



West Hempfield Presbyterian Church
8 West Hempfield Drive
Irwin, PA. 15642
724-863-1260
www.westhempfieldpc.org

DECEMBER 2017

*"The birth of Christ is the central event in the history of the earth—
the very thing the whole story has been about."*

—C.S. Lewis

~"What Child Is This?"~

The question asked in the well-loved carol must have been uppermost in the minds of those present at Jesus' birth. We can almost hear the question being asked from one to another as they gazed into the humble manger. How difficult it must have been for them to understand that the babe who lay in "such mean estate" was truly the promised Messiah. And through the centuries men & women have continued to ponder who Christ really is-how can He be fully God and still fully man? Only through divine faith comes the revealed answer. The beautiful and triumphant answer to that imposing question bursts forth in the refrain of the song – "This, this is Christ the King" The central idea of Christmas and the gift of Jesus begs the question and brings to mind another Christmas song.

~"What Can I Give Him, Poor As I Am?"~

What can I give Him, this Christ the King? Jesus is, after all, the man who has everything, right? This, too, is an age old question. The answer is again, found in the lyrics... "Give Him your heart"

Proverbs 23:26 says, "My child, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways." In other words, God's desire is that you stay focused on God and make your ways to follow God's ways as closely as possible. That gift does not come wrapped in packages on Christmas morning. It comes and is given each and every day, starting with the reading of this article. What will you give Christ the King this hour, this day and tomorrow? Will you find ways to give Him your heart by what you think and say and do? By how you pray? By being grounded in God's word?

See you during the preparations as we worship Christ the King!

~ Peggy

***Please have your annual GROUP OR COMMITTEE REPORTS typed in 12 point font
and emailed to the office NO LATER THAN JANUARY 5, 2017***

ADVENT: PREPARATION

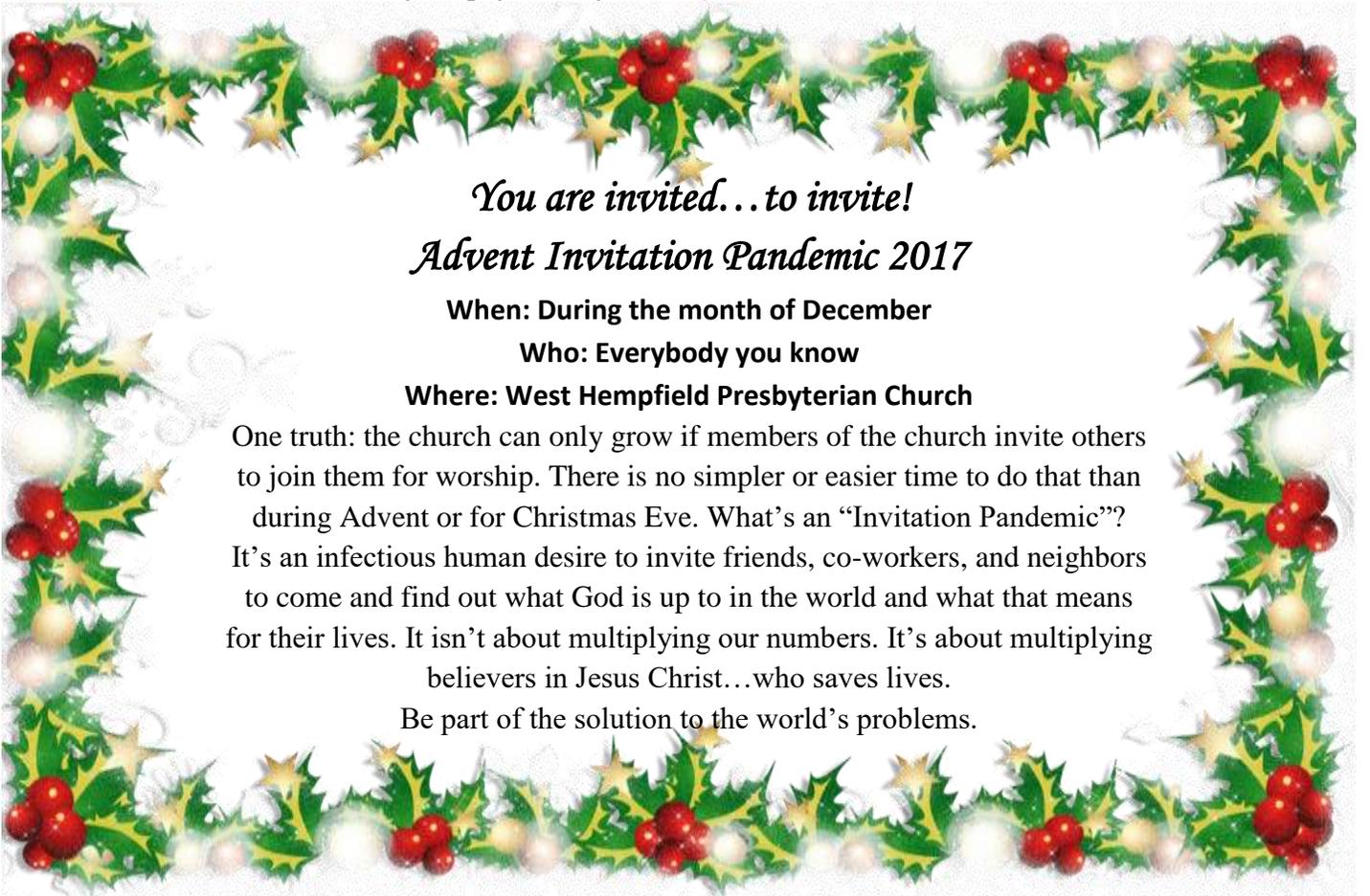
Advent is a time of expectation and preparation for the remembrance and celebration of Christ's coming into the world as the Infant Jesus, Son of God and Son of Man.

As part of your preparation, please take time to find a way to reflect on the birth of Christ, either through family devotions or something you do as an individual. Teach your children the meaning of the Advent Wreath by having one that you light each evening at your dinner table. You can find free devotional readings online and/or use the Upper Room, available in the lobby. Prepare...anticipate...O come, O come, Emmanuel.



Poinsettia Orders

There are order forms in the office and on the table in the lobby of the church. Please complete a form and turn in your payment by **Sunday, December 10th**



You are invited...to invite!

Advent Invitation Pandemic 2017

When: During the month of December

Who: Everybody you know

Where: West Hempfield Presbyterian Church

One truth: the church can only grow if members of the church invite others to join them for worship. There is no simpler or easier time to do that than during Advent or for Christmas Eve. What's an "Invitation Pandemic"? It's an infectious human desire to invite friends, co-workers, and neighbors to come and find out what God is up to in the world and what that means for their lives. It isn't about multiplying our numbers. It's about multiplying believers in Jesus Christ...who saves lives.

Be part of the solution to the world's problems.

Bell Choir after choir practice in the choir room at 7:30 on Thursdays.

Even if you've never played bells or believe you don't have a musical bone in your body, if you can count to four, you can learn the bells. Please speak to Tony Greendonner if you're willing to learn something new. On December 17 (2:00-4:00) the choir and bells will practice together. COME~ it's not too late.



DECEMBER WORSHIP

- ❖ **Advent** begins on Sunday, December 3rd and runs through Sunday, December 24th. We will celebrate Holy Communion on December 3. The children present in worship will take part in the lighting of the Advent Wreath each week.
- ❖ Please note that with **Christmas Eve** day falling on a Sunday, we will have two worship services with one at 10:00 AM and one at 7:00 PM. The evening service will be a candlelight service of Lessons and Carols.



THE GINGERBREAD TREE

All of the Gingerbread people have been taken from the tree! The gifts are due back at the church by December 10th – gift-wrapped, with the recipient's information attached. Thank you to everyone for caring for local children who receive so little at Christmastime.

CHRISTMAS BASKETS

The deadline for donations will be December 15th

All items should be non-perishable.

If you can help packaging the baskets, please contact Janet Lore at 724-864-4083.



Needed Items as of December 3rd-15th

Breakfast Items: cereal, oatmeal, juices, cereal bars, dried milk, etc.

Lunch Items: peanut butter, jelly, soups, mac-n-cheese, canned fruit, etc.

Dinner Items: pasta, sauces, canned vegetables, cookies, cake mixes, puddings, rice mix, drinks, etc.

Paper /Toiletries: paper towels, tissues, soaps, shampoo, toothpaste, floss, etc.



RINGING FOR A CAUSE

If you are interested in participating and ringing the bell this year for the Salvation Army, please call the church office asap. We are scheduled for **Saturday December 2nd** from 10am-8pm

(1 hour increments) at the Giant Eagle in North Huntingdon (both sides).

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES

The Mission Committee asks that you help provide gifts for children who may not otherwise receive a Christmas gift. Take a shoebox from the lobby and fill it with the list provided. Shoeboxes will be available after worship or you may stop in Monday – Friday between 9am and 1pm. Shoeboxes are due back at the church by December 3rd. Thank you for caring for the least.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE WARM THIS WINTER

If you'd like to help with the cost of the winter coats the church provided for 67 children, please use one of the envelopes in your pew or from the lobby.



IRWIN MALE CHORUS

When: *Saturday, December 16, 2017*

Time: 7:00 PM Refreshments to follow

Where: The sanctuary

The Irwin Male Chorus has been warming people's hearts with their music for the past 100+ years. Please join us, and bring your friends – young and not so young. We look forward to an evening filled with a variety of music. Free will offering.

PWA CHRISTMAS PARTY

Please join us *Monday December 11th at 6pm*. Bring a covered dish or dessert and a grab bag gift no more than \$10. Looking forward to great fellowship with the ladies of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE

On *December 16th from 1pm - 3pm* in the Fellowship Hall

Bake 6 dozen cookies of one kind, please sign up or call the church office. We will decorate a dozen sugar cookies as well so you will leave with 7 dozen cookies!!



SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Please join us Sunday, December 10th at 9:30am for our annual Sunday School party. We will celebrate by making Christmas ornaments for our Deacon baskets and enjoying some cookies.

COFFEE HOUR

Coffee Hour is scheduled for *Sunday, December 10th* between the 8:30 & 11am service times. PWA will provide coffee hour in December



MANY, MANY THANKS FOR ALL OF THE WAYS YOU SERVE, SPREAD JOY, AND OFFER HOPE!

Food 2 Go 4 Kids – donations and packers (December 6th & 20th are next)

The Thanksgiving dinner – donations, organizers, cooks

From the PWA to those who purchased pies and pumpkin rolls (some are left)

To those who helped decorate for Advent & Christmas

From Mary Esther DeTesta & the Campbell family for your support and sympathies

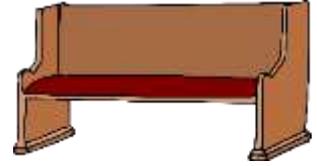
Thank you, as always, for your financial support of the mission and ministry of WHPC. There is no church HERE without you, your time, talent and love of God!

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The PNC provided a detailed update to the congregation on Sunday October 15th. Here is a brief synopsis of that message. During the last year the PNC has covered a lot of ground and here is some of what we did: created the church Ministry Information Form (MIF), combed through over 150 Pastor Information Forms (PIF's), watched and listened to many sermons, conducted Skype interviews & held reference check meetings. Despite challenges out of our control the PNC considers ourselves very

prayerful, hopeful & still very much dedicated to working together for the common goal of finding the person God is calling to WHPC. Perhaps as one PNC member puts it best, we are moving at God's pace. For additional information regarding the work of the PNC please ask a member of the committee or Peggy directly. Thank you for your continued prayers regarding our work.

Please remember our friends with cards and/or visits. Remember those who can't be with us physically with a card or phone call. The winters are long, especially for them. If you know of someone who would like to receive Communion at home, please let Rev. Shannon know.



- ❖ June Campbell, Oak Hill Nursing & Rehab Center, 827 Georges Station Rd., Greensburg, PA 15601
- ❖ Marge Jessen, 128 Liberty Blvd. Sewickley, PA 15143
- ❖ Bill Rehner, Patriot Personal Care Home, Room 229, 495 West Patriot Street, Somerset, PA 15501
- ❖ Bill Hughes, 519 6th Avenue, Belmar, NJ 07719
- ❖ Doug & Marge Jessen, 128 Liberty Blvd. Sewickley, PA 15143
- ❖ Joyce Marciniak, Room B215, 2480 South Grande Blvd, Greensburg, PA 15601

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM NOVEMBER

- Approved October session minutes
- Accepted financial reports. Giving is stable
- Affirmed the proposed 2018 budget to be presented at the annual congregational meeting on January 21
- Approved service times for December 24 – 10:00 AM will be our traditional morning worship and a candlelight service at 7:00 PM
- Approved one service at 10:00 AM on January 21 to be followed by the annual congregational meeting to approve the 2018 budget, elect officers, and review reports
- Approved regular Communion schedule for the first Sunday of each month in 2018
- Approved the transfer of Audra Sinclair, Ken & Kim Stough from the inactive roll to the Hiland Presbyterian and Maplewood Churches, respectively
- Received the resignation of Pat Jones from the Board of Deacons because of her impending move
- Approved vacation for the pastor from December 26, 2017 through January 2, 2018
- Agreed that a December Session meeting be called only if necessary

*The Staff of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church
wish you and your families a most blessed Christmas. It is a privilege to worship,
fellowship, and serve alongside you.
Merry Christmas!*

DECEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 SALVATION ARMY 10AM-8PM GIANT EAGLE IRWIN
3 Communion Sunday 8:30 & 11 WORSHIP Sunday School 9:30am	4 DART BALL 7PM @ West Newton	5 PWA Board Meeting 10am - kitchen	6 Senior Cards 11-2:30 Food2Go4Kids 6:30pm, kitchen Men's Bible Study 7pm	7 Choir Rehearsal 6:15pm	8	9
10 8:30 & 11 WORSHIP Sunday School Christmas Party 9:30am ~ Fellowship Hall	11 DARTBALL Make-up Games PWA Christmas Party 6pm - Narthex	12 Deacons Meeting 6:30pm – kitchen NAMI 7pm	13 Senior Cards 11-2:30 Christian Ed Mtg 6:30pm~kitchen Men's Bible Study 7pm	14 Choir Rehearsal – 6:15pm Scouts – 6pm S&F Meeting, 7pm	15 Deacons Food & Gift Sorting – 6pm Fellowship Hall	16 ~Cookie Exchange~ 1-3pm Fellowship Hall ~Irwin Male Chorus~ 7PM
17 8:30 & 11 WORSHIP Sunday School 9:30	18 DARTBALL All Star Game	19	20 Senior Cards 11-2:30 Food2Go4Kids 6:30pm, kitchen Men's Bible Study 7pm	21 Choir Rehearsal 6:15pm	22	23
24 Christmas Eve ~Services~ 10am ~ Regular Worship Service 7pm~ Candlelit Worship Service 31 8:30 & 11 WORSHIP	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS 	26 ~Office Closed~ No PWA Meeting No Session Meeting	27 Senior Cards 11-2:30 Men's Bible Study 7pm	28 Choir Rehearsal 6:15pm ALL DAY SCOUT EVENT FELLOWSHIP HALL	29	30