



**West Hempfield Presbyterian Church**  
**8 West Hempfield Drive**  
**Irwin, PA. 15642**  
**724-863-1260**

[www.westhempfieldpc.org](http://www.westhempfieldpc.org)

## **May 2017 Newsletter**

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In March, I attended a meeting of clergy, representing a variety of Christian traditions, along with representatives from the Westmoreland County Redevelopment Council. The council has been gathering information as part of a project to improve the quality of life for Westmoreland County residents through a number of means (in no particular order):

- Providing enticement for families to move to the area and put down roots here
- Providing for an aging population
- Appealing to high school and college graduates to stay and/or return to the area
- Make the county attractive to business
- Address the on-going drug problems of our communities
- Address the issues of commuters who live in Westmoreland County, but work in Pittsburgh and other surrounding areas

Those pastors, ministers, priests in attendance were asked what were the strengths and weaknesses of the county. I am ashamed to say that I heard something that I did not realize before. Many around the room commented on the racism that permeates Westmoreland County. It gave me pause. The following is a statement that our denomination has placed on their website ([www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org)):

*“Racism is the opposite of what God intends for humanity. It is the rejection of the other, which is entirely contrary to the Word of God incarnate in Jesus Christ. Racism is a lie about our fellow human beings, for it says that some are less than others. Because of our biblical understanding of who God is and what God intends for humanity, the PC(USA) must stand against, speak against and work against racism.”*

Racism is an ugly word and attitude. I pray that WHPC will always be the welcoming church that I’ve come to know. My message to the church is that this statement is true of *any* “ism” which threatens our love and care for others. When Christ spread his arms on the Cross, he had the whole of humanity in his heart and mind, and it is never our privilege or right to dismiss another human being, made in God’s image. Paul writes: *So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.* (Romans 5:17-21)

Friends, because of Easter, we are in Christ and a new creation. That makes each of us “ambassadors for Christ.” Westmoreland County is a very big place on the map. If the congregation of WHPC loves and cares for others as Christ commands us, we can accomplish something extraordinary that no council, redevelopment, or sermonizing of clergy can accomplish: we will have helped others understand their amazing worth in the eyes of God. Imagine that. Do that.

See you in church – Peggy

## April Session Highlights

Received/approved the following reports:

- ✓ Minutes of February Session meeting
- ✓ Building Committee: termite traps have been put in place and treatments have begun; update on security cameras; update on water issue in downstairs; motion detection lights in place; river rock has been spread and lawn mowing begun (thank you, Scott Gregory)
- ✓ Christian Education: 130 attended Egg Hunt; plans for VBS have begun – Blackburn Center is again the mission project beneficiary, cost is reduced to \$5/child
- ✓ Children & Youth Minister's report – see article herein
- ✓ Clerk's report: West Hempfield Elementary School will use the church for a fundraising dinner on Sept. 25, 2017 to benefit the Food 2 Go 4 Kids program; Hughes memorial (in the front circle) will be dedicated following worship on June 25, 2017; WHPC will host the May 16, 2017 meeting of Redstone Presbytery
- ✓ Deacon's meeting
- ✓ Fellowship: Breakfast for the Women of the Church, May 7, 2017 between services
- ✓ Outreach & Nurture: member gifts/skills questionnaires have been distributed and information will be placed in a database for office use
- ✓ Pastor's report: request that Session meet with new members
- ✓ Personnel: interim pastor's contract renewed for 7 months, beginning June 15, 2017, either pastor Shannon or the Session can give 60 days' notice to end contract, which is standard
- ✓ Preschool: graduation will be May 15, 2017, set-up will be May 12
- ✓ Stewardship & Finance: received a \$5,000 gift from Darcy St. Clair; Watson Fund used for security cameras for preschool; expenses for 1<sup>st</sup> quarter are down and giving is up – we are financially stable
- ✓ Worship: Approved one worship service from May 28-Sept 3, 2017 at 10:00 AM

## REDSTONE PRESBYTER MEETING AT WHPC

**May 16, 2016 4:30-9:00PM**

It is a privilege to host the May meeting of Redstone Presbytery! We will be offering light snacks, cookies, and drinks to make our guests feel welcome. If you'd like to help with hospitality for the evening (donations, help giving directions, welcoming, etc.) please contact the church office. May 16 is primary voting day in Pennsylvania and also the West Hempfield Elementary School evening band concert, thus parking arrangements are important to accommodate everyone. We ask that parking in the front circle be reserved for Presbytery commissioners, especially the handicap spots. The rear lot will be reserved for primary voters and poll workers, plus Presbytery members and church volunteers. No school parking will be available. The church will need volunteers to help "direct" traffic and offer guidance for parking, beginning at 3:30 through 6:15 PM. If you can help, please contact the office. Thank you!



### MAY Worship Schedule:

- MAY 7** – Communion Sunday 8:30 & 11am Worship, Sunday School 9:45
- MAY 14** – 8:30 & 11am Worship, Sunday School 9:45  
*Coffee Hour – Provided by the Men's Bible Study*
- MAY 21** – 8:30 & 11am Worship, Sunday School 9:45
- MAY 28** – 8:30 & 11am Worship, Sunday School 9:45

***Beginning Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup> we will begin our Summer Worship Schedule of one service at 10am throughout the summer months. The last Sunday for summer worship will be Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10am.***

## HELP FEED THE HUNGRY

**Who:** *National Association of Letter Carriers*

**What:** Stamp out hunger food drive will be collecting non-perishable food items for distribution at a local food bank.

**When:** *Saturday, May 13, 2017*

Please place your food donation by your mailbox. Your letter carrier designated volunteer will pick up your donation for distribution to a local food bank.

If you need additional information or have questions, please call Chuck Jarrell, Food Drive Coordinator at 412-818-1473.



## CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

A Blessed Easter Season to you all from the Youth Pastor's office! Easter brings a time to celebrate the resurrection and the gift of grace from God that is our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I stand amazed and I give glory to God for the lives that He has brought together here through the youth programs of WHPC.

Our youth group continues to grow as those with us continue to invite others. Our focus in this past month has been the events of Holy Week from Palm Sunday through Easter. We continue to discuss the influence of Jesus and the power of prayer. Every youth brings one person to lift in prayer at the end of each meeting. Praise God for these young lives!!

We began April with our largest group ever for youth group on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. From that group, there were 5 volunteers for the Easter Egg Hunt. There was no youth group through Holy Week, although we discussed our Lord's Passion beforehand, and each person was encouraged to go to worship at some point that week. On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, six of us (Youth and Hibachi included) went to The Escape Room at Pittsburgh Mills. No, we didn't make it out; however, all agreed this is something they'd like to do again.

Hibachi was cancelled this month due to only one person attending. Any youth or Hibachi event is and will be cancelled if there is only one child and one leader.

Six youth have signed up to distribute food at the Westmoreland Food Bank May 6<sup>th</sup>. The limit per group is 10, so we are close to that amount. Another outing will be schedule for the third weekend in May. Place and time to be determined. The enthusiasm of these young folks is a delight!

We welcome all teens who would like to join us for youth gatherings, when we continue to read the Word of God and discuss the relevance of Scripture and Jesus Christ in our lives. The schedule has changed as follows and all gatherings subject to change based on who can attend and outings that week:

Youth Group (grades 7-12) meet every other Sunday evening (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>) from 6-8, except when other events are planned that day. As of May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the mid-week sessions have moved to Wednesdays from 6-8.

"Hibachi" (grades 4-6) meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays from 6-8, or outings as scheduled.

I continue to count the blessings of my time here with the youth and children. Everyone involved in all of the youth and children groups have been a delight as we worship, learn, and enjoy fellowship together!

In His Harmony, Dawn R. Sherwood, Interim Director of Children and Youth Ministries

[WHPCyouth@outlook.com](mailto:WHPCyouth@outlook.com)



### **High School and College graduates will be recognized in June**

Please supply the church office with information if you/your child is graduating from high school, college, vocational school, graduate school or any other continued education program. The congregation would like to recognize and celebrate your accomplishment during worship. **Submit your name, from where you are graduating, your immediate future plans.**

## WELCOME BABY:

Congratulations to Betty & Donald Greenawalt's grand-daughter, Carly & husband Travis on the birth of their baby boy, Ellis Anthony. He was born on April 6, 2017. He weighed 6lbs. 12oz. & 17 inches long. All are doing well.



## PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

**UPDATE:** The PNC is continuing to meet weekly to review PIF's. The search & interview process is ongoing and we ask that you continue to keep us in your prayers.

## PWA THANK YOU!

Thank you for supporting the PWA candy sale, we enjoy serving you.

There are still a few pies left.....

1 apple, 3 apple walnut and 1 chocolate cream.

Please see one of the PWA ladies after Sunday worship.

## LOCAL MISSION:

We will be packaging our LAST FOOD ITEMS FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR

on **Wednesday May 3 and 17<sup>th</sup>**

**at 6:30pm** in the upstairs

kitchen. If you would like to

help package, please sign up

outside the sanctuary. The

food will be placed in plastic

shopping bags. The food will

go home with West Hempfield Elementary School

children who need some extra nourishment.



## FELLOWSHIP NEWS - COFFEE HOUR

The men's bible study will be providing the cookies for coffee hour on **May 14<sup>th</sup>**

Looking forward to fellowship after we worship together.

**LADIES BREAKFAST:** Join the women of WHPC for a breakfast on Sunday, **May 7<sup>th</sup>** between services. The men of WHPC will be serving the ladies. Please sign up outside the sanctuary.

## WEST HEMPFIELD PRESCHOOL:

The Preschool will be celebrating their 2016-2017 graduates on **Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup>** at 11:00am in the sanctuary followed with refreshments in the fellowship hall.



For registration in the fall, the morning class is full and the afternoon has only 5 openings. If you would like more information, visit their website at [www.westhempfieldpreschool.org](http://www.westhempfieldpreschool.org), or call the church office between 11:30 – 12:30pm. Thank you!

**VBS:** The Christian Education committee is in search of volunteers who would like to participate in vacation bible school. This year VBS is scheduled for the week of **June 12 - 16 from 6-8pm**. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, please email Rachael Pritz – [rachlynn5680@yahoo.com](mailto:rachlynn5680@yahoo.com) or use the sign up form on the table outside the sanctuary doors.

**EGG HUNT:** Thank you to all who helped with the egg hunt..... from donating candy, filling the eggs, volunteering and attending.



# West Hempfield Church Vacation Bible School

June 12 - 16, 2017

6PM – 8PM daily

## Registration Form

(one per family)

Name(s) of Child(ren)  
(First and Last)

Grade Entering  
Fall 2018\*

Allergies/Medical  
Condition



_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

\*Potty-trained 3 years-of-age through entering 5<sup>th</sup> grade

<p><b>VBS: Cost: \$5 per child</b></p> <p>_____ (no. of children) x \$5 = _____ (total cost)</p>
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Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_



In case of emergency, contact name: \_\_\_\_\_

At phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Home church: \_\_\_\_\_

<p>(For church use only) Paid amt: _____ cash _____ check (#_____) CD _____</p>
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# May 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1  PNC Meeting – 6:00pm	2  PWA Meeting – 10am  Daisies – 6pm	3 Senior Cards 11-2:30 FOOD 2 GO 4 KIDS 6:30PM Men’s Bible Study 7pm Youth Group 6-8pm	4  Choir Practice 6:00PM  Stewardship & Finance Committee Mtg – 7pm	5	6 Youth Outing to Westmoreland Food Bank – call Dawn for details 412-378-2309
7 *Communion* 8:30 & 11 Worship Sunday School 9:45am <b>Ladies Breakfast between Services</b> 7-12 <sup>th</sup> 6-8pm	8  PNC Meeting – 6:00pm	9  Deacons Meeting 6:30pm  NAMI 7pm	10  Senior Cards 11-2:30 Men’s Bible Study 7pm Youth Group 6-8pm	11  Final Choir Practice 6:00PM  Building Committee Meeting – 6:30pm	12  <b>Preschool Graduation Set up</b>	13
14 Happy Mother’s Day!! 8:30 & 11 Worship Sunday School 9:45am <b>Coffee Hour</b> *No Youth*	15 Preschool Graduation 11am  PNC Meeting – 6:00pm	16 Primary Election Day  Redstone Presbyter Meeting 4:30-9pm	17 Senior Cards 11-2:30 FOOD 2 GO: 6:30PM Christian Ed: 6:30pm Men’s Bible Study:7pm Youth Group 6-8pm	18	19  <b>SESSION REPORTS DUE!!</b>	20
21 8:30 & 11 Worship  <b>Last Day for Sunday School 9:45am</b> Youth Group outing (All Youth) TBD	22  PNC Meeting – 6:00pm	23  Session Meeting 6:30pm	24  Senior Cards 11-2:30 Men’s Bible Study 7pm No Youth	25	26  <b>*NEWSLETTER DEADLINE*</b>	27
28  <b>SUMMER WORSHIP BEGINS ONE SERVICE 10AM</b>  *No Youth*	29 Happy Memorial Day!  Office Closed	30	31  Senior Cards 11-2:30 Men’s Bible Study 7pm Youth Group 6-8pm			