



WEST HEMPFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8 West Hempfield Drive

Irwin, PA 15642

724-863-1260

[www.westhempfieldpc.org](http://www.westhempfieldpc.org)

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

There has been a lot of loss this year. We all kind of lost Easter. We lost time with loved ones, lost opportunities, lost income ... We lost "normal". And we haven't really had time to grieve the losses, because it isn't over. Everything feels harder because you just never know what to expect.

I don't know about you, but I'm exhausted.

Still, I try not to think of only myself. To be aware of the needs of others around me. There will always be those who are hungry, sad, lonely, vulnerable.

But how can I help others when I feel weak too?

**Matthew 14:13-21**  
**Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand**

Again this month, I find myself interested in what happens right before the well known miracle.

Jesus and the disciples have just learned about the death of their friend/cousin/mentor, John the Baptist. They were originally trying to find a quiet place to grieve the loss. But the crowds followed them, and the day grew long.

Still, the disciples think of others. They see the needs of the people in the crowd: everyone is hungry. They propose a solution: Jesus should press "Pause" on his lectures, we need an intermission, send everyone away to find food, maybe resume tomorrow. But Jesus has a different plan: verse 16, "You give them something to eat."

I can feel myself responding with the disciples. "How? ... How can I be of any help to someone else? I'm not even sure how to take care of myself right now." Are you feeling that today too? Have you felt like this at some point this year?

Jesus says to us, as he said to the disciples long ago, "Bring what you have to me. No matter how small. If you share with open hands, generosity, and compassion, there will be enough."

Blessings, Rev. Andrew Wirt

**Pastor Andrew Recommends:**

**COOPERATIVE BOARD GAMES**

We've all been stuck inside more than usual this year. Now that the sun is going down earlier and the air is getting colder, there's going to be even more time spent indoors.

When someone says "board games," love them or hate them, your mind probably goes to some of the classics. *Monopoly*, *Checkers*, *Risk*, *Trivial Pursuit*, *Uno*, etc.

I have some newer favorites. *Ticket to Ride*, *Settlers of Catan*, *Small World*, *Dominion*.

But all of those games are competitive games. There might be teams, but players still compete against one another. Someone wins and someone loses. (Or someone flips the board and scatters all the pieces in frustration before reaching the end.)

Did you know there are some really great games that promote **cooperation** and **teamwork** instead? Games where everyone has to work together to win. Or everyone loses together — providing the opportunity to model losing in a healthy way (and maybe have fewer board flips in the future).

There is a really good cooperative board game called *Pandemic* where players work together to prevent several diseases from spreading across the globe. However, that might be touching a sensitive subject this year. Instead, I recommend a smaller (and cheaper) game called *Forbidden Island*.

*Forbidden Island* has a very similar setup to *Pandemic* where each player has their own role and special ability. But here, 2 to 4 players work together to rescue four treasures from the island before it sinks into the ocean. (~30 minutes)

If you are a fan of games and want to recommend others, I'd love to hear your recommendations too!

## NOVEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE



11/1 – 8:30 & 11AM Worship, Sunday school  
11/8 – 8:30 & 11AM Worship, Sunday school  
11/15– 8:30 & 11AM Worship, Sunday school  
11/22 –8:30 & 11AM Worship, Sunday school  
Thanksgiving dinner 12noon eat in or take out RSVP by Nov.8  
11/29 - 8:30 & 11AM Worship, Sunday school

\*at-home worship continues to be available on the church website, Facebook, and YouTube — hopefully available by 11:00am on Sunday mornings

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



**Don't forget to turn your clock back by one hour Saturday at midnight, October 31**

## NOVEMBER COMMUNION SCHEDULE

*We will celebrate Communion on Sunday, November 1 at the 8:30AM & 11:00AM Worship Services.*

We will be using single-serve, pre-packaged communion cups that will be handed out as you enter the sanctuary. Gluten free wafers are available, please ask an Usher.

If you would like to celebrate communion with us, but are not able to join us in-person, you can still participate at home with your own bread and juice on the call-in or by requesting a DVD to watch. The video posted to the church website will not include the words of communion.



## OCTOBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Together we covered our church and congregation with prayer, reviewed all that has been going on with the church and the world.
- We read and reflected on the story of the feeding of the 5,000 in Matthew Chapter 14.
- Approved Session minutes from September 2020.
- First read of the 2021 Budget was presented
- New computers purchased for the offices.
- The preschool is in need of individually packed snacks. We will receive donations anytime, but have set aside the 2nd Sunday of each month as our “Preschool Collection Sunday” (in the month of November they are in need of individually packaged pretzels, chips, goldfish, anything salty)
- Dart ball is to begin in January on Monday evenings
- Soccer Shots will be returning on Wednesday evenings
- Room 13/14 is being used as the Food2Go4kids storage and packaging room. Volunteers needed for distribution on Thursdays from 3-5pm. Contact the church office if interested.
- Coat drive has started. 93 coats were requested, purchased and delivered this year. We are still seeking financial donations to help cover the cost.

## DEACONS

### DEACONS CHRISTMAS BASKETS

*The collection of food items will begin Sunday, November 15*

Below is a list of suggested items for each week. You may donate as much and as many times as you'd like. The Deacons and Mission Committee thank you for helping them help others in need in our community.

**November 15 – Breakfast Items** (cereal, oatmeal, juices, cereal bars, dried milk)

**November 22 – Lunch Items** (peanut butter, jelly, soups, mac-n-cheese, canned fruit)

**November 29 – Dinner Items** (pasta, sauces, canned vegetables, cookies, cake mixes, puddings, rice mix, drinks)

**December 4 – Paper Products/ Toiletries** (paper towels, tissues, soaps, shampoo, toothpaste, floss)

*All items should be non-perishable.*

If you have a name of a family who could benefit from this ministry, please call the church office.

If you can help packaging the baskets, please contact Larry DeTesta.

### GINGERBREAD TREE

Coming Soon!

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



## FELLOWSHIP

## THANKSGIVING DINNER



Join your church family for our Annual *Thanksgiving Dinner* following our *11am worship service on November 22*.

Sunday school 9:45am. Meals served for you to eat in or pick up in the Fellowship Hall and take home.

**Tables will be set if you would like to sit and Fellowship.**

**Please RSVP no later than November 8.** Thank you!!

Call the church office or sign up at the Welcome center table in the lobby.

## HAITI MISSION



### UPCOMING SHOEBOX DRIVE

We will again be sending Christmas shoe boxes to Haiti. During these unprecedented times, we know that it is difficult to commit to anything. However, we ask that you please remember there are other people that may have even greater needs than ours. If you do not feel comfortable going shopping for items, please feel free to contact Heather, Jen or Arleen with a monetary cash donation and let us know what gender and age that you would like to provide a box for. We are willing to shop for you. Please stay tuned for the exact dates that the drive will take place.

### COUPON BOOK SALES

Once again we will be selling coupon books during the holiday season. These are \$10 each and double the size of last year. They are very nice to use for stocking stuffers. Please see Arleen Sekely or Jen Mikluscak to purchase your coupon book.

## LOCAL MISSION

### MISSION COAT DRIVE

Each year our church family provides coats to the children of West Hempfield Elementary School who are in need. This year we purchased 93 coats! There are *donation envelopes* in the pews. Please help support the mission committee so that we can continue this loving mission. You can also give online at [www.westhempfieldpc.org/mission](http://www.westhempfieldpc.org/mission) or by texting **WHPC coats** to **73256**.



### FOOD2GO4KIDS PROGRAM

Because bags can no longer be placed into backpacks at the school, the Food2Go4Kids program has made some changes this year. Bags will be available by drive-by pick-up at West Hempfield Presbyterian Church in the lower parking lot every week. Here are a couple ways you can help.

- Volunteer packing weekly items (committees, groups outside the church, staff) contact the church office.
- Donate plastic bags and/or food items (microwavable mac n' cheese, individual applesauce, pop tarts, fruit snacks, granola bars, rice krispie treats, pretzels or chips individually packaged, microwavable ramen noodles, individual cereal boxes, and microwavable chef boyardee ravioli's)
- Donate by texting **WHPC food2go** to **73256** or go to [www.westhempfieldpc.org](http://www.westhempfieldpc.org) and visit the mission page or you may write a check to WHPC memo line Food2Go
- Volunteer to help with distribution (Thursdays 3:00-5:00pm), call the church office to sign up!

## SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING

If you are interested in ringing the bells this year, please call the church office 724-863-1260.

Date and times to follow in upcoming bulletins.



## WORSHIP

We will be decorating for Christmas the week of **November 22** in small groups. If your family, committee or friends would like to help with decorating, please contact the office or sign up at the Welcome center.

We will contact you with details.



## STEWARDSHIP



Stewardship Study Journal's are available in the lobby or you may call the office and Heather would be happy to send you one. You can follow the lessons at your own pace, reflecting again on the scriptures from Pastor Andrew's sermons in October.

Remember, Release, Reimagine and Restore!

## NURSERY ATTENDANT

We would like to re-open the nursery. If you would be willing to volunteer as a nursery attendant during a Sunday morning worship service (either service, on a regular or occasional basis) please let the church office know. Thank you!

We also have provided tables in the back of the sanctuary with quiet activities for those children who would like to join us during services.

We love having kids in the room during worship!

## PRESCHOOL

The preschool is so appreciative of all the snack donations, thank you! We could use some salty treats for the kiddos like individual bags of **chips, pretzels, gold fish or anything salty.**

We currently have 23 children.

Please put your donations by the preschool bulletin board on the floor.

Thank you!





Thank you to all who came to the Sunday School Halloween Party! The children received lots of treats, played games, colored together and won prizes. We appreciate all the donations from the committees as well.

Thank you building committee for changing the lights in the Sanctuary!

Thank you A Sanctified Art ([sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)) for our Stewardship Study Journals and lesson plans for October's Stewardship Sermons!

Thank you for the coats!

We got them ALL delivered to our brick and mortar kids yesterday, and the HACA (cyber) parents are slowly trickling in for pickups, as well.

I wish you could have been here at dismissal yesterday to see the smiles on the faces of so many kiddos excited to immediately put on their new winter coats.

Please extend our gratitude to church members for their generosity in helping our families in need. We are lucky to have a neighbor like you!  
From your buddies at WHE

Continued thanks to those who have contributed to the Food2Go program with monetary and food donations. Also to the Deacons for providing shelving units to store the food and building them.  
Much appreciated!



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Andrea Tuttoilmondo	November 2	Melissa Wybiral	November 12
Janson Hrico	November 3	Hope Aston	November 14
Genevieve Wirt	November 4	Sean Immel	November 17
Alan Bookheimer	November 5	Deb Immel	November 19
Janice Mihalko	November 11	Sandy Young	November 26

# November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30AM & 11:00AM Worship Sunday school 9:45am	2	3 Girl Scouts, 5:00pm Voting in Fellowship Hall	4 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm Men's Group 7pm Soccer Shots 5pm	5 Hand bell practice 6:30-7:30pm	6	7
8 8:30AM & 11:00AM Worship Sunday school 9:45am	9	10 NAMI, 7:00pm Deacons Meeting, 6:30pm	11 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm Men's Group 7pm Soccer Shots 5pm	12 Hand bell practice 6:30-7:30pm	13	14
15 8:30AM & 11:00AM Worship Sunday school 9:45am	16	17 Stewardship & Finance Meeting, 6:30pm Fall Family Yoga 6:30pm Room 12	18 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm Men's Group 7pm Soccer Shots 5pm	19 Hand bell practice 6:30-7:30pm Session Reports Due	20	21
22 8:30AM & 11:00AM Worship Sunday school 9:45am <b>Thanksgiving dinner 12:00 in FH</b>	23 <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	24 Session Meeting, 6:30pm	25 Senior Cards, 11-2:30pm Men's Group 7pm No Soccer Shots	26 <b>Happy Thanksgiving Office Closed</b>	27 <b>Office Closed</b>	28
29 8:30AM & 11:00AM Worship Sunday school	30					