



## WEST HEMPFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Irwin, PA 15642

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

With an extra worship service this week for Ash Wednesday, and a couple more extra services coming in April for Holy Week, I have been thinking about what we do when we gather for worship, and why we do it.

The Presbyterian church (and many other denominations) places a heavy importance on the Scriptures. Every worship service is required to have at least one reading from the Bible and a time of reflection upon that reading (usually in the form of a sermon).

Everything that comes before the Scripture reading can be thought of as preparation for hearing God's Word and everything after can be thought of as the response to God's Word. A pastor or worship committee might then choose the order for the parts of the service based on their understanding of each part as either preparation or response.

The Passing of the Peace used to be early in the service at WHPC, before the reading of Scripture. Shortly after I came to West Hempfield I moved it to be the very last thing we do before we leave the sanctuary. The Passing of the Peace has become a response to the Good News of the Gospel. "Let us share that Peace with one another" is no longer just for 5 minutes in the middle of the service. It is now a suggestion for the rest of our lives as we head out into the world each week—to greet everyone we meet with, "Peace be with you!"

Blessings, Rev. Andrew Wirt

### **Pastor Andrew Recommends:**

#### **Wash Your Hands**

*(From the Presbyterian Mission Agency website)*

The world's attention and concern is on a virus originating in China and spreading to other countries. Every day our news is filled with dramatic stories of this disaster and the efforts to contain it. Here at home we might pray for those affected and take some comfort in that the virus will not reach us and we are safe. The reality is a deadly virus is already in our community and potentially in our worship services.

For many people Sunday morning worship is a highlight of the week providing spiritual guidance, reflection, fellowship and renewal for the week ahead. Unfortunately, it can be a person's most dangerous time of the week for becoming infected with a life-threatening virus.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that so far this season in the United States there have been at least 26 million flu illnesses, 250,000 hospitalizations and 14,000 deaths from flu.

It is a reasonable expectation that church worship is a significant contributing factor. A traditional worship service is an incubator for the virus when individuals, including many with health issues, come together in close personal contact and engage in normal activities like hand-to-hand contact with others and then touch the face, especially the nose and eyes, during the service.

This is made especially critical when the congregation is led in the practice of the "passing of the peace" in a form that health professionals clearly identify as a predominant factor in spreading infections and should be avoided.

*Perry Sprawls, Ph.D., is a medical scientist and Distinguished Emeritus Professor of the Emory University School of Medicine now living in Black Mountain, North Carolina. He currently serves as head usher and worship host for Black Mountain Presbyterian Church with a major emphasis on providing a comfortable and safe worship environment for members.*

He goes on to encourage congregations and church leadership to remember and encourage basic hygiene practices such as regularly washing hands; avoid touching your nose, mouth, and eyes; use tissues for coughs and sneezes and dispose of them immediately and appropriately; and if you are truly sick, for the safety of others, consider staying home.

**What does the Building Committee do?**

- Oversee the building and grounds of the church
- Maintain all church property in good condition and appearance that benefits the status of the church
- Perform necessary repairs in the most economical manner
- Coordinate the use of church facilities to groups and/or organizations
- Provide input on any planning with the facilities, capital finance, etc...
- Responsible to see that building is secured properly

**How could I support the Building Committee?**

- PRAY for the building committee
- Volunteer to serve on our committee
- Help keep our church home neat & tidy

**Building Committee  
Fellowship Hall  
Chair Campaign**

Our trusty Fellowship Hall chairs are beginning to show their age. Several were beyond repair. Please help us begin replacing them.



One Chair — \$25  
Fill a Table — \$200

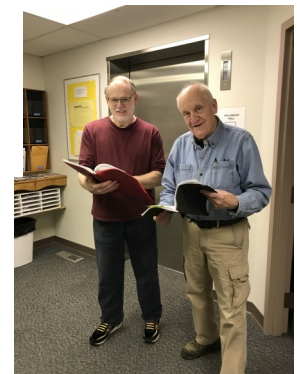
**Our Goal:**  
80 Chairs — \$2000

**Collecting Funds**

March 1 — March 15  
Donations may be placed  
in the envelopes labelled  
Building Repair Fund

**What are your favorite things about working with the Building Committee?**

- Developing and maintaining working relationships with fellow church members and staff
- Providing the best facilities for our church friends to utilize



**For more information on how you can be a part of the building committee, please contact Wylie Irwin, Bob Randolph or Krissy Ritson.**

## MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**March 1** – Regular Worship 8:30AM & 11:00AM,  
Communion, Sunday School 9:45 am

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

**March 15** – Regular Worship 8:30AM & 11:00AM, Sunday  
School 9:45 am

**March 22**—Regular Worship 8:30AM & 11:00AM,  
Sunday School 9:45 am

**March 29**—Regular Worship 8:30AM & 11:00AM,  
Sunday School 9:45am



## FEBRUARY SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

### ***The Session of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church met on February 25, 2020***

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 Psalm 51:7-13; *Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Throughout Lent we will be looking for Joy.*

We approved January session minutes.

We received and reviewed staff and committee reports.

We approved the Spring Spaghetti Dinner for 2021.

Reviewed other upcoming events.

Approved receiving the gift of a Steinway piano that will be placed in the Sanctuary in March

## MUSIC BY TONY

### ***“He’s Got The Whole World In His Hands”***

We are looking for hymn suggestions and special music for Lent and Easter!

Not only is it fun when someone request hymns, it gives more to the service knowing someone has a special meaning tied to a particular hymn.

Please see Tony, fill out the music request form on his door, or contact Heather Manhart with any suggestions.

***Choir rehearsal resumes on Wednesdays between 6pm-7pm and on Sunday mornings at 10:30am.***

Children’s Choir will continue on ***Sunday mornings between 9:45 -9:55*** in sanctuary.

Last Sunday of the month is Children Choir Sunday.

March's song ***“He’s Got The Whole World In His Hands”***

Musically yours, Tony



## HAITI MISSION—SPAGHETTI DINNER

**Saturday, March 28, 2020 from 4:00-6:30 PM**

**TICKETS:** Available in the lobby following worship or by stopping in the office Mon-Fri 9am to 1pm.

**COST:** Adults..... \$8

**Children 3-12 years old..... \$5**

**Children 3 and under eat FREE**

**MENU:** Spaghetti, meatballs, salad, bread, dessert and beverage

\*\*\*\*\*CARRY-OUT AVAILABLE\*\*\*\*\*



**PROCEEDS:** We have been able to send \$100 each month to support the school thanks to the fundraising and your on-going generous support. If you are able to help with any event, please contact Arleen Sekely or Jen Mikluscak. Thank you!

### **MEATBALL MAKING PARTY:**

Join us on **Friday, March 27 at 6pm** to help prepare for the Spaghetti Dinner. Please come and enjoy some fun and fellowship while helping make this dinner a success.

**GET CREATIVE:** Once again we will have a **Chinese Auction** during the spaghetti dinner. Tickets are purchased as guests enter and winning tickets will be drawn a little after 6. If you would like to donate a basket, please let Jen or Arleen know after worship or in the office during work hours. In the past there have been pasta dinner baskets, kid friendly baskets, movie night baskets, gardening baskets, bath & body baskets, etc. What would YOU like to win?

## HAITI MISSION—COMMUNITY SALE!

**WANTED:** Crafters, Vendors, and Spring Cleaners! Let's fill the Fellowship Hall with your treasures. Tables are \$25 each and 8' long to display your belongings. You will be responsible for taking any unsold items with you. Don't have any interest in selling? Come and shop to support others and our trip to Haiti. Please contact Heather in the church office to reserve your table. Looking forward to a fun day of shopping with WHPC!

***WHPC Community Sale! APRIL 25, 9:00am—12:00noon, \$25 per table***

## HAITI MISSION—INFORMATIVE PRESENTATION

Want to know why we support Haiti? Everyone's invited to a short informative presentation on **Sunday, March 8** between services to learn more about this mission and our upcoming trip to Haiti.

WHPC gives monthly support to a children's school in Haiti.

The annual spaghetti dinner is an important fundraiser so that we can continue our giving. With the upcoming trip planning we have added a Fall Spaghetti Dinner and Community Sale in hopes to raise monies for the WHPC trip.



## MISSION—LOCAL



WHPC will be volunteering at the Blessing Board this March. The Blessing Board is a place where those less fortunate can come and receive furniture for their homes for FREE

If you'd like to join us, please sign up at the Welcome Center. We are volunteering on ***Saturday, March 21 between 8am-12noon***

<https://blessingboard.org/>

## CHRISTIAN ED

**EGG HUNT:** Easter Candy Donations Needed: We are in search of individually wrapped candy to fill our plastic eggs for the BIG HUNT! All donations are needed in by ***March 22***. Candy can be placed in the empty bin located outside sanctuary doors, under the bulletin board. ***Egg stuffing will be held on March 29 after the 11:00 service.*** Thank you for your support!

**Save the Date!** Easter Egg Party, featuring the near famous Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, ***April 4 at 1:00pm.***

**VBS:** The Christian Education Committee is also in search of volunteers who would like to participate in vacation bible school. This year VBS is scheduled for the week of ***June 15-19 from 6 to 8pm.*** If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, please call the church office or email [office@westhempfieldpc.org](mailto:office@westhempfieldpc.org) Thank you!!



## EASTER FLOWER ORDERS

### ORDERS DUE WITH PAYMENT BY MARCH 22



If you would like to order a flower for yourself, in honor of or in memory of another, complete the form provided at the church or call the church office to place your flower order. Place paper forms along with your payment in the offering plate or in the office. We will decorate the sanctuary with them for Easter. After Easter services please take yours home with you.

## PWA

### PWA EASTER CANDY SALE

The PWA Candy Sale begins Sunday, ***March 15 and continues through April 5.*** Please see the display after Sunday services or stop by the church office between 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM for assistance. The candy is delicious and beautifully hand-crafted. What a treat for your Easter baskets. Thank you for supporting the PWA!





## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 3 – Jake Gilmartin  
March 4 – Connor Wybiral  
March 5 – Paul Jackson  
March 9 – Debbie Miller  
March 11 – Janet Vandermer  
March 14 – Matt Porterfield  
March 16 – Marion MacIntosh  
March 19 – Cameron Mackenzie  
March 21—Mary Porterfield

March 24 – Ruth Uhlig  
March 24 – Barbara Davis  
March 25 – Nancy Stepinsky  
March 25—Jeff Siegel  
March 27 – Joyce Edmonds  
March 28 – Sam Joseph  
March 28 – Wylie Irwin  
March 28 – Pat Smith  
March 29—Karissa Hrico

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

## ANNIVERSARY'S



Let the office know when your Anniversary is and we will be sure to celebrate you and yours on our new Anniversary board outside the sanctuary. If it's in March feel free to add your Anniversary to a heart on the bulletin board.

## WEST HEMPFIELD PRESCHOOL

We are 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](http://www.westhempfieldpreschool.org), call the church office between 9am & 1pm or see Linda Simpson. Thank you!





*Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Ash Wednesday service to kick off the season of Lent. We shared small wood crosses as a gift from WHPC that can serve as a reminder of all that God has done for us and our need for humility. If you were not able to get one, crosses are still available at the church.*

*Thank you Dave Miller  
for the beautifully  
painted Narthex and  
entry way into the  
Sanctuary. We are  
truly blessed!*

**Thank you to all who came  
out to the Family PJ Night!**

**It was a great turnout,  
friends gathered for an  
evening of fellowship, food  
& fun! WE learned from  
our movie and our bible  
study the importance of  
bering kind and having a  
good heart because  
(1Samuel 16:7)**

***“The Lord does not look at  
the things people look at.  
People look at the outward  
appearance, but  
the Lord looks at the heart.”***

*Thank you to all  
new and continuing  
Elders and Deacons  
for volunteering to  
serve.*

**THANK YOU DEACONS FOR  
HOSTING COFFEE HOUR IN  
FEBRUARY!**

*March Coffee Hour will be  
hosted by the Mission  
Committee*



# March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Communion Sunday 8:30 & 11:00 Worship Sunday School 9:45am	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> PWA, 10:00am Kids Yoga 5:30, Rm 12	<b>4</b> Senior Cards, 11am Food2Go4Kids, 6:30pm Choir, 6:00pm Men's Group, 7:00pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8:30 & 11:00 Worship Coffee Hour hosted by Missions Sunday School 9:45am	<b>9</b> H.E.L.P 5:00pm Soccer Shots, 5:30pm FH Dart Ball—Paintertown 7:00pm Bible Study, 6:00pm	<b>10</b> Kids Yoga 5:30, Rm 12 Deacons Meeting, 6:30pm NAMM 7:00pm	<b>11</b> Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm Choir, 6:00pm Men's Group, 7:00pm	<b>12</b> Scouts, 6:30-8:00pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 8:30 & 11:00 Worship Christian Ed Meeting 12noon Sunday School 9:45am PWA Candy Sale	<b>16</b> H.E.L.P 5:00pm Soccer Shots, 5:30pm FH Dart Ball—WHPC 7:00pm Bible Study, 6:00pm	<b>17</b> Kids Yoga 5:30, Rm 12 Stewardship & Finance 6:30pm	<b>18</b> Senior Cards, 11am Choir, 6:00pm Food2Go4Kids, 6:30pm Men's Group, 7:00pm	<b>19</b> <b>SESSION REPORTS DUE</b>	<b>20</b> Scouts set up for Banquet	<b>21</b> Scouts Banquet Fellowship Hall in use
<b>22</b> 8:30 & 11:00 Worship Sunday School 9:45am PWA Candy Sale	<b>23</b> H.E.L.P 5:00pm Soccer Shots, 5:30pm FH Dart Ball—Irwin Methodist 7:00pm Bible Study, 6:00pm	<b>24</b> Kids Yoga 5:30, Rm 12 PWA, 1:00pm Session Meeting, 6:30pm	<b>25</b> Staff Meeting, 10am Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm Choir, 6:00pm Men's Group, 7:00pm <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Meatball making, 6:00pm Fellowship Hall	<b>28</b> Haiti Spaghetti Dinner 4-6:30pm Fellowship Hall
<b>29</b> 8:30 & 11:00 Worship Sunday School 9:45am PWA Candy Sale	<b>30</b> H.E.L.P 5:00pm Soccer Shots, 5:30pm FH Dart Ball—WHPC 7:00pm Bible Study, 6:00pm	<b>31</b> Kids Yoga 5:30, Rm 12		Choir Rehearsal every Wednesday at 6:00pm & Children's Choir every Sunday at 9:45am		