship (9AM Sunday School)
1/14 - 10AM Worship (9AM Sunday School)	1/28 - 10AM Worship (9AM Sunday School) Congregational Meeting and Lunch after worship



Do you have leftover Christmas cookies? Are you willing to share? Worship Committee is inviting members to bring in cookies for Fellowship Time after our first 10am worship service on Sunday, January 7, 2024. Don't have leftover cookies? Come help the rest of us enjoy ours!

## STEWARDSHIP

Like many other churches, after COVID, WHPC no longer passes the offering plate through the pews during worship services. We still have a time of honoring and blessing our gifts and offerings in each service and the plates are available before and after worship at the primary entrance to the sanctuary, by the bulletins.

The Stewardship and Finance Committee also no longer distributes personal, numbered, and dated giving envelopes. To avoid waste and decrease costs, we stopped this practice several years ago. However, boxes of envelopes are still available for those who make cash donations and can be found in the lobby at the Welcome Center and near building entrances. **You will need to write your name on the envelope if you do not wish for your gift to be anonymous.** These envelopes are also not dated, so if you still have some in your box from last year, there is no need to throw them away.

If you give by check, you are certainly welcome to use the provided envelopes, but you do not need to use one. You can simply put your check in the offering plate or mail it to the church.

You can also **donate directly through your bank**, and **online offering** continues to be available on the church website or by texting WHPC to 73256 (you will not receive any marketing as a result of using this service). **You can set up a one time gift or automatic, recurring donations through the online offering.**

We will continue to provide you with periodic giving statements. The deacons, coat drive, and other special envelopes will still be available in the pews or near the offering plate throughout the year.

Thank you for your continuing support of WHPC!

## DECEMBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

### *The Session of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church met on December 5, 2023*

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 Psalm 150 and talked about things we are thankful for
- Approved Session minutes from October meeting
- Reviewed reports from WHPC staff and committees
- Approved the 2024 General Budget as shared with the congregation, containing significant cuts from years past
- Decided on the worship schedule for 2024. We will combine our two worship services and move the start time to 10:00am. Sunday School will move to 9:00am.
- Set the congregational meeting for the 2023 Annual Report for January 28 (backup date February 4) and planning a lunch to follow the meeting
- Reviewed calendar of upcoming events
- Closed with prayer

Next scheduled in-person meeting will be January 23, 2023

## CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS

The church sends out an email prayer list\* each Tuesday; a weekly newsletter email each Thursday (*this monthly newsletter chopped up into four parts*); occasional special event news, youth news, and committee reminders. Are you on the list?

The church sends "broadcast style text messages" to everyone who signs up.

Visit [westhempfieldpc.org/subscribe](https://westhempfieldpc.org/subscribe) to sign up or to make any changes.

*\*Anyone can submit a prayer request by contacting the church office. However, please respect privacy and do not submit requests for others without their permission.*

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2024 (after 10AM worship service) with a snow date of February 4.**

We will present the 2024 budget as approved by the Session at their November meeting and the 2023 Annual Report. Those present will vote to reaffirm the pastor's contract, set the pastor's 2024 compensation, and elect the new class of church leadership.

When the Annual Report is ready (at least one week before the meeting) we will send it out as a PDF through the Constant Contact email lists "All WHPC News" and "Special Event News". If you are not currently signed up, you can do so on the church website [westhempfieldpc.org/subscribe](https://westhempfieldpc.org/subscribe)

Print copies will also be available in the lobby of the church Sunday, January 21. If you pick up a physical copy at the church to take home, please bring it back for the meeting to help reduce the number of copies we need to print.

**Reminder: As we start the new year, it's time to get annual reports to the office.**

***Please have your annual GROUP OR COMMITTEE REPORTS emailed to the office NO LATER THAN JANUARY 8, 2024***



On behalf of the Deacons and Mission committee....a great big thank you to everyone who donated food and gifts to this year's Deacon's Baskets and Angel Tree. It is heartwarming to see the outpouring of food items and gifts for struggling families in our community.

An additional thank you to those who came and helped sort food, pack the boxes, and help with the distribution.

Thank you WHPC family and friends!

Thank you to everyone who joined us in-person and over the phone for Christmas Eve services!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Thank you to all who bought poinsettias to help decorate the church for Christmas. You made everything look so beautiful!

Thank you to our Christian Ed. Committee for the awesome Sunday School Christmas party for our students.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to read and light Advent candles. This made our Advent and Christmas Eve services so special!

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

<b>Cheryl Bookheimer</b>	<b>January 2</b>	<b>Leah Iwinski</b>	<b>January 14</b>
<b>Marcus Dawson</b>	<b>January 2</b>	<b>Keith Pritts</b>	<b>January 16</b>
<b>Richard Hazlett</b>	<b>January 4</b>	<b>Donald Stewart</b>	<b>January 18</b>
<b>Jon Grinder</b>	<b>January 6</b>	<b>Joseph Smith</b>	<b>January 20</b>
<b>Rachel Weaver</b>	<b>January 8</b>	<b>Randy Greenawalt</b>	<b>January 20</b>
<b>Melissa Hladek</b>	<b>January 9</b>	<b>Marge Jackson</b>	<b>January 21</b>
<b>Neil Graham</b>	<b>January 10</b>	<b>Bob MacIntosh</b>	<b>January 22</b>

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



# January 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Office Closed Happy New Year! 	2	3 Senior Cards 11am	4 <i>Rental 6pm</i>	5 2023 Financial Audit 6:30pm <i>Rental 6pm</i>	6
7 9am Sunday School 10am Worship w/Communion	8 Dart Ball 7:00pm <i>Rental 6pm</i> <b>Annual Reports Due</b>	9 Deacons Mtg. 6:30pm <i>Rental 5pm</i>	10 Senior Cards 11am	11 <i>Rental 6pm</i>	12 <i>Rental 6pm</i>	13
14 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	15 Dart Ball 7:00pm	16 Stewardship Mtg. 6:30pm on Zoom <i>Rental 5pm</i>	17 Senior Cards 11am <b>Session Reports Due</b>	18 <i>Rental 6pm</i>	19 <i>Rental 6pm</i>	20
21 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	22 Dart Ball 7:00pm	23 Session Mtg. 6:30pm <i>Rental 5pm</i>	24 Senior Cards 11am <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	25 <i>Rental 6pm</i>	26 <i>Rental 6pm</i>	27
28 9am Sunday School 10am Worship <b>Congregational Meeting 11am</b>	29 Dart Ball 7:00pm <i>Rental 6pm</i>	30 <i>Rental 5pm</i>	31 Senior Cards 11am	<b>Church Office Hours</b> Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays 9am – 3pm		