



# August

## WEST HEMPFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

As many of you know, I was honored to serve as a Commissioner to the General Assembly (GA) of the PCUSA held in Salt Lake City, UT this summer.

The General Assembly is the once-every-two-years gathering for the business of the national denomination.

A three day committee meeting followed by a four day session meeting for the whole PCUSA.

In my sermons throughout August and a little into September, I will be sharing about what happened at GA and some of my reflections on it.

What gets the most attention is usually the proposed changes to our Book of Order and/or things that spend money (i.e. affect per capita). But not everything we did at the 226th General Assembly changes our Book of Order, spends money, or requires churches to do something.

You might ask then, "Why is it important?"

Remember, even though we are shrinking, the PCUSA still represents over 8,500 churches and over 1 million members. We have a lot of influence!

The PCUSA has a presence in both Washington, DC, and the United Nations, advocating for the policies and positions discussed at GA. When the PCUSA speaks at GA, it makes waves throughout the world.

This year, we promoted a paper titled "*More Than Knowledge and Training*" that addresses the purpose and value of a college or university education and

the rising cost of higher education and student indebtedness (this one came through my committee, Christian Formation).

We spoke against the use of prolonged solitary confinement (recognized as a form of torture by the UN) and voiced support for removing the 13th Amendment's exception that permits those who are convicted of a crime to be enslaved.

We discussed the threat of climate change and debated appropriate responses.

We called for action so that children may live free from gun violence.

Over the last few years, many in the PCUSA (including Redstone Presbytery) have sought to embrace Jesus' words in Matthew 25, "*whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.*"

I was moved by the ways the GA followed the calling of Jesus by drawing attention to, and speaking up for, "the least of these."

Blessings, Rev. Andrew Wirt



## BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSINGS SERVICE

Sunday, August 18, 2024  
10:00am

## In This Month's Newsletter:

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## COMMUNION



We will be celebrating communion together as a part of our worship service on Sunday, August 4, 2024 at 10:00am

## August

8/4 - 10:00AM Worship  
w/ Communion

8/11 - 10:00AM Worship

8/18 - 10:00AM Worship  
Back to School Blessings

8/25 - 10:00AM Worship  
Outdoor Worship

## OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Thank you to those who joined us for  
Outdoor Worship in July

*Join us for our last Outdoor Worship on  
Sunday August 25 at  
10:00am.*

Bring your own chair  
and join us!



## SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF

Summer break has been fun, but we miss Sunday School!

Our Sunday School teachers are excited to welcome students back this fall. Mark your calendars. Sunday School kick-off will be September 8, 2024, with fun, games, and snacks. Regular Sunday School classes will begin September 15th!



## BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSINGS SERVICE

Whether your child or grandchild is going to preschool or off to college, we want to lift them up and ask for their protection, your wisdom, and patience for all.

Join us on ***Sunday, August 18 at 10:00AM***. We will gather in the sanctuary to bless the new school year as part of our regular Sunday worship this year.



**Praise God in  
the Beauty of  
God's Creation**

## CONFIRMATION CLASS

### CONFIRMATION!!

If you have a child in middle school or high school who is interested in joining the church, exploring their faith, and participating in a WHPC confirmation class, please contact the church office. We had an awesome group last time, with 4 students joining the church in 2023.

Let us know your availability, any questions you may have, and your hopes for the program.

## WORSHIP FLOWERS

There are still a lot of dates available on the flower calendar for the remainder of 2024.

If you would like to provide flowers for a Sunday service, please call the office and let us know the date you are able to do.

## GOLF OUTING

**September 8, 2024 @ 1:00PM  
MADISON CLUB**

Please sign up at the Welcome Center in the lobby or call the church office. Deadline to sign up will be August 25. The cost is still to be determined, but will include lunch and a 9 hole scrambler.

Any questions,  
call Dave Collier  
724-864-0129



## DART BALL

Join your church friends for a fun night out! Dart Ball will begin around the end of August. They play every Monday at 7:00pm. If you have an interest in playing, please call Gil Sekely at 724-446-7321



## JULY SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

### *The Session of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church met on Sunday, July 30, 2024*

We gathered in the upstairs kitchen to cover our church, congregation, and community with prayer and review all that has been going on with the church and the world.

- Approved minutes from June Session meeting
- Reviewed reports from WHPC staff and committees
- Confirmed dates for upcoming events
- Reviewed rentals
- Discussed preschool, and had to close the PM class due to lack of registrations
- Talked about a fall Spaghetti Dinner
- Designated proceeds from the Car Cruise to Food2Go and AC Fund

Next scheduled Session meeting will be Tuesday, August 27, 2024.

## DEACONS

If anyone would like to come to church, but is in need of a ride, please contact the church office to let us know.

There are several deacons who are willing to help.



## PRESCHOOL

WHPC Preschool is currently accepting registrations for the morning class (9:00am to 11:30am) for the school year 2024-2025.

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 \$50 and monthly tuition is \$120. If you would like more information, visit the preschool website at [westhempfieldpreschool.org](http://westhempfieldpreschool.org) or call the church office.

Thank you.

*School starts Monday,  
September 9th!*



## PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER

WHPC is selling Rada knives as a fundraiser for our West Hempfield Preschool.

Rada Mfg. Co. has been manufacturing cutlery in the Midwest since 1948, selling more than 170 million knives since that time. Every product is made in the USA, with materials sourced only from America.

They are proud of their strong heritage and Midwest values that assure dependability ... a lifetime of use, guaranteed.

Rada Mfg. Co. will replace any product manufactured by their company returned to them due to defects in material or workmanship.

Rada catalogue and order forms are available in the church lobby.

Thanks to your support, we are able to keep tuition low for our preschool families.

# WHPC ANNUAL CAR CRUISE — JULY 27, 2024



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Arleen Sekely	Aug 8
Jacob Iwinski	Aug 14
Bob Randolph	Aug 17
Laurie Bartko	Aug 24
Ruth Moore	Aug 25
Carol Williamson	Aug 28
Robert Mihalko	Aug 30
Mia Randolph	Aug 30
Linda Simpson	Aug 31

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



Thank you to the many people who were involved with making our Car Cruise a success!

Thank you to Jen MacIntosh, Dave Collier, and Helen Toms for helping to make another successful Christmas in July service.

~ Worship Committee

The Building Committee would like to thank Bob Lore, Richard Forsyth, and Allan Immel for their work power washing sidewalks and trimming bushes.

Thank you to Christian Ed, Deacons, Mission Committee, and the congregation for your support and financial aid so that our entire family was able to attend the New Wilmington Mission Conference together!

~the Wirt family

On behalf of the Westmoreland Conservation District, we greatly appreciate your generous donation from coins brought in by your Bible School students in June.

Your gift will help ensure that the District will be in the best possible position in every area.

A strong conservation district means that our region will continue to enjoy the benefits and quality of life that comes from having stable soils, clean streams, healthy forests, and productive farms.

### A Great Church Picnic!

The Deacons thank all who attended, helped with set-up, and clean-up. We hope you enjoyed some Fellowship time with your WHPC family.

Just a note to tell you how much we appreciate that you let us come there to play cards each week. It's so nice to be able to get together to enjoy each other's company and to play our card games. We want you to know that it is such a pleasure for us to be able to do that each week. We thank you for the bottom of our hearts.

West Hempfield Senior Citizens



# August 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>Church Office Hours</u> Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays 10am – 1pm				1	2 <i>FH—Rental</i>	3
4 10am Worship w/Communion	5	6	7 Senior Cards 11am	8	9 <i>FH—Rental</i>	10
11 10am Worship w/ Guest Preacher	12 <i>Upstairs—Rental</i>	13	14 Senior Cards 11am	15	16 <i>FH—Rental</i>	17
18 10am Worship Back to School Blessings	19	20 Stewardship Mtg. 6:30pm on Zoom SESSION REPORTS DUE	21 Senior Cards 11am	22	23 <i>FH—Rental</i> <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	24
25 10am Worship Outdoor	26	27 Session Mtg. 6:30pm	28 Senior Cards 11am	29	30 <i>FH—Rental</i>	31