



WEST HEMPFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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www.westhempfieldpc.org

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

I found myself thinking as I watched my kids on the playground this summer.

When we would arrive at the park, we were rarely the first family there. My kids would charge onto the playground and join in with the other kids running and playing. A game of tag might start to transform as I hear my child announce that he is pretending to be his favorite superhero. Suddenly, the game of tag is now superheroes chasing supervillains.

The next time I look up, the game is the same, but some of the roles have changed. Apparently, it was necessary to take turns being the villain to keep everyone happy.

The next time I look up, there seem to be no superheroes or villains, just kids giggling on a merry-go-round. The next time, they are playing soccer (Where did they get a soccer ball?). The next time, superheroes again. Then swings.

Finally, I say that it's time to go and they all need one more trip down the slide before saying goodbye to new friends (whose names we don't know and never thought to ask) who will continue to play as we head toward our car.

Amusingly enough, if you ask the kids, that wasn't six or seven different games. It was just one fun afternoon.

Games hold a special place in my heart. Games were one of the things that kept me grounded during seminary. To take a break from the busy schedules of church work and theological study, a group of us set up a weekly "Family Game Night" that kept us connected.

Games have a structure to them. You get everything in order, deal the cards, take your turn, follow the rules, and pursue the goal. Then someone shouts "Uno!," everyone else panics, soon someone wins, and the game is over.

I can't speak for everyone else, but I know that I have a tendency to think of life this way, like a game. You start with the hand you are dealt. You try to make the most of what you've been given. There's a little skill and a little luck. You follow the rules. Try to get rid of negatives and collect "points" (money, cars, friends ... whatever that may be in your context). We know what "game over" means, but what does it mean to win?

I think the kids have it right. The "game" is older than any of us and will still be going long after anyone reading this has passed on. People come and people go. The rules can change. It doesn't matter who "wins," but we should try to make sure no one is losing. Have fun. That should be the goal. Collecting laughter, not victory points.

Ecclesiastes (if we go with the theory that the wise King Solomon wrote Song of Songs, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes expressing his wisdom from different stages of life) shows us words of wisdom from hindsight, looking back over the highs and lows of life.

In the end, amidst all the claims of meaninglessness ("Vanity, vanity, all is vanity" right away Ecclesiastes 1:2), the author says "Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink wine with a merry heart ... Enjoy life with those you love." (parts of Ecclesiastes 9:7,9)

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 7, 2025, at 10:00am

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE



9/7 - 10 AM Worship w/ Communion
9 AM Sunday School Kick-Off !!

9/14 - 10 AM Worship
(9 AM Sunday School)

9/21 - 10 AM Worship
(9 AM Sunday School)

9/28 - 10 AM Worship
(9 AM Sunday School)

SUNDAY SCHOOL KICKOFF

Kickoff on September 7 at 9:00am

Students will enjoy snacks, music, a craft, a story, and the chance to decorate this year's Glory Gold folders. Regular classes are back, every Sunday at 9am.

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.

WORSHIP FLOWERS

There are still a lot of dates available on the flower calendar for the remainder of 2025.

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.



PRESBYTERY MEETING NEED VOLUNTEERS

WHPC has once again been granted the privilege of hosting the Presbytery meeting. (I guess we did a good job 2 years ago!) This time on the evening of September 23, 2025, at 6:00pm.

We are looking for volunteers to help welcome and direct people at the start of the meeting.

They asked if anyone is willing to help during the worship service part of the meeting by possibly reading a part of the liturgy, such as a prayer or a Scripture passage.

We will celebrate communion at this Presbytery meeting, so they are also asking if we can provide volunteers who can stay through at least the first part of the meeting to help with serving communion.

Additionally, we will also be looking for a few donations for refreshments to offer hospitality to those who will be attending the meeting.

If you are willing to help, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the lobby.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FALL SPAGHETTI DINNER

Saturday, November 1, 2025

Mark your calendar. No need to worry about dinner that night. We've got it covered!

Donation board and sign up sheet for volunteers will be available closer to the date.

You can also be thinking about basket ideas for the Chinese Auction. The baskets are always a fun and effective fundraiser!

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Building Committee Meeting

**Wednesday, September 10 @
6:30pm**

We will review our current ongoing projects and discuss a few small projects we might be able to tackle this fall.

Any questions,
call Dave Collier 724-864-0129

FELLOWSHIP

**Due to some scheduling problems,
we will not be hosting a Fellowship
Golf Outing this fall.**

We are already planning for 2026 to make sure this event continues.

Any questions,
call Dave Collier
724-864-0129



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.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK

Happy Labor Day Weekend

Church Office
will be closed Monday

OFFICE HOURS

Starting after Labor Day, the church office hours will shift again, coming out of the shortened summer schedule.

The office will continue to be open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The new hours will be from 10am to 2pm.

Other times are available by appointment.

NOTE: Bulletins are usually printed on Wednesday mornings. Please be aware, if you ever have anything to be printed in a bulletin, (announcements, flower dedications, etc.) it will need to be submitted to the office by Tuesday evening to be included.

HELP NEEDED

We are looking for a volunteer who has some experience with small ponds like ours to help with maintenance. If you can help, please contact the office.

AUGUST SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

*The Session of West Hempfield Presbyterian
Church met on Tuesday, August 26, 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 Scripture, Ezekiel 34:11-16, with a reading from *Our Daily Bread* 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
- Scheduled a fall Spaghetti Dinner for November 1
- Discussed possible “Indoor Christmas Caroling” event with church musician Thomas Lalor. Final details to be set at the next meeting.
- Discussed continuing budget issues and possible solutions
- Discussed benefits of RightNow Media subscription and role out plan
- Discussed concern over the pond/garden area at the side of the church. It seems to need a little extra care, but there isn’t any one directly overseeing it.
- Nominating Committee to begin their work soon
- Reviewed rentals
- Approved fall office hours
- Reviewed calendar of upcoming events
- Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Next Scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, September 30, 2025.

COMMUNION



Pastor Andrew is trying to make the rounds to 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. Please reach out if you would like a visit as Pastor Andrew continues to work hard and care for the church and our congregation.

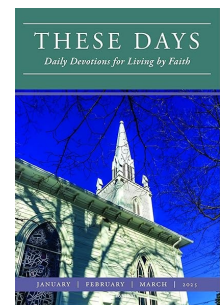
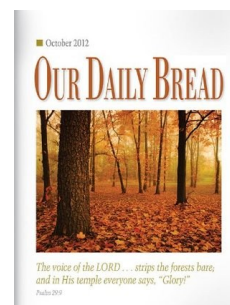
OFFERING

We recognize and celebrate the offering in worship each Sunday even though we no longer “pass the plate.” The offering plate can be found at the main entrance of the sanctuary before and after worship. It is also possible to give online from the church website (westhempfieldpc.org) or by texting WHPC to 73256. You will receive one text message in response with a link to make your donation.

With online giving it is possible to make a one-time gift or set up automatic, recurring donations.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL MAGAZINES

WHPC is able to provide anyone with free daily devotionals. *Our Daily Bread* and *These Days*. If you are unable to pick one up at the church and would like a devotional mailed, please email office@westhempfieldpc.org or call the church office at 724-863-1260 and we'd be happy to mail you one or both.



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 the
fellowship
committee for
wonderful treats
and a time of
fellowship after worship
on August 3.

Thank you to everyone
who donated school
supplies for the Back to
School Blessings service
gift to students this year!

THANK YOU!

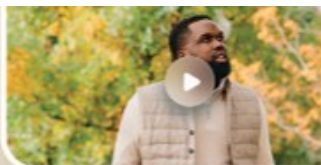
to everyone who
gathered for the Back
to School Prayer
Service held August
17 to pray over our
schools, children, and
adults.

Blessings to all on a
new school year!

Thank you Linda Simpson for finding the recipe and
making our delicious communion bread each month!
(We are looking for some additional bakers to help with
this job. If you are interested, please contact the office.)

rightnow MEDIA Happy Fall

Watch for information on Sunday, September 21
about how WHPC is partnering
with RightNow Media to offer unlimited access
to thousands of Christian videos



*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 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day Office Closed	2	3 Senior Cards 11am	4	5 <i>FH—Rental</i>	6
7 9am SS Kick Off Party 10am Worship w/ Communion	8 <i>Upstairs—Rental</i> Dartball	9 Deacons Mtg. 6:30pm	10 Senior Cards 11am Building 6:30pm	11	12 <i>FH—Rental</i>	13
14 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	15 Dartball (away)	16 Stewardship Mtg. 6:30pm (Zoom)	17 Senior Cards 11am	18	19 <i>FH—Rental</i>	20
21 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	22 <i>Upstairs—Rental</i> Dartball	23 Redstone Presbytery Meeting	24 Senior Cards 11am	25	26 <i>FH—Rental</i>	27
28 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	29 Dartball (away)	30 Session Mtg. 6:30pm			<u>Church Office Hours</u> Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10am—2pm	