



January

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!

The new year brings with it the opportunity for a new start.

We are reminded that in Jesus Christ each new day is the opportunity for a new start. The wonderful gift of forgiveness means that any moment can be the opportunity for a new start.

Psalm 85 says, (verses 7 & 8)

*Show us your unfailing love, Lord,
and grant us your salvation.
I will listen to what God the Lord says;
he promises peace to his people, his faithful
servants—but let them not turn to folly.*

The unfailing love of the Lord is always present to offer forgiveness and guidance, but we must choose to not turn to folly. We must choose to seek the Lord's way, and not our own.

What will this new year, this new start, look like if we choose to follow the Lord? The end of Psalm 85 (verses 10-13) paints a beautiful picture.

Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann writes, "The cast of good characters includes steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, and peace. They all meet; they embrace. Everything is in harmony. ... Heaven and earth are fully reconciled. The world is one under God's generous governance."

That sounds amazing! What must I do? What should be my New Year's resolution?

Brueggemann also points out there is no command in this passage for us. "We are invited to notice, to wonder, to be amazed, to be in awe."

With this new year, with each new start, let us choose to bear witness to what God has done, what Jesus has already accomplished. Let us follow God's way and to live into His Kingdom of Peace.

Blessings, Rev. Andrew Wirt

*Brueggemann, Walter. *Gift and Task: A Year of Daily Readings and Reflections*

Pastor Andrew Recommends:

Mister Rogers

This Christmas had a bit of a Mister Rogers theme for me, as I received a couple of books about him and a small toy in his likeness.

As a fellow graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and ordained PCUSA minister, I like to think I have a connection to this wonderful man. I consider him a hero and hope to live up to his legacy of promoting God's love.

This month I am recommending anything related to Mister Rogers.

Episodes of *Mister Rogers Neighborhood* are available on Amazon Prime Video.

Some of *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood* is available on Amazon Prime Video, PBS, or the PBS Kids app.

2018's documentary *Won't You Be My Neighbor?*

Last year's movie with Tom Hanks *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*

Books:

The Simple Faith of Mister Rogers by Amy Hollingsworth

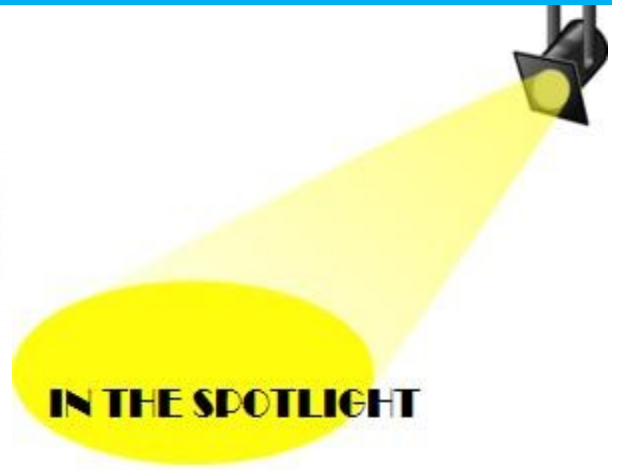
Exactly as You Are: The Life and Faith of Mister Rogers by Shea Tuttle

A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood: The Poetry of Mister Rogers by Fred Rogers and Luke Flowers

There are many more. I really feel that you can't go wrong with Mister Rogers.

How could I support the S & F Committee?

- Pray the committee discerns God’s vision for our church and we budget God’s money in a way that reflects His vision for our church
- The annual congregational meeting is coming up in January – volunteer to be an auditor. This means up to 4 hours of your time once a year for 3 years. (Normally the first week of January)



What does the Stewardship & Finance Committee do?

- Develops the Church’s annual budget with input from the Committee Chairs, Pastor, Financial Secretary, and Treasurer and presents this draft to Session and the congregation for approval
- Tracks church income and expenses and compares the current expenses against the budget. Any significant differences are reported to the Session
- Oversees the counting of the donations
- Presents the financial information to the Audit committee for review annually

What are your favorite things about working with the S & F Committee?

- Seeing God’s provision for our church in action
- Seeing the generosity of the people of the church! What a blessing to see people willing to give to God’s work in our church and community



For more information on how you can be a part of the Stewardship & Finance Committee, please contact Karen Kifer or any committee member

JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

JANUARY WORSHIP

January 5 – Regular Worship 8:30AM & 11:00AM,
Communion, Sunday School 9:45 am

January 12 – Regular Worship 8:30AM & 11:00AM,
Sunday School 9:45am

January 19 – Regular Worship 8:30AM & 11:00AM,
Sunday School 9:45 am

January 26 – One Worship Service 11:00AM,
Sunday school 9:45 am, Congregational Meeting and
Luncheon to follow in the Fellowship Hall



DECEMBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church met on Sunday, December 8 for a budget meeting

The regular session meeting for December was cancelled because it would have been on Christmas Eve. On December 8 the Session opened with prayer, discussed and approved the 2020 budget. This sends it to the 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting scheduled for January 26. The session meeting was closed with the Lord's prayer.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be on **Sunday, January 26, 2020.**



We will have one worship service that day at 11:00AM followed with a baked potato and sundae bar in the Fellowship Hall. We will approve the annual report, the 2020 budget, Pastor Andrew's terms of call and elect new officers. If you have the ability to email, it is preferred that you send your report to the office in that manner. Please have those in ***no later than January 5, 2020***. Annual Reports will be ready for your reading mid-January. To save on the cost of printing, please leave reports at the church for reuse until after the meeting.

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS WILL BE ORDAINED AND/OR INSTALLED

ON FEBRUARY 9, 2020

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

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

2020 GIVING ENVELOPES

The Stewardship and Finance Committee is dedicated to using your contributions wisely to further the mission of our church. One way we do this is identifying ways to decrease costs where possible.

Last year, we found that our giving envelopes were getting *more and more costly*. In addition, many envelopes were not being used at all.

So to avoid waste and *decrease costs*, we **no longer issue** boxes of giving envelopes to each congregant.

If you give by check, you **do not** need to use any envelope at all, simply put your check in the offering plate. You can also **donate online through your bank** like some congregants already do. For those who typically give in **cash**, we will have boxes of generic giving envelopes available in the lobby.

Please note: **The envelopes are not dated or numbered, therefore you must put your name on each envelope.**

We will also have “**Giving Calendars**” available to help you keep track of your contributions if you desire to do so. We will continue to provide you with periodic giving statements. The deacons, coat drive and other special envelopes will still be available.

Thank you and please see any member of the Stewardship & Finance Committee with questions or call the church office Monday – Friday (9am-1pm)

FELLOWSHIP



COFFEE HOUR

Continuing this year, we will have coffee hour usually on the second Sunday of the month following each service. Fellowship will start the year off with coffee hour on Sunday, January 12. Looking forward to fellowship time after we worship together.

January 12	Fellowship	July 12	Stewardship & Personnel
February 9	Deacons	August 9	Building & Nominating
March 8	Missions	September 13	Staff
April 12	Session	October 11	Worship & Prayer Ministry
May 10	Men's Group	November 8	Christian Ed & Sunday School
June 14	PWA	December 13	Ladies Bible Study



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Cheryl Bookheimer	January 2	Leah Iwinski	January 14
Marcus Dawson	January 2	Mona Ray	January 16
Richard Hazlett	January 4	Keith Pritts	January 16
Jon Grinder	January 6	Donald Stewart	January 18
Robbie Potthoff	January 7	Joseph Smith	January 20
Rachel Weaver	January 8	Randy Greenawalt	January 20
Melissa Hladek	January 9	Marge Jackson	January 21
Neil Graham	January 10	Bob MacIntosh	January 22

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

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Attention Women of WHPC: The adult Sunday school is back!

Starting **Sunday, January 12 at 9:45am** in *classroom number 9* a new adult Sunday school will begin looking at the Old Testament character Deborah.

Janice Potthoff will be leading us in this study using Jane Hamon's book.

The Deborah Company: *Becoming a Woman who Makes a Difference.*

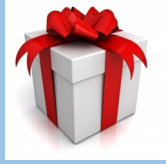


WEST HEMPFIELD PRESCHOOL

Is currently accepting registration for the school year 2020-2021. This program is designed for 3 & 4 year old children. The child must be 3 by August 31, 2020 and potty trained. The registration fee is \$30. If you would like more information, visit their website at www.westhempfieldpreschool.org, call the church office between 9am & 1pm or see Linda Simpson. Thank you!



Thank you so much for the delicious cookies and Starbucks gift cards!
It was so very sweet of you to think of us here at WHE!
Love, the Staff at WHE



Thank you to everyone who caroled with WHPC in early December. It was a great evening to spread the joy of the season with neighbors and even a few church friends! We enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies after in the lobby. Looking forward to caroling next year!

THANK YOU!

To missions and deacons who worked on all of our local missions this Holiday season – well done, good and faithful servants! And to those who donated to the coat drive, the Christmas baskets, the shoebox Christmas drive, and purchased gift for the gingerbread tree. We provided 23 food baskets and had presents for 43 children. Thanks to all who came to help sort food and distribute the presents & baskets.

Thank you Tony for a successful Christmas concert with your students!
The concert raised \$125 for Food 2 Go!!
Thank you!

Thank you to all who gave their time to ring the bells for the Salvation Army and for handing out nearly 100 candy canes and post cards for our Christmas Eve services



THANK YOU!
THANK YOU PWA FOR HOSTING COFFEE HOUR IN DECEMBER!



January Coffee Hour will be hosted by the Fellowship Committee



THINKING OF OUR FRIENDS AT WHPC...

The end of 2019 has proven to be a season of loss for many in the congregation of WHPC.

My grandfather Ralph Ritzman passed into the heavenly kingdom on December 13.

Charles Watts, uncle of Andrea Tuttoilmondo, one of our preschool teachers, passed on December 17.

June Campbell passed on December 17.

Martha "Marty" Brown Howarth, daughter of Sandy Young, passed December 21.

Leilah Potthoff, mother of Robbie, Janice and Barbara, passed on December 22.

Opal Myers, member of WHPC since 1963 who had more recently been living in the Lancaster area, died December 29.

We express our deepest condolences as we offer prayers for the families of those who have lost a loved one on this earth.

Almighty and everlasting God, the comfort of the sad, the strength of those who suffer, be with us all this day. Especially may you grant your peace upon those who are suffering loss this season. May they find appropriate opportunities to grieve. May they be surrounded by the support of loved ones. And through your Holy Spirit, may you remind them of the things that bring them joy. In the name of the risen Christ, we pray, Amen.

Blessings,

Rev. Andrew Wirt

If you'd like to send condolences...

Ralph Ritzman – grandfather of Rev. Wirt
Andrew Wirt
5 Penn Avenue
North Irwin, Pa 15642

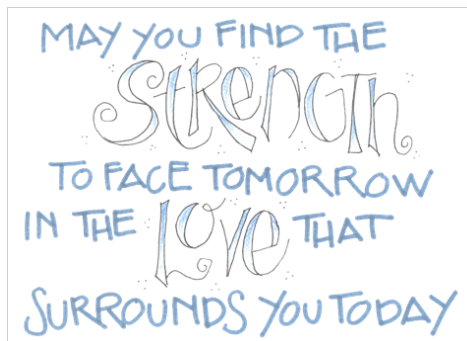
Charles Watts –
Uncle of Andrea Tuttoilmondo
Andrea Tuttoilmondo
4067 Stratford Drive
Irwin, Pa 15642

June Campbell - Terry Campbell (son)
6192 Boxer Drive
Bethel Park, Pa 15102

Martha (Marty) Brown Howarth –
daughter of Sandy Young
Sandy Young
1 Sycamore Street
Irwin, Pa 15642

Leilah Potthoff – mother of Janice, Robbie
and Barbara Potthoff
Janice, Robbie & Barbara Potthoff
735 Fairview Avenue
North Huntingdon, Pa 15642

Opal Myers – Richard Myers (son)
3 Lantern Circle
Lititz, Pa 17543



January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Annual Report Deadline January 5, 2020</p>			<p>1 Happy New Year! Office Closed</p>	2	3	4
5 <p>Communion Sunday 8:30 & 11:00 Worship Sunday School 9:45am</p>	6 <p>H.E.L.P 5:00pm Soccer Shots, 5:30pm FH Dart Ball—Greensburg 7:00pm Bible Study, 6:00pm</p>	7 <p>PWA Meeting, 10:00am</p>	8 <p>Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm Food2Go4Kids, 6:30pm Men's Group, 7:00pm</p>	9 <p>Scouts, 6:30-8:00pm</p>	10 <p>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	11
12 <p>8:30 & 11:00 Worship Coffee Hour hosted by Fellowship Sunday School 9:45am</p>	13 <p>H.E.L.P 5:00pm Soccer Shots, 5:30pm FH Dart Ball—West Newton 7:00pm Bible Study, 6:00pm</p>	14 <p>No Deacons Meeting Kids Yoga Rm 12 NAMI 7:00pm</p>	15 <p>Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm CE Meeting 6:30pm Men's Group, 7:00pm</p>	16	17	18
19 <p>8:30 & 11:00 Worship Sunday School 9:45am</p>	20 <p>H.E.L.P 5:00pm Soccer Shots, 5:30pm FH Dart Ball—Greensburg 7:00pm Bible Study, 6:00pm</p>	21 <p>Stewardship & Finance 6:30pm Kids Yoga Rm 12</p>	22 <p>Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm Food2Go4Kids, 6:30pm Men's Group, 7:00pm</p>	23 <p>Scouts 6:30-8:00pm Session Reports Due</p>	24 <p>Scouts—7pm set up Pinewood Derby</p>	25 <p>Scouts—1pm Pinewood Derby</p>
26 <p>One Service 11:00 Congregational Meeting Baked Potato & Sundaes Bar Sunday School 9:45am</p>	27 <p>H.E.L.P 5:00pm Soccer Shots, 5:30pm FH Dart Ball—WHPC 7:00pm Bible Study, 6:00pm</p>	28 <p>PWA Circle, 1:00pm Session Meeting 6:30pm Kids Yoga Rm 12</p>	29 <p>Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm Men's Group, 7:00pm</p>	30	31	