



WEST HEMPFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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www.westhempfieldpc.org

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

One Monday morning this past month I woke up with what I thought was just a stomach ache. “I knew potato chips after 10pm was a bad idea,” I thought to myself.

But by the end of that day I was in the emergency room, in a lot of pain, and waiting on the results of several tests.

I was diagnosed with appendicitis and scheduled for surgery to have my appendix removed. Should be easy, you don’t need your appendix anyway.

Well, ... Thursday, after a few complications that slowed things down, I was finally home again.

Of course, I know, as far as hospital visits go, this was not a bad one, but it still wasn’t fun. There was a lot of pain, and a recovery period still ahead.

“Take it easy for 2-3 weeks,” they said.

It is in times like this that I try to think about Bible verses like Philippians 4:4 “*Rejoice in the Lord always.*”

I try to think about that, because I find it hard to do. It’s hard to rejoice, when I am in pain.

It’s hard to rejoice, when I can’t put on my own socks without help.

It’s hard to rejoice, when it feels like all of the luck is bad luck. “What else could go wrong?”

However, I feel like God is trying to tell us that it is exactly at times like these that “*Rejoice*” is what we need to keep going, to not lose hope.

I think there’s two kinds of “*Rejoice always*” to explore.

First, to rejoice even in the hardship.

This is a little easier when we are talking about an appendix, which, while painful, was never really life threatening.

I am trying to rejoice even in the challenging situation, reflecting on where the bad can lead to good. How can I learn and grow through this?

Thank you, Lord, because through this challenge You are making me stronger, increasing my empathy, giving me new understanding.

Some situations, however, are so bad that to try to give it a “silver lining,” at least at first, feels disrespectful.

It’s ok for some things in this world to just be bad. That’s the corruption of sin on this earth.

My second thought on “*Rejoice always*,” reminds me that even in situations where it feels like no good could come from this, there is no dark that is powerful enough to block all of God’s light.

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” John 1:5

“Even though I walk through the darkest valley (or the valley of the shadow of death), I will fear no evil, for You are with me.” Psalm 23:4

I had texted my dad one night ... “First night home had some hard moments, because I’m not at 100% yet. But a lot of great ones, too. This moment is a bad one. But this moment was preceded by a few great moments—like seeing the kids again after being away—and will be followed by many more great moments, too. A friend just ordered pizza and had it sent to our house for supper tonight. Out of the blue. Just one less thing to worry about today. And a lot of people are praying for me.”

I say sometimes that prayer can be easier when life is difficult, because “please help” seems to come easier than “thank you”.

But it’s important to remember on the good days, the bad days, and all the in-between days, “*Rejoice in the Lord always.*”

Blessings, Rev. Andrew Wirt

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COMMUNION



We will be celebrating communion together as a part of our worship service on Sunday, October 6, 2024, at 10:00am

OCTOBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE



SUNDAY SCHOOL TRICK-OR-TREAT

Join your Sunday school friends in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, ***October 27 during the Sunday School hour.***

Come dressed in your ***not-so-scary***, church appropriate Halloween costume and enjoy some fun, games, snacks, and treats.

Bring a friend!

Each church committee will have a table with treats for the kids! If your child(ren) plan to attend, please let your Sunday school teacher know or call the church office so we can be prepared.

LOOKING AHEAD—SAVE THESE DATES

- Thanksgiving Sunday - November 24
- First Sunday of Advent - December 1
- Christmas Eve - Tuesday, December 24

NOMINATING

Are you good at cooking? Can you swing a hammer? Do you like meeting new people? Does bookkeeping and accounting come naturally to you? Or teaching? Or music? Do you paint or knit or sew? Do you like decorating? Or figuring out computers?

All of these things (and more) can be used to help at the church!

I know being asked to serve as a Deacon or Elder can seem like a big deal. In a way, it is, because I truly believe that God blesses us when we serve Him and I have seen people grow in many ways as they have served on boards of the church. But really, it is just being yourself and using the gifts God has given you ... and attending one or two meetings a month.

If you would be willing to share your gifts with the church (and attend a few meetings), please contact Pastor Andrew or Deb Immel.

Not every gift is needed every year. Keeping track of all that is what the Nominating Committee does. But even if we don't have an official Elder or Deacon seat for you this year, there are many other ways that you can help. And there may be a seat for you in the future.

FELLOWSHIP

Our Annual Thanksgiving Lunch is scheduled for after service on Sunday, November 24.

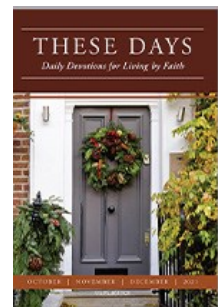
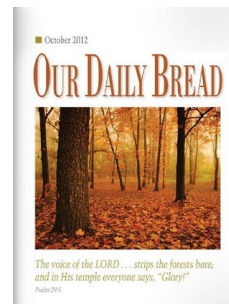
To help with the budget, this event will no longer be fully catered, and we are looking for a few helpers. If you would be willing and able to make a turkey—no stuffing, no carving, just cook it, and the church will do the rest—please talk with Larry DeTesta.

Lunch sign up will be available late October.



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.



SEPTEMBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church met after worship on September 22, 2024

It was a brief meeting because Pastor Andrew was still recovering from his appendectomy.

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

- Reviewed reports from WHPC staff and committees
- Offered to host a presbytery meeting in September 2025
- Mission Committee—Food2Go will be starting soon, Coat Drive will run through October, and Haiti Christmas Shoebox program will begin soon
- Discussed continuing and possible new rentals
- Reviewed calendar of upcoming events
- Closed with the Lord's Prayer

October meeting is not yet scheduled as we struggle a little bit to find a date that will work.



STEWARDSHIP

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

If you notice anything that doesn't seem right, please contact the church office or Helen Toms.

Thank you for your continued financial support of WHPC.

2024 FIRST FRUITS OFFERING (PER CAPITA) = \$44.00

What used to be called the "per capita" has been replaced by the "First Fruits" campaign of 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.

It is a beautiful example of the power of small things in large numbers. Our First Fruits offering isn't much per person, but when combined with all of our fellow brothers and sisters in the PCUSA throughout the nation, we are able to do great things like support for missionaries and pastors and other staff, helping to connect churches with ministers, the Presbyterian Historical Society, providing a Presbyterian presence at ecumenical groups and gatherings in this country, worldwide, and more.

If you are a member of WHPC and you haven't made a First Fruits/Per Capita gift yet this year, please consider doing so. Thank you!

MISSION COMMITTEE

Mission Committee will meet Sunday, October 6 in the upstairs kitchen around 11:15am, after the worship service ends. On this page you can see that the Mission Committee has a lot going on in the fall. These are long standing programs that run pretty smoothly, and this will be a great chance to check in and learn more. If you are interested, please join us!

HAITI MISSION SHOEBOXES

What is the Shoebox Drive?

*"We love because He first loved us."
(1 John 4:19)*

Share God's love this Christmas.

Each year we collect shoeboxes filled with gifts for students in Haiti. School supplies, hygiene items, toys and other small gifts make a big difference in the lives of Haitian children and their families. You can share God's love this Christmas by packing a shoebox.

There will be a table in the lobby soon with more information.



PINE SPRINGS CAMP FRIENDS DINNER

Pine Springs Camp Friends Dinner is a fundraiser event supporting and celebrating Pine Springs Camp Sunday, October 27, 2024, 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Core Event Center in Irwin, PA.

Contact the camp office for more info or to register today! (814) 629-9834

www.pinesprings.org/annual-friends-dinner

WHE COAT DRIVE

Each year our church family collects money to provide new coats to the children of West Hempfield Elementary School who are in need.

Please help support the mission committee so that we can continue this loving mission.

There are donation envelopes available by the offering plate.

You can also give online at

www.westhempfieldpc.org/mission

or by texting

WHPC coat
to **73256**.



FOOD2GO4KIDS

Food2Go is a partnership with West Hempfield Elementary School. We help them provide food for children of families in need to take home with them for the weekend. This assures that no child will go hungry without the safety net of school breakfasts and lunches.

Volunteers at the church organize and count the specific food items bought with the donated funds, packing them into bags that are distributed by the school.

This program usually starts mid October and runs throughout the school year.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Joseph Iwinski	Oct 1
Cole Graham	Oct 4
Thomas Mihalko	Oct 4
Wesley MacIntosh	Oct 5
Rev. Andrew Wirt	Oct 7
Debra Lloyd	Oct 7
MaryEsther DeTesta	Oct 10
James Crust	Oct 11
Lee Ober	Oct 13
Marge Jessen	Oct 16
Helen Toms	Oct 17
Elsie Barton	Oct 20
Doug Jessen	Oct 20
Cindy Bankosh	Oct 21
Jan Ober	Oct 28
Brian Pritz	Oct 29

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



Thank you to those who joined us for the Sunday school kick-off. It was great to welcome everyone back to church.

Thank you to our wonderful preschool teacher, Andrea Tuttoilmondo for starting a new school year with us. We greatly appreciate the service and kindness you provide for the children.

Thank you Linda Simpson for your faithful help setting up communion each month.

The Office would like to thank the Crust family for the donation of a desk as we are creating a “Finance Desk” space in the conference room between the church office and the pastor’s office.

“Thank you for all the cards,

prayers, phone calls, and offers for help. It’s just been great. Thank you everyone for everything.”

~ Birdie Grinder ~

Thank you for all of the prayers and words of encouragement and support as I recover from surgery! ~Pastor Andrew~

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.



October 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>Church Office Hours</u> Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays 9am – 1pm ** Date and time for Session Meeting TBD		1	2 Senior Cards 11am	3	4 <i>FH—Rental</i>	5
6 9am Sunday School 10am Worship w/Communion Mission Mtg	7 Dart Ball 7:00pm	8 Deacons Mtg. 6:30pm	9 Senior Cards 11am	10	11 <i>FH—Rental</i>	12
13 9am Sunday School 10am Worship <i>Upstairs—Rental</i>	14 Dart Ball 7:00pm <i>Upstairs—Rental</i>	15 Stewardship Mtg. 6:30pm on Zoom	16 Senior Cards 11am	17	18 <i>FH—Rental</i>	19
20 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	21 Dart Ball 7:00pm	22	23 Senior Cards 11am	24	25 <i>FH—Rental</i>	26
27 9am SS Trick-or-Treat 10am Worship	28 Dart Ball 7:00pm	29 <i>FH—Rental</i>	30 Senior Cards 11am	31 	<u>Preschool Hours</u> Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays 9:00am – 11:30am	