



WEST HEMPFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

At the session meeting on June 30, we looked at Matthew 8:23-27. Taking the idea from an app on my phone called **Pray As You Go**, we imagined ourselves as the disciples in the boat, surrounded by the chaos of the storm at sea, and turning to Christ for help. Imagining chaos in our own lives (past or present) we called out with the disciples: “Lord, save me, I’m going down.”

I was struck by the answer Jesus gives. “Why are you afraid, you of little faith?”

Yes, Jesus calmed the storm, but he is not happy that the disciples asked him for help.

The moral of this story does not seem to be the same as I Peter 5:7 *Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*

Context is often helpful. A few verses earlier in Matthew, Jesus was telling someone who expressed interest in following him that it would not be an easy journey.

Could Jesus be telling the disciples, and us, the same thing in this story? Following him will not be an easy journey. Don’t look for the easy way out.

Jesus cares deeply for us and about the hardships of our lives. If that were not true he would not have come to earth to save us, nor would he have died and rose again to show us the Way to God the Father.

As the chaos threatens your boat, remember that Jesus is in the boat with you. Rather than asking him to make it stop, can we find the courage to ask what we can do, what we can learn, and how this all might be leading us to God’s kingdom?

Blessings, Rev. Andrew Wirt

Pastor Andrew Recommends:

Mail a letter

Faced with the challenges of the COVID-19 shut downs and physical distancing, I struggled to come up with ideas for how to maintain a connection to the congregation that I couldn’t see at church or go visit.

After Easter I sat down with the church directory and just started writing letters. Over 100 letters took longer than I thought, but I mailed the last one before the end of June.

I will admit, at times, it felt like a chore, but it truly was a blessing to take the time not just to write, but to stop and think about and pray for each of these families that make up West Hempfield Presbyterian Church.

You won’t find me saying that the pandemic is a good thing and I don’t want to go through a shut down again, but I’m sure I wouldn’t have had the time, opportunity, or motivation to write all those letters otherwise.

Having written them, I’m glad I did. So my July recommendation is to write a letter. You don’t have to write 100; try starting with one. Don’t type. Get out a pen and paper. Take your time. Draw a doodle. Add a sticker. (Here’s a secret: Write with a marker instead of a pen; it fills the page faster.) Offer a prayer as you write the address and add the stamp.

Jesus said, “Love your neighbor.”

Why not send them a letter?

JULY WORSHIP SCHEDULE



July 5 11:00 AM WORSHIP W/ COMMUNION

July 12 11:00 AM WORSHIP

July 19 11:00 AM WORSHIP

July 26 11:00 AM WORSHIP

***11:00AM WORSHIP WILL CONTINUE THROUGH
AT LEAST THE END OF THE MONTH***

*at-home worship continues to be available on the church website, Facebook, and YouTube

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

COMMUNION

We will celebrate with Communion this Sunday, July 5 at the 11:00AM Worship Service.

We will be using single-serve, pre-packaged communion cups that will be handed out as you enter the sanctuary.



JUNE SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church met on June 30, 2020

- Approved Session minutes from May 2020.
- Together we covered our church and congregation with prayer, read Scripture, and reviewed all that has been going on with the church and the world.
- Staff appreciation cards sent to the staff of WHPC.
- Building will remain open, in-person worship will remain a single service at 11:00am on Sunday mornings with physical distancing limiting the pews, at-home worship (call in, online, and DVDs) will continue.
- The decision was made to not allow community dinners in the fellowship hall at least through the end of October.
- Communion was given the go ahead for Sunday, July 5, at the in-person worship service. We will be using single-serve, pre-packaged communion cups that will be handed out as you enter the sanctuary.
- Piano dedication was approved and scheduled for Sunday, August 9.
- Back to School Blessings Service was scheduled for Saturday, August 22.

MUSIC BY TONY

For those who are interested in sharing any special music on Sunday mornings, I am trying to fill the calendar for the rest of the summer and early fall. Due to physical distancing restrictions, no groups or choir can perform at this time. If an individual or family would like to provide special music, please contact me gre0151@gmail.com, the church office, or Pastor Andrew. I am also able to receive music via Facebook Messenger. ***Tony Liberace Greendonor***

Please include:

Your name(s)
The title of the music
Composer

If you are able, please send a copy of the music/sheet, words, etc.

Again, thank you to everyone who has in some way provided us with special music.

Malcolm Arnold: "Music is the social act of communication among people, a gesture of friendship, the strongest there is."

Musically yours,

Anthony (Tony) Greendonor

As many of you are aware, the church has been gifted a very well maintained, almost show room new piano made by Steinway and Sons company from the Carolyn Lenhart Weiss estate.

August 9 we will be doing the official piano dedication.

I am seeking the following:

Individuals to play 1-2 songs each on the piano.

Individuals who need the piano as their accompaniment, voice, and/or instrumental.

Please email me with the song(s) and who will be doing what. Name, song title, composer, as well as a copy of your music.

Email or Facebook Messenger are both applicable.



JUNE DEACONS HIGHLIGHTS

- The Deacons decided the church picnic will be postponed until further notice.
- More specifics and decisions will be made once survey results are back.
- The car cruise will be postponed until further notice as well
- A child from the community approached one of the Deacons and was appreciative and thankful for the "Food To Go" program at West Hempfield Elementary School.



JULY BIRTHDAY'S

Bert Moore	July 3	Jim St. Antoine	July 19
Kelly Smith	July 3	Tom Toth	July 20
Hudson Pritz	July 7	Ruth Lutz	July 19
Madison Cameron	July 13	Barbara St. Antoine	July 24
Sarah Mikluscak	July 14	Johnny Bankosh	July 25
Becky Collier	July 18	Caleb Mikluscak	July 26
		Pat Jones	July 31

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

EMAIL COMMUNITY PRAYER LIST



Our email prayer list will continue even with the church re-opening; we ask that you do not write on the prayer & praise board.

Please let the church office know of any prayers you wish to share with the congregation. We will continue emailing your prayer requests each Monday. 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. In some circumstances, requests may be given to the pastor/elders/deacons but not placed on the email to everyone. ALL requests will be prayed for, even if they are not placed on the public list.

WEST HEMPFIELD PRESCHOOL

WHPC 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 and potty trained by August 31. The registration fee is \$30. If you would like more information, visit the preschool website at www.westhempfieldpreschool.org or call the church office between 9am - 1pm. Thank you.





Thank you to everyone who has supported the church with donations of hand sanitizer so that we could reopen safely.

Thank you for participating in our first at-home communion in June. We will return to regular scheduled in-person communion again on July 5.



**Dear Friends,
Thank you so much for your kindness in providing meals through these weeks of my chemo. Your congregation is certainly an example of God's love, and I so appreciate your thoughtfulness. "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus."**

**Sincerely,
Joan Berresford
(Heather Thomas' mother)**

Thank you for your continued prayers for our church family and friends. Prayer requests are emailed every Monday, call the church office if you do not have email and would like to be updated on the prayer requests.

**Thank you for maintaining the garden and pond area.
Flowers have been planted, weeds taken away. It looks beautiful!
Lots of people in the nearby neighborhoods enjoy visiting our pond area.**



July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm	2	3	4
5 11:00AM Worship	6	7	8 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm	9	10	11
12 11:00AM Worship	13	14 Deacons Meeting, 6:30pm NAMI 7:00pm	15 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm	16	17	18
19 11:00AM Worship	20	21 Stewardship & Finance 6:30pm	22 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm	23 SESSION REPORTS DUE	24	25
26 11:00AM Worship	27 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	28 Session Meeting, 6:30pm	29 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm	30	31	