



**WEST HEMPFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

Each February we install and ordain new church officers during worship. This year that will be happening on February 9.

Each year at our Annual Congregational Meeting, the congregation elects the new class of elders and deacons, usually based on the recommendation of the Nominating Committee.

Then, in February, we celebrate that election. As a part of worship, acknowledging that the work they do as leaders of WHPC is a service and a form of worship to the Lord who called them, we install the new class of elders and deacons.

Elders and deacons are typically installed to three-year terms. They can serve two consecutive terms (if so elected by the congregation), but at the completion of the second term, they must take at least one year off.

This one year off serves several purposes. First, like the biblical day of Sabbath from the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:8-11 *Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God.*), it is a well deserved rest. Six years of service, but the seventh year is a sabbath to Lord your God. Second, the ending of one person's term of service allows the opportunity for someone new to step up into service. This offers both opportunities for maturity and growth for the new person and opportunities for new energy and ideas for the church boards.

This year, we won't see any ordinations because everyone coming into the new class of elders and

deacons has already serviced in the position at one time or another in their history with the church. Therefore, they are already ordained.

However, I think that it is worth noting that, like ministers, elders and deacons are ordained positions, called by God and affirmed by the congregation.

While ministers show gifts for teaching, preaching, and administering the sacraments, ruling elders and deacons show gifts unique to their roles in the life of their congregation.

Ruling elders have responsibilities in leadership, governance, and worship. They discern God's calling for the life of a congregation and measure its faithfulness to that call.

Deacons embody acts of care, compassion, and service. While they often undertake ministries of feeding, visitation, prayer, and hospitality, they can also fulfill other acts of service within the church and its surrounding community.

Thank you to all of our fantastic leaders at WHPC, past and present.

Blessings, Rev. Andrew Wirt



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## SCOUT SUNDAY

Scout Sunday is February 2, 2025.

We invite any current or former scouts to come in uniform.



## COMMUNION

We will be celebrating communion together as a part of our worship service on Sunday, February 2, 2025 at 10:00am and we would love for you to join us!

All are welcome at the Lord's Table!



## SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The 2025 flower chart is in the lobby at the welcome center.

If you would like to provide flowers on a Sunday morning in 2025, please contact the church office to sign up.

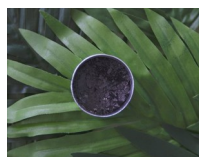


On the week that you are signed up, the church office will contact you to remind you and to ask if you would like the flowers to be in recognition of anyone or anything to be printed in the Sunday bulletin.

If you have any questions, talk with Elder Rick Forsyth or contact the church office.

## ASH WEDNESDAY

**This year Ash Wednesday will be in the first week of March.**



Look for more information about Ash Wednesday, Lent, and Holy Week in the March 2025 Newsletter.

## WEST HEMPFIELD CHURCH PRESCHOOL

With each passing year since COVID we have had fewer and fewer students register for our Preschool program. While we believe that we still have an excellent program, we acknowledge that there has been an increase in competition in that market recently, and that economic factors have made it more difficult for families to work with our ½ day, only 3 day-a-week schedule.

For the 23/24 school year, we increased tuition (for the first time in around 10 years) to try to ensure that, even without two full classes, we could still have enough income to cover the Preschool's expenses. However, we still were not able to raise enough income to cover the payroll for a teacher to replace Linda after her retirement.

For the 24/25 school year, we did not increase tuition any more and committed to having Andrea as a solo teacher with other church staff providing the role of the required "second adult in the building" during school. Regardless, we did not have enough students register to cover budgeted operating expenses. So for the current school year, we had already closed our PM class and consolidated everything into just an AM class for this one year.

We have now made the difficult decision to completely close for the next school year rather than start a school year without enough income to cover expenses.

In years past the church has been able to subsidized the preschool through an occasional year of low enrollment, but we simply can't afford to do that year after year like our current situation.

## FROM MRS. T

It is with great sadness to inform you all that the preschool is closing after this school year. It has certainly not been an easy decision by me or the church. It has been a great pleasure to have been your teacher.

Love, Mrs. T

## LENT DEVOTIONALS

The Season of Lent starts March 5.

If you like to plan ahead and be ready, there are many options available for free online. Pastor Andrew recommends a few:

- Pittsburgh Theological Seminary has a new online daily devotional every Lent, written by members of the PTS community.  
[www.pts.edu/devotional\\_1](http://www.pts.edu/devotional_1)
- Journey to the Cross, the devotional series for Lent, returns to the devotional website and app [d365.org](http://d365.org)
- Presbyterian Hunger Program provides a Lent calendar each year <https://pcusa.org/sites/default/files/2025-01/2025%20Lent%20Calendar.pdf>

Also, magazine style daily devotionals are always available at the church. The church provides two options. *Our Daily Bread* and *These Days* (now available in large print).

**2025 PER CAPITA /  
FIRST FRUITS OFFERING  
= ABOUT \$45.00 PER PERSON**

What used to be known as the "per capita" has been replaced by the "First Fruits" campaign in Redstone Presbytery. Regardless of what we call it, this is our denominational support. Each of us has the opportunity to support the work of the Presbytery, Synod, and National levels of our church, the PCUSA, in the work they do. Your gift supports the expenses of the governance meetings, the Presbyterian Historical Society, supporting staff, helping to connect churches with ministers, providing a Presbyterian presence at ecumenical groups and other gatherings in this country and worldwide, and more.

**PCUSA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Did you know ... one of the things your per capita/first fruits offering does is it allows Presbyterians from all over the United States to gather every two years to discuss important issues, make decisions, worship, and fellowship with one another.

Last year, Pastor Andrew was selected by Redstone Presbytery to represent us all at the General Assembly gathering of the PCUSA over the summer in Salt Lake City, Utah!

**2024 GIVING STATEMENTS**

2024 Giving Statements have been emailed and/or are being mailed. A few print copies will be available in the lobby on Sunday, February 2 for those who we know prefer print and might be in worship on Sunday. If you are able to pick it up, it will save the church the cost of postage. Any printed statements not picked up on Feb. 2 will be placed in the mail on Feb. 3.

If you should have received one, but have not, or if you did receive one, but upon reviewing it, believe that we made a mistake, please contact the church office.

Thank you for your financial support of the ministry & mission of WHPC.

**WINTER WEATHER  
UPDATES**

Decisions about winter weather cancellation of worship will be made the day of the service (so as not to be premature, weather and conditions can change quickly).

No matter what, everyone please be careful! Even if you don't hear that the service is cancelled, if it looks messy where you are, stay home and stay safe.

If we need to cancel because of bad roads or ice at the church, a message will be sent out at least one hour before the start of worship using the new text message service and Constant Contact email service.

If you know someone who might not be reached by those services, give them a call. I am sure they will appreciate the check in.

## JANUARY SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

### *The Session of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church met on January 28, 2025*

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 I Corinthians 12:12-14 with the help of *These Days* devotional (available at the church)
- Approved Session minutes from December meeting
- Approved minutes from the Congregational meeting
- Reviewed reports from WHPC staff and committees
- Approved the annual statistical report
- Set date for the CE PJ Party Movie Night for Saturday, February 15
- Set date for the next Spaghetti Dinner for Saturday, March 15
- Approved Ash Wednesday service, March 5 at 7PM
- Reviewed rentals
- Elders reviewed the church Bylaws and Sexual Abuse Policy
- Preschool will not have a 25/26 school year—more information on page 3 of this newsletter
- Recognized the successful completion of the AC Fund Campaign
- Heard updates on the church musician search—no applications yet, but outreach is happening
- Thank you! to elders and deacons who are completing their term. New class will be installed 2/9 and begin with February meetings
- Reviewed calendar of upcoming events
- Closed with prayer

Next scheduled Session meeting will be Tuesday, February 25, 2025

## C.E. PJ PARTY AND MOVIE NIGHT



**Saturday, February 15**

**5:30-8PM**

Everyone is invited to join us for a great, family fun night. We will be watching *The Wild Robot* in the lobby.

Everyone should wear their favorite pajamas and bring a blanket to relax on while watching the movie.

We will provide hot dogs, drinks, and snacks.

Come and have a great night!





The Worship Committee would like to thank everyone who helped with taking down the Christmas decorations!

Thank you to everyone who attended the congregational meeting on January 26.

And to all church leadership who worked hard on those year end reports.

Thank you new church officers!

DEACONS

Janet Lore  
Denise Nenni  
Mike Nenni  
Gil Sekely

ELDERS

Dave Collier  
Mary Esther DeTesta

Thank you to the Sunday School class and the youth of the church for sharing special music with us on January 26

Thank you to Prison Chaplain Nick Borgfeldt. Some months ago, he had received some large print Bibles that he could not give out at the prison. He offered those Bibles to churches who might be able to use them, and WHPC was one of the churches to receive that gift. Several have already been given out, and we still have a few, if you know someone who might have need or use of a large print Bible.



**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

February 3 – Keeley Mackenzie  
Karen Reed

February 8 – Bob Edmonds

February 12 – Birdie Grinder

February 21 – Virgie Smith

February 24 – Janet Errett

February 26 – Betty Greenawalt

February 27 – Jen MacIntosh

February 28 – Meredith MacIntosh

*If you have a February birthday, and we've missed you –*

***PLEASE, let the office know!***





# February 2025



| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday                                   | Wednesday                                   | Thursday | Friday   | Saturday  |
|---|--|---|---|----------|--|---|
| <u>Church Office Hours</u><br>Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays<br>9am – 1pm          |  |   |   |          |  | 1<br><i>FH–Rental</i>                             |
| 2<br>9am Sunday School<br>10am Worship  | 3  | 4<br><i>FH–Rental</i>                     | 5<br>Senior Cards 11am<br><i>FH–Rental</i>  | 6        | 7<br><i>FH–Rental</i>                                  | 8<br><i>FH–Rental</i>                             |
| 9<br>9am Sunday School<br>10am Worship<br><i>Upstairs Rental</i>                      | 10<br>Dartball<br><i>Upstairs Rental</i>           | 11<br>Deacons Meeting<br><i>FH–Rental</i> | 12<br>Senior Cards 11am<br><i>FH–Rental</i> | 13       | 14<br><i>FH–Rental</i><br><i>happy Valentine's day</i> | 15<br>CE PJ Party Movie Night<br><i>FH–Rental</i> |
| 16<br>9am Sunday School<br>10am Worship<br><i>FH Rental</i><br><i>Upstairs Rental</i> | 17 Presidents' Day<br>Office and Pre-school Closed | 18<br>Stewardship Mtg<br><i>FH–Rental</i> | 19<br>Senior Cards 11am<br><i>FH–Rental</i> | 20       | 21<br><i>FH–Rental</i>                                 | 22<br><i>FH–Rental</i>                            |
| 23<br>9am Sunday School<br>10am Worship   | 24<br><i>Upstairs Rental</i>                       | 25<br>Session Meeting<br><i>FH–Rental</i> | 26<br>Senior Cards 11am<br><i>FH–Rental</i> | 27       | 28<br><i>FH–Rental</i>                                 |   |