



# July

**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!**

Our VBS theme last month was camping, and it was fantastic! Thank you to everyone who donated and loaned the church decorations, props, and supplies!

Part of what was so cool this year was the very relatable theme. Not that there is anything wrong with super heroes, knights and dragons, or a spaceship headed to Mars, but camping is something many of us have actually done. No one had a spare space ship that the church could borrow, but there were lots of tents and sleeping bags this year.

When we take a step back and look at our Bible lessons from VBS this year, we see that in each one the main characters might have been camping, sure, but not on vacation or at summer camp. They were all traveling.

On a journey. Away from the comforts of home. New experiences. Family challenges. Interruptions. And new travel companions.

- Jacob forgot to pack a pillow while camping at Bethel on his way to Harran.
- Ruth and Naomi go apple picking ... I mean, barley picking.
- Mary and Joseph have some child care trouble.
- Jesus struggles to get in a little nap on a busy commute.

- Philip makes a new friend while carpooling.

They are all such relatable stories!

And especially in the summer season. Many people find themselves traveling for fun, for business, for family. Just like the people in the Scriptures.

As many already know, I will be traveling a couple of times this July myself. If you are reading this when the newsletter comes out at the start of the month, I will be in Salt Lake City, Utah, for the honor of participating in the PCUSA General Assembly as one of four commissioners from our own Redstone Presbytery. (Thank you to everyone who makes their per capita donation each year as this gathering and all of our travel expenses are paid for through the per capita budget.)

Later in the month, my whole family will be traveling to New Wilmington, PA, for the New Wilmington Mission Conference.

Perhaps you will be doing some traveling as well.

Hopefully no child care issues or forgotten pillows.

Whether we are traveling or staying at home, we will remember our lesson from VBS: we will put our trust in God.

**Blessings, Rev. Andrew Wirt**

## **WEST HEMPFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**



### **CAR CRUISE July 27, 2024 11am – 4pm**



**Music – Food – Basket Auction – 50/50 – Vendors**

Proceeds benefit West Hempfield Presbyterian Church and the West Hempfield Elementary Food-To-Go Program

Indoor & Outdoor Vendor Spots Available Call  
724-516-7744 or 724-863-1260 for information

**Annual Church Picnic**

**July 28, 2024**

Following the  
**10AM outdoor service**

**EVERYONE IS INVITED!**  
Sign-up in the lobby is appreciated

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## COMMUNION

We will be celebrating communion together as a part of our worship service on Sunday, July 7, 2024 at 10:00am

## CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Sunday, July 21, 2024  
WHPC will celebrate "Christmas in July" at our 10:00am service! This has become a fun and meaningful event and we are looking forward to doing it again!



## OUTDOOR WORSHIP

**Bring your own chair and join us for worship!**

Worship under the shade of the trees between the church and the elementary school at 10AM on the last Sunday of July and August (weather permitting)  
Remaining Dates —

**July 28 and August 25**



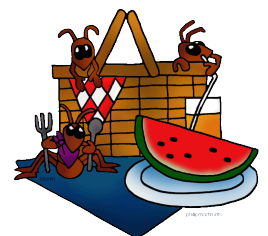
## ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

**JULY 28 FOLLOWING 10:00 AM  
OUTDOOR WORSHIP**

Mark your calendars – it's always great fun to be together. Sign-up in the lobby.

**EVERYONE IS INVITED!**

- ◇ If you can volunteer to help - see Pastor Andrew
- ◇ Bring a folding chair for outdoor seating





**Outdoor  
Worship**  
July 28, 2024  
10:00 am

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

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN AND  
FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE**

WHPC Presbyterian Women Association has put their meetings and organization on hiatus, but they have not closed.

Together PWA, Deacons, and the Fellowship Committee wanted to let everyone know that they are still here to support members of the church community in times of need, especially around the time of death of a loved one. The Fellowship Committee has committed to helping the PWA in hosting funeral luncheons, if one is requested.

**BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSINGS  
SERVICE PLANNING MEETING**

We will have a quick meeting in the upstairs kitchen after the church service on July 14, 2024. If you are interested in joining us as we plan for this event in August, talk with Pastor Andrew and join us July 14 after service.



If you know someone who might be interested in the Preschool, we have informational fliers available at the church.

**ANNUAL CAR CRUISE**

**Saturday, July 27, 2024  
11am-4pm**

**West Hempfield Elementary  
Parking Lot**

**Music — Food —  
Chinese Auction — Dash Plaques**

Supporting West Hempfield  
Presbyterian Church and the  
Food2Go4Kids program at West  
Hempfield Elementary School

**Indoor and Outdoor Vendor  
Spaces Available!**

**CAR CRUISE PLANNING  
MEETING**

We will have a planning meeting for the Annual Car Cruise after worship on Sunday, June 30, 2024.

In addition to volunteers, we are also seeking donations of baskets for the Chinese auction.

**WEST HEMPFIELD  
PRESCHOOL**

**The 2024/2025 Preschool Year** will begin on Monday, September 9. There are still openings for new students.

Find out more about registration on our website

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

## JUNE SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

### *The Session of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church met on Sunday, June 23, 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 May Session meeting (held on June 2)
- Reviewed reports from WHPC staff and committees
- Discussed preschool end-of-(school)year financial report
- Discussed ideas for helping to keep preschool tuition costs low
- Shared a lengthy discussion on the American flag's presence in the church — seeking a balance to appropriately honor it, but not forgetting that our primary allegiance is to Christ and our true citizenship is in heaven
- Closed with prayer

Next scheduled Session meeting will be Tuesday, July 30, 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.



## PCUSA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### **General Assembly kicks off next week in Salt Lake City — June 25-July 4**

The General Assembly (GA) of the Presbyterian Church (USA) begins on June 25 with three days of online committee meetings. The plenary sessions begin on June 30.

To view the whole schedule, [click here](#).

The committees and the plenary sessions of the GA can be livestreamed by [clicking here](#). Interested persons can also register free as an [online observer](#), which allows access to MyGA. A MyGA account provides online observers with access to many of the same resources available to commissioners and other official participants. People can also sign up for the PCUSA's GA News Daily Digest by [clicking here](#).

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Please remember to support in prayer the Redstone commissioners engaging in this national gathering.

They are Jackie Eckenrod, Robin Jennings, Rev. Brian Kilbert, and Rev. Andrew Wirt.

## CHURCH EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS

The church sends out an email prayer list\* each Tuesday, a weekly newsletter email each Thursday (*this monthly newsletter chopped up into four parts*), occasion special event news, and committee reminders. Are you on the list?



Click/Scan the QR code or visit [westhempfieldpc.org/subscribe](http://westhempfieldpc.org/subscribe) to sign up or to make any changes to which emails you receive.

*\*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.*

## BIG VBS THANK YOU



Camp Firelight was an adventurous week at VBS.

We had 23 campers and 29 volunteers throughout the week helping Counselor Mary Esther & Lu the Lightning Bug to have a great time.

For the VBS mission this year, the kids brought in their spare change to go to the Westmoreland Conservation District to help with the plants and the trees in all of our local parks around the county. The kids raised \$253.66 and then the congregation and volunteers were gracious with their donations to make the total raised \$384.66, which was awesome!



We would like to also thank the members for all their donations. Whether it was monetary or items needed. And a big thank you to the Ladies and Virgie Smith for providing cookies for the Sunday program. We could not have had such a great week without all of your help.

Also, a big shout out to our local Dairy Queen for the tasty ice cream sundaes donated for the campers on the last night.

Love in Christ,



Head Counselor Mary Esther  
& Campfire Volunteers and  
Lu the Lightning Bug



## SANCTUARY REFRESH— AC FUND UPDATE

Replacing the ductless AC units in the church sanctuary was a big job, but they had not been functioning properly since 2020 (some units not functioning at all)!

**The overall cost of the project was \$35,600.**

Funds for the downpayment were acquired by April 2023 and the project was started and finished in May 2023. We drew from the church savings to pay the balance and are still seeking donations and fundraising to make that money back.

Thank you to everyone who has supported this project so far! A little over \$25,000 has been designated for this project — now over 70% of our goal!

If you would like to help us reach that goal, you can use the “Building Repair” envelops in the sanctuary, note “Sanctuary Refresh” or “AC Fund” on your check or envelop, or donate online here:

<https://onrealm.org/WestHempfieldPC/give/sanctuary>



# ★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

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

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

## HISTORY ROOM

With all of the fun of the 60th Anniversary celebrations last year, Pastor Andrew and church leadership want to continue to honor that amazing history.

We are in the planning phase of taking one of the currently unused rooms and turning it into a WHPC History Room. We plan to display historical items, photographs, directories, and maybe a digital display with videos and photos.

If you are interested in helping with this project, talk with Pastor Andrew.



Dear West  
Hempfield Pres,  
Thank you for  
everything you  
do for Traveling  
Day Camp! All  
the snacks were  
great and the  
week went so  
well! You are  
the best!

Pine Springs Camp



The Christian Ed.  
Committee

Would like to thank all the volunteers that  
helped make VBS a wonderful success!

A big thank you to everyone  
who has supported the  
sanctuary AC project. We are  
almost three quarters of the  
way there. Thanks to you we  
can have cool air inside even  
while experiencing a heat  
dome outside!

Thank you to our  
church Counters –  
counting, recording,  
and depositing the  
church offerings each  
week. Your WHPC  
family appreciates all  
that you do for us.

## CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

**Eric Belak, Jr.** —Pittsburgh Institute of  
Aeronautics—working at Kennywood

**Grace Collier** —Seton Hill University—BA in  
Music Therapy—working as Directory of  
Activities at William Penn Call Center and  
hostess at Morelands

**Spenser Collier** —Seton Hill University—BS in  
Cyber Security—interviewing in his field and  
working in Food Service Dept. at Independence/  
Excelsa Hospital



# July 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>Upstairs—Rental</i>	2	3 Senior Cards 11am	4 Independence Day 	5	6
7 10am Worship w/Communion	8 <i>Upstairs—Rental</i>	9 Deacons Mtg. 6:30pm	10 Senior Cards 11am	11	12	13
14 10am Worship Back to School Blessings Planning	15 <i>Upstairs—Rental</i>	16 Stewardship Mtg. 6:30pm on Zoom	17 Senior Cards 11am	18	19	20
21 10am Worship Christmas in July 	22 <i>Upstairs—Rental</i>	23 <b>SESSION REPORTS DUE</b>	24 Senior Cards 11am <b>NEWSLETTER DEAD- LINE</b>	25	26	27 Car Cruise
28 10am Worship Out- door Church Picnic	29 <i>Upstairs—Rental</i>	30 Session Mtg. 6:30pm	31 Senior Cards 11am	<b><u>Church Office Hours</u></b> Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays 10am – 1pm		