



WEST HEMPFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8 West Hempfield Drive

Irwin, PA 15642

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www.westhempfieldpc.org

February 2019

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

John chapter 4 starts with a story that might be familiar. It is popular because in this story Jesus breaks down the barriers of all kinds of prejudices (gender, race, religion, social, etc.) by speaking with a Samaritan woman who has a very gossip-worthy backstory.

Several sermons could be written just on the fact that Jesus spoke with her at all. But it is also important to acknowledge what he has to say to her. As a Samaritan, she brings up one of the big theological differences between the Samaritans and the Jews: Where is the correct place to worship God?

In response, Jesus says (John 4:23) **Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers that Father seeks.**

Thankfully, especially for those of us who live on a completely different continent than the one on which Jesus walked, his response is that with the gift of the Holy Spirit it doesn't matter where you are. As with many of Christ's teachings, he says that what matters is on the inside. Not where you worship, but what is in your heart as you worship. Worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth.

These words are a special blessing to our congregation this time of year. As we spread out, near and far – some trapped at home by illness or snow and ice, some away visiting family, some temporarily residing further south for the winter – we are reminded that whether we are all under the roof of 8 West Hempfield Drive or not, we are all able to worship the Lord.

Wherever you may be, take a moment today (and each day if you can, but for now let's focus on today) to read God's Word, reflect upon its meaning to you today, and pray.

Worship the Father in Spirit and in truth.

Blessings,

Rev. Andrew Wirt



WHPC

OUR MISSION IS:

NOURISH THE FAITHFUL

WORSHIP GOD AND LOVE HIM

WITH ALL WE HAVE

ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH WHAT

JESUS TAUGHT

REACH OUT AND SHARE WITH

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OUR WORDS AND ACTIONS IN

THIS COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING UPDATE:

On January 20th, 2019 we cancelled worship and the congregational meeting. I dislike cancelling worship so much. To me, closing the church feels like closing a hospital. I would normally trust people to decide for themselves if it is safe to go out, and then just preach to whoever comes. But the ice at the church was so bad that John was having trouble clearing it and at least one door was iced shut so thoroughly that John couldn't get it to open despite several attempts. It didn't feel safe, so I made the decision and asked Heather to put out the OneCall to cancel worship. The OneCall is our primary way of letting you know about cancellations or last-minute changes.

I still went to the church myself. Tony was still here when I arrived, but John had already left. Roads by my home in North Irwin weren't bad, but Arona and Wendel were really rough and my 4 wheel drive Jeep slid turning on and off Wendel at 9am.

I unlocked the doors (the ones that weren't frozen shut) and started a pot of coffee in case anyone missed the OneCall; I didn't want anyone to find a cold, dark, empty church on a Sunday morning, even in the snow. Someone had put up signs that said "Worship Cancelled" on the main doors and I added "If you made it this far, there's hot coffee inside. Be Safe!" Tony and I waited until after 11 before leaving the church. One person did come in and join us for a little bit.

Unfortunately, we didn't set/announce a back-up date for the congregational meeting, so the Session had to approve a new date and it had to be announced from the pulpit. In the future, even though I still don't plan to cancel worship for anything short of an emergency, the Session and I will plan to set a "snow date" for all future winter congregational meetings.

The Session has rescheduled our congregational meeting for February 3 (which you should have already been notified by email, OneCall, and announcements on Sunday), with a back-up date of February 10. On the day of the congregational meeting there will be one worship service at 10am followed by our congregational meeting.

Blessings,

Rev. Andrew Wirt

LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR PER CAPITA:

One of the most well-known notions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is our connectionalism. In addition to our connection through our polity and through our commitment to the gospel and relationship with the Trinity, one of the other things that binds Presbyterians is per capita, that universal funding source drawn from the whole church in order to support the whole church. It is the glue that unites us, allowing Presbyterians to connect with one another and govern ourselves for the good of the body. And in this current season there are two very clear examples of the per capita at work: The per capita maintains national services of the PCUSA such as the Church Leadership Connection (CLC) website which is a sort of eHarmony for pastors looking for churches and churches looking for pastors. Pastor Andrew and the WHPC PNC first met on CLC. Per capita also pays for the biennial national gathering, General Assembly, held last year in Saint Louis, Missouri. Travel, lodging, and meals for advisory delegates and assembly commissioners (half of whom are ruling elders) are covered by per capita dollars. That's no small price tag.

Why place such importance on per capita and the way it is used? Because Presbyterians believe we discern best what God is calling us to do when we gather as mid councils, "seek[ing] together to find and represent the will of Christ" (*Book of Order*, F-3.0204). Per capita allows us to do that, to make the table more accessible so that all can join.

In fact, nearly everything the Office of the General Assembly does, from identifying and developing leadership for the PC(USA) to maintaining judicial and legislative services for the denomination, comes from per capita. Let us also not forget the critical work of partnering with presbyteries and synods in the work of the church.

In case you were wondering, per capita is not a new concept. In fact, apportionments like per capita date as far back in the denomination as the early 1800s, when it was collected so Presbyterians from the fringes of the emerging United States could easily attend corporate gatherings in the epicenter of the Presbyterian world at the time—Philadelphia. Did I also mention that per capita dollars now help fund the work of the Presbyterian Historical Society in "The City of Brotherly Love"?

-- article slightly adapted and updated from an article on pusua.org

Redstone per capita for this year (2019) is \$42.50 per member. Please consider making a gift in this amount with "2019 per capita" printed in the memo line of the check and/or make use of the yellow per capita envelopes available in the lobby outside the sanctuary.



FEBRUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- February 3rd** 10:00AM Worship
 Congregational Meeting to follow
 Coffee Hour hosted by the Deacons
 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
- February 10th** 8:30 & 11:00 AM Worship
 9:45 Sunday School
- February 17th** 8:30 & 11:00 AM Worship
 9:45 Sunday School
- February 24th** 8:30 & 11:00 AM Worship
 9:45 Sunday School



February 3rd coffee hour will be hosted by the Deacons.
Thank you to the Dart ball team for hosting in January.

Ordination/Installation of New Church Officers

We will ordain and/or install new church officers on **February 10th** during both worship services. The church offers its gratitude to those who have served for 2018 and her prayers for those who will be serving in 2019.



JANUARY SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church met on January 22, 2019

- Outgoing elders were thanked for their service.
- Reports were received and reviewed
- Reviewed and approved updated Building Use Policy
- Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser for Haiti mission was scheduled for March 30
- Congregational meeting rescheduled for February 3, back-up date February 10, to follow single worship service starting at 10am
- Pastor Andrew is working with the Deacon on visiting homebound members.
- 5 members were served home communion in January.
- Tony Greendonner was reviewed and approved by the Session for church membership



HOMEBOUND & NURSING HOME FRIENDS

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. Wirt know.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

New Beginnings Community Outreach will host a free screening of the powerful movie, "I Can Only Imagine" on **Thursday, February 7, 2019 doors open at 6:15pm** with light refreshments. **The movie will begin at 6:45pm.** The movie tells the TRUE story of Bart Millard, the lead singer of MercyMe, who struggled with a troubled past, due to issues with his abusive father and a mother who abandoned him early in his life. The song, "I Can Only Imagine" was birthed out of the pain and reconciliation with Bart's father. This movie truly reveals the power of forgiveness, and the healing that takes place beyond what one can truly imagine!!! If you have seen this already, please bring a friend, especially one who may be struggling with forgiveness issues.



The movie is FREE, but we will be taking a **love offering** to support two very wonderful outreaches from West Hempfield church - **Food2go4kids** that benefits the West Hempfield Elementary students and **Westmoreland County Food Bank that feeds thousands in our area!!!**

We hope you will join us on this powerful evening. Jesus' words in Matthews gospel 6:14-15 "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins." Forgiving ourselves, forgiving others - this is truly a "new beginning". We pray you will join us!

AN EVENING OF MUSIC

Tony Greendonor, WHPC Music Director and David Bridge will be playing duets. Sunday evening on **March 3, 2019 at 6:00PM**. This will be an evening of preludes and postludes. Please join us for a wonderful evening of music and some hymns. David Bridge, organist at Salem United Methodist Church in Wexford, assistant organist and private music instructor at Calvary United Methodist Church in Pittsburgh, and Saturday organist at Bethany United Methodist Church in Latrobe will be joining Tony. (**snow date will be 3/10/19**)



THE CHOIR IS HAPPY TO WELCOME NEW MEMBERS IN 2019

If you like to sing, good or bad, help the choir lead worship and make a joyful noise to the Lord. Choral singing adds significantly to our worship experience. See Tony Greendonor on Sunday morning if you'd like an introduction to the choir life!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR HELPING:

FOOD 2 GO 4 KIDS: is our partnership with West Hempfield Elementary School. We help them provide bags of food for around 70 children to take home with them on the weekend. This assures that no child will go hungry without the safety net of school breakfasts and lunches. Food items are donated. Volunteers at church gather in the upstairs kitchen to separate and count the food, and pack the bags. Counters are needed (those pesky Pop Tarts come in all size packages).

- Food packing is **February 6th and 20th at 6:30PM**
- Caring volunteers do this every other Wednesday of each month
- Contact Jen MacIntosh to find out more about this program.



HAITI MISSION ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER:

WHPC gives monthly support to a children's school in Haiti. The annual spaghetti dinner is an important fundraiser so that we can continue our giving. Everyone is welcome to help. Meatball making will be **March 29th at 6:00 PM. The dinner is March 30th from 4:00-6:30 PM.** Lots of helping hands have made this a huge success in the past. Can you help this year? Contact the church office or sign-up on the volunteer & donation board in the lobby.

The meal includes spaghetti and meatballs, a salad bar, bread, dessert, and a drink

Cost is \$5 for children (3-12), under 3 eat free, \$8 for adults

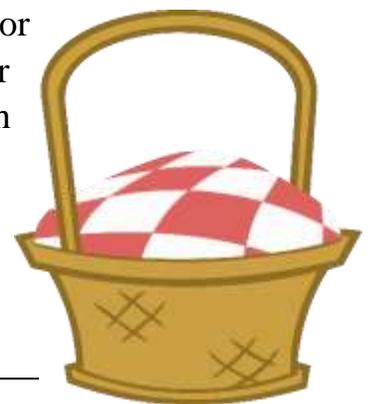
Carry-out will be available.

March 30th – 4:00-6:30 in Fellowship Hall

Chinese Auction of Gift Baskets



GET CREATIVE: Once again we will have a **Chinese Auction** during the spaghetti dinner. Tickets are purchased as guests enter and winning tickets will be drawn at 6:15. If you would like to donate a basket, Heather Manhart is the contact person at 412-508-1967 or in the office during work hours. In the past there have been pasta dinner baskets, kid friendly baskets, movie night baskets, gardening baskets, bath & body baskets, etc. What would YOU like to win?



West Hempfield 2019 Food Bank Dates:

FOOD BANK VOLUNTEERS!

May 18, 2019 and August 17, 2019 from 9:00-11:30 AM

PWA VALENTINE LUNCHEON is nearly here! The ladies invite everyone to join then on **Thursday, February 15th** at Abruzzi's Italian Restaurant in Irwin at 11:30 AM. Please make your reservation by contacting the office or on the sign-up bulletin board outside the sanctuary.



There are still a few **PWA PIES** left from their sale. Call the church office to put your name on your choice.

FAMILY PJ NIGHT at WHPC

Friday, February 22nd at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

All are invited to jump into their jammies and bring their families to church for fun, food, and fellowship. We will have snacks, crafts, a bible lesson, then we'll turn on the popcorn machine and watch the movie "The Incredibles." This has become a wonderful annual event to break up the winter doldrums. Please RSVP to the office or sign-up at church on Sundays, so that we can plan for you and your family.



WEST HEMPFIELD PRESCHOOL

Currently accepting registration for the school year 2019-2020. This program is designed for 3 & 4 year old children. The child must be 3 by August 31st and potty-trained. The registration fee is \$30. If you would like more information, visit their website at www.westhempfieldpreschool.org, call the church office between 9am & 1pm or see Linda Simpson after service. Thank you!



KIDZONE: Please watch for the newly formed KIDZONE Newsletter. Our first edition will be out in early February. You can pick one up in the new "kidzone" in front of the youth office.

"RED IT UP": On February 23rd from 10AM-1PM come help "red up" the furnace & resource room. If you have something in either of these rooms that you do not want thrown out, please use the bright pink sticky notes provided to label with your committee name. There may be donuts involved for those who lend a helping hand.



February Birthdays

February 3 – Keeley Mackenzie, Karen Reed
February 8 – Bob Edmonds
February 9 – Ken Primus, Thomas Wybiral
February 12 – Birdie Grinder
February 13 – Caroline Ray
February 24 – Doris Forsyth, Janet Errett
February 26 – Betty Greenawalt, Phil Weaver
February 27 – Jen MacIntosh
February 28 – Meredith MacIntosh

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



1 Thessalonians 5:16 **Rejoice always.**

1 Thessalonians 5:17 **Pray continually.**

Help us to continue doing this very important work of giving thanks and lifting one another up in prayer.

If you want to praise someone in the congregation, fill out a card on the “Kudos” board across from the youth office and pin it up!

We invite you to write your prayer requests on the white dry erase board across from the Prayer Room. Or use the red marker to share with us how God has answered a prayer!

Whether you have something to put on the board or not, please stop by to find the prayers and requests of others and share with them in bringing these things before the Lord. You could even take a picture of the board with your smart phone to be a reminder to pray throughout the week.

We will keep the boards cleaned from week to week. If a continuing concern gets cleared, please don't hesitate to write it up again.

LET'S PAINT!

Join your church family for a fun fellowship outing at Corks & Canvases across from the church in the plaza. We will be instructed step by step on how to paint this adorable snowman! Everyone is welcome! Kids too! Bring a snack to share and feel free to bring a friend! We will hold 2 different dates to accommodate everyone's schedules.

Friday March 8th at 7:00PM (you may bring your own wine)

Sunday March 10th at 12:30PM (feel free to put your snacks in the upstairs kitchen during worship. No alcohol at the Sunday painting.)

You must pre-register for these events. Please let the office know, no later than March 3rd.

If you have any questions, please see Melissa Wybiral, Judy Sturdevant or Heather Manhart.

February 2019

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| Choir between services 10:00AM | | | Choir 6:00PM Every Wednesday | Choir 6:00PM Every Thursday | 1 | 2 |
| 3 10AM Worship <i>Congregational Meeting</i> <i>Communion</i> No Sunday School | 4 H.E.L.P 5pm DART BALL @ CIRCLEVILLE | 5 PWA Meeting 10am – upstairs kitchen | 6 Senior Cards 11-2:30 FOOD 2 GO 4 KIDS 6:30PM Men's Bible Study 7pm | 7 SCOUTS 6PM <i>"I can only imagine"</i> 6:30PM | 8 | 9 |
| 10 8:30 & 11 Worship Sunday School 9:45am Scout Sunday <i>Installation of new elders/deacons</i> | 11 H.E.L.P 5pm DART BALL @ Greensburg #1 Pastor Andrew Vacation 2/11 - 2/17 | 12 Deacons Meeting 6:30pm NAMI 7PM | 13 Senior Cards 11-2:30 Men's Bible Study 7pm | 14 | 15 PWA Valentine Luncheon 11:30am – Abruzzi's in Irwin CE Meeting – | 16 |
| 17 8:30 & 11 Worship Sunday School 9:45am | 18 H.E.L.P 5pm DART BALL @ WHPC | 19 Stewardship & Finance Meeting 5:30pm Confirmation Class 7PM | 20 Senior Cards 11-2:30 FOOD 2 GO 4 KIDS 6:30PM Men's Bible Study 7pm | 21 SCOUTS 6PM NEWSLETTER DEADLINE | 22 PJ Party – Fellowship Hall 6pm SESSION REPORTS DUE | 23 "Red It Up" 10am-1pm Furnace & Resource Room |
| 24 8:30 & 11 Worship Sunday School 9:45am | 25 H.E.L.P 5pm | 26 PWA Charity Circle 1pm – Upstairs Kitchen Session 6:30pm – Upstairs Kitchen | 27 Senior Cards 11-2:30 Men's Bible Study 7pm | 28 | | |