



**West Hempfield
Presbyterian Church
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www.westhempfieldpc.org

January 2019

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

In the days after Christmas, we may begin to imagine the baby in the manger, the Christ child, growing up. What were the days like after sleeping on straw and receiving gifts from strange kings? We can imagine Jesus learning to walk, speaking his first words. For many, the first words we speak are of our parents, “ma-ma” or “da-da” – or in this case, “Ab-ba.”

Check out Galatians 4:4-7. Particularly verse 6: *Because you are His sons and daughters, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.”*

This passage from Galatians reminds us that it is God’s Holy Spirit who stirs the first inkling of faith within our hearts.

As any earthly father listens eagerly for that first “dada” from his beloved child, so too does God eagerly await our cry of “Abba.” Christ even taught His disciples (and therefore us as well) to begin prayer with the words “Our Father ...”

Over time a child will learn to recognize and respond to a parent’s voice as well. Over time we may awaken to the call of the Holy Spirit within our hearts. When we respond to God, crying out His name and listening for His voice, we are transforming into a new creation (II Corinthians 5:17). We live into

our true calling as sons and daughters of God.

Whether we have been following Christ for a few weeks or for most of our lives, still it is God’s Holy Spirit at work within us, drawing us closer to the Father, “Abba.” It is a gift of God, not any work of human hands – no matter how good the Bible study, sermon, or prayer (Ephesians 2:8-9). God alone can repair our sin-damaged souls and draw us close to Him.

Let us be like the child Christ this year, and follow the Holy Spirit, calling out to the Father, and listening carefully for His voice in response.

Blessings,

Rev. Andrew Wirt

JANUARY WORSHIP

January 6 – Regular Worship 8:30AM & 11:00AM, Communion, Sunday School

January 13 – Regular Worship 8:30AM & 11:00AM, Sunday School

January 20 – One Worship Service 10:00AM, Congregational Meeting to follow, Coffee Hour hosted by the Dartball team, NO Sunday school

January 27 – Regular Worship 8:30AM & 11:00AM, Sunday School

Pastor Andrew Recommends

It is the time of year for new year's resolutions.

This year resolve to read the Bible more, and let this little app help you!

If you have a smart phone or tablet, you can install the YouVersion Bible App, free Bible software.



This app lets you take the Bible with you anywhere you take your phone. You can choose from several Bible translations to read through an internet connection or choose to download one or more of them to have available even when there is no internet signal available. You can also choose to have the app read to you, if you prefer to listen rather than read for yourself.

To help with keeping your new year's resolution, YouVersion offers lots of different reading plans. Pick a topic and the app will show you daily Scripture readings and devotionals spread out over a couple of days or a couple of weeks. There are also "Read the Entire Bible in a Year" plans. And for those who need little rewards for doing a good job, the app will keep track of how many days in a row you have opened the app to read Scripture and keep track of how many "perfect weeks" you have had.

Another cool feature – you can set up a reminder in the app that will alert daily to share with you a verse of the day. Mine comes every morning at 8:00am. You can have it come as just text or as words over an image (perfect for sharing on social media).



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be on **Sunday, January 20, 2019**. We will have one worship service that day at 10:00AM followed with coffee hour hosted by the Dart ball team. We will approve the annual report, the 2019 budget, and elect new officers. If you have the ability to email, it is preferred that you send your report to the office in that manner. If not, please have those in ***no later than January 6, 2019***. Please email them, using Times New Roman 12 point font or drop them at the office for retyping as quickly as possible. Annual Reports will be ready for your reading mid-January. To save on the cost of printing, please leave reports at the church for reuse.

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS WILL BE ORDAINED AND/OR INSTALLED IN FEBRUARY

WORSHIP

Looking for a way to serve in the New Year?
Consider being a communion server or usher.
Contact Birdie Grinder or any Deacon.

PWA PIES ARE STILL AVAILABLE

The Presbyterian Women's Association has a variety of pies left over from their sale. If you are interested, please let the church office know and you can pick up at your convenience.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS - COFFEE HOUR

Continuing this year, we will have coffee hour usually on the second Sunday of the month following each service. Dart Ball will be providing the cookies for coffee hour on January 20th for to the congregational meeting. Looking forward to fellowship time after we worship together.

2019 GIVING ENVELOPES

The Stewardship and Finance Committee is dedicated to using your contributions wisely to further the mission of our church. One way we do this is identifying ways to decrease costs where possible.

Recently, we found that our giving envelopes were getting *more and more costly*. In addition, many envelopes were not being used at all.

So to avoid waste and *decrease costs*, in 2019, **we will not** be issuing boxes of giving envelopes to each congregant.

If you give by check, you **do not** need to use any envelope at all, simply put your check in the offering plate. You can also **pay online through your bank** like some congregants already do and for those who typically give in **cash**, we will have boxes of generic giving envelopes available in the lobby.

Please note: **The 2019 envelopes are not dated or numbered, therefore you must put your name on each envelope.**

We will also have “**Giving Calendars**” available to help you keep track of your contributions if you desire to do so. We will continue to provide you with periodic giving statements. The deacons, coat drive and other special envelopes will still be available. **Please use any remaining envelopes you’d like and discard what you don’t after Sunday 12/30/18.**

Thank you and please see any member of the Stewardship & Finance Committee with questions or call the church office
Monday – Friday (9am-1pm)

MUSIC NEWS

If you have a gift of music (voice or instrumental) that you would like to share with the congregation, please see Tony Greendonner. We have been blessed with many talented members and would love to have each of them give glory to God through their musical abilities. You may fill out a music request form on the choir door if you’d like to sing or play for special music. Choir practice is every Wednesday at 6:00pm and Sunday’s at 10:00AM.

THANK YOU!

To missions and deacons who worked on all of our local missions this Holiday season – well done, good and faithful servants! And to those who donated to the coat drive, the Christmas baskets, the shoebox Christmas drive, and purchased gift for the gingerbread tree. We provided 25 food baskets and had presents for 45 children. Thanks to all who came to help sort food and distribute the presents & baskets.

NIGHTLIGHT INTERNATIONAL JEWELRY

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone who purchased items from NightLight International this holiday season. Your purchases will make a difference to the women who have been rescued from sex trafficking in Bangkok, Thailand. Over \$2300 worth of product was sold, in addition to several donations. This will help cover the salary and benefits for one of the women for more than 6.5 months—over half of the year! It takes only \$350 each month to cover a woman’s salary and benefits. This has always been a labor of love for me, because I get nothing out of it other than the satisfaction of knowing I’m doing something to help improve someone else’s life. I’m hoping the others will join me in this labor of love next holiday season to continue the tradition.

Thank you again!

Katie Wirt

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your cards and prayers following my knee surgery. I’m looking forward to getting back to church soon.

Sincerely,

Bob Randolph



We hope you enjoyed Christmas Eve Services at WHPC. We have extra ornaments and children's activity kits in the lobby for you. If you were unable to be with us or know of someone who would enjoy one, please feel free to grab one.

Happy New Year!!



WEST HEMPFIELD PRESCHOOL

Is 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

Cheryl Bookheimer	January 2
Marcus Dawson	January 2
Richard Hazlett	January 4
Jon Grinder	January 6
Rachel Weaver	January 8
Melissa Hladek	January 9
Neil Graham	January 10
Leah Iwinski	January 14
Mona Ray	January 16
Keith Pritts	January 16
Donald Stewart	January 18
Joseph Smith	January 20
Randy Greenawalt	January 20
Marge Jackson	January 21
Bob MacIntosh	January 22

JESUS AT SIGHT & SOUND BUS TRIP SURVEY

Are you interested in busing to *Lancaster this spring* to see "Jesus" at the Sight & Sound theatre?

If so, please fill out the form below and drop it off in the office or give to Judy Sturdevant.

- One day Mid-Week
- One day Weekend
- Two day Mid-week
- Two day Weekend

Name(s) _____

How many would be attending? Approx. _____

*Based on the survey response more information will be forthcoming such as date, price, itinerary, etc..

Response Deadline: January 13th!!

January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Choir 10AM every Sunday		1 HAPPY NEW YEAR *OFFICE CLOSED*	2 Senior Cards 11-2:30PM Choir 6pm Men's Bible Study 7pm	3	4	5 ANNUAL REPORTS DUE TO THE OFFICE by January 6th, 2019
6 Communion Sunday 8:30am & 11am Worship Sunday School	7 Dartball - WHPC	8 PWA Board Meeting 10am – kitchen DEACONS MEETING 6:30PM NAMI 7PM	9 Senior Cards 11-2:30 FOOD 2 GO 4 KIDS PACKING 6:30PM Choir 6pm Men's Bible Study 7pm S & F Meeting 7pm	10 SCOUTS 6PM	11	12
13 8:30am & 11am Worship Sunday School	14 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY *OFFICE CLOSED* Dartball - LCOS	15 Confirmation Class 7:00PM	16 Senior Cards 11-2:30 Choir 6pm Christian Ed Mtg 6:30pm Men's Bible Study 7pm	17	18 SESSION REPORTS DUE	19 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
20 ONE SERVICE 10AM CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Coffee Hour hosted by Dartball No Sunday School	21 Dartball - IMETH	22 PWA CHARITY CIRCLE 1pm SESSION MEETING 6:30PM	23 Senior Cards 11-2:30 Choir 6pm FOOD 2 GO 4 KIDS PACKING 6:30pm Men's Bible Study 7pm	24 SCOUTS 6PM	25 SCOUTS PINWOOD DERBY SET UP	26 SCOUTS PINWOOD DERBY
27 8:30am & 11am Worship Sunday School	28 Dartball - WHPC	29	30 Senior Cards 11-2:30 Choir 6pm Men's Bible Study 7pm	31		