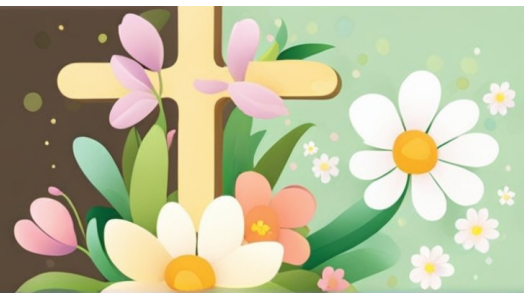


West Hempfield Presbyterian Church

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Irwin PA 15642
724-863-1260
westhempfieldpc.org

APRIL 2025



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

Sometimes, when I am working on too many things at once, they start to run together in my mind. Has that ever happened to you?

For instance, right now, in Lent, I am looking for Bible stories where characters are alone—literally isolated or feeling alone.

And of course, Easter is coming up in April.

Also, VBS will be here before you know it. (June 9-13, mark your calendars!) Our theme this year will be “Road Trip” and the office has been getting ready and working on some car and travel themed decorations.

When that all runs together, I started thinking of Luke 24:13-35 — an Easter story where two people are travelling on a road alone!

Ok, I guess not completely alone because they have each other, but definitely feeling alone.

You see, like Elisha (*from our Scripture reading on March 23—that service is available to watch on our church’s YouTube channel under livestreams* <https://www.youtube.com/@westhempfieldpc/livestreams>), our characters in Luke 24 are mourning the lost of their mentor, Jesus who was crucified.

Luke says that Jesus, himself, came up, walked with them, and engaged them in conversation.

Luke 24:27 “And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he [Jesus] explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.”

Jesus helped it all run together in their minds!

He reminded them of multiple Old Testament stories and helped them make connections between the stories and with current events.

If we are not spending time in God’s Word, we miss the connections.

When we ignore current events, or ignore the possibility of God’s Hand in them, we miss the connections.

When we miss the opportunities to talk with a neighbor or interact with and welcome a stranger, we miss the connections.

The Easter story — God is willing to sacrifice everything to interact with us, make connections with us, and help us make connections — shows us the importance of connection in a world full of loneliness.

Read Scripture. Talk to God. Talk to friends. Make new friends. Stay connected.

Blessings, Rev. Andrew Wirt



In This Month's Newsletter:

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Palm Sunday

April 13

Worship 10:00AM

Sunday School 9:00AM

Holy Thursday

April 17

Worship w/ Communion 7:00PM

Good Friday

April 18

Worship 7:00PM

Easter Sunday

April 20

Worship 10:00AM

Sunday School 9:00AM

April

Worship Schedule

4/6 - 10AM Worship
w/ Communion
(9:00AM Sunday School)

4/13 - Palm Sunday
10AM Worship
(9:00AM Sunday School)

4/17 - Holy Thursday
7PM Worship

4/18 - Good Friday
7PM Worship

4/20 - Easter
10AM Worship
(9:00AM Sunday School)

4/27 - 10AM Worship
(9:00AM Sunday School)



COMMUNION



We will be celebrating communion together as a part of our worship services on Sunday, April 6, 2025 at 10:00am

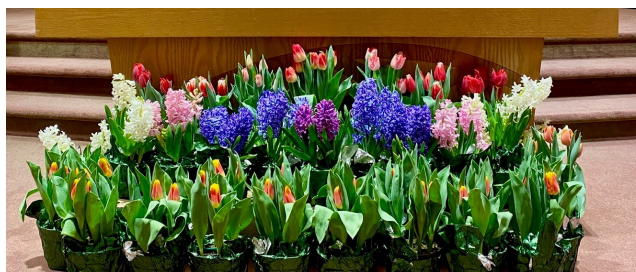
We would love for you to join us!

All are welcome at the Lord's Table!

EASTER FLOWERS

Thank you to everyone who ordered Easter flowers.

Join us Easter Sunday, April 20 to see all the beautiful flowers and celebrate the Resurrection!



DEACONS BLACKBURN CENTER WALK

***Support Us As We Walk a Mile in Her Shoes on
Saturday, April 26 at 10 AM***

The Deacons of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church are participating in this event to raise awareness and money for a great cause. Please support us and help make a difference. Together, we can reach our fundraising goal of \$500.

If you'd like to be part of “West Hempfield PC Walkers” right here in our own neighborhoods on ***April 26 at 10:00am*** there is a sign up sheet in the lobby, or contact the church office to register — call (724)863-1260 or send an email to office@westhempfieldpc.org

Whether you can walk or not, we encourage you to consider making a donation toward our goal to support the Blackburn Center, support survivors of abuse, and help end domestic abuse.

Follow the link below, text WHPC Blackburn to 73256, or write a check to the church by Sunday, April 27 (be sure to include Blackburn in memo)

<https://onrealm.org/WestHempfieldPC/-/give/blackburn>

From the Blackburn Center Website:
blackburncenter.org

Each April, Blackburn Center hosts our signature event, Walk a Mile in Her Shoes®. The goal of the Walk is to raise awareness about gender-based violence in our community. The Walk is a call to action to our community, and a way to raise much-needed funds to support our mission.



MARCH SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

***The Session of West Hempfield
Presbyterian Church met on
Sunday, March 30, 2025***

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

- Approved the hiring of Thomas Lalor as our new church musician and the details of the position
- Set the Kitchen Clean Up date for April 19
- Set the Outdoor Spring Clean Up date for May 24
- Set the Car Cruise date for July 26
- Set the church picnic date for July 27
- Set the dates for Summer Outdoor worship - July 27 and August 31
- Discussed rentals
- Reviewed calendar of upcoming events
- Closed with prayer

Next scheduled Session meeting will be Tuesday, April 22, 2025.



CE EASTER EGG HUNT SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2025

Can you help us prepare?

Candy is being collected for the Easter Eggs. A bin is located in the lobby, near the Sunday School hallway. All candy should be prepackaged, individually wrapped, and able to fit inside a plastic Easter egg.



We are also requesting donations of prepackaged treats. Check the donation board outside the sanctuary.

We will need all donations by Sunday, April 6.



Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be April 12 at 10:00AM.

Bring your BASKET and a friend!

All children up to 5th grade are welcome.

We will gather in the sanctuary.

Then the hunt will be outside —
rain, snow, or sunshine!

We will end in the Fellowship Hall to
empty our eggs, visit with the Easter
Bunny, and more.

PINE SPRINGS CAMP

As you are making your plans for this summer, don't forget about Pine Springs Camp!

The Pine Springs Camp summer program seeks to help each camper have **vital encounters with Christ**. PSC does this by...



1. Teaching about the unconditional love of Christ. **Pine Springs Camp**
2. Emphasizing that each camper has unique and creative gifts that God has given them. We offer a variety of camps so that each participant can explore and develop their gifts and grow in their relationship to God.
3. Modeling a proper way to celebrate and play in God's creation. We believe that camp should be fun!
4. Experiencing the importance of being involved in Christian community.

Pine Springs Camp brochures are available at the church,

or check out their website www.pinesprings.org

And this year will be the third year for **Pine Springs Travelling Day Camp** at New Hope Presbyterian Church (sponsored by West Hempfield Presbyterian Church, First Presbyterian Church of Irwin, and New Hope Presbyterian Church) June 16-20, brochures in the lobby.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE KITCHEN CLEAN UP

Saturday, April 19 at 9:30am, the Fellowship Committee is planning a “Spring Cleaning” for the Fellowship Hall kitchen.

If you are interested in helping, there is a sign up sheet in the lobby. If you have any questions, talk with Mary Esther DeTesta.

PRAYER LIST

The church prayer list can be found on a white board in the hallway outside of the sanctuary. Dry erase markers can be found on the table under the board for making additions. You can also add a praise or request by emailing the office secretary@westhempfieldpc.org

We email the prayer list every Tuesday to everyone who has signed up for “All WHPC News” or “Prayer List” emails at westhempfieldpc.org/subscribe

PRESCHOOL — LAST CALL FOR RADA

Last fall WHPC hosted a Rada Cutlery Sale where a portion of every sale raised support for our church preschool.

Thank you to everyone who placed orders!

We are making one last opportunity before closing down the link and the sale.

If you are on your computer, [click here to shop online](#).

Or talk to Jen MacIntosh for details.

Final deadline will be April 30, 2025.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Fish Banks & One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be collected on Palm Sunday, April 13 and Easter Sunday, April 20 (but the main attention will be given on Palm Sunday).

OGHS envelopes are in the pews and will be available in the bulletins on April 6 and 13 along with bulletin inserts with more information.

You can also find “One Great Hour” in the drop down menu of the online offering available from the church website until after Easter Sunday.

Each gift supports efforts to assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People.

Learn more about how your gifts bless God’s people around the world:

[specialofferings.pcusa.org/
offering/oghs/](https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/)





Dear Session Members & WHPC Members,

Thank you very much for the beautiful flower arrangement for preschool teacher appreciation day! It made my day! Your kindness and generosity is so much appreciated!

I also want to thank you all for your continued support of me and the preschool over the years! It has meant the world to me that I always had your support. I have been truly blessed to have been here for the past 18 years!!

With my sincerest gratitude, Andrea (Mrs. T)

A huge thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make the spaghetti dinner a success! We could not have done it without all of you!

Thank you to everyone who donated candy for the Easter Egg Hunt !

The CE Committee

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Everett Wirt	April 1
Rachael Hazlett	April 4
Carol Ailes	April 5
Ted Mertz	April 7
Vivian Wirt	April 8
Barb Hazlett	April 20
John Hilewick	April 27

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

Thank you Stewardship Committee for the wonderful refreshments after worship on April 6!

Thank you to worship committee and helpers who put our three Lent crosses up in the front yard of the church again this year!

Thank you to Belak Flowers for providing the palms for Palm Sunday.

WORSHIP AND PERSONNEL NEWS

WHPC welcomes THOMAS LALOR as our new church musician!

As a member of the Naval Reserves he will not be available every Sunday, but we welcome him whenever he is available.



April 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Senior Cards 11am	3	4 <i>FH—Rental</i>	5
6 9am Sunday School 10am Worship Packing Easter Eggs	7 Dartball Home <i>Upstairs rental</i>	8 Deacons Meeting	9 Senior Cards 11am	10	11 <i>FH—Rental</i>	12 Easter Egg Hunt 10am
13 Palm Sunday 9am Sunday School 10am Worship <i>Upstairs Rental</i>	14 <i>Upstairs Rental</i>	15 Stewardship (Zoom)	16 Senior Cards 11am	17 Holy Thursday Service at 7pm	18 Good Friday Service at 7pm <i>FH—Rental</i>	19 Fellowship Committee Indoor Spring Cleaning—Kitchen and Furnace Room 9:30am
20 Easter Sunday 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	21 <i>Upstairs Rental</i> 	22 Session Meeting	23 Senior Cards 11am	24	25 <i>FH—Rental</i>	26 Deacon Walk for Blackburn Center
27 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	28	29	30 Senior Cards 11am	<u>Church Office Hours</u> Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays 9am — 1pm		