

SEPTEMBER

WEST HEMPFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

In Matthew 13:24–43 Jesus tells a parable about a field where weeds are planted alongside the wheat, and the farmer decides to let it all grow together until the time of the harvest.

Often I think that we humans, as individuals, are a lot like that field. God created me for good things and filled me with wonderful gifts, but somewhere, somehow the weeds of sin find a way to grow. We all are a mix of the wheat and the weeds. Kind, caring, and compassionate, until a traffic jam turns Dr. Jekyll into Mr. Hyde—or whatever example you might prefer.

But that's not really what Jesus is talking about here. Jesus says that "The Kingdom of God" is like this field. Later in chapter 13, he will explain that the field is the world (verse 38).

We are living in the Kingdom of God right now. Sometimes we might think that refers to later, in heaven, some day. But Jesus Christ is risen today. God is Ruler over all things. The Kingdom of God is right now.

But the Kingdom of God is like a field, full of weeds.

No matter how hard we try to keep them out, weeds find their way into our fields, gardens, and flower beds.

As in the parable, our instinct is probably to give the desirable plants a better chance at water and nutrients by removing the weeds. How hard could it be? One good Saturday morning of pulling weeds and we can have this whole mess sorted out.

Jesus, however, has a different plan in mind. In this field (the world), Jesus explains, the weeds and the wheat can look deceptively similar while they are

all still growing. We may not be as good of a judge between the two as we think we are.

I marvel sometimes at my children's ability to see the beauty in flowers that I would call "weeds," such as dandelions. And I remember stories of my grandparents making dandelion salad, which I hear is actually quite good for you.

Perhaps I am not a very good judge of weeds either.

Through the parable Jesus does promise though, that while the weeds will grow in the field for a time, it will not be forever. There will come a day for the harvest.

We must resist the urge to pray for that day to come too quickly. For the patience of the Lord means salvation for many (2 Peter 3:15)

But the parable tells us that God sees our suffering. God knows that there are weeds in the field. And God promises that there will come a day when *"The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil"* (verse 41) and *"Then righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father"* (verse 43).

Blessings, Rev. Andrew Wirt



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COMMUNION



We will be celebrating communion together as a part of our worship service on Sunday, September 1, 2024, at 10:00am

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

September

9/1 - 10 AM Worship w/ Communion

9/8 - 10 AM Worship
9 AM Sunday School Kick-Off !!

9/15 - 10 AM Worship
(9 AM Sunday School)

9/22 - 10 AM Worship
(9 AM Sunday School)

9/29 - 10 AM Worship
(9 AM Sunday School)

SUNDAY SCHOOL KICKOFF

Kickoff on September 8 at 9:00am

Students will enjoy pre-packaged snacks, a craft, a story, and the chance to decorate this year's Glory Gold folders.

It's time for Sunday School! Our Sunday School teachers are excited to welcome students back to church this fall! If you are interested in being a fill-in or substitute for Sunday School Class, Contact Mary Esther DeTesta, Heather Ressler, or Robin Gambino.

FELLOWSHIP

GOLF OUTING October 1, 2023 1:00PM @ MADISON CLUB

The cost will be \$40 per person, and includes lunch and a 9 hole scrambler.

Any questions,
call Dave Collier 724-864-0129



COMMUNION



Pastor Andrew is trying to make the rounds to reconnect with our homebound members and take home communion to those who want it, but have been unable to join with us in worship for one reason or another. If you would like to be included in that list, please contact the church office.

PASTORAL VISITATION

While mentioning Home Communion, this feels like a good time to remind everyone that Pastor Andrew is available for visits without the communion elements as well.

Health concerns, prayer requests, questions about the church or your faith, looking for someone to talk to, or just want to say “hi” ... whatever your reason, if you would like a visit at home or to meet for coffee, please reach out.

Our world is so connected today that it can seem like everyone should know everything all the time, but social media posts are not always seen by everyone. And there are also many rules protecting privacy. For example, hospital chaplains used to contact churches when a member was admitted, but that almost never happens anymore.

It is best to assume that if you didn't tell us directly, we don't know.

Pastor Andrew enjoys making visits, but he rarely does so uninvited or unannounced. This may be different than it has been in the past, but Pastor Andrew is of a different generation and he seeks our help as he continues to work hard and care for the church and our congregation.

OFFICE HOURS

Starting next week (after Labor Day) the church office hours will shift out of summer hours.

The office will be open Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesday from 9am to 1pm. Other times are available by appointment.

NOTE: This does mean that bulletins are usually printed on Wednesday mornings. Please be aware, if you ever have anything to be printed in a bulletin, it will need to be submitted to the office by Tuesday evening to be included.

STEWARDSHIP

The 3rd financial giving quarter will come to a close at the end of September. WHPC will be sending out 3rd quarter giving statements in early October.

If you would like a mid-year statement before then, please contact the church office or Helen Toms.

Thank you for your continued financial support of WHPC.

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.

WEST HEMPFIELD PRESCHOOL



2024 - 2025 SCHOOL YEAR

begins on Monday, September 9.
We look forward to lots of fun!

Thank you to Andrea Tuttoilmondo
for her continued service to the
children of our community and
their families.

We will be hosting our Open House
this year on Wednesday, September
4, at 9:00am.

You can always visit the preschool
website for more information at
westhempfieldpreschool.org



Happy Labor Day Weekend

Church Office
will be closed Monday

AUGUST SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church met on August 27, 2024

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

- Reflected on Scripture, Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-9, with a reading from *These Days* devotional, copies available in the church lobby provided for free by the church
- Approved minutes from July Session meeting
- Reviewed reports from WHPC staff and committees
- Confirmed dates for upcoming events
- Reviewed rentals
- Approved some staff time off
- Scheduled a fall Spaghetti Dinner for November 9 to support the AC Fund
- Discussed Board of Pension changes to health insurance plans and agreed on a plan for Pastor Andrew for 2025
- Discussed and approved compensation for Andrea for the remainder of 2024, given the situation in the preschool
- Approved fall office hours
- In September we will be restarting the worship sign-in pads in the pews, as well as the youth acolyte program
- Noted a security issue - late on 8/25 the alarm was tripped, state police were called and checked the building, nothing seems to have been broken or stolen
- Reviewed calendar of upcoming events
- Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Next Scheduled meeting will be Sunday,
September 22, 2024, after the worship service.

STORIES OF REDSTONE

Adventures in summer reading



First Presbyterian Church of Avonmore hosted its first Backyard Book Club on the church lawn Tuesday evenings.

Commissioned Pastor Lynn Mance asked session if they thought the congregation would be interested in a book club or Bible study. They said book club, and so it was! Despite the hot temperatures, 16 members and a community friend gathered to participate in the weekly reading and discussion of Rick Warren's *The Purpose Driven Life: What on Earth am I Here for?*

The gatherings were a time of good fellowship and faith enriching discussion. Clerk of Session Lisa Slicker said learning how amazing our God is was most valuable to her.

Elder Pat Zaranek was in awe how everything is so connected as she has already begun using the book's spiritual wisdom in her everyday living. Member Al Shoup said he never looked at his life in God's perspective before.

The last evening held a special treat of strawberry shortcake!

Communicate the Word. Carry on the work. Change the world...

TOGETHER

PINE SPRINGS CAMP WOMEN IN THE WOODS

October 4th-5th, 2024

Women in the Woods is a retreat designed to be physically and spiritually refreshing for women of all ages. The teaching will be incredible, and the retreat will be packed with great singing, fun, laughter and fellowship. The retreat will run from Friday to Saturday evening, culminating with a special dinner celebration. Consider a Women in the Woods retreat for you, your church, or just bring a friend and join us! For more information, pinesprings.org/women-in-the-woods

INTER-PRESBYTERY LEADERSHIP FORMATION

Are you a Ruling Elder who is interested in Learning and Growing in you Faith even more?

Is God Possibly Calling you to Preach?

CONSIDER ENROLLING IN
THE INTER-PRESBYTERY
LEADERSHIP FORMATION
PROGRAM.

For more Information about the program and Enrollment, Please Contact Skip Noftzger at the Presbytery Office 724-837-6737 or executive@redstonepresbytery.org

IPLF FALL WORKSHOP
SCHEDULE NEXT EVENT:

Pastoral Care At the heart of leading the people of God comes a responsibility to care for them in offering spiritual comfort and presence. Whether in times of crisis or everyday experiences, how might we become those who offer genuine pastoral care for the journey?

Sat., Sept. 14, 2024, 12:30-3:30 pm
Instructor: Rev. Sharon Woomer

All workshops will be hybrid offerings by Zoom and in-person at Laboratory Presbyterian Church in Washington, PA

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Diana Irwin	Sept. 1
Paula Stewart	Sept. 14
Jim Toms	Sept. 15
Laurie Bookheimer	Sept. 24
Connie Primus	Sept. 28
Pat Neill	Sept. 29

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



Thank you to everyone for joining us for our outdoor worship services this summer!

We had beautiful weather and moving worship!

Thank you to Linda Simpson and Jen MacIntosh for help planning and organizing the Back to School Blessings service and gift to students this year!

THANK YOU!

to everyone who gathered for the Back to School Prayer Service held August 19 to pray over our schools, children, and adults.

Blessings to all on a new school year!

(The Deacons have recently, after the 60th anniversary, begun sending flowers from the church to the family after the passing of charter members.)

Thank you very much for the live flowers. My mother would have been so happy. She always said, "Don't buy me cut flowers, they just die." We always bought her live flowers and some of those are still growing to this day.

Your bouquet will serve as a reminder for many years to come.

With Gratitude,
Hugh Swearman

The Office would like to thank Jen Mikluscak for the donation of a computer monitor as we are working on creating a "Finance Desk" space in the conference room between the church office and the pastor's office.

If you have a thank you or praise you'd like to share with the WHPC family, please call the church office to share in the next newsletter.



September 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10am Worship w/Communion	2 Labor Day Office Closed	3	4 Preschool Open House Senior Cards 11am	5	6 <i>FH—Rental</i>	7
8 9am SS Kick Off Party 10am Worship Golf Outing <i>Upstairs—Rental</i>	9 First Day of Preschool Dart Ball 7pm <i>Upstairs—Rental</i>	10 Deacons Mtg. 6:30pm	11 Senior Cards 11am	12	13 <i>FH—Rental</i>	14
15 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	16 Dart Ball 7pm	17 Stewardship Mtg. 6:30pm on Zoom	18 Senior Cards 11am SESSION REPORTS DUE	19	20 <i>FH—Rental</i>	21 <i>Craft Show Rental</i>
22 9am Sunday School 10am Worship Session Mtg. after service	23 Dart Ball 7pm NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	24	25 Senior Cards 11am	26	27 <i>FH—Rental</i>	28
29 9am Sunday School 10am Worship Building Committee Meeting after service	30 Dart Ball 7pm		<u>Church Office Hours</u> Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays 9am — 1pm		<u>Preschool Hours</u> Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays 9:00am — 11:30am	